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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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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

India is the land of a thousand faiths, festivals, and feasts providing  
a spectacle that cannot be experienced anywhere else in the world. There  
is an underlying similarity in many of these as are the stark  
differences in the styles and forms in different regions. But  
unfailingly common is the joyous celebration and the various gastronomic  
and aesthetic delights that accompany.

Characteristic of the Indian cultural mélange, people in various parts  
of India celebrate the New Year in their own ways. And not all of these  
fall on the same day! Between April 9 and 15, 2005 almost all parts of  
India and neighboring countries celebrated New Year in one form or the  
other.

According to most Indian or rather South Asian Calendars the New Lunar  
Year starts with the first day of the bright half of Chaitra month  
(Chaitra Shukla Pratipada or Chaitra Sukhladi). This year the New  
Vikrami (Bikrami) Samvat (Samvatsar) 2062 began on April 9 and was  
celebrated all over North India and in Nepal. This New Year day was  
celebrated in Kashmir as 'Navreh', in Maharashtra as 'Gudi Padwa', in  
Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh as 'Ugadi', and as 'Cheti Chand' by the  
Sindhi community.

The New Solar Year usually begins on April 13 every year and is celebrated as 'Vaisakhi' or 'Baisakhi' in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Sikhs also celebrate this day for inaugurating the Order of Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh. It is also known as Mesadi and Vaisakhadi. In Tamil Nadu, 'Varsha Pirappu' the Tamil New Year begins on this day. This day is celebrated as Sinhala New Year in Sri Lanka. In Kerala the first day of the Medam moth of the Malayalam calendar is celebrated as 'Vishu' (auspicious) and this year it falls on April 14. Naba Barsha is celebrated as a New Year for Bengalis and this year it falls on April 15. This is celebrated as the Poila Baisakh in Bangladesh and is a national holiday. This day is known as Mahabishuba Sankranti and is celebrated as the Oriya New Year throughout Orissa. In North East India this day is celebrated as 'Bohaag Bihu' or 'Rongaali Bihu'.

In 1957 the Government of India adopted Saka Samvat as the Indian National Calendar in an attempt to establish a unified calendar for all of India. However the Gregorian calendar is in use for official purposes and holidays are still determined according to regional, religious, and ethnic traditions. This year Saka New Year 1927 began on March 22. This day is also known as the vernal equinox when the night and day are equal all over the world, the sun sets at the South Pole and rises at the North Pole and anyone standing on the equator at noon will not cast a shadow.

Navroze, the Parsi New Year is celebrated on March 21 annually. This day is celebrated as New Year in Pakistan and is known as Nowrooz.

'Losar' is the New Year for Bhutan and Tibet and was celebrated on February 6 this year.

In Gujrat the New Year celebrations will begin on November 2, this year.

Wow, what a lot to celebrate! We would like to see stamps, postal stationery, and special postmarks on these. India Post's Greeting Cards with stamped envelopes for all these variations of the New Year will be a good Idea.

We also take this opportunity to wish all of you a joyous new beginning to this year.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Manohar Lal, Madhukar Deogawanka, and Abhai Mishra.

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

April 18: 50 Years of Bandung Conference, Rs15

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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'15 PUNJAB' STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on April 13, 2005 to mark 300 years of 15 Battalion (Patiala) of the Punjab Regiment.

It is one of oldest and most decorated battalions of Indian Army and was raised on April 13 1705 by Baba Alla Singh founder of Patiala State. In 1932 it was re-designated as 1st Patiala Rajindra Sikhs Infantry.

In 1951, 1st Patiala was integrated in to the Punjab Regiment of Indian Army and was designated as the 15 Punjab.

Kamleshwar Singh 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 0.8 million each in the sheets of 35 stamps.

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 26 - Feb 6: Kolkata, 30th Kolkata Book Fair  
No Cover - Postmark with changing dates

Feb 20-21: Barasat, BARPEX District Level Stamp Exhibition, 2 covers

Forthcoming

Apr 22: Dehradun, Earth Day 2005

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS
EXHIBITIONS & FAIRS

April 14-16, Malda, District Level

April 15-17: Ernakulam, District Level

April 22-24: Mumbai, Coins

April 28-30: Gangtok, Sikkim, NEW DATES

May 7-8: Chennai, Stamps & 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

May 2: 2 to 4 PM, Delhi Philatelists
2214-15, Hardhyan Singh Road, 2nd Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi 110005
Guests are welcome, please contact: Madhukar Jhingan 93505-37037

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations is available at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

JAINISM PHILATELY GROUP

In the Issue # 209 of February 24, 2005 it was erroneously reported that
Prakash Mody has founded a new yahoogroup on Jainism Philately
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jainism_philately on February 20, 2005.

The group was, in fact, founded by Sudhir Jain, Satna who is also its
moderator. Apologies to both, Mody and Jain and we do regret the
inconvenience caused to our readers.

LOGISTICS POST

R Ganesan, Secretary Ministry of Communications & Information
Technology, and Chairman of Postal Services Board launched a new service
'Logistics Post' on March 28, 2004 at Mumbai. Initially the service
would operate on 30 dedicated destinations from Mumbai.

India Post has tied up with a private transport operator for vehicles
and will pick up and deliver parcels of above 50 kg at fixed rates.
Individual parcels will be charged based on weight, under various slabs,
the maximum rate being Rs 1.35 per kg for parcels up to 100 kg, the
minimum tariff being as low as Rs 0.60 per kg for cargo of 7 tons and
above. India Post is expected to earn a margin of around 15 per cent.

Logistic Post would be launched in three more States, Tamil Nadu,
Gujarat and Uttaranchal, shortly and be a national service by June 2005.

RETAIL POST

India Post launched 'Retail Post' in 1996 to take advantage of its
country wide network. Traditionally the local post office is the
communication hub for a village and small town. People regularly visit
the post office for postal services, make outstation calls and for other
similar purposes. Therefore placing consumer products at post office
adds to their visibility.

Recently Kolkata-based consumer goods company Emami tied up with India
Post to sell consumer goods such as soaps and creams through 5,000 post
offices. The pilot project was initiated in Maharashtra in February
2005, with ambitions to eventually be available in some 100,000 post-
office across India.

A pilot project was being worked out between India Post and imaging
products major Kodak India to sell cameras and film rolls at post
offices in Sangli and Panvel in Maharashtra. India Post is also in talks

with major consumer goods manufacturers such as Hindustan Lever, Godrej Consumer Products and Marico Industries, for tie ups for Retail Post.

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MALDIVES NEW ISSUES

Jan 26: Euro Cup Soccer, Set of 4 ,12 Rf each

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PAKISTAN NEW ISSUES

March 23: Paksitan Air Force, Set of 4, Rs 5 each

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SRI LANKA NEW ISSUES

March 27: Tsunami Victims, Set of 4, Rs 5, 20, 30, and 33

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WEBSITE ON COINS

Sanjay Kansal has launched an excellent website on Indian coins. Please visit http://www.geocities.com/india_coin/ and www.indiancoins.tk

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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

10 different multicolor self-adhesive labels to commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's March to Dandi are available for Rs 75, 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.>

ATISH JAIN

It is to bring to your kind notice about paper folds appearing in recent issues of miniature sheets. It had started with miniature sheets of Taj Mahal. Similarly there are folds visible in miniature sheets of Flora and Fauna and now 75 years of Dandi March. The miniature sheets of Dandi March are the worst with 2 to 3 folds visible in each sheet. I can't understand the matter of these folds appearing in these miniature sheets which gives these miniature sheets crumpled look and makes them uncollectible. I hope you will take up this matter with our postal departments and urge them to check this shortcoming in our beautiful 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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

JOHN PAUL II 1920-2005

Karol Józef Wojtyła, Pope John Paul II since his election on October 16, 1978, was born in Wadowice, a small town near Krakow, Poland on May 18, 1920. Following schooling in Wadowice, he began his studies at the University of Krakow in 1938. After the German invasion in 1939, he was obliged to earn a living as a factory worker. When he discovered his vocation to the priesthood in 1942, he entered the secret seminar established in Krakow by Cardinal Sapieha. On November 1, 1946, he was ordained priest. He was appointed Suffragan Bishop of Krakow by Pope Pius XII on July 4, 1958. During the Vatican Council he was appointed Archbishop of Krakow by Pope Paul VI on January 13, 1964, and made a Cardinal on June 28, 1967. On October 16, 1978, Archbishop Wojtyła was elected Pope as the first non-Italian for 455 years. He took the name of his predecessor, John Paul II. As Pope, he set up a record of beatifications (1314) and canonizations (476). He created 201 cardinals in 8 consistories. He has accomplished over 100 trips abroad and 150 journeys within Italy. Even during his life, his pontificate was regarded as one of the longest in the history of the church. Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005 at the age of 84 years.

Austria Post will issue a stamp on April 14, 2005 in the denomination of Euro 1. The stamp designed by Peter Sinawehl with artwork by Kurt Leitgeb will be printed by the Photogravure and Intaglio process in the quantity of 1 million. The illustration of this stamp is available at: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/216-pix.htm>

Vatican Post Office issued a set of 3 special stamps on April 12, 2005 in the denominations of Euro 0.60, 0.62, and 0.80 in blue, red and green, respectively. These stamps can be used only until a new pope is elected. According to tradition, the "vacant See" stamp carries an image of two crossed keys but no papal headgear. The traditional image on Vatican stamps issued while a pope is alive has the keys and the headgear. These stamps are valid for the so-called "interregnum," the time span that begins with the death of the pope and ends when a new one is elected, but other Vatican stamps also will be valid in that period.

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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

Published by Madhukar Jhingan (mjhingan at yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India
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