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

Issue # 209 - February 24, 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

Our Internet Service Providers (ISP) had a tough time recently due to  
some one misusing their facilities for sending unsolicited bulk mail  
also known as spam. Consequently legitimate mails through their servers  
were labeled 'spam?' and some copies of Issue # 202 and 204 of this  
newsweekly also received this tag. Unfortunately all copies of Issue #  
207 were so marked. It naturally caused concern in the minds of many  
readers and we take this opportunity to express our regrets for the  
inconvenience caused. Since mailing of Issue # 202 itself we have been  
at resolving this issue with our ISP. We had been able to deliver  
previous issue # 208 as normal and hope to deliver the future issues  
without any problems.

We however will recommend that when in doubt do not open the mail. The  
issues of this newsweekly can always be downloaded from the site:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rishi Kochar, 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

Feb 27: Krishan Kant, Rs 5

Mar 10: Madhavrao Scindia

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>

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL STAMP RELEASED

Rotary International, the pioneer voluntary service organization, was formed on February 23, 1905. Today there are 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in 165 countries.

Rotary came to India in 1919 with formation of a club in Calcutta and today has over 100,000 members in 2500 clubs. It is also dedicated towards eradication of polio in India.

Kamleshwar singh 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 0.8 million in sheets of 35.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals

2004 December 31: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Tamilnad Mercantile bank, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

2005 January 31: Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Canara bank, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

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POSTAL STATIONERY BARCODES

The barcode on postal stationery was introduced in 2003 on all items featuring 'rock cut Chariots of Mahabalipuram', the second in the series of world heritage sites.

The stamp design change in 2004 as planned to the third design in the series of world heritage sites was not carried out. However the barcodes have changed since 2003 issue.

The new barcodes are larger and more in number. The barcodes in 2003 had 13 bars next to the imprinted stamp on postcard, reply postcard, inland letter card, envelope, aerogramme, competition post card, and registered envelope printed by ISP Nasik and post card, inland letter card, envelope, and meghdoot post card printed by SPP Hyderabad.

The barcode with 2004 as year of print have 18 bars and are wider on inland letter card, aerogram and registered envelope printed by ISP Nasik. For some inexplicable reason the registered envelope is the only item of postal stationery that does not carry the name of the printer and the year of issue. The single and reply postcard have barcodes with 15 bars and are wider printed by ISP Nasik. The competition post card it seems has not been printed by ISP Nasik with new barcodes. The envelope is neither seen with 2004 print nor with new barcodes printed by ISP Nasik and SPP Hyderabad.

SPP Hyderabad has printed the inland letter card with new barcodes with 2005 print, while in case of post card and meghdoot post card it remains unchanged even with the items with issue dates in February 2005.

We will appreciate your inputs based what is available at your local post office.

It is quite a challenge to collect postal stationery of India, and perhaps that makes it more attractive to its collectors.

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

February 18: Hyderabad, Lufthansa First Flight

We know of incoming first flight covers, does any one have info on outgoing?

SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS 2004

India Post had decentralized the authority to approve special postmarks in late 1980's to the Chief Postmaster Generals heading postal circles. This made the task of information gathering a challenge. The lack of information led to the philatelists generally remaining unaware of the availability and the number of philatelists interested in special postmarks and covers sharply declined.

Earlier India Post used to publish information on postmarks in its monthly newsletter 'Stamp News' and a quarterly 'Indian Philatelist' for decades. In addition an illustrated list of postmarks provided since the last national philatelic exhibition was published in the Souvenir of the next national philatelic exhibition. However all this is now history as India Post is not publishing any periodical at present.

The situation at philatelists' side is similar too. The National Philatelic Society, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh with hundreds of active members all cooperating in procuring and distribution of special covers and postmarks is also history.

We believe that now is the time to make a new beginning and have compiled a list of special postmarks provided in 2004. The list special postmarks and covers in 2004 is far from complete and we seek

cooperation from all of you to thoroughly check it for errors and omissions. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Special Covers carried by Balloon, aircraft, postal runner etc. are listed separately.

Also listed separately are the Special covers issued on occasions where special postmarks were not provided by India Post and were date-stamped by the regular post office postmark.

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

OOPS!  
The correct link for both the special covers reported in Issue#207 of Feb 17 is: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/pmk/2005-02.htm>

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

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150 YEARS OF INDIA POST COMMEMORATIVE COINS

It is notified that the India Government Mint, Kolkata has made arrangements for the sale of Commemorative Coins in Proof & Uncirculated varieties released on the occasion of 150 Years Of India Post" at Rs 850 and 480 respectively

The 11.5% Sales Tax (10% Sales Tax on cost, 10% surcharge and 5% additional surcharge on sales Tax total 11.5%) will be added to the cos. The postal, packing, insurance charges for each variety of proof & uncirculated set are: Rs 120 for 1 set, Rs. 200 for 2 sets, Rs. 250 for 3 sets, Rs. 330 for 4 sets, Rs. 400 for 5 sets and Rs. 60 extra per set for any extra set beyond 5 sets.

The booking is open till March 31, 2005 and the Coin Sets will be delivered within 18 months after booking closed. The order form along with necessary details are also available on the website [www.igmint.org](http://www.igmint.org). There is a separate order form for orders placed directly by Foreign Nationals against advance payment in U.S. Dollars.

The Hundred Rupees Coin is made of Quaternary Alloy, Circular in shape, 44 mm diameter, and weighing 35 grams and the One Rupee Coin is of Ferritic Stainless Steel, Circular in shape, 25 mm diameter, weighing 4.8 grams. Quaternary Alloy means 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% Zinc and 5% Nickel and Ferritic Stainless Alloy means 82% iron and 18% Chromium.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February 9-10, Hyderabad, Hyderabad South East District Level, 2 covers

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, Hardhyan 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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NEW WEB SITES

Vikas Singh has created a page on stamps with Indian Railways as a theme  
and it is now available at

<http://www.irfca.org/articles/vikas/stamps.html>

and also at

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/readroom/railway.htm>

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NEW YAHOO GROUPS

Prakash Mody has founded a new yahoogroup on Jainism Philately on  
February 20, 2005. It is a free, easy-to-use email group service. To  
learn more about the jainism\_philately group, please visit

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jainism\\_philately](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jainism_philately)

Abhai Mishra had created a group on February 21, 2005 for Indian  
Antarctica in yahoogroups. This group will discuss philatelic matters  
pertaining to Indian Antarctic Expeditions. Mishra has been to  
Antarctica as a member of an Indian Expedition and will try to post  
activities related. Interested people may join the group by sending  
blank email to [indian\\_antarctica-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:indian_antarctica-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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PITNEY BOWES TO OPERATE DIRECTLY IN INDIA

Pitney Bowes Inc. announced on February 14, 2005 that it has completed  
two transactions that extend its penetration and reach outside of the  
US, the acquisition of certain assets of Kilburn Office Automation Ltd.  
(Kilburn) in India and the formation of a joint venture with Semco  
Participacoes Limitada (Semco) in Brazil. Through these transactions  
Pitney Bowes is establishing direct sales operations in two of the  
world's top fifteen mailing markets, whose combined mail volumes are  
approximately 23 billion pieces annually.

India Post handles approximately 14 billion pieces of mail per year,  
making it second in Asia and sixth in global postal volumes. Kilburn  
had acted as a distributor for some Pitney Bowes mailing products since  
1996. The new direct operation, known as Pitney Bowes India Private  
Limited, will provide mailing equipment and systems. The business will  
be headquartered in New Delhi, and it will have offices in 17 other  
locations throughout the country.

Pitney Bowes is the world's leading provider of integrated mail and  
document management systems, services and solutions. The \$5 billion  
company helps organizations of all sizes efficiently and effectively  
manage their mission-critical mail and document flow in physical,  
digital and hybrid formats. Its solutions range from addressing software  
and metering systems to print stream management, electronic bill  
presentment and presort mail services. The company's 80-plus years of  
technological leadership have produced many major innovations in the  
mailing industry, and it is consistently on the Intellectual Property  
Owner's list of top U.S. patent holders. With approximately 33,000  
employees worldwide, Pitney Bowes serves more than 2 million businesses  
through direct and dealer operations.

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PAKISTAN NEW ISSUES

January 14: Professor Ahmed Ali, Rs 5

January 14: Allama Iqbal and Mihai Eminescu: Dialogue between Civilizations, 2 stamps, Rs 5 each

January 18: Saadat Hasan Manto, Rs 5

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The MCOCA court on February 22, 2005 at Pune has rejected the bail application of suspended Inspector General of Police (Intelligence) Sridhar Wagal, arrested in November 2003 for his alleged role in the fake stamp paper case. Special Judge S M Shembole, who had reserved his order on the application of Wagal on December 4, 2004, rejected the former senior police officer's prayer on the ground that there was prima facie evidence about his involvement in the scam, prosecution.

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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 by credit card

<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.>

ALEXANDER INSHAKOV, St. Petersburg Russia (traveling in India)  
In one philatelic bureau they even didn't know what I'm talking about. I tried to explain them what is Miniature Sheet, but I'm not sure that they understood me. In many cities philatelic bureaus usually closed very early, and I can't visit them. In Goa's capital Panaji the Xerox copies of all these Miniature Sheets are present in their shop window, but not on sale - they sold out long before, they said. They only showed me the jammed and torn copy of Aga Khan Award Miniature Sheet, the only one that they can offer me. So such is the situation.

OOPS!

The correct link for message of ZAHID ISLAM, Dammam, Saudi Arabia in previous Issue #208 is as follows:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/208-pix.htm>  
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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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STAMPS ON INDIA

13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit

Bangladesh issued a stamp in the denomination of Taka 6 on December 8, 2004 to commemorate the Summit of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation.

The Summit that was to be held at Dhaka on February 6 and 7, 2005 was cancelled, for the second time; perhaps unlucky number 13 is to be blamed. It had earlier been scheduled to be held on January 9-11 but was delayed after three members - India, Maldives and Sri Lanka - were hit hard by the tsunami disaster.

The stamp depicts the flags of member nations viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The stamp is designed by Anowar Hosain and printed by The Security Printing Corp.(BD), Gazipur, Bangladesh in sheets of 100.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

AUSTRALIAN LEGENDS - FASHION DESIGNERS

Australia Post initiated the Australia Post Australian Legends Award in 1997 to honor living Australians who have made a unique contribution to our way of life, inspired the community and influenced the way Australians think about themselves and their country.

The award comprises issuing a stamp in honor of each Legend(s). A range of philatelic products is produced as well as a book providing insights into each Australian Legend and their achievements.

Six fashion designers joined the exclusive ranks of Australians who have featured on a postage stamp during their lifetime in 2005. The six designers - Prue Acton OBE, Jenny Bannister, Collette Dinnigan, Akira Isogawa, Joe Saba and Carla Zampatti AM - were named as the 2005 Australia Post Australian Legends.

Australia Post selected the six designers based on their contribution to the evolution of contemporary Australian fashion as well as their influence on our national identity.

The 2005 Australian Legends stamps issued on January 21, 2005 are accompanied by first day covers, maxicards and stamp pack. A 64-page book, Australia In Fashion - Six Great Designers, by Zelda Cawthorne, was also released to accompany the stamp issue.

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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>

The Telegraph, February 23, 2005

REVIVING LOVE FOR STAMPS

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050223/asp/jamshedpur/story\\_4412847.asp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050223/asp/jamshedpur/story_4412847.asp)

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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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