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

Issue # 226 - June 23, 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

We would like to share the happiness with you all on the joyous occasion  
of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of MJ's parents that is on June 24,  
2005. We are very excited and eagerly looking forward to a big family  
reunion on Jun 26, 2005 at Dehradun.

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

GURU GRANTH SAHEB STAMP RELEASED PREMATURELY

The stamp and miniature sheet to commemorate the 400 years of the Guru Granth Saheb has reportedly been sold at various post offices across India that did not receive information in time about the issue being deferred. This issue was earlier scheduled for release on June 16, 2005. View the image at <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jul 01: Abdul Qaiyum Ansari, Rs5

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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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post card with advertisement were recently released:  
0117. Mar 14. Crop 1, Hindi, 0.15  
0119. Mar 14, Pesticide, Hindi, 0.1.5  
0120. Mar 14, Plastic, Hindi, 0.1.5  
0134. May 31, Vasnath & Company, English & Tamil,

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

Feb 14: Bangalore, Sri Ramakrishna Vidyarthi Mandiram diamond jubilee
Mar 02: Bangalore, Ramana Maharishi Centre for Learning silver jubilee
Jun 20: Chennai, World Senior Men's Volleyball Championship Qualifying Tournament

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

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HYDERABAD FRANKFURT FIRST FLIGHT COVER

In the Issue # 209 of February 24, 2005 we reported this flight by Lufthansa on February 18, 2005 and sought details of cover or postmark provided, if any.

We have finally succeeded in getting hold of flown covers with special postmark provided at Hyderabad GPO, thanks to our subscribers and friends in Europe. The image is now available at the web site

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

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WATERFALLS MINIATURE SHEET REVISITED

India Post issued a miniature sheet on Waterfalls on October 3, 2003.

This miniature sheet was printed by Calcutta Security Printers in the quantity of 50,000 only as mentioned in the brochure that accompanies the issue.

Pradeep Kumar Agrawal from Patna reports that he has seen press-made packets of 100 miniature sheets with packet numbers ranging from 200 plus to above 800. How is this possible?

Was this miniature sheet printed 100,000?

Or some packets were made by the press of 50 miniature sheets?

By the way it is only private sector Security Printers that number packets of stamps and miniature sheets and not the India Security Press.

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ACTIVE AUCTIONS

DAVID HEPPELL'S REVENUES

Most of the stamp and Indian revenue collections/accumulations of the late David Heppell are at this moment traveling from Canada to London, where they will be auctioned by a well known London auction house later this year or early next year. David was a founder of "The Princely States Report" and also involved in the just published "India Revenue Catalog" with M Blatt, and A M Mollah.

PRINCELY STATES AT HARMERS

On June 14, 2005 Harmers of London held a sale where the first 276 lots were of Indian Native States, of these 12 lots were withdrawn, 106 lots were not sold, and 158 lots were sold, some at multiples of the estimate.

ITS POSTAL AUCTION

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com) is holding postal auction # 29. The 60+ lots auction closes on July 16, 2005.

For a list of auctions in India, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/auction.htm>

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WORLD BANK SEMINAR ON INDIA POST

World Bank organized a Seminar on 'Transformation of India Post for Vision 2020' at New Delhi on June 15 & 16, 2005.

The Communications and IT Minister, Dayanidhi Maran, in his message to the Seminar said "The department should expand its Finance Mart network to spin-off the Post Bank".

India Post has launched a number of financial services and these have been contributing 45 per cent of its revenues. India Post is planning to reorganize services such as bill payment, life and general insurance, mutual funds and government securities under one roof through its Finance Marts and will set up 160 Finance Marts during the year.

India Post currently has a budgetary deficit over Rs 14 billion. Maran said that India Post must move in the next few years to ensure that the deficit in its revenues and expenditure is wiped out in the non-Universal Service Obligation (USO) segments.

Meanwhile the Government of India has appointed global consultant KPMG to prepare a report on restructuring the postal network in the country. The mandate given to KPMG includes identifying new areas of business. KPMG will also review the pricing of postal products and services and the sustainability of loss-making and unpopular products. KPMG has been

told to assess the postal services in terms of their utility, viability, pricing and to suggest ways to re-engineer the existing products.

India Post is also looking at the feasibility of sustaining the Government's USO in a competitive market. Currently, the postal network has 40 products and services, many of which, like the mail services, have become obsolete with the availability of faster and more cost-effective modes of communication.

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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 13-15: Salem, BARAMAHAL COINSTAMPEX {REVISED DATES & VENUE}

Venue: Ponnusamy Gounder Thirumana Mandapam, Opposite New Bus Stand, SKS Hospital Road, Alagapuram

Dealers Fee: Rs.2000 for 3 days

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

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

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

JPS BULLETIN, Whole # 154 - Oct 2004 Jun 2005,

Editor: Ashok Kumar Tiwary asholtiwary@sify.com

Publisher: Jamshedpur Philatelic Society

Address: P O Box 86, Jamshedpur 831001

Annual Subscription including membership: Rs.240

ITS STAMPS NEWS, Whole # 30 - Apr Jun 2005, Quarterly

Editor: Suraj Jaitly

Publisher: Indian Thematic Society

Address: MIG # 3464, Phase 2, Dugri Road, Ludiana 141013

Annual Subscription including membership: Rs.130 or US\$ 8

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit

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

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CONNECT THE WORLD

International Communications Union (ITU) launched 'Connect the World' initiative aiming to connect all the world's communities by the variety of means currently available by the year 2015. It is estimated that the initiative will extend the reach of modern communications to one billion people worldwide for whom making a telephone call is out of reach.

India's IT giant Infosys is among 20 founding partners of this initiative. Other partners include leading corporate players such as Alcatel, Huawei, Intel, Microsoft, KDDI, Telefonica, and Worldspace, as well as ITU sister organization - the International Postal Union.

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

It is raining response for this column and for the first time we now have material for several next issues. Thank you contributors. Keep on contributing.

Pradeep Kumar Agrawal from Patna contributes major perforation errors and a setoff variety in Dandi March miniature sheet issue

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200507ms2.htm>

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200507ms3.htm>

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200507ms4.htm>

and Flora & Fauna miniature sheet

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200506ms.htm>

and Color Missing errors

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/miscolor.htm>

and gum side printed stamps

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/gumprint.htm>

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The advertising is FREE for the subscribers of the Stamps of India Collectors Companion. Send in your ad, today.

Terms: 1. Only one ad at a time from a subscriber will be accepted.

2. Maximum 5 Lines, up to 64 characters per line.

3. All ads shall be published at the sole discretion of the editors who reserve the right to refuse any advertisement.

4. No correspondence regarding advertising will be entertained.

5. Stamps of India does not endorse any advertiser and can not be held liable for transactions of any advertiser.

EXOTIC POSTAGE STAMP ON ORIGINAL WOOD Issued by Switzerland in 2005  
Price Rs. 475 each, Limited Stock, First come first serve basis. Rush your orders to PRADIP JAIN [philapradip@hotmail.com](mailto:philapradip@hotmail.com)  
Post Box 128, Mithapur, Patna - 800001,  
Tel: 0091-612-2225929, Fax: 0091-612-2238010, Mobile: 0091-9334725929

STILL BUYING MINIATURE SHEETS, TOP PRICES PAID

Need up to 5000 ms of Flora & Fauna and Dandi March, Only in press sealed intact packets of 200 sheets. Also offer us other MS issues for our best and prompt offer. A R C SHAH, A-20 Gujarat Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi 110034, Tel 0 9810179095

65 diff. 3-D stamps of Umm-al-qiwayn & Bhutan  
10 diff. Umm-al-qiwayn 3-D dolls complete sets  
Prices on request, SANJAY DHAWAN [sastamps@glide.net.in](mailto:sastamps@glide.net.in)  
7-L Green View, Patiala 147 001 Tel: 91-175-2219509

DANDI MARCH CINDERELLA

10 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels, Rs75 plus postage, A R C SHAH, A-20 Gujarat Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi 110034, Tel 0 9810179095

4 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels in sheets of 20, Rs20 per sheet plus postage, Rajesh Paharia [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com)

4 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels, Rs20 plus postage  
ATISH KUMAR JAIN [atishjain001@sify.com](mailto:atishjain001@sify.com) Tel 0 9447756118

4 Different Colorful self-adhesive labels, Price on request  
Mihir Dhandha [mihir\\_dhandha@yahoo.com](mailto:mihir_dhandha@yahoo.com) Tel 0 9825437673

View all the Dandi March 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>

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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.>

##### KSHITIJ NADKARNI

This idea of uploading all the India stamps on the website is very exciting and fantastic. I have seen the images done up to 1956. However I have some suggestions for the same.

If Scott and Stanley Gibbons numbers for these stamps are added below the image it would make the presentation more complete. This would be a first step towards making an ONLINE CATALOGUE -first of its type in India. More better if the current prices are included in this.

Philately is considered to be a hobby of riches. but I would like to make a mention that there are many such people who have been collecting stamps even when they cant afford it (the prices of all the stamps are going up these day), needless to say the exploitation by some handful "dealers".

Many people are not in situation to buy even a catalogue to know if their collection is really complete...?? In such a situation a online catalogue offered free for people would serve as the best measure towards these philatelists who never come in limelight..

Second suggestion I have is why not also upload the images of FDC's related to those issues and the variations in that era in the same year column..

This newsletter has been a great boon to all. My best wishes for all your activities.

##### A COLLECTOR IN THE USA (Name withheld at request)

This is in response to letter of James Jose, Mumbai published in Readers Forum, Issue #225 of 18 June

Dear Mr. Jose, your letter was quite interesting. You are 25 years of age, and you have collected stamps for several years. You are doing it the right way, exchanging with friends in your locality and now contacting foreign collectors thru the internet.

BUT your comment about the editor of this newsletter to "Make freely available at low cost, philatelic accessories like stamp albums, tweeters (I think you may have meant tweezers), lenses etc. through your website". Mr. Jose the editor is simply the editor, not a stamp dealer. He does have an advertisement link to dealers, many of which can supply your requirements at a reasonable cost. The editor of the newsletter

has a family to support as do most of the dealers, please do not expect everything free or at a very low cost, you will be disappointed in life.

You advise that Indian stamps are not beautiful, you should be aware that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If you think something is ugly, then it will be ugly. If you think something is beautiful, then it will be beautiful. Many, many Indian stamps are truly beautiful, I am sure that you will agree with this statement.

The editor is attempting to include more photos, but there is a limit, as everything costs in money and time. Your few paragraphs you say "I took pains to write this feedback". The editor writes 10 to 20 times what you wrote, each and every week, he truly scans the world to bring YOU the information you need on Indian stamps. You may not be aware but India Post is a very difficult, often impossible organization to get information from, but the editor does it.

I am not sure if you recall the magazine "Ind Dak" run by the late Col. Shenoi. It was an excellent magazine of the highest caliber, since the death of the Col. it has ceased to exist. Most other Indian philatelic magazines are only issued randomly, some really very randomly. "Stamps of India" has been issued, more or less, every week since it's inception no small task in India.

You suggest "Target the younger generation" - this newsletter is targeted at everyone. When there is a special exhibition targeted toward school children, it is included.

May I ask what do you think you, or anyone can do to get the younger generation interested in stamps, where they can learn to read and understand about history, geography. I am sure that this newsletter is available to every class room in India at no cost. Thank you for reading this, and I thank you for writing Mr. Jose.

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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

EMBROIDERED STAMP FROM AUSTRIA

Embroidery is the stuff of which the most valuable fashion dreams are made. Wars have been fought over embroidery, women kidnapped and men seduced. Embroidery is the only textile technique whose products are the result of an artistic destruction process. Scissors, needles and thread followed the embroideries from China along the Silk Road to Babylon. Monks then brought the secrets of embroidery to the monasteries and the imperial courts of Europe, where its practitioners soon acquired special rights. Empress Maria Theresia also granted these rights to the embroiderers of the Bregenz Woods, whose hand-made embroidery created the basis for this centre of Vorarlberg embroidery in the 18th century. For decades, it has been a key element of the Austrian export trade.

Vorarlberg embroiders for the world. Its customers can be found in 180 countries on all five continents. Comparable to the mesh used in guipure, the queen of embroideries, the Vorarlberg embroiderers have

developed a network of markets that inseparably combine innovation and quality. Thousands of patterns in the embroidery companies' archives testify to their diligence, skill and ever-new ideas. Fashion has always told stories that can be worn.

They can now stuck on postcards, envelopes, in an album, on the skin or in a wallet. The smallest work of embroidery art now decorates a stamp. The dress has been designed by Haemmerle & Vogel from Lustenau, a long-standing family business and embroiderers to the avant-garde. It is here that the most outrageous desires of the fashion kings are turned into reality. And it is here that a stamp has been created that can be worn. The leitmotif of this unusual creation is the edelweiss, queen of alpine flowers. So real you could pick it, the petals and the pollen are in relief against the thick base of threads. The serrated edge of the stamp is as indestructible as the myth of the edelweiss. Embroidery is an art, plastic, valuable and timeless. And art comes from the artisan, the skilled worker. The art is what one has the skill to do.

The dress on the stamp is a festive Austrian dress. It will bear the date of first issue, but never go out of fashion. It will travel around the world and tell a new and unusual story, the story of the stamp that wears an embroidered dress. In 2005 it is a commemorative stamp from Austria, born in Lustenau, the metropolis of the Vorarlberg embroidery industry.

The stamp will be issued on July 19, 2005 in the denomination of Euro 3.75. View the image at

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/226-pix.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>

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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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