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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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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

This year we are also focusing on 100% reporting of special covers and  
special postmarks. We have received excellent cooperation from  
philatelists all over India in this regard and would like to take this  
opportunity to thank Madhukar Deogawanka, Rajesh Paharia, Rakesh Walia,  
Ashok Kumar Tiwary, Mansoor Bolar, Umesh Kakkeri, R Ravindranath, Mihir  
Dhandha, A R C Shah, Nikhil Rohan, Umesh Agarawal, Pradeep Kumar  
Agrawal, K M Singh, Abhai Mishra, S L Bansal, R K Bhatia, Naresh Pahwa,  
Raj Kumar, V P Puri, D K Jain, and Vijay Seth.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Kedar 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 16: 400 Years of Guru Granth Saheb, Rs5

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2005, please visit

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

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ENVIRONMENT DAY STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the World
Environment Day 2005 on June 6, 2005.

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on June 5, in over 100
countries is one of the principal vehicles through which the United
Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances
political attention and action.

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General
Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the
Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly
the same day, led to the creation of United Nations Environment Program
(UNEP).

The World Environment Day theme selected for 2005 is Green Cities and
the slogan is Plan for the Planet!

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India is currently
implementing an ambitious scheme 'Ecocities' in identified heritage
cities of Puri, Vrindavan, Ujjain, Tirupati, Kottayam, and Tanjavore.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamp. The First Day Cover is based on the
painting of Soumya Saxena. 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 25 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

May 31: Post Card with advertisement, in Bengali, Education, 2 million,  
Security Printing Press, Hyderabad, In sheets of 8

May 31: Post Card with advertisement, in Oriya, Education, 2 million,  
Security Printing Press, Hyderabad, In sheets of 8

Apr 30: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Hindi, Hallmark for Gold, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad, ad in Blue

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 card with advertisement were recently released:

Nov 00: Jharkahnd Education Program Council, Hindi, 0.1

With arrival of this card, all issues scheduled in 2004 have been released except 6 cards scheduled for December 2004 from Bihar Postal Circle.

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

May 16: Pune, 150 years of India Post

Apr 22: Earth Day

India Post released a special cover and provided a special cancellation to mark Earth Day on April 22, 2005 at all 67 philatelic bureaus in the country.

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

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>

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MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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BARAMAHAL NUMISMATIC & PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The General Body Meeting of the Baramahal Numismatic & Philatelic Association will be held on Sunday, June 12, 2005 from 2 to 6 pm at VMK & VMG Thirumana Mandapam, Backside of Hotel Salem Castle, Near Jothi Vidhyalaya School, New Bus stand, Salem.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILATELY, # 47, May 2005

Editorial Board: R M Karmacharya, S S Basnet, & R K Shrestha

Publisher: Nepal Philatelic Society

Address: P O Box 342, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Annual Subscription: not indicated

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

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INDIA POST BPL MOBILE TIE-UP

BPL Mobile will market its prepaid cards, recharge coupons and accept payment for postpaid mobile connections at 120 selected post offices in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry from June 13, 2005. on a revenue sharing agreement with the India Post

BPL Mobile has established a helpline for postal service users. The information relating to postal services, pin code, telephone numbers, postal/speed post tariff, premium products, savings bank, savings certificates, financial services, postal guide and complaints guide is available on calling 150 between 10 am and 5 pm from Monday to Friday.

BPL Mobile is rolling out an exclusive prepaid plan for senior citizens that will be available across the post office counters. The SIM card priced at Rs 499 would have six-month validity, talk time worth Rs 200, one-second billing facility, and free incoming calls while roaming.

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RETAIL POST

India Post has been exploring possibilities to enter new areas of business to mop up its revenue to attain financial independence by 2007-08, as directed by the Centre. Talks were on with over 500 companies to make use of the postal counters across the country to sell their products under its Retail Post scheme.

A MoU had been signed with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to sanction micro credit to Self-Help Groups. Post offices would identify the Self-Help Groups and disburse loans under NABARD's micro credit scheme.

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICIALS

Manjula Prasher presently working as Deputy Director General (Personnel) at the Postal Directorate New Delhi is promoted and posted as the Chief Post Master General of Rajasthan Circle with effect from June 6, 2005.

P T S Kumar presently working as General Manager at the Business Development Directorate New Delhi is transferred and posted as the Deputy Director General (Personnel) at the Postal Directorate New Delhi with effect from June 6, 2005.

S K Chkrabarty presently working as the Post Master General of Visakhapatnam Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle is transferred and posted as the General Manager at the Business Development Directorate New Delhi with effect from June 6, 2005.

A N D Kachri presently working as the Post Master General of Dibrugarh Region of Assam Circle is transferred and posted as the Post Master General of Visakhapatnam Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle with effect from June 6, 2005.

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES

Pradip Kumar Agrawal contributes two interesting sheetlets of India Iran Joint Issue. In one the perforation makes it a sheetlet of 6 stamps instead of 8, and in another the registration of colors is out. Must see <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200418.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>

BUYING MINIATURE SHEETS

in quantity 1000 each and in perfect condition: Tarangani - Rs160, 150 Years of India Post - Rs70, UN Peacekeeping - Rs60, Dandi - Rs60, 1974 UPU - Rs50, 1974 Masks - Rs50, 2003 Snakes - Rs60. We are also the buyers of unique errors/varieties at handsome rates
PRADEEP KUMAR AGRAWAL, Pradipphila@Hotmail.Com 16a Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 800 016 Mobile:0-9431011595

DANDI MARCH CINDERELLA

10 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels, Rs75 plus postage, A R C SHAH, A-20 Gujarat Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi 110034, Tel: 9810179095

4 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels in sheets of 20, Rs20 per sheet plus postage, Rajesh Paharia

4 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels, Rs20 plus postage
Hurry! Limited Stocks ATISH KUMAR JAIN atishjain001@sify.com
Telephone 0 9447756118
View all the labels at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/Cinderella.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>

EXCHANGE MINIATURE SHEETS ON ONE FOR ONE BASIS

Offers: 150 years of India post, Indian Army in UN Peace Keeping Force, Tajmahal, Agra Fort, Flora & Fauna, Government Museum Chennai
Want-list: 1973 Indepex, 1974 Masks, 1974 UPU, 1987 World Philatelic Exhibition, 1987 Old Forts, 1996 Himalayan Ecology, 1997 Teresa, 2000 Indepex2000 Flora & Fauna, 2000 Indepex2000 Migratory Birds, 2002 Indian Railway, 2003 Snakes. Also available Meghdoot Cards and Stamps.
C VARADHARAJA PERUMAL, M A, cvperumal_60@sify.com Sree Rajaganapathi Illam, Plot No.78, Dhanalakshmi Nagar, Dasanaickenpatti PO, 636 201

WANTED INDIA & STAMPS ON CHILDREN

Available for Barter or disposal world collections
PROF. PREM MOHAN LAKHOTIA premmohan@eth.net Author, Writer, Personal Growth Guide, Communication Consultant, Vidya Vihar, Kha/61/A, Bhawani Nagar, Sikar Road, Jaipur 302 023, Phone No. 0141 2230955, 2079833

CHANDRAMUGHI MEGHDOOT POSTCARD - Completely sold out within a week
Baramahal Philatelic & Numismatic Association

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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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FAKE ALERT: TRAVANCORE-COCHIN ENVELOPE

While the old standard fakes are being offered on eBay by one or two dealers under the old line "I don't know what I sell" - there was a NEW FAKE on the Travancore-Cochin State envelope with an overprint of "SIX PIES" at the top and the same in Malayalam on the bottom. Of course there was never such a rate, and therefore no need for the overprint, but since the mint envelope is one of the most common state items, the unscrupulous are devising ways to market them to the uninformed. Here is an illustration of the overprint on the envelope and then just the overprint. Oh yes, the dealer had well over a dozen of the fakes for sale. He has since pulled the items off sale from eBay and his other web outlets. And he appears to be an innocent in this matter.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

US TO REISSUE STAMPS AFTER 84 YEARS

Stamp, history and architecture enthusiasts witnessed the unveiling of a special set of stamps on June 3, 2005 that will be issued next year during the world's largest stamp show - The Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. The Souvenir stamp sheet contains reproductions of three historic United States postage stamps originally issued in 1923: the \$1 Lincoln Memorial, the \$2 U.S. Capitol and the \$5 Statue of Freedom that stands atop the Capitol's dome. They will be produced from the original 1923 dies created by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and issued in their original denominations.

"The Postal Service is proud to be reissuing these historic stamps," said Rosa Fulton, Northern Virginia District Manager, U.S. Postal Service, who unveiled the image. "They are wonderful reminders of the Postal Service's commitment to honoring the people, places and events that have shaped this great nation."

Joining Fulton was David Failor, Executive Director, Stamp Services of the U.S. Postal Service, Tom Lera, President of the National Philatelic Expositions of Washington, DC, Inc. (NAPEX) and Michael Dixon, President of the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. The unveiling took place during the NAPEX 2005 Stamp Show at the Hilton McLean (VA) which runs through Sunday, June 5, 2005.

Art director Richard Sheaff chose a circa 1900 gravure print of the Capitol for the selvaage of the sheet which features the following: The \$1 Lincoln Memorial stamp was issued in Washington, DC, and Springfield, IL, Feb. 12, 1923, to mark the 114th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth. The stamp features an engraving by Louis S. Schofield, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The \$2 U.S. Capitol stamp was issued in Washington, DC, Mar. 20, 1923. It features another engraving by Louis S. Schofield; it is based on a photograph of the East Front of the Capitol in the collection of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The \$5 Head of Freedom stamp was also issued in Washington, DC, Mar. 20, 1923. Printed in red and blue, the stamp features a John Eissler engraving of the head of "Freedom"-the magnificent statue by American

sculptor Thomas Crawford that stands atop the Capitol dome. This stamp is a favorite of collectors, who sometimes refer to it as the "America" (the word appears on the banner below the main design).

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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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