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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

Issue # 208 - February 17, 2005. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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*The email addresses have been stated in this format to avoid their  
farming by crawlers and the resulting flood of junk mail.*

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

You can now log into your favorite site 'Stamps of India' at  
www.stampsofindia.in also, in addition to its original web address  
www.stampsofindia.com.

The ".in" domain name was liberalized on February 16, 2005 to symbolize  
the Indian identity on the Internet. Till last year these domain names  
were available only to the government. 24,000 names were registered in  
the first hour, much greater than the response expected.

Another significant development is that we now accept MASTERCARD, VISA,  
JCB, Diners Club, Citibank E-cards and AMERICAN EXPRESS credit cards  
issued anywhere in the world. We can also accept payments online from  
the net banking clients of HDFC Bank, Bank of Punjab, Citibank,  
Centurion Bank, ICICI Infinity, IDBI, Federal Bank, Oriental Bank of  
Commerce, and UTI Bank. Currently this facility may be used to buy our  
publication 'Indian Postal Guide 1869'. We will be adding more items  
soon.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abahi Mishra, Commodore KK Chandra, Vijay Seth, and Press Trust of India.

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Feb 23: Rotary International, Rs 5

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.

For a list of stamps in 2005, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005stamps.htm>

POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

ADDENDA to the schedule of release in February 2005, published in Issue # 205 - January 27, 2005:

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

28, ISP, English, National Insurance Co, 1, M

28, SSP, Tamil, National Insurance Co, 1

28, SPP, Kannada, xxxxx, 1

NEW ARRIVALS:

February 15: Post Card with advertisement, in Oriya, AIDS, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

February 15: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Oriya, AIDS, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

February 15: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Hindi, Human Rights, 1 million, India Security Press, Nashik, Multicolor

For a list of postal stationery in 2005, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005ps.htm>

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 14: Chennai, P S Higher Secondary School Centenary

Feb 12: Haridwar, Rotary District 3080 Centennial Conference

A special cover and postmark was released at Haridwar on February 12, 2005 to commemorate the Rotary International District 3080 Centennial Conference 12-13 Feb, 2005 Haridwar. The special postmark is in English only. At the back of the special cover the description is first in English and then in Hindi. Handbook on Philately (2004, Third Edition) Chapter VI (Cancellation), para 53 (special cancellation), sub-para C says - The legend in the cancellation design should be bilingual (first in Hindi and then English) indicating the date and mentioning only the event/occasion being commemorated. Besides this is also a clear-cut example of insult to Rajbhasha.

Visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/pmk/2005feb.htm> for the image.

Feb 15: Lonavala, INS Shivaji diamond jubilee

A special cover and postmark were released by Ms K Noorjehan, Chief Post Master General, Maharashtra Circle on February 15, 2005 in a glittering function held at INS Shivaji, Lonavala. Addressing a large gathering, she stressed the need to spread Philately, the "king of Hobbies", amongst all, especially the younger generation. She urged the Commanding Officer Commodore Vineet Bakhshi to ensure that a philatelic club is set up in the establishment/school. On this occasion, she also inaugurated an informal philatelic exhibition "Shivajipex 2005", in which more than 40 frames were displayed by eminent philatelists from Deccan Philatelic Club and Navy. All participants were honored with a participation certificate and souvenir gifts of INS Shivaji. The Special cover with postmark on Tarangini Stamp can be obtained at Rs 7 per cover by sending self addressed stamped 5"x8" envelope with remittance through cheque/draft/money order payable at Lonavala, in the name of Commanding Officer and addressed to The Commanding Officer, INS Shivaji, Lonavala - 410 402."

Visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/pmk/2005feb.htm> for the image.

For a list of special postmarks and covers in 2005, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005pmk.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

VADOPEX

Vadodara (West) Division of India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on February 4-5, 2005 at Vadodara. A special cover was issued on February 4, 2005. Two illustrated envelopes, for inland and airmail, were also issued on the occasion and were sold with Rs 5 and 15 stamp affixed. The envelopes were priced Rs 8 and 20 respectively.

JPPEX

Jaipur City Division of India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on February 10-12, 2005 at Jaipur. A Cover Design contest was organized on the theme 'my city Jaipur' and the entry adjudged as best was adopted for the design on the Special cover released on February 12, 2005. A postal runner mail enactment was carried out on February 10, 2005 and a special cachet was provided on mail carried. Rajasthan Postal circle of India Post, on February 11, brought out a set of 6 picture post cards on Birds of Keoladeo Sanctuary Ghana priced at Rs 25. The cards depict the birds and relevant Indian stamps. Two covers were issued on February 10 and 12, 2005. A Seminar on philately, Presentation of papers on 'Role of Philatelic Stamps in Conservation of Fauna & Flora' and 'Importance of wild life in desert eco-system', and a quiz program was also conducted during the show.

February 17-19, Behrampore, Murshidabad District Level,  
February 26-28, Jaipur, Science Thematic, NEW DATES  
March 21-24, Gangtok, Sikkim, NEW DATES

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

For a list of exhibitions in 2005, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events.htm>

#### MEETINGS

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, Guests are welcome!

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations has now been  
expanded across India and is available at  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

VADOPHIL, Whole # 100-101, October 2004 - January 2005  
Editors: Prashant H Pandya & Timir R Shah  
Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society  
Address: 'Jaya', Dala Patel's Pole, Narsinhji's Pole, Vadodara 390001  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 100

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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COINS EXHIBITION AT DELHI

Delhi Coin Society decided in the monthly meeting held on February 13,  
2005 that a two day coin exhibition will be held in Delhi on October 1-  
2, 2005. The venue is yet to be decided. It has also been discussed to  
hold a numismatic and philatelic exhibition together. The meeting was  
attended by 20 members including 6 office bearers.

For further details about exhibition, Contact Rajneesh Jain 09810390324  
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#### FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

A special court at Pune on February 15, 2005 issued notice to the  
Superintendent of Yerawada Central Jail, asking him to show cause why  
contempt action should not be taken against him for violating its  
October 30, 2004 order which directed jail authorities to provide  
hygienic food and bedding to prime accused in the fake stamp paper case  
Abdul Karim Telgi. The court had allowed him to talk to his ailing  
mother and wife over telephone. The court also directed medical check up  
for Telgi twice a month at the government-run Sasoon Hospital as he was  
suffering from HIV and diabetes. The court has asked the jail  
superintendent to appear before it on February 23, 2005.

Central Bureau of Intelligence (CBI) has filed a petition in Bombay High  
Court seeking permission to give copies of transcript of recorded  
telephonic talks between the prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi and 60  
others held in custody. The petition would come up for hearing before a  
bench headed by Chief Justice Dalveer Bhandari on February 17. CBI  
contended that a PIL had been filed in the High Court in 2003 by social

activist Anna Hazare urging for transfer of probe from Special Investigation Team (SIT) to CBI. During the hearing, SIT, Karnataka, had informed that it had recorded telephonic talks between Telgi and other accused. In keeping with court directives, the transcript was handed over to SIT, Mumbai, and later to CBI which took over the probe. CBI, while praying for supplying copies of transcript to 61 accused, has made 12 respondents to its petition. They include social activist Anna Hazare, then Home Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, former Police Commissioners O P Bali and R S Sharma, Union government and state of Karnataka.

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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

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750 post paid anywhere in the world. It is now possible to pay online by credit card and also by net banking account holders of several Indian banks.

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>  
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VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

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

In response to Jeff Siddiqui's Queries, Issue # 207 of February 10, 2005

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

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

MAX SMITH, UK

The small date stamp that Jeff Siddiqui is asking about (4 / BL T O / date - the second letter in the middle line is a small capital 'L' with a line and two dots under it) is one used by the Bengal Traveling Office on the East Bengal Railway line between Calcutta and Goalundo during the period 1868 to 1870. Normally it is found as a transit stamp but sometimes on adhesive. The India Study Circle RMS/TPO study Group numbered it 'type 10' in the mid 1960s. Very little work has been done on the subject since then. Normally the number '4' is found in the top, but apparently '7' has been reported.

DR AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen (Switzerland)

I have the following explanations

1. The Cancellation on QV 8 As. (most probably SG 74)

The round dated cancellation on the stamp is a Traveling Post Cancellation (Renouf Type 110) it is a very small circle with a diameter of 10 mm. Inset in four lines are: a set number ("4") / "BLTO" (Bengal Traveling Post Office)/ the date ("21")/ Month ("8") and the year ("70"). This type of cancellation was used on the railway line running from Calcutta towards Assam.

2. What is behind the PESHAWAR Cancel?

The image is very dim in contrast to the clear black cancellation. I can not say for certain; but it is a round stamp red in color. It could be most probably stamp issued by Afghanistan. Usually the stamps of Afghanistan are deliberately torn at the corner before application and then cancelled; but the stamp here appears to be intact. More can be said if the background could be made darker.

ZAHID ISLAM, Dammam, Saudi Arabia

This will refer to Mr. Jeff Siddiqui's query about the pen strokes on his 1855 pink 8annas East India issue. During the Victorian era, the word "stamped" was often written across the stamp(s) by the sender to prevent theft by postal employees. At times the sender used his own signature or just cancelled the stamps with two parallel lines. Such pen strokes are very common on the 1855 East India issues printed by Thomas De La Rue. Please see the attached illustrations. One is franked Calcutta, Oct.15, 1859, while the other is franked Rampur, March 8, 1890, with arrival date-stamp of Bockenheim (Frankfurt), March 31, 1890.  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/208-pix.htm>

The red marking on the cover with the Peshawar date-stamp is completely undecipherable. Most probably it is the address handstamp of the sender when red ink was usually used.

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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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AIDS

An article on AIDS listing all 53 items of postal stationery issued by India till date is now available at

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/topic/aids.htm>

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and additional information.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

USE YOUR MOBILE PHONE TO DESIGN STAMPS

The Swiss Post Office is on to another first in the world.

The Swiss Post with Swisscom Mobile and the Museum for Communication, Berne, are seeking MMS design submissions that could be used as the basis for a series of stamps.

Swiss citizens are being urged to send in pictures taken by their mobile phones. The theme of the contest is 'Swiss Mobile - A Country on the Move' and it is open from 1 February until 21 March 2005. The entries submitted will be displayed on website [www.mms-stamp.ch](http://www.mms-stamp.ch). The public will vote by text message to choose the top 100 pictures by the end of March. A specialist jury will then select the four winning designs from the Top 100 entries.

Swiss Post will issue special stamps with the winning designs on September 6, 2005 in the denominations of €0.55, €0.64, €0.84, and €1.16.

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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>

POSTMAN CAN'T KNOCK

[http://www.news24.com/News24/World/Tsunami\\_Disaster/0,,2-10-1777\\_1661555,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/World/Tsunami_Disaster/0,,2-10-1777_1661555,00.html)

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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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