

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 221 - May 19, 2005. Published Every Thursday
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

United States Postal Service (USPS) receives about 50,000 suggestions for new stamps every year. Many are eliminated because they do not meet the basic rules for what can be on a stamp. And the USPS makes \$150 million to \$200 million annually. This is the amount of stamps that are bought but not used and retained by the collectors. In addition to this the sales of philatelic products, including framed stamps, annual stamp yearbook and other items, comes to nearly \$50 million last year, previous year it was \$40 million.

India Post is not flooded with these many proposals. However the elimination process is wayward and rules are not sacrosanct. Thus things always are in one mess or another. Where other countries can publish programs of Issue years in advance with denominations and color illustrations, India Post Annual Program of Issue has not been published for last couple of years. India Post has good designs (well mostly), and themes but does not even have 1 percent market share in the global philatelic market. Marketing is the weakest point of India Post at least

in matters philatelic. We write this from a personal observation of more than three decades, what do you think?

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

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PHILATELIC ORGANIZATIONS

A lot of effort has been underway for past several years to form an effective 'national philatelic organization' in India that can work lawfully, democratically, and diligently in a transparent manner for furthering its member organizations' interests and not devour them. Many like minded people have been holding discussions at numerous meetings all over India to fine-tune the details. On May 17, 2005 during a meeting at New Delhi it was decided to formally go public. The new national organization shall be known as "National Alliance of Philatelic Organizations".

All philatelic organizations in India, be it a school stamp club, a local philatelic society, a state philatelic association, a national society devoted to a particular philatelic specialty, an association of stamp dealers or philatelic journalists are cordially invited to join hands for promotion of philately in India.

Please contact Madhukar Jhingan, the Convening Committee, for further details at [mj@stampsofindia.com](mailto:mj@stampsofindia.com) or 0 93505 37037.

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PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The newly reconstituted Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Ministry of Communications, Government of India met on May 17, 2005. The earlier PAC meeting was in 2003 December and no meeting was held in 2004.

The new PAC was reconstituted on February 22, 2004. Originally only the senior philatelists, G B Pai, Dr Sita Bhateja, and Sahadeva Sahoo were nominated members of PAC. However on May 11, 2005 four philatelists from Patna, Pradip Jain, Dr R S Gandhi, Naresh Kumar Jain, and Dr Razi Ahmed were added as members.

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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 an illustrated list of stamps in 2005, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005stamps.htm>

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Apr 30: Post Card with advertisement, in English, AirTel, 0.5 million, Security Printing Press Hyderabad, Multicolor

Apr 30: Post Card with advertisement, in Hindi, ISI, 1 million, Security Printing Press Hyderabad, Green

For an illustrated 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:  
0102. Dec 00: Our Goal Education for all work for all, Hindi, 0.1

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/meghdoot.htm>

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

May 16: 68 Armored Regiment - Standard Presentation

May 16: 81 Armored Regiment - Standard Presentation by the President

The list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2005 is available at:
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005aps.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Apr 22: Ahmedabad, Earth Day

Apr 22: Mumbai, Earth Day

Apr 22: Erankulam, Earth Day

Apr 22: Thrissur, Earth Day

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

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INDIA REVENUE STAMPS HANDBOOK

Just Released

INDIAN GOVERNMENT FISCAL AND JUDICIAL STAMPS AND STAMP PAPERS

Including Provincial and Provisional Issues, Vol.1

By S M Blatt, A M Mollah, & D Heppel

540 Pages Hardbound in two parts

UK £50, US \$95, INR 4000, Postage & Handling Extra

Available from: Stamps of India, orders@stampsofindia.com

After many years of individual collecting and study, three dedicated philatelists pooled their resources and put together this Handbook. It is a compressive study into instruments created by the Indian Government for the collection of revenue, judicial and fiscal fees from 1800 to date. The profusely illustrated work encompasses stamps, stamp papers and hundis including embossed markings and instruments approved for All-India use from the earliest to the present day. Also included are those for provincial use prior to Independence. (Post-Independence provincial instruments are covered in a second volume.) A detailed listing of all

known examples accompanied by an estimation of worth is shown. Apart from a small number of articles in various journals this is believed to be the first comprehensive study of the subject for over one hundred years.

Listings are chronological within revenue title, Agreement, Broker's Notes, Court Fees etc...Watermarks, paper, surcharges, overprints, perforations, sizes and printings together with any variations found are also listed. The authors have built upon the work of five accepted authorities and for every stamp issued cite any appropriate references. The change from De La Rue to Nashik and the provisional issues of the 1920-30s are discussed, illustrated and catalogued. The section on the Calcutta Small Cause Court, over seventy pages, is a completely new study. Stamp papers from the pre-Congreve era to current issues are chronologically listed. In this first detailed listing seventeen different types of watermarked papers have been found and categorized. There is a section listing hundi document types and denominations from the early nineteenth century to date. Various theories on procedural matters, the existence (or not) of specific material have been discussed with reasoned opinions and conclusions there from. In assembling the information for this study the authors have studied and researched over seventy previously published works and articles, all referenced, drawing from them the necessary details for this publication. The authors have detailed and quoted from various Stamp Acts where rates and fees are specified and determined the amount of revenue to be collected. The archives at the British Library and National Postal Museum, London, have been examined and referenced as appropriate. Over 80% of the listed material has not previously been catalogued.

Whilst the work is based upon known existing examples, the authors being very much aware of the limitations of this approach have provided the users with room to add additional details as may be evident from their own collections.

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NUMISMATIC HERITAGE OF INDIA

Farokh Todywalla formally launched the website 'Numismatic Heritage of India' that is available at <http://www.thakkarfoundation.org> on April 23, 2005 in a function organized during the S M Shukla Memorial Coin Fair at Mumbai. Dr Dilip Rajgor, Director, University of Mumbai Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum explained the navigation of the website.

Praful Thakkar has created this website under the patronage of the Thakkar Numismatic and Art Foundation, Cary, USA, for the collectors and info seekers of Indian numismatic and para-numismatic items. The Foundation is dedicated to Indian numismatics with the aim of "Share the Knowledge - Spread the Knowledge".

The website lists more than 300 categories of numismatic and para-numismatic items under the main nine sections of badges, cash coupons, coins, medals, monograms, passes, tokens, seals & dies, and weights of India. Each web page has been designed in a drop-down menu style where a navigator has to just follow a link by placing a cursor on the main menu, which in turn opens full featured web pages with thumbnail images and detailed illustrations. Each section has introductory brief information under the heading of 'About this Subject' located first in the sub-menu under that particular section. This gives an overall picture of the subject along with its sub-divisions. Other useful information has been added through links like, Abbreviations, Table of Eras, Chronologies, Helpful Links, Bibliography and Numismatic Info.

In each major section some categories are uploaded with images and information. For example, Indian Princely States Badges, Medals, Monograms, Weights, Seals and Dies etc. However, as the website is in the process of uploading the images, some categories may not have any information or images uploaded.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS
EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

Jan 6-7: Vellore, Velpex 2005, 2 covers

May 26-28, Mussoorie, Himalayan Adventure Expo

Aug 11-15: Coimbatore, South Zone

Contact: The Philatelists Coimbatore, 5 Eleventh Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore 641 012

Aug 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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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIPA Bulletin, Vol.26 # 1, Jan Feb 2005, Bimonthly

Editor: G Madan Mohan Das

Publisher: South India Philatelists Association

Address: 21 (Old), 2nd Floor, E V K Sampath Road, Vepery, Chennai 600007

Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

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AUNT RUFU IS NO MORE

Ruffina Ramanujam died on December 30, 2004. She was a pioneer who conducted philatelic workshops in sixties and seventies in South India. She coordinated the first School of Philately held at Bangalore in conjunction with the first Asian International stamp exhibition in Bangalore in 1977. Youngsters were selected from each State of India to participate in this School that had international faculty. All her wards affectionately called her Aunt Rufu and several remained in touch with her for many years after from wherever they were in the world. Her husband, S Ramnanujam, and son Eric Ramnanujam are well known and active philatelists today. RIP

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

May 15: Golden Jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Makalu, Rs.10

Mount Makalu (8,463 meters) is the fifth highest peak in the world and the fifth highest mountain in Nepal. Located in the Koshi zone of Sankhuwasabha district in Mahalangur range of Himalayas, the majestic mountain Makalu lies at 27° 53'23" northern latitude and 87° 05'20" eastern longitude. It was first ascended by the French expedition Jean Couzy, Lionel Terray, Jean Franco, Guido Magnone, Jean Bouvier, Serge Coupe, Puierre Lorous, Andre Vialatte and Gyalzen Norbu Sherpa's team on May 15, 1955.

Designed by M N Rana 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

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

In an application on May 18, 2005 to the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court seeking that it be treated as a writ petition, Telgi said, he was kept in the 'anda cell', at Yerawada Central Prison here, which was both "illegal and against his fundamental rights." Telgi's application also said, "My life is like bubbles on the water and any day it will burst. I am suffering from HIV/AIDs which is in the last stage. My current CD four count is very low. I have been tested HIV/AIDS CD four on April 5, 2005 in the Sassoon General Hospital and NARI, Pune. The report is very serious. My CD four counts are only 272 when the minimum required is 800-1200. My blood sugar level as per the medical report of the Sassoon General Hospital, Pune is 450 to 500, while the minimum required is 80-120". "I have become very weak and at the lowest capacity of the immune system. I am unable to fight against ailments from common cold to cancer and I require regular medical check-ups, consultations, diagnosis and follow up treatment from qualified and specialist doctors," he said.

In his letters to his lawyer, Telgi wrote on April 20, 2005 "I am a confused man. I don't know what to do. I don't know what is in CBI's mind. It is very difficult whom to trust and whom not to trust".

"I am fed up of life," Telgi wrote on March 14 to one of his lawyers, Abdul Rehman. "That is why I am planning to give confessional statement...My health is deteriorating day by day. My CD-4-counts are lowest i.e 283. I don't know how many days I will survive. I myself don't feel like living. I feel guilty. I don't know what to do. My wife is also serious; she is on last stage (sic)."

A confession cannot earn Telgi the approver status. Nor can it be read against those whom he might name as his accomplices but who are not being tried along with him. Yet, it may cause severe embarrassment to politicians and bureaucrats accused of involvement in the scam.

It is been six months since Telgi first indicated to give a confessional statement. On October 30, 2004, Telgi wrote to Rahman he is not the real kingpin. "I am not the kingpin but one Mohammad Sayeed Mohammad Yasin of Calcutta is the person who printed and circulated the stamps."

Irrked at the recurring rumors about his death, fake stamp paper case prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi claimed that "There are persons wishing the worst for me in the hope that they can get away scot-free," he said in a veiled reference to exposing others allegedly involved in the scam. They are not even realizing what impact such news would have on my wife and daughter who are so far away from me in Karnataka's Belgaum district. I am tensed and depressed", Telgi told his lawyers Milind Pawar and Prashant Jadhav, who met him on May 13, 2005 at Yerawada

Central Prison Pune and informed him about the rumors. Telgi is reportedly ill since May 7, 2005 when he became unconscious in his cell.

Telgi's judicial custody was extended till June 8 by special Mcocha court on May 6 after the latest hearing was adjourned.

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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>

FULL SHEETS OF POST INDEPENDENCE STAMPS FOR SALE - SG numbers:

1722;1723;1724;1725, 1741;1742;1743;1744, 1747;1748;1749;1750, 1758;1759;1760;1761, 1775;1776;1777;1778, 1899;1900;1901;1902;1903, 1894;1895, 1904;1905 PRADEEP KUMAR AGRAWAL, [Pradipphila@Hotmail.Com](mailto:Pradipphila@Hotmail.Com) 16a, Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 800 016 Mobile:0-9431011595,

Interested in exchanging used, unused, mint stamps, commemorative, postcards, meghdoot card from India and other countries  
M MUTHU KRISHNAN, 33, Jothi Nagar 3rdstreet, Kovilpatti 628501

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 AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen, Switzerland

MY EXPERIENCE WITH INDIA POST

On 26th April I received about 6 letters from different parts of India. It is surprising that all these were posted in India during the period ranging from 29th March to 8th April. Which indicate that from 30th March to 25th April there was no air mail transport from India to Europe? Some fifteen years ago I used to receive letters after 4 -5 days they had been posted in India, then this speed was further retarded and I used to get them after a week. Since five years, the speed was further slowed down and nowadays letters require at least 10 to 15 days to reach European cities! And this time the letters reached their destination in Switzerland with the record delay of 26 days! The letters were sent by air mail and not by surface mail. Two of the letters, one Aerogramme from Patna (Bihar) and an envelope from Kalyan (Maharashtra) were received in torn condition and were delivered by Swiss Post in nicely packed see-through polythene cover, each of them bearing a yellow sticker, with the remark in all three national languages of Switzerland, " The item enclosed reached Swiss Post in damaged condition. We beg your pardon". I was surprised, why Swiss Post should beg my pardon, when it was the India Post, which was responsible for this maltreatment of their products?

Another thought which came to my mind. That was about the quality of paper used for the manufacture of postal stationery. Here when I was working in a pharmaceutical company, the packaging materials (glass bottles, carton boxes, plastic containers etc.) were tested by the quality assurance department for their feasibility, if they withstand

fall from a certain height, they will withstand shocks and helter-skelter during their transport by all types of vehicles on rough roads. Does our India Post test the feasibility of their postal stationery, if they withstand the stress they are subjected to undergo during their transport to foreign countries? Especially taking into consideration the weak points such as the pressure of an obliterator at the local post office, the transport of envelopes, post cards and aerogrammes through the machine, which impresses the code-lines for the ease of sorting, in red at the bottom of the address on the postal stationery, its dumping of the letters in the canvas bags for shipment etc.? Many times Indian aerogrammes are flimsy in nature and are prone to get torn during their way through the code printing machine. Some time these aerogrammes are not even securely sealed, as the adhesive on the flap is poor and does not stick. Especially envelopes are often damaged on the edges due to friction. Very often the letters which are damaged are offered "first aid" in India with the cellophane adhesive tape!

Secondly, some times my letters are opened by India Post, perhaps to see if they contain some thing forbidden and then they are closed applying staples. Now one can not forbid India Post opening my letters, if they have doubt about its contents. But such letters, officially opened and then closed by India Post at any of their post offices, should bear an official India Post seal on the letter with a round date stamp. In Switzerland Swiss Post can open the letters which arrive by air, but then these letters bear a sticker, saying that the letter was "officially" opened. In India how can I be sure that the letter closed using staples was really opened by the Post Office and not by a private person? And who is responsible if the addressee receives this letter, with some contents missing from such an envelope? In fact such thing happened in my case, where stamps sent to my friend in Nasik by registered letter were pilfered on the way, the envelope was cleverly closed by staples and handed over to the addressee, who also calmly accepted it!.

I shall be thankful to hear the comments of the readers, if they have also come across such "irregularities" by India Post. It is certainly not some thing to be proud of our India Post!

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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

JOHN LENNON WAS A STAMP COLLECTOR
Former Beatle John Lennon's childhood stamp collection is expected to fetch around US\$53,000 when it is sold off at auction.

The singer, who was murdered 25 years ago (Dec 1980) in New York, was an amateur philatelist during his Liverpool, England, boyhood, and put together an impressive album of stamps.

And Lennon clearly predicted his meteoric rise to stardom because the fascinating relic, which dates from 1950, contains several examples of the singer's signature, while he was practicing his autograph during his pre-Beatles adolescence.

London stamp and autograph dealers Stanley Gibbons bought the collection from an American collector, and director RICHARD PURKIS is aware they have found a gem. He says, "It will be of great interest to Beatles collectors and fans."

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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 Hinduatan Times, Chandigarh edition, May 13, 2005  
COUNTERFEIT SPECIAL COVERS IN CIRCULATION  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/221-pix.htm>

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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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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

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

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