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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,

We are always happy when we receive a feedback from our readers but if  
it's a contribution to newsletter it makes us feel even better.

In this issue we have received a most interesting contribution and all  
of you can check it out on the following link:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newssite/valentine.htm>

It has been sent by a distinguished thematic philatelist, who is a  
doctor by profession, and he has a passion for drawing cartoons. When  
you follow the link you will find something most appropriate to the  
occasion of Valentines Day.

So here is wishing all our readers a very happy valentines day and may  
your loved ones be always safe and secure in your love.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Manohar Lal,  
Press Information bureau Government 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

Feb 27: Krishan Kant, Rs 5

The 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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PADAMPAT SINGHANIA STAMP RELEASED

Vice President of India, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat released a commemorative postage stamp, in the denomination of rupees five, on noted industrialist Padampat Singhania to coincide with his birth centenary Day on February 3, 2005 at New Delhi. The Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Dr Shakeel Ahmad, and Minister of Home Affairs Prakash Jaiswal, were also present on the occasion.

Singhania was one of the pioneers and leading industrialists of the country who founded the J K Organization which has now 70 units in India and abroad with activities ranging from conventional products to cotton textiles, jute textiles, woolen textiles, rayon, nylon, iron & steel, cement, shipping, air transportation, etc. As one of the signatories to the Constitution in the capacity of member of the Constituent Assembly Padampat Singhania has also played a significant role.

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 stamp by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.6 million.

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot Postcard has recently been issued at Philatelic Bureaus:

Date of issue, Message, Language, Quantity in million, Remarks if any

Feb 09: Malaria, Gujarati, 0.1

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

January 31: Amritsar, Inauguration of 'Sahibjada Jhujar Singh Avenue' Post office (Guru Gobind Singh Falcon and Sikh Religious Flag)

January 31: Tirur, 18<sup>th</sup> All India Football Tournament

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES 2004

The Army Postal Service while being a part of the Army as a Corps also functions as a postal circle of India Post and issues special cover with

special postmarks accompanied with informative brochure on forces related occasions. The civilians may order these issues through nearest philatelic bureau.

The Army Postal Service issued a total of 27 special covers during 2004. This brings the total of all special covers issued by the Service to 403 to December 2004.

The Service issued its first cover in 1954 as the First Day Cover of the stamps overprinted for Indian Forces in Indochina and in 2004 completed 50 years of issuing covers.

The list of Issues in 2004 is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2004aps.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

February 09-13, Mysore, COINEX  
February 10-12, Jaipur, District Level  
February 11-12, Birbhum, District Level  
February 12-14, Howrah, South Bengal Regional  
February 26-28, Jaipur, Science Thematic, NEW DATES  
March 01-03, Gangtok, Sikkim

August 11-15, Coimbatore, South Zone  
Contact: The Philatelists Coimbatore, 5 Eleventh Street, Tatabad,  
Coimbatore 641 012

MEETINGS - Guests are welcome

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

March 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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POSTAL STRIKE NOTICE

Postal services may be disrupted from February 15, 2005 with the Postal Joint Council of Actions deciding to go on an indefinite strike.

The Council on February 7, 2005 served a strike notice to India Post in support of its charter of demands that include merger of 50 per cent of dearness allowance for Gram Dak Sevaks from Jan 1, 2004, granting of civil servant status, filling up of all promotional norms based posts and scrapping of fast track promotion scheme. It also demanded absorption of all selected candidates on compassionate appointments and regularization of casual laborers as group D staff before attaining the age of 50.

The Council, comprising the National Federation of Postal Employees, Federation of National Postal Organizations and its affiliated unions, has also demanded implementation of proposals that were agreed upon on December 18, 1998.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, Whole # 17 - Nov Dec 2004, Bi-monthly

Editor: Rajesh Paharia [philanews@hotmail.com](mailto:philanews@hotmail.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Address: C/o A S Mittal, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur  
Annual Subscription: Rs.50

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DALIP SINGH SAUND POST OFFICE BUILDING

The United States House of Representatives has overwhelmingly voted in favor of naming a Federal Building after Dalip Singh Saund, the first Congressman of Indian origin. If, as expected, the US Senate endorses the move and President George W Bush signs the House Resolution HR 120 into law, the US Postal Service facility located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, will become known as the "Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building."

Saund was the first and only Indian American Congressman for nearly 50 years and only in November 2004 Piyush "Bobby" Jindal, became the second Indian American ever to be elected to the US Congress, representing Louisiana's 1st District. Actually when he took the oath of office in 1957, Saund became not only the first Indian American but the first Asian American to serve in the US House of Representatives.

The House unanimously voted 410-0 on February 1, 2005 to honor the late Saund, the former Riverside and Imperial County Congressman by naming this particular US Post Office after him.

Representative Darrel E Issa, a Republican, who represents California's 49th District, introduced House Resolution 120 to name a post office in his district after Saund. Jindal co-sponsored HR 120.

Born September 20, 1899, in the village of Chhajulwadi in Punjab, Saund attended a boarding school in Jammu and graduated with a BA degree in mathematics from Punjab University in 1919. He migrated to the United States in 1920 to pursue graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and received his MA and PhD in mathematics.

Then for nearly 30 years, he was a successful lettuce farmer in Imperial Valley and during this time began fighting against discriminatory laws against Indians to become American citizens.

In 1949, Saund and the other Indians finally earned the right to become US citizens when he convinced Congresswoman Clare Booth and Congressman Emanuel Celler to sponsor legislation that would allow for Indian and other Asian immigrants to become naturalized Americans.

The legislation was passed by Congress and was signed into law by President Harry Truman. Saund's passion for democracy and politics led him into a life of public service when in 1952 he was elected and served for four years as justice of the peace in Westmoreland, California.

In 1958, Saund made history when he became the first Asian elected to Congress and represented California 29th District in the 85th and the two succeeding Congresses. His political career was cut short when he suffered a stroke while campaigning for a fourth term.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for February 2005 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](http://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>

Wanted WORLDWIDE Stamps, FDC's & Postal Stationery, Coins & Notes  
Send Price List. DR M RAVINDRA REDDY, 7-4-105, Madhavi Nagar, Ferozguda,  
Hyderabad 500011, India

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. 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.>

JEFF SIDDIQUI, Lynnwood, WA 98103, USA

I am a long-time subscriber and have enjoyed your periodical. I wonder if you or someone else can help identify what these two items are?

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/qv.htm>

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/peshawar.htm>

I am interested in knowing what the cancel on the QV stamp means and on the second item, I would very much like to know what is under the PESHAWAR cancel.

Any help will be appreciated.

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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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AN INTERESTING ITEM

Share your favorite items with fellow philatelists here, contact [editors@stampsofindia.com](mailto:editors@stampsofindia.com) to contribute.

NEW DELHI INAUGURATION 1931

Zahid Islam from Dammam, Saudi Arabia has once again contributed an interesting cover.

The cover carries a complete set of 6 stamps issued on February 9, 1930 (exactly 74 years ago) to mark the inauguration of New Delhi. The cover is flown to Paris from New Delhi on via Karachi. It was posted on February 14, 1931 and has a Paris delivery hand-stamp of February 26, 1931. The cover although flown does not have the mandatory blue airmail label but does have the necessary superscription, 'Delhi - Karachi - Paris'.

This was the first flight; these newly issued stamps could catch. Indian State Air Service was scheduled to leave Delhi every Monday evening for Karachi. In the year 1931 the February 9, the day stamps were issued, was a Monday and it was obviously late for the day's flight. It was a norm for the post office to close the mail bags in the morning for the flight departing in the evening. Thus it was flown in the next available flight. The day of posting, February 14, was obviously a safe day to catch the flight of February 17, 1931. It was loaded on to Imperial airways flight of February 18, 1931 to arrive at Paris on February 26, 1931.

The capital of India was transferred to Delhi from Calcutta in December 1911 when King George V announced it during Durbar at Delhi. He also laid the foundation stone of New Delhi. The decision to transfer the capital was one of the most closely guarded secrets of the time. The British government specially wanted to keep this news from the Scotsmen who monopolized the jute trade in Bengal and were completely against any transfer of the capital. Earlier, Bengal had become a hotbed of freedom movement after Lord Curzon's decision in 1905 to partition it into East and West Bengal. The westernized class of Calcutta also did not take very kindly to this announcement and the great scholar, Nirad C Chaudhri (Autobiography of an Unknown Indian), writes how upset his father was on reading the news when he remarked: "They are going to the graveyard of empires to be buried."

- With additional research by Madhukar Jhingan

The illustration is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/star-002.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY II

Milostin is a small town, population 262, 40km west of Prague. Czech Post has been providing special pictorial postmark for Valentine's Day for last 3 years.

The name is a form of the Czech word "milostna" which means "love" in expressions such as "milostna pletka" (love affair) and "milostna dopis" (love letter). It is unclear how the town, founded in the 12th century, got its amorous name.

The address for the special postmark is Posta, Milostin 270 05, Czech Republic.

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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.

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

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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

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