

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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  
~~~~~

Issue # 169 - May 20, 2004. Published Every Thursday

Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

~~~~~

I N T H I S I S S U E

Siddhar Swamigal Stamp Released  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Army Postal Service Issues  
PCI Court Cases Update  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Harmer to Auction Specialized Kashmir  
Recent Periodical Publications  
Speedpost Didn't Deliver  
Ancient Chinese Proverbs

~~~~~

TO SUBSCRIBE, send email giving your name, postal address, and
philatelic interests to subscribe@stampsofindia.com

TO UNSUBSCRIBE, send email to unsubscribe@stampsofindia.com

The BACK ISSUES are available in Print, on CD, and Online at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

~~~~~

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Indian democracy was further strengthened when Sonia Gandhi decided not to take up the post of the Prime Minister of India after having obtained the acceptability of all coalition partners for the same and receiving an invitation from the President of India to form the government.

The reason for Sonia's historic decision is being evaluated from every angle and is being debated endlessly. It appears is unbelievable that someone will give up a chance to be the premier of over a billion people. Especially in view of today's world, where self interest seemingly rules supreme and people are ready to do anything to attain power.

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

- M&SJ

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

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.

~~~~~  
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIDDHAR SWAMIGAL STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 to commemorate the birth centenary of the great spiritual leader Siddhar Swamigal (1904-1964), on May 15, 2004.

Siddhar Swamigal was born in Srinivasanallur near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district in Tamilnadu and belonged to the Eternal Siddha lineage. His guru, Sri Sivanada Sivalinga Perumanaar initiated Him into spirituality at the young age of eight. He revived the powerful ancient practice of Open Space Meditation, through which one can directly obtain and harness the cosmic power. He was a master of the Upanishads, Vedic scriptures and the Siddha philosophy. An acclaimed expert in Siddha medicine, his healing touch alleviated the sufferings of millions of people.

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.

Madras Security Printers Limited printed the stamps by Photo Offset in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/169a.htm>

~~~~~  
FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

May 27 - Professor Dr Indra Chandra Shastri, Rs5

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.

~~~~~  
RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

February 16, Ajmer, St. Anslem's School, centenary

~~~~~  
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

The Army Postal Service issued the following Special Covers with Special Postmarks recently:

April 23: The Garhwal Rifles, 12th Reunion

May 11, 34 Medium Regiment (Cassino-II), Diamond Jubilee

Visit the following link for illustrations:
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/169b.htm>

~~~~~  
PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India in 2002 came up for hearing on May 13, 2004 and the next date of hearing was fixed for June 2, 2004.

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India in 2002 came up for hearing on May 15, 2004 and the next date of hearing was fixed for July 17, 2004.

~~~~~  
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.

June 18-20, Nainital

For a list of events held this year, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

~~~~~  
HARMER TO AUCTION SPECIALIZED KASHMIR

Harmers will be offering the "Kashmir Blue" Collection of Jammu and Kashmir Stamps and Postal history, a fine specialized collection of Jammu & Kashmir at auction on June 29, 2004 at London. Entire catalog is available online at <http://www.harmers.com>

Reflecting its namesake of the very finest type of sapphires in the world, this stamp collection contains some spectacular material. With the majority of Kashmir Blue sapphires having been mined between 1881-1887 and no official sales of Kashmir rough in the past twenty years, true Kashmir sapphire is very rare. The material within the 'Kashmir Blue' Collection of Jammu and Kashmir stamps and postal history contains some equally stunning and rare items.

Strong competition is expected from collectors around the world for one of the most important items of the Indian Feudatory States. Produced for use in Kashmir and dated April 1867, it is a complete proof sheet of twenty - five (5x5) stamps from a composite plate. This particular composite plate comprises twenty ½ anna and five 1 anna stamps in black watercolour. As demand for lower value stamps exceeded that of the 1 anna issues, composite plates were produced for ease of production and to ensure supply matched demand. It is a unique item and was found in the reference book of Rahat Ju, the engraver who cut the plate from stone. The estimate is £20,000.

One of the features that makes Jammu and Kashmir stamps particularly interesting to philatelists is their unusual, almost handcrafted, appearance. For example the 1866-78 Circular stamps section of the auction includes items which were hand-stamped in watercolor. One such extremely rare and beautiful stamp in this section, an 1866-67 general issue for Jammu and Kashmir, is a ½ anna stamp, in a bright ultramarine color, and has an estimate of £3,000.

A further section of material dated 1877-78 has been hand-stamped in oil colors onto native (locally made) paper. A stunning and extremely rare cover within this section bears a 4a. sage-green stamp, used with 1877-78 1a. red, India 2 anna and 4 anna. The envelope these stamps are on is also made of locally produced paper. It is registered from Jammu to Amritsar with an arrival circular date stamp of December 23 1877 and is estimated at £1,500. Another rarity from June 1877 to 1878, also in oil color, this time on laid paper appears later in the sale. It is a ½

anna. red, unused, in fine condition and believed to be the only recorded unused example of this stamp (Estimate £5,000).

Another particularly impressive item dated 1885 consists of a unique assembly of "KASHMIR and Arms" overprints on 11 stamps of varying values and colors of British India stamps, which were prepared but not issued as the postal convention with Kashmir didn't materialize. It is estimated to achieve £15,000 at auction.

~~~~~  
RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, Whole # 13 - March April 2004, Bi-monthly
Editor: Rajesh Paharia philanews@hotmail.com
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan
Address: C/o A S Mittal, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur
Annual Subscription: Rs.50

~~~~~  
SPEEDPOST DIDN'T DELIVER

Lots of students sent their application for admission to the prestigious Delhi College of Engineering by Speed Post, the express mail service of India Post. The last day for submission was March 26, 2004. And though Speedpost promises delivery within 24 hours within Delhi, the applications reached the college well past the deadline - March 29, 2004 even those that were posted on March 23, 2004. Speedpost's tardiness affected the lives of 2,600 aspirants this year.

The Speedpost Centre manager B S Saini admitted the delay in sending the applications to the College and attributed the same to a number of technical reasons, such as "The load at this office is excessive. This season has been particularly bad because of the sheer number of posts. The computers here are not fast enough, we didn't have a constant supply of electricity due to load-shedding. Many staff members were on leave leading to a shortage in manpower, that the Centre had to dump a lot of mail because we could not handle it and this included the batch of applications we received on March 23. The delay occurred on our part. He also said that they have taken up the matter with Delhi University to consider the applications that were delivered late.

~~~~~  
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.>

~~~~~  
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

ANCIENT CHINESE PROVERBS

China recently issued a set of four stamps on April 2, 2004 on the theme of traditional Chinese proverbs. Traditional Chinese proverbs have been unique language expressions for a long period of time. As an important part of modern Chinese, they are usually composed of four characters and allude to certain allegoric or historical stories with profound philosophical meanings or life experiences.

The idiom "Trying to learn the Handan Walk" originated from a story about a native of the State of Yan who went to Handan to learn the walk, manner of the people of the State of Zhao, only to forget his own manner of walk, and had to crawl back home. The expression is used to ridicule those imitating others blindly.

According to the story of "Lord Ye's Love for Dragon", Lord Ye was fond of dragons and had his house decorated with their images. But when a real dragon came to visit him, he was scared out of his wits. It is used to indicate professed but false enthusiasm.

"Filling a Position in a Yu Band" came from a story about a Mr. Nanguo who was not able to play the yu but make up a number in the band playing for King Xuan of the Qi state. King Xuan's successor, King Min, preferred solos of the yu, and Mr. Nanguo had to sneak sway. The expression is used to ridicule those with no real talent.

In the story of "When the snipe and the Clam Grapple", the snipe pecked the flesh of the clam and the latter clamped its beak. A fisherman took the opportunity and caught them both. It is used to describe the situation where a third party benefits from the fight between two parties.

China plans to issue another set of 4 stamps on Chinese proverbs next year also.

Ancient Chinese proverbs will find parallels in many ancient cultures of the world including India.

~~~~~  
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

-----\*\*\*\*\*O\*\*\*\*\*-----

ADMINISTRIVIA  
Published by Madhu Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India',  
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India  
Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089

Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Our now famous Disclaimer!

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

=====  
© Copyright 2004. Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.  
For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications please ask the  
publisher for permission stating exactly what you would like to use, and  
for what purpose, before using the same.