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

Issue # 230 - July 21, 2005. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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More Customized Stamps for Us from US

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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

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, the 6<sup>th</sup> and penultimate book in  
the Harry Potter series, was released on July 16, 2005 in the UK, the  
US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India.

There was an advance order of 125,000 copies for book 6 in India, twice  
that of the book five. The Potter mania was evident by fans forming long  
ques in front of bookshops at very early hours. The copies disappeared  
at lightning speed and over 100,000 copies were sold on the day one across  
India.

The book 6 is expected to outsell book 5 that sold 8.5 million copies  
worldwide. All this was possible due to the marketing blitz.

We dream of such marketing efforts for stamps in India to tap the  
potential that is very much there.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: A R C Shah,

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

FREE HOME DELIVERY OF STAMPS

One of the new schemes introduced by Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for  
Communications and Information Technology, on July 18, 2005 at Chennai  
is the sale of special stamp packets, costing Rs 100 and Rs 200,  
containing postal stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 by the postmen.

The Postmen will also collect mails from home and offices for dispatch.

Maran said while inaugurating the scheme that 'We are changing with  
times. And it is only a beginning while a lot is yet to come in the next  
four years. Pointing out that the need for postal service was getting  
reduced in the wake of increase in the use of e-mails and 'lower  
telephone tariff,' the Minister said, 'We have planned to expand the  
activities of postal department, which is the largest department in the  
country with about 0.55 million employees'. He added, 'The new scheme is  
part of the department's decision to utilize the available workforce  
more effectively. Earlier, postmen will return empty handed after  
delivery of posts. But from now onwards, it is not so.'

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

Jul 18: Rs 5 Stamped Envelope, New size 110 x 220 mm, Security Printing  
Press Hyderabad

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

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

May 28: Medical & Health, Telugu, 0.1

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

Forthcoming

Jul 27: New Delhi, 25 years of the Department of Ocean Development

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

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GANDHI CINDERELLA BOOKLET

A booklet of 10 self adhesive labels commemorating 75 years of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi has recently been issued in the name of Indian National Congress and Mahatma Gandhi Foundation.

For images, please visit

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug: Jabalpur, Army Postal Service

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

Sep: Dimapur, Army Postal Service

Oct: New Delhi, Army Postal Service

Nov: Jalandhar, Army Postal Service

Dec: Jammu, Army Postal Service

Jan 2006: Kolkata, Army Postal Service

Feb 2006: Hyderabad, Army Postal Service

Mar 2006: Kamptee, Army Postal Service

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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SRI LANKA NEW ISSUES

Jul 20: Al-Haj M A Bakeer Markar, Rs 5

Jul 29: SAARC Tourism Meet

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

Shrikant Parikh from Ahmedabad contributes very interesting error where one stamp in the miniature sheet moved upwards

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/1987MS.htm>

Rajesh Kumar Sinha from Dhanbad contributes shifted black color resulting in double images of the Olympic Games issue of 2004

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200417-a.htm>

Apurv Daga from Jaipur contributes missing horizontal perforations at the bottom in the Dandi March miniature sheet

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200507ms5.htm>

Ashok Kumar Tiwary from Jamshedpur contributes a freak in the Dandi March miniature sheet

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200507ms5.htm>

And Pradip Kumar Agrawal from Patna contributes a sheet of stamps of UN Peace Keeping Forces issue with perforations of the miniature sheet

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/2004030s.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.

AVAILABLE Dandi March Cinderella Booklet, Guru Granth Sahib Miniature Sheet and Sheetlet of 12 Stamps, and Postal Stationery Specimens

A R C SHAH, Tel 0 9810179095

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.>

AJIT KUMAR DASH

I have gone through your news letter No.229 where you have mentioned in the recent and forth coming events that there was a district level Philatelic Exhibition held at Bhubaneswar on 10-11, July, 05 which is incorrect. The Department of Post, Orissa Circle had proposed to conduct mobile exhibitions in different schools of Orissa for two days to create awareness amongst the school children on philately where only 20 frames will be on display. The exhibits of eminent philatelists will be displayed in those frames. During the exhibition it has also been proposed to hold Philatelic Quiz competitions, stamp design contests, etc. basing on the exhibits which will be on display. The exhibition held on 10-11, Jul, 05 at Sainik School, Bhubaneswar was the beginning of that mobile exhibition conducted by the Orissa Postal Circle where exhibits on Mahatma Gandhi, Scouts & Guides, Dogs, Great Britain, Philatelic Terms of eminent philatelists were displayed. Besides, the first stamp of Asia, 'Scinde Dawk' was displayed by Mr Anil Dhir which was the main attraction of the exhibition. A philatelic Quiz competition was held on that occasion hosted by Ajit Kumar Dash. The venue and time for the next mobile exhibition to be held during August will be decided soon.

For you information it is to be mentioned here that the district level exhibitions during the past three years are as follows:  
SAMBALPEX-2003 held at Bargarh, Sambalpur District during 15-17 Jan 2003  
BALANGIRPEX-2003 held at Balangir, Balangir District during 15-16 Nov 03  
MAYURPEX-2004 held at Baripada, Mayurbhanj District during 27-28 Feb 04  
ROURPEX-2004 held at Rourkela, Sundargarh District during 28-29 Aug 2004  
BERHAMPEX-2004 held at Berhampur, Ganjam District during 21-22 Nov 2004

In all the exhibitions special covers with special cancellations were also released. I hope this information will be useful for you and your newsletter.

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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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THE HIGHEST POST OFFICE IN THE WORLD  
Vikas Singh

If you thought that highest post office in the world is at Jungfrauoch (11333 feet) think again. It is not even Mount Fuji (12290 feet). The world's highest post office is in India.

This branch post office is located in small town of Hikkim, in Lahaul Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. It is located at height of 15500 feet. The pin code for this post office is 172114.

We sent a structured questionnaire by registered letter along with prepaid envelope from Ghaziabad to the branch postmaster at Hikkim on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The letter was received on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Mr. Rinchon Chhering, the branch postmaster mailed back the questionnaire in prepaid envelope on 17<sup>th</sup> June. The envelope reached us on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Hikkim has population of 600. There is a motorable road till Hikkim. The nearest main post office is at Kaza, located 25 kms away. The nearest hospital is at Kaza. Around 50 people have a savings account in the Hikkim post office. The post office handles around 15-20 letters everyday. Mr Chhering has been at the post office since November 1983.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

MORE CUSTOMIZED STAMPS FOR US FROM US  
Pitney Bowes announced on July 18, 2005 that it will launch a customized postage service through an alliance with Zazzle. Meanwhile, Stamps.com announced a deal with Zazzle's main rival, CafePress.com, to sell customized postage stamps.

Zazzle's new service lets customers create full-color customized stamps using images they upload at [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com) or images already available on there, including famous characters from Disney. Pitney Bowes provides the software to manage the transaction between the customer and the United States Postal Service. Visitors to Zazzle's site can design sheets of 20 stamps in the most common denominations from 23 cents (postcards) and 37 cents (First-Class letters) to \$3.85, similar to other similar services. Zazzle reviews all uploaded images for adherence

to USPS guidelines. Once approved, the stamps are printed and shipped to the customer within 24 hours.

Early next month, Stamps.com's customized postage stamp product PhotoStamps will become a customization option for CafePress.com's shopkeepers and members. Each shopkeeper will be able to provide unique PhotoStamps designs to customers via their individual shops. Shopkeepers will be able to customize the images on the PhotoStamps to reflect the overall theme of their individual shop. Customers then may order PhotoStamps from Stamps.com through the regular CafePress order process.

CafePress has built a community of 2 million people worldwide who have expressed their creativity on more than 70 items ranging from T-shirts to bumper stickers to mugs to postcards. Nearly 10 million unique products are available through the CafePress Marketplace.

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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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Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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

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