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

Issue # 260 - February 16, 2006. Published Every Thursday
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

Believe it or not, India Post has not yet issued the Annual Collectors' Pack for the issues of 2004! In other parts of the world the year pack of 2005 were available simultaneously with the last issue of 2005.

Similar is the fate of India's FDC Pack that was introduced only in 2004 with the issues of 2003. The FDC pack for 2004 is still awaited. Then there is the promised Postal Stationery Pack that was expected to make its very first appearance with the issues of 2004.

This situation along with tough to find info and tougher to find the actual products in case of local issues such as Meghdoot post cards, special postmarks, stamps booklets, all kinds of cards and packs heightens the challenge factor of Indian philately!!!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sudhir Kuamr Jain, and Manohar Lal

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@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

STAMP POLL 2005 - VOTE & WIN

Don't forget to vote for your favorite stamp of 2005. Please select from the commemorative and definitive stamps issued in 2005 displayed at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/stamppoll.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

- Feb 18: Thirumuruga Kirubananda Variyar, Rs 5
- Feb 18: Devaneya Pavanar, Rs 5
- Feb 18: Dr U V Swaminatha Iyer, Rs 5
- Feb 18: Tamilavel Umameheswarar, Rs 5
- Feb 24: St. Bedes College Shimla, Rs 5
- Feb 25: Gemini Ganesan, Rs 5

These 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 an illustrated list of stamps in 2006, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2006stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

India Post released a set of four postage stamps to commemorate President's Review of Fleet at Visakhapatnam on February 12, 2006 in the denomination of Rs 5 each.

The fleet review is a long-standing tradition observed by major navies. It is a ceremonial event where the president witnesses the navy's strength and reaffirms his faith in its ability to safeguard the nation's maritime interests.

In India, the President, as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, reviews the Fleet once during his tenure. Eight Reviews have taken place in India since Independence in 1947. The first was held in 1953 and the last, an International Fleet Review in 2001 at Mumbai.

After a number of ceremonies ashore, the President's yacht steams past an impressive array of ships of both the Indian and merchant navies and the Coast Guard which together symbolize the country's maritime strength. The Indian Fleet Review varies from that of some navies of the world, where ships steam past the reviewing yacht or ship. In a tradition inherited from the Royal Navy, the President inspects the navy to ascertain its strength and reaffirm his faith in its readiness to safeguard the nation's maritime interests and its security.

President of India A P J Abdul Kalam will review the ninth President's Fleet Review (PFR) at Visakhapatnam on February 12, 2006. This is the first time that the President's Fleet Review is being held on the Eastern Coast. The review was held in Mumbai during the past eight occasions.

The Navy will showcase around 50 naval ships and 55 aircraft ranging from carriers, missile destroyers, submarines, stealth frigates, naval sea fighters and helicopters.

The stamps depict INS Virrat aircraft carrier, and fighter plane Sea Harrier; Talwar and Brahmaputra class frigates and anti submarine Sea King helicopter; Sindhughosh and Sishumar class submarines; and Sandhayak class Survey vessel and off shore petrol vessel Vighraha of Indian Coast Guard along with a Dornier aircraft.

The First Day Cover depicts the Flag of the Indian Navy and the anchorage plan off Visakhapatnam Harbor. The first day postmark is an adaptation of two-masted ship from a 2<sup>nd</sup> century Satavahana coin.

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 in sheets of 16 that is 4 se-tenant blocks by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million blocks.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2006, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2006stamps.htm>

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATES

India Post issued a stamped envelope in a revised size on July 18, 2005. The revised size of 110 x 220 mm conforms to ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 269 and is identified as "Dimension Lengthwise" or more commonly as "DL". This size is meant for A4 sheet folded in thirds and A5 sheet folded in half lengthwise. It is a very widely used standard size.

This also conforms to the requirements of the Universal Postal Union that the envelopes for correspondence (1) measure at least 90 mm x 140 mm (3 1/2" x 5 1/2") and no more than 120 mm x 235 mm (4 3/4" x 9 1/4"); (2) be oblong, with the dimension of the long side being at least 1.414 times that of the short side; and (3) be made from paper weighing at least 63 gsm (grams per square meter).

This issue was originally printed only by the Security Printing Press, Hyderabad in azure laid ivory paper as was currently being used for the stamped envelopes in smaller size. However vide a notification dated August 30, 2005 India Post informed that the printing of this envelope will now be undertaken also by India Security Press, Nashik Road. We are yet to see the envelope in azure by India Security Press, Nashik Road and request the readers to look around and report its existence.

A new Stamped Envelope in the denomination of Rs 5 was released at the closing ceremony of the Sesquicentennial Celebrations of India Post on October 18, 2005 at New Delhi. The envelope was on white paper in the new Standardized size of 220 x 110 mm. The stamp is the single color replica of the fourth stamp in the set of 4 stamps issued on October 4, 2004 at the inaugural ceremony of the Sesquicentennial Celebrations of India Post. It is printed by both the presses in blue color.

This updates the report published in Issue # 243.

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

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Sri Sammakka-Saralamma Jatra, Telugu and Hindi  
Anti AIDS Bihar, Hindi

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 13: Valancheri, M E S Keveeyam College Silver Jubilee
Feb 4: Calicut, Fruits & Flowers Show
Feb 18: New Delhi, Sports Goods & Fitness Equipment Exhibition

For an illustrated list of special postmarks and covers in 2006, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2006pm.htm>

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D MADHAO RAO IS NO MORE

Dharnikot Madhao Rao, the distinguished thematic philatelist has died on January 24, 2006 after a cardiac arrest at Bhopal.

Born on February 16, 1931, Rao was very popular and co-operative philatelist.

His contribution to the development of thematic philately in India was immense. He was the founder of Indian Topical Association (January 15, 1980) and edited India's only topical philatelic magazine TOP PHIL for about 20 years. Under his editorship it acquired an important place in the world of Thematic Philately not only in India but abroad also. He had to give up editing due to failing health about 5 years ago. And afterwards TOP PHIL became irregular and finally stopped it's publication.

He was Executive Secretary of Indian Topical Association and Vice President of Madhya Pradesh Philatelic Federation.

He had vast collection and his classic themes were Discovery of India, Hindu Culture and Great Britain. He had received many medals in National and International Philatelic Exhibitions. Hundreds of his articles on Philately were published in various news papers and magazines. He had conducted Philatelic Workshops in various Schools and was Jury member of various Philatelic Exhibitions.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 23-25: New Delhi, South West Delhi District Philatelic Exhibition
Venue: Rail Museum, Chanakyapuri

Feb: Hyderabad, Army Postal Service

Mar 10-11: Lucknow, District Philatelic Exhibition

Mar 10-12: Mumbai, STAMCO 2006 7th Coin Stamp Bank Note Exhibition
Venue: Lakhamshi Napoo Hall, L Napoo Road, Near Matunga C R Station, Matunga

Dealers' booths available at Rs 3000
Contact: Suketu Jhaveri 0 98201 99714

Mar: Kamptee, Army Postal Service

For a list of exhibitions in 2006, 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>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILA VISION, Whole # 7, Jan 2006
PHILA VISION, Whole # 8, Feb 2006
Editor: Anil Kumar Jain
Publisher: Ajaimeru Philatelic Society
Address: Sahu Sadan, Street No. 6, Ram Nagar, Pushkar Road, Ajmer 305001
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.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.>

DR AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen (Switzerland)
Ungummed Definitives on sale!
FOR THE WHIMS OF INDIA POST SKY IS THE LIMIT!

I was taken by great surprise to read that India Post will be selling definitive stamps on ungummed paper! But mind you, this not for the first time. India Post had also issued SERVICE stamps on 10th December 1981 (SG 0231-41). These were printed on cream paper, with simulated perforations. Demanding not only a pair of scissors to cut the stamps from the sheet; but also a bottle of gum to affix them!

This is indeed a great joke of India Post. The readers of Stamps of India, would like to know the reason behind this strange feat of India Post, which could lead India back in to the 19th Century! Retrogression instead of progress in the new world?

No postal authorities any where in the world could have dared to introduce such "gummicks" without gum!!

God give "Sanmaati" to India Post!

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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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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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ADMINISTRIVIA

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'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

Our now famous Disclaimer!

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

STAMPS OF INDIA also publishes:

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

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 worldwide.

Credit cards accepted <http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>  
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