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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

We have been concentrating on adding lots of images to our web sites  
this year. We plan to add images of stamps, postal stationery, and  
special postmarks, gradually covering past years.

We have been able to add most of the images for Special postmarks issued  
in 2005, courtesy Vijay Seth, philatelist and ace photographer. Please  
visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005pmk.htm> for viewing these.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: P G Bhargave

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, Rs 5 each & Rs 20

Mar 31: International Year of Physics, Rs 5, (Definitive Issue)

Apr 06: 75 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi,  
Set of 4 stamps & 1 Miniature Sheet, Rs 5 each & Rs 20

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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JOINT ISSUES 2005

India Post plans to have Joint issue of stamps with Cyprus and Oman in 2005. The denomination and subject matter of stamps are yet to be announced.

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 10: Mysore, Sadvidya Educational Institutions 150 Years

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

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EINSTEIN: A PHILATELIC TRIBUTE

A national Seminar on "Einstein: Science and World" was organized in Dehradun on March 20, 2005 by Indian Science Writers Association, Uttaranchal Chapter with British Scholars Association of India. Well known philatelist Abhai Mishra presented a paper on "Einstein: A Philatelic Tribute". In this paper he tried to portray the life and theories of Albert Einstein through philatelic material. The presentation was very much applauded by the scientific community. It was a unique experience to the academia.

The abstract of the paper is as follows:

Philately is not mere the hobby of stamp collecting. It deals with the study of postal scenario and events behind it. Stamps have been a source of fascination and enjoyment for many children and adults alike, including the elite and powerful, presidents and kings. While 50 years ago heads of state were the norm and only a handful of scientific events or personages appeared on postage stamps, more recently the topic science has become a collectible commodity. The realm of philately has traditionally honored Albert Einstein. The image of Einstein has become commonplace. As more countries are commemorating International year of Physics, it becomes possible to fit together pieces of the great mosaic of the history of science, pertaining to the great Albert Einstein. Some of the most satisfying stamps are not the ones displaying portraits of

Einstein, but those presenting ideas and experiments, such as the photoelectric effect, the formula $E=mc^2$ etc. They also portray different moods of Einstein such as a peace lover, a violin player etc.

In this paper we will try to portray Einstein through stamps and philatelic materials issued by different countries to honor him. For people with an interest in science, professionally or not, these miniatures can be sufficient in themselves as objects of enjoyment and wonder, reminders of the marvels of the natural world and its laws and its great discoverer Albert Einstein.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS  
EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

March 19-20, Thana, District Level

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 Vaithiyathan, 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, Hardhyan Singh Road, 2nd Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

Contact: Madhukar Jhingan 93505-37037, Guests are welcome!

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations is available at

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>  
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SEMINAR AT DEHRADUN

A philatelic seminar was organised on March 22, 2005 by the Uttaranchal Circle of India Post. It was chaired by the Suneeta Trivedi, Chief Postmaster General, Uttaranchal Circle. The discussion topic was on Development of Philately in youth and the involvement of schools in doing so. The seminar was attended by philatelists, Abhai Mishra, Dr Sumitra, G J Singh and Sandeep Singhal beside postal officials, school children and principals.

It was agreed that in order to promote philately it has to be linked to the education system and the youth are to be made aware about the

educational benefits of philately. There is a need to provide projects to the educational institutions, related to the philately.

M S Rawat, Senior Post Master convened the meeting while N S Martolia, Senior Superintendent Post Officess gave the vote of thanks.

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HUNGARIAN STAMP EXHIBITION

The Hungarian Cultural Centre has organized an exhibition of stamps entitled 'Collections from the Stamp Museum of Hungary' at New Delhi from March 9 to April 3, 2005.

The exhibition was formally inaugurated on March 21, 2005 by G B Pai, member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India.

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AUCTION ACTION

Indian Thematic Society indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com is holding its postal auction #28. The 80-lot auction closes on April 25, 2005.

For a list of auctions in India, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/auction.htm>

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G S VOHRA PASSED AWAY

G S Vohra, former President of the Philatelic Society of Bhilai died on March 7, 2005 at New Delhi after long sickness. His was a life dedicated to stamp collecting.

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POSTAL STRIKE IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lankan postal workers held a national sick note campaign from March 15 to 17 for a 25-point list of demands for improved working conditions and benefits and in protest against government privatization plans. All employees, from leading supervisors through to minor staff, reported in sick with all post offices throughout the country, including in the main cities, such as Colombo, Kandy, Galle and Badulla, were affected. The protest included postal workers from the North and East, the first time this section of the working class has participated in joint national action in 25 years.

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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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IT IS MAGIC

The Royal Mail, UK, is celebrating 100 years of Magic Circle and issued the five interactive stamps on March 15, 2005. The complete set in official Presentation Pack is available at Rs 550 each from PRADIP JAIN philapradip@hotmail.com Post Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800001 Phone: 0-612-2225929, Fax: 0-612-2238010, Mobile: 0-9334725929

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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  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

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READERS FORUM

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

RAJESH PAHARIA, Jaipur

Advertisements are common feature in Postcards these days. These are being printed in Single color mainly brown and also in multicolor. It is commonly understood that single color postcards are printed in one stage process that is imprinted stamp along with Advertisement are printed at one go. Recently, Postcards with Advertisement 'Philately King of Hobbies' was introduced all over India. This advertisement and Postcard is printed in same color and believed to have been printed in single printing.

Prem Ratan Maru from Bikaner recently shown me a complete postcard sheet cut into eight postcards with only Advertisement Box with message ' Philately - King of Hobbies' printed on it. The main Postcard die containing Stamp, Address Lines, Pin Box, Printer Details etc were all missing. He has also shown this item to another philatelist who assumed it to be proof of advertisement since according to him there is no way by which error like dry or part printing can remove all contents except Advertisement Box in all eight cards. Going by the close inspection of this advertisement on other normal postcards with both advertisement and main design print, I had noticed two main points

1. The distance between Advertisement Box and Stamp Die was varying in cards from different area
2. The color of Advertisement Box and Stamp Die was also very slightly varying in same card

Both these facts indicate that this advertisement may have been printed on already printed postcards and this two stage printing is responsible for item referred above.

Does somebody have another explanation or opinions on this matter?

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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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMP ENGRAVER CZESLAW SLANIA PASSED AWAY

The Royal Court Engraver of Sweden Czeslaw Slania died on March 17, 2005 after a long period of illness. He was 83 years old.

Slania was born in Poland on October 22, 1921 and came to Sweden in 1956. He had worked for Sweden Post as an engraver since 1959. His stamp engravings include the Ballet stamp (1975), Hins-Anders from a painting by Anders Zorn (1983) and his 1000th engraved stamp, the painting "Great Deeds by Swedish Kings" by David Klöcker Ehrenstrahl (2000), which is included in the Guinness Book of World Records.

"A great artist has passed away. His over one thousand stamps are admired and treasured around the world. We at Sweden Post are grateful

to have been part of his work," says Britt-Inger Hahne, Managing Director Posten AB, Sweden Post Stamps.

Czeslaw Slania was active until his very last days. His last completed stamp in February 2005 commemorates the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The illustrations of 1000th stamp are available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/213-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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Our now famous Disclaimer!

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

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