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

Issue # 204 - January 20, 2005. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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Tsunami Relief Stamp

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The BACK ISSUES are available as Printout, on CD, and on line at  
<http://www.stampsfindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi,

This year, the United Nations will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary.  
The year 2005 also marks the birth centenary of its former Secretary-  
General Dag Hammarskjöld.

In addition, by resolution 53/197, the UN General Assembly designated  
the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit to give impetus  
to microfinance programs throughout the world. The international  
community has been observing the period 1997-2006 as the first United  
Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. The microcredit programs  
have successfully contributed to lifting people out of poverty in many  
countries around the world and have especially benefited women and have  
resulted in the achievement of their empowerment.

2005 was also proclaimed by resolution 58/5 as the International Year  
for Sport and Physical Education, as a means to promote education,  
health, development and peace.

This year was also proclaimed International Year of Physics by  
resolution 58/263. It is also the 100th anniversary of physicist Albert  
Einstein's miraculous year in which he wrote five - or three depending  
on whom you ask - of his most famous scientific papers. 2005 is also  
known as the World Year of Physics (WYP) - as declared by the  
International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

2005 begins United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014. The International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" 2005-2015 will also be launched from March 22, 2005.

Let us hope India Post issues stamps on these world events!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Madhukar Deogawanka

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

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

The '50 years of De facto Transfer of French Settlements in India' issue is now rescheduled and the new date of release is not yet announced.

India Post has yet to announced the list of issues for 2005.

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post card with advertisement were recently released: Ad in Hindi - AIDS

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> reprint which can easily be distinguished with the first reprint earlier in 2004 by the length of the dividing line. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reprint the dividing line is short while in the earlier printing it is full length. This issue, unlike the first reprint, was supplied to all philatelic bureaus that handle postal stationery. The first reprinted was reported in issue #180 of August 5, 2004.

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

January 15: Stamp Exhibition at Gangtok, Black Cats

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

January 15: New Delhi  
PETROTECH 2005 - 6<sup>th</sup> International Petroleum Conference & Exhibition

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INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY AUCTION

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com) is holding its postal auction #27. The 60-lot auction closes on February 15, 2005.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

January 7 -8, Purulia, District Level,  
60 frames, 18 participants,

January 14-15, Haldia, District Level,  
30 frames, 17 participants,

January 22-23, Jalandhar, District Level,  
January 28-29, Chandannagar, District Level,  
February 3-4, Sangrur, District Level,  
February 11-12, Birbhoom, District Level,  
February 12-14, Howrah, South Bengal Regional  
February 23-27, Jaipur, Science Thematic  
March 1-3, Gangtok, Sikkim

February, Coimbatore,  
February, Jaipur, District Level, DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

MEETINGS - Guests are welcome

February 13: 11 AM to 1 PM, Delhi Coin Society  
23 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, WRC Building, Gole Market, New Delhi 110001  
Contact: Goga Jain 93123-18401

February 7: 2 to 4 PM, Delhi Philatelists  
2214-15, Hardhiyan Singh Road, 2nd Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh,  
New Delhi 110005  
Contact: Madhukar Jhingan 93505-37037

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New & Recent Publications:

NUMISMATIC DIRECTORY OF INDIA

Compilation: Dr Dilip Rajgor

Publisher: Reesha Books International

Address: 7 Sonal Darshan, Goshala Road, Mulund, Mumbai 400080

[info@reeshabooks.com](mailto:info@reeshabooks.com) [www.reeshabooks.com](http://www.reeshabooks.com)

A5 size 168 pages

Price: Rs 195 or US \$13

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INDIA SECURITY PRESS

India Security Press, Nasik Road, invites sealed Tenders for supply of Brass Punching Die Sets made of Brass (each die set will contain 3 pieces). Sample of the Brass punching die set will be displayed in Purchase section for guidance for the tenderers who purchase the Tender documents & drawing will also be provided with the documents. The last date for receipt of Tender is February 1, 2005. For more details please contact, The General Manager, India Security Press, Nasik Road 422101. Telephone 91-0253-2465583

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Delhi North District police arrested Deva Nand Sharma for selling fake stamp papers from the Tis Hazari Courts complex on January 17, 2005. Counterfeit stamp papers worth more than Rs 87,000 was recovered from him. A decoy customer was sent to strike a deal with Sharma to buy stamp papers worth Rs 5,000 for Rs 2,000. As the deal was struck, the police team arrested him from the parking area of the court complex. Sharma was carrying a bag containing forged stamp papers worth more than Rs 70,000. On checking, it was found that the stamp papers had already been used and the accused had removed the written matter with the help of an ink remover and was re-selling it. During the course of investigation, stamp papers worth Rs 12,000 were also recovered from his house. Sharma disclosed that his wife, Babita, had a licence of a stamp vendor and he would sit in her place to sell the papers. Sharma's cousin, Yogender

Kumar Sharma, also a stamp paper vendor, used to arrange the used stamp papers and one Som Dutt would remove the matter and seals from the used ones with the help of the ink remover. Sharma then sold these stamp papers to the customers at half rates. Four years ago, Sharma was arrested in a similar case.

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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>

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

Stamps of India have launched 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.

The remittance should be in favor of 'Stamps of India' and payable at New Delhi. Please send your orders to Stamps of India, 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063, India.

Overseas buyers can also send remittance in Australian Dollars, British pounds or U S Dollars equivalent to €50.

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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.>

ATISH KUMAR JAIN, Kottayam

On 26 Dec 2004, whole of south Asia was stuck by deadly Tsunami which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. Recently, our philatelic bureaus have been stuck by a Tsunami sweeping the miniature sheets and within last month all the stocks miniature sheets (released two years ago also) have been swept away by our philatelic hoarders through out India. While millions of rupees have flooded philatelic bureaus for purchase of these miniature sheets, not a single philatelic organization has come forward with a helping hand to orphaned children and widowed ladies.

ZULAIHA MOHAMED

I am a member of the philatelic bureaus of Trivandrum & Kochi (Ernakulam). I was told by both these bureaus that they did not receive sufficient number of Miniature Sheets of Taj Mahal. Actually there was a notice in the Trivandrum bureau saying that there was no stock and that

too on the day after the release of the stamp. I was told that they don't have enough sheets to fulfill standing orders to the philatelic deposit account holders.

The same thing has happened with the stamps on Dogs. Though I went to the bureau on the 3rd day, again they said that they had not received enough number of stamps and so had restricted the sale of stamps to just one sheet each to those who came to the counter.

Can you do anything about this & officially bring it to the notice of the higher authorities?

Is it true that there is a shortage of miniature sheets as most of them are being bought up in large numbers by dealers?

DR SATISH Y DEODHAR

I understand that Department of Post brings out a stamp to commemorate every Bharat Ratna recipient. It has been brought to my notice by many that a stamp on Dr P V Kane, a Bharat Ratna recipient (at least about 3 decades ago I guess), has not been released for whatever reason. Department of Post may want to correct this lapse. They can get all the information regarding Dr Kane from central government as he was awarded Bharat Ratna.

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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

PRIVILEGED POSTAL RATES FOR SOLDIERS & SEAMEN

The special postage rates applicable on soldiers' and seamen's letters posted in India were revised as follows with effect from April 1, 1895:

To the United Kingdom or any British possession or colony served through the United Kingdom, by P & O contract steamer Via Brindisi, By ordinary train service across the continent of Europe - Anna 1

To the United Kingdom or any British possession or colony served through the United Kingdom, by P & O contract steamer Via Brindisi, By special train service across the continent of Europe - Annas 2

To Cyprus (through Egypt) - Annas 2

To any British possession or colony (and Zanzibar) served direct by British or Indian services only - Anna 1

- Circular of the Director General of the Post Offices of India  
Dated March 15, 1895

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

TSUNAMI RELIEF STAMP

France became the first country to issue a stamp on the Tsunami disaster of December 26, 2004 that affected several countries from Indonesia to Somalia.

The stamp was issued on January 8, 2005 along with the series of new definitives. The non-denominated stamp is priced at Euro 0.70, Euro 0.50 for postage (inland first class letter rate) and Euro 0.20 as contribution towards French Red Cross.

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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/siteguide/w04.htm>

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