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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

Tomorrow is 'Sankranti' that means change of direction and the sun's  
movement into the northern hemisphere. It's a day of celebration all  
over the country, though known by different names and methods of  
celebrations. The festival brings tidings of well being all around.

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 [feedback@stampsfindia.com](mailto:feedback@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

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

Letters, including registered letters and Money Orders to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund can be sent without payment of postage or commission.

Address your contributions to  
The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund  
Prime Minister's Office  
South Block  
New Delhi 110011

Donate generously and help Tsunami victims.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

January 26: 50 years of De facto Transfer of French Settlements in India

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.

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DOGS STAMPS RELEASED

Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran, released a set of four stamps on Indian dog breeds on December 9, 2005 at the fifth national championship dog show at Chennai.

The se-tenant stamps in the denomination of Rs5, Rs5, Rs5, and Rs15, depict the Indian dog breeds, Himalayan Sheep dog, Rampur Hound, Mudhol Hound, and Rajapalayam respectively.

Suresh Kumar 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 sheetlets of 16 stamps, 4 sets, in the quantity of 3 million each.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

New Arrivals:

August 31: Aerogramme with advertisement, in English, Tamilnadu Tourism, 1 million, India Security Press, Nashik, Multicolor

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

November 27: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Kannada, JBIC, 1 million, India Security Press, Nashik, Multicolor

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post card with advertisement were recently released:

Ad in Hindi - AIDS

Ad in Hindi - AIDS

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

January 7: Kharga Philex 2005 Philatelic Exhibition
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NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Nanu Singh has joined as the Assistant Director in the Philatelic Division at the postal directorate on December 21, 2004.  
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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

January 8-9, Vardha, District Level
January 8-9, Vellore
February Coimbatore
February 23-27, Jaipur, Science Thematic
February, Jaipur, District Level, DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

MEETINGS

February 13: 11 AM to 1 PM, Delhi Coin Society
23 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, WRC Building, Gole Market, New Delhi 110001
Contact: Goga Jain 93123-18401

February 7: 2 to 4 PM, Delhi Philatelists
2214-15, Hardhiyan Singh Road, 2nd Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi 110005
Contact: Madhukar Jhingan 93505-37037
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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIPA BULLETIN, Vol.25 #4, Jul- Aug 2004, Bimonthly  
SIPA BULLETIN, Vol.25 #5, Sep- Oct 2004, Bimonthly  
SIPA BULLETIN, Vol.25 #6, Nov -Dec 2004, Bimonthly  
Editor: G Madan Nohan Das  
Publisher: South India Philatelists Association  
Address: #21 (Old), II Floor, E V K Sampath Road, Vepary, Chennai 600007  
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated  
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A K SHARMA PASSES AWAY

Delhi lost an active philatelist and numismatist, Ashok Kumar Sharma, who suddenly passed away on January 6, 2005. He was 59, a widower and leaves behind two young sons.
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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Karnataka State government, following a Supreme Court directive, has instituted a departmental inquiry on December 8, 2005 into the alleged involvement of two senior police officers including a retired additional director general of police and five deputy superintendents of police in the fake stamp scam. The Additional Director General of Police (Recruitment and Training) Ajay Kumar Singh has been appointed as the investigating officer.  
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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 perhaps is 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. Please send your orders to Stamps of India, 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063, India.

Overseas buyers can also send remittance in Australian Dollars, British pounds or U S Dollars equivalent to €50.

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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.>

DR AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binnigen, Switzerland

In the issue of Stamps of India Collectors companion No. 198 of December 9, 2004, there was a query by Ms. Riddhika Maitra. The first part of dealt with the color of the letter-boxes. Ms. Maitra asks, "Is there any particular reason that post-boxes were traditionally painted red?" To this I could find an answer in Prince Dimtry Kandouroff's "Collecting Postal History": He writes "In Great Britain the pillar-boxes were introduced in 1850s by Anthony Trollope, a postal official better known for his novels than his postal innovation. Since their inception, British pillar-boxes have been painted bright red; though shortly before the Second World war a few were painted light blue for airmail letter only. (The red color is the most "Distinctive" color and so it was chosen for painting the pillar boxes red, similar to Fire brigade, Red Cross etc. It has a function of sending a signal of some thing being very conspicuous and important. After independence the Republic of Ireland painted pillar bright green (Green is the national color of Ireland). In France the first six post-boxes appeared in 1653. Before 1960 French mail boxes were painted blue, but since then they are yellow". In Switzerland the first letter-boxes installed in Basel City were painted blue. Since long the Swiss letter boxes are with the White Cross on a red ground stands clearly against the brilliant yellow background. Nowadays in most of the European countries the letter-boxes are painted yellow and carry special emblems like the royal crown in the case of Swedish letter boxes or the Post Horn on the yellow letter boxes in Germany". It appears that there is no special reason why most of the European letter boxes are yellow. Some 40 years ago the yellow color was almost a monopoly of Post and was prohibited for applying it to cars, except for the buses run by Swiss Post. Obviously in the crown colonies of Great Britain (also India) the letter boxes were painted red.

The second part dealt with the stamps depicting Taj Mahal. Here also I could mention the following countries, which have issued Taj Mahal as a main motif or a subordinate motif along with personalities like Mahatma Gandhi or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The countries are:

Bulgaria (1989), Cuba (1989), Czechoslovakia (1970), Dominica (1969), Granadines of St. Vincent (1989), Iran (1996), Japan (2003), North Korea (1989), , USSR (1972 & 1973), Venezuela (1977), Yemen PDR (1989), Zambia (1998). Perhaps there might be still more to be added to this list.

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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

PASSENGERS & FREIGHT BY AIR

All Head Post Offices and Sub Post Offices with telegraph facilities in India offered the facility of booking of passengers and freight on flights of Indian State Air Service between Karachi and Delhi and Imperial Airways between Karachi and London.

The postmaster at these post offices obtained the reservation required and informed the passenger of the availability on receiving confirmation from the airport of embarkation.

The postmaster at the aerodrome of the departure, on request from passengers, telegraphed free of charge (by service message) for the reservation of hotel or other accommodation and the provision of a conveyance at the termination of air journey to the postmaster of the air station concerned in India.

The passenger fare for Delhi Karachi sector was Rs 160, Delhi Jodhpur sector was Rs 75, and Jodhpur Karachi sector was Rs 95. Return tickets were available at 12.5% discount.

Each passenger was allowed 100 kilos (221 pounds) including his/her own weight! Excess baggage and freight was charged at Re 1, Annas 7, and Annas 9 per kilo or part for Delhi Karachi sector, Delhi Jodhpur sector, and Jodhpur Karachi sector, respectively. The minimum freight charge was Rs 2.50 per package.

The departure from terminal airports was fixed by mail requirements.

- Postal Notice of the Director General of the Post Offices of India Dated August 21, 1931

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL

Emirates Post has issued a set of commemorative stamps on the 10th anniversary of Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) in denominations of 50 Fils, 125 Fils, 275 Fils and 375 Fils.

The complete set of stamps is available at the Deira Main Post Office, Karama Post Office, Sharjah Central Post Office and Abu Dhabi Central Post Office. First Day Covers, priced at Dhs. 9.25 each, are also available at the above locations.

Emirates Post is also launching a set of Special Edition postcards in the Postcard Millionaire series, featuring images of DSF events and the 10th anniversary logo. Each set is priced at Dhs. 30. Purchasers of these postcards get a chance to enter the Postcard Millionaire electronic draw that offers mega prizes.

Emirates Philatelists Association is organizing a philatelic exhibition from February 3 to 12, 2005 at Deira City Center, Dubai.

DSF was conceived and implemented under the directives of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and UAE Defence Minister. It has played a key role in revitalizing the retail sector and boosting the tourism industry. It has become an icon of commercial and entertainment extravaganza, luring millions of tourists year after year. DSF has been one of the prime catalysts in putting Dubai on the global shopping map. In ten years, DSF has grown into the biggest shopping-cum-entertainment event in the world. DSF is a world-class event that turns the city of Dubai into a vibrant destination for shopping, promotions and fun.

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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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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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