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

Issue # 220 - May 12, 2005. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The last issue was dated 05-05-05 and we had talked about this special  
date. We were pleasantly surprised by Qatar Post who has brought out  
stamps to commemorate the occasion and have also stated that they will  
issue stamps next year as well on 06-06-06. Well they can have a long  
term program to issue these special stamps as they will have 6 more  
occasions to do it before the next opportunity will present itself after  
1,000 years!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shyam Prasad  
Pradhan

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

Jun 02: State Bank of 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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COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT STAMP RELEASED

T N Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 to mark the centenary of the cooperative movement in India on May 8, 2005 at Kanaginahal Village in Gadag district that is the birth place of Siddanagouda Patil, who formed the first cooperative society in the country in 1905.

Dharam Singh, the Chief Minister of Karnataka inaugurated the centenary celebrations and S Siddaramaiah, the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, unveiled a statue of Patil.

Some believe that the society formed by Patil in 1905 was not only India's but Asia's first primary co-operative credit society. Others believe that Heera Singh of Panjavar village in the Una district of Himachal Pradesh was the founder of the cooperative movement in the country when in 1882 he had constituted a cooperative society in the village.

Kamleshwar Singh 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 35 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Apr 30: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Marathi, AIDS Maharashtra, 2 million, India Security Press, Nasik

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 cards with advertisement were recently released:

0099. Nov 03: Small Savings Madhya Pradesh, Hindi, 0.1

0116. Mar 10: Voluntary Health Services, Tamil, 0.1
0123. Mar 24: Education for all, Telugu, 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: Patna, Earth Day  
Apr 22: Bangalore, Earth Day  
Apr 22: Mysore, Earth Day  
Apr 22: Belgaum, Earth Day

Forthcoming

May 14: Bhopal, British Library's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

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

Feb 9-13, Mysore, COINEX, 1 cover

Mar 21: Allahabad, Philatelic Exhibition, 1 cover

May 6-9, Dehradun

Uttaranchal Circle of India Post organized a small Philatelic Exhibition at St. Joseph Academy, Dehradun from May 6 to 9, 2005. The Vice President of Uttaranchal Philatelists Association, Abhai Mishra conducted a philatelic workshop and quiz competition on this occasion. There was overwhelming response from the school. Last time in 2004 only 25 children attended the workshop while this time over 200 children participated. Mishra answered the questions of the children relating to preparation of exhibits. The philatelic quiz was very much appreciated and enjoyed by the children. Philatelic kits and books were given to the winners.

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

June 6: 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>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHIL INDIA INTERNATIONAL, # 13, Feb 2005

Editor: G K Omar

Publisher: G K Omar

Address: P O Box 3, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur 209 011

Annual Subscription: Rs.100

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

BANGLADESH NEW ISSUES

Jan 16: International Year of Microcredit, 2 stamps, Tk. 4 and 10

Feb 01: South Asia Tourism Year, Tk.4

Mar 27: Independence & National Day, Tk.10

Mar 31: 100 Years of Cooperative Movement, Tk.5

NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Apr 27: Nepal Rastra Bank, Golden Jubilee, Rs.2

Designed by M N Rana, depicting the central office of the bank and the logo of golden jubilee, and printed by Austrian Government Printing Office Vienna by offset lithography in four colors in the quantity of one million in sheets of 50 stamps

JURORS FOR 18TH ASIAN INTERNATIONAL

Hardayal Singh Gupta and Shyam Prasad Nhuchhe Pradhan have been appointed Jury and Apprentice Jury respectively for TAIPEI 2005 the 18th Asian international stamp exhibition to be held at Taipei, Taiwan from 19-24 august 2005.

PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON INDIA SECURITY PRESS

The report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the Performance Audit of the Control Systems in India Security Press Nashik was tabled in parliament on May 6, 2005. Following is the overview from the Report:

Audit of control systems in India Security Press (ISP) Nashik, which is entrusted with the task of printing and supply of security papers and stamps for the Union and state governments and other entities, disclosed deficient controls in the procedures for indents, printing and supply as also non-existent risk perception in this high risk function.

Sharp swings in the indents received from state governments, union territories etc. were not investigated. ISP's annual printing programs never had any relationship with the indents and were consistently lower than the total indents. Over the eight year period since 1996 to 2004, ISP printed only 46 per cent of the total indents. The actual supply was still lower at 43 per cent of the indents.

ISP did not carry out assessment of risks associated with the process of indent, printing and supply of stamp papers and stamps. It failed to gauge the risk of the severe short supply of stamp on the functions dependent on the stamps and stamp paper and the possibility of counterfeit. ISP had no effective control over the actual quantity of security paper manufactured by the private paper mills, nor on the manufacture, custody and use of dandy rolls, the equipment that introduces the security features in the papers during its production.

The printing and supply procedures were also deficient. There were cases of theft on the shop floor and many in transit, which entailed the risk of siphoning of the genuine stamps outside the prescribed channel. The physical security system at the gates and on the printing shop floor was lax.

The decision of ISP to permit the presence of the representatives of the successful bidder for disposal of printing machine during its dismantling was questionable since it entailed the risk of its reassembly for counterfeit printing. Similarly, ISP was negligent in disposal of the printing machine and the perforating machine to the same vendor, which further heightened the risk of their misuse.

ISP had not established a surveillance and intelligence system to provide assurance that genuine stamps were used and fake stamps were not in currency nor did it confirm setting up the vigilance-cum-surveillance unit as a remedial measure as per the decision of the Ministry. It confined its role to that of a printer and limited its verification of genuineness of the stamps to those referred to it by investigation agencies. ISP did not prepare comprehensive response to the high risk of counterfeit stamps despite large number of stamps referred to it for examination being found fake.

The complete report is available online at the following link
http://cag.nic.in/aru_03_04_perf_app_nol4.htm

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INDIA POST TO SELL STAMP PAPERS

India Post has been appointed to sell fiscal stamps and stamped papers in the State of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Initially these will be available at Chandigarh, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ludhiana and later, at 22 head post offices in all the districts of Punjab.

India Post has already obtained license from the State Revenue Department to sell these stamps even at sub post offices in the state and will get two per cent commission on sales.

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INDIA POST SURVEYING CABLE TV CONNECTIONS

Gujarat Circle of India Post is conducting a survey to identify the accurate number of cable TV connections initially in Ahmedabad's Bodakdev, Ambawadi, Memnagar, Vastrapur and Judges Bungalow area for the Entertainment Tax Department.

It was found that the government is loosing huge amounts of revenue by the non registration of cable television operators and by giving false data about the number of cable connections.

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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>

POSTAL STATIONERY SPECIMENS

Available Post Cards, Meghdoot Post Cards, Inland Letter Cards, Aerogramme, Envelopes, Registered Envelopes, Greeting Card Envelopes  
A R C SHAH, A-20 Gujarat Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi 110034, Telephone 9810179095

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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

QATAR ISSUES STAMPS ON 05-05-05

Q-Post issued a new set of 10 stamps in the denomination of Dh.50 each on May 5, 2005 to mark this special date of the year. The total price of the set is QR5.

Ali Mohammed Al Ali, Chairman And General Manager of Q-Post said in a press statement that Qatar plans to issue similar stamps next year to mark 06-06-06.

The stamps were printed in the quantity of 5,000 at the instant printing facility of the corporation at the General Post Office and are available at the counters of the main post office and philately bureau.

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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

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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