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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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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

Someone was seeking info on European weekly philatelic periodicals in an  
online forum recently. We are not well versed with European philatelic  
periodicals in other European languages except English. We believe that  
the last British philatelic weekly was 'Stamp Collecting' that folded  
about 20 years ago. About the same time USA had at least 3 philatelic  
weeklies out of which only 'Linn's Stamp News' survives today.

We have been a subscriber to almost all these weeklies and to get these  
by airmail every week in India was a joy beyond words.

We now request the readers to let us know of philatelic weeklies that  
are still being published even if these are not in English.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rakesh Walia,

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 SAHIB STAMP UPDATE

India Post planned to issue a commemorative stamp to mark the 400 years  
of Guru Granth Saheb, the Holy Book of the Sikhs that is revered as the  
Guru Saheb. Although no circular was issued by India Post for the date  
of issue, the stamp, miniature sheet, and First Day cover was  
accompanied by the brochure stating the date of issue as June 16, 2005.  
The stamps, FDC, and the brochure are routinely delivered to several  
hundred post offices all over India in advance for sale to the public on  
the date of issue.

The Guru Granth Saheb stamp release had to be postponed due to the non  
agreement between the Punjab Government and the Shiromani Gurdwara  
Parbandhak Committee, the apex body of the Sikhs, regarding who and  
where the stamp will be released. Eventually the date of issue was  
postponed and a communication was issued to this effect. Unfortunately  
several post offices that did not receive information in time about the  
issue being deferred sold the stamp on June 16, 2005. We carried the  
report to this effect in Issue # 226 of June 23, 2005.

On August 1, 2005 Bibi Jagir Kaur, SGPC chief, seeking an immediate ban  
on its release said that the design of 'parkash' of Guru Granth Sahib in  
a palanquin was not as per tradition of Sikhism. She said the SGPC had  
supplied the design to the Central Government, but instead of using that  
design, the government preferred to use the 'faulty design' which could  
not be tolerated by the Sikh panth.

In the month of May 2005, Sukjinder Kaur, Director Postal Services,  
Punjab circle, had personally gone to meet the Bibi to discuss about the  
stamp, its design and its release and this was covered in all the  
regional papers of Punjab from Amritsar.

On August 2, 2005 The Commission for Minorities (NCM) has asked the  
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to take immediate  
action regarding the stamp design. The NCM called the release of stamp  
in the current form as "an act of sacrilege that will definitely hurt  
religious sentiments of the entire Sikh community". NCM Chairperson  
Tarlochan Singh participated in a meeting held between NCM members and  
senior postal officials on the issue on August 1, 2005.

Singh said "I spoke to Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti on  
phone yesterday and described the stamp to him. He said that Guru Granth  
Sahib is revered as a living God of Sikhs, therefore no photograph can  
be printed in any form and that too in a stamp accessible to public. And  
that too without a 'rumala', as in accordance with the Sikh maryada. In

fact, the Head Priest of Bangla Sahib Gurdwara, Giani Ranjeet Singh, who was also present at the meeting yesterday, also rejected the stamp in its present form."

"Earlier too, postal stamps on Sikh religion have been released but they were done in an appropriate manner. For example, for the 500-year- birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, a picture of his birthplace Nankana Sahib was printed on the stamp. Likewise for the 300-year-birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Gobind Singh, a picture of his birthplace Patna Sahib was used on the stamp," he said.

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IT IS RAKHI SEASON AGAIN

Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan is a festival celebrating the bond of affection between brothers and sisters. This day the siblings pray for each others' well being and wish for each others' happiness and goodwill. 'Raksha Bandhan' literally means 'a bond of protection'. Raksha Bandhan is a pledge from brothers to protect the sister from all harms and troubles and a prayer from the sister to protect the brother from all evil. Sisters tie Rakhi, made of colorful threads, on the wrist of brothers. The festival is celebrated on the full moon day of the Sravana month that usually falls in August every year.

Following last year's successful launch India Post have once again released special envelopes for the safe transit in mail for the Rakhis this year.

Last year these un-stamped envelopes priced between Rs 2 and Rs 3 were issued in the postal circles where the festival is celebrated.

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

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CHINNAMALAI STAMP RELEASED

The Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on July 31, 2005 at Chennai on first freedom fighter from Kongu region of Tamilnadu, Konguvel Dheeran Chinnamalai.

Chinnamalai was born on April 17, 1765 at Melapalayam in Erode district, Tamilnadu. He was named Theerthagiri but assumed the name Chinnamalai when he prevented the outflow of tax from his area to the ruler of Mysore, Hyder Ali. Tipu Sultan who succeeded Ali supported Chinnamalai in fighting against British. Chinnamalai and his men fought many battles including Chitheswaram, Mazhavalli, and Srirangapatnam. He settled in Odanilai after Sultan's death and continued fighting the British. His cook informed the enemy and he was captured and hanged on July 31, 1805.

India Security Press designed the stamp. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and 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 0.6 million.

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

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STAMP ISSUES IN 2005

The Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology met in May 2005 at New Delhi to finalize the

stamp issue program for 2005 and 2006 but the India Post has not yet made it public.

The Minister Dayanidhi Maran during the stamp release function on July 31, 2005 at Chennai announced that India Post will release commemorative stamps on Mr Subbu Ram, popular Carnatic singer M S Subbulakshmi, Popular film actor Gemini Ganesan, Tamil Scholar Kavimani Desiya Vinayagam Pillai during this year. He also accepted a proposal in the same function to issue a stamp on Kalaingarayan the leading farmer of the Kongu region who linked the Noyyal and Cauveri Rivers and build the Kalingarayan cannal to benefit the farmers in that area.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Jun 30: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Gujarati, Malaria, 1 million, Security Printing Press Hyderabad

For an illustrated list of Inland Letter Card in 2005, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005ILC.htm>

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

May 31: District Rural Development Agency Chennai, 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

Jul 16: Chennai, Thirupoonthuruthy Narayanatirtha Swami 300th Anniv

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

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INDIA & STATES AT WESTERN AUCTIONS

The Western Auctions Ltd. (Wales), UK is conducting Public Auction Nos. 1003-1004 on August 13, 2005.

The lot numbers 689 to 717 are on Indian States and India. The auction catalog is available on <http://www.westernauctions.co.uk>

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PHILATELY AWARENESS PROGRAM

An awareness program on stamp collection was organized for students at the Kadapa post office on July 29, 2005 to prepare the participants for the forthcoming philately exhibition to be organized next month. The last stamp exhibition in Kadapa was held in 1976.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug: Jabalpur, Army Postal Service

Aug 5-7: Thanjavur, All India Level Coin Exhibition
Contact: M Durairasu 094431 56502

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 Vaithiyathan, Treasurer, Baramahal Philatelic and Numismatic Association, 16 Gandhi Road, (Opposite Ganesan Hospital), Salem 636 007 Tel: 0427 2310959

August 25-26: Kotdwara PAURIPLEX District level

Sep 2-4: Tirupur, Stamps & Coins
Contact: C Palaneswamy 0421 2439131

Sep: Dimapur, Army Postal Service

Oct: New Delhi, Army Postal Service

Nov: Jalandhar, Army Postal Service

Dec: Jammu, Army Postal Service

Dec 18-20: Kolkata, State Level

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>

NATIONAL POSTAL POLICY

The Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology Dr Shakeel Ahmad, has informed the Lok Sabha that the Government is proposing to formulate National Postal Policy and is currently engaged in the process of updating the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act to make it more relevant to the times and empower the Postal Services Board so that the department enjoys more functional autonomy. The Government has also recognised the need to clearly identify the Universal Service Obligation and the cost of fulfilling it, which, today, is included as a part of the Department's budgetary deficit/loss. A major exercise has been initiated to review the system in terms of structure, products, processes, resources, accounting and pricing structure, technology requirements, etc., and to identify how best the Department can meet the twin challenges of becoming commercially viable while continuing to fulfill the Universal Service Obligation.

Dr Ahmed further said that the exercise to formulate the National Postal Policy is underway taking into account these initiatives and their outcomes. Since the exercise involves inter-departmental consultations and completion of the above initiatives, no specific time frame can be indicated at this juncture.

As regards the postal network in the remote/rural areas, the department is not lagging behind any private courier company, he said. India has the largest postal network in the world and 89% of it is in the rural

area. Basic postal services in terms of daily delivery of dak, collection of letters and sales of stamps and stationery are being provided throughout the country through this network irrespective of terrain.

The market share of Speed Post is around 11% as per a projection made by Kurt Salmon & Associates in their report 'Market Survey on Express Market -- December, 2001'. However, market share of India Post is about 50% in the mail delivery market if all mail products are put together.

With a view to increase the share in the Express Market and further expansion of postal services in rural areas, Dr Ahmad said that the Government has made a number of value additions, like free pick up facility, door to door delivery, internet-based track and trace, volume based discounts and credit facility have been provided over the years. The number of booking counters and offices with facility for booking upto late hours has been increased. Basic postal services in terms of daily delivery, collection of letters and sale of stamps and stationery are already available throughout the country. Post Offices will continue to be opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms.

The above information was given by Dr Shakeel Ahmad, on August 3, 2005 in the Lok Sabha in a written reply to the question by Kailash Meghwal.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for August 2005 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2auctions.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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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 (1) India used lot from 1952 to 1980, 50,000 ++ stamps, offers welcome from dealers interested in buying, (2) Imported Stock Books and imported Plastic Bags for covers and stamps (1st Grade), (3) India FDCs 15p & 20 p in lot of 5000 covers @ Re 1 each cover (full lot to be sold no individual cover)MAFATLAL mafatlal@powersurfer.net Tel. 022 26353771

I am currently holding what seems to be the Largest stock in the west of 1990-2005 Myanmar/Burma, both unmounted mint(MNH) and fine used, as well as some FDC's. If you are interested, I will be very pleased to send complete price list in Excel format
Peter J McBride info@stampexulster.com

ITS STAMPS NEWS - Articles on Our National Flag, Rabinderanath Tagore, Tourism, Plan Page on Bicycle, All Blacks from New Zealand, Crystals on stamp from Austria, ITS Phil-Quiz and much more in latest issue.
<http://www.indianthematicsociety.com/index.html>

SURAJ JAITLEY 098728 51244 indianthematicsociety@gmail.com

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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)

I read about the new scheme to be introduced by Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, whereby packets of special stamps, valued at Rs. 100 and 200 will be sold by the postman to the needy customers and the postman will also collect the covers and frank them and deliver them to the local post office for the further journey to their destinations (Stamps of India, No. 230, of July 24, 2005).

I read also a letter by Ms. Meena Singh of Noida, who rightly points out that the moral fabric of our society has fallen so low that we will not trust the postman, that he will affix stamps to our letters and carry them to the local post office for further transport. Even Mr. Maran, should have known the hesitation on the part of the customers of India Post to mr. Maran's new scheme. Is it not too much a trust that we put in the personnel of India Post? On the contrary, the post offices (at least in Pune) in Maharashtra warn their customers that when they submit their covers at the counter, they should insist that the stamps affixed to the covers are obliterated IN THEIR PRESENCE! This clearly shows that even the Post Offices in Maharashtra can not trust in their employees, for the fear that the affixed stamps could be detached and sold futher to other customers!

I strongly oppose the introduction of the new scheme by Mr. Maran. This will open a new prairie to the post employees to better their revenue in the name of service to the masses and even when India Post is admant in putting their scheme into practice, it is ultimately the people, who should not buy any packets or accept the services of India Post that their mail will be franked and carried furter to the local post office for its further transport. We should better rely on ourself and offer impediment to corrupt practices. It is surprising that India Post could show so much trust in its employees at the cost of the public and invite corruption instead of eradicating it.

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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

DESERT REPTILES FROM UAE

Emirates Post has issued a set of 6 commemorative stamps of United Arab Emirates Desert Reptiles in coordination with the Environment Authority on August 2, 2005. The stamps have been issued in denominations of 50 Fils, 125 Fils, 225 Fils, 275 Fils, 375 Fils and 5 Dirhams.

The complete set of stamps and First day Covers are available At Deira Main Post Office, Dubai Central Post Office (Karama) and Abu Dhabi

Central Post Office. A booklet is also available with information on some desert reptiles of the UAE like Agama (Bubethan), Desert Monitor, Sand Lizard (Umm Slaimoun), Dune sand gecko (Tha'aibah), Spiny-tailed lizard, and Sand skink (Ehlecha).

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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>

Deccan Herald, august 2, 2005

RAKHI MAIL FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

<http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/aug22005/update101631200582.asp>

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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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