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

Issue # 211 - March 10, 2005. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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

'Year of Lists' this is how we are looking at the year 2005 at Stamps of  
India. We plan to publish as many lists as possible - chronological as  
well as topical, based on various facets of Indian Philately and  
Philatelic material.

Please send in your ideas and we would be happy to include it in our  
Lists incase it is already not there.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Manohar Lal,  
Rishi Kochar, and Akhilesh Arka.

We invite your inputs, please email to "writeback at 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

Mar 10: Madhavrao Scindia

Mar 24: Flora & Fauna of North East, Set of 4 stamps & 1 Miniature Sheet

Mar 31: International Year of Physics (Definitive Issue)

Apr 06: 75 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi, Set of 4 stamps

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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MEGHDOOTS IN MARCH

Following Meghdoot Post Cards are scheduled for release during March 2005:

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Number, Date, Message, Language, Quantity in million, Remarks if any

0116. Mar 10: xxx, Tamil, 0.1

0117. Mar 14: Crop 1, Hindi, 0.1.5

0118. Mar 14: Crop 2, Hindi, 0.1.5

0119. Mar 14: Pesticide, Hindi, 0.1.5

0120. Mar 14: Plastic, Hindi, 0.1.5

0121. Mar 14: Tree 1, Hindi, 0.2

0122. Mar 14: Tree 2, Hindi, 0.2

0123. Mar 24: Education for all, Telugu, 0.1

0124. Mar 31: 'Chandramukhi' movie starring Rajnikant, Tamil, 0.1

0125. Mar 31: AIDS Maharashtra, Marathi, 0.1

The complete list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/meghdoot.htm>

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

Following is the Addenda to the list published in Issue #206 of February 3, 2005 of Postal Stationery issued in 2004:

Postcard with message

"Philately: King of Hobbies, Collect Postage Stamps, Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau", Printed by ISP

Reply Postcard with message

"Philately: King of Hobbies, Collect Postage Stamps, Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau"; Printed by ISP, on blue card (same as used for Competition Post card)

India Post does not look at these messages as advertisement on postcards. It is utilization of space for promoting philately on the postcard that bears no other commercial message or advertisement. These messages appeared for the first time in 2003 on postcard, reply postcard from ISP, and Inland Letter Card from SPP.

The complete list of postal stationery issues of 2004 is available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/ps2004.htm>

For a list of postal stationery in 2005, please visit

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

January 8: Mumbai, Jain Doctors International Conference

This special cover was released by the Post Master General, Maharashtra Circle in a function organized at Terapanth Sabhagar, Kandiwali. Pujya Acharya Pushpadant Sagarji Maharaj, Pujya Padamsurishwarji Maharaj and Pujya Kamalmuniji Maharaj were present on this occasion. Dr Pradip Jain of Balod exhibited his Philatelic exhibit on Jainism during JDICON 2005 on January 8-9 2005.

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

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

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NEW MAX CARDS

Max Cards are usually prepared by collectors in very small numbers. The philatelic organizations also issue max cards some times and we endeavor to list them here. Additionally we also list 'max cards' issued by India Post, that at times do not fulfill the criteria of a max card as per the International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Stamp Issue, Price, Issued by, Remarks

Jan 9: Breeds of Dogs, Rs 60, India Post Philatelic Bureau Ernakulam, Set of 4 Cards

For a list of greeting cards, please visit

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Nov 21-22, 2004: Berhampur (Orissa), 2 covers

SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March 21-24, Gangtok, Sikkim

April 8-9: Calicut, Stamps & Coins

April 22-24, Mumbai, Coins

August 11-15, Coimbatore, South Zone

Contact: The Philatelists Coimbatore, 5 Eleventh Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore 641 012

August 12-15: Salem, National Level philatelic & Numismatic

Contact: N Vaithiyathan, Treasurer, Baramahal Philatelic and Numismatic Association, 16 Gandhi Road, (Opposite Ganesan Hospital), Salem 636 007

For a list of exhibitions in 2005, please visit

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

MEETINGS

April 4: 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>

PHILATELY AT INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee has a Philatelic and Numismatic Section in their Hobbies Club. Every year the Hobbies Club organizes 'Srishti' - All India Techno Hobby Exhibition. This year's show was held from March 4 to 6, 2005.

The philatelic exhibits compete in the following groups:

Stamps

- a) Indian Stamps on Armed Forces
- b) Nature/Personalities
- c) Means of Transport
- d) Buildings & Monuments/Sports

First day Covers

- a) Indian Personalities (Indian and Foreign FDC's both)
- b) Nature

Software

- a) Stamp Design on children's day
- b) Flash or PowerPoint presentation on history of stamps and coins
- c) Flash or PowerPoint presentation on importance of stamp collection in the era of e-mail

On the Spot

- a) Quiz
- b) Stamp Design

Visit their website www.srishti05.org

The images of a few exhibits at SRISHTI 05 are available here:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/211-pix-a.htm>

NEW YAHOO GROUPS

Dr M Ravindra Reddy has launched a new yahoo group on January 30, 2005 named World of Philately as the Official Mailing List of the Site <http://www.geocities.com/worldofphilately/>. Visit the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worldofphilately/>. This group is for Philatelists all over the world including Stamp Collectors, Stamp Dealers, and Philatelist Associations. And Also for Collectors of Currencies, Notes, Coins & Special Antiquities, Rare Articles all over the World.

Rohit Jain maintains a yahoo group since June 10, 2004 for collectors of holograms on stamps and postal stationery. Visit the group at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hologramstamps/>

PEOPLE IN STAMPS: PRAKASH MODY

The Canadian Stamp News, a fortnightly magazine (Vol. 29, No. 21: February 22 to March 7, 2005) profiled Prakash Mody, a full page with picture under 'People in Stamps' column by Melaine Cummings.

Contents include "Diversity campaigner and collector Prakash Mody" and the headline says: Mody hoping Canada Post can catch up to multiculturalism. Below the picture, it mentions 'Toronto philatelist Prakash Mody is hoping future Canada Post issues more accurately reflect the country's cultural diversity.'

Read the article here:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/211-pix-b.htm>

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

The Army Postal Service celebrated its 33rd anniversary on March 1, 2005. APS is a unique blend of the Department of Posts and the Army. APS functions as a part of the countrywide postal set up but administratively it is under Army. Most Officers and men in APS are on deputation from Department of Posts. Though a part of the Army, APS also extends its services to the three services and Para Military Forces. It also provides cover to Indian troops deployed with UN Peace Keeping Forces abroad.

The APS on an average handles over 300,000 mail articles and 4000 telegrams daily besides operating a Scheduled Despatch Service (SDS) to convey the official mail within the Defence establishments.

The modernization plan articulated for APS is in full swing to keep pace with the present age of computerization and related developments. In order to transmit money orders of the troops promptly through Satellite, APS has established two V-SAT stations and twenty four Extended Satellite Money Order Stations. The long term policy envisages that 100% of money orders booked in Field Post Offices will be transmitted over satellite at no extra cost to soldiers.

Army Postal Service has also launched the Premium Products namely Sale of Greeting Post, Passport applications, Speed Post, Booking of Express Parcels & e-Post in selected Field Post Offices.

The facility of delivery of newspapers and periodicals is also available to the troops through FPOs.

Savings Bank operation has completely been automated at both the Central Base Post Offices of APS and about 450,000 accounts with a deposit of Rs.16 billion are being serviced by APS.

Postal Life Insurance (PLI) cover is also provided to the troops through the FPOs. PLI work is fully computerized. During the current financial year 88,314 troops have opted for PLI over Rs.10 billion so far, the highest amount of new PLI business procured among all Postal Circles. The APS Circle is having more than 4, 55, 762 live policies as on date.

Though communication requirement of troops is changing, the APS is still considered most reliable service for the soldiers deployed in the remotest areas of operation.

FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Maharashtra state police handed over the investigations on March 6, 2005 to the criminal investigation department (CID crime) into the death of police sub-inspector Pratap Kakade. Kakade, an accused in the fake stamp scam, died after he allegedly suffered a cardiac arrest at the Yerwada jail, Pune on February 23, 2005. The primary postmortem report said that there were injury marks on his neck and chest and had reserved the cause

of his death. Kakade's relatives had alleged foul play. The mystery around Kakade's death deepened after the chemical analysis report, prepared by the regional forensic science laboratory, Ganeshkhind, said that his blood and other organs had traces of alcohol.

The Proceedings in the fake stamp racket trial were conducted through video conferencing for the first time on March 2, 2005. The trial of accused held in Yerawada Central Jail at Pune by a Bangalore sessions court was held through video conferencing following recommendations of the Supreme Court.

Telgi and two of his associates Ramratan Soni and Sanjay Gaikwad were brought to a special court in Mumbai on February 25, 2005 from Yerwada central jail in Pune and taken back at the end of the day. Judge U D Salvi asked the accused to come ready for framing of charges in one of the fake stamp case on the next date of hearing, March 5, 2005.

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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.>

ZAHID ISLAM, Dammam, Saudi Arabia

In response to the queries in Issue # 210 of March 3, 2005:

1) Mr. Stan Dudley will find an image of his cutout in Higgins and Gage World Postal Stationery Catalog (Section 9) published by Classic Philatelics, California 92646. The cutout is from a 1886 postal stationery envelope of Hyderabad State. The original issue of the 5 annas value (1879) was yellow brown in color. It was changed to grayish blue in 1886 and these envelopes are not easily obtainable in postally used condition, and command high prices when offered in auctions. A year later (1887), the color of the 5-anna value was changed again, this time to gray green. Such envelopes remained in use in Hyderabad till 1891 when another design was adopted.

2) Mr. Alan Davis can obtain detailed information about the three dies of the 1854 half-anna blue in Stanley Gibbons' recently published One Country Catalog (India), produced in conjunction with allworldstamps.com. The color illustrations are really superb and indeed a treat for all collectors of Indian stamps.
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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

SOLDIERS' AND SEAMEN'S ENVELOPE

Private soldiers and seamen, belonging to Her Majesty's ships, possessed the privilege of sending and receiving prepaid letters not exceeding half an ounce of weight by British packet at a postage of 1 pence or its equivalent per letter.

On the abolition of the Southampton and Suez line, such letters were sent by private vessels from India; but a special arrangement was afterwards entered into under which all such letters were transmitted from Bombay to Southampton by the non-contract vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Company.

An envelope embossed with a 9 pies stamp (equivalent of 1 pence) was issued for use of soldiers and seamen, belonging to Her Majesty's ships in 1879 and with the rate increase in 1895, the it was overprinted in India with the words 'One Anna'.

We can now add the exact dates of their issue.

1879 April 1 - 9 pies

1895 April 1 - Anna 1

Sources:

Annual Report on the Operations of the Post Office of India 1879-80

Director General's Circular No. 96/68 dated March 15, 1895

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

ROYAL WEDDING STAMPS

Royal Mail unveiled two stamps on March 9, 2004 to mark the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles. The stamps in the denomination of 30 pence (inland first class letter rate) and 68 pence (letter rate for the Commonwealth) shall be issued on April 8, 2005 the day of the royal wedding.

DX Services, a competitor of Royal Mail, has announced that it plans to issue stamps within six weeks in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It will then become the first company other than Royal Mail to issue stamps for carrying mail. The company while confirming that their stamps will not feature the monarch's head would not dismiss the idea of Camilla Parker Bowles appearing. "Nothing is ruled in and nothing is ruled out at this stage," said Peter Brougham, chief executive of DX.

The illustrations are available at:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/211-pix.htm>

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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, March 9, 2005

BENGAL LAB FOR FOOD STAMP EXPERIMENT

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050209/asp/nation/story_4354782.asp

The Hindu Business Line, March 8, 2005
NOW, ONLINE INVESTMENTS FOR POSTAL SCHEMES
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2005/03/08/stories/2005030801210600.htm>

Business Standard, March 3, 2005
YOUR SHAMPOO IS IN THE MAIL
<http://www.business-standard.com/common/storypage.php?hpFlag=Y&chklogin=N&autono=182375&leftnm=lmnul&leftindx=1&lselect=0>

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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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