

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 222 - May 26, 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

We are introducing a new segment here and at the web site to showcase  
and record errors, freaks, and Oddities (EFOs) of Indian Philately and  
welcome your contribution and comments.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue:

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

The release date for 'State Bank of India' stamp is yet to be announced

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2005, please visit

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Apr 22: Hyderabad, Earth Day

Apr 22: Jamshedpur, Earth Day

May 12: Mumbai, Lions International - Prevention of Blindness

Forthcoming

May 29: First Successful Indian Expedition to Mount Everest 1965

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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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 26-27: Bilaspur, BILASPEX District Level, 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 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>

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PORTUGUESE INDIA AT AUCTION

João Pedro de Figueiredo informs that their next Auction will be held on June 18, 2005. This is the concluding part of the earlier auction held on December 4, 2004 and contains the 2nd Part of the Alberto Gonçalves Collection of Portuguese India - Nativos II as well as Portugal and remaining Portuguese Colonies Philatelic material. The Auction will take place on Porto, in Hotel Ipanema Park - Room Ipanema. The Auction Catalogue is available at www.pedro.figueiredo.org

BARUN DEY PASSES AWAY

The veteran Stamp Dealer Barun Dey of Kolkata passed away on May 20, 2005.

NEW WEB SITE

We have spotted a philatelic web site maintained by Alok Jaggi of Gurgaon on Football Stamps at the following link:

http://www.geocities.com/footballstamps/classic_tan2.html

PAKISTAN CATALOG

Title: The Most Comprehensive Color Catalogue 2004 - 2005 10th Edition
Author: M I Choudhary michoudhary11@hotmail.com
Address: 20 First Floor, Singhar Centre, 16 Maclagan Road, P O Box 2424, Lahore 54000, Pakistan
Contents: 228 Pages, 90 Gsm art paper, 180mmx240mm (7.5x9.5") Softbound
Price: US\$ 40 overseas, Rs 700 in Pakistan including registered postage

Covers stamp issues of Pakistan including Service and Bahawalpur, British Indian stamps overprinted "PAKISTAN" on Water Mark Single Star and Multiple Stars on King Edward VII, King George V, King George VI and Victory 1946, Brief Political & Geographical History, Chronological order of events, Local Machine Overprints, How to distinguish the different 'Overprints'? Nasik Print, Peshawar Print, Hybrid Print, Karachi Print, Battered Print, Worn out Print, Relative scarcity of ordinary stamps, Pre-Nasik hand stamps overprints from 15th August to October 1947, Machine overprints after Independence, Hand stamps on ordinary stamps, Typewritten overprints on ordinary stamps, Manuscripts on ordinary stamps, Used abroad ordinary stamps from Dubai, Muscat, Guadur and Bombay Foreign Paquebot, Pakistan Internal postal rates in 1947.

The First Postmark "Pakistan Zindabad", King George VI high values sheet format, Karachi Print in Blue, King George VI Peshawar Print, Squat Print, Peshawar Print King George V and opts. on margin, Peshawar Print King George VI, The Indian Independence Act 1947, Pakistan Official Postage Stamps, Pre-Nasik overprints on Service stamps, Hand stamps overprints on KG VI Service stamps, Typewritten overprints on Service stamps, Manuscript overprints on Service stamps, Relative Scarcity of Service stamps, Nasik Print, Karachi Print, Peshawar Print, With 'N' narrow, heavy grotesque bold, King G VI overprinted in red, King G V overprinted in black, Opt. on margin, King G VI, Lahore Print Type I With 'N' broad is known in black on King G V & King G VI, Lahore Print Type II, Bahawalpur State Print opts. 'PAKISTAN', Hyderabad Sind Print, The Baluch Regiment 'Print', SERVICE Type 2- 6 and many more. 1947 to 31st Dec. 2003 with full details of Size, Designer, Pinter, Process, Format, Gum, Perforation, Imprint, Plate Number, Quantity, FDC, Leaflet, Color, Errors and many more details of the Stamps,

INDIA POST DURING LAST YEAR

The UPA Government completed one year on May 21, 2005. During this period, the Government of India has taken several important initiatives. Following are the Major Decisions and Initiatives by the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology:

839 Head Post Offices, 1533 Sub Post Offices and 53 Administrative and Accounts have been fully computerized during the year 2004-05.

Logistics Post Service launched to provide end-to-end logistics support to business firms sending out parcel consignments. The service is now available in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu. A Parcel and

Logistics Division has been established with a supporting structure at Circle and Lower Levels.

Agreement entered into with UTI Asset Management Company Limited for distributing various mutual fund schemes on experimental basis from selected Post Offices

Bill Mail Service -- bulk booking of bills/statements -- has been extended to National Bill Mail Service with effect from February 16, 2005. Under this, bills booked in bulk, can be delivered all over the country at cheaper rates.

The second phase of the project for computerizing counters at General Post Offices in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal which involved installation of software and training of officials of the three Postal Administrations has been completed. India Post has received US\$ 38,600 from the Universal Postal Union for successful completion of the phase. The third phase is to be taken up soon.

India Post has completed 150 years of its existence in October 2004 and is celebrating its Sesquicentennial Year. Further in 58 Post Offices equipment has been supplied to mechanize various postal operations and 150 Post Offices have been modernized by improving ergonomics.

Senior Citizen Saving Scheme introduced on August 2, 2004 for sale at 9 per cent interest through Post Offices. The scheme is basically intended for senior citizens for investing their savings in an attractive scheme with considerably higher interest rates.

Thrust Areas

In consultation with various ministries of the Union Government and based on the commitments made in the National Common Minimum Program, the Prime Minister's Office has identified a comprehensive list of "Thrust Areas" for policy implementation in 2005. The Thrust Areas for the Department of Posts are listed below:

Ensure timely completion of task related to setting up of finance marts as one-stop shops for financial services for urban customers.

Ensure timely completion of proposed actions to have franchising arrangements to provide services in areas where post offices are not available.

Undertake computerization of postal activities and ensure reliable connectivity of post offices across the country so as to provide quality services comparable to international standards. Also, reorient future business development with special emphasis on services like speed post, express parcels, e-post, e-billing, payments and presentment (EBPP), e-commerce.

Take necessary action for replacing/amending the Indian Post Office Act 1898 to take care of the needs of competition, convergence and other new developments.

Institutional reform in terms of (i) decentralization, (ii) simplification, (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability and (v) e-governance

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES

Well-known expert on Modern India errors, Pradeep Kumar Agrawal from Patna contributed the first item in this new section, - a perforation shift in Dandi March issue. The image is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200507.htm>

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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.>

FARROKH MAGRA

Thank you for sending me your issue No. 221 of 19/5/2005. It was quite informative.

I collect only stamps of India and barring some rare or High value denominations, I am a proud collector of Indian Stamps since 1854.

Our whole philatelic system is in a mess. We issue stamps of every Tom, Dick and Harry, the names of whom we have not heard. Every politician pressurizes the Minister to issue stamps of next of their kin. Some times we feel we are collecting, not stamps, but waste materials.

Stamps issued by other Countries as late as 25/30 years ago, have appreciated, whereas our stamps are still available at little over the face value. To add to this scenario, we have issued stamps in millions!!!

We are not aware when the next stamps will be issued...you have rightly pointed out of non availability of annual program of stamps to be issued.

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

AERO-PHILATELIC QUERIES

Noted aero-philatelist Ken Sanford [kaerophil@ch.inter.net](mailto:kaerophil@ch.inter.net) writes:

1.

The New Zealand pilot Oscar Garden, made a flight in Gipsy Moth DH60 (G-AASA), named "Kia Ora", from England to Australia in October & November 1930. According to The Indian Air Mail Society, Monthly Bulletin of December 1930 (which was edited by Stephen Smith), Garden, who was

carrying a small amount of mail from England to Australia, picked up one postcard at Eskisheur for delivery at Calcutta. This card, which bore an orange and black bilingual air label, was impressed with a black cachet as:

'KIA ORA'  
(Aeroplane)

This cachet was applied twice on the card. On the face of the card the pilot inscribed the following: "Eskisheur to Calcutta". O. G. On the back of the card, Garden has written:

"Carried from Eskisheur to Calcutta, by the 'Kia Ora' Gipsey Moth Aeroplane. Oscar Garden. Pilot. 29/10/30."

The postal cancellation on this card, which was carried from Eskisheur is Calcutta G.P.O. 30th Oct. 30. From Calcutta, Garden carried eleven letters to Rangoon, and each cover had a red cachet. Mr. Garden had autographed each cover in green ink, by the side of the special label, printed in red on white paper with green lines. These covers were prepared by Stephen Smith, who asked Mr. Garden to carry them to Rangoon. What I would like to know is, has anyone ever seen the postcard which he carried from Eskisheur to Calcutta, and where is it now? If anyone knows of its whereabouts, I would like to get a good photocopy of it, for an article I am writing on the Oscar Garden flight. I would also like to have any other information about this flight.

2.

In the 1930s, the Indian Air Mail Society published a Monthly Bulletin, which was edited by Stephen Smith. I am missing a lot of them. I have only the following issues:

Feb, Apr, Dec 1930  
Jan, Feb/Mar (incomplete), Apr, Dec 1931  
Dec 1932  
Sep (2 copies), Dec 1933  
Sep (2 copies), Dec 1936  
Mar 1939

I would like to get copies of the missing issues. If anyone has these, please contact me.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

FOUR FIRMS PROVIDE PERSONALIZED STAMPS IN USA

At least three of the contestants in the new USPS testing period begin providing personalized postage with effect from May 17, 2005 in USA.

Here are the links

<http://photo.stamps.com/>

<http://www.pictureitpostage.com/>

http://www.funstamps.com/postage_app.html

The Pitney Bowes shall be the fourth firm to join soon.

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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 26, 2005

AMRITSAR STAMP DEALER BLACKLISTED

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/222-pix.htm>

EYE DOCTOR ADDS NEW STREAM TO PHILATELY  
[http://www.outlookindia.com/pti\\_news.asp?id=299010](http://www.outlookindia.com/pti_news.asp?id=299010)

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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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