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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

ESPANA 06 World Philatelic Exhibition  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Stamps Released  
Postal Stationery Updates  
New Meghdoot Postcards  
India Se-tenant Stamps Combinations  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Sri Lanka New Issues  
Maldives New Issues  
Errors Freaks & Oddities: Letter Box MS  
Quality Aspects of Indian Commemorative Stamps  
Readers Forum - Akshay Borad, Bimal Trivedi, Akhilesh Arka, and Frank J  
Bradshaw  
More Indians Investing In Rare Stamps

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

March began on a positive note, and it has once again become possible  
for the exhibitors in India to participate in an international  
exhibition. The first opportunity is in ESPANA 06 World Philatelic  
Exhibition. The details of the exhibition are given later in this issue.

So now is the time to take out your exhibits and update them so that you  
can put your best exhibit forward in the forthcoming world philatelic  
exhibitions.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue:

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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ESPANA 06 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The World Philatelic Exhibition ESPAÑA 06 will be held in Malaga from October 7 to 13, 2006. It is a FIP patronized General World exhibition with participation open to all competitive classes viz. Championship Class, Traditional Philately, Revenue, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic Philately, Maximaphily, Youth Philately, and Literature. In addition it will also accept entries in the Open Class and One Frame Class that are currently being provided by FIP on an experimental basis.

The Entry fees are 30 Euros per frame for all classes except in Literature Class it is 30 Euros per exhibit and entries in Youth Philately are free of charge. The last date for sending the entry forms to the national commissioner is March 23, 2006.

The time is short, and to expedite and facilitate participation, the Entry Forms and IREX of ESPAÑA 06 are available at http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/espana_06.htm

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Mar 15: World Consumer Rights Day,

This issue 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

India Post issued a commemorative postage stamp in honor of M Singaravelar, a labor union leader and freedom fighter on March 2, 2006 in the denomination of Rupees five.

Singaravelar was born on February 18, 1860. He was practicing as a lawyer at Madras High Court when he came in contact with great poet and freedom fighter Subramaniam Bharti, V O Chidambaram and others.

Singaravelar was instrumental in spreading the Communist Movement in India and the May Day celebration in the country. Responding to Mahatma Gandhi's call for non-cooperation he gave up his practice and devoted himself to the cause of freedom movement. He was also a prolific writer on various subjects.

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 35.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATES

New Arrivals:

Nov 3, 2005: Post Card with advertisement, in Telugu, P N D T Act, 1 million, Security Printing Press, in Sheets of 8

For a list of Post Cards in 2005, please visit

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

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Sri Venkateswara Swami Vari Devasthanam, Dwaraka Tirumala, Telugu
BSNL, English

Total Cleanliness, Tamil

Polio Drops, Hindi

Free Inoculation, Hindi

Education for all, Hindi

Total Cleanliness, Hindi

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

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INDIA SE-TENANT STAMPS COMBINATIONS

Shrikant Parikh of Ahmedabad has painstakingly worked out a listing of all se-tenant stamps of India in all possible combinations in pairs both vertical and horizontal, strips of 3, and in blocks of 4 stamps. He has listed 77 issues including miniature sheets.

This wonderful work will soon be available at [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com)

We hope his work will be found useful by fellow philatelists and inspire them to take up useful projects with similar scope of research. Indian philately needs such innovative research to inculcate this hobby amongst more and more persons.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mar 10-12: Mumbai, STAMCO 2006 7th 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>

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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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SRI LANKA NEW ISSUES

2005

Sep 12: Postal Headquarters
Oct 1: National Seminary
Oct 11: Sir John Kotalawla Defence Academy, Rs 5

MALDIVES NEW ISSUES

Jan 17: Elvis Presley 70th Birth Anniversary, Rufiya 85, gold-foil souvenir sheet

ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

Pradeep Agarwal of Patna has contributed a spectacular misplaced perforations error in the Letter box miniature sheet issued in 2005.

For the images in color, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/ms33.htm>

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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VIEWS & OPINIONS

QUALITY ASPECTS OF INDIAN COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POST, JULY 2005 TO NOVEMBER 2005
By P R Krishnan, Coimbatore

When the request came from the department of Posts seeking collectors opinion on the Quality, Design of the commemorative stamps issued between June 2005 to November 2005, the following points came to my mind and hope these points will help the department to improve the quality.

1. The quality of printing of postage stamps must be improved since the usage of color combination and selection of colors for most of the issues are flat. For Foreigners when they think of India, they associate our country with bright colors and unfortunately the colors used do not match the expectation most of the times. We have to use some bright color combination for our stamps.

2. The major problem is with the CONSISTENCY OF COLOR. For example take Abdul Qaiyum Ansari stamp, this stamp is a straight forward personality issue. In this issue a collector get confused to identify the correct color shade of the stamp since one can see two to three different shades in this issue. With one group more of magenta shade and another with blue shade. The quantity of this issue is just 4.00 lakhs (approximately 11500 sheets). Is it difficult to maintain color consistency for this quantity while printing the stamps with so much technology available now? I am sure the machine used in ISP will have color eye with which these kinds of mistakes can be avoided. I would

like to point out here the definitive stamps printed every month in the same ISP are able to maintain color consistency for huge quantities of stamps. Why cannot they fail to maintain the consistency of color for the commemorative issues!!

3. The noticeable point is REGISTRATION. Most of the stamps issued in India, the design are less intricate. In spite of the easy photogravure design the registration during printing is poor mainly due to displacement of color or shift. This is very conspicuous - the print guide appears in the sheet above the traffic light is shifted and so also the color dots of the traffic light. This aspect is purely due to mechanical settings of the machine during the printing - Is it too difficult for ISP to correct these settings during printing?

4. The next point is the SIZE. Today India post, the designers and every one involved in a issue of stamp are aware of the Federation of International Philately rules in respect to size of album sheets. Some of the issues especially the miniature sheets are oversized which overshoots the album page posing problem to the collectors during the exhibition. India Post must standardize the size of stamps, miniature sheets and FDCs to a maximum of 4 sizes but within the overall size of the album sheet permitted by FIP.

5. Another important point is ERROR. Every stamps collector is happy to see and posses a stamp with error. This helps the collector to increase the value of his collection and also win over the other collectors when exhibited. Now a days due to bad quality control at ISP every issues are flooded with major errors such as color omission, imperforation, miss-perforation, color shifts, dry prints etc. This aspect, instead of giving happiness to the collectors, makes them feel sad as it speaks very bad on Indian stamps in the international arena. The errors were found nil or very less when private printers printed the stamps during 1992 to 2002.

6. When we compare the quality of stamp issues that of our neighboring countries viz. As Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka etc the production of stamps are more Colorful and attractive. More and more collectors are interested to collect these countries because of the beauty of the stamps. We must use some foreign designers help for the layout and design of the stamps. The extra cost can be easily met by space selling in the sheet by adding "tabs" to some of the leading advertisers.

7. The other point QUANTITY. Now the India post standardized the quantity for each issue. However the quantity fixed for the miniature sheet 2 lakhs per issue is too high. The department should issue miniature sheets maximum of 1 lakh per issue. Issues of Agra Fort and Letter Box were printed 2 lakhs and the same are still available unsold in most of the philatelic bureaus in India.

8. The Department of Post can follow 3 tier of stamp issues viz:

1. Personality issues
2. India Theme and events
3. International Themes and events

Every year Government of India confers awards and honour men of repute during Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. The same way India Post can group all the personality issues during these two important days may be 10 stamps each during Independence Day and Republic Day.

The India theme and International theme and events can be scheduled according to the date of the respective events. This way India Post can full fill the long desire of the collectors for the issue stamps as per the schedule.

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

AKSHAY BORAD, Bangalore

First of all I want to congratulate you for this beautiful web site and your effort to make Indian philatelic scene more attractive and colorful.

I had started collecting stamps in my school days in late 70s like many of my other friends. But I quit collecting it after several years again as many of my friends left this hobby, now after many years this hobby attracted me once again and I came in touch with many collectors and philatelic bureau, and came to know very sorry state of Indian philatelic scene.

First of all I came across not so friendly staff of philately bureau, who are eager to go for their lunch 15 minutes prior and close their a/c by 4.30 than helping the collectors, and other than that I came to know that there is no prior fixed programme for the stamps release in India, and their collectors pack for 2004 is not released up to now, compared to that many other countries are selling their collectors packs and yearly presentation books for 2005, on beautiful web sites.

And most of the philatelic clubs in India are not that much active. I hardly can see any passion in young children for philately these days.

But still I want to pursue this hobby and hope for some improvements in the future.

I want to congratulate you once again for this excellent detailed web site.

BIMAL TRIVEDI

Apropos to various email I read in your newsletter recently, I give below my impressions:

1) As you look into the very recent past - up to 2003, the stamps issued by India Post were by and large better - quality wise, theme wise and aesthetic. e.g., there were plenty of beautiful and artistic stamps on various subjects, themes, joint-issues which were cut above the rest, or to speak at least at part with other countries' stamps issues. to name a few, aero India, Indo Japan, Indo Korea, Indo-French joint issues, mangroves, personalities like Raj Kapur, V Shantaram, Shivaji Ganeshan, Prabodhankar Thakre, or Sangit Natak Academy, Doon Railway, 150 years of Railways and many more.

2) The stamp department is least bothered about themes. Particular personalities of particular areas are given priority. What I learnt from the sources that the requests for printing personality stamps are so overwhelming that the issue calendar is just ignored under pressure. as far as ISP is concerned, the requests of issuing out of turn stamps is so overwhelming that the thematic stamps designs' proofs are not made adequately and are approved in haste to keep the dates.

AKHILESH ARKA, Bangalore

With reference to your editorial on the printing of stamps by India Security Printers (ISP), I think one of the reasons for bad quality printing is due to the fact that the printing is done by Gravure process. Because of this, the design reproduction is very bad. Its not that printing is always bad with Gravure as the gems of post-independence India (Gandhi set of 1948) were printed by this process. Even De La Rue has produced some hi-quality stamps by the Gravure printing process. It's just that the procedure for this process is not being followed properly by ISP.

The Gravure printing quality of ISP could be illustrated better if we compare the stamps printed by Madras Security Printers (MSP) and Calcutta Security Printers (CSP)-both of whom print by Offset process. Stamps printed by CSP were far more superior in terms of printing quality as well as quality control. Not many errors can be found on a stamp printed by CSP.

Even the perforations process used by ISP is primitive. Due to usage of "Line perforations" there is no synchronization of the horizontal and the vertical perforations. Because of this, many times the horizontal or the vertical perforations are either missing or are not aligned. "Comb perforations" are used by both MSP & CSP.

Of late, what we see from ISP is bad quality reproduction of some vague portrait and with dull color combinations (most of the time the stamp is printed in a single or a dual color). In the process, the department is only catering to the concerned minister! Is it a coincidence most of the recent personality stamps belong to Tamilnadu?

FRANK J BRADSHAW

As a long standing collector of India, it is with dismay that I note the poor quality of the current printing standard, as compared with the stamps of the UK. There are also too many commemoratives of completely unknown people which are of little interest and of no educational value. Political payback time should have no place in the Post Office. I hope that as a respected organisation you make your views known to the minister concerned!

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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>

Times of India, March 6, 2006  
MORE INDIANS INVESTING IN RARE STAMPS  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1439309.cms>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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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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