

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

Issue # 273 - Jun 8, 2006. Published Every Thursday
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.stampsfindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

This week we have further updated the AIDS list and Year Packs at  
[www.stampsfindia.com](http://www.stampsfindia.com).

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shyaam N  
Pradhan, and S K Biswas

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

#### KURINJI PACK

India Post's Philatelic Bureau at Calicut issued a special pack for the Kurinji issue. This well produced and attractive pack contains a block of 4 stamps, a single stamp with first day of issue pictorial postmark, and a maxim card with stamp and postmark. The pack is priced at Rs 120 and is produced in the limited number of 300.

This is the first maxim card issued by India Post that is in accordance with FIP rules. It would have been very nice if the card was available on its own.

For images, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/misc-packs.htm>

#### FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jun 15: Sri Pratap College Srinagar, Rs 5

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>

#### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

##### RAIN WATER HARVESTING

India Post released a postage stamp on Rainwater Harvesting on June 5, 2006 in the denomination of Rs 5.

Water covers about 3/4 of the earth's surface, but only about 2% is fresh water, and a larger portion of it is polar ice. Less than 1% of the world's water is available in the form of rivers, ponds and lakes for human use. Urbanization and ever increasing population is contaminating the water bodies making them unfit for use. Excessive tapping of ground water through has led to a decline of the water table.

Rain Water Harvesting is a way to capture the rain water when it rains, store that water above ground or charge the underground and use it later. This happens naturally in open rural areas. But in congested, over-paved metropolitan cities, there is a need to create methods to capture the rain water.

Rainwater harvesting is one of the cheapest methods of meeting demand for water. Rainwater can be harvested to provide water for drinking as well as for irrigation. Rainwater harvesting can also help in decreasing floods and clogging of drainage pipes.

In India, rainwater harvesting is an ancient tradition. From as far back as 4500 BC, the simplest of earthworks in Thar Desert and Rajasthan, would harvest water from the falling rain.

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 3 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2006, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2006stamps.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jun 3: Secunderabad, 200 years of Secunderabad

Jun 5: Siliguri, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

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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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

A new forum for philatelic and numismatic dealers was formed in the name of the South India Philatelic and Numismatic Dealers Association

(SIPNDA) with the following aims and objectives:

- a) To develop unity, strength and integrity.
- b) To have mutual understanding and co-operation.
- c) To protect the interest of the members.
- d) To promote the noble hobby among collectors.

It now consists of 35 members.

An exhibition was organized last year to signify the commencement of the association. A large number of collectors visited the exhibition which was widely covered by all leading newspapers and TV.

To mark the anniversary of SIPNDA, a state level competitive exhibition for stamps and coins NUPHILEX will be held from June 29 to July 2, 2006 at Chennai. The venue is situated in the heart of the town at The Good Shepherd Hall (between Valluvar Kottam and Hotel Palmgrove) 82 Kodambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 34. 40 dealers, including 2 dealers from overseas, have already confirmed their participation, which is expected to go up to 60.

30 plus 20 entries have been received for stamps and coins respectively so far. A quiz program for stamps, an audio visual program for South Indian coins, a drawing competition for students, a lecture on coins and identification and evaluation of coins will also be organized during the event.

Those who are interested in participating may contact A V Jeyachandran, General Secretary SIPNDA, 16 Chetty Street, Pondicherry -1

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INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS ABROAD

Washington 2006 world philatelic exhibition was held from May 27 to June 3, 2006 at Washington DC, USA. Acclaimed by collectors and dealers alike as a wonderful success, the show owes its achievements to its committee and volunteers--and to the tens of thousands of stamp collectors who attended.

There were four literature exhibits from India in the exhibition. Following is the awards won:

Vermeil Medal

Pradip Jain, Indian Airmails--Development and Operation, 1911-1942

Silver Medal

Surendra Kotadia, Indian Airmail Letter Cards With Advertisement & Sloga

Surendra Kotadia, Indian Inland Letter Cards With Advertisement & Slogan

Surendra Kotadia, Indian Inland Post Cards With Advertisement & Slogan

Other exhibits of India interest at the show were:

Large Gold Medal

Muhammad Arif Balgamwala (Pakistan), British Indian Airmails 1911-1936

Gold Medal

Manfred Dreyer (Germany), Indian Ocean Routes Connecting with the Overland Mail Suez-Alexandria 1838-1888 to European Destinations

Hasse Brockenhuus von Löwenhielm (Sweden), Jaipur State

Akihiko Koiwa (Japan), Indian Campaigns

Large Vermeil Medal

Stanley Blatt (UK), Indian Government Fiscal and Judicial Stamps and Stamp Papers (Literature Class)

Steven Zwillinger (USA), Indian One-Half Anna Envelopes of 1902 and 1907

Vermeil Medal

Khaled Abdul Mughni(UAE), Kuwait Postal History Under Indian Postal Administration

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LUDHIANA PHILATELIC CLUB

Ludhiana Philatelic Club elected the following on May 14, 2006 for the term 2006-2008:

President - Yashpal Bangia, Senior Vice President - Professor T R Bhatia, Vice President - Rajpaul Oswal, General Secretary - Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Joint secretary - Vishal Bangia, Finance Secretary - Suresh Jain, Executive Members - Dr S K Sondhi, Dr R L Bansal, Mukesh Malhotra, Narinder Pal Singh, Dr Sanjeev Mehra, Suraj Jaitly, Vinod Talwar (Sangrur), Naresh Pahwa (Jullundaur), Madhukar Jhingan (New Delhi), and Vijay Aggarwal.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jun 29- Jul 2: NUPHILEX State Level by South India Philatelic and Numismatic Dealers Association (SIPNDA)

Venue: The Good Shepherd Hall (between Valluvar Kottam and Hotel Palmgrove) 82 Kodambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 34

Contact: A V Jeyachandran, Gen Sec SIPNDA, collexons@yahoo.co.in
16 Chetty Street, Pondicherry -1

Oct 14-16: ORPEX-06, 8th State level Philatelic Exhibition of Orissa

Venue: Bhanja Bhawan, Rourkela

Contact:

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

GPA NEWS, May 2006

Editor: Ilyas Patel

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association

Address: C/o M/s D Desai & Co., 1/M National Chambers, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009

Annual Subscription including Membership: Rs 200

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

06 April: World Hindu Federation Silver Jubilee, Rs 2
09 May: First Ascent Of Mount Manasalu Golden Jubilee, Rs 25
09 May: First Ascent Of Mount Lhotse Golden Jubilee, Rs 25
21 May: Supreme Court Golden Jubilee, Rs 5

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ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

Rajesh Varma of Dehradun contributed some very interesting color shifting errors, all color control marks, in the Flora & Fauna of North East issue of 2005.

For images, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/200506.htm>

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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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

CUSTOMIZED POSTAGE GOES COMMERCIAL

US Postal Service expands popular personalized postage for businesses

Businesses across the USA now have one more way to literally send a message about their company and products with the expansion of the US Postal Service's popular customized postage program.

Customized postage allows a customer to personalize postage with pictures or images using Customized PC Postage technology. The USPS on May 16, 2006 signed contracts with three qualified PC Postage vendors

able to produce customized postage to be used on First-Class Mail, Priority Mail and Express Mail for personal and commercial use.

Hewlett-Packard is the first marketer to use branded postage art, which will include a photo of the two founders, an HP logo and a current print ad. "HP employees who send the correspondence become brand ambassadors. Recipients are reminded of the heritage of HP and the company's innovative background," said HP's Vice President, Brand Marketing Gary Elliott. "HP sees this as an exciting opportunity to extend its brand into a whole new avenue."

Endicia, Zazzle and Stamps.com will add the commercial application to their existing agreements for the production of postage for personal use, said Nick Barranca, Vice President, Product Development.

"Expanding the way customized postage can be used is a bonus for businesses who want to create awareness for their products or services, build their brand and develop strong customer relationships," Barranca said.

This is the third phase of the market test for customized postage. It will run through May 16, 2007 with an option for the Postal Service to extend the test for a second year. The third test removes the restrictions around commercial images that were in place for the second market test.

The first two phases of the test, which began in 2004, allowed the Postal Service and qualified vendors to determine the viability of the product and to gauge the interest of consumers in creating their own personalized postage.

"We are very pleased with the way customers have responded to this option. We have seen an increase in personal correspondence," Barranca said. "This is one more way the Postal Service is reaching out to meet the needs and interests of our customers."

Customized postage has two parts: a customer-supplied image and a state-of-the-art secure bar code. All customized postage is compatible with the Postal Service's automated mail processing systems.

Like postage meters, PC Postage® facilitates customer access to postage payment and use of the mail. PC Postage® is not a stamp and the use of customized postage will not affect the Postal Service's production or commitment to postage stamps, Barranca said.

"We want to make sure that anyone we authorize has the ability to produce postage in an efficient way," he said. "While we continue to strive to meet the needs of our customers, we want to make sure that any product also meets our standards for quality and security."

The Postal Service will require vendors to produce a product that meets current postal regulations and conclusively prove that all images produced and services provided abide by all federal laws, including copyright laws.

Authorized vendors will determine pricing and are expected to price their products based on the value provided to the consumer. The Postal Service's role is to authorize and monitor qualified providers.

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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
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Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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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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