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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

This year is coming to an end, and a new year will commence soon. This is the time to send in your suggestions for everything that you would like to see in here and on the website/s. Do write to us today, and let us have your ideas.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shyam Prasad Pradhan, and Press Trust of India.

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

HELICOPTER MAIL SERVICE

The Chief Secretary of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, V V Bhat inaugurated the Helicopter Mail service for Campbell Bay, Kapanga, Car Nicobar and Hutbay on December 3, 2004.

Bhat also released a special Helicopter Mail Flight Cover showing the map of A & N Islands and the flight of helicopter. India Post provided a special postmark depicting the Helicopter and 150 years of India Post on this occasion.

On December 3, 2004 India Post had not only sent the mail from Port Blair to Campbell Bay but it had also received the mail from Campbell Bay to Port Blair on the same day.

India Post has also started Speed Post (express mail) Services at the above mentioned four places from December 3, 2004. The Speed Post articles will be booked one day prior to the day of the helicopter flight. However ordinary letters, money order, and registered letters will also be flown by this Helicopter Mail service to these 4 places.

Special helicopter mail flight cover is available from the Philatelic Bureau, Head Post Office, Port Blair 744101 for Rs 100 each from December 9, 2004. Also available are few special helicopter mail flight covers flown as speed post articles for Rs 150 each. In all, 300 special helicopter mail flight covers have been printed.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

December 10: Bhagat Puran Singh, Rs 5
December 12: Nupeelal, Rs 5
December 14: National Energy Conservation Day
December 16: TAJ MAHAL, stamp and miniature sheet, Rs 15 each
December 21: Sahitya Akademi, Rs 5
December 27: Bhaskara Sethupathy, 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.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

October 1: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Malayalam, Kerala State AIDS Control Society, 2 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

October 1: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Sulfex Mattresses Pillows Cushions Doormats, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

November 27: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Malayalam, Sanitation, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

December 5: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Aushadhi Pharmaceutical Corp, 1 million, India Security Press, Nashik Road, Multicolor

December 5: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Telugu, Health & Family Welfare, 1 million, India Security Press, Nashik Road, Multicolor

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Ad in Hindi - Women's Development Corp, Bihar

Ad in Gujarati - Leprosy

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

03 Dec 2004: 87 Armoured Regiment Silver Jubilee

06 Dec 2004: 66 Armoured Regiment Standard Presentation

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GERALD SATIN BAGS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Gerald Sattin FRPSL, received a Gold Medal with a special prize - 'American Philatelic Society Medal of Excellence, Material prior to 1900' at CHICAGOPEX for his exhibit "Soldiers Of The Crown In Asia And Their Special Postage Rates To 1898". In the exhibit of 96 sheets (6 frames), four frames (64 sheets) showed the soldiers' rates to and from India between 1772 and 1898. The other two frames consisted of 32 sheets of India used abroad in Asia.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December 18-21, Patna, State Level

Venue: Sri Krishna Science Centre, West Gandhi Maidan

Contact: Sanjeev Ranjan, Chief Post Master, Patna GPO

December 20-22, Rajkot, District Level

December 28-30, Pune, Coins & Paper Money

2005

January 8-9, Vardha, District Level

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Nepal issued a set of 2 stamps on November 30, 2004 in the denomination of Rs 10 each on Visit Nepal Series.

1. Mayadevi Temple, Lumbini

Lord Buddha was born in 623 BC in Lumbini in the Shakya State when his mother Mayadevi was on her way to her parental home at Devadaha in the Koliya State. The temple of Mayadevi in the sacred garden is situated at the site where Lord Buddha was born. Ashok pillar, sacred pond and the ruin of ancient Stupa are situated near the temple. The temple houses a fourth century idol of mayadevi. With the formulation of Lumbini development master plan in 1978, the new temple of Mayadevi was built by the Lumbini Development Trust. His Majesty's King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev opened the restored Mayadevi temple for the first time on May 16, 2003 on the 2547th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha. This postage stamp that depicts the beautiful temple of Mayadevi sacred pond and sanctum sanctorum in the inset has been brought out on the occasion of Second World Buddhist Summit in Lumbini, Nepal.

2. Gadhimai, Bara

Since the ancient time the people are found to have worshipped the mother power in one form or the. In the Hindu philosophy goddess have

been worshipped as one among many manifestation of power since the pre vedic period. Goddess is worshipped as one of panchayan (a group of five chief Hindu gods) too. Animals are sacrificed as a form of worship to the goddess. Sacrifices of animals to Goddess Gadhimai located in Bariyarpur of Bara are believed to be one of the largest numbers in the world. The Gadhimai Mela (Fair) lasts for one month and around seven million pilgrims visit during this period. It is strongly believed that the goddess fulfils the wishes of pilgrim who promise to offer worship with the strong belief on her. The present postage stamp that depicts old and new temple of Gadhimai has been brought to popularize this mega event.

The stamps are designed K K Karmacharya and printed in four colors by offset lithography by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria in sheets of 50(25 stamps of each subject) in the quantity of 0.5 million each.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Mumbai's former Deputy Commissioner of Police Pradeep Sawant was interrogated at Pune by the CBI for over two hours on November 30, 2004 for his alleged role in the fake stamp scam. Last week the CBI had served notices to former Mumbai Police Commissioner R S Sharma and DCP Sawant to present them for questioning.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for December 2004 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.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.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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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.>

RIDDHIKA MAITRA

I really enjoyed the story of the First post Box at Mossel Bay, in the newsletter no 195. Was wondering whether there is any particular reason that post boxes once established were traditionally painted red?

Could you include a list of countries who have issued stamps on/relating to the Taj Mahal in one of the forthcoming issues? Think it would be a nice addition when India Post finally brings out its M/S on the Taj.

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

WORLD'S FIRST AIR MAIL POST CARD

The Government of India decided to introduce an Air Mail Post Card rate for the United Kingdom. The Air fee on the airmail post card was substantially reduced to Annas 2½ from the prevailing Annas 6. The combined charges for an airmail postcard to UK were fixed at Annas 4 including ordinary postage of Annas 1½ of an international postcard.

These charges could be paid by affixing postage stamps of Annas 4 on a postcard of private manufacture or stamps of Annas 2½ on to an international post card. In both cases a blue airmail label was also required to be affixed.

Airmail Post Cards with an Airmail stamp of Annas 4 and a blue airmail label was issued on July 15, 1931. The postcards were available at face value at Annas 4 each or at Rs 2 per packet of 8.

This was the world's first airmail postcard.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

Isle of Man Post has issued a set of 8 stamps on the famous boy wizard and his cohorts on December 7, 2004.

Coinciding with the DVD release of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban(TM), these official postage stamps have been approved by Her Majesty The Queen and Warner Brothers Entertainment.

The colorful set of eight postage stamps features scenes from Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Included are images of Harry Potter, his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, plus Hagrid, the Hogwarts gamekeeper. Also prominent are the Owl Post, the method by which mail is delivered to wizards in the world of Harry Potter.

The set of 8 stamps (£ 3.61) is available in illustrated sheet of 5 stamps for each stamp in the set (£ 18.05). The stamps are also available in Presentation Pack (£ 4.26) and on First Day Covers (£ 4.21)

Sets of 8 Pre-paid Postcards (£ 4.81), 5 Aerogrammes & 5 postage paid envelopes (£ 6.00) are also brought out.

In addition there is an Owl Post Special Delivery Envelope individually numbered (£ 10.00) and Large Format Postcard Postal Tribute (£ 22.50) in Limited Edition of 2000.

Finally a Deluxe Box Set (£ 75) produced in Limited Edition of 1000, contains everything as above and more, is also available.

The complete stamp series can be viewed, or purchased on our web site:

[www.iomstamps.com/harrypotter](http://www.iomstamps.com/harrypotter)

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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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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

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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