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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

Stamps of India group of websites are being migrated to a better  
platform. This involves lots of behind the scene work and also fewer  
updates during this week.

We also take this opportunity to reaffirm that if you receive an email  
in our name with an attachment, then please delete it immediately and do  
not click open the attachment in any case. We will NEVER send you mail  
with an attachment. The mails in our name with attachments are not sent  
by us.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abhai Mishra,  
and Mainak Kathiara

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

There is no official announcement for the next issue, but it is likely that a set of 4 stamps, Rs 5 each, to commemorate the President's Review of Fleet probably be issued on February 12, 2006

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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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

N M R SUBBARAMAN

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran, released a postage stamp to commemorate the birth centenary of N M R Subbaraman on January 29, 2006 at Madurai in the denomination of Rs 5.

Subbaraman was born on August 14, 1905 at Madurai. He was an aedent follower of Mahatma Gandhi and chose to join freedom struggle in place of going to London for higher studies in 1922.

Widely admired as 'Madurai Gandhi', he participated in all Satyagraha Movements and courted imprisonment along with his wife for about five years. He held positions like Chairman of the Madurai Municipality, Member of then Madras Legislative Assembly before and after Independence. He was also elected to the Lok Sabha from Madurai Constituency.

Uplifting the lives of Harijans was a work dear to his heart. His work among Harijans to bring them into the main stream of socio-political life is legendary. Through Tamil Nadu Harijans Sevak Sangh, a unit of all India Harijans Sevak Sangh founded by Mahatma Gandhi, Subbaraman was instrumental in establishing a chain of Harijan Hostels.

Subbaraman was deeply involved in Bhoodan Movement started by Vinoba Bhave and donated 100 acres of his fertile land. He was instrumental in establishing the first Gandhi Museum in the country at Madurai.

Sankha Samanta 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 0.6 million.

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

### 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION THE SIKH REGIMENT

India Post released a postage stamp to commemorate 150 years of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Sikh Regiment on February 1, 2008 in the denomination of Rs 5.

The Battalion was raised as the Bengal Military Police Battalion by Captain Thomas Rattray on January 31, 1656 at Lahore (now in Pakistan) where a number of ex-soldiers of the old Sikh Army, who had earlier fought the British, were available. In 1856 it was renamed as 1<sup>st</sup> Bengal Military Police Battalion. In 1864 it was designated 45<sup>th</sup> (Rattray's Sikhs) Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry. In 1885 the Bengal Native Infantry was re-designated as Bengal Infantry. In 1901 it was renamed 45<sup>th</sup> Rattray's Sikh Infantry and again in 1903 as 45<sup>th</sup> Rattray's Sikhs. In 1922 it was incorporated as 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of 11<sup>th</sup> Sikh Regiment. In 1945 the 11<sup>th</sup> Sikh Regiment was renamed as The Sikh Regiment.

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.

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

#### NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:  
Anti Tobacco, Hindi

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

#### RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Feb 4: Tiruchirappalli, Bharathidasan University Silver Jubilee

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

#### UNGUMMED DEFINITIVE STAMPS

The first stamp of the 9<sup>th</sup> definitive series was on 'International Year of Physics 2005' and was issued on March 31, 2005. This was a strange choice for a definitive that remains in print and in use for several years. Perhaps it should have been designated as Special Definitive. Even more strangely the stamp was issued without gum. Some philatelists remarked that it may have been India Post's tribute to the first stamps of India which issued without gum on their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Since then, in the ensuing one year, all definitive stamps were issued without gum or so it seems and nothing seems strange anymore. So far we have recorded following values in 8<sup>th</sup> definitive series: 25p, 50p, Re1, Rs 2, Rs 4, Rs 5, Rs 10, and Rs20 and in the special definitive series: Re1, and Rs2. This leaves out Rs 3, Rs 15, and Rs 50 in 8<sup>th</sup> definitive series and Rs 3 in the special definitive.

This not only added an ungummed variety to the definitive stamps but also added a new kind of collectible - the packing label of the pack of 200 sheets. India Security Press Nashik that exclusively prints the definitive stamps prominently states the ungummed status.

For images please visit

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

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SPEED POST GOLD

India Post launched 'Speed Post Gold' service between Delhi and Mumbai on February 1, 2006 that assures next day forenoon delivery for articles booked before 6 pm for selected delivery areas. This service was originally named 'Premium Post' but was renamed 'Speed Post Gold' to leverage the brand goodwill of Speed Post.

The tariff is Rs 100 up to 200 grams, Rs 120 between 201 and 500 grams and Rs 40 for every additional 500 grams or part thereof.

The booking is available at 8 post offices at Delhi - Speed Post Centre (Market Road), Connaught Place, Indraprastha HPO, Lodi Road HPO, Sansad Marg HPO, New Delhi HPO, Karol Bagh, and Nirman Bhawan and 6 post offices at Mumbai - Mumbai GPO, Ville Parle DMC, Mumbai Central HPO, Delisle Road, Parel, and Malad West.

The articles will be accepted for delivery in the following delivery areas in Mumbai - Mumbai GPO 400001, Kalba Devi 400002, Girgaon 400004, Colaba 400005, Marine Drive 400020, Nariman Point 400021, Mantralaya 400032; and in Delhi - New Delhi HPO 110001, Indraprastha HPO 110002, Lodi Road HPO 110003, Karol Bagh 110005, and Nirman Bhawan 110011.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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>

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MALDIVES NEW ISSUES

Nov. 15, 2005: Elvis Presley 70<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary, 2 sheetlets of 6 stamps, Rs7 each

THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for February 2006 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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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The advertising is FREE for the subscribers of the Stamps of India Collectors Companion. Send in your ad, today.

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2. Maximum 5 Lines, up to 64 characters per line.  
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Collector from New Delhi - Collecting British India Mint stamps and also Stamps of Conventional & Feudatory states looking for good collection, interested in High Value items also. Please contact [ravisomani@gmail.com](mailto:ravisomani@gmail.com)

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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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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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