

500P. RUBBER TAPPING STAMP

by Dr. S.P. Gupta

The 500p. Rubber Tapping stamp was issued on 23rd November 1980 as part of the VI Definitive issue portraying the theme 'Agriculture and Rural Development'. The stamp had a long innings and continued to be printed till the end of 1987 as evidenced by the date of printing found on some sheets in our collection.

There are three printings of this issue identified by the three different marginal inscriptions on the sheet margins as illustrated below :-

First Printing	INDIA SECURITY PRESS, NASIK ROAD M I
Second Printing	PRESS, NASHIK ROAD M !
Third Printing	NEW GUMMING-WET WELL & PRESS .I.S.P. NASHIK-ROAD. M !

FIRST PRINTING:

This printing is identified by the marginal inscriptions as illustrated below. Issued 23 November, 1980.



Note the spelling of NASIK and ordinary numeral of the cylinder number. A total of 18 cylinders were printed from M1 to M18 on Indigenous Multiple Asokan Capital (W2) watermarked adhesive stamp paper. More details given in table below:

Cylinder no.	Perforations	Watermark	Gum
M 1 to M 8	14 x 14 ½	W2 Upright	Pale yellow
M 4 and M 6	14 x 14 ½	W2SR	Pale yellow
M 9 to M 18	Changed to 13x13	W2U	Pale yellow
Cylinder No. ?	14 x 14 ½	W2 Inverted	Pale yellow



← Cylinder no M9 and thereafter →



← Perforation changed to 13x13 →

SECOND PRINTING:

The marginal inscriptions, though, on casual inspection appears very much similar but the spelling of Nasik and the numeral of the cylinder number is different as shown below:



Nasik is spelled as Nashik and the numeral of the cylinder number is digital. Cylinders printed M / to M / 5. More details are given in table below. Note that cylinder no. 13 printings exist with Upright and Inverted watermarks. Date of issue of the second printing is not known.

Cylinder number	Perforations	Watermark	Gum
M 1 to M 15	13x13	W2 Upright	Pale yellow
M 13	13x13	W2 Inverted	Pale yellow

THIRD PRINTING:

Marginal inscriptions changed to 'NEW GUMMING WET-WELL & PRESS I.S.P. NASHIK ROAD M / '. Cylinders printed M / to M / 6. Date of issue of this printing was not officially announced. However, some sheets of M 1 printing, as shown below, bear the date of printing (enclosed in oval) in the Security Press as 09. IX. 85. Likely date of issue of this printing could be November or December 1985.



Similarly, M 15 printing also records the date of printing as 5. IX. 87 as marked by oval. Printings from M15 and M16 cylinders appear to be the last printings of this issue. Other details are as shown in the table below:

Cyl. No.	Perforations	Watermark	Gum
M 1	13x13	W 2 Upright	Pale Yellow
M 15 and M16	13x13	W 2 SR	Pale Yellow

ERRORS AND VARIETIES

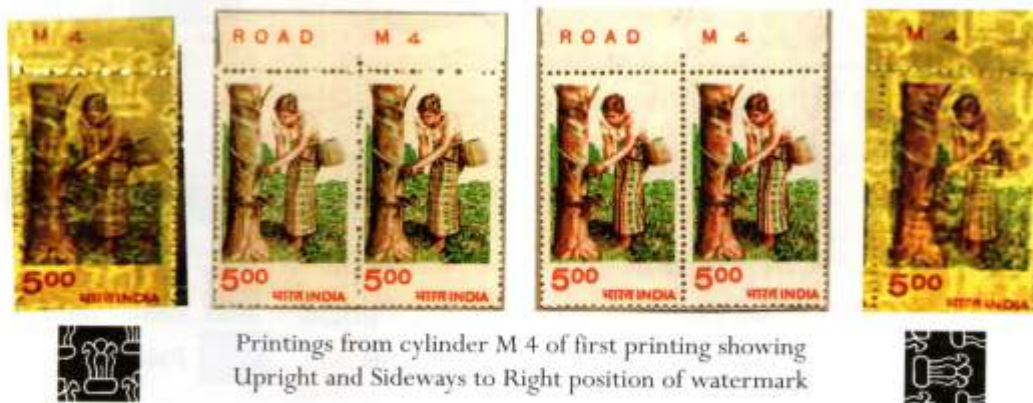
1. Positional variations of watermark in printings perforated with different perforations :



2. Constant Printing Varieties



3. Watermark Varieties - Detection and recording of positional variations of Asokan Capital Watermark i.e. Upright or Sideways to Right or Left or Inverted, found in the printings from the same cylinder has been made possible by the inclusion of Printer's imprint and cylinder numbers on the sheet margins of Definitive stamps in accordance with the recommendations made in the Philatelic Seminar of 1967 and accepted by the Government. Some examples are





Printings from cylinder M 6 of first printing showing Sideways to Right and Upright position of watermark



Printings from cylinder M 13 of second printing showing Inverted and Upright position of watermark

The yellowish stamps on either side of three rows of stamps above are stamps photographed against light to bring out the watermark

4. Perforation Error - Imperforates of this issue are very rare and only one used block of four on a Speed Post cover and a vertical strip of three are known. Block of 4 used on a Speed Post cover and a photocopy copy of Imperforate vertical strip of three are shown below:



A speed post cover to Gilford, USA bearing an imperforate block of four

5. Gum colour shades (Variety)



Lemon



Yellow



Dirty White

Conclusion: This study shows how the collection of cylinder numbers and their use aids the study of an issue in a scientific manner. Many changes during the printing life of an issue can be studied and recorded.

References:

- The Nav Bharat Collection.
- Dr. Gupta's Specialised Handbook of Modern Indian Stamps.
- PHILA INDIA Guide Book - 2008.
- Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.