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

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The INS Tarangini miniature sheet of Rs 5 issued on April 25, 2004 in the quantity of 50,000 is setting new price records on almost on a daily basis. Because of its low value the miniature sheet was sold out before the big dealers or investors knew. This has surely rubbed on other miniature sheets issued since.

The next miniature sheet issue of Rs 20 on June 28 to mark the Great Trigonometrical Survey in the quantity of 50,000 didn't shoot up though speculators did try.

On October 1, the 150 years of India Post (age stamps) miniature sheet of Rs 20 printed in the quantity of 100,000 was issued. It seems the speculators will succeed as there was all around shortage on the day one and most philatelic bureaus did restrict quantity sold per customer.

Since August 26 issue on S S Vasan, all the stamps and miniature sheets (15 stamps and 2 miniature sheets) are printed by India Security Press, Nashik. ISP Nashik has a record of delivering very little quantity of stamps and of miniature sheets on the day of issue. The balance quantity is delivered later, sometimes after months.

Thus it was a cocktail of current focus on miniature sheets with Nashik's delivery in parts that was tailor made for speculation of the

UN Peacekeeping Operations miniature sheet of Rs 5 in quantity of 100,000 that was issued on October 24, 2004. The miniature sheet was sold out at most places on the first day itself and debuted in the secondary market at Rs 25 and, we are told, climbed to Rs 40 by the evening.

So watch out for miniature sheets and have friendly relations with your philatelic bureau/counter staff.

Believe it or not, although India Post has issued 20 miniature sheets in past 5 years, there is no column for miniature sheets in the standing order form for philatelic deposit account at several philatelic bureaus!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vijay Seth, The Press Information Bureau Government of India, The Indian Express, The Times of India,

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 images, 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

NEW MODERATOR FOR PRINCELY STATES GROUP

Madhukar Jhingan recently took over from Ron Rice as the moderator of the Princely States Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/princelystates/>.

This group was founded in April 2001 by Rice and it is still the only group for enthusiasts of Indian Princely States. The group may be small but has a high number of acknowledged philatelists and research scholars with interest in Indian Princely States.

The group's primary focus is on philately but the discussion is open to history, political status, maps, publications, coins, currencies, stories, genealogies of ruling families, and everything connected with the Princely States.

Every one is welcome to post their interests, research notices, want lists and offers here. In the offers for sale, please "\$\$\$" in the subject line of your post.

Rice did a great job in running this group for years. We wish him all the best for the future.

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS - INDIAN SOLDIERS OF PEACE
Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, the President of India released a commemorative stamp and a miniature sheet, in the denomination of Rs 5, on October 24, 2004 at New Delhi.

India is amongst the largest contributors to the UN Peacekeeping Operations. So far, the Indian Army has participated in 36 Peacekeeping Missions with more than 70,000 troops. Thus India's participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping is as old as that of the UN Peacekeeping itself which has seen the history of over five decades. Known for their equanimity and forbearance, Indian troops have proved popular everywhere.

India first sent its troops for deployment in Korea as a part of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in 1953-54, a delicate task which involved the repatriation of Prisoners of War. This was followed by a stint at Gaza to keep Israeli and Egyptian forces apart. The largest and longest serving contingent was sent to Congo in 1961. India later sent Brigade Group to Somalia and displayed its resolve to support international community in peace and security issues. India has deployed Battalion Groups, engineers, and medical teams in Cambodia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Lebanon and Ethiopia. Observers and staff personnel have made their contributions to the international peace efforts in Central America, Iran, Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Liberia, Lebanon, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Mozambique, Burundi, Ivory Coast and Congo.

The present strength of the Indian Army in the UN Peacekeeping Force is 2357 which includes all ranks. In addition to Military Observers and Staff Officers, the Indian Army is participating with troops in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Ethiopia-Eritrea (UNMEE). The Indian Army is also in the process of deploying one Infantry Brigade Group in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 100,000.

MARUDHU PANDIAR BROTHERS

Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative stamp, on Marudhu Pandiar brothers, in the denomination of Rs 5, on October 24, 2004 at Chennai.

Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu, known as the Marudhu Pandiar brothers, were the erstwhile Rulers of Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu during 18th century. That period was called "The Golden Age of Sivaganga Kingdom". First, in Indian history, the Ruler announced the Proclamation against the British Rule in India. They emphasized that the British rulers should quit India. Marudhu brothers organized a disciplined movement against the British Government. They collected various kings of South India for rebel. The British troops started the war against the brave brothers. Marudhu brothers followed Guerilla attack against them. The war was lengthened for 150 days. The prize money was announced for giving information regarding Marudhu brothers by army. Marudhu brothers were arrested and imprisoned. Finally they were hanged with their associates on October 24, 1801.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamps 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each.

GREETINGS

India Post released a set of 2 special stamps on October 25, 2004 in the denomination of Rs 4 each that is the inland printed matter rate used for greeting cards.

This is the 5th issue of special stamps for greetings. Earlier set of 2 stamps have been issued in 1990, 1991 and 2001. In 2003 a set of 4 stamps was issued.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps depicting depict Kites, and dolls as well as the First Day Cover. 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each.

DR S ROERICH

India Post released a commemorative stamp on Dr S Roerich, a renowned Russian artist, who made India his home, in the denomination of Rs 5, on October 27, 2004.

Svetoslav Roerich, at the age of 12 painted his first portrait of his father which was greatly appreciated. In 1919 he started studies in architecture and painting in London. Thereafter his family moved out of England to the United States of America in 1920 where he joined the Architectural Branch of the Columbia University. He continued his education at the Architectural School at Howard University. After completion of his studies in the US, Svetoslav Roerich left for India along with his parents and started residing in the Kulu Valley at a place called Naggar (Himachal Pradesh). He was the Head of the Department of studying the local pharmacopoeia, flora and fauna in the scientific institute called 'Uruswati' founded by his father.

Roerich married Devika Rani, a grand niece of famous Poet Rabindranath Tagore and the First Lady of the Indian Cinema, in 1945. After the death of the father of Svetoslav Roerich they shifted their residence to Bangalore. The Indian ethos left an imprint on his aesthetics. In a majority of his canvases he painted in India, he presented a mosaic of vistas of India, its people, its landscape dotted with high mountains, its flora and fauna, its legends and anthropological peculiarities. Svetoslav Roerich was honored with Fellowship by Central Lalit Kala Akademy in 1987.

Roerich had many eminent personalities like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr S Radhakrishnan, Sarojini Naidu, as his friends through his nature of amiable manners, broad outlook and keen appreciation of human values. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan Award in the year 1961

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement was scheduled for release in October 2004.

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

Inland

- 01, ISP, Malayalam, AIDS, 2, M
- 01, SPP, Malayalam, AIDS, 2
- 01, SPP, English, Sulfex Mattresses Pillows Cushions Doormats, 1

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

Postcard

- 01, SPP, Tamil, xxxxx, 1, M
- 20, SPP, Kannada, xxxxx, 1, M

Inland

- 01, ISP, Tamil, xxxxx, 1, M
- 20, ISP, Kannada, xxxxx, 1, M
- 27, SPP, Malayalam, xxxxx, 1

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

October 6: Port Blair, 50<sup>th</sup> Wild Life Week Celebrations

Those desirous of obtaining this postmark on the special cover brought out on this occasion by the Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Islands may send their order to Postmaster, Port Blair HO. The piece for a duly serviced cover is Rs 10. This may be paid by the India Postal Order in the name of Postmaster, Port Blair Head Post Office 744101, A & N Islands. Please add Rs 50 for delivery of your order by Speed Post.

AMRITSAR SINGAPORE FIRST FLIGHT

Singapore Airlines started a direct flight from Amritsar to Singapore on October 1, 2004. Amritsar Philatelic Club in cooperation with India Post and Singapore Airlines issued a special cover to commemorate this first flight. India Post provided a pictorial postmark on the occasion depicting the outlines of the Golden Temple.

The covers after being flown to Singapore on the first flight were lost and it took nearly two weeks to finally find them. Therefore the Singapore delivery postmark on the back is dated October 13, 2004.

The club also provided a special cachet to mark the "150 years of postage stamps of India & Singapore" that coincidentally was issued exactly on the day 150 years ago. Singapore in those days was under Indian Post Office and used stamps of India.

The covers flown on the first flight are available at Rs 200 from the Club. Please contact the Secretary, Rishi Kochar [rishikochar@hotmail.com](mailto:rishikochar@hotmail.com)

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

- October 17: Corps of Military Police, 6<sup>th</sup> Reunion
- October 21: 19 Kumaon Battalion, silver Jubilee
- October 23: 8<sup>th</sup> Light Cavalry Regiment, Reunion

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 29-30, Meerut, District Level  
Venue: Pandit P L Sharma Memorial Hall, Near Eves Cinema, Hapur road  
Contact: Rakesh Gupta, Mobile 0 98971 42640

November 3-5, New Delhi, National Level (Noncompetitive)  
Venue: Godrej Auditorium, World Wide Fund for Nature, Lodhi Estate  
Contact: Ravi Pahwa, Mobile 0 98684 43685

November 17-19, New Delhi, District Level & State Level Youth  
Venue: Russian Centre for Science & Culture, Firozshah Road  
Contact: Ravi Pahwa, Mobile 0 98684 43685

November 18-19, Thodupuzha, IDUKKIPEX  
Venue:  
Contact: Superintendent of Post Offices Idukki Division, Thodupuzha,  
Phone: 04896 2222282/2222281

November 19-21, Gwalior, Stamps and Coins  
Venue:  
Contact:

November 24-25, New Delhi, Mini Exhibition  
Venue: Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan  
Contact:

November 26-28, Bhopal, District Level  
Venue:  
Contact:

December 4-5, Sholapur, District Level  
Venue:  
Contact:

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PHILATELIC BUREAU AT PORT BLAIR
The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands will inaugurate the philatelic Bureau at the Port Blair Head Post Office on November 1, 2004. On this occasion a permanent pictorial postmark will also be introduced at the bureau. A special cover will also be issued on this occasion.

The covers will be available at Rs 10 each from the Postmaster, Port Blair HO. The remittance should be paid by the India Postal Order in the name of Postmaster, Port Blair Head Post Office 744101, A & N Islands. Please add Rs 50 for delivery of your order by Speed Post.

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INDIA POST DELIVER RAMADAN DISH  
The restaurants in Hyderabad have enlisted the services of India Post to supply 'Haleem', a delicious non-vegetarian dish, during the Ramadan, the holy month of Muslims. The service, which was launched last year, has been a huge hit with both the hotel-owners and customers.

The services of only those postmen interested in the particular assignment are being used. They are going door-to-door to distribute the coupons. People can purchase the coupons and mention that on which date they want Haleem to be delivered.

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NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh released commemorative coins of Rs 5 and 100 on K Kamraj on October 27, 2004. Kamraj was a freedom fighter, an able administrator, and led an honest exemplary public life.

It is expected that the bookings for these coins will be opened by the Government of India Mints in 2005 with deliveries scheduled in 2006!

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Justice Ajay Khanvilkar of the Bombay High Court rejected the plea of former special Inspector General of Police Sridhar Wagal, on October 25, 2004 for extending his stay in hospital and instead ordered the police to put him back in central prison as the doctors submitted a report to the Court saying he could be given treatment in jail and was not required in hospital. On August 30, 2004 Wagal was given temporary bail on medical grounds for four weeks. The bail was continued further as Wagal pleaded that he had not yet recovered. Wagal was admitted to Bombay Hospital after he complained of neurological problem. He urged the court to allow him to undergo a surgery suggested by doctors. The former IGP was arrested in October last year under Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) on the charges of shielding prime accused in fake stamp scam Telgi and helping his organized crime syndicate.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

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

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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

MARSEILLES LONDON & MARSEILLES PARIS AIRMAIL SERVICES 1928-30  
Marseilles is the second-largest city in France after Paris and the largest commercial port of France. It is located on the Mediterranean Sea, 700 kilometers from Paris.

Indian Post Office utilized the Marseilles London air service commencing with the foreign mails leaving Bombay on March 24, 1928. The articles of 'Letter mail' viz. letters, postcards, and packets, both ordinary and registered, addressed to places in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State (Ireland) were accepted. Indian mails by this route reached London a day earlier than by the overland route.

Indian Post Office began utilizing the Marseilles Paris air service commencing with the foreign mails leaving Bombay on July 7, 1928. The articles of 'Letter mail' both ordinary and registered, addressed to

Paris and places in France except those in south and south-eastern regions, were accepted. Indian mails by this route reached Paris on the evening of the same day it was brought to Marseilles by P & O steamer.

An air fee of Annas 3 per ounce or part thereof was charged in addition to the usual postage. The air fee was reduced to Anna 1½ per half ounce or part thereof on July 4, 1929.

Each article was required to bear a superscription 'By Air, Via Marseilles-London' or 'By Air, Via Marseilles-Paris', and a blue airmail label.

This air route could also be combined with Basrah Cairo air mail service and in that case the air fee was Annas 6 per ounce or part thereof and the superscription required was 'By Air, Via Basrah-Cairo and Marseilles-London' or 'By Air, Via Basrah-Cairo and Marseilles- Paris'.

Since the introduction of direct airmail service to London in April 1929 the airmail service via Marseilles was rarely used by the public. Indian Post Office therefore decided to discontinue the utilization of air services via Marseilles from October 16, 1930.

Marseilles had also played a vital role in India England postal communications during 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

ATHENS OLYMPICS GREEK STAMP WITHDRAWN

The Greece Post (ELTA) decided to copy what Australia did, and issue an "Instant" digital print stamp for every Olympic medal winner. In fact the design is VERY similar to the Australian issues. Like Australia, at a later date, offset copies were also printed of medal winner stamps. They were issued in the sheetlets of 20 - i.e. two sheetlets of 10 separated by roulette type serrations. This idea proved a great success in Greece, and the general public was the ones out there buying these issues for patriotic reasons etc.

In this series a stamp was issued to honor Leonidas Sampanis, the Bronze Medal winner in weightlifting in the 62 kilo weight class. Sampanis won his medal on Monday 16 August and the stamps were on sparing sale in limited offices starting Tuesday August 17. Sampanis later failed his drug test (twice) and on Sunday 22 August the International Olympic Committee stripped him of his medal. Consequently, early Monday 23rd August, Greece Post ordered that all remaining stamps be taken off sale nationally and immediately returned to their central office and none were to be sold. So the stamp was on sale at face value for 4 working days at post Offices across Greece.

For image of the stamp, the detailed story, and buying the stamp, please visits the following link <http://www.glenstephens.com/sampanis.html>

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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>

ANIL SURI AT SG STAND AT SINGAPORE 2004

Gibbons Stamp Monthly, November 2004, Page 77

[http://www.gibbonsstampmonthly.com/Journals/GSM/Gibbons Stamp Monthly/November 2004/attachments/nomktwatch.pdf](http://www.gibbonsstampmonthly.com/Journals/GSM/Gibbons%20Stamp%20Monthly/November%202004/attachments/nomktwatch.pdf)

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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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