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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Who wants to be a Millionaire's Indian version 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'  
(KBC) in its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition with the top prize money of 20 million rupees  
is very popular TV show presented by Amitabh Bachchan. On September 30,  
2005 philatelic history was made when the penultimate question for 10  
million rupees was 'what was depicted on the India's first postage stamp  
issued after independence?' The philatelists watching the show could not  
believe such an easy question can be worth 10 million. However to  
everyone's disappointments the contestant did not know the answer and  
quit taking home only 5 million rupees.

The moral of the story is that philately pays in case anyone missed the  
point.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: H P Singh,  
Ramakrishnan P, Shyam N Pradhan, Madhukar Deogawanka, and Ajit Kumar  
Dash.

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 18: Letter boxes, Set of 4, and Miniature Sheet

Oct 24: Prabodh Chandra

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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ARMY POSTAL SERVICES

Sep 24: Judge Advocate General Department, 2nd Reunion

Oct 08: Madras Engineer Group and Centre 225th Anniversary

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2005, please
visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2005aps.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Oct 8: New Delhi, World Hospice & Palliative Care Day

Oct 9: New Delhi, World Post Day

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

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PHILATELISTS' FORUM

The philatelists in NOIDA are planning to start a Forum wherein members
can meet to exchange views, news and stamps. Interested persons may
kindly contact the organizers: Meena Singh 0120-5350718 and Lt Col A P
Gupta 0120-5350751

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PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) has filed an appeal against the  
judgment of Civil Judge Gautam Manan of August 4, 2005. The Judge held  
that the PCI failed to hold free and fair elections on August 25, 2002  
and decreed for the relief of the perpetual injunction restraining PCI  
from holding elections without proper accounts being rendered for the  
previous year and without the independent observer.

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS

Deepak N Modi of Jalna will conduct a philatelic workshop at Nathvally
School, Aurangabad on Oct 11, 2005. The workshop is organized by the
Superintendent of Post Offices, Aurangabad Division.

A one day philatelic workshop will be conducted at Amritsar Philatelic Bureau and museum on October 14, 2005.

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STAMPS & COINS CLUB BELGAUM

Umesh Kakkeri has taken over as the President of the Stamps & Coins Club, Belgaum on October 1, 2005.

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POSTAL THEME FOR DURGA PUJA

The Durga Puja at Labony Estate, Salt Lake, Kolkata chose postal evolution, as the theme in its 31st year of celebration. The venue itself was modeled in replica of an old post office building and had a collage of postage stamps on its boundary wall. In fact, the theme of the Labony Puja was a tribute to the Indian Postal System, celebrating its 150 years.

The organizers, while explaining their choice of the theme, pointed out an interesting connection between the postal systems and the pujas. The daker saaj of the idols used to be delivered like post (in Bengali daak) in ships from Germany. Hence, this attire of the idols came to be known as daker saaj.

Conceived by Somnath Mukherjee, the puja venue displayed a historical journey since the time of rock-carvings to the modern SMS system. The exhibits show the different ways of sending messages like the shaven heads of slaves, pigeons, runners and messengers. The earliest post-man was the runner who had to travel for miles on foot, to deliver letters, braving many adversities. Later, Sher Shah Suri started the "Horse Messaging Service", involving messengers on horse-back. Gradually, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, came the steam- engine which made the postal system more convenient and speedy. Eventually, the arrival of the air-mail revolutionized the entire postal system. The pandal has portrayed this transition to a stunning effect and a suitable lighting has recreated the mood to its perfection.

Durga Puja is the biggest festival in West Bengal celebrated with great fervor a month before Deepavali - the festival of lights. Large tents are erected in several localities of every city and festivities go on for days.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sep 26-28, Belgaum district level

Oct 10-11, Gurdaspur, district level

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

Oct 17-18: Dhulia, district level

Oct 21-22: New Delhi, Civil Services Officers Institute

Oct 22-23: Dhenkanal, district level

Oct 26-27: Saharanpur, district level  
Venue: M S Degree College  
Contact: Robin 0 98374 23191

Oct: New Delhi, East District,

Oct: New Delhi, Army Postal Service CANCELLED

Nov 7-8: Jalandhar, Army Postal Service

Nov 12-23: Jeypore, KORPEX Koraput District level

Nov 13-14: Ludhiana, LUPEX

Venue: Lions Bhawan, Udham Singh Nagar

Contact: Dr S K Sondhi [sksondhil@sify.com](mailto:sksondhil@sify.com) 0 9815657647

Nov: Muzaffarpur, district level

Nov 30-Dec 2: Jamshedpur, SINGHPEX Singhbhum district level

Venue: Tulsi Bhawan, Bistupur

Contact: Ashok Tiwary

Dec: Jammu, Army Postal Service

Dec: Puri, district level

Dec 15-16: Kolkata, Dealers Bourse

Venue: Swarbhumi The Hermitage Plaza

Contact: Kalyan Negal [knegal@vsnl.net](mailto:knegal@vsnl.net), Arun Bhattacharya 0 98304 12286

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

Venue: Rangmunch, Swarbhumi The Hermitage Plaza

Contact: Madhukar Deogawanka, 0 98311 51219

2006

Jan 14-15: Chandigarh, district level

Jan: Sambalpur, district level

Jan: Kolkata, Army Postal Service

Feb: Hyderabad, Army Postal Service

Mar: 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>

#### NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Oct 9: Visit Nepal Series 2005, Set of 4 Stamps

Ghodaghodi Lake, Kalinchowk Bhagabati, Budhasubba, and Panauti City

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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.>

OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & IT

Dear Mr. Dayanidhi Maran,

I would like to bring to focus an important aspect of Philately to your kind attention and I hope you will take a hard look at this matter and do what is required.

Perhaps you know that Philately is considered to be the King of Hobbies. Its excellence in any country depends on the way it is nurtured by a country. India has a long philatelic history. Unfortunately many good things are dying in this country due to political expediency. Philately is suffering the same fate. Even tiny countries in the world are bringing out excellent stamps on various themes. I request you to kindly visit the website www.stampcafe.com and check this out for yourself.

Between 2000 and 2004 there appeared a ray of hope when more topical stamps were issued. Unfortunately during the latter part of 2004 once again the government was back with a vengeance to issue non-topical stamps. Some how the successive governments in the past were obsessed with only one theme: Personalities. This is absolutely ridiculous.

Many surveys have been conducted by the Department of Posts. Actually in these surveys mostly the participants always suggested a multitude of topics for issue of stamps. But alas all such opinions are crushed by politicians with a narrow outlook. In fact the Department of Posts never reveals the results of these surveys for obvious reasons.

I do hope you will take the necessary steps so that the Department of Posts will henceforth issue stamps on all topics depicting the grandeur of our great nation so that can compete with other countries in Philately.

Thanking you for your time.

Yours truly
Prof. M. S. Narayanan
Chennai

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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

GREG MANNING IS NOW ESCALA

Greg Manning Auctions, Inc. announced on September 28, 2005 that the Company has changed its corporate name to Escala Group, Inc. Escala Group has established its new corporate headquarters in mid-town Manhattan, New York.

Escala Group also announced that Jose Miguel Herrero, 50, a member of the Company's Board of Directors since 2003, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Prior to joining Escala Group, Mr. Herrero was founder and managing partner of High Ground, a corporate finance firm focused on technology and innovation. From 1996 through 2000, Mr. Herrero served as CEO of LaNetro, S.A., an internet company based in Spain. He holds an MBA in Finance and International Operations from U.C. Berkeley.

The Company also announced that Greg Manning, 59, will become President of Escala's North American and Asian Philatelic Auction Division. He will remain as First Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Esteban Perez, Chairman and Chief Corporate Strategy Officer, said, "Over the past few years, starting with the integration of the auction businesses of Greg Manning Auctions and Auctentia, S.L., we have brought together a global network of premier international collectibles companies which now make up the Escala Group. These companies position us as a global powerhouse in the collectibles market. Our businesses now include Auctions, Merchant/Dealer Operations and Trading, all of which will operate under the Escala Group umbrella. Our new name reflects the evolution of our company and is an integral part of the implementation of our overall growth strategy. Going forward, under the capable leadership of Jose Miguel, we look to expand our presence and market share worldwide."

Mr. Perez continued, "Mr. Manning's new responsibilities include a special dedication to the Asian market and the opportunities that it presents, especially in Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China, both for developing the market of philatelic auctions and exploring the possibilities of developing businesses related to philately."

Jose Miguel Herrero, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "I am excited about Escala Group's future prospects. We have a strong foundation and we all believe that there are numerous opportunities to take our company to its next level of growth. I look forward to working with the management team to further develop our business both organically and through acquisitions. We will continue to seek strategic synergistic opportunities worldwide in our current areas of business. We will also look to make selective art acquisitions in the U.S. and Europe."

In addition, Escala Group announced the resignation of Anthony Bongiovanni and Emilio Ballester from the Company's Board of Directors. In accepting these resignations, the Board thanked Mr. Bongiovanni and Mr. Ballester for their contributions to the Company.

Ambassador Antonio Martins Da Cruz, 58, was appointed by the Board to fill one of the vacancies on the Board of Directors, to serve in the class of directors whose term expires in 2006. Mr. Martins Da Cruz was

Ambassador from Portugal to Spain from 1999 to 2001 and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2002-2003. Since that time he has been a professor of International Relations, University of Lusiada, Lisbon. He also serves as International and Institutional Relations Manager of Afinsa.

Rafael del Valle-Iturriaga, 50, was appointed by the Board to fill the other Board vacancy, to serve until 2006. Mr. del Valle-Iturriaga is Chief Executive of Saarema Inversiones, a private equity/industrial holding company based in Madrid. Prior to that, he was the Managing Director and Country Head, Iberia, of the Bank of America, N.A. in Madrid. Mr. del Valle-Iturriaga has a BA in Law from the University of Deusto (Bilbao) and a BA in Business Administration from ICADE University in Madrid.

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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

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STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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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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