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

Issue # 241 - October 6, 2005. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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

Ever wonder how time appears to be moving faster or as they say time  
flies, when you are busy with work and tends to move at a snails pace  
when things are not going as well. This part of the year when the  
philatelic activities do a double take it appears you don't have enough  
time to visit and report all of them.

So join us as the whirlwind of exhibitions begins and hope to catch you  
at some corner.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: P G Bhargave,  
Ajit Kumar Dash, and the Government of India Press Information Bureau

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

Oct 24: Prabodh Chnadra

These issues 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/lists/2005stamps.htm>

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#### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

##### PRATAP SINGH KAIRON

Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, released the a commemorative stamp, in the denomination of Rs 5, in honor of Pratap Singh Kairon, the architect of modern Punjab coinciding with his 104<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary on October 1, 2005 at New Delhi. Captain Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab and I K Gujral, former Prime Minister were also present at the release function.

Kairon (1901-1965) has the distinction of serving as a Minister immediately after partition of India in 1947 and handled the tough task of resettlement of millions of refugees who had migrated to Punjab from Pakistan. He gave land to work upon and financial loans which made them to progress economically. In 1952, he became the Minister for Development and Consolidation of Land and was thus instrumental in bringing out significant land reforms which made available the surplus land for distribution among the landless by imposing ceiling on landholdings.

Kairon held the office of the Chief Minister of Punjab from 1956 to 1964. Both the planned city of Chandigarh and the industrial township of Faridabad were his brainchild. Kairon made primary and middle school education free and compulsory. Besides this he gave a boost to technical education also. He opened three engineering colleges, a polytechnic in each district and a number of industrial engineering institutions. He also established the Kurukshetra University at Karnal, the Punjabi University at Patiala and the Punjab Agriculture University at Ludhiana, apart from four medical colleges. The Post Graduate Institute at Chandigarh, considered to be one of the biggest and best Medical Research Institutes in India, was also started by him.

Sankha Samanta 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 in the sheets of 35 stamps.

A M M MURUGAPPA CHETTIAR

Minister for Communications and Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative stamp, in the denomination of Rs 5, in the memory of noted industrialist A M M Murugappa Chettiar on October 1, 2005 at Chennai.

Chettiar (1902-1965), known widely as AMM, is regarded as a leader among the industrialists responsible for the industrial advancement in south India after Independence. The family business, which flourished under AMM, had its origins in 1900 when his father Dewan Bahadur A M Murugappa Chettiar established a money-lending and banking business in Burma (now Myanmar), which then spread to Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Vietnam.

AMM, the eldest son of Dewan Bahadur realized early in life the importance of promoting light and medium engineering industries in India thus started Tube Investments of India Ltd, in collaboration with the British group, Tube Investments Ltd, Birmingham. The world famous cycle brands Hercules, Phillips and BSA Cycles came later. Another well known company started by AMM was the Carborundum Universal Ltd in collaboration with the Carborundum Company Inc of USA and Universal Grinding Wheel Company Ltd of UK. The company produced abrasives and grinding stones.

Now, the Murugappa Group, headquartered in Chennai is a \$1.44-billion conglomerate with interests in engineering, abrasives, sanitary ware, fertilizers, finance, bio-products and plantations. It has 29 companies under its umbrella, of which eight are listed on the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange. Equally well known are the charitable and philanthropic efforts of AMM through a charitable trust called AMM Charities which is now known as the AMM Foundation. AMM Foundation runs hospitals, polytechnic institutions, and higher secondary schools for the poor and needy of society.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed 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 in the sheets of 35 stamps.

DR T S SOUNDHAM

Minister for Communications and Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative stamp, in the denomination of Rs 5, in honor of the Dr T S Soundham, freedom fighter and the founder of Institutions of Gandhigram, as part of her birth centenary celebrations, on October 2, 2005 at Chennai. Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President G K Vasanth received the first stamp album from the Minister at the function, attended by N S V Chitthan MP, All India Women's Association President Sarojini Varadappan who was also a close associate of Dr Soundham, Editor-in-Chief of N Ram, TVS Motors Managing Director Venu Srinivasan and Principal Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu circle, Vatsala Raghu.

The release of the stamp in honor of Dr Soundham (1904-1984) on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was befitting as she dedicated her life for the freedom of the country. She stood for the welfare of the

oppressed, social equality and humanistic ideals. The Gandhigram, launched by Dr Soundram in 1947, was a model for the rural development schemes of the Government. She was committed to Gandhian values and rural development, and service for the uplift of the deprived.

Sankha Samanta designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed 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 in the sheets of 35 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

Oct 03: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Tamil, AIDS, 1 million, Security Printing Press Hyderabad

For an illustrated list of Inland Letter Cards issued in 2005, please <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2005ILC.htm>

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150 YEARS OF INDIA POST

The logo of the 150 Years of India Post was used on numerous special postmarks, special covers, and stamp booklets' covers. It however did not appear on any pre-stamped postal stationery, although it did appear on at least one Rakhi envelope. Although no listing is yet prepared, all these issues are illustrated on the [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com). Several of the special covers as well as covers of the stamp booklets have this logo on the back and most cases it is not illustrated as yet.

This logo also appeared on computerized stamp labels and on meter franking. This was covered in an article published in the issue # 229 of July 14, 2005 of this digital weekly that is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/readroom/150Indiapost.htm>

The logo has also been used on Stamp Packs prepared for sale through postmen from Tamilnadu, Delhi, and Uttarnachal. These are listed at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/misc-packs.htm>

Uttaranchal brought out mini Collectors Pack containing different commemorative stamps, and priced Rs 20, 30, and 40. The packs carry the logo of the 150 Years of India Post on the back. The images for these are yet to be uploaded.

The logo also appeared on several forms used in postal operations such as Acknowledgement Due Cards, Money Order Forms, Value Payable Post Money Order Forms, besides other forms such as Post Office Savings Bank. The postal forms and labels are printed by each postal circle locally and thus offer a wide range of varieties. We are now listing these at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pforms/pforms.htm>

The logo has also appeared on postal labels. The labels from Rajasthan are now listed at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/label/label.htm>

In additions to the above there are mailing cartons (boxes) issued by Karnataka Circle in two sizes for Rs 12 and Rs 15 that also carry the logo. The images for these are yet to be uploaded.

The latest item that we have noticed is an order form for spices. The image of the order form is available at: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pforms/retailposts.htm>

All these are collectibles in their own right. In case you have information to add to these issues, please contribute it for publication here; contact [editor@stampsfindia.com](mailto:editor@stampsfindia.com)

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Sep 17: Gangtok, Mt Kanchenjunga 50 Years of the First Ascent, 2 covers  
Sep 25-27: Midanpur, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers  
Oct 2: Dehradun, Mahatma Gandhi 136th Birth Anniversary  
Oct 2: Ahmedabad, Mahatma Gandhi 136th Birth Anniversary  
Oct 3-4: Jodhpur, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers

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

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BUY SPICES AT POST OFFICES

Now you can buy Organic Black Pepper, Cardamom, and Vanilla at the post office.

The order forms, carrying logo of the 150 years of India Post beside others, are available at selected post offices. The consumer hands over cash and duly filled order form to postal counter which will issue a receipt. The order is forwarded by epost to the Spices Board at Kochi. The spices ordered will be dispatched by post direct to the consumer at the address provided on the form.

The image of the order form is available at:

<http://www.stampsfindia.com/lists/pforms/retailposts.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sep 30-Oct 2, Pune

Oct 9: New Delhi, World Post Day Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: New Delhi GPO

Oct 15-16: Jalandhar, district level  
Venue: K L Sehgal Hall, Jalandhar

Oct 17-18: Dhulia, district level

Oct 22-23: Dhenkanal, district level

Oct: New Delhi, East District,

Oct: New Delhi, Army Postal Service

Nov 13-14: Ludhiana

Nov: Muzaffarpur, district level

Nov 30-Dec 1: Jamshedpur, district level

Nov: Jalandhar, Army Postal Service

Dec: Jammu, Army Postal Service

Dec 17-19: Kolkata, State Level, NEW DATES

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>

#### SPEED POST PASSPORT SERVICE

India Post in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs has been offering the service for carrying the application for passports to the Regional Passport Offices and delivering the passports to the applicants.

Recently we came across the envelopes containing a passport application form that post office is selling for Rs 20.

The image of the Speed Post Passport Service envelope is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pforms/ppservice.htm>

#### RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, Whole # 22 - Jul aug 2005, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Rajesh Paharia [philanews@hotmail.com](mailto:philanews@hotmail.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Address: C/o A S Mittal, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur  
Annual Subscription: Rs.50

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

#### NEW ALBUM VOLUME

Philatelia of 1 Motisil Street, Kolkata 700013 has published a new volume in their India Album series. This is to house Panes and Sheetlets and is available from the publisher at Rs 750 inclusive of postage of packing.

#### DANDI MARCH COMMEMORATIVE COINS

The President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, released 100 Rupee and 5 Rupee coins here today to mark 75th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi. Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh and President of National Advisory Council, Sonia Gandhi received the first sets of coins. Finance Minister, P Chidambaram welcomed the guests at a function held at Gandhi Smriti while Minister of State for Finance, S Palanimanickam paid vote of thanks. Senior Ministers, Members of Parliament, former President of India K R Narayanan, former Prime Minister of India I K Gujral, senior bureaucrats and a large number of followers of Mahatma Gandhi and schoolchildren were present at this simple ceremony.

One Hundred Rupees coin will have a Standard weight of 35 grams, containing silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5% and Zinc 5% and Five rupees coin will have a Standard weight of 9 grams, containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%. The obverse face of the One Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coins shall bear the Lion Capitol of Ashoka Pillar with the legend 'Satyamev Jayate' (Only the Truth Wins) inscribed below, flanked by

'India' on the left upper periphery with the word in Hindi and on the right upper periphery flanked with the word in English. It shall also bear the denominational value "100" and "5" respectively in International Numerals below the Lion Capitol flanked with "RUPEES" on the left lower periphery with the word in Hindi and right lower periphery with the word in English. There will be 52 beads on the periphery of Five Rupees coin.

The reverse face of the coins shall bear the portrait of "Mahatma Gandhi marching along with his followers" flanked with "75 Years of Dandi March" on the left upper periphery with the words in Hindi, and on the right upper periphery in English. The figure 1930-2005 shall be shown below the portrait in International Numerals. There shall be 52 beads on the periphery of Five Rupees coin.

The edge of the coin shall be milled with serrated or upright milling and security edge. At the centre of the edge there shall be shallow groove with a design inside the two sections separated by blank spaces. This design shall consist of chain of beads in relief and each bead being followed by one inclined line in relief. There shall be total 30 lines and 30 beads. This new Five Rupees coin is a legal tender as provided in the Coinage Act 1906.

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POSTAL STRIKE

All major Central trade unions, except Indian National Trade Union Congress and the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, supported by scores of independent labor unions called the "biggest" ever general strike in the country on September 29, 2005 to protest against the economic policies of the Government and its proposal to dilute the labor laws.

According to rough estimates several hundred thousands of employees, including Central and State Government staff, took part in the strike.

The All India Postal Employees Union Group C, the All India Postal Employees Union Postman Group D and the All India Gramin Dak Sevaks Union took part in the strike.

The sectors affected in the strike included the banks, insurance, railways, telecom, postal, defence, agriculture, ports and docks and petroleum.

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

Pradeep Agrawal from Patna contributes two very interesting errors.

The first is a spectacular set off in the commemorative stamp issued on Jun 29, 1993 to honor P C Mahalanobis.

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

Another is a major misperf on the Taj Mahal issue in sheet.

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/200441.htm>

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for October 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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If you are looking for THEMATIC mint stamps, Souvenir sheets, First Day Covers, postal stationary, thematic cancellations of the world, write to us with themes wanted.

A S BANGA, J J Philatelic Centre, [jjanmolgk@yahoo.com](mailto:jjanmolgk@yahoo.com) M-4 Dewan House, Ajay Enclave, New Delhi-110018, Phone: 98106 51829

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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.>

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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

MUPPETS ON STAMPS

Jim Henson and his beloved Muppets were immortalized on United States postage stamps on September 28, 2005 in Los Angeles at the Academy of the Television Arts & Sciences, the same organization that bestowed several Emmy® Awards upon the extraordinary artist and visionary, and also inducted him into the Television Academy Hall of Fame. The first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony for the Jim Henson: The Man Behind the Muppets commemorative stamp sheet coincides with the 50th anniversary of Henson's most famous Muppet, Kermit the Frog, who emceed the event.

The 11 stamp pane of 37-cent First-Class stamps is available from September 29, 2005. This pane includes a 1986 Norman Seeff photograph of Henson accompanied by his visionary quote: "When I was young, my ambition was to be one of the people who made a difference in this world. My hope is to leave the world a little bit better for my having been here."

Ten additional stamps depict 13 famous Muppet characters: Kermit the Frog; Sam the Eagle; Statler and Waldorf; Animal; Rowlf the Dog; Fozzie Bear; Miss Piggy; Swedish Chef; Dr. Bunsen Honeydew and his assistant, Beaker; and the Great Gonzo and Camilla the Chicken.

The back of each stamp sheet features humorous autographed notes from each of the Muppet characters. The reverse of Miss Piggy's stamp reads,



"Moi is thrilled...for all those lucky people who will get your letter with Moi's gorgeous face on the envelope. Don't even think of canceling moi, sweetie! Kissy, Kissy (signed Miss Piggy)."

Henson was born in Greenville, MS. on September 24, 1936. He moved to Maryland when he was in the fifth grade. In 1955, as a student at the University of Maryland, his own five-minute show, "Sam and Friends," made its debut on WRC-TV, an NBC affiliate in Washington, DC. The show featured a large cast of characters Henson dubbed "Muppets," including a green puppet named Kermit who would later become the world-famous Kermit the Frog. His creations continue to delight children and adults alike. And his legacy continues through The Jim Henson Company which continues to entertain audiences worldwide through creative excellence, technological achievements and inspired silliness with a wide range of television and film projects.

The illustration is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/pix/241.jpg>

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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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ADMINISTRIVIA

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan (mjhingan at yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037 Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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

STAMPS OF INDIA also publishes:

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

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 worldwide.

Credit cards accepted <http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>

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