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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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*The email addresses have been stated in this format to avoid their
farming by crawlers and the resulting flood of junk mail.*

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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Thanks to several readers for pointing out that a few email id's are not  
functioning including 'editor at stampsofindia.com'. It is now fixed and  
all email id's that have now been listed have been tested and are  
working.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Government of  
India Press Information Bureau,

We invite your inputs, please email to "writeback at 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

Mar 24: Flora & Fauna of North East, Set of 4 stamps & 1 Miniature Sheet  
Mar 31: International Year of Physics (Definitive Issue)  
Apr 06: 75 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi, Set of 4 stamps

The 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.

For a list of stamps in 2005, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005stamps.htm>

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MADHAVRAO SCINDIA STAMP RELEASED

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of rupees five on Madhavrao Scindia, on March 10, 2005 at New Delhi to coincide with the Sixtieth Birth Anniversary day of this great Parliamentarian. The function was attended by Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council, Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker Lok Sabha, Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology and several other Ministers.

Madhavrao Scindia was one of the few parliamentarians who won the parliamentary elections nine times.

Madhavrao Scindia, the only son of Jiwajirao and Vijayaraje Scindia, was born on March 10, 1945. He did his higher studies in the United Kingdom, before entering the public life at the age of 25. He rose to serve in the Union Council of Ministers and held various important portfolios. As Minister of Railways, turning it to be a 'golden era', he introduced super fast short distance passenger trains like Shatabdi Express and also undertook great efforts to computerize rail reservations and booking. As Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, he opened up the Indian skies for the private airlines and provided new destinations for the Indian tourists. In his brief tenure as the Minister of Human Resource Development, he outlined bold proposals to increase budget allocations for primary education and to set up the National Cultural Fund. He was deeply committed to the cause of education, more particularly the education of girls.

Madhavrao Scindia also served as the Deputy Leader of Opposition in Parliament. He excelled in all the fields where he remained and left shining examples for others to follow. He had been the Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology during 1990-91. His special area of interest, apart from education, was wildlife preservation and development of sports, cricket and golf in particular. He was the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India during 1990-93. The country lost a great aspiring leader, to untimely death in a plane crash near Kanpur, at the age of 56 years.

Sankha Samanta 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 stamp by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.6 million.

For image visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005/05.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Mar 15: New Delhi and 33 other places, World Consumers Rights Day

For image visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/pmk/2005-016.htm>

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India sponsored this special postmark at all capital cities of the 28 States and 7 Territories in India. States of Haryana and Punjab and the Territory of Chandigarh, all have Chandigarh as the capital. In case of Haryana the postmark was provided at Ambala, the State's postal circle's headquarters. In case of Punjab and Chandigarh the postmark was provided at Chandigarh for both. Thus in all the postmark was provided at 34 places as follows: Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Ambala, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Daman, Dehradun, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Itanagar, Jaipur, Jammu, Kavarathi, Kohima, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Panaji, Patna, Pondicherry, Port Blair, Raipur, Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla Silvasa, and Thiruvananthapuram.

For a list of special postmarks and covers in 2005, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005pmk.htm>

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Feb 18: 3 EME Centre Bhopal - Colors Presentation

Feb 28: 115 Engineers Regiment Silver Jubilee

Mar 01: 80 Field Regiment 40th Anniversary

The list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2005 is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005aps.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

March 21-24, Gangtok, Sikkim

April 8-9: Calicut, Stamps & Coins

April 8-10: Kolkata, Stamp Fair

Venue: Art Gallery of the Charnock City, Salt Lake City

Contact: Arun Bhattacharya, Treasurer, Indian Philatelic Traders

Association, Telephone: 0 98304 12286

Table is available at Rs 2000 for the entire duration

April 22-24, Mumbai, Coins

August 11-15, Coimbatore, South Zone

Contact: The Philatelists Coimbatore, 5 Eleventh Street, Tatabad,

Coimbatore 641 012

August 12-15: Salem, National Level philatelic & Numismatic

Contact: N Vaithiyanathan, Treasurer, Baramahal Philatelic and

Numismatic Association, 16 Gandhi Road, (Opposite Ganesan Hospital),

Salem 636 007

For a list of exhibitions in 2005, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events.htm>

#### MEETINGS

April 4: 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, Guests are welcome!

April 10: 10 AM to 1 PM, Dakshina Kannada Philatelic & Numismatic Assn.  
Philatelic Bureau, Mangalore H.P.O  
Contact: Secretary, at [dakapa\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:dakapa_1999@yahoo.com)

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations is available at  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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#### RECENT PERIODICALS

BHILWARA PHILATELIC CLUB BULLETIN, Whole # 4, March 2005, Monthly  
Editor: Dilip Bhargava  
Publisher: Bhilwara Philatelic Club  
Address: Shri Govindam, C-3 Mayur Complex, Bhilwara  
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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#### POSTAL STRIKE DEFERRED

The Unions affiliated to National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE) and Federation of National Postal Organizations (FNPO) gave a joint Charter of Demands to Secretary (Posts), Ministry of Communications & Information Technology for settlement of issues failing which they had called an indefinite strike from March 15, 2005. This was reported in Issue # 207 of February 10, 2005 of this newsweekly.

Subsequently the other Federation Bharatiya Postal Employees Federation (BPEF) also gave a strike call from the same date. India Post has been constantly engaged in the dialogue with the Federations for resolving the issues raised in the Charter of Demands since then.

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information Technology had taken up the main issue relating to the merger of 50% of DA with Time Related Continuity Allowance for 300,000 Gramin Dak Sewaks, with the Ministry of Finance and also with the Prime Minister. It has now been decided to constitute an inter-ministerial committee to study the implications of their demand and come up with appropriate recommendations within 21 days. Maran in his meeting with the representatives of the Federations (NFPE & FNPO), on March 14, 2005, assured them that the Committee will finalize its report within the stipulated time.

Maran has also assured that the Federations' demands on other issues given in the Charter of demands would also be acted upon within a time frame. On the appeal given by Maran at the meeting to the Federations not to precipitate the matter which could affect the public at large, the Federations have deferred the indefinite strike scheduled from March 15, 2005.

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#### TRANSFER & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

H K Sharma was posted as Postmaster General of North Karnataka Region of the Karnataka Circle with effect from February 10, 2005.

K C Mishra was posted as Postmaster General (Foreign Mails) Mumbai of the Maharashtra Circle with effect from February 10, 2005.

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POST OFFICE WON'T SELL REVENUE STAMPS

India Post has been selling revenue stamps for State governments since long. However for last few years the discussions have been going on with various State governments for payment of commission and settlement of accounts. India Post succeeded in some States and in others on a few occasions stopped the sale of revenue stamps.

Recently India Post notified that it will discontinue the sale of stamps in many states including, Haryana, Delhi, and Tamilnadu.

India Post had written to the state governments in 2003 seeking a commission of three per cent. The Union government had made the commission six per cent six months ago.

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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

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750 post paid anywhere in the world. It is now possible to pay by credit card and buy online, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

AJAY AGRAWAL, Akola

I am a subscriber to your news letter. No doubt, it is the only & only link for philatelist like me who are sitting in places like me, Akola, which gives idea regarding the latest happening not in India but the Globe. Hats off to you Sir!

I have to my credit 3 Silver in National & a Diploma in American Topical Stamp Show on "Scout Movement" & one Silver in DakBharti 2004 on "India's Freedom Struggle", beside some at regional & district level.

I just wish to collect every special cancellation, Cover, Miniature Sheet, Booklet, Meghdoot Post Card, Army Postal Service issues, Postal stationery with Advertisement or in nutshell, every philatelic material which is being issued in India. I have enquired with local Philatelic Bureau as well as at Mumbai too, but they are unable to open an account like this. Can you guide me?

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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

SOLDIERS' AND SEAMEN'S ENVELOPE

Gerald Sattin FRPSL writes: "In 'Collectors Companion' issue #211 of March 10th you have reported on "Exact dates of issue" of the 9pies envelope as April 1st 1879.

I quote you from my own research a notification of an intended 'Soldiers' and Seamen's Envelope made in a General Officer Commanding notice dated Simla 20th October 1879. The notice stated "The introduction of an embossed envelope for Soldiers' Letters having been sanctioned by Government, it is notified that a supply has been distributed to all treasuries at stations where British troops are quartered, for issue to Commanding Officers on payment at 14as per packet consisting of 16 envelopes."

This sounds as if it conflicts with your statement as I cannot believe the Government or the Post Office held on to the envelopes for six months before allowing them to be purchased.

Also, your readers might wish to know that the special arrangement for transmitting soldiers' letters by non-contract ships of the P&O was to allow the 9ps rate to continue for soldiers. However, it was stated that the mail was dispatched by these non-contract vessels "as and when they were available".

Besides the 9ps non-contract P&O ships, mail from soldiers was also sent by 'Private Ships' where, not only was the soldier's rate of 9ps paid but also an additional 9ps for the ship captain's gratuity. These 2x9ps soldiers' covers are quite scarce. Some collectors believe the letters are for a double weight, but anything over ½ ounce was not permitted."

Hope the above information will be of help.

Editors Note:

We have used the Annual Report for 1879-80 as the source for the 9 pies envelope and the first two paras were reproduced verbatim from it. However it did not provide the date of issue, unlike the Director General's Circular incase of 1895 overprint. The date was provided by a scholar claiming to be as recorded in file related to the subject at the archives as well as to correspondence between De La Rue and post office as published by Derek Lang on the subject. However in light of the research shared by Gerald Sattin we will cross check with more sources to confirm the exact date of issue and definitely put a '?' on April 1st 1879.

Zahid Islam, Dammam, Saudi Arabia has sent excellent images of both the issues which is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/212-rn-pix.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### WHICH SIDE UP?

Stephan Eicher, the popular musician, has designed an 85-centime special stamp for Swiss Post that was released on March 8, 2005. Entitled "Merci" or "Thank you", it is dedicated to the origin of the Matterhorn, Switzerland's landmark mountain.

The design shows the famed peak against an ocean-blue background, with Switzerland's Latin name of Helvetia printed backward in the lower-right corner. Turn the stamp upside down and the view is startling: Helvetia is printed correctly in the upper-left corner and the mountain becomes a

contour map of the African continent and the blue ocean. The denomination, however, is upside down.

Parts of the African continental plate shifted northward millions of years ago and collided with the European plate. The collision propelled ocean crustal rocks, metamorphosed granites, and other African-type rocks into the present site of the evolving Alps and eventually to the Matterhorn.

This is the second special stamp in a series of designs by famous people who live in Switzerland. Emil Steinberger's special "Ding Dong Helvetia" stamp appeared in 2004. Swiss Post will continue its series of stamps designed by famous Swiss personalities in 2006.

The illustrations are available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/212-pix.htm>

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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.

PRINCELY STATES REPORT <http://www.princelystates.com>

Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

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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