

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 217 - April 21, 2005. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

~~~~~  
I N T H I S I S S U E

Commemorative Used Before Official Release  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
Bandung Conference Stamp Released  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Army Postal Service Issues  
New Philatelic Products from Rajasthan  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Value Added Tax  
Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Nepal National Philatelic Exhibition  
Fake Stamp Scam Updates  
Permanent Pictorial Postmarks of Kerela  
Diwali Stamp in USA

~~~~~  
To SUBSCRIBE, send email giving your name, postal address, and  
philatelic interests to "subs at stampsofindia.com"

To UNSUBSCRIBE, send email to "end at stampsofindia.com"

*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>

~~~~~  
JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have uploaded images of all Meghdoot Post Cards issued till date,  
thanks to Mihir B Dhanda who has provided the images.

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

- M&SJ

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

We invite your inputs, please email to "writeback at stampsofindia.com"

~~~~~  
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.

~~~~~  
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMEMORATIVE USED BEFORE OFFICIAL RELEASE

Rakesh Walia, the well known philatelist from Chnadigarh, has found a used stamp on an envelope originating from Uttar Pradesh that is not yet officially issued.

The stamp commemorating the 50 years of De facto Transfer of French Settlements in India was originally scheduled for release on January 26, 2005 but was postponed and the new date of release is not yet announced.

~~~~~  
FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

May 01: Narayan Meghaji Lokhande, Rs5

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>

~~~~~  
BANDUNG CONFERENCE STAMP RELEASED

The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh released a Commemorative Postage stamp on Bandung Conference 1955 in the denomination of Rs. 15, to mark the completion of 50 years on april 18, 2005 at New Delhi.

During April 18-24, 1955 the Bandung Conference was convened upon the invitation of the Prime Ministers of Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Pakistan and was attended by 24 other Asian and African countries. Bandung Conference was the first meeting of the newly born independent states of Africa and Asia which gave a clarion call for the independence of the subjugated people. This conference was collective effort by the Afro-Asian nations to assert their presence on the world stage thereby marked the germination of ideas of South-South Cooperation.

Bandung, located in Central Java, Indonesia hosted this conference to bring together some of the towering personalities of those days who envisaged a global order based on equality among nations, territorial integrity, sovereignty and development for all. The neo independent countries participating in that meeting firmly believed that another world order was not only conceivable but also possible. Thus Bandung initiated the process of these nations coming together, to renew their ancient links that had been served under colonialism and to cooperate through exchange of experts and know-how, etc. The Conference was the forerunner of many economic ideas such as diversification of export baskets, value addition to exports, intra-regional economic and commercial links and exchange of commercial information.

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 stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each in the sheets of 16 stamps.

~~~~~

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Forthcoming

Apr 21: New Delhi, Hazira Port

Apr 22: New Delhi, Earth Day

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

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

~~~~~  
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Apr 17: 3 Battalion Jammu & Kashmir Rifles (Raghunath), 150 Years

Apr 19: 1 Battalion Third Gorkha Rifles, 125<sup>th</sup> Battle Honor Day

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

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

~~~~~  
NEW PHILATELIC PRODUCTS FROM RAJASTHAN

The Philatelic Society of Rajasthan released a set of 4 Max cards on 75 years of Dandi March. The cards produced in the quantity of 250 sets are duly cancelled on the first day of issue and are priced at Rs 44 per set.

The Philatelic Society of Rajasthan will release a special Inland Letter Card with Greetings on Mahaveer Jayanti on April 22, 2005 that is the birth anniversary of Lord Mahaveer. This Inland letter will be sent from Mahaveerji Trust bearing Meter Franking with Mahaveer Swami Message within Franking Design and delivery mark possibly of Shri Mahaveerji Post Office. The inland letter is priced at Rs 10 each.

The Philatelic Society of Rajasthan will also release self-adhesive labels on April 22, 2005 carrying 'Collect Stamps on Jainism, Spread message of World Peace' slogan. The labels are priced at Rs 32 for a sheet.

~~~~~  
RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

Mar 23-24, Fatehabad, District Level

Apr 16-17, Chennai

Keiko Nakano, Vice consul, Consulate General of Japan, inaugurated a two day exhibition of Japanese postal stamps to commemorate the philatelic week of Japan. The show was organized by Abk Aots Dosokai, Tamil Nadu centre, an alumni association of Japan trained technocrats and executives, in association with the South India Philatelists Association.

Apr 22: Jaipur, Jainism

Apr 23 & 30, Philatelic Exhibition Hall, Anna Road Head Post Office, Chennai, 10 am to 5.30 pm. Entry free, India Post in association with South India Philatelists' Association is holding a thematic philatelic exhibition that attempts to highlight the 'Dandi March' and 'Vedaranyam March' through special exhibits. In addition, it would feature the 50th Railway Week celebration and golden jubilee celebration of Integral Coach Factory through exhibits on 'Stamps On Railways'. On display would also be stamps and coins issued by Vatican City to pay tributes to the Pope.

Apr 28-30: Gangtok, Sikkim, NEW DATES

May 7-8: Chennai, Stamps & Coins

May 26-28, Mussoorie, Himalayan Adventure Expo

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

May 2: 2 to 4 PM, Delhi Philatelists

2214-15, Hardhiyan Singh Road, 2nd Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

Guests are welcome, please contact: Madhukar Jhingan 93505-37037

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

#### ~~~~~ VALUE ADDED TAX

The biggest ever change, since Independence, in India's tax administration took place when the Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced on April 1, 2005. The VAT replaces Sales Tax while other taxes like Octroi, Excise duties, remain as they are. VAT in India only covers goods and not services for which there is a separate Service Tax. The VAT, at present replaces only the Local Sales Tax and will eventually replace the Central Sales Tax in 3 years (2008?). Hopefully one day other taxes will be unified under it.

VAT in India is not implemented at national level but at states and territories level. At present all states and territories have not introduced VAT. Haryana was the first state to implement the VAT 2 years ago from April 1, 2003. 17 states and territories - Andhara Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, and West Bengal implemented VAT on April 1, 2005.

Tamil Nadu is expected to implement VAT from July 1, 2005. The date of implementation is to be notified in case of Assam, Chandigarh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland that have agreed in principle to implement VAT. Implementation status is not known in case of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. The following states and territories are still continuing with Sales Tax - Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

Each State and territory that has implemented VAT has its own Act and Rules however it is expected that unlike Sales Tax the rate of tax will be uniform all over India. The preparedness of the states and territories in terms of legal and administrative machinery to implement VAT has been far from ready. Serious questions are being raised by

traders, industry and the experts on how the fundamental principles of VAT have been undermined and ad-hocism displayed by states and territories. The chaos and confusion is likely to continue for some more time.

The Post Office is exempted from VAT on its sale of postal stationery, that in Karnatka include stamps and greeting cards as well but not the first day cover and folder (brochures) in West Bengal. The laws do not mention philatelic items specifically and are applicable to all sales except those that are specifically exempted by a notification. The rate of VAT for stamps and philatelic products is 12.5 per cent.

The philatelic community in India must make an effort to get the philatelic products exempted from the tax like books and periodicals as philately is an educative hobby. On the other hand if that is not a possibility these should be covered in the 4% tax rate from the present 12.5% since paper and most paper products such as calendars, diaries, notebooks, are covered under this rate.

Meanwhile, the philatelists should obtain VAT paid cash memos for their purchases of First Day Covers from the Philatelic Bureaus at Kolkata, Siliguri and Port Blair.

The sales by way of export are generally exempt from VAT and Central Sales Tax.

Indian Laws as applicable to Philately are available at  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

~~~~~  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RAJASTHAN

A new Governing Body 2005-2006 was elected on April 9, 2005:  
President: A S Mittal, Vice President: P M Bhargava, General Secretary: Rajesh Paharia, Joint Secretary: Yogesh Bhatnagar, Treasurer: Umesh Agarwal, Librarian: Sarvesh Patni, Members: Ashok Sharma, Ramesh Khanna, Jayant Pandya, Binod Kasera and N C Bhandari

The annual get together held on April 10, 2005 was attended by 100 members and guests. Everyone and especially the spouses and children enjoyed swimming, and games at the venue that was the picturesque farm house of A S Mittal. A K Bhargava from Rajasthan State Government's Department of Science & Technology released the 50 page special issue of Philanews and gave away memento to all organizing committee members of Sciencepex 2005. Umesh Agarwal conducted an auction.

~~~~~  
NEPAL NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The Minister for Education and Sports, Radhakrishna Mainali inaugurated National Philately Exhibition on the occasion of New Year 2062 on April 15, 2005 at Kathmandu. The 5-day exhibition was organized by Nepal Philately Society with the help of the Postal Service Department. Director General of Postal Service Department, Shreedhar Gautam, the Patron of Nepal Philately Society, Omkar Prasad Gauchan, and the Chairman of Nepal Philately Society, Kedar Pradhan and Vice Chairman, Ramesh Kumar Shrestha also expressed their view on the occasion.

~~~~~  
FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Prime accused in the multi billion rupee fake stamp scam Abdul Karim Telgi has filed a petition on April 15, 2005 in the Bombay High Court challenging a special court's order which refused to discharge him in a 1995 case. Justice V M Kanade of the Bombay High Court has kept the

matter for hearing on April 26. Meanwhile, the special judge, U D Salvi, who was to go on with the trial, has adjourned it to April 27, 2005.

~~~~~  
FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

PERMANENT PICTORIAL POSTMARKS OF KERELA

The complete set of 26 different Permanent Pictorial Postmarks (on Meghdoot Post Cards) depicting Flora & Fauna, Sports, cultural, spiritual and heritage sites in an attractive cover and information sheet is available in very limited quantity at Rs250 per set (Packaging & Registered Post charges free). Send remittance to Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, 16 A, Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 800 016

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>

~~~~~  
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.>

~~~~~  
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>

~~~~~  
ALSO IN THE NEWS

DIWALI STAMP IN USA

Democratic Congressman Frank Pallone, founder of the India Caucus, introduced a bill on April 20, 2005 in the House of Representatives urging the US Postal Service to issue a postage stamp honoring Diwali, India's festival of lights. Pallone said an estimated 1.5 million Indian Americans celebrate Diwali.

The holiday is observed by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Muslims and Buddhists and is considered a time for communal gatherings and spiritual enlightenment. Diwali is one of the most important and colorful of the Indian festivals and is celebrated enthusiastically by Indians all over the world. The rich culture and spirit of Diwali has survived political, economic and social vicissitudes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the triumph of light, goodness, knowledge and truth.

Pallone noted that the Diwali stamp has received widespread community support. To date, approximately 115,000 people have signed an online petition to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Commission in support of the stamp. "I feel that Diwali is truly a marvelous holiday that deserves recognition," Pallone continued. "As the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee continues its plans for issuing new stamps, I hope that it

will consider issuing a Diwali stamp to honor this culturally significant holiday celebrated in the United States and abroad."

The US Postal Service currently issues many stamps with holiday themes, including Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Eid.

~~~~~  
NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

The Telegraph, April 9, 2005  
PHILATELY CLUB TO UNVEIL POSTMARK  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050409/asp/jamshedpur/story\\_4593703.asp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050409/asp/jamshedpur/story_4593703.asp)  
~~~~~

WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>  
The Hub Site of Indian Philately

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

-----\*\*\*\*\*O\*\*\*\*\*-----

ADMINISTRIVIA

Published by Madhukar Jhingan (mjhingan at yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India

Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037(NEW)

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

Our now famous Disclaimer!

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

=====  
© Copyright 2005, Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.  
For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications please ask the publisher for permission stating exactly what you would like to use, and for what purpose, before using the same.