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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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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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Issue # 163 - April 8, 2004. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The images for the previous Issue #162 were loaded quite late and in the  
Issue #161 the image links opened images for the previous issue due to  
incorrect link addresses. The correct addresses are:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/161a.htm> and  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/161b.htm>. We regret the  
inconvenience caused.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Ashok Kumar  
Tiwary, and S D Bhatia. Also Rajesh Varma for the previous issue.

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

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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

PORT BLAIR CHENNAI FIRST FLIGHT

India Post issued a Special First Flight Cover on March 28, 2004 for the inaugural flight of Airbus A320 introduced on Chennai-Port Blair-Chennai route by Indian Airlines.

The cover also commemorated the 1<sup>st</sup> regional philatelic exhibition at Port Blair from March 27 to 29, 2004. The exhibition was visited by the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Professor Ram Kapse, Commander in Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command Lieutenant General B S Thakur, Chief Secretary of Andaman & Nicobar V V Bhat, and Joint Commissioner of Income Tax Vasundhra Upmanyu along with a large number of citizens and students.

The First Flight Cover designed by the well known artist, stamp designer & philatelist, Dipok Dey of Kolkata was flown and the delivery postmark was provided at Chennai. Only 200 covers were produced and may still be available with the Philatelic Counter, Head Post Office, Port Blair 744101 at Rs 100 each on first cover first served basis.

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/162a.htm>

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DESIGN-A-STAMP CONTEST RESULTS

India Post held 'Design A Stamp' Contest 2003 on 14th November, 2003 on the topic 'My Village/My Town/My City', results for which have been announced on April 6, 2004.

First Prize: S Vindhya, Class IX(A), Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Second Prize: Sudha Singh, Class XI, Tara Mahila Inter College, Baharaich, Uttar Pradesh.

Third Prize: Debesh Kumar, Vill: Budhudih, P.O. Bena, District Jamtara, Jharkhand.

The entry which won the First Prize will figure for the Children's Day stamp of 2004 and the Second Prize, on its First Day Cover.

India Post has been holding nationwide stamp design competitions from the year 1998 onwards. The prize winning entries have been used as designs for different Stamps and First Day Covers.

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9 MADRAS STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 to commemorate the tercentenary of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Madras Regiment (Travancore) on April 1, 2004.

In 1741, the Dutch settlers led a trade expedition to Travancore under the captaincy of Flemish Officer Captain Eustace de Lenoy and invaded the town. The invading army was annihilated by the forces of Maharaja of Travncore that were raised as his personal bodyguards in 1704.

In 1935, the unit then known as Travncore Nayar Brigade was amalgamated with Indian Army under Indian State Forces Scheme. On 1 April 1951, the battalion was integrated with the Indian Army and on 1 April 1954 it merged with the Madras Regiment and was renamed as the 9th Battalion of the Madras Regiment (Travancore).

Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover and Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs2 each.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by Photo Ofset in the quantity of 0.8 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/163b.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

April 14, V Lakshminarayana, Rs5

April 19, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Rs5

April 25, (1) IISWBM, (2) Tarangini

April 28, Peshwa Baji Rao I

These 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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NEW MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Following four Meghdoot post cards sponsored by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) were released recently:

Ad in Telugu -

Ad in Kannada -

Ad in Bengali -

Ad in Oriya -

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/162c.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

April 7, 2004, New Delhi, World Health Day - Road Safety

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/162d.htm>

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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.

April 16-18, Mumbai, Coins Fair

May 1-2, Kolkata, Stamp Fair

May 6-9, Dhanbad, Jharkhand State Level

For a list of events held this year, please visit

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

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AUCTION ACTION

The Calendar for April 2004 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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OLYMPIC PHILATELIC EVENTS

X WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS' FAIR

The 10<sup>th</sup> World Olympic Collectors' Fair will be held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne from May 28 to 30, 2004. It will be a unique opportunity for collectors from across the world to exchange, buy, sell, compare and complete collections of pins, mascots, torches, official documents, photos, films, autographs, stamps, coins, medals, posters, postcards and any other object bearing the Olympic rings.

OLYMPHILEX

Olympic philately celebrates its exhibition year with the well-established world specialized philatelic exhibition, entitled Olympilex. This exhibition will be held concurrently with the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad from August 12 to 22, 2004 in Athens.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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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.>

SUDIP DASGUPTA

In noting the passing away of Mr. Gupta, I noticed that he was associated with the Empire of India Philatelic Society. I had written to them twice for information on membership, their publications, etc. The first time I received no reply, and the second letter came back with "No Such Address" stamped on it!

I wonder if you can send me their latest address, so I may try to make contact again?

EDITORS RESPONSE:

You may write to the President, Vispi Dastur at his office address: UCO Bank Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 359 D N Road, Fort, Mumbai 400001.

However under Dastur the society has finally been reduced to one of many local philatelic societies in Mumbai from its exalted position under its founder, the legendary Jal cooper.

Their journal has not been published for years and in our opinion no useful purpose be served by becoming the member. Last we knew they were not even keen in admitting new members!

We are life members for nearly 25 years and thus write from personal experience.

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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>

ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### VATICAN COINS SOLD OUT IN 3 HOURS

Vatican's Philatelic and Numismatic Office started selling the coins on April 2, 2004 at 7:30 am and by 10:30 am, doors were closed with the last 200 buyers still inside. Many of the collectors were thus disappointed after having waited in line since the night before.

The coins, which feature the profile of Pope John Paul II, are part of a very limited series of Vatican euros coins with a face value of 3.88 euros, for the price of 21 or 25 euros.

Euro coins are different in all 12 EU countries which have adopted the single currency. Vatican has been minting coins since 1929.

#### NEWSSCAN

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

#### 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

#### 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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