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

Issue # 229 - July 14, 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,

One is not in competition with other philatelic websites otherwise we  
would also be writing headlines like the numerous news channels on TV -  
first with the news, remember you saw it first on XYZ channel or in an  
interview given exclusively to ABC channel. Well we continue quietly  
with our work and try to provide the latest information at the earliest  
and for this one is at times appreciated by finding mention in other  
print publication; as recently happened with a news story in the  
Hindustan Times, Chandigarh edition.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Manohar Lal,  
Mihir Dhandha, Nikhil Rohan, and Shyam Prasad Nhuchhe 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

NEW FORGERY REPORTED

A new postal forgery of Rs 5 denomination of the current definitive series depicting Leopard Cat has been reported used from Delhi recently.

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NEW SIZE ENVELOPE RELEASE POSTPONED

The date of issue of the stamped envelope in the new size has been shifted to July 18 from July 15, 2005. The envelope will be released by Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications & Information Technology at Chennai in a special function during the Heads of Circle Conference organized by India Post.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Jul 01: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board, 1 million, Security Printing Press Hyderabad

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

May 15: AIDS, Kannada, 0.1
Jun 09: Education for All, Telugu, 0.1

Please note that the Catalog Numbers to the new issues shall now be allotted after three months.

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

Jul XX: Chennai, Saiva Siddhantha Perumanram Centenary

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jul 10-11: Bhubaneswar, District level

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>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

BHILWARA PHILATELIC CLUB BULLETIN, Whole # 8, July 2005, Monthly
Editor: M K Jain
Publisher: Bhilwara Philatelic Club
Address: A-9 Shastri Nagar, Bhilwara 311001
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Jul 06: 59th birthday of the King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shahdev, Rs. 5
Quantity printed - 1 million

RETAIL POST

India Post introduced the 'Retail post' to enable post offices to work as retail outlet for any product.

Recently Gujarat Circle of India Post signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Reliance Infocomm to sell Reliance Infocomm's recharge vouchers for prepaid mobile phones through 100 post offices in Ahmedabad.

Dhanbad Division of Jharkhand Circle fetched Rs 1.96 million for the year 2004-05 through sale of forms, collection of telephone bills, electricity bills, municipal taxes and school fee.

North Bengal & Sikkim Region of the West Bengal Circle is introducing from August 1, 2005 the phone and electricity bill collection services. Postmen will collect the bills and required amount from consumer's home and deposit it at the respective office. Post Office will charge Rs 5.50 per bill irrespective of the amount of the bill. The bills can also be deposited at the Head Post Offices without this fee.

ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

Pradeep Kumar Agrawal from Patna contributes missing logo of Athens Olympic Games in the Olympic Games Issue of 2004
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200417.htm>

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.

AVAILABLE GURU GRANTH SAHIB MINIATURE SHEET AND SHEETLET OF 12 STAMPS

A R C SHAH, Tel 0 9810179095

For As Yet Un-issued Stamp & Miniature Sheet of Guru Granth Saheb, and covers of De-facto Transfer of Pondicherry stamp, Also Dandi March MS Contact: APURV DAGA apurv_daga@rediffmail.com mobile: 09828450405

WANTED CUSTOMIZED GREETINGS CARDS & CUSTOMIZED COVERS ISSUED IN INDIA Please advise price and quantity available
PRADEEP KUMAR AGRAWAL pradipphila@hotmail.com Mobile: 094310 11595

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)

In the recent edition of 'Stamps of India' (No. 228, of 7th July 2005) you have published a query from Cdr. G. Ramarao I.N.(rtd.) of Vishakhapatnam, regarding sheetlet. I shall like to write the following few lines for clarification.

Sheetlet:

A sheetlet contains a few number of stamps, from 5 to 20 or more, either of definitives series or commemoratives, with the same or different illustration(s) but normally with the same denomination; In rare cases also with varying denominations. It may contain labels or coupons to make up the format. The stamps from a sheetlet may show different perforations than those from a normal larger sheet. Such sheetlets were issued in the past also by Feudatory States of India like Idar, Jaipur etc. and also by countries like Ethiopia in 1894. The normal size sheets which contain about 50 or 100 stamps are issued for the definitive stamps which are usually sold in larger quantity to the customers at the counter. They are printed in larger sheets for the ease of sale and distribution. Nowadays countries like Australia, Cook Islans, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland etc. are printing sheetlets, not only of definitive issues but also of commemorative stamps with lower denominations, usually used on covers and postcards for the paying postage on inland and foreign mail, for priority mail (A Post) or snail mail (B Post). These have been found very practical by persons who have a large correspondence to manage and are reluctant to visit the post office frequently for purchasing stamps. The introduction of a sheetlet has added one more philatelic item in collecting a furter variety of stamps.

Miniature Sheet:

It is a small sheet which may contain a single stamp, a pair, a block of 4 to 8 stamps, but never a repetition of the same stamp (with the same design, colors and denomination). It has a wide margin with inscriptions and illustrations. The first miniature sheet was issued by Luxemburg in 1921) and by Belgium (1924). Great Britain issued its first miniature sheet in 1978. Since then a large number of countries have been issuing a number of miniature sheets to better their revenue. The colors of the

stamps and their perforations may differ from the normal stamps, issued in larger sheets or sheetlets.

Souvenir Sheet:

Although Cdr. Shriramarao does not ask to define "Souvenir Sheet", I shall describe it as others may also want to know how far a Souvenir sheet differs from a miniature sheet or a sheetlet. A Souvenir Sheet is issued to commemorate an occasion, such as a philatelic exhibition or the birth- or death anniversary of a great personality or an inauguration ceremony of an institute etc. It may be smaller in shape, with a stamp, with or without any perforations and may have or have not postal validity. The outer margins of a souvenir sheet are with decorative motifs. Some souvenir sheets, as those sold at Stampex in Great Britain, often reproducing stamps without any denomination or postal validity.

Taking into consideration these criteria, the sheet of stamps depicting 4 different stamps on dogs in 4 rows (i.e. in all 16 stamps) issued recently by India Post, are sheetlets, despite three of these four stamps in a row are of 5 Rs. and remaining one stamp of Rs. 15 denomination (i.e. in all 12 stamps valued at 5 Rs. and 4 stamps (showing Rajapalayam dog) valued at Rs.15). There is a distinct a four time repetition of the illustrated stamps in the same small sheet, whereas the miniature sheets issued to commemorate Chennai Museum and Temples contain a few stamps all with different designs or illustrations and denominations, without any repetition of the same stamp.

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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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150 YEARS OF INDIA POST

By Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

150 years of India Post celebrations were launched on October 4, 2004 by the President of India at a special function at New Delhi by the release 4 commemorative stamps and a miniature sheet. The Prime Minister of India released a set of 2 commemorative coins at the same function.

Fifty years ago this occasion was celebrated more befittingly as the India Postage Stamp Centenary. Apart from commemorative stamps and postal stationery a number of other philatelic products and publications were brought out on the occasion by India Post then.

While we have no word yet on the postal stationery on the 150 years of India Post, its logo has appeared on the front and back of a number of special covers, in the special postmarks, as well as on stamp booklets since October 1, 2004.

It is also reported on meter marks used from Kolkata as well as on Computer generated postage labels from Kolkata and Hyderabad.

We have seen it on Acknowledgement Card from Delhi. Mihir Dhandha contributes another example of this from Rajkot. Later also carries an advertisement and is the first Acknowledgement Card with advertisement that we know of.

We expect it also to be reported soon on money-order forms.

Naturally the logo of 150 years of India Post is found on a number of 'postal service' envelopes.

The time to go for it is now and we look forward to reporting many interesting items. And while you are at it do not forget to pass on to us your duplicates!

For images, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/readroom/150indiapost.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON BICENTENNIAL

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Anderson, one of the greatest writers of fairy tales and short stories. His tales have been enjoyed the world over, making him one of the most translated authors in history.

Anderson was born in Odense, Denmark in 1805 and died in 1875. During his lifetime he wrote many classics, including The Ugly Duckling, Thumbelina, The Princess and the Pea, The Emperor's New Clothes, and his best known story, The Little Mermaid. There is a statue of the Little Mermaid in the harbor of the Danish capital city, Copenhagen.

So far stamps have been issued by Denmark, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Alderney - Guernsey.

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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>

Hindustan Times, Chandigarh, July 8, 2005

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP RELEASED CLANDESTINELY

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/229-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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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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