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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

We all have been away from work for almost 9 days attending family  
functions. The absence has delayed the publication of this digital  
weekly.

We regret the inconvenience caused to readers and striving to be on time  
for future issues.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Manohar Lal,  
and H P Singh

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

STAMP POLL 2005 - VOTE & WIN

Don't forget to vote for your favorite stamp of 2005. Please select from the commemorative and definitive stamps issued in 2005 displayed at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/stamppoll.htm>

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jan 22: A V Meiyappan, Rs 5  
Jan 29: N M R Subbaraman, Rs 5  
Feb 01: 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Punjab Regiment, 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 2006, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2006stamps.htm>

PONGAL STAMP RELEASED

The Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh released a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on January 12, 2006 at New Delhi on Pongal. Minister for Communication and Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of State for Communication Shakeel Ahmed and Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

Pongal, one of the most important festivals, particular of the Tamil people, is a thanksgiving ritual for a bountiful harvest which is celebrated with great joy by one and all. This festival follows a solar calendar and is celebrated on the same day each year. The actual festivities of Pongal begin on January 13 and lasts for four days. From an astronomical standpoint, this is an important period because this is the time when the sun enters the Northern Hemisphere. The sun traverses from the Tropic of Capricorn to the Tropic of Cancer via the Equator from January 14 to July 14, and this movement is termed as Uttarayan (summer solstice). The festival also marks the withdrawal of the North East Monsoons.

The first day of the Pongal festival is called Bhogi. The second day is 'Pongal', the most important day, when great importance is given to the Sun. In the early morning, the family members gather outside their houses and cooks sweet rice, known as 'Pongal', in clay pots. The overflowing pot is perceived as an auspicious sign of abundance and prosperity and excites the people to rise a chorus 'Pongal O Pongal'. The celebration of 'Makar Sankranti' in other parts of India coincides with Pongal. The third day is dedicated to cattle and is called Mattu Pongal. The cattle are gaily decorated with beads, bells and flowers - their horns painted and capped with gleaming metals. A cattle procession is taken out and people offer fruits and other goodies to the animals. Kaanum Pongal is the fourth and final day of the festival. Resembling the North Indian festival of Raksha Bandhan, when the sister ties a Rakhi on the wrist of the brother as a token of love and in return for protection, this day also celebrates the bond between siblings. In essence, the festivities of Pongal mark a re-affirmation of traditional values revolving around family and sharing.

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 0.8 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2006, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2006stamps.htm>

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Jan 15: Spear Philex 2006 Philatelic Exhibition

For an illustrated list of army postal service issues in 2006, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk//aps/2006aps.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 9: Hyderabad, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

For an illustrated list of special postmarks and covers in 2006, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2006pm.htm>

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MAHATMA GANDHI MAXIM CARD

Uttaranchal Philatelists Association (UPA), Dehradun issued a picture postcard depicting Mahatma Gandhi at Birla House, Mussoorie in June 1946. The card produced in the limited quantity of 300 was used to create maxim cards with one of the Dandi March stamps and special Mahatma Gandhi postmark provided at Dehradun on October 2, 2005.

For availability and price, please contact the President of UPA Rajesh Varma rajestamps@yahoo.com

View the images at: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2005mc.htm>

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SAHARANPUR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Saharanpur Philatelic Society was held on January 24, 2006 at Sai Sadan Press Street, Saharanpur. The meeting was attended by Arun Bhamri, Sunil Joshi, Pradip Chauhan, Robin Aggarwal, Gunjan Garg, S K Aggarwal, Ashok Kumar Jain, and Sanjay Mehashwari. The next meeting is being scheduled in first week of February 2006.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPEAR PHILEX 2006

The Governor of Nagaland Shyamal Dutta inaugurated a philatelic exhibition at Rangapahar military base, Dimapur on January 15, 2006. A first of its kind at this strategic location, the show marked the Army Day. Army Postal Service issued a special cover and postmark portraying Headquarters 3 corps and its motto, to mark the occasion that was also released by the Governor. General Officer Commanding Lieutenant General Zu Shah released a digital souvenir on the occasion.

Jan 18-24: New Delhi, Vikas Singh's philatelic exhibit on Railways
Venue: Art Gallery, India International Centre Annex, Inauguration 6pm
Contact: Vikas Singh 98994 02297

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 24-22: Chandigarh,

Venue: Sandesh Bhawan, Sector 17, next to Hotel Shivalik View

Program: Day 1- 11am Inauguration followed by Design A Stamp Competition
Day 2- 11am Philatelic Workshop followed by Prize distribution
Contact: Rakesh Walia rakeshwalia@gmail.com

Jan: Kolkata, Army Postal Service

Feb 11-12: Bangalore, Philex-06, 150 frames
Venue: CET Building, 18th Cross, Malleswaram,
Dealer booths are available for Rs 1500
Two special covers will be released

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>

FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Mumbai's Special judge U D Salvi on January 17, 2006 sentenced alleged kingpin, Abdul Karim Telgi and his two associates, Sanjay Gaikwad and Ramratan Soni, to ten years' rigorous imprisonment and also fined them Rs 50,000 each under section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (conspiracy) for their role in selling counterfeit stamps of Rs 1.7 million value to a legal firm here in 1995.

Besides, Telgi was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs 20,000 fine under sections 258 of the IPC (selling counterfeit stamps) and 259 of the IPC (possessing counterfeit stamps). Under section 420 of the IPC (cheating) read with section 511 of the IPC, he was awarded three years. All the sentences would run concurrently.

Besides, Soni was also awarded seven years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs 10,000 fine under section 256 of the IPC (possessing material for counterfeiting). Both sentences would run concurrently.

This is the first conviction of Telgi who is lodged in the Yerwada prison in Pune. This is also the first case in which the trial was conducted through video conferencing by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Telgi faces a string of 48 cases registered against him in various places in the country.

ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

P Krishnan from Coimbatore has contributed a bottom imperf error in the Pongal issue

For the images in color, please visit:
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/1776.htm>

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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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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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@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037  
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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>

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