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

Issue # 219 - May 5, 2005. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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

Have you noticed the date of this issue, it is May 5, 2005 also written  
as 05-05-05. It is one among the 12 days of a millennium when the day,  
the month and the year are numerically the same. The philatelists  
worldwide have been making covers for this kind of days and some  
countries such as Netherlands had issued a miniature sheet on 02-02-02.  
The next such day will be 06-06-06 that is June 6, 2006.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Mansoor Bolar,

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

May 08: Cooperative Movement in India, Rs.5

The issue 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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LOKHANDE STAMP RELEASED

The Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh released a commemorative postal stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 on Narayan Meghaji Lokhande, noted social worker and trade union leader, on May 3, 2005 at New Delhi. The Minister of Communications & Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Prithviraj Chavan, the General Secretary of Communist Party of India A B Bardhan, and General Secretary of Communist Party of India (Marxist) Prakash Karat, also spoke on the occasion.

Born in the year 1848 in Thane, Lokhande started his career with the Railways and Postal Department after which he joined the Mandavi Textile Mills as a Store Keeper. Life full of hardships and struggle that he underwent during his Mill-life days made him fight for ensuring basic rights of the workers and against all forms of exploitation. His tireless efforts resulted in the establishment of the first Labour Union under the banner of 'Mills Hands Association' in 1884. Lokhande rose to the level of getting an appointment in the Factory Labour Commission which was established in 1890. Following this, the Factory Act of 1891 came into being with effect from January 1892. All these activities gave him recognition as the Father of Indian Labor Movement.

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 0.6 million each in the sheets of 42 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals

Apr 30: Post Card with advertisement, in Marathi, AIDS, 2 million, India Security Press, Nasik  
New Format - strips of 5, the first from ISP, perhaps signifies acquisition of a new machine for post cards

Apr 30: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Hindi, Airtel, 0.5 million, India Security Press, Nasik

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

#### Expanded Print-line

The postal stationery printed by the Security Printing Press (SPP), Hyderabad in 2005 has the expanded print-line where in addition to the name of press and year it also includes the name of the city where the press is located. The line now reads SPP/HYD-2005. Till last year it was SPP-2004. India Post introduced the name of the press and the year on the postal stationery in 1999. SPP prints Single Post Card, Meghdoot Post Card, Inland Letter Card, and Envelope. There is no change in the print-line of the India Security Press (ISP) Nasik so far.

#### A Postcard with Message -

'Philately: King of Hobbies, Collect Postage Stamps, Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau' printed by SPP and probably released in April 2005. The imprinted stamp depicts 'Rock-cut Chariots Mahabalipuram, for the third year in row. This is not treated as postcard with advertisement by India Post. It is utilization of the space available for promoting philately on that quantity of postcards for which there are no advertisements.

In 2003 these messages appeared for the first time on postcard, and reply postcard from ISP, and Inland Letter Card from SPP. In 2004 these messages appeared on single Post Card, reply Post Card from ISP and single Post Card from SPP. The text of the message on Post Cards from ISP and SPP is same but the visual of the design are different.

India Post has not issued the customary notice or circular on these issues unlike in case of all other issues of postal stationery whether with or without advertisements. However it is still not too late as the philatelists will appreciate even a belated notice as the authentic information these issues.

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**NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS**

Following Meghdoot post card with advertisement were recently released:

0114. Feb 28: TVS XL Super, Tamil, 0.1

0115. Feb 28: Distt. Rural Development Agency Tiruvanamalai, Tamil, 0.1

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

Apr 22: Manglore, Earth Day

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

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005pmk.htm>  
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#### MORE MAXIM CARDS

The Philatelic Bureau, Ernakulam has designed a set of 4 maxim cards for Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March issue of April 5, 2005.

The set is priced at Rs.50 and the remittance should be sent either by Money order or Demand Draft, drawn in favor of 'The Regional Philately Fund', Postmaster General office, Kochi-682016, payable at Kochi. The set will be dispatched by registered post.

The orders from overseas may kindly be addressed to The Philatelic Bureau, Mumbai 400 001.

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24<sup>TH</sup> INDIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

The mail from the 24<sup>th</sup> Indian Antarctic Expedition has come home. Abhai Mishra, Moderator of Indian Antarctica Yahoo Group has posted lots of images at <http://www.geocities.com/xxiiae/html/24exp.html>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

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 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

June 6: 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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NEW WEB SITE

Mansoor Bolar, a patron member and Joint Secretary of Dakshina Kannada Philatelic and Numismatic Association had launched his personal site last year and continues to update it on a regular basis.

<http://www.geocities.com/manboll/>

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for May 2005 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2auctions.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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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

<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.>

DR VIJAY SHUKLA, Lucknow

With nothing significant happening at Lucknow or in the Uttar Pradesh Philatelic scene or on the national level in India, I decided to fly down under to attend Pacific Explorer 20005 international stamp exhibition which started on Thursday 21 April and concluded on 24 April 05 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, NSW, Australia.

Held under the auspices of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie and after years of hard work by the organising committee and with full support of Australia Post the event was a grand success.

The theme for the exhibition was the Pacific countries that have a connection with the Pacific, either as a function of their geography or through their exploration of the region, participated. The theme presented many opportunities within philately -pacific life and culture, pacific exploration, the postal history of early mail routes or the development of the first Trans - pacific flights (aviation).

Australia Post released new stamp issues each day 21 -24 2005. Souvenir cover featuring Harbour bridge/Sydney Opera House, with a special postmark was created for each day. SNAPSHOT! Booklet is a world's first personalised booklet. Limited to 7000 at the expo, it has exclusive configurations of the stamps and contains personalised stickers and postcards.

At the Court of Honour, I had the unique opportunity to view, rare and valuable philatelic gems that have never been seen in Australia before. From the British Library, a major item of the Tapling collection (a 20 frame exhibit of world collection covering the first 50 years of the postage stamp) was a historic first in Australia. The collection formed by Thomas Tapling (1855 - 1891), British Member of Parliament, first class cricketer and philatelist conservatively valued at around GBP 10 million was given in trust to the British Museum after his death. David Beech, Head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library and current President of the Royal Philatelic Society London presented talks on the Tapling exhibit, which included such stunning varieties such as the unused 1847 Mauritius 2d Post Office stamp, 1851 Hawaiian 2c Missionary stamp. Original essays for the 1850 NSW Sydney Views stamps and the 1854 Western Australian 4d inverted frame to name a few.

Other exhibits in the Court of Honour were provided by Australia Post, the Australian War Memorial (Canberra) and four private collectors. Nicaragua by Arthur Woo, China's Small Dragons stamps by Michael Ho, Anzac - Australian World War I postal history by Michael Blake, Russell Stern and David Collyer and Australian Kangaroo and Map by Arthur Gray. On Saturday 23 April at 12.30 attended lunch organised by Royal Philatelic Society London at the Novotel Hotel, Darling Harbour and had

the opportunity to get together with David Beech, president of RPSL, Michael Blake convener and Ms Joanna Williamson its secretary and other members of the royal from UK and Australia. I was the only one from India. On the last day 24 April 2005 at 9 am presentation of awards was done and handover of the FIP flag took place.

Afterwards I took the opportunity to visit the various stalls at the expo including Stanley Gibbons Limited, London Philatelists, Harmers of London, Spink and a host of Postal Administrations.

To conclude the expo was one of the best I had visited and have been extended invitations by a few to attend New Zealand 2005 National Expo from 17 -20 Nov 2005.

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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

BEST JOINT ISSUE OF 2004 ANNOUNCED

The members of International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors (IPS-JSIC) have chosen the following stamps as the Best Joint Issues for the year 2004:

Canada Post, Post Greenland and Norway Post are the recipients of the 2004 Best Joint Issue award for the Otto Sverdrup issue released on 26 March 2004. It was designed and engraved by Martin Mörck, typo graphed by Morten Stürup and printed by Post Denmark A/S.

Second place was awarded to Poland and Slovakia for the Raftsmen on the Dunajec River issue released on 3 September 2004.

Third place was awarded to China and Greece for the Olympic Games issue released on 13 August 2004.

The selection was made among 32 joint issues released in 2004 by 66 postal administrations representing 57 countries for a total of 116 stamps and 30 souvenir sheets. Omnibus and territorial issues were excluded from the contest. In the year 2003 India - France joint issue was voted the Best Joint Issue award.

The International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors was founded in 1999 to bring together all stamp lovers who have an interest in collecting joint issues. The Society itself has the main objective of collecting, arranging and broadcasting information on joint issues to members and the general public. For more information, please visit Society's website <http://rzimmerm.club.fr/index.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>

The Telegraph  
FAIR MAGIC: STAMPS IN CRYSTAL, CLOTH & CLAY  
[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050409/asp/calcutta/story\\_4591756.asp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050409/asp/calcutta/story_4591756.asp)

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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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