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

Issue # 235 - August 25, 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.*

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

With this issue we complete five years of publishing and editing this  
digital weekly. It has been a wonderful experience for us and on this  
occasion we would like to thank all our readers and contributors from  
all parts of India and from all over the world.

Thank you.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Akhilesh Arka,  
Atish Kumar Jain, and Jaydev Nansey

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

Aug 31: State Bank of India, Rs 15

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 Philatelic 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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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Aug 10: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, 1 million, India Security Press Nashik, Multicolor

Aug 10: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English and Telugu, Wear Helmet Care Life, 1 million, India Security Press Nashik, Multicolor

Aug 10: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Telugu, Education for All, 1 million, India Security Press Nashik, Multicolor

For an illustrated list of postal stationery in 2005, please visit

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jul 02: Jamnagar, 2nd Electroplaters Seminar

Aug 05: Bangalore, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited

Aug 19: Calicut, Phila Fest

Aug 20, Calicut, Phila Fest

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

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SAGAR PHILATELIC & NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

A new organization has been formed in Sagar on August 4, 2005. Sagar is a small taluk place in Shimoga district in Karnataka state and is situated near world famous Jog Falls that are about 30 kilometers away.

Sagar Philatelic & Numismatic Association presently has 30 members and meets on the First Sunday of every month. The Association plans to arrange the displays from one of the members every month.

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COINS & POSTMARKS EXHIBITION AT CHENNAI

Madras Coin Society organized an exhibition of coins and postmarks in Chennai on August 22, 2005 as a part of celebrations on the Madras Day. The foundation of Fort St. George was laid by the East India Company on this day 366 years ago.

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS

Singhbhum Postal Division organized two philatelic workshops, the first at S P N Mission Girls School, Chaibasa on August 23, 2005 and the second at the philatelic bureau, Jamshedpur on August 25, 2005.

S S Basan and Ashok Tiwary of Jamshedpur Philatelic Society (JPS) conducted the workshop at Chaibasa that was attended by more than 800 students from different schools. Ashok Tiwary also conducted a philatelic quiz.

S S Basan, Syed Hafizuddin and K K Rikhi of JPS conducted the workshop at Jamshedpur that was attended by more than 300 students from different schools.

Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Shankar Das was present at both these occasions and the JPS distributed stamp packets to the students.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENT

Aug 25: Jabalpur, Army Postal Service

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>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

GPA NEWS Whole # 90 and 91 - Jan and Feb 2005 (combined Issue), Monthly  
Editor: H C Mehta  
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association  
Address: Care of D Desai & Co., 1M National Chamber, Ashram Road,  
Ahmedabad 308009

Annual Subscription: Rs 200

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KPMG CONSULTING TO ADVISE INDIA POST

India Post has appointed KPMG Consulting of USA to spruce up its old-fashioned image and to become more competitive.

India Post employs 5.8 million people and delivers 53 million pieces of mail daily. It also provides parcel, money order, and banking services and has recently diversified in to financial services, express logistics and courier services.

The number of letters and documents handled by India Post is dwindled to one third while parcel bookings are now one fourth since 1990-91 when the economic reforms were launched. This has dried up its traditional revenue streams.

Financial services contributed nearly half of India Post's revenues of 45 billion rupees during the last financial year but the operational losses were 14.8 billion rupees that are mounted by under pricing the products and opening post offices in rural areas.

The growth is now in bulk institutional segment like mailing annual reports, utility bills, direct mailers or sampling. According to a World Bank survey two years ago, the domestic courier industry was worth 24.9 billion rupees and India Post's share was just 10 percent.

KPMG would submit a report within two months on ways to restructure India Post and reduce its losses. The report will look into the areas where India Post must focus in the future and the services that it has to exit.

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MICROSOFT OFFERS RFID TO INDIA POST

Microsoft is marketing an RFID (radio frequency identification device) package for postal services. The technology Microsoft has on offer allows a postal service, the package sender, and the receiver to view exactly where the package is at all times. It also notifies a receiver when the package will arrive and alerts senders via MSN Messenger or a mobile phone SMS (Short Message Service) after it has been signed for at its destination.

The RFID tag is about the size of a playing card, with a sticker on one side to hold it to a package. It contains information about the package's contents, the sender, and the destination. Aside from tracking, it also helps smooth out the mailing process by telling other electronic devices, like mail sorting machines, where the package needs to go.

Microsoft makes the software for the RFID package and works with hardware companies such as Texas Instruments for the chips and the other technology. Part of the software is for the messaging and tracking. Microsoft also offers Web site software that allows post offices to take orders online, so that customers don't have to stand in long lines to fill out forms for the package.

Microsoft has also held talks with India Post about using the RFID system, although those discussions were very preliminary. India has not yet issued a tender offer for such a system, but if RFID were to be deployed by India's postal service it would likely be for its premium Speed Post service.

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## CORRECTIONS

Here are the corrections to the reports in issue #234 of August 18, 2005:

The colors of Rakhi envelopes in Maharashtra are 'Green and Pink' and not 'Blue and Pink'.

Please ignore the revised numbers of the Meghdoot Post cards as these are needed to be further revised.

Ashok Tiwary is 'Assistant Secretary' not the 'Secretary' of Jamshedpur Philatelic Society.

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## SRI LANKA NEW ISSUES

May 12: The Reverend Marcelline Jayakody, Rs 20

June 7: National Rana Viru Day, Rs 50

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## ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES: OLYMPICS INVERTED LOGO

Pradip Kumar Agrawal from Patna contributes an interesting error in Olympic Games Issue. The logo of the Athens Olympics in blue color is inverted in the complete sheet.

View at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/200417-b.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.

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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.>

D.K.BACHAWAT, Kolkata

Of late I have noticed that there is no gum on definitive stamps. I have examples of 100 - Netaji Subhas Bose, 200 - Rose, 300 - Smooth Indian Otter, 400 - Painted Stork, 500 - Leopard Cat & 1000 - Tiger where I do not find any gum at the back. The only definitive issued without gum is 500 - International Year of Physics. Since when Department of Posts made this a regular habit for rest of definitive stamps currently in use?

PROF. PREM MOHAN LAKHOTIA, Jaipur

I have visited several post offices and the Philatelic Museum at Jaipur G.P.O. They have still not received the supplies of A4 size long envelope issued by the department almost a month ago. Is that once again a case of philatelic cornering as is happening with a number of specialties? I found some one selling it outside a post office in Delhi @ Rs. 6/-. Rakhi covers were also in good demand at a premium in the capital.

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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

CHANGING TASTES IN BRITAIN

Every year postal administrators across Europe choose a theme for a set of stamps, and the common theme for 2005 is gastronomy. Royal Mail's contribution this year is Changing Tastes in Britain - a set of six Special Stamps colourfully illustrated by Royal College of Art (RCA) student Catell Ronca.

As one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, Britain enjoys a tantalizing assortment of global cuisine. They've come a long way since the 1900s, when British food was considered highly inferior. British food producers are selling a wider variety of fruits, vegetables, salads and meats, and supermarkets are stocking ever more diverse and unusual ingredients. Even television and radio shows are encouraging people to become more experimental and adventurous in our cooking.

In this issue, Swiss illustration student Catell Ronca represents the diversity of British food and drink today. She was selected from many students at the Royal College of Art to illustrate these Special Stamps. Her inspiration came from the people around her. Initially concentrating on the food itself, she soon began to include people in her sketches. Ronca was very aware of avoiding cultural clichés, so these illustrations explore the idea of mixing cuisines with cultures, using strong blocks of gouache color. The result is a colorful, bold and stylish set of stamps.

The description of designs is as follows:

Woman eating rice with chopsticks - 2nd Class

Around 589 million tonnes of paddy rice is grown each year, most of which (about 534 million tonnes) is grown in Asia. Scientists believe that there are around 140,000 varieties of cultivated rice grown all over the world, yet Britain has never been able to cultivate it due to the adverse climatic conditions. Rice is an amazingly important food, providing 27% of people's energy and 20% of their dietary protein in all developing countries. It also has many by-products, including straw, rope, pepper, wine, crackers, beer, cosmetics and even toothpaste.

Woman drinking tea - 1st Class

The British have been drinking tea for more than 350 years, yet it has been a popular drink in other countries for over four millennia. The earliest story about the origins of tea comes from Chinese mythology. In 2737BC the Chinese Emperor, Shen Nung, was sitting beneath a wild tea

tree while his servant boiled drinking water. A leaf from the tree dropped into the water and Shen Nung decided to try the brew. Tea wasn't introduced in Britain until the mid 1600s, when merchant Thomas Garway began to sell it in dry and liquid form in his London coffee house, in Exchange Alley.

Boy eating sushi - 42p

A staple of the Japanese diet, sushi are small cakes of cooked and vinegared rice that are filled, topped or wrapped with other ingredients. Raw fish is used in most sushi, and the preparation of fine-fish sushi is a sophisticated culinary art, which requires years of study. Sushi is now particularly popular in Britain, with sushi bars accounting for £15 million of the money spent eating out each year. Which must be why chain restaurant YO! Sushi sells an amazing 1,000 tonnes of sushi a year!

Woman eating pasta - 47p

The first record of noodles cooked by boiling water is in the Jerusalem Talmud, written in Aramaic in the 5th century AD. Yet it was likely that pasta was introduced during the Arab conquests of Sicily, carried in as a dry staple. The word 'pasta' comes from Italian for paste, meaning a combination of flour and water, and has always been used on Italian menus to encompass all the various pasta offerings. If Italians ate their usual yearly consumption of pasta in spaghetti form (rather than various shapes), they would eat around 600,000,000km, enough to wind around the world 15,000 times.

Woman eating chips - 60p

There isn't a food more British than fish and chips - it's one of the Great British institutions. But no one knows where the famous culinary delight originated. The fish and chip trade grew out of existing small businesses which sold fish or chips separately in the streets and alleys of London in the 1850s. Both Lancashire and London stake a claim to the origin as chips were the staple fare of the industrial north of England, whilst fried fish was introduced in London's East End. Over the following 100 years the fish and chip trade blossomed, becoming a vital source of nutrition for many families and helping to fuel the workforce of the industrial revolution. Now the British consume almost 300 million servings of fish and chips a year, equating to six servings for every man, woman and child in the country.

Man eating apple holding bowl of fruit - 68p

Although it isn't actually named or described in the Bible, the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden is known as an apple. Yet this smudge on the apple's reputation is undeserving as the apple was probably unknown in the Middle East when the Book of Genesis was written. Although only 30-35% of apples consumed in Britain are home-grown, the UK apple market is worth an astounding £320 million. Maybe that's because of the old English saying "Ate an apfel avore gwain to bed, make the doctor beg his bread" (an apple a day keeps the doctor away).

The stamps may be ordered online at <http://www.royalmail.com>

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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>

Indian Express, August 24, 2005  
PHILATELIST PREDICTS COMEBACK FOR HOBBY

<http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=145318>

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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

Published by Madhukar Jhingan (mjhingan at yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India  
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