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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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To get BACK ISSUES, please see the end of this issue for details.

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We take this opportunity to thank all our readers who sent their good wishes for the speedy recovery of our father. With the grace of god he is progressing well.

And there is always a flip side of the coin, many readers who normally do not respond to the newsletter also sent personal messages to us to enquire about his health. It is in the times of such difficulties that true friends stand by you.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rajesh Paharia

We invite your inputs, please email to [feedback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:feedback@stampsofindia.com)

If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.  
Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on photos, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAMP DATA CURTAILED

Government of India has decided to curtail the technical data published regarding new issues. Consequently the technical data on Overall size, Colors, Perforation, and Paper shall not be provided in the Brochure (Information Sheet) published for every new commemorative issue. This apparently is a security measure in view of the wide spread fake stamps in the country.

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ANNAMACHARYA STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 to commemorate 15<sup>th</sup> century mystic saint Annamacharya on March 18, 2004.

An ardent devotee of Lord Venkateshwara, he was named Annamayya because he was born by the grace of 'Nandaka' the mighty sword of Lord Vishnu and after his initiation at a tender age at Tirumala he became Annamacharya. His 'Sankirtanans' express unadulterated love between souls as well as 'Bhakti' and 'Prapatti' advocating an egalitarian society. Annamacharya was the pace setter of Carnatic music and attained absolute unity of 'Raga' - 'Bhava' - 'Tala'. He may have left the mortal world but his immortal songs still reverberate in the sacred peaks of Venkatachalam.

Brahm Prakash designed the stamp, and Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs 2.

India Security Press of Nashik printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 48 stamps.

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/160a.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

April 1  
9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Madras Regiment (Travancore)

The issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs.2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters in the country.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in April 2004.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:  
Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks  
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue

3, ISP, Tamil, Cleanliness, 1, M

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NEW MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Following two Meghdoot post cards were released:

Ad in Tamil - Cleanliness

Ad in Telugu - Small Savings

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/160b.htm>

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on February 28, 2004 at Dehradun to commemorate the State Flower Show. A special cover was also brought out on this occasion.

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PHILATELIC SEMINAR AT JAIPUR

1st All Rajasthan Philately Seminar was inaugurated at Jaipur on March 19, 2004 with lighting of the lamp by chief Guest G Mohana Kumar, Principal Chief Postmaster General, Rajasthan along with Faiz Ur Rehman, Postmaster General, Jodhpur, Sarita Singh Director, Postal Services HQ and Dr B L Bajaj, Senior Philatelist.

The Seminar was conducted with presentations by senior Philatelists on topics of (1) Relevance of Philately in Today's world and (2) Philately Development at Grass Root level with special emphasize on Rural level. The Seminar was attended by more than 50 Philatelists with presentations by 7 Philatelists on both subjects. In the first session the presentations were made by Krishn Goyal, A L Harchandani, Jatanmal Dhor and P M Bhargava and in the second session post lunch the presentation were made by Rajesh Paharia, B L Sahu and V K Jain.

The awards were decided by Members of Jury, Faiz Ur Rehman, Sarita Singh and Dr B L Bajaj and winners of Presentation Competition were given Awards and Certificate by G Mohana Kumar. The First Prize was won by Rajesh Paharia, Second by P M Bharagava and Third by V K Jain.

The program ended with Madhumita Das, Asistant Postmaster General (Technical & Business Development) proposing a vote of thanks.

The Chief Guest also released two sets of stamp cards (Picture post cards depicting stamps) one set of 6 Stamp Cards was on the theme of Architectural Heritage of Rajasthan featuring Jodhpur Fort, Bikaner, Hawamahal-Jaipur, Victory Tower-Chittorgarh, Dargah Shareef-Ajmer, and Jantar Mantar-Jaipur. The multicolored folder cover depicts Camel Caravan in Thar Desert and Meenakari Mural Art with details of Set on back side. The second set of stamp cards depicts Tiger, Black Buck, Caracal, Great Indian Bustard, Smooth Indian Otter and Python contained in a multicolored folder with spotted Deer on the front cover and wild Camel on the back cover. Two special postmarks depicting 'Jogi Mahal' and 'Crocodile' were also provided on the occasion.

The sets of stamp cards are available at Rs 25 each and all the requirements may be forwarded to Madhumita Das, Asistant Postmaster General (Technical & Business Development), Office of CPMG Rajasthan, Jaipur 302001.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following list of events scheduled for next few months is subject to change. We update it in every issue with the information received during the week. The organizers may be contacted for further details.

March

27-29, Port Blair, Regional

29-30, Indore, MAHAPRAGYAPEX (Jainism is the only theme)

31- Apr 02, Gangtok, Sikkim

For a list of events held this year, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, Whole # 12 - January February 2004, Bi-monthly

Editor: Rajesh Paharia

Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan

Address: C/o A S Mittal, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur

Annual Subscription: Rs.50

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL, PHILATELY

R S Kardam has joined as the Assistant Director General in the Philately Division of the India Post Directorate from March 23, 2004.

His predecessor, Amarpreet Duggal has been on maternity leave for some time and has delivered a baby girl, all the best wishes to the mother and daughter.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

PALLAB BOSE, New Delhi

I am a serious thematic philatelist and also a collector of coins and bank notes, worldwide. In philately, I collect and develop themes on Cinema, Lady Diana, WWF, Cricket, Nude Paintings, Walt Disney Cartoons and Renaissance Paintings.

I have been following your website- stamps of india, for over 2 years now and I must compliment you for the dynamic, selfless efforts put in to network and promote philately, nationally and internationally. Keep up the wonderful work!!!

One suggestion that you may please start a regular Penpals column for stamps, coins and bank notes collectors; in that manner, purposefully, we could develop contacts and exchange with like minded partners all over the world. My e-mail id is [pallabbose@rediffmail.com](mailto:pallabbose@rediffmail.com)

Hope to see lot of philatelic activity in Delhi this year,

FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

PERSONALIZED STAMPS ON CRUISE

A legal stamp with your face on it? No problem if you cruise with Holland American Line. The company recently launched "Personal Postage" aboard the flagship Rotterdam on its 10-day Panama Canal cruises.

For \$20.95, you get a sheet of 10 legal stamps valid for mailing a postcard or standard-size letter to anywhere in the world. For your likeness, you can bring a photo from home or use one taken by a shipboard photographer.

Your card or letter may be mailed aboard ship or at any post office in the Netherland Antilles (Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Martin and St. Eustatius).

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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments - NEWS, ISSUES, EVENTS, AUCTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, DEALERS, and ARTICLES. In addition we provide question answers in ASK US. Also all Indian philatelic web sites as well as several useful philatelic sites are listed under LINKS.

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w04.htm>

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back issues in Print  
Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500  
Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs.950  
Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250  
Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs.650  
Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)  
Vol.5 2003, Part 2, Issue #123-148, (July-December) Coming soon

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on CD  
Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on the Web Site  
Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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