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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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<http://www.stampsfindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Welcome to 200<sup>th</sup> issue of this newsletter.

We all deserve a pat on the back for this sustained effort and of course  
it would not have been possible without your unstinted support and  
feedback. Looking back from a humble beginning of less than 100  
subscribers to thousands and growing, we can happily say we have come a  
long way.

This is also the time to once again acknowledge and thank the  
contributors to the newsletter.

It is our endeavor to not rest on our laurels but continuously strive to  
improve the quality of the newsletter and continue to add more features  
and make it more useful.

We renew our request for your support and feedback and of course  
blessings to continue bringing out the newsletter week after week for  
hundreds of more issues.

Wishing all our readers Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Press Information Bureau Government of India, 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

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

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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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

TAJ MAHAL

Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of rupees fifteen and a miniature sheet also priced Rs 15 to mark the completion of 350 years of Taj Mahal, on December 16, 2004 at New Delhi, in the presence of S Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture, Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State for Tourism and the Uttar Pradesh State Minister for Tourism Kaukab Hameed.

Taj Mahal, for centuries, has inspired poets, painters and musicians to try and capture its elusive magic in word, color and song. Taj Mahal which stands on the banks of Yamuna River in the city of Agra took 22 years to complete the construction. The construction of the Taj Mahal was completed in the year 1654. According to Tavernier, an eminent traveler and historian of those times recorded the number of workmen engaged in the construction as 20,000. The construction materials were brought from all over India and Asia. A fleet of 1000 elephants were used to transport the materials to the site. 28 types of precious and semi-precious stones were inlaid into white marble to create this wonder of the world.

Taj Mahal was built in the memory of the beautiful Arjumand Bano Begum, who won the heart of a Mughal prince. She was married at the age of 21 to Emperor Jahangir's third son Prince Khurram and stayed loyally by his side through good times and bad, in the luxurious royal places of Agra as well as the transient tents of war camps. When Khurram became Emperor in 1628, he took the name of Shajahan meaning "King of the World" and showered his beloved Begum with the highest titles. She became Mumtaz Mahal, the exalted of the palace, and Mutaz-ul-Zamani, the exalted of the age. But Mumtaz Mahal was not destined to be Queen for long.

In 1631 when Mumtaz Mahal died at the age of 39, the aggrieved Shahjahan vowed to build a memorial that would surpass anything ever created in

the world. This ambition of Shahjahan even persists now also, depicting the true symbol of eternal love to the entire world.

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 4 million. The miniature sheets were produced in the quantity of 100,000.

SAHITYA AKADEMI

Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Dr Shakeel Ahmed released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 to mark the golden jubilee of Sahitya Academy on December 21, 2004 at New Delhi. Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture, S Jaipal Reddy received the stamp.

Set up in 1954 by the Government of India, Sahitya Academy is not only the premier institution in the country for literary dialogue, publication and promotion but also the only institution in the country that undertakes literary activities in 24 languages, including English. Over 50 years of its dynamic existence, it has published over 4300 books in 22 languages. It publishes two bi-monthly journals 'Indian Literature' in English and 'Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya' in Hindi which carry translated literary pieces from the different languages. It also publishes a half yearly journal in Sanskrit, Samskrta Pratibha.

Sahitya Academy also conferred on a writer, the highest honor by electing him a fellow. This honor is reserved for the 'immortals of literature' and limited to twenty one at any given time. So far 66 writers have been awarded the fellowship. The Academy gives awards for creative/critical writing and translation prizes in each of the recognized language every year and has given 850 awards since its inception for original books of outstanding merit and 302 translation prizes since 1989 for books of translation. Apart from these awards, the annual Bhasha Samman has also been instituted since 1996 which is given to scholars and writers for their contribution to languages not recognized by Sahitya Academy and to classical and medieval literature. So far 35 writers and scholars have been honored with the Bhasha Samman. Over the years, Sahitya Academy has built bridges among communities, regions, and languages and has provided a meeting ground for writers of diverse attitude and ideologies.

Bharati Mirchandani 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 0.8 million.

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

September 3: Leh, 12th Ladakh Festival 2004

November 14: Madurai, Mahakavi Bharathi

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

12 Dec 2004: The Brigade of the Guard 8th Reunion

15 Dec 2004: 90 Armored Regiment Silver Jubilee

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November 24-25, Kanpur, District Level

December 28-30, Pune, Coins & Paper Money

2005

January 8-9, Vardha, District Level

January 8-9, Vellore

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NEW WEB SITE

OSVN Philatelics have recently launched a new philatelic web site at [www.osvnphilatelics.com](http://www.osvnphilatelics.com) offering complete mint sheets of stamps of India since 1957 (Decimal currency).

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BANGLADESH NEW ISSUES

Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia released postage stamp of Taka 10 denomination on the occasion of 'Fisheries Week 2004' on December 20, 2004 at a simple ceremony at her office at Dhaka.

A First Day Cover of Taka 6 was also brought out on the occasion.

The annual function of Fisheries Week was called off this year due to devastating floods in the country and the fund was diverted to relief and rehabilitation activities.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Prime accused in the fake stamp scam, Abdul Karim Telgi, alleged before Additional Sessions Judge V V Borikar presiding over the Special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court at Pune on December 18, 2004 that there was a conspiracy to eliminate him by slow poisoning in the Jail.

Justice A Gopal Reddy of the Andhra Pradesh High Court has granted bail to K Narasimha Rao, an Indian Police Service officer on December 17, 2004 following which he was released from Chenchal Guda jail. Rao, who worked as deputy commissioner of police, was arrested by SIT officials on February 9, 2004 this year in connection with the fake stamp scam. He was charged with ordering the release of amounts frozen during the investigation into the scam, allegedly for a consideration.

The special CBI Judge, S B Verma at Indore on December 17, 2004 issued production warrant following submission of charge sheet against three persons and directed CBI to produce these persons, including the main accused in the fake stamp case, Abdul Karim Telgi, Shabeer Ahmed and Mansoor, on December 31, 2004. Telgi has spread his fake stamp network in the Malwa area by opening an office in the name of Malwa Enterprises at Indore. Following disclosure of the stamp scam police raided the office and arrested some of the employees working in it, but the main accuseds who were running the show on behalf of Telgi managed to escape. They were later arrested by the police. In Malwa area police has registered the fake stamp case in Indore, Dewas and Dhar which were subsequently taken over by the CBI for a probe.

Despite a court allowing CBI to take voice samples of six accused involved in the fake stamp scam, the matter is delayed, as the offenders were unwell. The Special Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA) Court on December 2, 2004 had permitted CBI to take voice samples of the six accused, including that of prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi at Yerawada Central Jail, following an application by Additional Superintendent of Police (CBI), SK Peshin, in this regard. The Forensic Science Laboratory scientists from Delhi had begun the job immediately after their arrival in Pune on December 7, 2004.

Earlier on October 12, 2004 the Bombay High Court had allowed CBI to obtain voice samples of Abdul Karim Telgi, former Samajwadi Party MLA Anil Gote, Manoj Mehta, Dilip Kamath, Azim Telgi and Abdul Rashid Kulkarni. The High Court had allowed CBI's plea after the agency said it wanted to compare the voices of the accused with those appearing in 14 audio CDs, which had been given to them by the Karnataka's Special Investigation Team (SIT). The SIT had intercepted telephonic talks between Telgi and other accused, which throw light on their alleged involvement in the fake stamp paper case.

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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>

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

Stamps of India have launched its publication program with reprinting 'Indian Postal Guide Containing the Chief Public Regulations of the Post Office with Other Information April 1, 1869'.

This is first in the series of elusive but significant official publications that are primary resources for history of postal communications in India. This is the first issue of the official postal guide of India. A very brittle and moth eaten copy is rediscovered and rescued that is perhaps the only surviving example in the world.

Its content include: Chief Officers of the Department, Exclusive Privilege of Indian Post Office, Inland Post, Postage stamps, List of Indian Post Offices, District Post, Foreign Post, Official Correspondence, Registration, Time Tables of Mail steamers, Government Bullock Train, Passenger Service, Money Orders, and Telegraph Department.

The 236 page hardbound reprint is a facsimile enlarged from original octavo to A4 size. This limited edition is available at a special price for €50 post paid anywhere in the world or Rs 2750 post paid in India.

The remittance should be in favor of 'Stamps of India' and payable at New Delhi.

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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.>

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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

MONEY ORDERS BY AIR

Ordinary sterling money orders can be sent by Air Mail to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The original money orders will, like those

dispatched by the sea route, have to be sent to Bombay. The list of money orders to be transmitted by Air route will be closed by the Bombay General Post Office every Saturday commencing from the Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1929. Money orders booked on and from the Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November will be included in the westbound Air dispatch from Karachi on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1929. The remitter should write the words 'By Air mail' across the money order form, and pay, in addition to the usual money order commission, the Air mail fee of Annas 2 for each money order irrespective of its amount.

Air mail money orders cannot be dispatched directly from Karachi. They must travel through Bombay General Post Office which is the sole office of money order exchange Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- Postal Notice of November 1, 1929, Office of the Director General of the Post Offices of India

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

AND NOW, THE POSTMARKS IN COLOR

Stamp collecting will take on new color January 6, 2004 when the U S Postal Service introduces a First-Day Digital Color Postmark product with the issuance of the Lunar New Year Souvenir Stamp Sheet.

"This new product will do for traditional black and white first-day postmarks as color television has done for black and white TV," explained David Failor, Executive Director, Stamp Services, "by adding vibrant color, clarity and definition previously unattainable."

The First-Day Digital Color Postmark is an official digital postmark bearing the first-day-of-issuance-date containing an image that relates to the stamp design with the words "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE."

The First Day Digital Color Postmarks will be available for purchase with specific 2005 stamp issues (noted below).

These unique collectables are designed by the artist, or art director, who designed the stamp.

Stamp artist Clarence Lee designed both the Lunar New Year Souvenir Sheet and the First Day Digital Color Postmark. The Lunar New Year Souvenir Sheet First Day of Issue Ceremony is scheduled at 11 a.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (5 p.m. Eastern Time), January 6, 2005, in the Coral Ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, 2005 Kalia Road, Honolulu, HI 96825-1917. A limited number of First Day Digital Color Postmarked envelopes will be available on-site.

First Day Digital Color Postmarks are available for \$1.50 per cover, providing enhanced visual appeal over the traditional metal and rubber die cancels. NOTE: First Day Digital Color Postmarks are not available for customer-submitted covers.

While not available at Post Offices, the First-Day Digital Color Postmark may be ordered online at The Postal Store, www.usps.com/shop, through the USA Philatelic catalog, by telephone at 1-800-STAMP 24 or via fax at 816-545-1212.

2005 Stamp Issues offering First Day Digital Color Postmarks:
Lunar New Year Souvenir Sheet
Arthur Ashe

Jim Henson & Muppets
The Art of Disney: Celebrations
Spring Flowers
To Form a More Perfect Union
Henry Fonda
Rio Grande Blankets
Masterworks of Architecture
Greta Garbo
Constellations
Advances in Aviation
Latino Dance
Holiday Cookies
Love Bouquet
Sporty Cars of the 50s

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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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