

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 199 - December 16, 2004. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The celebrations for 150 years of India's postage stamps will continue for one whole year. We are seeing special postmarks, cachets, and labels with this theme from all over the country. Now is the time to get in to the act and get hold of the material while it is comparatively easily available at post offices and at exhibitions. We have a feeling that it will be a popular collecting topic.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Pradip Jain, Shyam Prasad Pradhan, Press Information Bureau Government of India, and Press Trust of India.

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

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

Stamps of India launch its publication program with reprinting 'Indian Postal Guide Containing the Chief Public Regulations of the Post Office with Other Information April 1, 1869'.

This is first in the series of elusive but significant official publications that are primary resources for history of postal communications in India. This is the first issue of the official postal guide of India. A very brittle and moth eaten copy is rediscovered and rescued that is perhaps the only surviving example in the world.

Its content include: Chief Officers of the Department, Exclusive Privilege of Indian Post Office, Inland Post, Postage stamps, List of Indian Post Offices, District Post, Foreign Post, Official Correspondence, Registration, Time Tables of Mail steamers, Government Bullock Train, Passenger Service, Money Orders, and Telegraph Department.

The 236 page hardbound reprint is a facsimile enlarged from original octavo to A4 size. This limited edition is available at a special price for €50 post paid anywhere in the world or Rs 2750 post paid in India.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

- December 16: TAJ MAHAL, stamp and miniature sheet, Rs 15 each
- December 21: Sahitya Akademi, Rs 5
- December 27: Bhaskara Sethupathy, Rs 5

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 STAMPS RELEASED

BHAGAT PURAN SINGH

The Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Dr Shakeel Ahmad released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of rupees five on Bhagat Puran Singh on December 10, 2004 at New Delhi. Bhagat Puran Singh was a great self-regulated person who made service to humanity his routine task; a great man who led an ordinary living in an extraordinary manner. Former Union Ministers Arun Shourie, and S S Dhindsa, renowned environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna, and Director General of India Post R Ganesan were also present on the occasion.

Ramji Das, who was re-christened as Puran Singh after he embraced Sikhism in the year 1923, was born on 4th June 1904 in Village Rajewal in Ludhiana. The basic fundamentals of social services to the mankind were taught by his mother, Mehtab Kaur, such as clearing harmful objects like thorns, pieces of broken glass, nails, other sharp objects, stones, bricks and such from the lanes and village tracks as they would injure pedestrians, beasts and passersby. These good qualities formed the foundation of kindness and concern in the young heart of Ramji Das very deeply. He cared for the despairing, disabled and destitute with his own hands. He even sought alms on the streets and outside places of worship, not for himself, but to ask people to help the needy. He had neither

grants nor aids, nor any institutions to back him up. Puran Singh looked after for 14 years an abandoned boy, who was dumb, mentally impaired and physically deformed and was suffering from dysentery since at his age of four. Puran Singh named him as Piara and carried on his back wherever he went. Bhagat Puran Singh established a home for destitute, called Pingalwara in Amritsar which remains a living memorial of his life's work. Pingalwara literally meant in several forms such as home for the crippled, home for the handicapped. Bhagat Puran Singh died on 5th August, 1992 but his magnificent spirit lives on in Pingalwara.

Alka Sharma designed the stamp, the First Day Cover, and 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. Calcutta Security Printers of Kanpur printed the stamps by Photo Offset in the quantity of 0.45 million in the sheets of 45.

#### NUPEE LAL

The Chief Minister of Manipur, O Ibobi Singh released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of rupees five on 'Nupee Lal', on December 12, 2004 at Imphal. The stamp depicts the sculpture atop the Nupilal Memorial Complex at Imphal. The Art and Culture Minister Ph Parijat, presided over the function that was also attended by the Postmaster General, North East Circle, Lalhluna and former Member of the Parliament, W Angou who proposed and pursued the issue of the stamp.

Although the inscription of the postage stamp reads 'Nupee Lal 1904-1939', we find that 'Nupi Lan' is the style commonly used in Manipur. Also the information in the brochure throws no light on '1904'.

Nupi Lan -which means women's war in Manipuri- is one of the important movements in the history. The role of Manipuri women in the agrarian economy of Manipur is a crucial one to reckon, right from the involvement in the production to the selling and marketing of food grains. They manage most of the internal trade of food and clothing and they hold a free standard of living in the society. After Manipur lost its independence in 1891, the women started to play important role in seeking for political and economic independence.

In 1904, when the house of the British Superintendent at Imphal was burnt down, the men were ordered to go to the Kabaw valley to bring wood to rebuild the house as forced labor. The women could not tolerate the subjugation of their men by the foreigners, protested and succeeded in negating the order. This is known as the first Nupilan.

The second was the Nupilan of 1939. It was a spontaneous eruption of the suppressed energy of the exploited people. The main cause of the movement was directly related to the irregularities and malpractices in the administration of the state and the economic exploitation by the authority. Women of Manipur stopped business in the market and the Khwairamband Bazar remained devastated for three years. Ultimately they succeeded in bringing reforms in administration.

Because of untimely heavy rain towards the end of July and beginning of August, the crops failed. The heavy rainfall again in the end of September and beginning of October led to severe floods destroying crops which were ready for harvest. The large-scale purchase by traders for export outside the state resulted in acute shortage of rice in local markets and resulted in hike in the price of rice. The price shot up by leaps and bounds. By November, most of the rice vanished from the local market.

On one fateful day in December, frustrated by shortage of rice and the price rise, some 50/60 women vendors proceeded to the shops. They confronted the bullock carts, which were carrying rice for the traders and charged them of selling rice at the time of acute scarcity and prevented them from selling rice to the traders. They brought them out of the market and took them to Imphal police station around midnight demanding that they be arrested. Later, the women warned them not to sell rice to the traders and asked them to proceed to their own homes.

However, soon rumors spread around that women folks have apprehended bullock carts meant for sale to the traders. By early morning, the women in different localities stopped all the bullock carts carrying rice for sale in the market. The entire women folks from all corners of the valley converged towards State Durbar Office (the present Secretariat) for a decision to impose ban on export of rice. The State Durbar, which was hurriedly convened, could not take any decision to ban the export of rice from Manipur in the absence of the King who was away to Bengal. The women insisted the officers to send telegrams to the King in Bengal to get his assent and demanded that they should not leave the telegraph office without getting a reply from the King. Thus the British officers and some members of the Durbar remained confined in the telegraph office. In the ensuing intervention by the armed British detachment, about 21 women were seriously injured. However, the siege was not lifted by the women who had gathered there. The officers trapped inside the telegraph office could come out only in the dead of the night. The King soon returned from Bengal and realizing the massive public outburst announced the ban on export of rice.

The last significant incident of Nupilan was enacted on 28th December, when a number of women were arrested by the police in the Bazaar area on the charge of destroying and throwing bags of rice meant for export in the Nullah. (It reminds one of the Boston tea party).

During this movement the women activists also urged the people to defy and break the repressive systems of taxation in the name of religion such as sandalwood tax, demanded decrease in house tax, agriculture tax, and refused to feed the petty government officials and clerks in the village.

Suresh Kumar designed the stamp and 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.

#### NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION DAY

The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of rupees five on December 14, 2004 at a function to mark National Energy Conservation Day at New Delhi. The function was attended by Power and Energy Minister P M Sayeed, Communication and Information and Technology Minister Dayanidhi Maran among others.

The Ministry of Power has been observing December 14 as the Energy Conservation Day since 1990 to promote the cause of energy efficiency and the need to conserve the finite resources of energy. To promote public awareness and to encourage the achievers, National Energy Conservation Awards are presented every year on this day.

The Energy Conservation Act 2001 provides necessary legal and institutional arrangement for a focused Energy Conservation campaign throughout the country.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been set up as a nodal agency to implement the policies of the Government of India on energy efficiency.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamp and 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.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

November 1: Post Card with advertisement, in Tamil, Human Rights, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad, Multicolor

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS ASSOCIATION

The South India Philatelists Association is holding its 25<sup>th</sup> biennial general body meeting at ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flor, Chateau D'Ampa, 110 Nelson Manikam Road, Aminijkarai, Chennai on December 26, 2004.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November 14, Ludhiana, LUPEX

December 11-13, Jaipur, 9th SCHOOLPEX

December 18-21, Patna, State Level

Venue: Sri Krishna Science Centre, West Gandhi Maidan

Contact: Sanjeev Ranjan, Chief Post Master, GPO Patna 8001001

Phone 0612-2236937

6 covers shall be released and shall be available from the Chief Post Master (Philatelic Bureau), GPO Patna 8001001 at Rs 60 per set. The set mounted in an album is also available at Rs 100 per album. The subjects include - 400 years of Guru Granth Sahib, Post, Science-Technology, Girls Education, Rohtasgarh Fort, and Kabad Bird Sanctuary.

December 20-22, Rajkot, District Level

December 28-30, Pune, Coins & Paper Money

2005

January 8-9, Vardha, District Level

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

DAK TICKET THE STAMPS, Vol.1 # 1, Oct Dec 2004, Quarterly

Editor: S Bhatti [amritsarpcclub@yahoo.com](mailto:amritsarpcclub@yahoo.com)

Publisher: Amritsar Philatelic Club

Address: P O Box 57, Amritsar 143001

Annual Subscription: Rs.40

PHILANEWS, Whole # 16 - Sep Oct 2004, Bi-monthly

Editor: Rajesh Paharia [philanews@hotmail.com](mailto:philanews@hotmail.com)

Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan

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

Annual Subscription: Rs.50

THE NORTH POST, Vol. 21 # 6 & Vol. 22 # 1-4,  
Editor: Dr S K Sondhi, Dr R L Bansal, Professor T R Bhatia  
Publisher: Ludhiana Philatelic Club  
Address: 20A Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana 141001  
Annual Subscription: Rs.50

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Nepal issued a stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on December 13, 2004 on Golden Jubilee of the Madan Puruskar.

Rani Jagadamba established Madan Puruskar Guthi (prize trust) 50 years ago in the memory of her late husband General Madan Shamsheer Rana who had passed away two years earlier. The prize initiated a trend of honoring men and women who served Nepali language and literature. At present the award carries a purse of Rs. 100,000 and 60 individuals excelling in literature have received the award to this day.

The stamp is designed K K Karmacjarya and printed in four colors by offset lithography by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria in the quantity of 1 million each.

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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.>

S A BHASKAR

At the outset I would like to congratulate yourselves for your reliable prompt and valuable contribution to the cause of Philately and helping to sustain the flagging interest in this great hobby by your regular weekly newsletter.

May I request you to kindly continue and include the quantity of Meghdoot postcards being printed and also the quantities of the new commemoratives being issued as you had been doing in the past.

I would also request for information on the quantity issued for the first Miniature Sheet , the 1973 imperforate Indipex issue. Also there are some rumours that there were two printings of the same but the same is not to be found in the standard catalogues. Could you kindly throw some light on this mystery!!.

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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

TELEGRAMS BY AIR

Inland telegrams are accepted at all Government telegraph offices in India and Burma for transmission by telegraph to Karachi to be posted thence by air mail to Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, and Great Britain.

The charges payable on such telegrams are calculated at the Indian Inland Rates according to the class (Express or Ordinary at sender's choice) plus the air mail fee in addition to the usual letter postage given in the Foreign Post Directory in the Post & Telegraph Guide. If a message is to be registered before being posted, the sender will also have to pay the registration charges.

The air mail fees have been provisionally fixed as follows for every half ounce or part:

For Iraq - Annas 3

For Palestine and Egypt - Annas 4

For Great Britain - Annas 6

Such telegrams may be either in code or plain language, and, should bear the entry 'PAV KARACHI' (or if for the registered post, 'PAVR KARACHI', after the name and address on the form.

Communication by this combined service reduces the transit across India.

- Postal Notice of July 4, 1929, Office of the Director General of the Post Offices of India

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#### ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### NATIONAL BIRDS FROM 8 COUNTRIES

Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe participated in the First Joint Stamp issue of Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA). It was released during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October 2004.

The minisheet of 8 octagonal stamps features national bird of each participating country. The sheet designed by Anja Denker of Namibia and printed by Joh Enschedé Security Printing of the Netherlands is identical for each country except the name of the country and the denomination.

The birds depicted on the stamps are:

Blue Crane (*anthropoides paradisea*) 100- 105cm

National Bird of South Africa

South Africa's national bird is found only in southern Africa and neighboring territories, including Etosha and adjacent areas. This beautiful grayish-blue bird has an unusually large head and long, slender neck and the drooping, dark feathers are elongation of the innerwing feathers. It is usually found in small groups and during breeding season mainly in pairs in freshwater areas and open grasslands and has also adapted to agricultural lands.

African Fish Eagle (*haliaeetus vocifer*) 63-73cm

National Bird of Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe

The Fish Eagle, characterized by its gleaming black, white and chestnut plumage, has become the best-known bird of prey in Africa. These birds prey mainly live on fish which they catch by swooping down at a shallow angle, grasping the fish in their talons and then lifting off to carry it to their perch to devour there. The females are larger than the males

and the immature are a mottled brown splashed with white, often showing a brown streak through the eye. The evocative cry of the fish eagle is probably the best known of any African bird and is heard most frequently at dawn and at dusk.

Peregrine Falcon (*falco peregrinus*) 34-38cm  
National Bird of Angola

Peregrine falcons are distributed almost worldwide, with no less than 3 recognized races. The race in Africa is the smallest and is named *falco peregrinus minor*. The peregrine falcon has a black crown, heavy black moustachials, bluish grey upperparts and underparts that white with black bars. It is an extremely powerful, agile and fast raptor in flight, with recorded speeds of more than 200km per hour. Their preferred habitat is steep cliffs and high gorges, but nests may also be found on low cliffs and in arid areas like the Namib Desert.

Cattle Egret (*bubulcus ibis*) 54- 55cm  
National Bird of Botswana

The cattle egret "Mmamoleane" in Setswana, is a small, stocky bird which is often seen following cattle or game. They are a species of ibis and belong to the heron family. They are common birds found almost throughout the African savannah country and Asia, northern Australia and Central America. They feed on insects and even small fish and aquatic species. Their overall colour is white and the head carries plumes. The iris and space between the eye and beak are both yellow; legs and feet are olive-brown. When breeding, the plumes on head, throat and mantle are buff (brownish-yellow) or tan colour, legs are a dull yellow to red colour, the iris turns red and the beak orange-red.

Purple-Crested Lourie (*tauraco porphyreolophus*) 42- 46cm  
National Bird of Swaziland

Louries are unique to Africa, and in the southern continent, four species, of which the purple-crested lourie is one, occur. They have a purplish-bluish crest, tail and tail, which appear black in poor light. The heavy beak and the red around the eye are characteristic to this particular species. It has red flight-feathers and the whole wing is red when seen in flight. These birds are shy and furtive and prefer dry forests and open woodland. They occur in pairs and family parties and large numbers may gather in fruiting trees.

Bar-tailed Trogon (*apaloderma vittatum*) 29- 34cm

Bird of choice for Malawi - they apparently have no national bird  
Trogons are brilliantly colored bird which lives in forests. The bar-tailed trogon is a fairly common resident in Malawi. It is similar to the Narina Trogon with emerald green upperparts and throat, yellow bill, bright red breast and belly, but has silvery undertail feathers which are barred black. They are found in montane and submontane evergreen forests where they live in holes in trees and hawk aerial insects.

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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

Published by Madhukar Jhingan 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

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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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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