

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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

Issue # 161 - March 25, 2004. Published Every Thursday

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We take this opportunity to thank all our readers who sent their good wishes for the speedy recovery of our father. With the grace of god he is progressing well.

And there is always a flip side of the coin, many readers who normally do not respond to the newsletter also sent personal messages to us to enquire about his health. It is in the times of such difficulties that true friends stand by you.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rajesh Paharia

We invite your inputs, please email to feedback@stampsofindia.com

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 photos, 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.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAMP DATA CURTAILED

Government of India has decided to curtail the technical data published regarding new issues. Consequently the technical data on Overall size, Colors, Perforation, and Paper shall not be provided in the Brochure (Information Sheet) published for every new commemorative issue. This apparently is a security measure in view of the wide spread fake stamps in the country.

ANNAMACHARYA STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 to commemorate 15th century mystic saint Annamacharya on March 18, 2004.

An ardent devotee of Lord Venkateshwara, he was named Annamayya because he was born by the grace of 'Nandaka' the mighty sword of Lord Vishnu and after his initiation at a tender age at Tirumala he became Annamacharya. His 'Sankirtanans' express unadulterated love between souls as well as 'Bhakti' and 'Prapatti' advocating an egalitarian society. Annamacharya was the pace setter of Carnatic music and attained absolute unity of 'Raga' - 'Bhava' - 'Tala'. He may have left the mortal world but his immortal songs still reverberate in the sacred peaks of Venkatachalam.

Brahm Prakash designed the stamp, and Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs 2.

India Security Press of Nashik printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 48 stamps.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/160a.htm>

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

April 1

9th Battalion of Madras Regiment (Travancore)

The 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.

POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in April 2004.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:
Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue

3, ISP, Tamil, Cleanliness, 1, M

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NEW MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Following two Meghdoot post cards were released:

Ad in Tamil - Cleanliness

Ad in Telugu - Small Savings

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/160b.htm>

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on February 28, 2004 at Dehradun to commemorate the State Flower Show. A special cover was also brought out on this occasion.

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PHILATELIC SEMINAR AT JAIPUR

1st All Rajasthan Philately Seminar was inaugurated at Jaipur on March 19, 2004 with lighting of the lamp by chief Guest G Mohana Kumar, Principal Chief Postmaster General, Rajasthan along with Faiz Ur Rehman, Postmaster General, Jodhpur, Sarita Singh Director, Postal Services HQ and Dr B L Bajaj, Senior Philatelist.

The Seminar was conducted with presentations by senior Philatelists on topics of (1) Relevance of Philately in Today's world and (2) Philately Development at Grass Root level with special emphasize on Rural level. The Seminar was attended by more than 50 Philatelists with presentations by 7 Philatelists on both subjects. In the first session the presentations were made by Krishn Goyal, A L Harchandani, Jatanmal Dhor and P M Bhargava and in the second session post lunch the presentation were made by Rajesh Paharia, B L Sahu and V K Jain.

The awards were decided by Members of Jury, Faiz Ur Rehman, Sarita Singh and Dr B L Bajaj and winners of Presentation Competition were given Awards and Certificate by G Mohana Kumar. The First Prize was won by Rajesh Paharia, Second by P M Bharagava and Third by V K Jain.

The program ended with Madhumita Das, Asistant Postmaster General (Technical & Business Development) proposing a vote of thanks.

The Chief Guest also released two sets of stamp cards (Picture post cards depicting stamps) one set of 6 Stamp Cards was on the theme of Architectural Heritage of Rajasthan featuring Jodhpur Fort, Bikaner, Hawamahal-Jaipur, Victory Tower-Chittorgarh, Dargah Shareef-Ajmer, and Jantar Mantar-Jaipur. The multicolored folder cover depicts Camel Caravan in Thar Desert and Meenakari Mural Art with details of Set on back side. The second set of stamp cards depicts Tiger, Black Buck, Caracal, Great Indian Bustard, Smooth Indian Otter and Python contained in a multicolored folder with spotted Deer on the front cover and wild Camel on the back cover. Two special postmarks depicting 'Jogi Mahal' and 'Crocodile' were also provided on the occasion.

The sets of stamp cards are available at Rs 25 each and all the requirements may be forwarded to Madhumita Das, Asistant Postmaster General (Technical & Business Development),Office of CPMG Rajasthan, Jaipur 302001.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following list of events scheduled for next few months is subject to change. We update it in every issue with the information received during the week. The organizers may be contacted for further details.

March
27-29, Port Blair, Regional
29-30, Indore, MAHAPRAGYAPEX (Jainism is the only theme)
31- Apr 02, Gangtok, Sikkim

For a list of events held this year, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, Whole # 12 - January February 2004, Bi-monthly
Editor: Rajesh Paharia
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan
Address: C/o A S Mittal, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur
Annual Subscription: Rs.50

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL, PHILATELY
R S Kardam has joined as the Assistant Director General in the Philately Division of the India Post Directorate from March 23, 2004.

His predecessor, Amarpreet Duggal has been on maternity leave for some time and has delivered a baby girl, all the best wishes to the mother and daughter.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

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

PALLAB BOSE, New Delhi

I am a serious thematic philatelist and also a collector of coins and bank notes, worldwide. In philately, I collect and develop themes on Cinema, Lady Diana, WWF, Cricket, Nude Paintings, Walt Disney Cartoons and Renaissance Paintings.

I have been following your website- stamps of india, for over 2 years now and I must compliment you for the dynamic, selfless efforts put in to network and promote philately, nationally and internationally. Keep up the wonderful work!!!

One suggestion that you may please start a regular Penpals column for stamps, coins and bank notes collectors; in that manner, purposefully, we could develop contacts and exchange with like minded partners all over the world. My e-mail id is pallabbose@rediffmail.com

Hope to see lot of philatelic activity in Delhi this year,

FEATURES & RESOURCES

MARX, GANDHI AND CAPITALISM

By Dr Meeta Shukla

A commemorative postage stamp was issued by the P&T Deptt on 5th May 1983 to mark his 165th birth anniversary (denomination 100 paise). Numerous postage stamps have been issued by the P&T Deptt since independence to commemorate and honour the life and times of Mahatma

Gandhi and on major events linked to him and other occasions of celebrations. Interestingly, the ideologies of the two luminaries both differed as also had points of congruency. Let us take a look at their take on Capitalism.

It is often said that literature is the mirror of society. But the part which is often left disregarded is this mirror's capability of bringing about a change in the society itself. This paper analyses how two of the greatest flag bearers of crowd sentiments, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Karl Marx targeted the Capitalist Economy prevalent in their respective regions, directing a change in the landscape of mass political ideology through two of the most significant literary works ever written, 'Hind Swaraj' and 'The Communist Manifesto' respectively. Gandhi's war was against western civilization; the bedrock of which lay in capitalism. Capitalism for him was a satanic system geared not for the survival but for the destruction of humans. He believed that the hallmark of this system is machine based production i.e. producing more and more commodities. This leads to the multiplication of desire and want which in turn leads to competition. Finally the outcome of this competition is violence. Therefore Gandhi argues that violence is embedded right at the core of Capitalism and hence in the western civilization.

Pure Capitalism: is an economic system in which individuals own productive resources, and those individuals can use resources in whatever manner they choose, subject to common productive legal restrictions. The basic assumption of Capitalism is that humans are rational individuals who are inherently selfish. They mainly respond to incentives for personal gain. A selfish, non-sacrificial way of life is considered both possible and necessary for man. This goes against Gandhi's views and ideologies. Gandhi's suggested path of attaining Swaraj (in the sense of both political independence and self rule) involves taking the vows of poverty, chastity and fearlessness (besides truth and ahimsa). Gandhi's definition of poverty is cutting down one's wants. According to him a person does not require anything more in life than (s)he needs. According to him, chastity demands a person not to be lured by the western commodities or other deterrents from a simple living. Lastly, to follow his path of Abhay, a person has to rid himself of desires as only a person with nothing to lose can live fearlessly. Thus Gandhi's beliefs and suggested paths run contradictory to the concept of maximising one's profit in the capitalist system. "Gandhi sees capitalism as the dynamic behind colonial imperialism. Lenin too had said as much, and like Marx, Gandhi's rejection of capitalism is based on a profound repugnance to a system where profit is allowed to degrade labour, where the machines are valued more than humans, where automation is preferred to humanism." Therefore, besides being unhappy with the practice of concentrating wealth, Gandhi was worried to see machinery dehumanise and technologically alienate individuals. The poor hardly ever benefit from these professional services and in Hind Swaraj, he suggests bringing these professions under public ownership.

Karl Marx shared somewhat similar sentiments as Gandhi regarding Capitalism. 'The Communist Manifesto' is Marx's call to action to overthrow capitalism. Marx gives Capitalism its fair share of credit in the socialization of labour. But, according to him this has led to awareness in the proletariats that they are not gaining from their own produce. Thus capitalism produces its own grave diggers. In the 'Communist Manifesto' Marx gives tribute to the achievement of the bourgeoisie society in playing a revolutionary part in overthrowing the aristocratic elite of the Feudal society. He accepts that Capitalism had the power of making all things solely merit based. However, he argues that Capitalism had gradually entered a period of contradiction between the means of production and the fruits of production. He maintains that in previous eras whenever such a contradiction took place, a social economic movement followed. According to Marx, with the gradual decrease

in the number of capitalist bourgeoisie, the 'mass of poverty oppression, enslavement, degeneration, and exploitation' meted out to the working classes increased correspondingly. "But at the same time there is [was] a steady intensification of the wrath of the working class—a class which grows ever more numerous, and is disciplined, unified, and organized by the very mechanism of the capitalist method of production." He claims that it is this conflict between classes that is the driving force of history. Karl Marx's mission and vision was to restore one as far as possible to one's maximum potential which no longer was possible under the system of Capitalism. The initial complication was that the labour was no longer of one's own use. Then, under capitalism, the scale increased and instead of exchanging with each other, the market became the forum for trade which left the workers without a clue of who was using their labour. The highest level of alienation was reached when the workers had no idea of what the end product was and where their work fitted into the process of making it. Thus capitalism wasn't allowing individuals to grow to their best potential by making them go through a series of divorces from their labour.

Marx prophesied of a revolutionary movement that would lead to the abolition of private property and private gain, and put the proletariat class at the top of the hierarchy temporarily before the ultimate eradication of class from society. He was thus convinced of the future holding an egalitarian society where everyone would have an equal share and right to properties, profits, wealth, labour and education. Gandhi wrote 'Hind Swaraj' in 1909; 'The Communist Manifesto' was written in the year 1848. This begs the question of why do we bother to read these texts even today. The fact remains that times have changed but the context has not. Although, Gandhi's ideas might appear absurd and difficult to digest, today it seems to be the only way out from our present problems.

Gandhi's Hind Swaraj, thus is an appeal to us to let go off the temptations that the present civilization offers. It is a call to give up the materialistic nature that we have acquired where we measure growth and success in monetary terms. It is his attempt to see us become better human beings. Marx's 'The Communist Manifesto' on the other hand is his exhortation to get rid of Capitalism and replace it with an egalitarian society.

With all the above points mentioned, it seems pertinent to remind ourselves not to get too carried away. As pleasing as Gandhi's and Marx's views of the possibility of such a utopian society sounds, its existence, in my opinion, is highly unlikely. The force driving humans to success is the competition associated with capitalism. Even if such a society does come into being, the inherent greed in humans will immediately lead to its disruptor. Lastly, it doesn't seem rational to convert the present into a period of agony associated with numerous deaths and a state of turmoil by some movement, just in the hope of getting a blissful future; a hope laden with immense uncertainties.

References

- <http://www2.gsu.edu/~ecomaa/Lecture3.htm>
 - Ayn Rand, 'The Virtues of Selfishness', 1964, Paperback, pp 33.
 - Heredia, Rudolf C. Interpreting Gandhi's Hind Swaraj. 12 June 1999. <<http://www.swaraj.org/interpreting.htm>>.
 - Chamberlain, William Henry. A Capitalist Manifesto. 1 June 1969. <<https://fee.org/articles/a-capitalist-manifesto/>>
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- Indian Laws Relevant to Philately
- <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

ALSO IN THE NEWS

PERSONALIZED STAMPS ON CRUISE

A legal stamp with your face on it? No problem if you cruise with Holland American Line. The company recently launched "Personal Postage" aboard the flagship Rotterdam on its 10-day Panama Canal cruises.

For \$20.95, you get a sheet of 10 legal stamps valid for mailing a postcard or standard-size letter to anywhere in the world. For your likeness, you can bring a photo from home or use one taken by a shipboard photographer.

Your card or letter may be mailed aboard ship or at any post office in the Netherland Antilles (Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Martin and St. Eustatius).

NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments - NEWS, ISSUES, EVENTS, AUCTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, DEALERS, and ARTICLES. In addition we provide question answers in ASK US. Also all Indian philatelic web sites as well as several useful philatelic sites are listed under LINKS.

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

ADMINISTRIVIA

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Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500

Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs.950

Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250

Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs.650

Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)

Vol.5 2003, Part 2, Issue #123-148, (July-December) Coming soon

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on CD

Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on the Web Site

Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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