

# A Guide for Advanced Collectors

[A study and compilation of the **Rarest GEMS** of Provisional All India and Local Typographed **RRT** Machine Overprinted Postage Stamps.]

[ Inclusive of PARTS 2 & 3 :: The Rarest Gems of the All India and Local Typographed Provisional Refugee Relief Tax Public and Official Postage stamps of 1971/73 articles, published in the **GSM** March & April 2024 issues.

This Guide additionally contains in depth details with *much more than* the original unedited information submitted for the revision, amendment and upward repricing of the listed RRT items in the **Stanley Gibbons INDIA Catalogue**, published in April 2023, and in the **GSM** as stated above. This Guide now contains a total of **157** Illustrations in **78** pages.]

**AND**

**Current International **PRICES** of the RRT machine overprinted provisional postage stamps.**

[And an attempt to compare them with their **commensurate valuations** , based on their **inherent relative scarcity/rarity ie their updated 'estimated approximate quantity'** ( as presently known to the author) now revealed for the first time ! ]

**Revised including INDEXATION and Metered stamps. \*\***

Surendra Anand Bhaskar ISC

*Released on 15<sup>th</sup>. August 2024 Independence Day.*

**\*\* [VR1 – Released on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024, RRT Day .] Final**

## Preamble

### A Personal NOTE :

**>>>** Quantities stated hereunder as “**known** to exist”, are merely indicative of scarcity/rarity . They are based on **my** present **limited** knowledge, and pertain to **used** stamps only. Rarities “in my collection” were mainly found, while sifting through huge lots totalling over 6 lakhs of unsorted definitives of Post Independence India purchased in 2012/13 from Chennai/ Bangalore, and a 5kg kiloware lot of unsorted RRT stamps loose/on piece. I was also fortunate to obtain some rarities, from the late veteran dealer, Mr. Shivanand Sharma ( alias Mrs. Pushpa Sharma/Vasudha), popularly known as the “Refugee Relief Sharma” of Delhi for past 50+ years. The remaining special items, presently were recently acquired by me from Auctions and other Net vendors.

**Introductory Note:** Except for the Central all India NASIK India Security Press, which was entrusted with the bulk supply of the RRT provisional overprints, other provisionals were **locally** overprinted typographically, by the Government's manually operated **old treadle printing presses (now obsolete)**. These were overprinted hastily, in relatively **tiny** quantities for a very short duration, some only for a **couple of months**. This is why they are so very difficult to find, more so now, fifty years later. Hence these, and the **rare desktop machine** overprinted provisionals are the **focus** of this GUIDE!

[ This GUIDE is a sequel to the earlier “Comprehensive GUIDE for **Beginners** & **Collectors of RRT** ”, released on 22<sup>nd</sup>. July 2024 in digitized PDF format.]

➤ ‘Importance’ of the RRT Machine overprinted stamps of INDIA by Nicholas Follansbee (USA).

### Importance

These issues not only represent an important episode in the life of a major country but also include several stamps that are, though not widely recognized as such, among India’s rarest, known from one to five examples.

It is useful to point out that the RRT theme , which till now attracted philatelists and experts (past and present) from all over India, has now also attracted serious interest beyond the borders of India.....

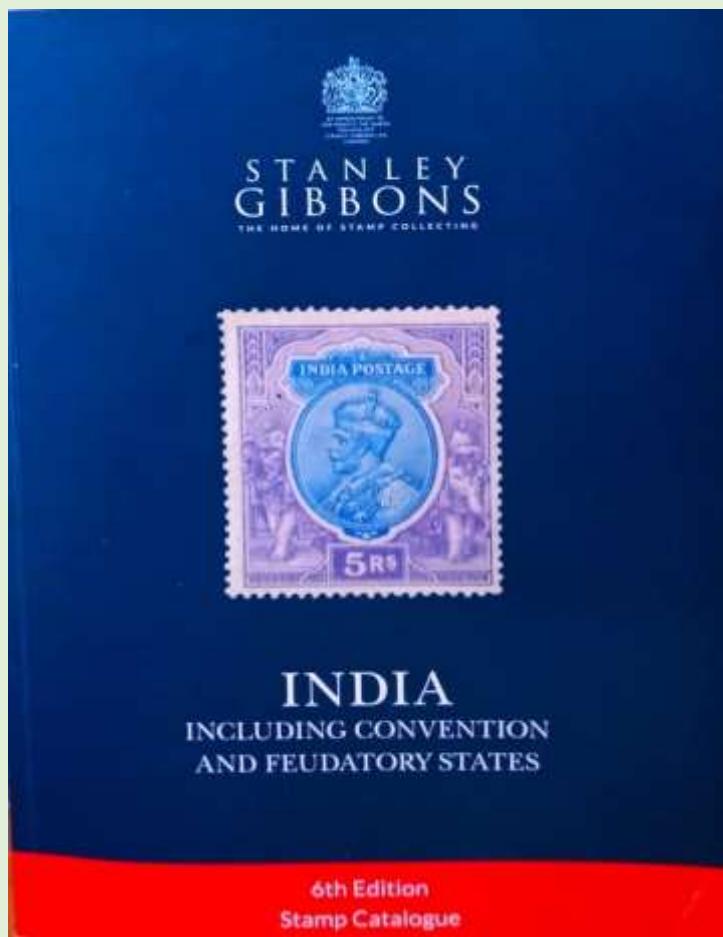
## CONTENTS .

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1.	The SG Listed RRT Postage Stamps, Printing processes, the Rarest Gems listed & unlisted, Scope and Intent of this Guide .....	4
2.	A study of the Font styles and characteristics of RRT local Typographed Provisionals .....	11
3.	A Compilation of known errors and varieties of machine Press overprinted RRT Provisionals for Public and Official use .....	14
4.	Cyclostyled, Typewritten, and Metered RRT Provisionals, <i>desktop</i> printers used, and a brief compilation of these local overprints ...	48
5.	A review and research to resolve the Mystery of the earlier listed SG 'Bangalore' overprints declared as bogus for service in (2011) ...	57
6.	Overprints awaiting additional evidence for authentication. ....	63
7.	The 'Bogus' Bangalore and other Fantasy Service overprints from Nicholas Follansbee's Exhibit.....	66
8.	Detailed review of the factors affecting Pricing of RRT stamps, need for Revaluation based on inherent Rarity & Scarcity.....	69
9.	A Comparative tabulation of current International pricing and perceived valuation based on their present inherent worth .....	71
10.	References and resources for further study and INDEXATION.....	75

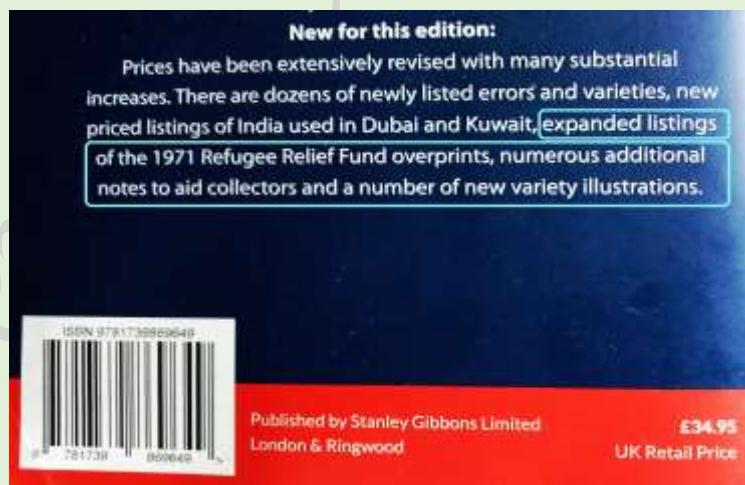


## CHAPTER 1.

### RRT Postage stamps recently Listed in the SG India Catalogue 2023 :



Cover



Back Cover

Fig 1.

**THE STANLEY GIBBONS INDIA CATALOGUE 2023.**

[ With revised , updated, expanded and repriced upwards Sections for RRT]

\*\*\*\*\*

Section 1.1 :: SG 2023 : LISTED PROVISIONAL RRT postage stamps of India 1971/73.



SG 646



Nasik Litho



SG 646a



Nasik Photo



SG 647



Bangalore



SG 648



Jaipur



SG 649



Rajasthan



SG650



New Delhi



SG 650b



Goa



SG 650c



Jabalpur



SG 650d



Alwar



SG 650e



SG 650f



Ajmer (Beawar)



SG O210/210a

Nasik



SG O212

Goa



SG O212b

Gwalior



SG O212c

Neemuch



SG O212d

Rewa



SG O212e, Bhopal

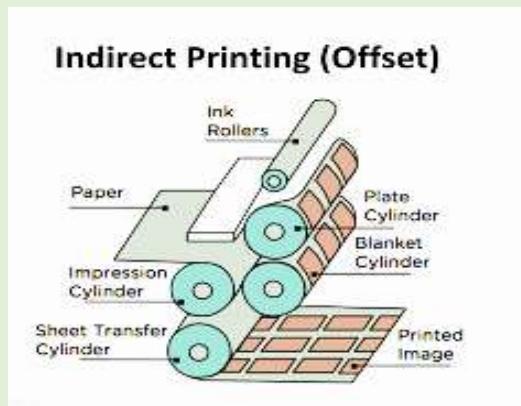
All India and the Local machine provisionally overprinted **listed** RRT postage stamps

Fig 2.

. **Section 1.2 :: Printing Processes used for All India Nasik Provisionals and the  
for the old local Treadle typographic printing press (simplified)**

The All India Nasik RRT Provisionals were overprinted by two different and distinct printing processes. They were printed using the Litho Offset printing process and another type, the Rotary Photogravure type of printing. This was recorded by the German RRT researcher in the early 70's **Mr. Schreckenbach**, and reported in the RRT group by **Nicholas Follansbee**.

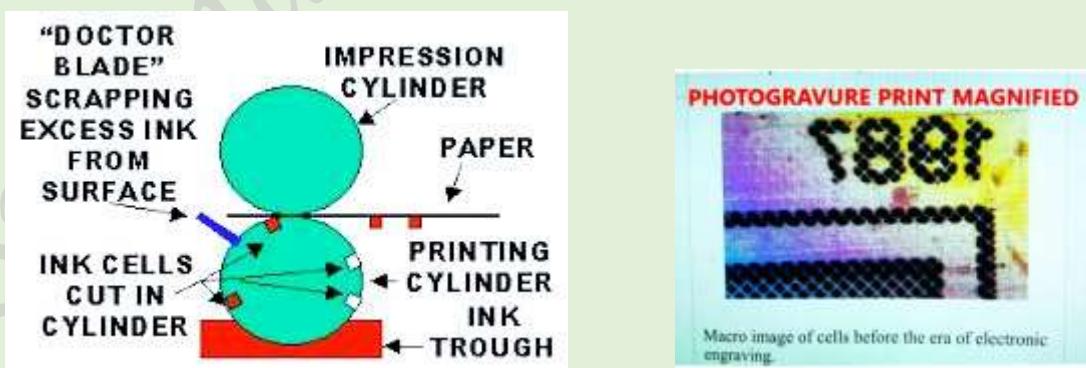
**1. The Litho Offset printing process ::**



**Fig 3.** The Litho Offset printing process.

The **Litho Offset process** also called **offset lithography**, is a method of mass production printing in which the images on metal plates are transferred (offset) to rubber blanket or rollers and then to the print media to print it. The print media, usually paper, does not come into direct contact with the metal plates. This is depicted in the image above.

**2. The Rotary Photogravure printing process :**



**Fig 4.** The Photogravure printing process. & Magnified view

The **Photogravure (rotary photogravure)** process, is also a method of mass production, in which a negative image is etched into the surface of a copper printing cylinder in tiny cells and dots of various sizes and various depths. The printing cylinder is then inked and rolls over the print media (paper)to print it. This is depicted in the image above.

### **3. The old Treadle Letterpress manual printing process.**



**Fig 5 The Treadle printing process.**

The manual **Treadle** printing press/machine is **foot** operated . The printer uses a **platen** (tray) in which the **loose** printing **metal typefaces**, similar to the ones used in a typewriter are arranged to form the text to be printed. The typefaces are then securely fixed and the platen is **inked** before it is **pressed** on the print media (paper) , **one sheet at a time**. This type of printing was suitable for printing **very tiny** quantities , as an **emergency** measure till the regular RRT **regular definitives** were produced and supplied commencing from the **1<sup>st</sup>. December 1971**, and they were available locally.This is the main reason for the **extreme rarity** of some of the **local machine typographically overprinted RRT provisional stamps**.

### **Section 1.3 :: The Rarest Gems of Listed RRT machine overprinted Provisionals .**

*In the recently issued SG INDIA Stamp Catalogue, 6<sup>th</sup>. Edition, 2023, even after revising and expanding the previous listings, the stamps currently listed in the public and service sections for Refugee Relief tax stamps, are confined to only the following vide Fig 2 above:*

1. **Ten Types**, of provisional machine overprints for **Public use**, (SG 646 to SG 650f) overprinted on SG 506. Nine are **local** manually operated treadle press printed types, of these **three** types are elusive and very **rare**, and their varieties are **rare** or **extremely rare**. These **3** of the rarest types are from **JABALPUR** , **ALWAR** and **BALAGHAT**.
2. **Six Types**, of provisional machine overprints for **Service/Official use** (SG O210 to SG O212e) overprinted on SG O202/202a. Five are **local** manually treadle press printed, of these **four** types are difficult **and** very **rare**, while their varieties are **very rare** or **extremely rare**. These rarest types are **GWALIOR**, **NEEMUCH** , **REWA**, and **BHOPAL**.

- These currently (as perceived by me), **rarest gems**, are identified from the above and other unlisted to date, which are included herein, and are the **focus** of this Guide.

**[Note:** Two more rare, local machine manually/press overprinted types for Public use, unfortunately, remained **unlisted**. These two new, **Typographed “press”** overprinted **types**, are detailed separately, in **Chapter 3** as sections **3.11** and **3.12** on page **34**.

#### Section 1.4 ::

#### Scope and Intent of this Guide .

I am extremely grateful to Mr. **Hugh Jefferies** (Editor, SG Catalogues), for his meticulous scrutiny, generous accommodation of many of my submissions, on RRT stamps, and their inclusion in the latest **SG INDIA Stamp Catalogue 2023 , 6<sup>th</sup>. Edition**. However, several illustrations, varieties, could not be included due to constraints of space, level of specialization of the Catalogue, and policy issues. The **scope and intent** of this Guide is therefore to augment and elucidate with descriptions with illustrations, thus enabling the readers to more clearly visualize the **SG listed** types and their varieties. Additionally, many **unlisted** (some subsequently discovered/reported) errors/varieties are also herewith presented to update, along with several magnified illustrations, for the benefit of a specialist (and as a precursor to any future **“RRT Specialised Catalogue”**).

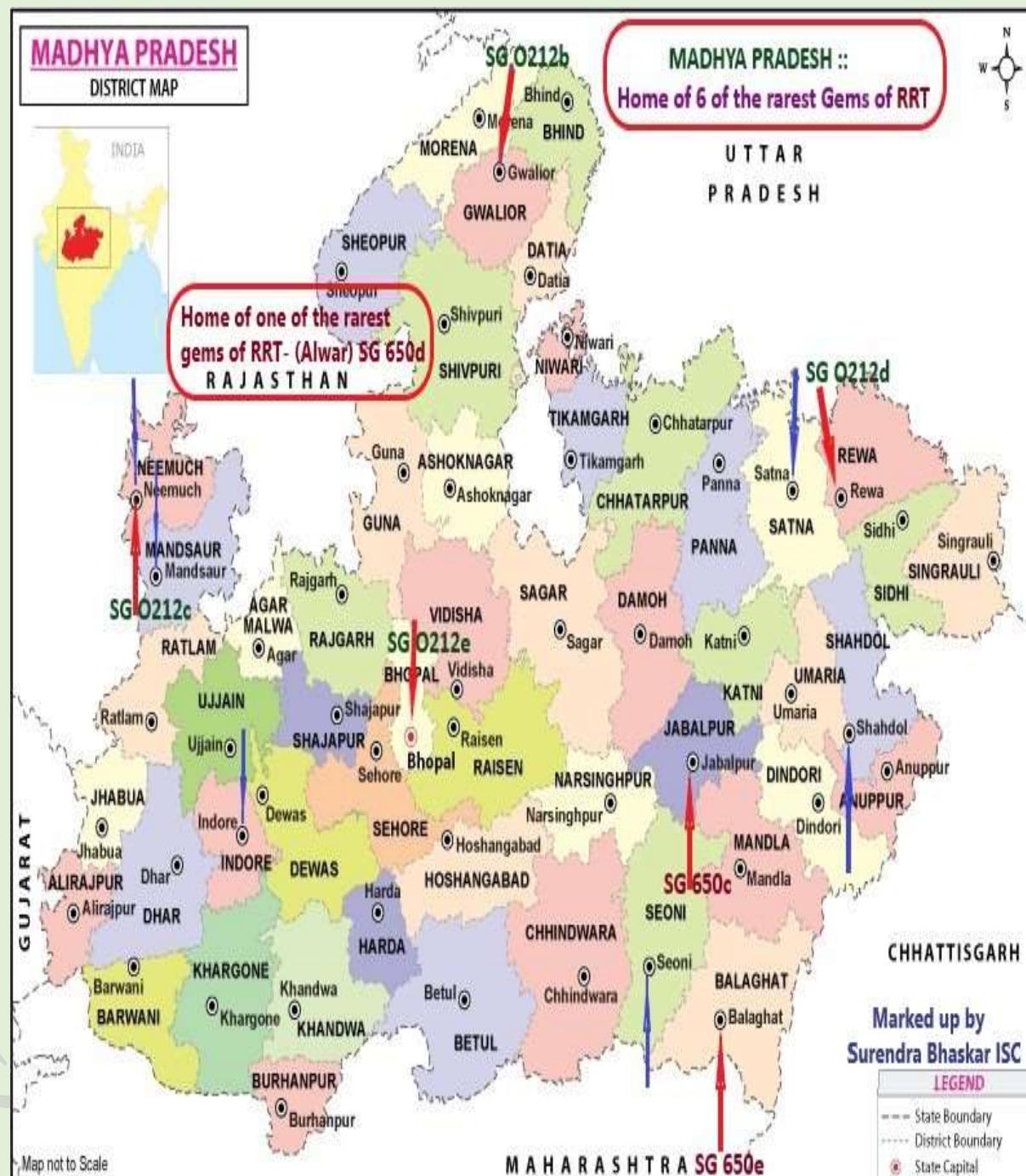
One must remember that the **previous “Guide for Beginners & Collectors of RRT”** (released on **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**) was only a **“birds eye overview”** of the panoramic RRT phenomena which is now in the process of being **rediscovered**. Further new errors/varieties are, and information is still being found and reported continually and unexpectedly, on all aspects of RRT. Hence, it is anticipated that still more types/varieties will be, **identified and authenticated**, or **revised, listed and repriced** in the years to come.

This **GUIDE** attempts to give more **clarity**, and a detailed **monetary insight** which the author hopes will impart further impetus to revive the study, research and collection of RRT stamps, stationery and postal history. It is also my endeavour to provide useful updated profusely illustrated information to the present and future RRT collectors, to ensure they assimilate the hitherto **hidden secrets**, and thereby reignite the flagging interest and curiosity of all **serious** Philatelists in India and abroad, in this obscured, relatively unexplored **gold mine** of Post independence Philately.

Last but not least, it is hoped that the presentation of facts and profuse illustrations herein, will encourage the publishers of Indian, and International Stamp Catalogues, and publications, to take suo moto cognizance and convince them to confidently include a **more** detailed listing of the **RRT stamps** and their **varieties**, in the respective, forthcoming editions of their esteemed publications.

**Section 1.5 :: Home of the Gems of local machine overprinted listed RRT stamps.**

**Madhya Pradesh** is the home of **6**, of these **Rarest gems of RRT**, and **Rajasthan** is home to **one**. This is shown with their corresponding **SG Nos.** in the marked up districtwise Map shown in **Fig 6**.



**Fig 6 : Origins** (as known currently) are marked with **red** arrows , other places where they are known used are marked with **blue** arrows.

**Section 1.6 :: Repeal of the Postal Articles Act 1971, and Return of unused RRT Stamps, and stationery, resulting in rarity/scarcity and their need for Revaluation.**

6. Repeal of Act 47 of 1971.-(1) The Tax on Postal Articles Act, 1971, is hereby repealed.

(2) Where any person is possessed of any adhesive stamp, or any inland letter or aerogramme on which is embossed any stamp, bearing the inscription "Refugee Relief" [being in each case a stamp referred to in Section 3 of the Act repealed by sub-section (1)] and such adhesive stamp or inland letter or aerogramme has not been spoiled, the officer in charge of any post office shall, upon such person delivering up, within six months from the commencement of this Act, such adhesive stamp, inland letter or aerogramme to that officer, refund to such person the value of such adhesive stamp or, as the case may be, the aggregate value of the stamps embossed on such inland letter or aerogramme, either in money or in postage stamps of the same value.

Fig 7.

ALL These **16 SG listed Types**, have been recently updated and revalued with increased prices that tentatively reflect their relative intrinsic scarcity, rarity as stated above

Earliest advanced collectors are known to have a very few, of the **rarest** listed normal types, of the above 'on cover' which should naturally attract a (presently indeterminable) **multiple** of the latest SG listed **used prices**.

These valuable covers have been reported in the specialized RRT Whatsapp study group, or in an Exhibition, by the seniors listed in the acknowledgements & **Commemoration** in my previous Guide. These have now been instrumental in authenticating some of the rarer types of overprints, which were previously **unlisted**.

The significant **upward revision of prices** in the recent SG Catalogue, will help unearth the forgotten stock lying with dealers, and earliest collectors, and is expected to lead to a still more realistic and commensurate upward price discovery in the future. It will also ascertain the reality, behind the apparently **extraordinary absence** of offers of the **genuinely rare** stamps, in the RRT market, observed by me, in the past **15 years**.

## CHAPTER 2.

### A study of font styles and their characteristics.

- The **Clarendon** style fonts for an **Upright "R"** were first discovered and identified, by me as a rare variety in the word "**Refugee**", now listed as a "**wrong fount**" in the **SG 650d, Alwar** public overprint. For reasons unknown to me the SG has chosen not to describe it as a Clarendon typeface. It is again encountered in the disputed unlisted **Alipore** overprint. These Clarendon fonts are again discovered, as **Upright** and/or **Italic** varieties, in the words "**Refugee** and/or **Relief**" in the **SG O212c, Neemuch** service overprints.



**Fig 8.** The “Clarendon Font Free” image on top is from the NET.

The **Clarendon** font style, wherein the Letter “R” has a tapering upturned serif, of rear leg as shown above and below (images from my collection):



**Fig 9.** Comparison of the **Clarendon** fonts in **Alwar**, '**Alipore'** and **Neemuch**.

The difference between the “R” in “**Refugee**” and “**Relief**” in the **Rajasthan** overprint, is that it is narrower, with a thinner tapering curved rear leg generally extending below the first leg. Whereas, the “R” found in “**Refugee**” and “**Relief**” of the **Ajmer (Beawar)**, overprint, is wider, with a thicker rear leg (*Images from my collection*).as shown in **Fig 10** below.

**>>> Further study is needed to discriminate between the listed Ajmer (Beawar) overprint and another unlisted Ajmer overprint and its hooked or open “SH” in SHARANATHI, of its two handstamp varieties, discovered by Gautam Hemmady, vide Fig 37 below).**



Varieties of Hindi fonts found in the very rare Gwalior Official overprint

"SH ARA NA RTHI SA HA YA THA", (Images from my collection.) Also see Fig 91 :

Looped "SH"



Hooked "SH"



Small closed "HA"



Looped "NA"



Open "NA"



Large open "HA"



Defective "Na"



Fig 10

Tightly closed "HA"



Small,closed loop "THA" Bigger close loop "THA" Open loop "THA"



Small " tha"



Bigger "tha"



Thinner & thicker accents



Varieties of the Neemuch Overprint fonts.

"e" becoming Theta



Blind eye of "e"



Deformed 'e' s



"e" becoming a blind spot.

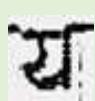


**Fig 11.** Other varieties of the **Neemuch** overprint are shown in the next Chapter alongwith their stamp images.

Varieties of Hindi fonts found in **Jaipur** (public use) overprint.(Images from my collection):



Normal



Dropped & elongated "YA"



The breakaway upwards "SH"

**Fig 12.**

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## CHAPTER 3.

➤ Section 3.A :: Compilation of errors and varieties of RRT provisionals for Public use:

**Note:** All provisionals , for public use, were overprinted on **SG 506 cerise, Family Planning stamp**. The all India Nasik, machine overprints were overprinted by highspeed automatic **electric rotary cylinder** presses, in Litho Offset/Photogravure, and **Local** overprints were printed by manually operated **old treadle printing presses**. Thicker, thinner or partially dry overprints, caused by varying ink viscosity, are seen in the Litho/Photo Nasik stamps. Several broken/deformed and dry letters and font typeface varieties exist on the **locally typographed** overprinted stamps.

**3.1::** The common **NASIK** provisional , SG 646/646a, SG Type 601. A rare example with missing overprint on two stamps of a mint setenant strip, is known to exist. Another block of two rows of the Nasik Litho , with the rare major error where three and a half overprints spanning four stamps, are missing in at least the first two rows , recently sold in an Indian auction house, "Collector Bazaar" in Jan 2023 is shown below vide Fig 13. It is believed, that the Photo type (printed in lesser quantities,) mint stamps are relatively scarcer than the Litho printed mint.



Fig 13. Sold on Collector Bazaar auctioneers.

**Additional Multiple imprints** on the Litho type SG 646 exist (these are unlisted and unpriced), not been considered as multiple “overprints”, because they have not passed through the press repeatedly. However, as they are scarce/rare, and have been commanding higher acquisitions, in latest Indian auctions, they are detailed here for the collector’s information. These are also very **difficult** to find **used, loose or on cover**.



**Fig 14.** Very scarce unlisted NASIK Litho Offset type **double** overprint with an additional **single imprint**. Image on **left** and magnified, courtesy [Nand Kishor Agarwal](#) is the one with **maximum displacement** seen. Image on **right** and magnified is from **my** collection, overprint and imprint appear to be slanting ?



**Fig 15.** Rare unlisted NASIK Litho Offset type **triple** overprint, with **double additional imprints**. Images from **my** collection.



**Fig 16.** Very rare unlisted NASIK Litho Offset type **quadruple** overprint, with **additional triple** imprints. To verify the additional imprints easily , check the letters “U” and “L”. Images from a **block of four**, in **my** collection, of only **four** such mint blocks known to exist. Totally about **20** stamps known to exist in **Mint** condition. **Used** not yet reported.



**Fig 17.** The **scarce** unlisted NASIK Offset laterally inverted (reversed, mirror image) impression of the overprint on the gummed backside, probably due to the sheets placed on previously printed sheet with ink not fully dried, as such impressions are **not** seen on **used** stamps. They are however seen on the Nasik **service** provisionals, which were printed on unguammed paper). Image courtesy [Binod Jain](#) ( from a **full mint sheet** in his collection ! ).



**Fig 18.** Unlisted, RRT stamps with **perfins** are found on SG 506 provisionals, and regular RRT definitive SG 651, all are **very scarce** and difficult to find. Images from **my collection**. **Rajesh Paharia** has written an article on this which is published in the India Post Journal of the India Study Circle.



**Fig 19.** Scarce unlisted examples of NASIK **Photo** overprint fully missing and partially dry printed stamps. Image on left from **my collection**.



**Fig 20.** Unlisted example of a **rare** major shifting and transposed errors of the NASIK overprint. Courtesy **Binod Jain**.



**Fig 21.** Examples of spectacular Black and pink **doctor blade flaws**, from the collection of **Binod Jain**.

**3.2.:** The **BANGALORE** overprint, SG 647 Type 602 (revised), for public use was printed in large quantity and used all over Mysore State ( now Karnataka State). It is still easily available used, though the mint is scarce.



SG TYPE 602 (old) for Bangalore

SG Type 602(now revised) for Bangalore :

**Fig 22.** A comparison of the **SG Type 602 (old)** which is **now revised** in the recent **SG Cat. 2023** as **the** overprint for **Bangalore**. Note the visible differences in the fonts of “f” and “g” in the above figure to discriminate between the two.

➤ **NOTE :: SG602 (old)** has a currently *doubtful* status, since no **official** FDC's from official philatelic bureaus, and only **one** commercially used stamp on a **philatelic cover** (from Sukumar Mondal) is reported to date from **Kalighat** under **Alipore H.O.** In contrast the **SG 602 (revised)** is found on **99.9%** of all official FDC's from different official philatelic bureaus, commercially used covers and used stamps from **Bangalore**, as known to date. Further analysis and details are given in **Chapter 5**.



➤ **Fig 23.** A rare mint block of twelve , from my collection, with the **controversial** “**Bangalore SG Type 602 (Old )**” now **likely** to be considered the **Alipore** overprint (see Mystery Case study vide **Chapter 5**, (at the end on page **59**).The magnified view shown above ,in the **upper** row has the normal overprints setenant with some stamps having the special variety of **Clarendon** fonts for “R” in “Refugee” and “Relief” in the **lower** row . A **rare full sheet** of this type ,was recently reported in the collection of **Sanjay/Karti Jain**, a couple of **months** ago.

The following scarce varieties have been reported for the **Bangalore** overprint **SG 647**.



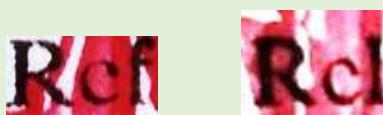
(a) Twisted/bent leg of “R”



(b) Gash across last two “ee”s of “Refugee”

Found in **R10C10**, Cylinder **A15**.

Found in **R1C10**, Cylinder **A15**.



(c) The letter "e", becoming "c"



(d) Compressed lower loop of "g"

Found in R4C6, Cylinder A15.



(e) The letter "f" in "Refugee", resembles the GB pound symbol. Image from my collection.



(f) Slanting 'Relief' wrt 'Refugee'

(g) Last "e" of Refugee broken. Courtesy [Nicholas Follansbee](#), is shown above.

**Fig 24.** Many interesting and scarce varieties, with deformed or damaged typefaces are known, in the SG type 602 (revised), only a few of which are shared above for the specialist.



Vertical (all separate )



Horizontal (Overlapping)



Slanting (overlapping)

**Fig 25.** Very rare double overprinted errors listed as SG647a. Image on the left is from [Nicholas Follansbee](#), middle one is from [Binod Jain](#) the one on the right is from my collection. Less than 12 'double overprinted' are known .



**Fig 26** The newly discovered, extremely rare, (possibly **unique**) is the unlisted Bangalore inverted overprint. Only **one** as shown above is known, courtesy [Eruch Batliwala](#).

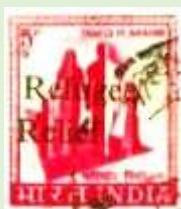


Horizontally split



Vertically split

**Fig 27.** Unlisted **rare** split and **transposed**, major shifting error overprints. Images courtesy of [Indranath Bhattacharya](#).

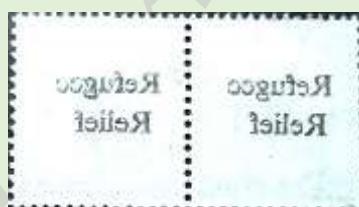


Rarest setting



Set of seven

**Fig 28.** Illustration for the “considerable variation in the alignment”, as noted by **SG**. The relative position of “ Relief” wrt to “ Refugee” shifts from extreme left (vide **rarest setting** shown separately above ), where the “R” of “Relief” **precedes** the “R” of “Refugee ,then shifts progressively to the extreme right where the ‘f’ of “Relief” is directly below the last ‘e’ of “Refugee” in a set of seven from **my** collection.



**Fig 29.** Scarce unlisted offset impression on the reverse gummed side,with a laterally inverted mirror image.Interestingly both “ee”s of “Refugee” in the **RHS** stamp have become “cc” . Image courtesy of [Binod Jain](#) .

**3.3 ::** The **JAIPUR** SG 648,Type 603. In this overprint, many dry/partially printed letters of the Hindi and/or English overprints exist. Slanting “R”s are also observed in “REFUGEE” and “RELIEF”.

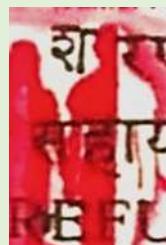
Significant variation in alignment between the two line Hindi words “ Sharanarthi” and “Sahayata” and also between the two line English inscriptions “REFUGEE” and “RELIEF” is observed to exist vide example shown below in **Fig 35** .



Normal "Ya"

Elongated &amp; Dropped "Ya"

**Fig 30.** An unlisted constant variety , of the Hindi Character “Ya” या in “Sahayata” was discovered by me ,which is **elongated and dropped** , shown in the magnified RHS stamp above, repeated in the entire columns C3 and C8 of some sheets. That means there are **20** stamps **in each sheet** with this variety. Interestingly the “R”s are also **slanting** र्स in “REFUGEE” of both stamps shown.



**Fig 31.** Another unlisted constant but **scarcer** variety, where the first Hindi character “SH” of “Sharanarthi, breaks away and displaced upwards, was discovered by me to be occurring in only in **two** positions (per sheet), R9C6 and R10C6 in each of some sheets. This means this variety is **10 times scarcer**, than the one in **Fig 30**.



**Fig 32.** Unlisted **rare** major vertically split shifting/transposed error, with English both lines, on top. Horizontally split examples also exists. Courtesy [Nicholas Follansbee](#).



**Fig 33.** Unlisted very rare pair major shifting, with dropped 'Ya' in both stamps ,and "RELIEF" completely missing in the lower stamp of the pair , recently sold in **Collector Bazar** auction house. Only **one** such seen by me.



**Fig 34.** Significant , unrecorded by SG back and forth variations in alignment between each of the four lines has been observed.

**3.4 ::** The **RAJASTHAN** overprint, mint is scarce, listed as SG 649, Type 604, was used all over Rajasthan. Subsequently , a two line handstamp (HS) in two line Hindi "Sharanarthi Sahayata" was additionally overprinted in violet/purple and black ink. A number of partially dry printed words "REFUGEE" and/or "RELIEF" are frequently encountered. Examples of "RELIEF" completely missing are rare.The

font of " R " is typically having a thin tapering curved rear leg  which extends lower than the upright first leg was discovered by me. A few full sheets exist in mint conditions with the early collectors, bearing Cylinder Nos. A 6 , A 8 and A 23 .The errors noticed in above Cylinders, were mostly rectified in the sheet with cylinder A2 (in the collection of **Binod Jain**)



**Fig 35.** Extremely **rare** error. The inverted overprint is listed as SG 649a, less than **10** used copies may exist. The above is known to have an **inverted handstamp** as well, which is a **double error (unlisted)**. Images, courtesy of **Rajesh Paharia (LHS)** and **Nicholas Follansbee (middle)**, from **my collection (RHS)**. **Binod Jain** and **Madan Middha** also have this.

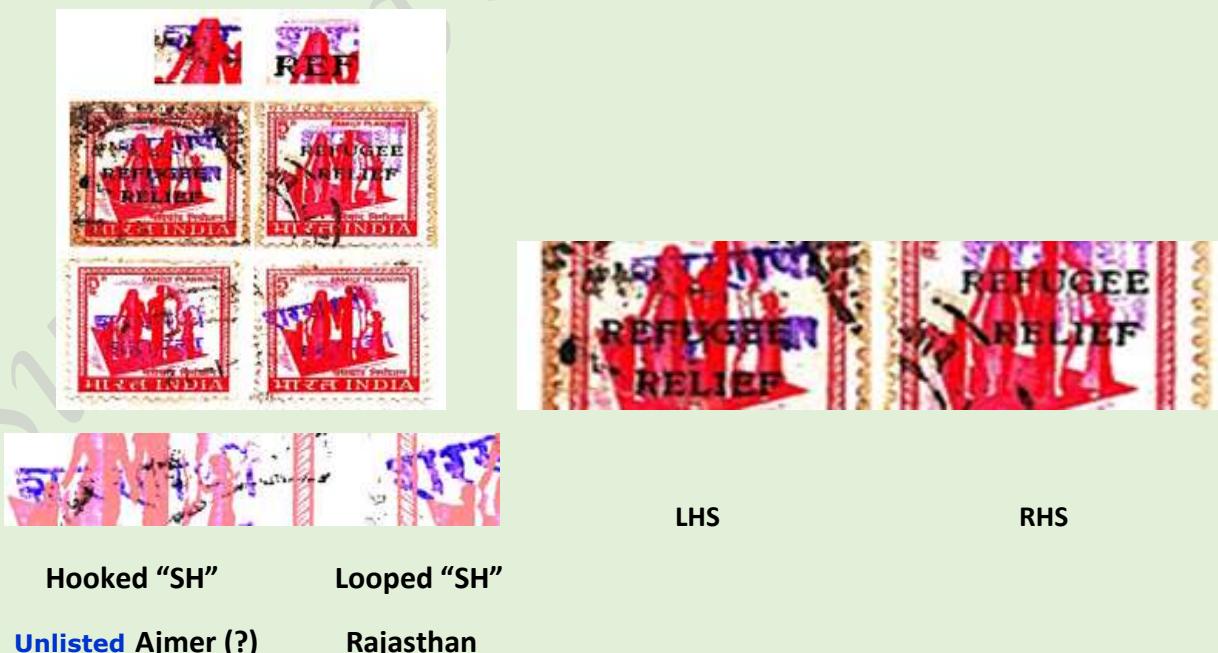


Rajasthan

Ajmer(unlisted) or Beawar City ( Listed) ?

**Fig 36. SG 649,** with **black inked** handstamp with Sharanarthi Sahayata two lines in Hindi .The Rajasthan overprinted stamp with **only English**, is **scarcest**.( In the the above Fig 36. the stamp with the black HS in **vertical** format is **scarcer** , than the one with a black HS in **horizontal** format) . The stamps with additional **black HS** in **horizontal** format and those with only the machine overprint **without** any HS, are **scarcer** than with those with the additional handstamps in **purple/violet**.

Also found used with black ink handstamp is another **unlisted Ajmer type**, shown above on the left . **Note the lesser interword spacing in the Ajmer type (LHS)** as compared to the Rajasthan ( RHS) . Ajmer has the **hooked "SH"** and Rajasthan has the **looped "SH"** handstamp in black and violet colours for both.



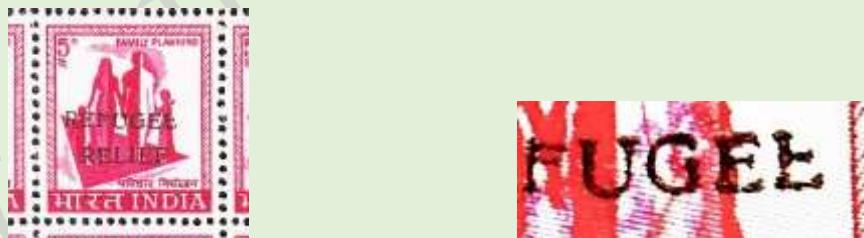
**Fig 37.** Two hitherto **unrecorded types of handstamps** were found on the Rajasthan SG 649 one type with a **hooked "SH"** and the other with a **looped "SH"**, in **violet** ink , first discovered by **Gautam Hemmady**, as illustrated above. Images courtesy of Gautam Hemmady.



**Fig 38.** The scarce “RELIEF REFUGEE” typesetting error which is constant and is found as setenant in a sequence of five stamps in R2, C1 to C5 in sheets with Cylinder Nos A6, A8, and A23. This was corrected in later sheets bearing Cylinder number A2. Listed as SG 649, the used examples are scarcer.



**Fig 39.** Rare unlisted error with “RELIEF” fully missing, used from Ajmer, is from my collection. A few partially overprint/missing co-exist in the some sheets. In the mint sheet with Cylinder no. A6 , it is observed the the word RELIEF is fully missing in positions C1R1 to C4R1 and in C1R3. Partial imprints of ‘EFUGEE’ & ‘FUGEE’ for REFUGEE. Similarly partial imprints of ‘ELIEF’ for RELIEF also exist.



**Fig 40.** A scarce constant variety of Rajasthan, where “F” is smaller and compressed, and the last ‘E’ becomes an inverted ‘F’, in “REFUGEE”, found in R5 C6 in sheets with the cylinder Nos. A6 & A 23., unlisted. Image from my collection.

**3.5 ::** The NEW DELHI overprint listed SG 650, Type 605. Used is common, but mint is scarce. However, full mint sheet has been reported in the collection of [Binod Jain](#). Very unusual looking machine overprint, can easily be mistaken for a Handstamp. Some letters found with bigger/smaller sizes , some letters are found frequently , raised or dropped. Many minor defects and deformities in the letters are noticed.



Double (mint)



Triple , one split on top (used)

**Fig 41.** The unlisted **rare double** overprint and the ***extremely rare*** **triple** overprint error (vertically split and partially transposed).

Image courtesy of [Nicholas Follansbee](#) (Double overprint) Error(LHS) . The triple, overprint (RHS), courtesy of [Binod Jain](#) .The triple overprint is probably **unique**.

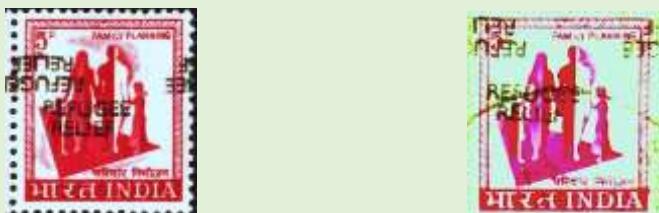


**Fig 42.** The above full **mint** sheet (Cylinder A3) of the **rare** Delhi **inverted** error, as shown above has been reported by a **dealer** in the RRT group.



**Fig 43.** With **rare** inverted overprint error, **used** listed as SG 650ab. Images from my collection, shown above. In view of the existence of the above **full mint sheet** (with 100 Nos.),

the **used** version appears to be **rarer** than the **mint**, hence used are priced a little **higher** in the recent SG India Catalogue, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition published in April 2023.



**Fig 44.** **Rare double** overprint, one split and inverted (mint), listed as SG 650ac. Courtesy [Nicholas Follansbee](#). (LHS). Used example (RHS) courtesy [Binod Jain](#).



**Fig 45.** **Scarce** constant variety with the letter 'I' in "RELIEF" **exploded**. Image from my collection 'FU' and 'LI' seem to be larger and dropped in "REFUGEE" and "RELIEF" respectively. Unlisted.

**3.6 :: Very scarce GOA** overprint, SG 650b, Type 606. Variation in sizes of the overprint is noticed. Letters "R" is observed with minute differences and "f" in "Relief" is sometimes, found to be deformed. Mint is much **scarcer** than used.



**Fig 46.** **Extremely rare**, double overprint error **used**, both **split** horizontally, listed as SG 650ba. Only **one** as above is known to exist . Image courtesy of [Binod Jain](#).



**Fig 47.** **Major downward shifted** (LHS) , and **transposed** ( split) overprinted on a **rare pair** (RHS) ,courtesy of [Binod Jain](#). **Multiples** of scarce /rare local provisionals **used** , is very difficult to find.



**Fig 48.** Visibly different, **unrecorded** and **unlisted sizes** of overprint recently discovered by me, **awaiting to be confirmed** by accurate measurements, by experts . Images from my collection .

**3.7.::** The **rare JABALPUR** overprint, listed as SG 650c, Type 606a . This was produced and used for just a **few** months . Two varieties currently unrecorded and unlisted, of the serifs of the letter “i” in “Relief”, were discovered by me. The first variety has a normal horizontal serif, and the second variety has a dot serif , which is found to progressively get worn out and /or deformed. Both are illustrated with magnified images, in Fig 49. Only **one** mint pair is recently reported to be in the collection of **Rajesh Paharia**, and a **single** mint with **Nicholas Follansbee**.



**Fig 49.** Magnified views of the **two varieties** of the **serif of “i”**,in “Relief” . Image at **left** has a normal **horizontal serif**, and the two images on the **right** depict the other variety with the **dot serif**.The last shows the dotted ‘**i** replacing ‘**I**’ of ‘relief’vide Fig 53.



**Fig 50.** The **unlisted probably unique** inverted overprint error . Image courtesy of **Madan Middha** . Only **one** as above is known to exist, which is in his collection.



**Fig 51.** Extremely rare typesetting error, “Rufugee” for “Refugee”, listed as SG 650ca. Image courtesy of [Rajesh Paharia](#). Only **one** as above is known to exist, in his collection.



Refugee

**Fig 52.** Very rare typesetting error, first “e” of “Refugee” is **inverted**, listed as SG 650cb. Only **five** are known, First recorded, priced and published (with a figure in black and white), by [Dr. S.P.Gupta](#), 1984. Above image is from **my** collection. Only **3** known to exist.



reief

**Fig 53.** Rare typesetting error, “reief” instead of “relief”, due to mistakenly using an “i” with the “dot” serif in place of “l” in “relief”, listed as SG 650cc was discovered by me . Only **3** are known to exist . Above images from the one in **my** collection.

Refugee  
relief

**Fig 54.** Scarce variety found in Jabalpur , on the left has a **fish hook “f”** in Refugee raised” Re” in “Refugee, **dropped “li”** and a **dropped “f”** in Relief , with **dotted serif of “i”** . Image from **my** collection.



**Fig 55.** Scarce example with varieties of a horizontally **split** overprint ,with **dotted serif** of 'i' ,**a bigger second last 'e'** of 'Refugee' from **my collection**.



**Fig 56.** A scarce variety of Jabalpur with first 'e' of Refugee becoming 'c' , broken 'f' almost missing last 'e' of 'Refugee' , and dropped 'r' and 'f' of 'Relief'.Image from **my collection**.



**Fig 57A.** Another variety with top of 'f' in 'Refugee **chopped off** ! Image from **my collection**



**Fig 57 B.** An example of **dry** printing where some text is missing partially ,from **my collection**.

**3.8 :: Very rare ALWAR overprint**, listed as SG 650d, Type 606b. Produced and used for a few months only. An inverted Alwar overprint (mint?) has recently been reported , for the first time, by **Rajesh Paharia** in his very recent Exhibition at Indonesia, in December 2023, ( but not seen by me).

➤ A census carried out in the RRT Group discovered around only **40** were reported used , in **2021**. Totally around **70** are now (2024) known to exist used .

[Surprisingly, the very popular Indian “PHILA INDIA GUIDE” still doubts the existence of this very rare ALWAR , and the rare JABALPUR overprints, and these have not been listed by them to date !]



Fig 58. A very rare , no dot on “i”, variety, listed as 650da, was discovered by me . Only three known, the above stamp also has partial double impressions of some letters, visible in magnified image above, from my collection.



Fig 59.. A rare variety in which the letter “R” in “Refugee” has a Clarendon type font style, R discovered by me. Five known used. Image from my collection. Also some letters have partial double impressions.



Fig 60. Very rare horizontal split, and transposed error, in my collection, is the only one known. Image from my collection.

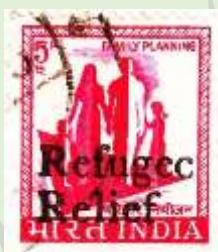


**Fig 61.** Scarce unlisted major shifting varieties , images from **my collection**.



**Fig 62.** Interesting and unrecorded rare varieties of partial reentry/ double impressions on some letters of the overprint, discovered by Nick Follansbee and myself. Probably due to loose composition of the typefaces in the platen. **Less than 15** known, used. Image courtesy **Nick Follansbee**.

**3.9 :: Probably the *Rarest* is the BALAGHAT**, public overprint SG 650e, Type 606c, similar to the Bangalore overprint Type 602 ( revised) but larger. Most of the stamps seen have the setting where the “R” of “Refugee” is aligned with the “R” of “Relief”. This overprint is also reported used from Barghat (Seoni District), and Balurghat . Broken/deformed letter varieties are observed. Around only **20** known to exist used, Mint not yet reported.



**Fig 63.** Unlisted rare variety with “Refugec” instead of “Refugee” with me. Image from **my collection**.



**Fig 64.** Unlisted rare variety, “Refugce” with a broken ‘c’/‘e’ and last ‘e’ is larger. Image from **my collection**. The ‘g’ has an open lower loop variety.

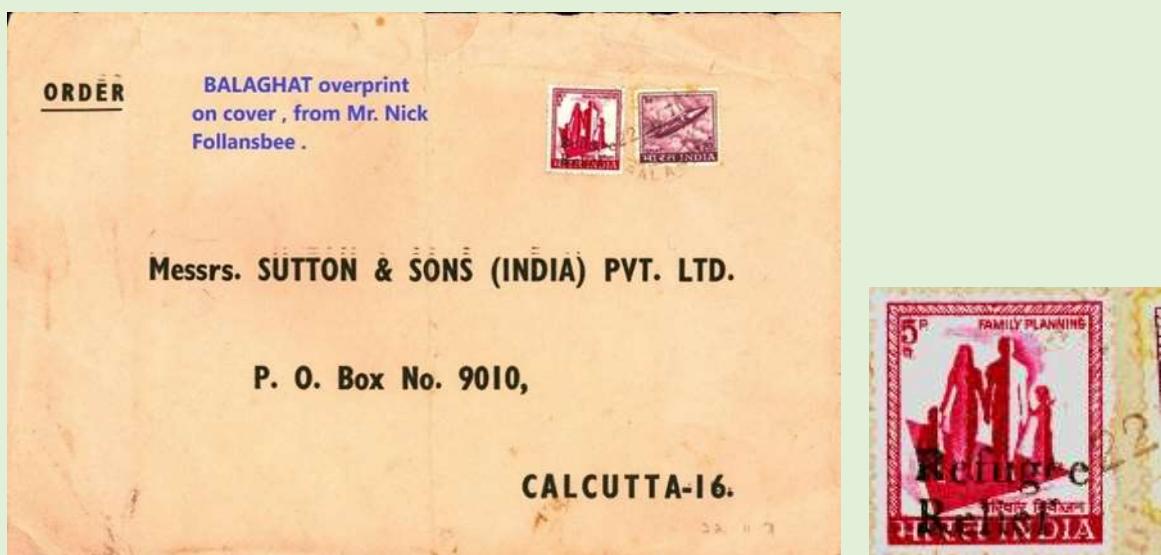


Fig 65 A very Rare cover with the **Balaghat Overprint** used on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1971, just 7 days after RRT was declared (on 15<sup>th</sup>. Nov 1971.)! Courtesy of **Nicholas Follansbee**.



Fig 66. From a cover from AJMER, Beawar City (Courtesy of **Eruch Batliwala**) LHS.

**3.10 ::** Scarce AJMER ( Beawar City) overprint, vide Fig 67 from a cover , as below ( is similar to the Rajasthan overprint, and the listed Beawar City SG 650f ,but the fonts of 'R; seem to differ vide Fig 69 .Generally the Ajmer overprints have letters which are more *squarish, closer, and wider, besides a stubby rear leg of "R"*. The listed Ajmer (Beawar) is SG 650f, Type 606d, and is illustrated below. Beawar City is only 53 kms from Ajmer city, but is in Ajmer district. Still more study is needed on the 'unlisted Ajmer' overprint itself with *a lesser interword spacing* (LHS) and its *hooked "SH"*, handstamp variety in black ink, to discriminate the unlisted Ajmer from the listed Ajmer (Beawar) type (RHS). This handstamp variety has been discussed under Rajasthan above subsection 3.4, vide Fig 37 above.



Fig 67. Listed Rajasthan compared to another similar suggesting a different Type 'Ajmer' (Unlisted) on LHS, and Beawar City on the RHS.

➤ However, Two Registered covers with the similar error pair listed AJMER (Beawar City) SG 650fa, also exist, which are shown below.



Front side of the Registered cover



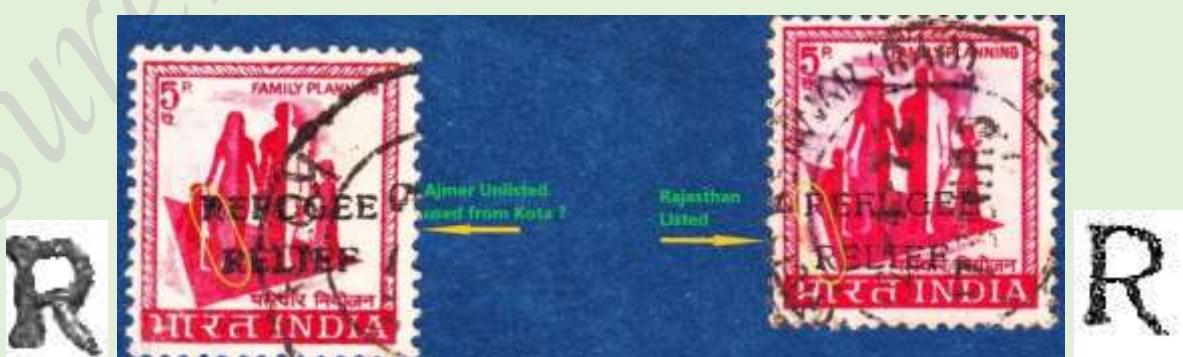
Rear side



**Fig 68.** Two extremely rare, registered covers commercially used, and sold by an auction house through Edgar Mohrmann of Hamburg (West Germany) with the listed error pair listed as SG 650fa. Another similar cover is in the collection of Binod Jain, sent to London and Brighton Stamp Auctions, Brighton. ( U.K.) on 10/6/72. Both covers were sent by Manak Chand Agarwal from **Beawar City**, Ajmer district as shown in the above Fig 68.



**Fig 69.** An extremely rare mint error pair listed SG 650fa, the only one known, which is in my collection. Note letters are closer and more squarish as compared to the Rajasthan overprint. The "R"s are also different. Images are from my collection.



**Fig 70.** Unlisted Ajmer variety(?) Font of "R" in **Rajasthan SG 649**, with thin rear used from **Kota** (LHS). **Font of "R" in Rajasthan SG 649**, with thick rear legs for comparison (RHS).

➤ [The authenticity of *listed* Ajmer (Beawar City) & *unlisted* second Ajmer variety (as different Types) as discussed herein remains a **controversial** issue as it is possible that they are a **typesetting variations** of the normal Rajasthan overprint, and are therefore presently considered **as having a doubtful status** by **Nicholas Follansbee**.]

XXXXX

### ➤ Section 3B :: Two new Typographed Provisionals Unlisted by SG.

It is hoped that these will be included in the next edition of the SG Catalogues, along with other unlisted items disclosed herein.

These two new typographed “press overprinted” types, were first discovered and reported in 2010 by **Nicholas Follansbee** in his article in the India Post (ISC) Oct-Dec 2010. [ For further details please refer to his **article** vide title given in **References**, at the end.]

**3.11 ::** The **scarce** unlisted **BOMBAY/NASIK/SUNABEDA** locally typographed press overprinted provisional has all upright capitals text “REFUGEE RELIEF” in English two lines in Vertical format (normal), which is found used from Nandgaon, Devlali airport. A **Vertical** format HAL on cover is reported by **Nicholas Follansbee** used by HAL, Sunabeda, Koraput, Orissa, in his above referred article.

It has an error in the text which reads “REFUGEE RELIFE”, which is **rare**. This error is also found in the Horizontal Format, in **my** collection.



Vertical Normal



Vertical with error “REFUGEE RELIFE”



Horizontal Normal



Horizontal with error “REFUGEE RELIFE”



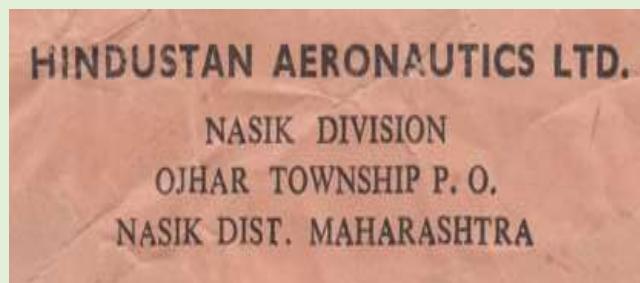
A rare pair with overprint 'RELIEF' missing error in RHS stamp .

**Fig 71.** The Horizontal type **Normal** and **Vertical** types with error. Images courtesy [Nicholas Follansbee](#) for the **Vertical** format **Normal** and with error. **Horizontal format with error**, images are from **my** collection. The rare pair with RELIEF overprint missing in one stamp is found used from Nandgaon in the collection of [Binod Jain](#) vide above image.

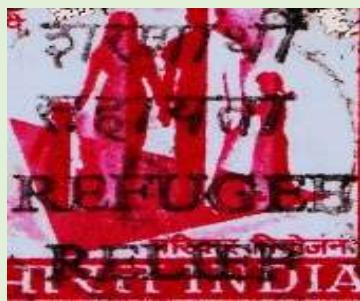
**3.12 ::** The very scarce , unlisted locally typographed **NASIK/HAL** press printed overprint is provisional . It is bilingual, with two lines of Hindi slanting fonts, and English text is upright, all capitals. Used rom NASIK by Hindusthan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).



The **NASIK/HAL** overprint, on a cover dated 10/12/71 in **my** collection.



**Fig 72.** From another cover with the same overprint, giving the sender's HAL address at **NASIK**, from **my** collection.



**Fig 73.** A bilingual overprint, with two **slanting** lines in Hindi, and two lines English “REFUGEE RELIEF, all capitals, **upright**. Images from my collection.

### ➤ Section 3C :: Errors & Varieties of RRT Provisionals for Official Government Service use :

**Note.** All India **NASIK**, and Local provisionals were overprinted on SG O202/O202a, Type O23, 5p green/yellowish green, on ungummed paper with **Large star and GOI ( Govt. of India)** watermark in sheets of 90 stamps each .

Broken / deformed letters, varieties exist on locally overprinted stamps, by manually operated treadle printing presses. In contrast, the all India , **NASIK**, Machine overprints, were overprinted by high speed automatic electric rotary cylinder presses, by Litho offset..

**3.13 ::** The **NASIK** all India machine overprint, listed as SG O210, and O210a, overprinted by Type O24, were overprinted in huge quantities, and hence they are easy to find (both mint and used). They were printed in two shades, **yellowish green (scarce ) and green**.

They had a **composite** watermark, which is recognizable, **only in a block of four or more** stamps. This makes it **very difficult** to identify the watermark reversed variety, listed as **SG O210x** on any **single mint or used stamp**.

The **SG** has indicated its ‘reversed’ watermark variety of **IG "INDIA GOVT"** (SG 656a on page 33 , of its Catalogue, and in the footnote below **SG O209** has added that “the arrangement of the (large stars and IG), watermark in the sheet which results in the words and the star appearing upright, inverted and/or sideways”, with an **instruction** “when seen from the back of the stamps”.

However it is illustrated by **Dr. S.P. Gupta** vide **Fig 76 below**, as **W3 (normal)** and **W3r (reversed, but only “when seen from the front of the stamps”**, for the Watermark “Large stars and **GOI**”, (**GOVT OF INDIA**).



Fig 74. The Normal W3 watermark.



Fig 75. The reversed W3r watermark.

Above images Courtesy of [Dr. S.P. Gupta](#) ( from his "Specialised Handbook of Modern Indian Stamps ", the reader may refer to pages 316 to 320 , for further details) .



Vertically displaced.

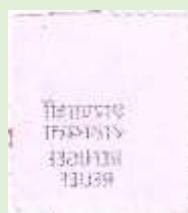
Image courtesy of [Binod Jain](#).



Horizontally displaced,

Image from my collection.

**Fig 76.** Similar to the Litho overprinted stamps for Public use, these Nasik litho offset overprinted **service** stamps also produced the stamps with **additional imprint**. They were also probably caused by incorrect tension in the blanket offset as illustrated above, which are nevertheless, quite spectacular. They are much sought after by collectors who are attracted by its **extreme rarity**. The above **two** examples are the only **ones** known to be having **maximum** displacements of > 3 mm, seen by me.



**Fig 77.** Scarce mirror "Offset" impression on ungummed reverse of the stamp, unlisted, from my collection.



**Fig 78.** Scarce examples of overinking and the opposite, underinking and dry overprint, due to variation in the ink viscosity, from my collection, unlisted.

**3.14 ::** The rare GOA overprint , listed as SG O212, Type 606. Broken/deformed /shorter letter 'f' in 'Relief ' , and shorter/ taller varieties are observed. A case of mixed sizes is also known and is shown below in Fig 79.



**Fig 79.** A **rare mint** example of the Goa Service stamp. I have not seen any other example. Image from **my** collection.



**Fig 80.** Rare overprint, with a mysterious, **undeciphered** (to date) handstamp/obliteration, in **my** collection, **unrecorded** and **unlisted**.



**Fig 81.** Unlisted variety, with a space between "Re" and "fugee" of "Refugee". Similar variety also found in the GOA **public** use overprint. The last 'e' a little **taller**. Image from **my** collection.



**Fig 82.** Unlisted variety of **overinked** and deformed letter 'f'. From **my** collection.



**Fig 83.** Unlisted variety of Additional overprint of numeral '**2/?**' above overprint, and a distorted 'f'. From **my** collection.

**3.15 ::** Extremely rare GWALIOR overprint listed as SG O212b, Type 24a. About **30** are now known to exist. The following are based on my study and observations. Generally found in green shade.

### ( **GWALIOR** ) Mystery Overprint on Service Issue

The James R. Jones accumulation contained the two stamps with a two-line overprint in Hindi which exhibit slightly different type styles and sizes but which might nevertheless be from the same setting (?).

**NF 1**



**NF 2**



Comments received from Mr. Follansbee on above.

Approx. Measurements of NF 1 & NF 2 :  
( +/- 0.1 to 0.2 mm )

	Sharanarthi	Sahayata
NF 1	12.2 mm	12.6 mm
NF 2	11.3 mm	12.4 mm

Note : It is possible that both ( different ) sizes occur in the same sheet , but without a reference sheet, one cannot be sure.

**Fig 84.** **Nicholas Follansbee** has provided the measurements for the **Gwalior** overprint on Service stamps as shared above.



**Fig 85.** Unlisted first subtype with the hooked “SH” in “SHARANARTHI, looped font of “NA, with open lower loop of large “HA” in “SAHAYATA”. Please refer to the “Key with magnified illustrations” of the **Hindi fonts and their varieties** in the following stamps which are already given earlier vide **Chapter 2**. Image from **my collection**.



**Fig 86.** Second subtype with looped “SH”, open font of “NA”, closed lower loop of smaller “HA”, listed as SG O212b. Image from **my collection**.



**Fig 87.** Unlisted third subtype/variety of hooked “SH” subtype, but with open “NA”. Image from **my collection**.



**Fig 88.** Unlisted variety with looped “SH” subtype, closed lower loop of smaller “HA”, and with a Variety of the open “NA” font. Image from **my collection**.



**Fig 89.** ‘tha’ broken in Sahayatha . Yellowish green SG No. O202a (1969). From **my collection**.



**Fig 90.** Unlisted rare variety of Gwalior overprint, where the accents over to last fonts is very small and more horizontal. Images from my collection.



**Fig 91.** Variations found in the Hindi Font sizes and shapes of the RRT Gwalior Service overprinted stamps, unlisted, from my collection.

**3.16 ::** The extremely rare NEEMUCH overprint listed as SG O212c, Type O24b. It was in 2021, when Nicholas Follansbee reported a cover used from FPO 1652 (shown below). This cover is from the office of the Central Reserve Police, located at Neemuch, thereby authenticating these very elusive overprints. Only about 30 are known to exist.



27 May 1972 - FPO No 1652 (location not known but probably near Neemuch) from the Office of the Commandant 53 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force.

Fig 92. Image courtesy of [Nicholas Follansbee](#).

**Note:** **Clarendon** fonts of "R"s and "e"s becoming "**theta**" typically observed, in most **Neemuch** overprints *as shown below, is based on my studies*



Both upright 'R's  
is also very **RARE**



With Clarendon font of "R" and "e" becoming  
"theta". is frequently seen in this overprint.

Fig 93. Normal is listed as SG O212c "R" of "Refugee" and "Relief", both upright, as shown above, Image from **my collection**.



Fig 94. Extremely rare inverted overprint errors, two types , only **one of each** is known used, and is listed as SG O212ca is shown on LHS above, with normal overprint **inverted**, image courtesy of [Nicholas Follansbee](#). Image on the RHS is an **Inverted** overprint with an additional variety with "R" of "Relief" in **Italic** , from **my collection**, which is unlisted. Only **one** of each is known to exist.



**Fig 95.** With the rare variety of italic “R” in “Refugee”, listed as SG O212cb. Image from my collection.



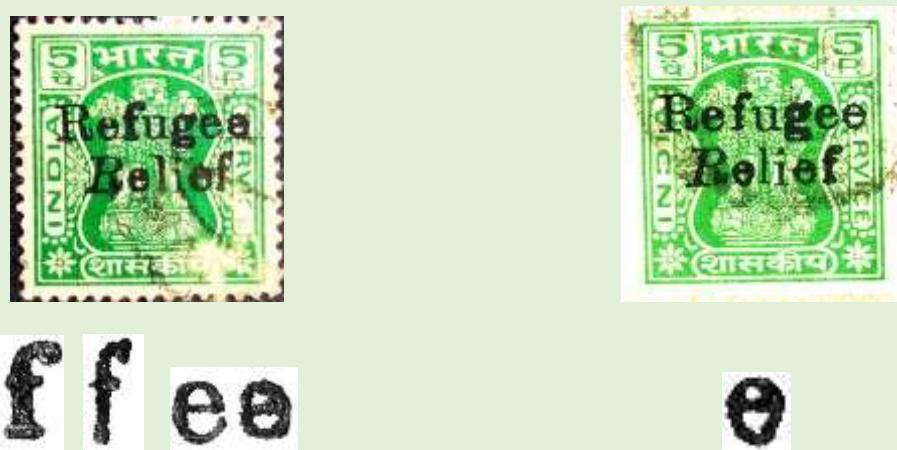
**Fig 96.** With rare italic variety “R” in “Relief” listed, (and a fat foghorn ‘f’,unlisted) in ‘Refugee’ listed as SG O212cc. Image from my collection.



**Fig 97.** Extremely rare composition unlisted **error, parenthesis close bracket symbol “】”**, instead of “)” in “Relief”. Only **one** discovery example( probably **unique**), as above is known. Image from my collection



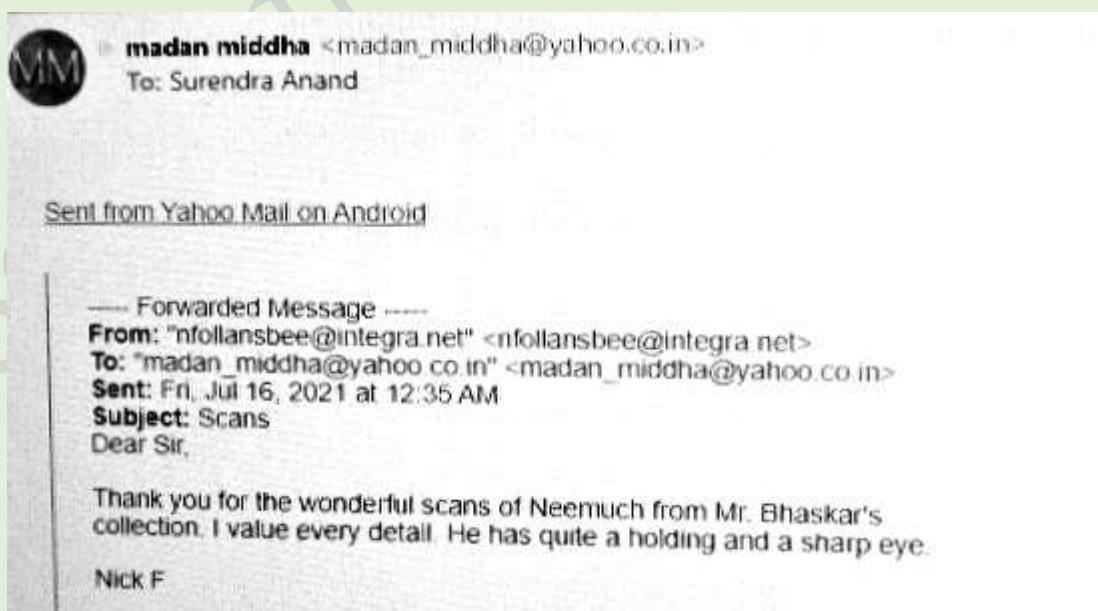
**Fig 98.** Very rare variety of dropped “R” in “Relief” unlisted. Image courtesy of **Nicholas Follansbee**. Only **one** known to exist.



**Fig 99.** Variety with **fat foghorn 'f'** in 'Refugee', and **thin 'f'** in 'Relief', last'e(theta)' in 'Refugee" deformed in the LHS stamp (**SAB**). Deformed first 'e (theta)' of 'Relief' in the RHS stamp(**NF**) . Both stamps have an **Italic Clarendon 'R'** and the lower loop of **g** is compressed, in both stamps.



**Fig 100.** Another interesting variety of the Neemuch overprint, wherein the 'e' has become 'theta' and gone further to becoming a **big blind spot!** The 'R' of 'Refugee' is **bent**.



**Fig 101.** Nicholas Follansbee's appreciation forwarded to me by Mr. Middha in **July 2021**

**3.17 ::** Extremely rare, REWA overprint, listed as SG O212d, Type O24c. This overprint was first recorded by [Dr. S.P.Gupta](#) in his specialised catalogue and "Hand Book of Modern Indian Stamps", 1984, 1<sup>st</sup>. Edition as S58, from *Rajasthan*. However, during discussions in the RRT GROUP, [Nicholas Follansbee](#) shared an authenticating cover from REWA Madhya Pradesh (M.P.). Hence it was decided to call this overprint as REWA. It is also discovered by me to have been used from SHAHDOL, Civil Lines see image below in Fig 102, besides Satna and Cachro, which are in the collection of Nicholas Follansbee. Only **20** are known to exist used.



**Fig 102.** Normal REWA overprint used first identified by me, from SHAHDOL, from **my** collection.



**Fig 103.** The extremely rare REWA mint stamp. only **one** known to exist, possibly **unique**. Image from **my** collection.



**Fig 104.** Unlisted variety with a **broken** rear leg of "R" in "REFUGEE", and "RE" joined in "RELIEF" from **my** collection.

**3.18 ::** The extremely rare **BHOPAL** SG 212e, Type O24d. Also first identified by me to have been used from Mandsaur and Neemuch (shown below). [This overprint was first reported by [Walter Anderson](#), in the India Post (ISC) 18/4, December 1984, and also noted in his personal collection album (shown below, shared by [Nicholas Follansbee](#)), that it is "Genuinely used, on Bhopal Service mail", from the State Education Dept., BHOPAL, M.P.]. Only **16** are known to exist used.

Existence of a **cover** from **Bhopal**Used from **Neemuch**Fig 105. Image on left, courtesy of [Nicholas Follansbee](#). Image on right, from **my collection**.

<nfollansbee@integra.net> wrote:

Dear Surendra,

These are excellent and important scans, thank you! By the way, they are the first scans of this overprint that I have received from anyone.

My two examples have indistinct cancels and the only clues I had about them are a note that came with one from Walter Anderson living in Ratlam at the time indicating with a small question mark that it came from Bhopal, used by the MP State Dept. of Education. I also have revenues with

Fig 106. The scans of **Bhopal** stamps, were discovered and identified for the **first time** by me, to have been also **used** from **Mandsaur** and now also from **Neemuch**. Their scans were shared with Nicholas Follansbee, who sent the above note of appreciation to me.

fuge

Fig 107. Extremely rare unlisted variety, with **lower** loop of "g" compressed. Only **3** known used. Image is from my collection.



# Refugee

**Fig 108.** Extremely rare unlisted variety of top of last 'e' of 'Refugee' compressed flat!  
Images from my collection. Newly discovered for the first time. Only one known to exist.

➤ **Note:** The identification of **Bhopal** as the origin, of the above overprint is being questioned now in August 2024, with a Vendor recently claiming in a Whatsapp group that revenue stamps with an identical overprint, were printed at **INDORE**, at the **Sarvodaya Printing Press**. Experts may please verify this claim.

\*\*\*\*\*

=====XXXX=====

## CHAPTER 4.

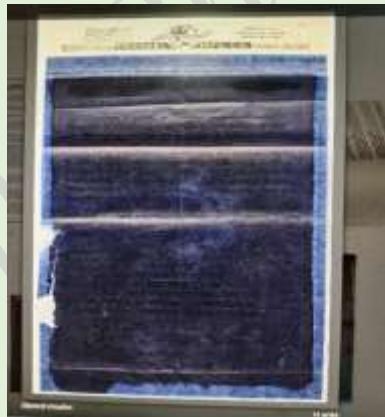
### Section 4.1 :: Typewriters , Cyclostyling and Metering Desktop machines and process.

In the early 70's, 'modern' methods of duplicating by **Cyclostyling machines**, the typewritten text was in vogue utilizing a **stencil** of special waxed paper. The typed text would cut the stencil just enough for ink to pass through. This was attached around a cylindrical roller which would be inked and rolled over the receiving paper (sheet of stamps) to impress upon it the typed text. **Cyclostyling machines** were much costlier than typewriters, hence only a **few private business houses** had them. **Typewriters** were however **readily available** in most Government and **Post Offices**. Both machines were manually operated **by hand**.



**Cyclostyling machine (GESTETNER)**

Fig. 109



**Stencil used for Blue colored letters.**

Fig. 110



A 'Remington Rand' **Typewriter** . Note the **bicoloured Black and Red ribbon** shown .

Fig 111A



An old American 'PB' model of a manual desktop **stamp Metering machine**.

Fig 111B

- *Cyclostyled, Typewritten, and Metered RRT overprinted stamps (and covers) are all very scarce and a few are very rare .*

**Dr. S.P.Gupta** in his 'Specialised Handbook of Modern Indian Stamps' (in 1984) has noted as under .

Type-written overprints: This type of overprints are mostly seen on official stamps and examples are quite rare. One such example is illustrated below.

Cyclostyled overprints: The fact that such overprints exist on genuine covers is enough proof that this method was used. We have two complete covers with cyclostyled overprints originating from Vizagapatnam bearing Vizagapatnam Port Trust cancellations dated 16.11.71 and 30.11.71. These overprints were applied in English in two or four lines. These are listed and illustrated at appropriate place.

Fig 112. Vizagapatnam is Vishakapatnam now Other covers have now surfaced .

### Section 4.2:: Typewritten RRT stamps for Public and Official use.



Fig 113. Normal Typewritten stamps from [Nicholas Follansbee](#).



Fig 114. Normal Typewritten stamps, from my collection.



Raised 'R' variety in 'Relief'



Borivali (West)



Hyderabad

Fig 115 Variety &amp;

Two identified Typewritten from [Nicholas Follansbee \(NF\)](#)

**Fig 116.** An interesting case where a public stamp is Typewriter overprinted and used in combination with a **service** stamp. This is an unusual evidence of the unavailability at that particular place and time of a Service stamp suitably typed for use for this obligatory tax . Such incidences of **combining the use of public RRT stamp** for official service/revenue use is known especially in Mysore (Karnataka region ) and on Post Office internal account and submission for audit statement pages. Image courtesy of [Nicholas Follansbee](#).



Fig 117. Typewritten error stamp (i over e) and 'f f' from my collection



Fig 118. Typewritten error stamp 'Refusee' instead of 'Refugee',from my collection.



**Fig 119.** Typewritten 'Relief missing error and a gap between 'Refu' and 'gee'. Image from **my collection.**



**Fig 120.** Unusually **smudgy** Typewriter strike . This could be due to the typewriter ribbon becoming **dry** and a quick fix solution was to use some kerosene ,which has a thinning effect on the black colour rendering a smudgy appearance as above . Image from **my collection.**



**Fig 121.** Typewritten scarce **Bichrome variety** on 5p map definitive, from **my collection.**



**Fig 122.** Typewritten **RED** overprint **extremely rare**, from **Indranath Bhattacharya(IB)**

### Section 4.3 :: Cyclostyled RRT overprinted stamps ::



**Fig 123.** Normal Cyclostyled two types **1. Two lines** and **2. Four lines**, from my collection.

Cyclostyled overprints are very scarce and are known used from Turner and Teegalavari Choultry, **Vishapatnam** and **Anakapalle** in Andhra Pradesh in the early months of the RRT regime ie in November and December 1971.



**Fig 124.** Cyclostyled variety “no dot “after” Relief “and vertically split”, from my collection.



**Fig 125.** Cyclostyled error Vertically split two line overprint, from my collection.



**Fig 126.** Cyclostyled four line vertically transposed error, from my collection.



**Fig 127.** Cyclostyled, two lines, **very rare, double overprint error**, used from the Turner Choultry, Visakhapatnam, from **my** collection. Only **one** seen by me.



**Fig 128.** Cyclostyled **Blue** colour Overprint, possibly unique, only **one** is known.

Image from **my** collection.



**Fig 129.** Cyclostyled **four lines vertically transposed** error from ARAKU Valley (LHS), and a normal four line from ANAKAPALLE (RHS) from collection of **Binod Jain**



**Fig 130.** Cyclostyled 4 lines **horizontally transposed** overprint from Turner Choultry, Visakhapatnam, from the collection of **Binod Jain**.

## Section 4.4 :: Metered RRT stamping machines and usages :

An Introduction has already been given in my first '*Guide for Beginners and Collectors of RRT*' on page 23 which should be re-read. Dr R.S Gandhi is to be commended for his pioneering service of compiling a ***Comprehensive List of RRT metered Stamps, their various Types of overprints, and models of metering machines*** and details of their ***usages***. His research in this obscure facet of RRT is briefly reproduced here below vide Figs. RSG1,2,3, for ready reference. The full article can be accessed from the internet vide 'Reference' at the end of this Guide on page 75.



USER'S INITIALS	LICENCE MARKS	USER FIRM	REMARKS (known dates of usage)
1. TYPE I	N. & G. B. LTD. B - 685	National And Grindlays Bank Ltd., P.O. Box 141 90 / 94, Mahatma Gandhi Rd., Bombay - 400 023	Neopost (LV 6 or 8) Model 1961, modified design, two lines REFUGEE / RELIEF at top and INDIA / POSTAGE sideways, small Ashoka Wheel, denomination as 5 PS 20 XII 71; 24 IV 72; 8 V 72; 7 VI 72; 21 VI 72; 15 VII 72; 18 IX 72; 25 XI 72; 27 XII 72 & 18 I 73
2.	TIMES B - 680	Times Of India P.O. Box 213, Bombay No. 1	- do - ; 7 I 72; 19 II 72; 6 IV 72; 22 V 72; 5 VII 72; 8 VII 72; 11 IX 72; 2 X 72; 13 X 72; 16 X 72 & 23 X 72
3.	D.O. (I) LTD B - 4032	Dorr - Oliver India Limited 56 A, Free School Street, Calcutta - 16	- do - ; 12 I 72; 14 I 72; 5 II 72; 10 IV 72; 28 VI 72; 7 VII 72 & 4 IX 72
		(printed corner return address; but meter licensed from Maharashtra Postal Circle)	
4.	BK. OF INDIA B - 4009	Bank of India, Express Towers, Nariman Point, Bombay - 21	- do - ; 6 X 72; 7 X 72; 18 XI 72; 25 XI 72; 4 I 73 & 10 I 73

The Bank of India used the same RRT die (license no. B - 4009) with two different regular Postage meters (Neopost Model of 1957, ID mark BOMBAY GPO - B. OF I. B - 1092 and Stampmaster Model of 1957, ID mark BOMBAY BK. OF INDIA B - 3827 date 5 X 72)

5.	B - 650	Dharamyug, Magazine, The Times of India Press.	- do -
6. TYPE II	B.B. (I) LTD. C - 1 / RRT	Brooke Bond India Limited Calcutta	Neopost (LV 6 or 8) Model 1961, Modified design, curved REFUGEE RELIEF in semicircle at top, No INDIA POSTAGE legend, large Ashoka Wheel, denomination as 5 PAISE 12 XI 72
<b>RSG 2.</b>			
7.	D.I.LTD. C - 3 / RRT	Dunlop India Limited, Dunlop House, 57 - B, Mirza Ghalib Street, Post Box No. 9023, Calcutta- 16	- do - ; 27 IV 72; 21 VI 72; 14 VII 72; 18 IX 72; 21 X 72; 28 X 72; 4 XI 72; 24 I 73 & 31 I 73; 15 I 73 13 II 73

( postage meter dated 15 I 73 on cover but meter imprint paying RRT is dated 15 XII 73  
on back side, obviously a wrong date mark)

8.	B. S. C - 5 / RR	M / S Burma Shell Hongkong House, Calcutta - 1	- do -      5 X 72
9.	C.E.S.C. C - 6 / RRT	Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Limited, 443 / 1 Grant Trunk Road, Howrah	- do - ; 28 VII 72; 19 VII 72; 21 VII 72; 13 IX 72; 25 IX 72; 14 X 72; 20 X 72 & 3 XI 72;
10.	L.I.C.I. P - 191	Life Insurance Corporation Of India, Patna Divisional Office, "Jeevan Prakash" Muzharul Path, Patna - 1	- do -      4 X 72
11. TYPE III	KILBURNS B - 2630	Macneil and Magor Limited, P.O. Box 565, Mackinnon Mackenzie building, Shoorji Vallabhdas Marg, Bombay 400 001.	Kilburns (FV) Model K1 of 1970, commercial-use format, one additional vertical line above the left & right bottom tablets. No index letter K in right bottom tablet but one line in left tablets; small Ashoka Wheel & one lined REFUGEE RELIEF at top panel. No INDIA POSTAGE legend. Denomination as RUPEES 0.05 22 VII 72; 26 VII 72 & 6 IX 72

12. TYPE IV	ESSO B - 539	Esso India, Esso Eastern Inc. P.O. Box No. 11041, Bombay - 20 BR.	Universal (MV) Model 1957, commercial – use format, Index letter U in left bottom tablet & right tablet being solid; one lined REFUGEE RELIEF at top, no INDIA POSTAGE legend, denomination as RUPEES 0.05. 24 IV 72; 14 VI 72; 29 VII 72 & 18 IX 72; 19 IV 72
13.	U.S.I.S. B - 4019	United States Information Service, Bombay	- do - 9 IX 72
14. TYPE IVa	P.D. B - 220	Parke-Devis (India) Limited, Saki Naka, Bombay - 400 072	Universal (MV) Model 1959, modified design two additional decorative vertical above bottom tablets, the right tablet being solid; denomination as RUPEES = 0.05 3 I 72; 10 I 72; 17 I 72; 12 II 72; 3 IV 72; 20 IV 72; 29 V 72; 20 IX 72; 11 I 73 & 24 I 73
15. TYPE IVb	U.S. EMBASSY D - 1868 6/RRT	U.S. Embassy New Delhi	Universal Automax (MV) Model, REFUGEE and RELIEF vertically At Left & right side, Index letter
16. TYPE V	B.E.L BG - 603	Bharat Electronic Ltd., Registered Office Jalahalli, Bangalore 13	U in the left bottom tablet, Solid Block at right bottom tablet. denomination as = 0.05 24 V 72;  Neopost (LV 6 or 8) Model 1961, commercial-use format, no Ashoka Wheel, INDIA POSTAGE legend at top panel and bi-lingual REFUGEE RELIEF in Roman & Devanagari in large script letterings, denomination as RUPEE 0.05 14 XII 71; 24 XII 71; 15 V 72; 14 VI 72; 5 VII 72; 12 VII 72; 29 VII 72; 9 IX 72; 27 IX 72 & 9 X 72
17. TYPE VI	L.I.C. (D.O.) P-145	Life Insurance Corporation of India, Jamshedpur Divisional Office, Hindustan Building Post Box. 41, Jamshedpur – 1	Stampmaster (LV.16) Model 1957, commercial – use format, large Ashoka wheel, REFUGEE / RELIEF sideways, denomination as Rs. 0.05 17 XI 72; 25 I 73 & 13 II 73
18. TYPE VII			Neopost (LV. 6 or 8) Model 1961, commercial-use format, Bi-lingual REFUGEE RELIEF in Roman & Devanagari scripts in small fonts
19. TYPE VIII	TISCO P - 17	The Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd, Jamshedpur	Universal Simplex (LV. 25) Model of 1961, REFUGEE and RELIEF at right & left vertical panel, solid blocks at right & left bottom. Denomination as RUPEE 0.05 5 XII 72

**RSG 3**The above three Figs RSG1,2,3 are reproduced courtesy of Dr. R.S. Gandhi.

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## CHAPTER 5.

### Recent (2023/24) Review and Research on the Bogus “Bangalore” ovpt.

**Section 5.0:** A longstanding (since 2011) controversy of the **origins** and authenticity of the previously Listed SG No. **647** & SG No. **O211**, Type 602 (old) , RRT stamps, as the “Bangalore” overprints ::



#### Its intriguing and complicated Mystery case story ::

**Question ::** Did the previously listed **SG 647 (old)** and **SG O211** ( declared as bogus in 2011) originate from **BANGALORE** or from **ALIPORE** ?? .

#### **Section 5.1:: Bangalore vs Alipore for Public use .**

The previously listed **SG O211**, **SG Type 602 (old)** **BANGALORE** Provisional **Service** stamp, was abruptly declared as “**bogus**” by **SG** around **2011** and **delisted**!

However they **did not change** the ‘Alipore’ illustration **Type 602(old)** shown for the Bangalore public RRT stamp in their Catalogues. (This was **finally** corrected in their recent **2023 INDIA Catalogue**, based on the information submitted to them by the author)

Some leading RRT experts and some very early collectors, claimed that it is an **authentic Bangalore overprint** and only one expert suggested it is from **ALIPORE** (without adducing any evidence). Surprisingly even Dr. S.P. Gupta, has listed and priced it, and its error in his Handbook (1984) as a **BANGALORE** overprint. This controversy raged on in the RRT whatsapp group (in mid2020’s), until **Nicholas Follansbee** proved by accurate measurements, (in 2021) these are **two different overprints** and the SG listing it as **Bangalore** for the public **SG 647 (old)** and the **SG O211** for the service RRT overprinted local Provisionals were **incorrect** .

A **mysterious** fact was in the interim discovered when it was found that **Manik Jain** has sent the Alipore public stamp to Dacca on a first flight cover, but why he has not recorded the Alipore in his **PHILA** guide **remains the mystery** ?. How were all early cataloguers viz Dr. S.P. Gupta, Philcent, Stanley Gibbons all convinced to depict and illustrate this overprint as a “Bangalore” type is another **mystery unsolved to date**!

The only earliest simultaneous recording of both the **Bangalore** and **Alipore with illustrations** are by D. Chakravarty, ( Calcutta) in his article/booklet of 1975 and 1980 ! This record was shared in the RRT group by **Madan Middha** and **Madhukar Jhingan** . A similar controversy, also persisted around the previously listed **Bangalore SG 647** , **SG Type 602 (old)** on the **public** definitive **SG 506**,on the 5p cerise Family planning stamp.



Fig 131. From Sukumar Mondal posted on 1<sup>st</sup> May 72 from Calcutta -26 (Kalighat), under Alipore H.O.



Fig 132.

With SG 647

Type 602(old)

The pertinent cover sent by **Manik Jain** (PHILATELIA) located in Calcutta, with this public RRT stamp and overprint on "India-Bangladesh first flight" cover dated 26-12-71, from Calcutta to Dacca (return to sender), which strongly suggests this overprint as emanating from Calcutta, see Fig 134. Again, this is Philatelist's cover, and not from an impartial public, and commercially used, which detracts to some degree from authenticating the overprint, especially since this overprint is **not listed** in his own catalogue 'PHILA INDIA GUIDE BOOK' as an **Alipore overprint**.

(a) Local hand-overprints in English, Hindi or both, in black or violet				
159 5 n.p. green, <i>Map of India (Lion Capital Wmk.)</i>				
260 5 n.p. cerise ( <i>Family planning</i> )				
159 3 n.p. red-brown— <i>Map of India</i>				
& 257 2 p. red-brown ( <i>Bidri vase</i> )				
258 3 p. brown-olive ( <i>Brass lamp</i> )				
& 257 2 p. red-brown ( <i>Bidri vase</i> )				
(b) Local machine overprints in black				
280 5 p. cerise ( <i>Family Planning</i> )				
(i) Alwar print (T1)				
(ii) Alipore print (T2)				
(iii) Bangalore print (T3)				
(iv) Delhi print (T4)				
(v) Goa print (T5)				
(vi) Jabalpur print (T6)				
(vii) Jaipur, Type I print (T7)				
(viii) Jaipur, Type II print (T8)				
(c) Nasik overprint—provisional issue (15.11.71)				
401 5 p. cerise—thick overprint (T9)				
.. 5 p. " —thin overprint (T10)				
(d) Regular issue (1.12.71)				
402 5 p. rose-carmine				
.. 5 p. carmine				
<b>Note :</b> Instances of inverted overprint, transposed print and double-print occur in some of the local machine-prints.				

Fig 133. Listed as 'T2' No. 260(ii) "Know your stamps" article

of D. Chakravarty (1975) for the 5p cerise public stamp.



**Fig 134.** Front and Reverse of **Manik Jain's** Cover on First Flight Cover to Dacca on 25-11-71.

Image in **Fig 133 ,Type 260**, is from D. Chakrabarty's booklet/article ( 1975 ) , wherein the RRT stamp from **Alipore** is **T2** , matching the overprint on the **5p cerise Family planning stamp**, on the cover posted to Michigan USA , by **Sukumar Mondal** and **Manik Jain** from Calcutta.

It is **not the same** as the **Bangalore** overprint which is also shown therein, as **T1 in Fig 133.** The cover images for Fig 132 is sourced from the NET, with a clear cancel of **Kalighat , Calcutta -26.**

The photoscans from **D.Chakravarty's** booklet, were shared in the RRT whatsapp group, courtesy of **Madan Middha** and **Madhukar Jhingan**. The cover in **Fig 132** “unfortunately” seems to be from a philatelist Sukumar Mondal) . Similar covers from the common public would be desirable to confirm the authenticity of commercial public/official usage.

### Section 5.2 :: Bangalore vs Alipore for Service use.



**Fig 135.** The only clues for the previously listed **SG O211** .

1. It was declared **bogus by SG in 2011** ( No.1 above)
2. Used in '71' (No.2).
3. 'REG' and 'LCUT' (Calcutta?) in cancel ( No.3).

The above were the only clues from stray “used” examples, and the only evidence available to me, till **April 2023** (when the latest **SG India Catalogue** was published) and the above controversy remained **status quo** till October 2023.



"ORE" and "72" cancel on top RHS.



Cancelled "LAKE" dated 15/11/71.

**Fig 136.** Above two images, courtesy of [Indranath Bhattacharya](#), an early collector (since 1975) shared with me, only very recently in **Ocober 2023**, which provided a couple of more clues. "**ORE**", and a cancel dated **16/6/72** ,in the **LHS** image could mean Bangalore or Alipore . "**Lake**" in the cancel in the **RHS** stamp, could mean "**Lake market**" post office **or** "**Lake garden**" post office, both are near **Kalighat P.O.** as shown vide **Figs 139 & 140**.



**Fig 137.** Source unknown. Above blank cover was forwarded in the RRT Whatsapp group unexpectedly, for the **first** time, on **22-11-2023** ! This unaddressed cover could be a **CTO** or **FDC** since it is cancelled on **15-11-71**. But, finally we have a clear cancel of the **post office of origin** which is **Kalighat, Calcutta -26**.

#### Summary of the above clues :

1. This overprint is most probably from "**Lake**", post office.
2. Lake post office, is nearer to the **Kalighat** post office, (**Calcutta - 26**).
3. **Kalighat (Calcutta-26)** post office and '**Lake**' post offices are **both** very close to and under the **Alipore H.P.O. (Calcutta - 27)**, where the **old West Bengal Government Printing Press** exists.
4. Examples of the Alipore overprint both **Public** and **Service issues** are found used from **15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 71 to 16<sup>th</sup> June 72 ( Fig 136)**.

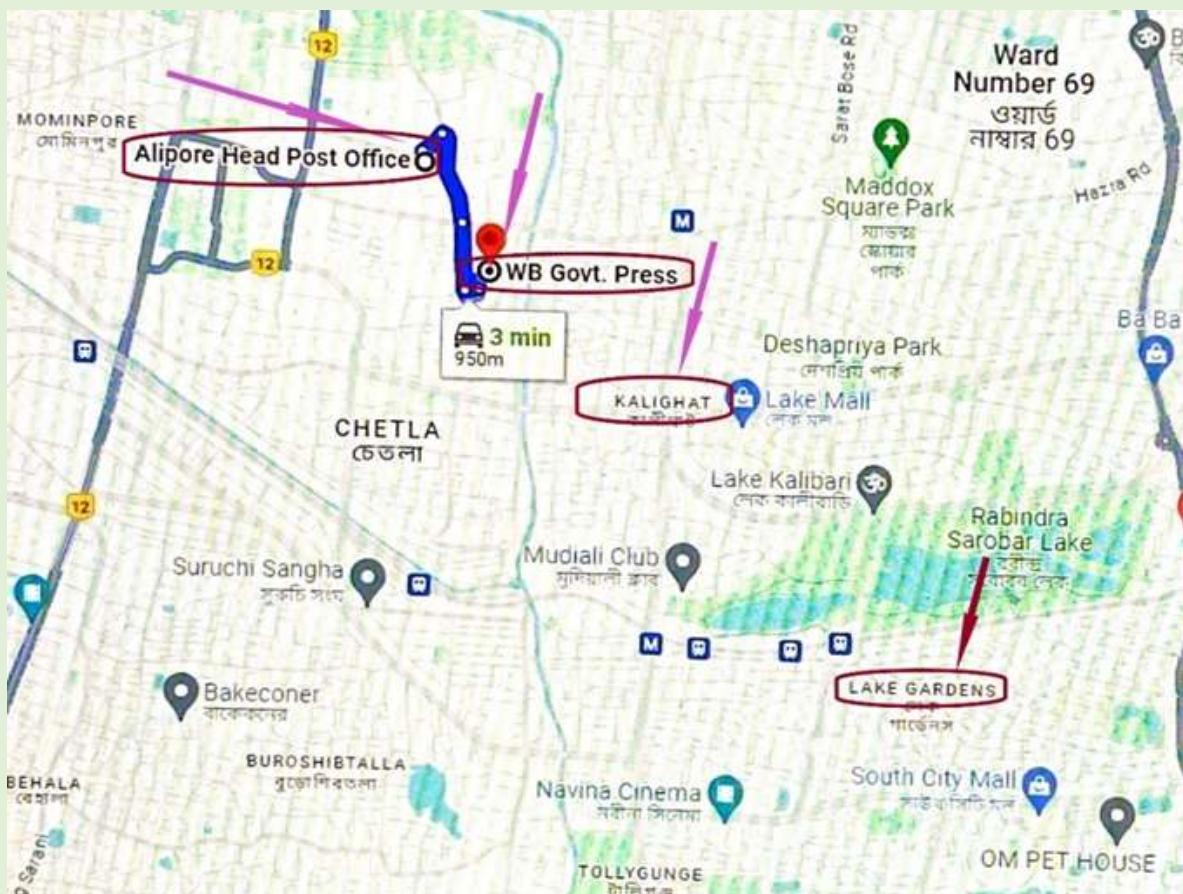
or in both, in black or violet on		From D. Chakrabarty (1980)		
(b)	S28 5p. emerald-green	Refugee Relief	T1	T2
	Local machine-overprints in black on			Refugee Relief
	S28 5p. emerald-green			5p. emerald-green
(i)	Alipore print (T1)	T1		
(ii)	Goa print (T2)		T2	
(iii)	Gwalior print Type I (T4)	Refugee Relief	T4	Refugee Relief
(iv)	" " Type II (T5)	Refugee Relief	T5	Refugee Relief
(v)	Jaipur print, Type I (T3)			REFUGEE RELIEF
(vi)	" " Type II (T6)			T6

Fig 138. A photoscan extract from the early author, **D. Chakrabarty's** Booklet “Know your stamps” (1980), which records an overprint type S28 denoted “T1” corresponding to the Alipore overprint with its image on the ‘5p emerald green’ service stamp, shown above.

Note: D. Chakrabarty **does not record** any Service stamp, from ‘Bangalore’ in his 1980 booklet vide Fig 138.



Fig 139. Maps shown vide Figs 139 & 140, marked up by me showing the proximity of Lake Market P.O. Kalighat P.O. and the ALIPORE H.P.O.



**Fig 140.** GPS Map showing the proximity of Alipore H.P.O to the old West Bengal Government Printing Press at ALIPORE, less than 1 Km away from Alipore H.P.O!

\*\*\*\* **Updated inference and conclusion:** The above interesting evidences now available, suggest that the delisted Bangalore ‘bogus’ Bangalore SG 0211, Type 602 (old), as well as the previous SG 647 Type 602 (old) have both been ge overprinted at ALIPORE.

## CHAPTER 6.

:: Items awaiting additional evidence for authentication (by commercially used covers from the readers).

**6.1** A puzzling example of a similar to 'Alipore' overprint used on piece from **Eruch Batliwala**, with clear "**Bangalore**" and **Madurai(?)** cancellation, is shown below :



Fig 141.

**6.2** A cover exhibited by **Binod Jain** having a **similar** to above, **inverted** overprint on a cover from **Sabarmati, Ahmedabad (?)** shown below:



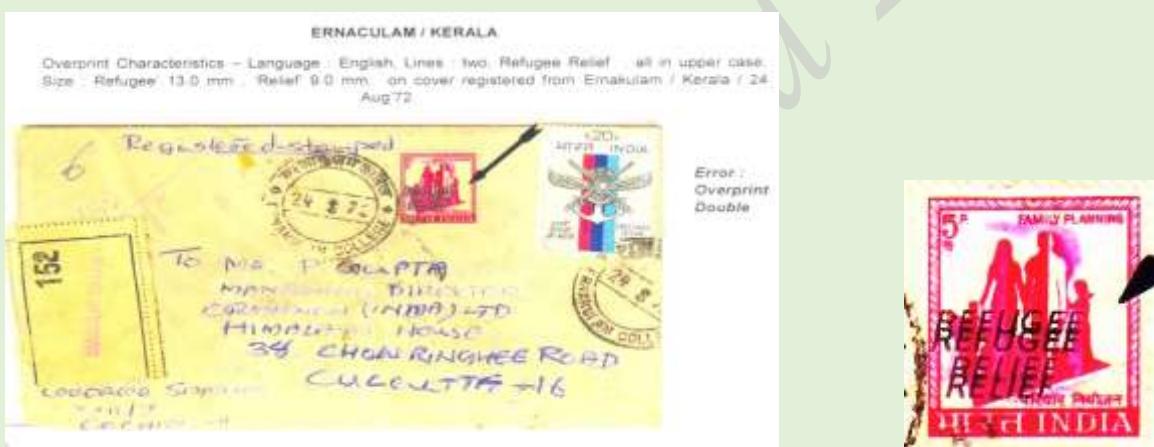
Fig 142.

**6.3. Other unlisted machine/unknown overprints with some clues, which need to be investigated further for authentication , listing and pricing.: -**

**Fig 143 ::** The MANGALORE (?) overprint ( Courtesy of Robert Howard Courtney USA , is shown below. ( Included in Nicholas Follansbee's 'Fantasy overprints', see Figs,150/153.)



**6.4 Fig 144 ::** Similar overprint found used on Cover shown below is from COCHIN(?), courtesy of Binod Jain.



**6.5** Unidentified mint overprint LHS , shown below, claimed to have been purchased from a Post Office (?) in the early 70's , by Ravi Vora (USA) . A similar overprint also exists on Service stamps . On the RHS is a similar, but used overprint. Seems they are both mint(LHS) and used (RHS) are in the same Calibri Font style, *The Service stamp bearing this inscription has however, been included in the Fantasy overprints, by Nicholas Follansbee vide Fig 150.*



Mint

Used

**6.6** An unidentified Service overprint ,from Maharashtra (??) claimed to have been purchased from the Post Office in early 70's , by Indranath Bhattacharya . A clue exists in the form of an Identical overprint existing on a Revenue stamp also shown in below. It has been found that a similar clue( of

usage as revenue stamp) also helped identify the extremely rare Service Overprint **BHOPAL**, recently listed as SG Type O24d and No. O212e .



Fig 146. (SAB)

5. An unidentified all Hindi RRT overprint “**Raj Sharanarthi Sahayata**” found on Service stamp which is also found on a Revenue stamp previously used for Drought Relief (and obliterated) in **RAJASTHAN, (?)** discovered by me vide Fig 147, which is in my collection used on a Stamp paper. This overprint is similar to the listed **Gwalior Type O24a, SG No. O212b Service** stamps, but letters are thinner on Service. It is currently regarded by **Nicholas Follansbee** as a “Fantasy”, ( i.e. unofficial ) overprint.



Fig 147 (SAB)

6. Is it an unlisted **machine** overprint

Similar **overprint** on Stamp paper found.



Fig 148, looks like a machine overprint from Kolaba?

7. This overprint was included in an Exhibit in the PHILAVIRTU (2020).

**6.7 Some more Unrecorded & Unidentified RRT stamps which do not seem to be rubber handstamped and too big to be typewritten (RHS) vide below ::**



?



?



?

Fig 149.

XXXXXXX

## CHAPTER 7.

➤ The following three pages are shared from the exhibit of **Nicholas Follansbee** which depict the **Bogus** “Bangalore” and “Fantasy” Overprints, (to denote **Fake/Bogus/Unofficial** overprints), which are self explanatory . He wishes to clarify that he still considers the following Fantasy Overprints to be **“fakes”** irrespective of whether they originated from ‘Bangalore’ or ‘Alipore’.

However, **Rajesh Paharia** has opined that these **controversial** overprints should be considered as **‘Private’** overprints and compares their legitimacy with the **manuscripted** stamps which were accepted by Post Offices without levying any penalty. It is finally left to the **collector** if he wants to collect them or not.

### The Bogus “Bangalore” Overprint

Scott and Stanley Gibbons both list this overprint, Scott ascribing it to “Maharashtra” and SG to Bangalore. In fact, it is a complete fantasy. The facts speak for themselves:

1. None have been found on cover genuinely used. Service covers from Bangalore invariably have the RRT paid with a “civilian” stamp with Bangalore or later the Nasik All-India overprint on service or with the RRT service definitive.
2. They are commonly offered with improbable “error” varieties.
3. The overprints are identical with the fake Bangalores on Family Planning where the font is slightly smaller and the “f’s have small, poorly formed crossbars.
4. They are usually offered together with other common fantasy overprints.

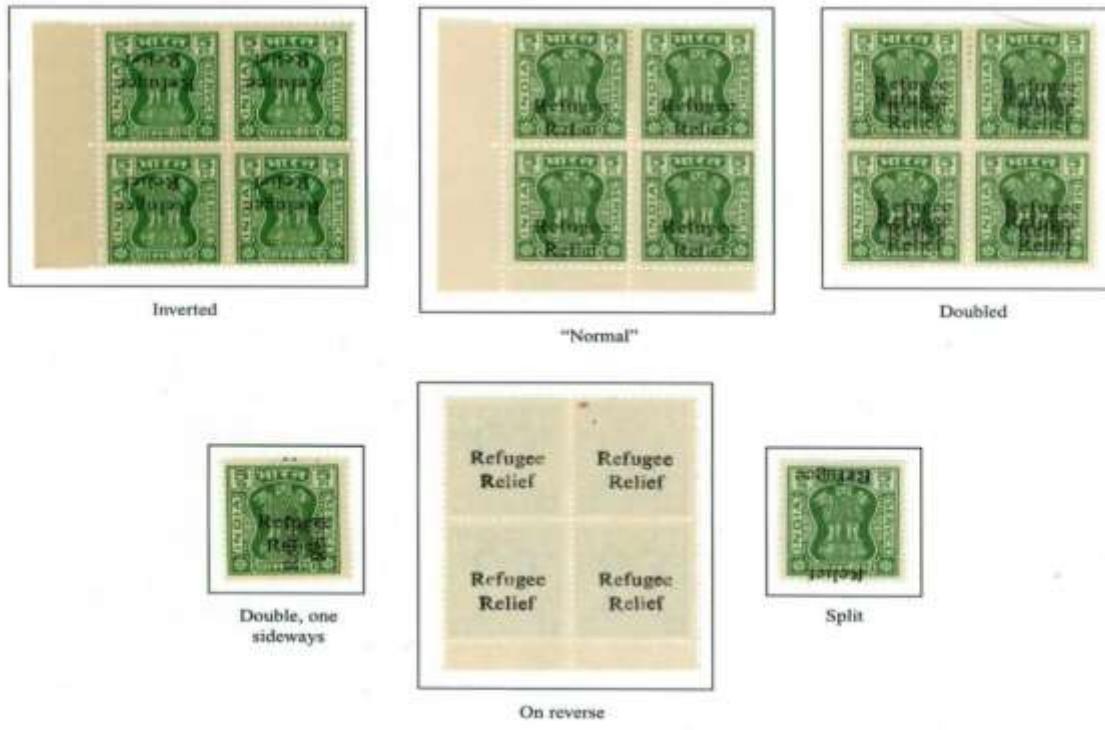
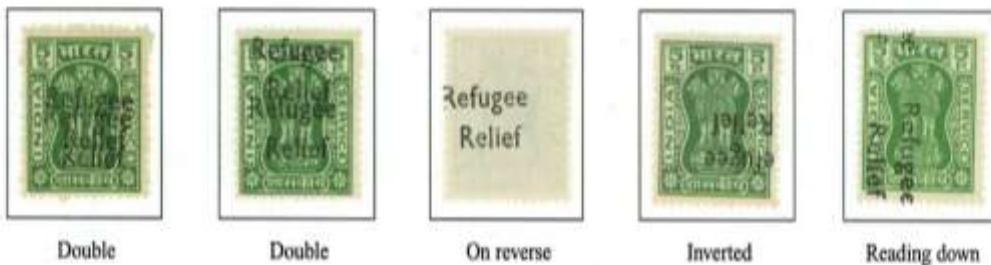


Fig 150. Courtesy **Nicholas Follansbee**

## The Fantasy Overprints

These are reluctantly included in the exhibit, for they are truly an insult to the genuine. This plentiful rubbish is usually found in lots with the bogus "Bangalore" on Service. They were probably created about the same time as the genuine varieties. Would that the world were cleansed of them!

"Refugee Relief" - Large



"Refugee Relief" - Smaller



Hindi Language



Fig 151. Courtesy [Nicholas Follansbee](#)

### The Fantasy Overprints

#### "REFUGEE RELIEF"



#### "REFUGEE RELIEF"

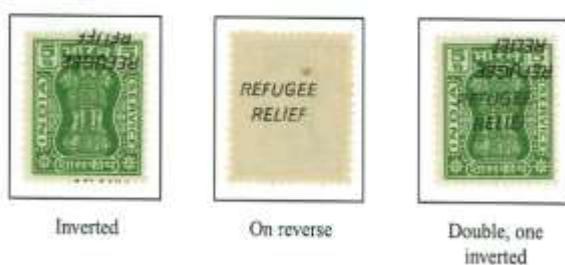


Fig 152. Courtesy [Nicholas Follansbee](#)

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## CHAPTER 8.

### REVIEW of factors affecting PRICES and need for REVALUATION.

**Foreword:** *It is common knowledge that the lack of information (generally) and fear of forgeries, have discouraged the development of a market for the RRT stamps and stationery. The following discussion is an effort on the part of the author to address the same :*

For example, till just a few years ago , the RRT market was **plagued** with several ‘private’ RRT overprints albeit on genuine stamps . Such overprints are deemed to be unauthorized and illegal by Postal authorities, hence recorded by pioneering researchers, as controversial with a doubtful legitimate status, or even termed as fakes, fantasy and forgeries by these early RRT researchers and recorded in their articles to duly caution the gullible public. In this context one may refer to the colourful and inspiring articles by **Howard Courtney** and **Nicholas Follansbee** (vide the References quoted at the end of this book). The basic criteria for relegating these, as unofficial, fake, forgeries, fantasy, private, was that they were **all** found in **mint** condition only, with several major errors, without **any** corresponding evidence of their being used on First Day covers ,or on commercial stationery sold by the postal department, such as Embossed envelopes, Inland letter cards, Aerogrammes etc, nor even on private stationeries or official internal documents. Many early philatelists, blindly bought these unrecorded/unauthenticated items, at fantastic prices till recently , of upto **Rs.6000**, per block of 4 , on stamps, which had cost the printer a mere **20 paise**.

This led to a disillusionment, distrust, and resentment among the philatelists leading to **suspicion on the authenticity** of these overprinted RRT stamps . It also resulted in aversion to all RRT stamps and stationery, and the consequent **sharp decline of demand** . The philatelists , on their own, and individually , were unable to discriminate and determine which stamps were genuine and rare and which were not. Hence the RRT market collapsed mainly because no reliable information and no reputed Catalogue was there to guide them on this theme, which was permeated by total **ignorance, chaos and confusion** .

It is precisely this situation that compelled the author to create a **special RRT Whatsapp group in July 2020**, supported by a couple of dozen or so advanced Collectors of RRT, interested members of the **India Study Group ( ISC)**, and/or of the **Philatelic Congress of India (PCI)**, and others, to exclusively study, and research all aspects of RRT, by freely sharing from their collections and relevant information on a common platform . This **RRT group** was tasked with the specific purpose of identifying, and authenticating the **genuinely rare and elusive officially overprinted, RRT stamps** used by the Public commercially, and the Government departments official correspondences. Its aim was to **publicise** the findings, to promote the RRT theme, thereby restore its credibility, and popularity. The simultaneous aim and intention of the group was to determine the **legitimate realistic valuation** based on the **genuine relative rarity/scarcity** of the old and newly discovered authentic overprints and their genuine errors, varieties, etc.. The final step was to obtain **recognition** for them from reputed publications and their **revaluation** from reputed International Catalogues

These findings with evidences of genuine usage were therefore submitted to **Hugh Jefferies** , editor , Stanley Gibbons Catalogues, who after his meticulous scrutiny and discussions through emails, with me, spanning over a year(since December 2021 to April 2023) and more than a hundred emails finally assented to revise , expand and reprice **upwards**, the **Stanley Gibbons INDIA Catalogue** in their recent 6<sup>th</sup>. Edition, published in **April 2023**. As it was not possible to accommodate the supporting information and details, in the Catalogue he advised me to write a detailed article , for publishing it in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly ( **GSM**) magazine. In this endeavour. I was encouraged

guided and appreciated by **Dean Shepherd**, the editor GSM, who enabled me to get published the pertinent details, with about **80 illustrations** in a 3 part article in the GSM, issues for February, March, and April 2024. I am deeply grateful to them both for the opportunity, encouragement and appreciation.

However, in view of the collapsed market for RRT , Hugh, was unable to price the used **rarest items and their varieties** based on their true intrinsic worth only ,( i.e. based on their extreme relative scarcity), thereby was constrained to restricting them to not more than GBP 100 only, ( as a *tentative initial underpricing*).

Nicholas Follansbee's competence as a philatelist is well known internationally from his work in philately of Mexico (two books, include four editions of " A Catalogue of the stamps of Mexico, 1856–1910". Less broadly known is, that he has formed one of the largest collections of RRT , which he has studied with keen enthusiasm and great care over the past **twenty** years or so. He had acquired the James R. Jones accumulation of several boxes of RRT stamps and material around 2008-2010, besides other huge lots, from other sources , including the gold medallist Ron Klimley's collections . He has stated that the RRT stamps studied by him , total in excess of 40,000 RRT stamps alone . It is from these resources , that he has arrived at his perceptions of Rarity and Scarcity of the RRT stamps and materials. In our personal discussions, during 2020/21, he kindly shared his perceptions of valuations of/from the materials of early collectors, from North/ Central India, based on materials and their study .His discoveries of the relative rarity of genuine rarities, was confirmed by me, after sifting through more than 6 lakhs of used common definitives, and a 5Kg bag of RRT stamps on piece, obtained from bulk suppliers based in *Chennai and Bangalore*, in **2012/13** My findings in the above lot revealed only about **25 Jabalpur, 18 Alwar , 8 Goa, and 2 Balaghat** on the 5p family Planning definitive and **4 Goa, 3 Gwalior, 2 Rewa** on the 5p service definitive. I was fortunate , thereafter, to obtain a few of the rare **Neemuch** and **Bhopal** overprints from a veteran dealer since the past 60 years in Delhi, (Shivanand Sharma and Pushpa/Vasudha), who told me he was nicknamed as "RRT Sharma", My remaining stock of the above rare definitives were purchased at high prices from auction houses. These findings were first reflected in the initial *tentatively* moderated SG's revised pricings as listed in their 2023 INDIA Catalogue. Both prices, one based on **commensurate present worth, and their authenticity** and SG's listed prices (converted approximately to equivalent Indian rupees) are now , for the very first time shared here below for the information and guidance of present and future RRT collectors. The original prices (of 2021/22) tabulated by me, have now been **duly revised** after Nicholas Follansbee was very recently consulted in (**June/July 2024**) as to their updated worth and his current perceptions. The final prices are now presented below, highlighted in **purple** colour, for the latest projected valuations of **Nicholas Follansbee** of some of the **rarest gems** of the public and official RRT Provisionals ( listed and some unlisted in the SG Catalogue 2023).

- The '**estimated quantities**' are merely indicative of their **inherent rarity**, they also include quantities revealed in a census for a couple of rarest stamps done in the RRT group a few years ago, now revised to reflect **updated** additional items surfacing till now i.e. upto **August 2024**. They **do not include** the **unknowable** stocks of dealers world wide, and a couple of leading collectors.

## CHAPTER 9.

**PRICES** given below are based on the International catalogue's currently listed and priced and for some unlisted (unpriced) provisional **machine** overprinted Postal stamps as **compared to** what are herein projected as their prospective commensurate valuation based on my presently 'known' estimated quantities( ie **scarcity/rarity**) and their verified authenticity (by SG) . Many items in this GUIDE have presently been *left unpriced* for future inclusion by experts.

### Section 9.1 :: RRT Stamps for Public use.

Image and name		Current Pricing		Inherent worth (INR)		Est. Qty.
		Mint	Used	Mint	Used	
		M	U	M	U	
	Nasik	100	20	200	20	- NA
<i>Litho</i>	<i>Quadruple overprints (unlisted)</i>	--	--	5000	--	<20M
	Nasik	200	20	300	30	NA
<i>Photo</i>	<i>Refugee Relief</i>					
	Bangalore	400	150	500	150	NA
<i>Error Opt. Double</i>		?	--	?	10,000	<15U
<i>Error Opt. Inverted (unlisted)</i>		---	--	?	50,000	1U
	Jaipur	800	400	900	600	NA
	Rajasthan	500	300	700	400	---
<i>Error opt. Inverted</i>		?	10,000	?	25,000	<10U
<i>Error "RELIEF REFUGEE"</i>		1800	2,000	3,000	4,000	80U?
<i>Error 'RELIEF' fully missing (unlisted)</i>		---	--	8000	6000	?
<i>Errors 'REFUGEE/RELIEF' partly missing (unlisted)</i>		----	---	< 5000	< 4000	?



	<b>New Delhi</b>	2000	500	2,500	500	NA
	<b>Error opt. Double</b>	4,500	2,000	6,000	7,000	< 20U
<b>b</b>	<b>Error opt. Inverted</b>	1,700	2,000	6,000	8,000	< 10U
<b>c</b>	<b>Error opt. Double, one inverted</b>	4,000	3,000	10,000	10,000	<10U



	<b>Goa</b>	2,500	1,000	5,000	1200	NA
<b>a</b>	<b>Error Opt. Double, one split</b>	?	7,500	?	40,000	1U



	<b>Jabalpur</b>	?	3,000	30,500	4,000	NA
<b>a</b>	<b>Error 'Rufugee' for 'Refugee' .</b>	?	6,000	?	15,000	1U
<b>b</b>	<b>Error First 'e' of 'Refugee' Inverted.</b>	?	6,000	?	15,000	5U
<b>c</b>	<b>Error ' reilief' for ' relief '.</b>	?	6,000	?	20,000	3U
<b>d</b>	<b>Error opt. Inverted (unlisted)</b>	--	--	?	50,000	1U



	<b>Alwar</b>	?	6,000	?	10,000	<70U
<b>a</b>	<b>Variety No dot on 'i" of 'Relief'</b>	?	10,000	?	15,000	3U
<b>b</b>	<b>Variety Clarendon font in 'R' of 'Refugee'.</b>	?	10,000	?	25,000	5U
<b>c</b>	<b>Variety Partial Double impressions (unlisted)</b>	---	---	?	12,000	25U



	<b>Balaghat</b>	?	6,000	?	20,000	<20U
--	-----------------	---	-------	---	--------	------



Ajmer

? 600 ? 800 NA

**Error** Vertical pair, missing opt. in lower stamp. --- ? 50,000 ? 1M

**Fig 153.** Prices for the RRT Provisional Machine overprints for **Public stamps**, (are for information only).

#### Section 9.2 :: PRICING of RRT stamps for Official/Service use.



Nasik

125/100 100/60 200/100 125/80 NA

**Error** opt double. (*unlisted*) ? --- ? 10,000 <10U

Displacement &gt;3 mm)



Goa

? 850 6,000 1500 NA



Gwalior

? 7,500 ? 20,000 &lt;30U



Neemuch

? 7500 ? 20,000 &lt;20U

<b>Error Opt. Inverted</b>	?	<b>10,000</b>	?	<b>45,000</b>	<b>2U</b>
<b>Variety</b> Italic 'R' in 'Refugee'	?	<b>10,000</b>	?	<b>15,000</b>	<b>&lt;6U</b>
<b>Variety</b> Italic 'R' in 'Relief'	?	<b>10,000</b>	?	<b>15,000</b>	<b>&lt;6U</b>
<b>Variety</b> Italic 'R' in Both.	?	---	?	----	
<b>Variety</b> ']' for 'I' in 'Relief' (unlisted)	---	---	?	<b>30,000</b>	<b>1U</b>
<b>Variety</b> dropped R in 'Relief' (unlisted)	--	---	?	<b>25,000</b>	<b>1U</b>



Rewa -- 8,000 25,000 20,000 1M/<20U



Bhopal ? 9,500 ? 25,000 25,000 16U

**Variety** Compressed lower

loop of 'g' in 'Refugee' (unlisted) ? ? ? 30,000 3U

§ Yellowish green shade and 210a is Yellow green shade which is scarcer.

Fig 154. Above prices for the RRT Provisional Machine overprints for Service stamps (are for information only)

**>>Notes :** 1. The latest prices for above rarities, highlighted in purple are as advised by Nick Follansbee , on consulting him in July 2024. 2. The symbol '?', denotes ,that the item may or may not exist. 3. The used quantities are based on single loose used known , they do not include on covers. It is presumed they were commercially used .

➤ The above is not a Commercial Catalogue, it does not represent an advertisement for Purchase or Sale.]

**DISCLAIMER ::** The author makes no claims that he is an expert , he only wishes to disseminate all available updated information to current and future Collectors of RRT. He also reiterates that he is grateful to all the contributors mentioned in the GUIDES .

## CHAPTER 10.

### REFERENCES AND RESOURCES for further study.

**BELOW Literature can be obtained from the author on request to his email**  
**surand77@yahoo.co.in**

**References for further study and research :**

1. The Article by **Nicholas Follansbee,(USA)**, India Post(ISC), October December 2010 issue.  
Titled " INDIA REFUGEE RELIEF 1971-1973, The Press overprinted Issues"
2. The Article by **Robert Howard Courtney (USA)**.  
[ <http://www.rhcourtney-collector.com/refugeerelief.html> ]  
Both the above are available on searching the net.
3. The **Ron Klimley (USA)** pioneering gold medal winning Exhibition on RRT in **APS (USA) in the early 2000's** preserved in **EXPONET** vide link given below.  
[http://www.aape.org/exhibit\\_view\\_page.asp?intExhibitNumber=68&intCurrentPageNumber=1](http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_page.asp?intExhibitNumber=68&intCurrentPageNumber=1)
4. The **Dr. R.S. Gandhi (India)** article on ' **War Tax through Indian Postal Meter markings**', pages 14 to 18, published in Oct-Dec issue of the Phila Post, a **PCI** (Philatelic Congress of India) Quarterly available on the net.

**>>>>>Plus A Bonus offer !**

1. **Hundreds of** Identified and codified **RRT Handstamps** by **Peter Leavers** and **Gautam Hemmady** as compiled by Gautam Hemmady, on a Excel sheet,
2. **Report of the actual Debate in the Rajya Sabha on the Postal Articles Act of 1971 for RRT.**

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**With best wishes to all my RRT colleagues and friends.**

**HAPPY COLLECTING !**

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**Also available on request : The digitized previous GUIDE by the author :**

**"A Comprehensive Guide for Beginners and Collectors of RRT"**  
**(With Acknowledgements & Commemoration of all the Contributors.)**

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INDEXATION : ( Prepared by Binod Kumar Jain -161024 )

		<i>A Guide for Advanced Collectors</i> : with Cover Pages.[OV-150824], Launched on 15 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024 in Group RRT, (as a sequel to earlier Comprehensive Guide for Beginners and Collectors of RRT). [VR1 - 151124 ]	1-78
		Preamble – A personal note with quantities searched for RRT gems. Importance of RRT Gems, by Nick Follansbee..	2
		CONTENTS ::	3
<u>Chapter 1.0</u>		The SG Listed RRT Postage Stamps Printing processes, the Rarest Gems listed & unlisted, Scope and intent of this Guide.	4-10
	1.1	Listed Provisional RRT Postage Stamps of India, 1971-73, in Stanley Gibbons, 2023 INDIA Catalogue.	5
	1.2	Printing processes used for All India Nasik Provisionals and the old local Treadle Typographic Printing Press.	6
	1.3	Rarest Gems of Listed RRT Machine overprinted Provisionals .	7
	1.4	Scope & Intent of this guide	8
	1.5	Home of the Gems of Local Machine overprinted Listed RRT Stamps – with Map of Madhya Pradesh, home of 6 of Rare Over Prints (and Rajasthan , home of 1)	9
	1.6	Repeal of Postal Article Act, 1971 and return of unused RRT stamps and stationery	10
<u>Chapter 2.0</u>		A study of the Font styles and characteristics of RRT local Typographed Provisionals.	11-13
<u>Chapter 3.0</u>		A Compilation of known errors and varieties of machine Press overprinted RRT Provisionals for Public and Official Service use.	14-47
<b>Section</b>	<b>3A</b>	Errors & Varieties of RRT Provisionals for public use .	14
	3.1	Nasik	14
		Perfins – (Figure No. 18)	16
	3.2	Bangalore	16
	3.3	Jaipur	19
	3.4	Rajasthan	21
	3.5	New Delhi	23
	3.6	Goa	25
	3.7	Jabalpur	26
	3.8	Alwar	29
	3.9	Balaghat (Rarest)	30
	3.10	Ajmer (Beawar City)	32
<b>Section</b>	<b>3B</b>	Two new typographed provisionals unlisted by S.G.	34
	3.11	Bombay/Nasik/Sunabeda	34
	3.12	Nasik / Hal	35
<b>Section</b>	<b>3C</b>	Errors & Varieties of RRT Provisionals for official Government Service use.	36
	3.13	Nasik	36-37

	<b>3.14</b>	<b>Goa</b>	<b>38-39</b>
	<b>3.15</b>	<b>Gwalior</b>	<b>39-41</b>
	<b>3.16</b>	<b>Neemuch</b>	<b>41-44</b>
	<b>3.17</b>	<b>Rewa</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>3.18</b>	<b>Bhopal (Rarest)</b>	<b>45-47</b>
<b><u>Chapter 4.0</u></b>	<b>Cyclostyled and Typewritten RRT Provisionals used, Compilation of these local typographed overprints.</b>		<b>48-56</b>
	<b>4.1</b>	<b>Typewriters &amp; Cyclostyling machines and process.</b>	<b>48-49</b>
	<b>4.2</b>	<b>Type written RRT stamps for public and official use .</b>	<b>49-51</b>
	<b>4.3</b>	<b>Cyclostyled RRT overprinted Stamps for public use.</b>	<b>52-53</b>
	<b>4.4</b>	<b>Metered RRT overprinted stamps.</b>	<b>54-56</b>
<b><u>Chapter 5.0</u></b>	<b>A Review and Research to resolve the Mystery of the earlier listed SG 'Bangalore' service overprints declared as bogus for service in 2011 - An interesting and complicated Mystery case story.</b>		<b>57-62</b>
	<b>5.1</b>	<b>Bangalore -Vs- Alipore Public issue.</b>	<b>57-59</b>
	<b>5.2</b>	<b>Bangalore Service -Vs- Alipore Service issue</b>	<b>59-62</b>
<b><u>Chapter 6.0</u></b>	<b>Overprints awaiting additional evidence for authentication.</b>		<b>63-65</b>
	<b>6.1</b>	<b>Alipore used from Bangalore &amp; Madurai Cancellation (Fig 141 : Example of Eruch Batliwala)</b>	<b>63</b>
	<b>6.2</b>	<b>Inverted overprint, similar to above on corner from Sabarmati Ahmedabad (Fig 142 : Example of B. K. Jain)</b>	<b>63</b>
		<b>Other unlisted overprints</b>	<b>64</b>
	<b>6.3</b>	<b>Mangalore Overprint for Public (Fig 143)</b>	<b>64</b>
	<b>6.4</b>	<b>Similar overprint from Cochin – Courtesy B. K. Jain (Fig 144)</b>	<b>64</b>
	<b>6.5&amp;6</b>	<b>Some more unidentified overprints, a couple similar to their Revenue versions.</b>	<b>64</b>
	<b>6.7</b>	<b>And other such unidentified.</b>	<b>65</b>
<b><u>Chapter 7.0</u></b>	<b>The 'Bogus' Bangalore and other Fantasy Service overprints from Nicholas Follansbee's Exhibit</b>		<b>66-68</b>
<b><u>Chapter 8.0</u></b>	<b>Detailed review of the factors affecting Pricing of RRT stamps, need for Revaluation based on inherent Rarity &amp; Scarcity</b>		<b>69-70</b>
<b><u>Chapter 9.0</u></b>	<b>A Comparative Tabulation of current International PRICING and perceived future commensurate valuation based on their present known scarcity&amp; rarity.</b>		<b>71-74</b>
	<b>9.1</b>	<b>RRT Stamps for public use</b>	<b>71-73</b>
	<b>9.2</b>	<b>RRT Stamps for Official/ Service use</b>	<b>73-74</b>
<b><u>Chapter 10.0</u></b>	<b>References and Resources for further study.</b>		<b>75</b>
	<b>INDEXATION.....</b>		<b>76-77</b>
	<b>Back Cover</b>		<b>78</b>

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SPECIAL FEATURE

## INDIAN REFUGEE RELIEF TAX PART 3: PROVISIONAL ISSUES FOR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE USE

By Surendra Anand Bhaskar ISC

Surendra Bhaskar concludes his study of the 1971 refugee relief tax stamps of India with a look at the provisional issues produced for official government service use.

Like the previously discussed refugee relief tax (RRT) stamps produced for use by the public, RRT stamps for official governmental use were also produced locally until all-India officials overprinted at Nasik could be delivered. Both Nasik and local RRT officials were created by overprinting the 1967 5p. green (SG O202) and 1969 5p. yellowish-green (O202a) officials (Type O23) in sheets of 90 on ungummed paper with Large Star and GOI (Govt. of India) watermark. Local provisionals were overprinted using manually operated treadle printing presses and varieties with broken/deformed letters exist. In contrast, RRT officials for use in all of India were



Fig 1 The normal (left) and reversed (right) GOI watermark, when seen from the front of the stamps. Images courtesy of Dr S P Gupta from his *Specialised Handbook of Modern Indian Stamps*.

SPECIAL FEATURE

## INDIAN REFUGEE RELIEF TAX PART 2: RARE GEMS OF THE PROVISIONAL TYPOGRAPHED REFUGEE RELIEF POSTAGE STAMPS OF INDIA 1971/73

By Surendra Anand Bhaskar ISC

Last month Surendra Anand Bhaskar introduced the various provisional tax stamps issued in India in 1971 and 1972 to help the relief effort for refugees from the former East Pakistan. In this instalment he offers more information on the numerous types of provisional overprints, many so far unlisted, applied by the India Security Printing Press at Nasik and the local overprints produced by postmasters.



*Foreword by Dean Shepherd, Editor of the Gibbons Stamp Monthly (GSM)*

*To Parts 2 & 3 of my Article published in the GSM in March and April 2024.*

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