

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS' COMPANION
The Weekly Newsletter from stampsOfIndia.com

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Christmas and New Year is perhaps the biggest festival season in Europe. In USA the festivities start about a month earlier with Thanksgiving. But the festive season in India arrives even earlier than that – in October itself with Durga Puja, Vijayadashmi and Deepavali. The weather is just right – beginning of autumn; summer and monsoons are over and it is not yet too cold.

The weather seems to have just been right for the release of the stamps also as the first Indian postage stamps, the lithographs, were issued on the first of October in 1854. On the same day in 1860 the first revenue stamps were issued.

One cannot find a better day to celebrate as National Stamp Collecting Day!

We appeal to India Post and Philatelic Congress of India to officially designate October 1 as the National Stamp Collecting Day as soon as possible.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

- M&SJ

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This site is devoted to foreign stamps and philatelic items on Indian themes.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION BY ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

Army Postal Service (APS) is holding a philatelic exhibition at Ahmedabad in November 2000. The Southern Command of APS is organizing the exhibition and this will be the first-ever show organized by APS.

It is expected that APS will issue special covers on the occasion. Orders from civilians may be placed thru the nearest philatelic bureau.

50 YEARS OF INLAND LETTER CARD

It is now official. India Post will issue a commemorative Inland Letter Card on the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of the Inland Letter Card on October 2, 2000. Mahatma Gandhi will feature on the stamp area of this issue. This will be in the three-fold format that was introduced six years ago.

This issue will be printed by both the private security printers employed by India Post – Madras Security Printers, Madras and Calcutta Security Printers, Kanpur. For the first time the Inland Letter cards will carry an advertisement on a Commemorative issue.

Inland Letter Cards are Inland Air Letter or Aerogramme but the word air is dropped because every conceivable mode of transportation is used to deliver mails within India unlike an aerogramme destined abroad that rely solely on aircrafts.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

P-STAMPS - Personalized or Problematic?

Australia Post introduced personalized stamps or P-Stamps in March 1999 at Australia'99 FIP world stamp show at Melbourne, and it was an immediate success. Since then several countries have joined the bandwagon. Switzerland, Canada, Thailand, Ireland, UK, and Singapore to name a few. India may join this select list in December 2000 during Asiana - Indepex the details are still being worked out.

A report in Linn's Stamp News, issue dated September 25, 2000, attracts the attention on another aspect that of possible misuse of these otherwise extremely popular stamps. We quote from the Linn's: "Canadian postal authorities rejected a request to produce personalized postage stamps showing Vellupillai Prabhakaran, 45-year-old leader of the rebel Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka.

It is the first reported attempt among the nations that produce personalized postage of someone ordering stamps that could be used for propaganda purposes.

Canada has an active population of Tamils, who come from the north and east of Sri Lanka, a region once known as the Tamil Kingdom of Tamil Eelam.

For 17 years, Tamil insurgents have been waging a war against the Sinhalese government in the south of Sri Lanka, formerly named Ceylon. Called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebels have been listed by the United States State Department as a terrorist organization. However, no such designation has been made by the Canadian government.

Canada Post spokesman Tim McGurrin told Linn's that a request had been made in August for Canada's Picture Postage showing the rebel leader. His picture had been submitted in the form of a clipping, not a photo.

One of the requirements for ordering the stamps is the following: "All rights to the image must be obtained by the customer before production." The order for the stamps was rejected because that requirement had not been met, McGurrin said.

He declined to divulge the number of stamps ordered or the amount of money tendered, citing privacy issues.

McGurrin said: "We feel our screening process has in this case halted the printing of a stamp that could be controversial," he said, "but we also hasten to add that we have filled over 15,000 orders to date and have rejected only a handful."

The frame of the 46¢ Canadian personalized stamp bears the postage value. The vignette, or central image, is produced as a sticker that the sender may then affix to the frame and use the stamp to mail a letter. The frames are sold in panes of 25 for \$24.95, with a like number of picture stickers and address labels."

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INDIA AND COUNTRIES OF SUB-CONTINENT

Mainly Postal History material

Postal Auction

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New Issues, Events, Auctions, Publications, Organizations, Dealers, Articles, Ask Us, and Links.

NEW ISSUES

STAMPS

Next issue: India in Space, September 29

POSTAL STATIONERY

September 20

Post Card, Advertisement – Use Condom, in Hindi, Security Printing Press (SPP)

Post Card, Advertisement – Birth Control for Men, in English, India Security Press (ISP) –
Release Delayed

September 21

Inland Letter Card, Advertisement - Use Condom, in English, SPP

Inland Letter Card, Advertisement - Birth Control for Men, in English, ISP

Inland Letter Card, Advertisement – Birth Control for Men, in Hindi, SPP

----- advertisement -----

JOIN PHILATELIC DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Philatelic Deposit Account holders have the facility of placing standing order on the philatelic bureau for supply of new stamps, First Day Covers, Brochures as well as new Postal Stationery with or without Advertisement. An Account may be opened with initial and subsequent deposits of Rs. 200. Application forms and more details about the Philatelic Deposit Account Scheme are available at all the Philatelic Bureaux in India.

Foreign customers can also avail the facility by opening an account with Director (Philately), Mumbai GPO - 400001 with initial and subsequent deposits in foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 1000.

EVENTS

AEROPHILA 2000 October 23 & 24

Mr. M R Prabhakara, Secretary of the exhibition organizing committee informs that Aero Phila 2000 Aviation Philatelic Exhibition will be held on October 23 & 24, 2000 at HAL Sports Club, Bangalore. Karnataka Rural Philatelic Association (KRPA) is organizing this show, the first of its kind in India. KRPA may be contacted at 24, B. Narayanapura, Udayanagar, Bangalore 560 016

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PUBLICATIONS

NEW ARRIVALS

BULLETIN 2 OF INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000

This well produced volume lists the mandatory Organizing Committee and other Sub-Committees, Commissioners, Juries, show program, Special stamp issues to promote the show, the Floor plan of the venue, and travel related information. However the highlight of this publication is a 21 page long illustrated article by Ashok Kumar Bayanwala on Postal History of Calcutta 1854-1947. Mr. Bayanwala is a well-known philatelic scholar and author as well as recognized authority and successful exhibitor on the Postal History of Calcutta. His eight-frame exhibit won Large Vermeil at The Stamp Show 2000 at London earlier this year. For this article alone this publication has become a must have for all those interested in postal history of India.

As this is not a priced publication the availability to all those who would like to have a copy will be difficult. We would suggest to India Post to make arrangements for pricing it and making it available for sale during the exhibition. Alternatively Mr. Bayanwala may reprint it, preferably with additional text and visuals, as a separate work.

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ALSO FROM STAMPS OF INDIA - COVERAGE FROM GROUP SITES

REVENUE STAMPS

It is the official website of Revenue Philatelic Association (RPA) and at present is under development. RPA welcomes your suggestions for this. It is also being moved to its own address www.worldrevenuestamps.com. It is a part of the growing family of Stampsofindia Group of Sites.

RPA was formed in April this year by philatelists interested in Revenue Philately. Philatelic Congress of India on July 30th 2000 approved RPA as an affiliate. The first Board includes Anil Suri as President, Madhukar Jhingan as Secretary General, Ajay Mittal as Treasurer and Satish Misra and Khalid Sabir as Directors.

All those interested in the membership may contact, for details and membership application form, the President at E-70 Kalkaji, New Delhi 110019. The annual dues are Rs. 200 or US\$ 10. A quarterly Journal is planned. The email address of RPA is rpa@worldrevenuestamps.com

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