

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 253 - December 29, 2005. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

~~~~~  
I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Stamps Released  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Children's Day Special FDC  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Recent Periodical Publications  
Nepal New Issues  
India Post Year End Review  
China Nepal Stamp Exhibition

~~~~~  
To SUBSCRIBE, send email giving your name, postal address, and
philatelic interests to subs@stampsofindia.com

To UNSUBSCRIBE, send email to end@stampsofindia.com

The BACK ISSUES are available as Printout, on CD, and on line at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

~~~~~  
JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We wish you a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year 2006!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shyam N  
Pradhan, Xinhua, and H P Singh.

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsofindia.com)

~~~~~  
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.

~~~~~  
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jan 06: AVM - Legendary Filmmaker, Rs 5

Jan 13: Pongal Festival, Rs 5

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>

~~~~~  
NEW STAMPS RELEASED

16 SQUADRON AIR FORCE

The Chief Postmaster General of Uttar Pradesh Circle released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on December 27, 2005 to honor the 16 Squadron Air Force at Gorakhpur.

16 Squadron Air Force, the "Cobras", was formed at Pune in 1950 with six Spitfire and Tempest aircrafts as an operational bomber Squadron of Western Command. The Squadron was re-equipped in 1954 with Liberator aircraft and its role was changed from bomber to that of heavy bomber. In addition, the task of training the bomber aircrew was also assigned to the Squadron.

In 1957, the Squadron was re-equipped with Canberra aircraft and the role was re-defined as light bomber/interdictor Squadron. In 1957, the Squadron moved to Kalaikunda and formed a part of operational forces of Central Air Command. Towards the end of 1965, the Squadron moved to Gorakhpur. In December 1986, the Squadron was re-equipped with Jaguar deep penetration strike aircraft and the role has now been defined as Counter Air and Interdiction.

In recognition of the distinguished services rendered by this Squadron to the nation and its meritorious record, the then President of India, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed presented the President's Standards to the Cobras on 13 Nov 1976.

Kamleswar Singh designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Nenu Gupta 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 0.8 million in the sheets of 20.

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

~~~~~  
RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Dec 18-20, Jaipur, JPPEX district philatelic exhibition, 3 covers

COVERS WITHOUT SPECIAL POSTMARKS

Oct 11: Ahmedabad, Amitabh Bacchan 64th Birthday  
Nov 25: Ahmedabad, Meatless Day - Animal Rights Day  
Dec 1: Ahmedabad, World AIDS Day  
Dec 17: Rajouri, APS district philatelic exhibition

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

CARRIED COVERS

Oct 2: Ahmadabad, Camel Cart, Gandhi Sadbhavna Dak Yatra, 250 covers

Nov 11: Thrissur, Mail Van & Runners, Posted in Elephant Letter Box at Trichur Philateluc Bureau conveyed to Chalakudy by Mail Van and thence to Irinjalakuda by Runners, 300 covers

Dec 6: Jamshedpur, Pigeon Post, 100 covers

Dec 7: Jamshedpur, Runner, 100 covers

Dec 17: Kolkata, Tram, xxx covers

Visit the following link for the images

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/carried/2005.htm>

~~~~~  
CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL FDC

The year's Children's Day stamp was based on a watercolor by Pallavi Majumdar of Bidya Bharti Girls High School, Kolkata. Her design was adjudged as the first in an All India Stamp Design Competition organized by India Post on the theme of Festivals or Celebrations.

She autographed 100 individually numbered specially prepared First Day Covers at the recently concluded Stamp Show at Kolkata. The covers were sold for Rs 100 each and the total proceeds were befittingly donated to a NGO 'Child in Need Institute' of Kolkata.

These covers may still be available with Kalyan Negal knegal@gmail.com

Visit the following link for the image

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/fdc/fday2005.htm>

~~~~~  
RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Dec 25: Ludhiana,

Dec 28-31: Coochnehar, district level

Dec 29-31: Ratnagiri, district level

Dec 30-31: Jamnagar, CRICKETPEX thematic exhibition to mark the legendary cricketer K S Duleepsinhji's Birth Centenary Year

Contact: [nawaphilatelic@yahoo.co.in](mailto:nawaphilatelic@yahoo.co.in)

2006

Jan 4-6: Sambalpur, HIRAPEX district level, 2 covers

Jan 6-7: Tuticorin

Jan 10-11: Valsad, district level

Jan 10-11: Yavatmal, district level

Jan 14-15: Chandigarh,

Jan 14-15: Palghat

Jan 20-22: Coimbatore, regional

Venue: Techno Park, TNAU

Contact: SSP, Coimbatore HPO, Coimbatore 641 001

Dealers' booth available for Rs1500. 3 Different Stamp Booklets (Wild life theme), Cards (Gandhi theme) and Special Covers (Musical theme) will be issued in the quantity of 500 each

Jan 25-28: Bangalore

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>

#### RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

Stamps Today, Whole # 3 - Sep Oct 2005, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Vijay Seth [stampstoday@rediffmail.com](mailto:stampstoday@rediffmail.com)  
Publisher: Seth Communications  
Address: S-331 Grater Kailash Part 1, New Delhi 110048  
Annual Subscription: Rs.150 or US \$10

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

#### NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Dec 26: Diplomatic Relations between Nepal & China Golden Jubilee, Rs 30  
Dec 26: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nepal's membership in the UNO, Rs 50  
Dec 26: Nepali Ornaments Series, Set of 4 stamps, Rs 25 each  
Sherpa, Limbu, Newar and Tharu

#### INDIA POST YEAR END REVIEW

India Post completed its 150 years this year, and as a part of the celebrations, a new look letter box designed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, and the Corporate e-post which allows corporate customers to print their messages including text and picture on their official stationery and send them simultaneously to up to 9999 addresses in one go, were launched. To facilitate saving bank customers, who are looking at various saving options to invest their savings, India Post initiated process of setting up Postal Finance Marts throughout the country. 300 such Finance Marts are proposed to be set up with Plan finance by 2007. Of these, 150 will be set up during the current financial year ending on March 31, 2006.

Revenue from Premium Products of India Post has been growing at a steady clip of an average of 30% per annum. In 2004-2005, the revenue earned from premium products touched Rs 0.95331 billion, over 1/5th of total revenue of India Post. During 2005-2006, revenue from Premium Products had already touched Rs 0.65844 billion at the end of October 2005.

During the year, the Business Development & Marketing Directorate has added a host of new products like (a) 'Logistics Post' to exploit the market for bigger parcels and consignment loads, (b) 'Bill Mail Service' to provide a cost effective communication tool for periodic financial instruments, (c) 'Direct Post' to provide a cost effective direct marketing avenue for un-addressed articles, and (d) developing Post Offices in to 'one stop shops' for various services, including some financial services, are being introduced.

Keeping in view the India Post's objectives of developing Post Offices into the major provider of financial services and mobilizing its small savings, it is exploring the possibility of repositioning itself in the financial and banking sectors of the country by setting up of a Post Bank.

With a view to evolve an appropriate strategy of achieving its goals and objectives in a competitive and changing environment and to strive for financial self sufficiency, India Post has engaged KPMG to undertake a system study of its operations. The study will assist India Post to define its Universal Service Obligations and to make the assessment of existing products in terms of their utility and economic viability. The report is likely to be submitted in January 2006. An inter ministerial group has also been appointed by the Cabinet Secretariat to study the existing practices in India Post and to submit Action Plan for eliminating its fiscal deficit in the shortest possible time. The System Study Report will provide major input to the Inter Ministerial Group for suggesting the road map for initiating reforms in the Postal Sector.

India Post has successfully completed during the year, several overseas projects which include, computerization of four post offices in Maldives that involved customization and installation of the India Post's Meghdoot software developed in-house by the Postal Training Centre, Mysore. The project was funded by Ministry of External Affairs and Maldives Government. The other projects were Automation of the post office counters at General Post Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh under the Multi Year Integrated Project of Universal Postal Union. Development of software for computerizing post office counters at General Post Offices in Myanmar and Nepal with funds provided by the Universal Postal Union.

During the year 2005, India Post has taken up a number of new initiatives and launched a number of innovative products like:

i) Sale of postage stamps by postmen at the doorstep of the customer thereby bringing the post office closer to people.

ii) Collection of mail by postmen while on their normal beat.

iii) Release of a stamped envelope measuring 220mm X 110mm with face value of Rs 5 as against the existing 140mm X 90mm envelope.

iv) Packaging of Bill Mail Service which allows bulk booking of bills/statements @ Rs 3 per article for local delivery with other services like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post (EPP) etc. and its nationwide expansion.

v) Expansion of e-post service that enables printed or handwritten messages in any language to be transmitted as e-mail and delivered to the addressees from their respective post offices all over the country and launching a corporate version to meet the specific requirements of business entities to reach multiple addresses.

vi) Coverage of more cities under the scheme for engagement of outsourcing agents for collection of Speed Post/ EPP articles from customers' premises.

vii) Launch of Direct Post - the un-addressed component of business mail that comprises articles like letters, cards, brochures, questionnaires, pamphlets, samples, coupons, posters, mailers or any other form of printed communication, promotional items like CDs/floppies and Cassettes

etc., intended for those who wish to reach a large customer base to advertise their products/services.

viii) Introduction of Logistics Post Service in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Uttaranchal, which is proposed to be extended to other parts of the country also.

ix) Retailing of Government Securities in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh through a tie up with IDBI Capital Market, to be extended to more locations in the country.

x) Sale of 17 UTI Mutual Fund Products through select post offices under a tie-up with UTI Asset Management Co. The latest product added to this portfolio is UTI Charitable Religious, Educational Societies and Trusts Scheme (UTICRTS) which enables these institutions who are now barred from investing in Post Office Savings Bank schemes to channelize their investments through the post offices.

xi) Extension of the scheme of sale of non-life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Co Ltd throughout the country and introduction of some specially designed policies for the employees of India Post.

xii) Introduction of an award for Best Financial Performance, to recognize the efforts made by the Postal Circles in improving their financial performance. The Postal circles have been grouped into three categories based on their capacity to generate revenue and top performers in each category will be given the award. It has also been decided to give the award to all the circles that achieve an expense coverage ratio of 1:1 or better than 1:1. The first award has gone to Maharashtra in category 'A' (which achieved the expense coverage ratio of 1:1), J&K Circle in category 'B' and Haryana Circle in category 'C' for their better performance during 2004-05.

Important policy initiatives being planned in the first quarter of the next year:

i) Launch of an on-line domestic money transmission service called iMO intended for a market clientele which desires assured time related money delivery.

ii) Introduction of Accidental Death Insurance Cover of Rs. 1,00,000/- for Post Office Savings Bank Account Holders on payment of a nominal premium of Rs 15 per annum.

iii) Appointment of a Consultant to undertake a process re-engineering of post Office Saving Banks (POSB) & other financial service products and to draw up a road map for introduction of Any Time Any Where Banking solutions in Post Office Savings Bank so that customers can be extended the same facilities that are being extended in other banking systems.

iv) Introduction City Post/Inter City Post - a competitively priced value added local/inter city mail services with assured next day pre-lunch delivery and electronic intimation of delivery. A pilot project of city post will be launched in Vijayawada and that of inter-city post between Chennai and Hyderabad.

v) Introduction of Premium Speed Post - a time sensitive Speed Post service between central business districts of major metros with electronic intimation of delivery. The service would be available on

payment of an additional premium charge which would be refunded in case of delay in delivery.

vi) e-commerce initiative - The retail network of the post offices would be used as a front end for e-commerce. The Post Office counters would accept money and place/deliver orders. India Post services like Express Parcel Post, e-Post, Value Payable Post and the payment gateway facilities would be re-engineered to facilitate e-commerce activities.

vii) Introduction of portable digital hand held delivery cum sale system that will facilitate proof of delivery/intimation of delivery in real time to the customers. The delivery postmen can key the delivery time and name of the person to whom the article has been delivered in the hand held device. The information goes to the server over a wireless phone embedded in the device. The device would also have tiny printers to give receipts for the articles received.

~~~~~  
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.

~~~~~  
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.>

~~~~~  
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>

~~~~~  
ALSO IN THE NEWS

CHINA NEPAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Shrish Shumsher J B Rana, Nepal's Minister of State for Information and Communication inaugurated a three-day China Nepal Postage Stamp Exhibition on December 26, 2005 Monday at Kathmandu to mark the golden jubilee year of the establishment of China Nepal diplomatic ties.

The exhibition was organized by the Nepal Philatelic Society (NPS) with the cooperation of the Postal Department and China Study Center, Nepal.

NPS also brought out a cover on this occasion.

~~~~~  
NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

-----*****O*****-----

ADMINISTRIVIA

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan mjhingan@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

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at 'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

Our now famous Disclaimer!

<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>

=====

© Copyright 2005, Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.

For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications please ask the publisher for permission stating exactly what you would like to use, and for what purpose, before using the same.