



International Picnic Day

It's often claimed that life is no picnic - but today it is! International Picnic Day is a chance to eat out in the open air with friends or family. Placed conveniently in the middle of June, for many people this means that the weather should be fine and the sun shining. But even if the weather doesn't want to cooperate, an inside picnic can be a great substitute. Just spread a blanket out on the floor and enjoy a simple meal! So get that picnic basket ready and get started celebrating International Picnic Day.

With this issue we are introducing a new format that showcases the works of many Jaipur artists and professionals we think should be brought to the attention of our readers. We start with the works of Nihal Mathur and his unique stamp presentations. He tells the Story of Flight by arranging his stamps in historically sequential order to tell the tale. There are in all 38 presentations that takes the reader from the beginning made by the early pioneers and ends with modern aircrafts today.

-Editor



Concept and Design by Nihal Mathur
Computer Graphics by Bharat Kumawat



Nihal Mathur, Filmmaker, writer

After graduating from Delhi University, Nihal Mathur led a career of an inveterate freelancer who continually moved from one project to another almost all his life. He worked in film / television for over 30 years producing and directing documentaries for both NGO & corporate sectors. He also worked with foreign networks in roles as diverse as researcher & line producer. He also had the opportunity to work with foreign feature films, TV serials, commercial and ad films. Besides film & television, Nihal has also worked as a photojournalist, contributing to various newspapers and magazines in India and abroad. The focus of his stories has largely been on history, art, culture and wildlife. He has been an avid photographer whose pictures have been printed in calendars, posters, brochures and mounted in exhibitions. He has written professionally for many clients. He took early retirement from professional jobs and went to Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary where he lived abutting the forest for 3 years working with people on projects related to wildlife conservation, biodiversity & empowerment of the local people. He started Ecopanions Society, an initiative to communicate the importance of ecology, the story of resources and the lessons in sustainability to all age groups and people. With mounting health issues, he is now in retirement sorting out his humongous collection of stamps into different themes and presenting them as pieces of wall art. The most significant thing about Nihal is that he lived with his Guru for twenty years, before he passed away.

The Dreamers



Leonardo's Glider



Otto Lilienthal Glider



Otto Lilienthal



Otto Lilienthal Glider



Lilienthal Glider



Chanute's Glider 1896



Otto Lilienthal Glider



Alexander Mozhaysky



Otto Lilienthal



Alexander Mozhaysky



Otto Lilienthal



Czeslaw Tanski



Leonardo da Vinci



Icarus



Le Bris Glider



Lawrence Hargrave



William Henson



John Stringfellow



Thomas Moy



Otto Lilienthal



Sir Hiram Maxim



Sir George Cayley



Leonardo da Vinci



Otto Lilienthal



Lilienthal Glider



Sir George Cayley



Leonardo da Vinci



Otto Lilienthal



Lawrence-Hargrave



Leonardo da Vinci



Clement Ader



Otto Lilienthal



Henri-Fabre



John Stringfellow



Flugan 1900



Clément-Ader



Ponton d'Amecourt



Leonardo da Vinci



Otto Lilienthal



Alexander Mozhaysky



Otto Lilienthal Glider



William Samuel Henson



Otto Lilienthal Glider



Hezarfen-Ahmet-Celebi



Otto Lilienthal Glider



Lilienthal-Glider

Philatelic Annals of Aviation

Man kind has long dreamt of taking off from this earth bound existence and leap into the sky to fly like a bird. Throughout human history there are enough references in various mythological characters that flew. But Leonardo da Vinci's drawings of his flying contraptions were the first tangible examples of human endeavour to fly. These drawing still survive from 15th century and are on restricted exhibit in Florence. It was during the 1800s, when there was a lot of experimentation by many dreamers to get airborne in Europe. Almost everywhere - Germany, Britain, France, Belgium, Poland, Turkey etc. many tried to create machines that would lift into the air. First to appear were the lighter than air balloons and airships that rose into the skies carrying people. Then came the Gliders, some of them powered by steam. But in practice, they were incapable of flight since they were heavy and generated insufficient power to get airborne. There were others who launched themselves from high ground or scaffoldings. But one of the most celebrated early dreamers was Otto Lilienthal, a German pioneer of aviation, who made many successful flights with gliders, albeit without power on board.