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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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I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
AVM Stamp Released  
Postal Stationary New Issues  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Blood Donation Camp at Dehradun HPO  
Packaging Cartons at Post Office  
Instant Money Order  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Nepal Program 2006  
New Commemorative Coins  
Errors Freaks & Oddities: Agra Fort Stamps

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

This year completes 150 years of India's Field Post Offices. The first Field Post Office, then called Field Force Post Office, accompanied the Expeditionary Forces to Persia (now Iran) under the command of Major General Sir James Outram. An Indian naval squadron commanded by Commodore Young was also a part of this Force that arrived at Bushire on December 5, 1856 where the Persian Field Force Post Office functioned from December 12, 1856 to October 2, 1857.

This Field Force Post Office's use of postage stamps was the first instance of postage stamps used in Persia. The first stamps issued by Persia were actually in 1875 although stamps were also issued in 1868 but believed to have not been circulated to public, and again in 1870 for a short while and their use was ceased in 1871.

Anglo Persian war was also the last war waged by the East India Company. The East India Company, in the name of the British Government, declared war on Persia on November 1, 1856. This was the third time since 1838, that the interests of the British and the Persians had clashed over the Persian desire to control the City of Herat. Herat, at the entrance to the North-Western frontier of India, was a key prize in 'The Great Game' for imperial dominance of the region between Russia and Britain. Britain viewed Herat as the all-important strategic and logistic gateway to the old Silk Route to India. Persia claimed ancient territorial rights as well as the need to protect the Shia majority population of Herat from its Sunni oppressors. Peace was concluded in the Treaty of Paris on March 4, 1857.

The Field Post Offices have traveled all over world in their long history of 150 years.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shyam Pradhan, Ajit Dash, Abhai Mishra,

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>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jan 29: N M R Subbaraman, Rs 5

Feb 01: 3rd Battalion The Sikh 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>

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AVM STAMP RELEASED

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran, released a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on January 22, 2006 at Chennai in honor of A V Meiyappan Chettiyar the founder of AVM Studios on its Diamond Jubilee. M Karunanidhi was the chief guest for the function held at A V Matriculation School.

Meiyappan was born in Karaikudi, a small town in South India, in 1907. He began work as an apprentice in his father's shop - A V & Sons. A perceptive observer, he soon realized that greater opportunities lay outside his hometown. He opened Saraswathi Stores - an exclusive outlet for gramophone records. He noticed that only classical songs were being sold. So, he released a few records of folk songs and struck gold by winning the rights to distribute records.

His love affair with the silver screen started with the advent of the talkies in the 1930s. He went to Kolkata to produce few movies. His

maiden production Alli Arjuna followed by Ratnavali and Nanda Kumar received a poor response from film-buffs. But he didn't lose heart. He started Pragathy Studios in Chennai in 1940 and produced a few movies like Boo Kailash, Sabapathy, En Manaivi, Harishchandra and Sri Valli.

Following power shortage in Chennai then, Meiyappan set up his own studio at Devakottai Rastha in Karaikudi. A host of movies which set a new trend in Tamil film industry was churned out by AVM from their studio in Karaikudi. In 1948, AVM Studios moved to its present location at Vadapalani. Through A V Meiyappan's efforts, Chennai now boasts of one of the largest studios in South-East Asia.

Not just Tamil, Meiyappan went on to produce movies in Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali and Hindi. It was he who introduced artistes like Sivaji Ganesan, Vyjayanthimala, V K Ramasamy, T R Mahalingam and Kamal Haasan besides a host of directors and music directors.

Other feathers in his cap include the President's award for Hum Panchi Ek Dal Ke, Sabapathy - his maiden directorial venture and Harischandra, the first Indian film, to be dubbed in two languages. Other memorable productions were Parasakthi, Kalathur Kannamma, Kula Deivam, Parthal Pasitheerum, Pachai Vilakku and Server Sundaram.

Not just production and direction, Meiyappan evinced keen interest in film distribution, advertisement and publicity and music. Besides all these, he was a great human being and his contribution to the welfare of his employees was remarkable.

Though Meiyappan breathed his last in 1979, his AVM Productions, which is stepping into its 60th year, is following his footsteps.

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.

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

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POSTAL STATIONARY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement was scheduled for release in February 2006. There were no issues scheduled for release in December 2005 and January 2006.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:
Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks
'M' denotes multicolor printing and in case of single color, the color of the ad is mentioned in parenthesis if different than the color of regular printing.

Inland Letter Card

09: Tamil, SPP, Tamil Mercantile Bank, 1, (Green)

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

2005

May 26: Berhampur, Rotary Club of Berhampur Golden Jubilee

Oct 22-23: Dhenkanal, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers  
Dec 5: Cuttack, Rotary Club of Cuttack, Diamond Jubilee

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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BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT DEHRADUN HPO

Sudarshan Agarwal, the Governor of Uttaranchal inaugurated a blood donation camp at Dehradun Head Post Office on January 7, 2006. An advertisement post mark was used on this occasion on all mails handled.

For the image please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/ad.htm>

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PACKAGING CARTONS AT POST OFFICE

Delhi Circle of India Post recently introduced sale of cartons for packaging at select post offices. The cartons do not carry any printed design or inscription. These heavy duty cartons are available in four sizes and are priced at Rs 23, 30, 51, and 72.

Karnataka Circle of India Post has recently added colorful parcel boxes in two sizes, 25x16cm priced at Rs 17 and 15x12cm priced at Rs 10, to the existing range of white carton boxes. These are expected to be popular during festivals.

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INSTANT MONEY ORDER

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communication and Information Technology launched the Instant Money Order (iMO) service on January 20, 2006 at Chennai.

The service allows transfer of funds within India from Rs 1,000 to Rs 50,000 within a few minutes. After booking the iMO the post office immediately will give a printed receipt with computer generated confidential 16 digit iMO number in a sealed condition that will not even be known to the booking clerk. Customer is required to tear off the seal and convey the confidential 16 digit iMO number to the receiver over phone, SMS, e-mail, etc. at his means and risk.

Receiver is required to present this iMO number at any designated iMO post office counter in a form along with a copy of his personal photo identity proof. Instant cash payment will made for the amount below Rs 20,000 and higher amounts will be paid by cheque as per the Reserve Bank of India rules in this regard. The payment may also be made through receiver's post office savings bank account in the same iMO office.

The sender may also choose from the 16 standardized messages to be sent along with the money at no extra charge. The cost of funds transfer varies from Rs 150 to Rs 330 depending on the amount to be sent.

The iMO service is initially available at select 24 post offices in 11 cities - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Madhubani, Mumbai, Patna, and Surat.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jan 10-11: Valsad, District Philatelic Exhibition

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

Feb 4-5: Hoshangabad, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 1-15: New Delhi, Railways through Stamps  
Venue: Rail Museum, Chanakyapuri

Feb 11-12: Bangalore, Philex-06, District Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Common Entrance Test Cell Building, 18th Cross, Malleswaram  
Contact: 0 80-23324751  
Dealer booths are available for Rs 1500  
Two special covers will be released

Feb 11-12: Udupi,  
Venue: Haridwara Auditorium, Hotel Kediyoor,  
Organizers: Dakshina Kannada Philatelic and Numismatics Association  
Contact: Sudhakar Devadiga, Office of the superintendent of posts, Head  
Post Office, Udupi or President DKPNA 99452 71614

Feb 16-17: New Delhi, West Delhi District Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Rail Museum, Chanakyapuri

Feb: Hyderabad, Army Postal Service

Mar: Kamptee, Army Postal Service

For a list of exhibitions in 2006, 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 PROGRAM 2006

Feb: Late King Tribhuvan & National Democracy Day, Rs5  
Mar: Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, International Women's  
Day, Rs5  
Apr: 125<sup>th</sup> Year of Nepal Postage Stamp, Rs100  
Apr: Silver Jubilee of World Hindu Federation, Rs5  
May: Golden Jubilee of Mount Manaslu, Rs25  
May: Golden Jubilee Of Mount Lhotse, Rs25  
May: Bio Diversity Series, a) R Kathmanduensis Adhikari, b) Primula  
Sharmae Fletcher, c), d)  
Jun: Golden Jubilee of Royal Nepal Academy, Rs2  
Jul: Birthday Series of King Gyanendra, Rs5  
Jul: Golden Jubilee of the Diplomatic Relations with Russia, Rs30  
Jul: Golden Jubilee of the Diplomatic Relations with Japan, Rs30  
Aug: Queen Mother & National Children's Day, Rs5  
Oct: Golden Jubilee of Nepal's Membership in UPU, Rs15  
Nov: Visit Nepal Series a) Mustang b) Pokhara c) Trekking in Nepal, Rs20  
each  
Nov: Mode Of Transport Series, A) Train B) Aeroplane C) Twine D) Cable  
Car, Rs10 each  
Dec: Late King Mahendra, Rs5  
Jan 2007: Great King Prithivi Narayan Shah, Rs10

#### NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Commemorative coins to mark the 75 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March  
are being issued and India Government Mint Mumbai is booking orders for  
them. There are two coins in the set in the denomination of Rs 5 and Rs  
100. The Rs 5 coin is circular with security edges, weighs 9 grams and  
is 23 mm in diameter. It consists of Copper 75% and Nickel 25%. The Rs  
100 coin is also circular, weighs 35 grams and is 44 mm in diameter. It

consists of quaternary alloy that is Silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5%, and Zinc 5%.

The Proof Coins set of 2 coins is priced at Rs 1000 per set and the Uncirculated Coins set of 2 coins is priced Rs 600 per set. These prices are subject to VAT at 12.5% as well as the Packing, Forwarding and Postage Charges. The last date of booking is May 31, 2006. The order forms along with necessary details are available at [www.mumbaimint.org](http://www.mumbaimint.org)

The Government of India has four mints at Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and NOIDA that produce coins for use of the public. Apart from minting coins, the Government mints at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad also make Coin Blanks and have the gold assaying facilities. In addition the Mumbai Mint produces standardized weights and measures. The Kolkata Mint has facilities for making medallions also. The Commemorative coins are made at Mumbai and Kolkata.

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES: Agra Fort Stamps

Akhilesh Arka from Bangalore has contributed an interesting perforation shift error in the Agra Fort issue

For the images in color, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/1719-1720.htm>
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#### FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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- 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.  
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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

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

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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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