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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,

India's rich heritage has always found space on the stamps issued by  
India Post and the recent Flora and Fauna issue is no exception. This  
time round it's from the North East of India. One just wishes that India  
Post had been a little more creative with the designs.

Thematic topics find favor with collectors today, specially the younger  
ones. Care should be taken to bring out well designed stamps as it  
encourages more and more people to pick up these stamps and is a step in  
to making them stamp collectors.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abhai Mishra,  
A Shafiq Khan, UNI, and PTI.

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

FLORA & FAUNA MAXIM CARDS

Stamps of India have issued a set of 4 multicolor picture post cards on the Flora and Fauna of North East to enable the philatelists to prepare the maxim cards for the stamps issued on March 24, 2005.

The cards are available for Rs 50 for a set of 4 cards post paid anywhere in India. The buyers may affix stamps and get it postmarked. The first day of issue postmark for this issue provided at all philatelic bureaus in the country is not suitable for any of the stamps in the set for preparing maxim cards, as it depicts a bird. A plain date postmark will be better, and better still if it is from a post office located in North East India.

The remittance may be sent in favor of Stamps of India by DD/cheques payable in Delhi or by money order to 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Mar 31: International Year of Physics, Rs 5, (Definitive Issue)

Apr 06: 75 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi,  
Set of 4 stamps & 1 Miniature Sheet, Rs 5 each & Rs 20

The issues 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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FLORA & FAUNA STAMPS RELEASED

India Post issued a set of 4 special stamps and 1 Miniature Sheet on the Flora and Fauna of North East India on March 24, 2005. The stamps are in the denomination of Rs 5 each and the Miniature Sheet comprising 1 each of all the 4 stamps is priced at Rs 20. The designs of the stamps depict Clouded Leopard, Mishmi Takin, Dillenia Indica, and the Pitcher Plant.

The North East India comprises of the seven sister states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. They form part of the East Himalayan region which extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces the Darjeeling Hills of West Bengal. The region has international borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The area is flanked by hills and with the mighty Brahmaputra river slashing a central path between its north and south. The area can be divided into three geographical divisions-the Shillong Plateau, the North Eastern hill Basin and the Brahmaputra

Valley. It is a land where tea is an industry, handicrafts a major occupation and martial arts a favored sport.

The North East India, being at the confluence of three major bio-geographical realm of the world, is extremely rich in floral and faunal biodiversity with several endemic species. It is also one of the rainiest regions of the world being fed with two monsoons. The highest rainfall area is also present in this region, the town called Mawsynram, about 10 km away from earlier highest rainfall area (Chirapunjee) in the state of Meghalaya (the abode of clouds and also called as Scotland of India). The tropical climate of the regions with high rain fall and plenty of sun-light coupled with unique bio-geographical positioning of this region is responsible for rich biodiversity in terms of floral and faunal elements.

The Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis Nebulosa*) is found in the forests of Sikkim, Assam, and adjoining Bhutan and Nepal. It is listed as endangered animal under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Mishmi Takin (*Budorcas Taxicolor*) is found in Mishmi Hills (Arunachal Pradesh), Bhutan and Myanmar. It is also listed as endangered animal under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

*Dillenia Indica* is an evergreen tree, 30 to 80 feet height, found in sub Himalayan tract of Assam, and Bengal. Its dried leaves are used as substitute to sandpaper, while timber is used in the form of planks and rafters and making handles and bottoms of boats.

Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes Khasiana*) is endemic to Meghalaya. The Pitcher Plant is an endangered species and its export is prohibited. It is a unique plant as it is insectivorous and traps insects in its pitcher for its nutrition.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamps 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 the quantity of 3 million each in the sheets of 46 stamps (12 sets). The Miniature Sheet is printed in the quantity of 100,000.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement was scheduled for release in April 2005.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks  
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Postcard

30, ISP, Marathi, AIDS, 2  
30, SPP, English, Airtel, 0.5, M  
30, SPP, Hindi, ISI Mark, 1

Inland Letter Card

01, SPP, Tamil, Small Savings, 6  
30, SPP, Marathi, AIDS, 2  
30, ISP, Hindi, Airtel, 0.5, M  
30, SPP, Hindi, Hall Mark for Gold, 1

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

2004

Nov 01: Gwalior, Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage  
Nov 26-27: Gonda, District Level, 2 covers

2005

Jan 05: Kolkata, ISISAR World Peace Congress  
Jan 24: Kolkata, Association of Voluntary Blood Donors Silver Jubilee  
Mar 12: Ahmedabad Save the whale Shark

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

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE NEW ISSUES

Mar 26: 108 Medium Regiment Silver Jubilee

The list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2005 is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/2005aps.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

March 19-20, Thane, District Level, No Covers Issued

March 21-24: Gangtok, Sikkim, POSTPONED

April 8-9: Calicut, Stamps & Coins

April 8-10: Kolkata, Stamp Fair  
Venue: Art Gallery of the Charnock City, Salt Lake City  
Contact: Arun Bhattacharya, Treasurer, Indian Philatelic Traders  
Association, Telephone: 0 98304 12286  
Table is available at Rs 2000 for the entire duration

April 15-17: Ernakulam, District Level

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 Vaithianathan, 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, 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 is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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PHILATELY WEEK

Uttaranchal Circle of India Post celebrated Philately Week from March 21 to 25, 2005 as part of 150 years celebration. A seminar on philately was organized on March 22 as reported earlier. It was followed by a painting competition for children age group 8-12 years on March 24 at Dehradun GPO. Over 200 children participated in the painting competition. The Chief Postmaster General Suneeta Trivedi gave away the prizes. The award winning paintings are proposed to be reproduced on the special covers. A mini stamp exhibition was also organized at the Philatelic Bureau, Dehradun. Children from major schools visited the philatelic bureau during the philatelic week.

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PHILA INDIA CATALOG 2005

Manik Jain of Philatelia, Kolkata informs that the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Phila India Stamp Catalog will be available on April 15, 2005.

Phila India 2005 is now 300 plus pages in color, hard bound, weighs around 800 grams and is priced at Rs 550 postpaid.

Fully prepaid orders may be placed to Philatelia, 1 Motisil Street Street, Kolkata 700013. Telephone 033-22288549

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIGNET, Vol. 27 No. 1, Apr Jun 2004

SIGNET, Vol. 27 No. 2, Jul-Sep 2004

SIGNET, Vol. 27 No. 3, Oct-Dec 2004

Editor: S Sahoo

Publisher: Philatelic Congress of India

Address: Damyanti M Pitte, Caretaker Treasurer, Suket, IV floor, 29B Dongersi Cross Lane, Mumbai 400006

Annual Subscription: Rs.100 in India US\$ 12 overseas by airmail

Remarks: Three issues stapled together in one envelope

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

Jyotsna Diesh, from Principal Chief Postmaster General of Delhi Circle to Member (Development) of the Postal Services Board with effect from March 18, 2005.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The CBI has now launched a massive manhunt for a Hemant Sargana believed to be the brains behind another fake stamp paper racket, after a court notice. His was a network as complicated as Telgi's and was unearthed only when the CBI was investigating the Telgi case. CBI is now following up leads which indicate that the Sargana's companies selling fake stamps had a presence in Mumbai and Kolkata as well. Thane Police Crime Branch had caught Sargana in 2001 along with fake stamp papers worth several millions. However he had to be let off because of lack of evidence when the fake stamp papers seized were replaced by the genuine ones. The Delhi Police official who had earlier cracked the case, also known as the 'Blue Star case' had been paid off and the case hushed up.

The CBI has filed two cases before Special Judge Pune against four Maharashtra Police Crime Branch officers for their alleged involvement

in the fake stamp racket run by Abdul Karim Telgi. Inspector Dutta Ghule of Thane Crime Branch and Sub-Inspector H M Vichare of Mumbai Crime Branch in Satpur Nashik case whereas Inspector Anil Deshmukh of Thane Crime Branch and Sub-Inspector R M Pawar of Nashik Police along with Telgi, Sabbir Ahmad Mustaq Ahmad Sheikh, Jai Kishan Singh alias Bengali and others were charge sheeted in Thane case under various sections of the MCOCA. The MCOCA Court Pune has issued notices and production warrants for the appearance of the accused. Investigation revealed several discrepancies in the probe conducted by the State Police and several police officers were allegedly abetting and aiding the organized crime syndicate of Telgi, said the charge sheet. It was further alleged that conspiring with Telgi, these police officers filed some fake cases so that Telgi's unabated activities of stamp business flourished in the region. In order to ensure Telgi's supremacy in counterfeit stamp business, certain other persons alleged to be his competitors were also falsely implicated in these cases. These accused police officers had allegedly accepted a huge amount of bribe from Telgi and his associates.

Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Mumbai, D K Sonawane on March 24, 2005 extended Telgi's remand along with that of other accused, including his nephew Tabrez Telgi, till April 7, 2005 in a case registered in 2003. The court turned down his lawyer Jaideep Thakker's request to consult Telgi in the court premises. Thakker told the court that he has not received documents pertaining to this case and hence he should be allowed to interact with Telgi. Telgi told the court that he had over 48 cases pending and there were so many documents. He said, "There is no place in the cell to keep all the documents including charge sheets, which run into thousands of pages."

Telgi, along with two associates, Ramratan Soni and Sanjay Gaikwad, were produced before a special CBI court at Mumbai on March 23, 2005 in case registered in 1995.

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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>

DANDI MARCH CINDERELLA

A set of 3 multicolor self-adhesive labels to commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi is available for Rs 30 per set, postage extra, from A R C Shah, A-20 Gujarat Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi 110034, Telephone 9810179095

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.>

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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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

PRINTERS ARCHIVED PHILATELIC MATERIAL OF 40 COUNTRIES

Greg Manning Auctions Inc announced on March 28, 2005 that it has acquired the Fournier Archives, which contain an inventory of previously unavailable philatelic material printed during 1966-1991 from a total of 40 countries worldwide, for approximately \$6 million.

The true collector value of the Fournier Archives, deaccessioned by the Heraclio Fournier of Spain, was not fully recognized until the highly publicized auction of the United Nations Archive, which realized sales of more than \$3 million in May 2003 at Geneva, Switzerland.

Compared to the UN Philatelic Archive, the Fournier Archive is significantly greater in size and scope. The Fournier inventory has a shipping weight in excess of 9,000 pounds versus 1,600 pounds for the UN Philatelic Archive. The philatelic material between the two archives is similar in nature, as both contain progressive proofs, die proofs, trial color proofs, imperforates, new designs, incomplete prints, deluxe proofs, and many previously unknown varieties.

Greg Manning Auctions acquired the Fournier Archives from Champion Stamp Company of New York, which was also the buyer of the UN Philatelic Archive at the same public auction in Geneva, and later resold it to Greg Manning Auctions in June 2003.

Greg Manning, First Vice Chairman, CEO and President of GMAI, said "Our plan is to market the Fournier Archives through our various auction subsidiaries located worldwide and through private sales. We estimate that in order to properly market this inventory, it will be sold over a period of years. It is important to note the philatelic difference between this archived material and traditionally issued stamps is that most proofs or imperforates in Fournier are in quantities of less than 200 items, and a regularly issued stamp would have a printing in the hundreds of thousands, or even millions. Collectors wishing to upgrade their collections will have the opportunity to purchase proofs, imperforates and varieties in an effort to obtain gold medals at exhibitions, or simply to own a rare item. This valuable inventory, including thousands of scarce items never before offered, will strengthen our future sales as well as profits."

Arthur Morowitz, President of Champion Stamp Company and Secretary of the American Stamp Dealers Association, stated: "The countries in the Fournier Archives, include New Zealand, Singapore, Morocco, Venezuela, Tunisia, Kuwait, Honduras, Cook Islands, Samoa, Madagascar and others, present a diverse and highly desirable mix that is popular with collectors around the world. Independent philatelic experts were impressed by the size and quality of the archive, which can only be rivaled, in my opinion, by the American Banknote Archive that realized sales of approximately \$17 million at Christie's auction house in 1989-1990. By now, especially after the successful U.N. auction, the philatelic world is well versed in the value of archived material. Despite negotiations to retain inventory from several countries of

special interest to me for a seven-figure amount, Greg Manning Auctions sought to acquire the entire archive for its global operations,"

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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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