

IIM Trichy hosts Philatelic Exhibition on the occasion of 150th Year of Gandhiji's Birthday

The student body at IIM Tiruchirappalli on 2nd October 2018 (Tuesday) witnessed an engrossing Philatelic Exhibition at the IIM Trichy Campus. The three-day long affair, starting 2nd October 2018, will showcase stamps relating to the life of Gandhiji and the freedom struggle in the city of Trichy released by the India Post till date. The Philatelic Club of Trichy took an active role to enable the exhibition of the stamp collections of four collectors who have built award-winning stamp collections on the themes of Gandhiji.

The inauguration of the exhibition began with the invocation song and lighting of the lamp. This was followed by an introduction to philately by Mr. Kuchitapadam, ADBD, Trichy Head Post Office. They thanked IIM Trichy for the opportunity to display stamps, post office products including the India Post Payments Bank. He stated that there were mainly two types of stamps: definitive stamps that are used regularly while sending posts and envelopes and the other one category is commemorative stamps, which are issued for particular occasions, in remembrance or to honour a leader or about flora, fauna etc. The rare and commemorative stamps are collected by philatelists as a hobby and through this we acquire knowledge, they said. The stamps are not just meant for exhibition alone, it's main purpose is to disseminate knowledge and to learn more about our socio-economic and cultural condition about the country and about the region. It can be used as a yardstick to understand how we have grown and improved over the years. He advised the younger generation to take up philately as a hobby and mentioned about the philately bureau in Trichy. And said that anyone can open a philately deposit account and start their stamp collection by getting rare or commemorative stamps.

This was followed by a word by Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy. He said that in the digital age people may not use post office services but having his roots in a village, it was a part of life for him. The real internet in rural areas is the post office, where post offices are present even where the concentration of people is small. He also talked about disruption in this digital age. Mahatma Gandhi was the first person to disrupt, but he also advocated that change has to start from the home. People followed him and he became a leader of the masses without holding any position, he said. The Director thanked the Philatelic Club of Trichy and the exhibitors for displaying their stamp collection for the faculty, students and staff to see.

The exhibition was coordinated by Mr. K. Karthikeyan, Mr. G. Satheesh Babu and Mr. Maharaja, who are the members of the Trichy Philatelic Club. Mr. Karthikeyan, originally a numismatist, turned to philately about 7 years back. He is currently pursuing his mechanical engineering at the Alagappa Chettiar Government College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu. He is enthusiastic about building his philatelic collection on Gandhiji, which he says is more to acquire knowledge about Gandhiji and about the freedom movement. His collection on Gandhiji and on Trichy city has won many philatelic awards, for being both elaborate as well as for being more valuable. Mr. Satheesh, who is an electrician by profession, has been collecting stamps since his school days. Attracted by his interest on philately and its nuances, he is spending most of his time on activities relating to philately and he is one of the active members of the Trichy Philatelic club. Mr. Maharaja, who is collecting philatelic material for the last 30 years, has one of the almost complete

collections on the philatelic material on Mahatma Gandhi. Specifically, the stamps released on Mahatma Gandhi by other countries and the Tamil newspaper published the day after the death of Mahatma Gandhi is the highlight of his collection.

This was followed by a brief history of philately and its relevance for the younger generation by Adithya L, President, Students' Council 2017-18. Dr. Nithyananda, who coordinated this event, proposed the vote of thanks. The event concluded with the national anthem.