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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 didn't realize that we forgot to give the address of the Philatelic  
Society of Rajasthan in the story 'New Philatelic Products from  
Rajasthan' till several readers asked for same.

The address of the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, C/o A S Mittal,  
Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur 302003.

Incase we make the same mistake again some time in the future; the  
societies are listed for your ready reference at the following link on  
our website <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a400.htm>

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sanjay Kansal,  
Vijay Seth, and Abhai Mishra.

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.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005

Pacific Explorer Specialized International Philatelic Exhibition was held at Sydney, Australia from April 21-24, 2005. The exhibition was open to all International Philatelic Federation (FIP) Classes except Youth Class. The participation was limited to only Pacific-rim countries or countries with historical links to exploration of the Pacific or countries that are members of Asian Philatelic Federation (FIAP).

There were neither any exhibits from India, nor a booth by India Post. However there were several exhibits of Indian interests that won awards, as follows:

Large Gold Medal

Paul Koman - Postal History of the First Issue of India circa 1854-1859
M Arif Balgamwala - British Indian Airmails 1911-1929

Gold Medal

Nasreen - India Queen Victoria 1855-1899 The De La Rue Issues & Usages
W Danforth Walker - Barwani: A Princely Indian State

Large Vermeil Medal

Khaled Abdul Mughni - Kuwait Postal History under Indian Postal Administration
Mohammed Ahmed Almurr - Postal History of Muscat 1868-1948
Stephen Chivers - Burma Postal Markings 1825-1903

Vermeil Medal

Ferose - Jammu & Kashmir: The Classic Early Issues and Usages
Iqbal Nanjee - Jammu & Kashmir

Large Silver Medal

Mohammad Ali Jahangir - Indian Postal Markings
Rafiq Kasbati - Postal Stationery of Hyderabad Deccan 1890-1947

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

REVISED DATE OF ISSUE

May 03: Narayan Meghaji Lokhande, Rs 5

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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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement was scheduled for release in May 2005.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:
Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Postcard

May 31: ISP, Hindi, Education, 4
May 31: SPP, Bengali, Education, 2
May 31: ISP, Marathi, Education, 2
May 31: SPP, Tamil, Education, 2
May 31: SPP, Kannada, Education, 2
May 31: SPP, Oriya, Education, 2

Inland Letter Card

May 31: Tamil, ISP, The Muthoot Group, 0.5, M

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

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Apr 01: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Tamil, Savings Bank, 6 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

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

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post card with advertisement were recently released:

0124. Mar 31: Chandramughi movie *ing Rajnikant, Tamil, 0.1
0125. Mar 31: AIDS Maharashtra, Marathi, 0.1

0000. Xxx 00: Registration of Births & Deaths, Telugu

The complete list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/meghdoot.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

India Post, being a Member of the Universal Postal Union Project Team on Environment and Sustainable Development, celebrated the Earth Day in all its Post Office buildings. As part of the celebrations, Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information Technology, released a Special cover on the theme of Environment Protection and Sustainable Development, at a function held at New Delhi on April 22, 2005. Maran also launched a nation-wide tree plantation drive. India Post is aimed to plant at least three trees in premises of every departmental building / Post Offices, all over the country. In all, it is estimated that more than 10000 saplings would be planted in nearly 4000 departmental buildings located through out the length and breadth of the country.

A special cover was issued by the Department of Posts, Uttaranchal Circle on April 22 2005 on the occasion of Earth Day at Dehradun. The special cover features the tiger which was adapted from the winning entry of the painting competition held at Dehradun GPO on March 24,

2005. The background of the cover features herd of deer from a photograph taken at Chila range of Rajaji National Park. The special cancellation depicts children encircling the globe. The scan of the image is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/pmk/2005-26.htm>

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

Apr 28-30: Gangtok, Sikkim

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, BARAMAHALPEX National Level Philatelic & Numismatic Venue: VMK VMG Wedding Hall, Swarnapuri, Backside of Hotel Salem Castle, Near New Bus Stand

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, Hardhyan 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>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, Whole # 19 - Jan Feb 2005 SCINCEEPEX Special, 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

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

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BHUTAN NEW ISSUES

Feb 09: Lunar Rooster Year, Sheetlet of 2 stamps, Nu.15, & 20

Mar 25: Expo 2005 Aichi, Japan, Sheetlet of 4 stamps, Nu.10, 10, 20, & 20 and a Souvenir Sheet containing 1 stamp, Nu.30

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The trial in the 1995 fake stamp paper scam, involving prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi and two others, Ramratan Soni and Sanjay Gaikwad, began in a special court in Mumbai on April 27, 2005. The case was registered in 1995 for circulating fake stamps.

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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 PHILATELIC ACADEMY

The Indian Philatelic Academy is recently established to promote philately and help exchange, buy, and sell exhibition standard quality & rare printing errors, perforation flaws and water marks varieties of the Postage stamps of India Post Independence period; Miniature sheets & Sheetlets; Meghdoot Post Cards, Greeting Post, in retail and bulk, Special Commemorative cover sets, metered mail, and literature. Contact Secretary Indian Philatelic Academy, 16 A, Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 800016 pradipphila@hotmail.com or pradipatna@hotmail.com

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

READERS FORUM

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

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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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NEHRU ON STAMPS FROM INDONESIA

Indonesia issued a stamp and a miniature sheet on April 18, 2005 in the denomination of Rp.2500 each to commemorate the 50 years of Asian African Conference. The stamp portrays the historical Gedung Merdeka and photographs of five different heads of states of countries who founded the summit including Jawaharlal Nehru.

The illustrations of stamp and miniature sheet are available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/218-pix.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

CUSTOMIZED STAMPS IN USA ONCE AGAIN

The United States Postal Service announced on April 26, 2005 that Personal photos on postage could return as early as next month as the Postal Service moves into the second phase of an extensive test of this popular product that debuted last year.

Customized postage allows a customer to personalize postage with pictures or images using PC Postage® technology. The USPS today began

looking for qualified PC Postage® vendors able to produce customized postage to be used on First-Class Mail, Priority Mail and Express Mail for personal use only.

"We're combining the trust people have in the Postal Service with the technology and efficiencies of the private sector to bring customized postage to our customers," said Nicholas Barranca, Vice President of Product Development. "Customized postage allows us to make mail more valuable and more meaningful to people."

Customized postage will have two parts: a customer-supplied image and a state-of-the-art secure bar code. All customized postage is compatible with the Postal Service's automated mail processing systems.

Like postage meters, PC Postage® facilitates customer access to postage payment and use of the mail. PC Postage® is not a stamp and the use of customized postage will not affect the Postal Service's production or commitment to postage stamps, Barranca said.

Customized postage will be limited to personal use only during the one-year test. This is the second step in the Postal Service's testing of the product to determine its appeal to customers and the value it may add to postal services.

To become an authorized PC Postage® provider, applicants must be able to prove the ability to generate high quality, computer-based postage or metered postage and demonstrate they routinely use secure encryption technology to protect postal revenue.

"We want to make sure that anyone we authorize has the ability to produce postage in an efficient way," Barranca said. "While we continue to strive to meet the needs of our customers, we want to make sure that any product also meets our standards for quality and security."

USPS will require vendors to produce a product that meets current postal regulations and conclusively prove that all images produced and services provided abide by all federal laws, including copyright laws.

Authorized vendors will determine pricing and are expected to price their products based on the value provided to the consumer. The Postal Service's role is to authorize and monitor qualified providers.

The formal request for proposals from qualified vendors will be advertised in the Federal Register on April 27, 2005.

The year-long test is expected to last through May 2006. Vendors may begin offering PC Postage® within 20 days of being authorized by the USPS.

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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>

Times of India, April 19, 2005

FAKE RS 100 COINS

<http://epaperarchive.timesofindia.com/Repository/ml.asp?Ref=Q0FQLzIwMDUvMDQvMTkjqXIwMDMwMg==&Mode=HTML&Locale=english-skin-custom>

The New Nation, April 25, 2005

FORGED STAMPS SEIZED IN BANGLADESH

[http://nation.ittefaq.com/artman/publish/article\\_17934.shtml](http://nation.ittefaq.com/artman/publish/article_17934.shtml)

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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

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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

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