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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

Issue # 262 - March 2, 2006. Published Every Thursday

Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Our story on the President's Review of Fleet Stamps further reiterates the fact that some where some one is slipping up on quality control. From what we have received from our readers every one is concerned on for India Post.

Hope the errors of the President's Review of Fleet Stamps, gives a wake up call to India Post and the overall printing quality of Indian stamps would take a turn for the better

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jaydev Nansey, Dr Vijay Shukla and Shyam Pradhan

We invite your inputs, please email to 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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MORE ON PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF FLEET STAMPS

Contrary to the impression the report in the previous issue # 261 gave, we
can now confirm that all sheets do not have two sizes of stamps. There are
sheets where all stamps are of the same size that is 52.5 mm in width.

The error was caused by the incorrect setting of the perforator pins that
wrongly included the extra print area for the bleed effect around the stamps
in the outer vertical rows. The error seems to have been noticed early on
and was corrected.

The collectors now have to have at least 3 blocks of stamps - 1) with the
first & fourth stamps in larger size, 2) with second & third stamps in
larger size, and 3) all stamps in same size.

Information now available indicates that only a small quantity with this
remarkable error may have been printed.

View the images at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/indepth/pfr.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Mar 2: M Singaravelar, Rs 5

Mae 15: World Consumer Rights Day,

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/stamps/2006stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

ST. BEDES COLLEGE SHIMLA

India Post issued a commemorative postage stamp in honor of St. Bedes College Shimla on February 24, 2006 in the denomination of Rupees five.

St. Bedes College is one of the oldest and well-known women's colleges in northern India. The stamp features the main college building, built in 1904 by Reverend Mother St. Clare, a young educationist.

The college attracts students from across the country and the world. Bollywood actress Preity Zinta and journalist Tavleen Singh are some of the well-known alumni of this college.

The college is known for its fashionable students as well as its high standards of education. The college began as a teachers training institution and later started offering degree courses in other fields.

Bharati Mirchandani 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 0.4 million in sheets of 56.

GEMINI GANESAN

Communication and Information Technology Minister Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rupees five on Gemini Ganesan, the evergreen romantic hero of Tamil cinema on February 25, 2006 at Chennai. Eminent film personalities and family members and fans of the actor participated in the function.

Born on November 17, 1920, in Pudukottai, Gemini Ganesan began his film career with Miss Malini in 1947. Hit films such as Penn, Kanavan Kankanda Deivam and Missiamma gave him a star status.

Gemini had acted in lead roles in over 200 films in all the southern languages and Hindi. He was honored with several awards and titles, including the Padmashree, Nadippu Chelvam and Nadigar Mannan.

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 0.4 million in sheets of 35.

DON BOSCO SALESIANS IN INDIA

Communication and Information Technology Minister Dayanidhi Maran released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rupees five on the centenary of Don Bosco Salesians in India on February 27, 2006 at Chennai. Maran is a former student of the Don Bosco Matriculation School, Chennai where the release function was held.

This is the second time that India is honoring Don Bosco through a postage stamp. The first was on January 31, 1989 marking the conclusion of Don Bosco's death centenary celebrations.

The Salesian Society, founded at Valdocco, Turin, Italy by St. Giovanni Melchior Bosco popularly known as Don Bosco or St John Bosco, takes its distinctive name from its patron, Saint Francis de Sales. Although Don Bosco started working in 1841 the society was founded in 1859 and was approved by Pope Pius IX in 1874

Salesian work in India started with an elementary school and an orphanage under a thatched shed in 1906 in Tanjore. Today, a hundred years later, there are 497 Don Bosco institutions spread across 26 States and 3 Union Territories of India.

Brahm Prakash 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 0.4 million in sheets of 35.

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

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

- AIDS 1, in Hindi,
- AIDS 2, in Hindi,
- AIDS 3, in Hindi,

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

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NEW SIZE FOR FIRST DAY COVERS

India Post has revised the size of the official first day covers from the existing 110 x 200 mm to the DL size that is 110 x 220 mm to bring it to a very widely used international standard size.

In July 2005 the size of the stamped envelopes was revised to the DL size. This size is meant for A4 sheet folded in thirds and A5 sheet folded in half

lengthwise. This also conforms to the requirements of the Universal Postal Union for the envelopes for correspondence.

The FDC for the Gemini Ganesan issue of February 25, 2006 was the first in the new size.

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

2005

Nov 15: Surat, Dutch in India

2006

Feb 25: Dehradun, State Flower Show

Colors of Spring, the State Flower show of Uttaranchal is held every year at the Raj Bhavan (Governor's House), Dehradun. In addition to the special cover a card was also issued on this occasion in the limited edition of 100 with autographs of two owners of the winner Bonsai and the designer of the special postmark and cover & Card. The duly serviced cards are available at Rs 300 each from the President of the Uttaranchal Philatelists Association, Rajesh Varma rajestamps@yahoo.com.

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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MAHATMA GANDHI'S BIRTH PLACE

One of the four covers brought out during Dak Bharati philatelic exhibition at Ahmedabad in October 2004 was on Mahatma Gandhi. This cover depicted four

buildings associated with Mahatma Gandhi; his ancestral home and birth place at Porbandar, Pietermaritzburg Railway station (South Africa) where Gandhi suffered apartheid first hand, Kochrab Ashram at Ahmedabad that was the first Ashram of Mahatma Gandhi in India, and Gandhi memorial at Birla House, New Delhi where he was assassinated.

However the picture that is published as that of his birth place at Porbandar is actually that of his residence in London where he stayed when studying Law. This is a serious error in design of the cover.

The design of the special covers and the special postmarks are approved by the Chief Postmaster General of the State where these are to be provided, in this case Gujarat. Moreover the philatelists associated with the event were all known for their longtime philatelic collections on Mahatma Gandhi. And to top it all it had to happen in Gujarat, the home State of Mahatma Gandhi.

Then how come such a serious error has creped in? This is the question Robin Aggarwal, Secretary of Saharanpur Philatelic Society and a collector and exhibitor on Mahatma Gandhi theme, is asking.

For images please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/readroom/mg-birthpalce.htm>

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LUPHILEX 2006

Anil Bhatnagar, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax, Lucknow Zone inaugurated the two day district level stamp exhibition on February 21, 2006 at Lucknow G P O.

He also released set of four special postcards based on the theme "Lucknow and Barabanki in Postage Stamps".

A workshop on Philately as well as a Seminar on 'Philately as a Carrier' was also organized.

The exhibits in 66 frames were displayed in two groups: (A) Senior Group, and (B) Junior Group - (i) Up to 14 years, (ii) From 14 to 18 years (iii) From 18 to 21 years. The exhibits showcased Classics of India- Hand struck, Scinde Dawks and Lithograph issues of India, Indian Feudatory States, Pre and Post Independence India, First Day Covers, Sports, United Nations etc.

The Jury consisted of Rajendra Bhatnagar, and O P Varma, the Chief Postmaster of the Lucknow GPO. Vijay Laxmi T Sheth, Chief Postmaster General of Uttar Pradesh distributed the awards

The winners who bagged first prizes in different groups included:

Dr Vijay Shukla (Senior Group), Avinash Sharma (Junior group i) Ahhishek Prajapati (Junior group ii), Kalpana (Junior group iii), Prabhat Tiwari (quiz competition), Avinash (Seminar), and Pragya Shukla (Design a stamp Category A).

Mar 10-12: Mumbai, STAMCO 2006 7th Coin Stamp Bank Note Exhibition
Venue: Lakhamsi 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

SIPA Bulletin, Vol 25 # 4, Jul Aug 2005, Bimonthly
SIPA Bulletin, Vol 25 # 5, Sep Oct 2005, Bimonthly
Editor:

Publisher: South India Philatelists' Association
Address: 21(old), 2nd Floor, E V K Sampath Road, Vepery, Chennai 600007
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

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

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CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR 2006

National Philatelic Museum, New Delhi has brought out a Desk Calendar for 2006 featuring Indian postage stamps. The National Philatelic Museum is managed by the Philatelic Division of the India Post. This is for the first time that the Museum has brought out a calendar and we hope it will be an annual feature from now on.

Marg Publications, Mumbai brings out a Desk Diary every year for Tata Group of Companies and for 2006 the Desk Diary is illustrated with Indian Postage stamps. J J Bhabha, the Chairman of Marg Publications had served on the Philatelic Advisory Committee to Government of India's Ministry of Communications and had designed several stamps of India.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

COINS IN INDIA: POWER & COMMUNICATION

Hardcover, 112 pages, 140 illustrations
Author: Himanshu Prabha Ray,
Publisher: Marg Publications, margpub@tata.com
Address: Army & Navy Building, 3rd Floor, 148 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai 400001
Price: Rs 2250 or US\$ 60 plus postage
Special Pre-Publication Offer, Valid till March 15, 2006: Rs 1400 or US\$ 47 inclusive of postage

The book spans the period from Greek and Roman coins, to coins of Sultanate and Sikh Kingdoms, to persistence of coin issuing in present times when currency notes and credit cards are increasingly being used.

The author is Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi.

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BANGLADESH NEW ISSUES

Jan 01: Science Book Year, Tk 10
Jan 22: World Summit on the Information Society (wsis-tunis-2005), Tk 10
Jan 28: OPEC Fund for International Development, Tk 10

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Feb 17: King Trihuwan & 55th National Democracy Day

ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES: BREEDS OF DOGS

Pradeep Agarwal of Patna has contributed the black color missing error in the Breeds of dogs issue of 2005.

For the images in color, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/1727-1730.htm>

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- 2. Maximum 5 Lines, up to 64 characters per line.
- 3. All ads shall be published at the sole discretion of the editors who reserve the right to refuse any advertisement.
- 4. No correspondence regarding advertising will be entertained.
- 5. Stamps of India does not endorse any advertiser and can not be held liable for transactions of any advertiser.

For your any requirement of THEMATIC mint stamps, Souvenir sheets, First Day Covers, Postal Stationary, Special Thematic Postmarks etc. of the world, just contact us. Indian Thematic Society, MIG # 3464, Phase Two, Dugri Road, Ludhiana - 141 013 India. Mobile +91 98728 51244
indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com

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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.>

P R KRISHNAN, Coimbatore

I refer to your editorial on the errors occurring in the modern Indian commemorative stamps. While I fully endorse your views, I would like to state the following.

- 1. Today the printing technology being used to print for stamps all over the world moving at a vertical growth whereas our ISP though technology is available they bring a poor quality of stamps. When we see the new stamps printed in Asian countries compare to us like Thailand, China etc the stamps looks much better in quality and look more beautiful - far superior to Indian Stamps in design, color combo, sharpness etc.
- 2. Now people argue we don't have this and that. Ok agreed! Can we print 400000 stamps (12000 sheets) in single shade at least? If you check 10 sheets in a packet you will find 11 different shades. Moreover the top 2 rows and the bottom two rows of the stamps in the same sheet are different and you are so confused which is the right color shade.
- 3. The most pathetic situation is printing of personalities stamps in India. Issue of 'personalities' stamp is a sin that we Indian philatelists agree

and accept. But do we have to accept the quality in which they print the personality stamps. Is it necessary to issue a personality stamp of such bad and poor quality? Did we print 40 years back personality stamps much better than today's issues? The stamps of those days were looking much better and much sharper in design and color. With all technology available today for designing, color grading and screen making why this kind of a poor output? The recent issue of 4 personalities stamps issued last week is the best example for the worst/poor workmanship and quality.

4. Today, almost all stamps of an issue have errors and we need at least a dozen Jal Coopers to sit and study these issues.

5. Of course errors are welcome and they should be genuine. But the present day, every issue you find errors of different kind in quantities. Within a week to 10 days of a new issue the market is flooded with misperfs, color omission, color missing etc.

6. I think this far is enough no further - I request the philatelists, collectors and dealers to send color photo copies of the errors to the Department of Post to make them know the quality of output the India Post bring out and let them correct the ISP.

ASHOK BOSE

Your thoughts in the last issue really shows the appalling state of affairs with India Post. I am a philatelist from India now settled in Canada. I can realise what are the differences.

Firstly India Post does not believe in a systematic commemorative stamp issues program. They are so disorganised that they do not know when they will actually be able to release a particular issue causing chaos amongst the philatelist. They have an issue programme for the year but due to their lack of their decision making they always end up issuing more stamps in the end of the year than at the beginning. They also do not realise that they can increase their revenues from printing more quantity of commemorative stamps than the usual quantity of less than a million.

A country like Canada with a population of 32 million prints more than a million copies of each commemorative issue.

No wonder the INS Tarangini Souvenir Sheet issued in 2004 for Rs. 5 is listed for US14.00 in the recent issue of Scott Stamp Catalog because only a few thousand of these sheets were printed. Why?

Don't the big wigs in INDIA POST want philately to be a popular hobby among the general Indians or they want to fill up the pockets of few philatelic dealers with vested interest who have all the time in the world to be at the beck and call of the postal employee that a new issue is being released and he can come and pick up his share of the booty before it becomes public?

The revenues INDIA POST can generate from the sale of commemorative stamps could help them to produce decent definitive with proper perforations and

gumming.

SINDH BRADSHAW

As a long standing collector of India and receiving current issues from the Mumbai Bureau, I wish someone would complain to the post office of the very poor printing of Indian stamps compared with say the UK. Maybe you can do something!

VIJAY SETH

This is regarding the design of the First Day Postmark of the 16 Squadron stamp pointed out by Jaydev Nancey in Issue # 259 of February 9, 2006. The postmark shows the Cobra which is the crest of the Squadron, around it is the images of the three aircraft used by them the Liberator, Canberra and the Jaguar. I have seen the original image from which the postmark is made and I am amazed at what has been done to it, by the postmark designer.

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

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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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