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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

The Two Sizes of President's Review of Fleet Stamps  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Stamps Released  
New Meghdoot Postcards  
Postal Stationery New Issue  
Army Postal Service Issues  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
New Web Sites  
Errors Freaks & Oddities: President's Review of Fleet  
Readers Forum - Ranjit Singh

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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

Couple of years ago almost all definitive issues were available in  
sheets partly or completely imperforated. These were found at post  
offices all over India.

Last year almost all definitive issues were made available on un gummed  
paper.

And now, there is much larger than usual number of black color and  
yellow color missing errors surfacing in almost all commemorative  
issues.

The reason in our opinion is prevalent negligence in quality control at  
the printers and inaction on the part of India Post who should have  
taken the printers to the task.

There are some who believe that the larger number of errors reflect  
growing awareness of philately in India.

What do you think? Please do share your thoughts with other readers.

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

- M&SJ

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

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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THE TWO SIZES OF PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF FLEET STAMPS

India Post released a set of four postage stamps to commemorate  
President's Review of Fleet at Visakhapatnam on February 12, 2006 in the  
denomination of Rs 5 each. India Security Press printed the stamps in  
sheets of 16 stamps that is 4 se-tenant blocks by Photo Gravure in the  
quantity of 0.8 million blocks.

The stamps are printed 4 x 4 and the vertical row 1 and 4 are 54 mm in  
width while vertical row 2 and 3 are only 52.5 mm. As the stamps in  
vertical row 1 and 3 (also row 2 and 4) are identical this results in  
two size for all the four stamps. While overall block size remains same  
in all cases, the individual stamps differ in size with the horizontally  
adjacent block.

This is not an error or freak but is a major constant variety that  
merits a listing in catalogs.

With the information available to us while writing this we do not think  
that it is a new security measure introduced.

View the images at

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

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Feb 24: St. Bedes College Shimla, Rs 5  
Feb 25: Gemini Ganesan, Rs 5  
Feb 27: Don Bosco Salesians in India, 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/stamps/2006stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

The Communications and Information Technology Minister Dayanidhi Maran released commemorative postage stamps on four legendary Tamil scholars on February 18, 2006 at a special function at Chennai in the denomination of Rs 5 each. DMK President M Karunanidhi presided over the function.

#### THIRUMURUGA KIRUBANANDA VARIYAR

Thirumuruga Kirubananda Variyar was a legendary thinker and scholar who was born on August 25, 1906. He had special interest in the teaching of Vallalar and founded the journal, Tiruppugashamirtham. Kirubananda Variyar was the walking encyclopaedia of Saivites Sidhanta and was revered by his followers as another Nayanar of this age.

Sankha Samanta designed the Stamps 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 0.4 million in sheets of 56.

#### DEVANEYA PAVANAR

Devaneyya Pavanar, born on February 7, 1902, was prominent in the annals of 20th century Tamil literature. He wrote over 35 books, which provided insight into variety of facts and highlighted the significant contributions made by various literary stalwarts. His masterpieces included Oppiyal Mozhi Nool and Verchol Katturaigal. Pavanar composed some noteworthy poems, including the collection of 'Venpa.' He was conferred 'Senthamizh Selvar' title by the state government in 1979.

Sankha Samanta designed the Stamps 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 0.4 million in sheets of 56.

#### DR U V SWAMINATHA IYER

Dr U V Swaminatha Iyer, popularly known as 'Tamizh Thattha,' was born on February 19, 1855. He served as a college lecturer and did extensive research work in Tamil and made outstanding contributions to the enriching of the Tamil language. He published Perunkathai, an epic of considerable literary merit.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps 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 0.4 million in sheets of 35.

#### TAMILAVEL UMAMEHESWARAR

The great Tamil scholar, Tamilavel Umamaheshwarar, born on May 7, 1883, was known for his unquestionable honesty and integrity. He advocated upgradation of Tamil language by incorporating certain elements of other languages and his efforts resulted in the founding of Karanthai Tamil Sangam, which was instrumental in the revival of Tamil as a medium of literary expression. Umamageshwarar was a proficient orator both in English and Tamil and served as editor of literary magazine 'Tamil Pozhil' in the year 1925, which is still in circulation.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps 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 0.4 million in sheets of 35.

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

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Education for all 1, Marathi  
Education for all 2, Marathi  
Right of A Girl Child, Punjabi  
Kirloskar Oil Engine Spares, Hindi

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

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUE

The following postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in March 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 with advertisement  
Mar 13: English, SPP, BOB Card, 2 (Orange)

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

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Jan 31: Bombay Sappers Reunion  
Feb 13: Corps of Signals, 13<sup>th</sup> Reunion

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

2005

Dec 28: Bangalore, Ramana Maharishi 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Year Celebrations

2006

Jan 01: Amravati, Kalachakra 2006

Feb 11-12: Bangalore, Philex District Philatelic Exhibition

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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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 21-22: Lucknow, LUPHILEX, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 23-25: New Delhi, South West Delhi District Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Rail Museum, Chanakyapuri

Feb 24-26: Nagarcovil, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb: Hyderabad, Army Postal Service

Mar 10-12: Mumbai, STAMCO 2006 7<sup>th</sup> Coin Stamp Bank Note Exhibition  
Venue: Lakhamshi Napoo Hall, L Napoo Road, Near Matunga C R Station,  
Matunga  
Dealers' booths available at Rs 3000  
Contact: Suketu Jhaveri 0 98201 99714

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>

#### NEW WEB SITES

##### INDIAN ANTRACTICA

Abhai Mishra had created a website for Indian Antarctic  
Expeditions at [www.geocities.com/indian\\_antarctica/](http://www.geocities.com/indian_antarctica/) and had uploaded  
quite a few scans of Antarctic covers. Mishra invites Comments, views,  
scans from all, for making this site more comprehensive.

##### PHILATELIC HOLOGRAMS

Rohit Jain has launched a website on hologram issues of the world at  
[www.freewebs.com/hologramstamps/index.htm/](http://www.freewebs.com/hologramstamps/index.htm/). This website contains a  
detailed chronological list of all hologram stamps till date and the  
links for images have been provided wherever possible.  
It is useful for all the hologram collectors worldwide. Jain seeks  
comments, suggestions, corrections, and contributions.

##### ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES: PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF FLEET

Rajesh Agarwala from New Delhi has contributed Black Color Missing error  
in the President's Review of Fleet issue.

For the images in color, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/1780.htm>

#### 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.  
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5. Stamps of India does not endorse any advertiser and can not be held  
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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.>

RANJIT SINGH, New Delhi

It has been observed that India post has been issuing stamps on personalities mostly from South India during the past three months. Presumably because the minister concerned happens to be from the region.

India has issued stamps on almost all the ministers in India's first Cabinet of Nehru but there has been no stamp issued on Sardar Baldev Singh who was India's first defence minister. Two stamps were issued on Krishna Menon, a defence minister later on.

Even after lot of campaigning and requests, important centenaries are conveniently ignored by the India Post or so called Advisory Committees. What happened to Guru Granth Sahib Stamp, nobody knows or answers. Kamagatamaru, a great event in Indian history of freedom fighting has never been commemorated. On the other hand we have plenty of stamps on just simple anniversaries or "relations of ministers."

This year again is an important year in Sikh history. It is 400 years of martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev ji who compiled and edited Guru Granth Sahib but here is no mention of this event in the program for the issue of stamps. Nepal, is the only country in the world which commemorated 400 years of Guru Granth Sahib by issuing a special cancellation AND AN OFFICIAL COIN. India post did nothing.

Surely Great men must be honored but this biased policy of the India Post against North India is not understood.

Interestingly nobody knows here at the philatelic bureaus as to what and when is the new stamp to be released?

There is another unhealthy trend in philately being observed. Quite a number of stamps are released in Delhi after the closing hours of the post office and on Sundays, when FDCs can neither be posted nor registered.

Thefts and pilferages in foreign incoming mails are now common. It will be better if the India Post concentrates on quality of service.

Moreover the so called local stamp exhibitions or district level exhibitions are simply a "farce" in many cases.

There are a dozen other points that need consideration.

I request India Post to promote philately and not kill it as is being done now.

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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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