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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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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Welcome to the first issue of the sixth year. We take this opportunity  
to rededicate ourselves in providing our readers even more useful  
publication every week.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shakil Ahmed,  
Vijay Seth and Madhukar Deogawanka.

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

P GUPTA IS NO MORE

Purnendu Gupta passed away on August 30, 2005 at Kolkata.

Gupta was perhaps the best known Indian philatelist. He was the first Indian to win the Grand Prize of Honor in 1983 at Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was the first in the world, perhaps still the only person, to have 3 exhibits in prestigious FIP Championship Class simultaneously. To qualify for the FIP Championship Class the exhibit requires winning 3 large gold medals in different years.

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STATE BANK STAMP RELEASED

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs 15 to mark the 200 years of the State Bank of India at New Delhi on August 31, 2005.

The State Bank of India is the only Indian bank, to be among the top ten banks of the world. The bank with 9000 branches, functions in a decentralized manner with 14 Local Head Offices and 50 Zonal offices.

The origin of State Bank of India dates back to 2nd June 1806 when it started with the name of "Bank of Calcutta" later re-christened as the Bank of Bengal in the year 1809 and thus became the first of the Presidency Banks under the East India Company. The Presidency Banks of Bombay and Madras were established in 1840 and 1843 respectively which heralded the onset of modern banking in India. These banks continued to issue currency notes till the Government took over this function in 1862. They were given formal central bank status from the year 1866 till 1935 when the Reserve Bank of India was created. Under the Imperial Bank of India Act, the three Presidency Banks were amalgamated in 1921 to form the Imperial Bank of India, which was nationalized on 1st July 1955, resulting in the creation of the present day form of the State Bank of India.

In 1959 and 1960 the State Bank of India acquired eight banks belonging to former princely states, two of which were later merged into one. These seven Associate Banks today form an important part of the State Bank Group.

Sankha Samanta 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 stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million in the sheets of 10 stamps.

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

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SUBRATA CHAKRABORTY

Several stamp dealers in India and abroad are looking for the whereabouts of Subrata Chakraborty of Kolkata. Chakraborty reportedly has taken philatelic material worth millions during last one year and is now not traceable. It is also reported that Standard Chartered Bank is

also looking for him for non-payment. He was reported to be in Delhi along with his wife about a month back.

Last year Chakraborty was appointed Indian Commissioner to Honk Kong 2004 Asian International philatelic exhibition by his mentor M G Pittie in a clandestine manner by unauthorized use of the powers of the Philatelic Congress of India.

In case you have any information on Chakraborty please let us know.

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MAJOR MOHANTY PASSED AWAY

Major Mohanty passed away on August 28, 2005 at Cuttack. Mohanty was synonymous with philately in Orissa for nearly 50 years.

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOP

Dipok Dey and Madhukar Deogawanka conducted a philatelic workshop for India Post at Purulia on August 29, 2005. About 100 students from various schools participated in three hour workshop.

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Two hundred special covers, issued on August 5, 2005 at Gunji to mark the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2005, were carried to Kailash Mansarovar this year's pilgrimage led by Sunita Trivedi, Chief Post Master General of Uttaranchal Circle. These covers received additional cachet "Carried to Kailash Mansarovar". Limited numbers of carried covers priced at Rs 250 are available from Abhai Mishra, abhai_mishra@rediffmail.com Vice President of the Uttaranchal Philatelists Association, Dehradun.

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sep 2-4: Tirupur, Stamps & Coins  
Contact: C Palaneswamy 0421 2439131

Sep 22-23: Patiala, district level

Sep: Jaipur, SCHOOLPEX

Sep: Jodhpur, district level

Sep: Dimapur, Army Postal Service

Oct: New Delhi, Army Postal Service

Nov: Jalandhar, Army Postal Service

Dec: Jammu, Army Postal Service

Dec 17-19: Kolkata, State Level, NEW DATES

Jan 2006: Kolkata, Army Postal Service

Feb 2006: Hyderabad, Army Postal Service

Mar 2006: Kamptee, Army Postal Service

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

#### MEETINGS

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

#### POSTAL DEVELOPMENT IN TAMILNADU

Minister for Telecommunications and Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran announced that India Post had allocated Rs 110 million for the state of Tamilnadu towards improving the postal infrastructural facilities.

Maran was inaugurating a new building for the post office at Sathuvachari on August 28, 2005.

He said steps would be taken to release a special cover next year on the Vellore Sepoy Mutiny during the completion of its 200th year celebrations. He added that if representations were made, he would explore the possibilities of releasing special stamps on Tamil scholars Kripanada Variyar and Thambi Pavalar.

#### NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

India Government Mint Mumbai <http://www.mumbaimint.org> will be accepting orders for the commemorative coin sets in Proof & Uncirculated varieties in the memory of "Veer Durgadass (1638-1718)" (2003) from September 1 to 30, 2005.

The set consists of 3 coins in the denomination of Re 1, Rs 10, and Rs 100. Proof coins sets are priced at Rs 920 per set and the Uncirculated coin sets at Rs 520 per set plus 12.5% to 15.3% tax and postage costs.

#### THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for September 2005 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2auctions.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

#### ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

P R Krishnan from Coimbatore contributes two very interesting errors in Guru Granth Saheb issue including the black color missing in complete sheetlet.

View at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/stamps/efos/ggs.htm>

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JJ Philatelic Centre, M-1, Dewan House, Ajay Enclave, New Delhi 110018  
Tel: 9810651829

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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

BRUCE LEE AND JACKIE CHAN ON STAMPS OF CHINA

Film stars Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan appear on new commemorative stamps issued by the Chinese postal service to mark 100 years of Chinese cinema on August 29, 2005.

The issue also honors Chow Yun-Fat (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon), Andy Lau (House of Flying Daggers), Maggie Chung and Tony Leung (both in Hero and 2046) and Cecilia Cheung (Shaolin Soccer).

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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

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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