

Stamp

Bulletin No. 78

Commemorative Issue

**GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF THE
INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA**



1979.11.29

Philatelic Bureau

Posts & Telecommunications Department

Ceylinco House

Colombo 1

SRI LANKA

STAMP BULLETIN No. 78

Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications,
Lotus Road,
Colombo 1,
Sri Lanka,
29 November, 1979.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue today a stamp to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Year of the Institute of Ayurveda, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In 1925 the Government of Ceylon appointed a Committee with Mr. K. Balasingham as Chairman, to consider the possibility of establishing a College of Indigenous Medicine.

According to the recommendations made by this Committee, the Board of Indigenous Medicine was constituted by the Government in September 1928, with the following members :—

**Hon. K. Balasingham (Chairman),
Hon. D. B. (Later Sir) Jayatilleka,
Hon. A. F. Molamure,
Hon. D. S. Senanayake,
Hon. W. A. de Silva,
Donald Obeysekera, Esq.,
Pundit M. S. P. Samarasinghe and
C. Muthukumar, Esq.**

The College of Indigenous Medicine was thereafter opened in rented premises at "The Bower", Cotta Road, Borella, on 10th June, 1929, with seventy-two students on roll. The first Principal of this College was Captain A. N. N. Panikkar.

In 1941, the College of Indigenous Medicine was taken over by the Government under Act No. 17 of 1941.

The Department of Ayurveda was later established by Ayurveda Act No. 31 of 1961 and the name of the College was then changed to the College of Ayurvedic Medicine.

On 2nd April, 1977, the Government College of Ayurveda was taken over by the University of Sri Lanka. Today, known as the Institute of Ayurveda, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, it has 520 students on roll. There are 3 streams of medical discipline taught, namely Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim students follow these 3 streams respectively. The students have to follow a 5-year academic course and 1 year of Internship before they qualify as Graduates of this Institute.

The history of Sri Lanka, indicates that Ayurveda flourished in the past. Kings Pandukabhaya and Buddhadasa were themselves physicians and they constructed hospitals during their times. Archaeological findings of Anuradhapura speak for themselves, as in the case of the oil bath (beheth oruwa).

The World Health Organisation recognizes Ayurveda today. Scientists are eager to explore both the basic principles and the practical aspects of Ayurveda with special reference to the medicaments used.

Recruitment of students and the curriculum of studies are of required standard and the Institute is now under the University of Colombo.

The stamp design is symbolic of the meaning of Ayurveda. The sun is the source of all energy on earth. The physical well being depends on the correct combination of the Pancha Bhootas or pentad cosmic states of matter. These are indicated by the five colours, viz., Black, Green, Red, White and Yellow. The central figure depicts the Great Teacher of this science of life.

Technical Details

<i>Date of Issue</i>	..	79.11.29
<i>Denomination</i>	..	15 cents.
<i>Designer</i>	..	H. P. Rupasinghe.
<i>Colours</i>	..	Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black, Gold and Reddish Brown.
<i>Format</i>	..	Vertical.
<i>Size</i>	..	24.5 × 39 mm.
<i>Printing Process</i>	..	Offset.
<i>Sheet composition</i>	..	100 stamps per sheet.
<i>Printers</i>	..	Metal Box Singapore Ltd., Singapore.
<i>Paper and Gum</i>	..	Litho coated paper 102 GSM with particle gum.

Official First Day Covers

The Philatelic Bureau will provide a specially designed First Day Cover and a First Day of Issue Postmark.

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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA
