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

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Savita Jhingan

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J H I N G A N S J O T T I N G S

Hi

At the outset our sincere apologies for the delayed publishing of the newsletter since issue # 270 of April 27, 2006 which was mailed to about half the subscribers on May 14, 2006 and to remaining half on may 21, 2006.

The current issue # 271 is the only issue of May 2006. We shall not be sending any other issues for May i.e. May 4, 11, and 18. This is the longest that we have been unable to send this digital weekly since 2001.

This break was caused by a combination of problems but was primarily due to difficulties with our Internet service provider.

We have been overwhelmed by your contributions by way of news, notes, images, and views during this period in spite of our inability to mail the newsletter.

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your messages of concern and we hope this support will be always forthcoming from all our well wishers and the support will continue to flow.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Pulak Gupta, Pankaj Tyagi, Suketu Jhaveri, and Ashok Kumar Bayanwala

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

GANDHI HANDBOOK

A 500 pages all-color publication by Manik Jain and Mrinal Kanti Ray beautifully showcases not only philatelic issues of India and other countries of the world but also numismatic issues, ephemera, and other collectibles related to Mahatma Gandhi.

The book is available from the publishers, Philatelia, One Moti Sil Street, Kolkata 700 013 at Rs 1,500.

We wholeheartedly recommend this excellent reference handbook. We have made special arrangement with publishers for the readers of this digital weekly for a special discount of 10%. To avail it please mention "Stamps of India Special Offer" in your order.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

May 29: Kurinji, Rs 15, Sheetlet and Miniature Sheet Jun 05: Rain Water Harvesting, Rs 5

This issue along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Office 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

PANNALAL BARUPAL

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Pannalal Barupal, freedom fighter, Social reformer and parliamentarian, on April 28, 2006.

Barupal was born in Bikaner Rajasthan. He was an active participator in the Non-cooperative Movement and Quit India Movement. He was a Member of Parliament for 25 years (1952-1977) and raised his voice for the demands of the farmers, workers, laborers and weaker sections of society. Ideals of social justice, equality of men and women and eradication of casteism were dear to him. He was a man of varied interests; his poetry and articles on contemporary social issues reveal the sensitive side of him.

Kamleshwar Singh 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 0.4 million.

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

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATES

New Arrivals:

2006: Post Card with advertisement, in Punjabi, Small Savings, 1 million, India Security Press Nashik Road

For a list of Inland Letter Cards in 2005, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2006LC.htm>

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NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Small Savings, Teluru AIDS Chandigarh, 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 27-29: Bidar, 72nd All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelan, 3 covers May 12: Calicut, Coin Fest 06 May 17: Beypore, Introduction of Permanent Pictorial Postmark May 22: New Delhi, Railway Protection Force May 22: New Delhi, State Trading Corp

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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POSTMEN SELLING STAMPS & BOOKING LETTERS In Issue # 230 of July 21, 2005 we reported that the Minister for Communications and Information Technology, on July 18, 2005 at Chennai introduced the sale of special stamp packets, costing Rs 100 and Rs 200, containing postal stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 by the postmen. The Postmen will also collect mails from home and offices for dispatch.

We have been reporting packs issued by other postal circles from time to time since. We now report that packs also have been issued by Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra (2nd design).

Visit the following link for the images: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/postmenpack.htm>

We also report for the first time an article booked by the Postmen from Agra. This must be going on at all over India and several interesting postal markings are waiting to be discovered by the philatelists.

View the image at the following link: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/271-plus.htm>

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**NEW STAMP CARDS**

4 picture post cards depicting Indian stamps related to Lucknow and Barabanki were issued during Lucknow district philatelic exhibition in January 2006.

Visit the following link for the images:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/icards-2006.htm>

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INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS ABROAD A record number of 45 entries from India have been accepted for participation in ESPANA 06 World Philatelic Exhibition.

The last day for submitting entry forms for DUBAI 06 Asian International Philatelic Exhibition was May 1, 2006.

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**RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Oct 14-16: ORPEX-06, 8th State level Philatelic Exhibition of Orissa  
Venue: Bhanja Bhawan, Rourkela  
Contact:

**RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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>

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**SPEED POST TRACKING ON MOBILE PHONES**

Speed Post articles can now be tracked on Reliance mobile phones. Initially, the service will be available on 'R World' and will soon be deployed SMS interactivity from any Reliance mobile.

A customer can log onto the 'R World' suite of applications, select India Post and submit the consignment number. The status of the consignment including the date and time, details of the mail send, current position of the consignment or delivery status among others would be displayed on the handset. The company is charging Rs 3 per query.

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**BANK ON YOUR POSTMAN**

Andhra Circle of India Post has introduced 'Bank On Your Postman' scheme on May 23, 2006 wherein all savings bank account holders need not go to the post office to withdraw money from their saving account but can get the money delivered at their doorstep by the postal officials. The scheme will be available at 2,354 main post offices and 101 head-post offices across the state. A sum of Rs 5,000 can be drawn from the accounts at a given time in this scheme and the customers will be charged Rs 25 in the Hyderabad and Secunderabad and Rs 20 at all other parts of the state for this service.

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MOBILE PHONE OPERATORS TIE-UP WITH INDIA POST The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which is acting on behalf of the industry have passed on the job of customer verification to India Post before issuing a new connection.

T V Ramachandran, Director-General, COAI, said, "This is just the beginning of the alliance with India Post. We will expand the scope of this relationship in the next few months whereby we can use the unmatched postal network spread across the nook and corner of the country. With the kind of reach that the DoP has, it will be useful as operators roll out services in the rural sector."

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#### PAKISTAN NEW ISSUES

Last reported in Issue # 255 of Jan 12, 2006

Dec 8: World Men's Team Squash Championship Islamabad, Rs 5

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#### SRI LANKA NEW ISSUES

Last reported in Issue # 263 of Mar 9, 2006

2005

Dec 3: Christmas, 2 stamps & 1 Miniature Sheet, Rs 5, Rs 30, & Rs 35

Dec 13: Admission into the United Nations 50th Anniversary, Rs 20

Dec 20: Amarapura Nikaya 200th Anniversary, Rs 10

Dec 21: Prehistoric Sri Lanka, 4 stamps, Rs 5, 20, 25, & 30 early stone tools, extinct animals in Ratnapura gem gravels & bone fragments of rhinoceros and hippopotamus, cave and human skull from Balangoda culture, wheat representing prehistoric agriculture on Horton plains fossilized barley pollen grain

Dec 26: Tsunami Disaster, 4 stamps & 1 Miniature Sheet, Rs 5, 20, 30, 33 & 88 Destroyed buildings, car, bus, boat; buses and train in water; the wave; waves crashing around lighthouse;

2006

Jan 4: Wilpattu National Park, 4 stamps & 4 Miniature Sheets, Rs 5, 10, 20, & 50 each Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), whitebellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), leopard (*Pantera pardus*),

Jan 6: Institute of Engineers, Rs 5

Feb 2: First Europa Stamps 50th Anniversary, 2 stamps, Rs 100 & 500

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#### ERRORS FREAKS & ODDITIES:

Rajesh Varma of Dehradun has contributed partially missing Golden color in the sheetlet of India Iran Joint Issue.

For the images please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/efos/200418-a.htm>

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#### FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The advertising is FREE for the subscribers of the Stamps of India Collectors Companion. Send in your ad, today.

Terms:

1. Only one ad at a time from a subscriber will be accepted.
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.

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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.>

### SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS ON COMMEMORATIVE COVERS ISSUED AT PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS By Dr Avinash B Jagtap Binningen (Switzerland)

In "Stamps of India" there is a special section devoted to special cancellations issued at various philatelic exhibitions held in different parts of our country. It is a very valuable service which is being offered periodically by "Stamps of India" weekly newsletter. Thereby enormous philatelic wealth is recorded and made available to thematic collectors. After all a thematic collection is not only merely a collection of stamps or miniature sheets, but it also includes among others, special pictorial cancellations. I must admire the design, logo and craftsmanship which are contributed towards the creation of such special cancellations. I may even go further and say that these special cancellations are far more superior to the regular first day cancellations which are drafted by professional artists employed by India Post.

However I observe that there are three aspects in presenting such special cancellations to the philatelists. The first and foremost is the stationery envelope (or a postcard), bearing relevant illustration of a personality, an institution or a monument on the left hand side of the envelope. It could be black and white or also colored. Then there is the special cancellation. In case of most of the envelopes which one can download in the special section "Recent Special Postmarks and covers" of "Stamps of India" Newsletter, there is a perfect concordance of these two elements. But so far as the stamp affixed to the envelope is concerned, it seems that the organizers of philatelic exhibitions pay very little attention to and devote less logic in selecting proper stamps. This point will be very clear to the readers, when I ask them to cast their eyes upon the special cancellation covers on Hirapex (Jan. 4, 2006 / Sambalpur) or M E S KEVEE YAM COLLEGE Silver Jubilee (Jan. 13, 2006 / Valancheri) covers to which the stamp commemorating M S Subbulakshmi has been affixed! Now any body would understand, that the famous singer has apparently nothing to do with the occasions, to commemorate which, the special cancellations have been issued!, so also the other cover issued with a special cancellation created to propagate "Sport Goods and Fitness"(Feb. 18, 2006 / New Delhi) bears a commemorative stamp issued to convey greetings on Pongal festivities! As against these, there are other special covers with Fruit and Flower Show (Feb. 4, 2006 / Calicut) and National Rail Museum (Feb. 23, 2006 / New Delhi) with the most appropriate stamps. I think the readers will agree that the choice of an appropriate stamp which is affixed to an envelope specially designed and printed for a particular philatelic exhibition, is also of importance.

Unfortunately in India we do not have so called "neutral" stamps, stamps without any proper theme, like those FRAMA labels with a price paid printed on them. These are obtained from automatic wending machines in post offices. They are devoid of gaudy colors. Formerly they were red in color but nowadays they may bear designs which are very pale in color and thus never perform the function of attracting eyes of spectators. Our Indian stamps are very colorful and they, if wrongly chosen, do mislead the spectators, as these stamps seem to have been given much more importance than the special cancellation which they bear. India has issued so many stamps and most of them are freely available even after years, so there is always a possibility to choose one appropriate stamp for the purpose.

## FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately <http://www.stampsfindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately  
<http://www.stampsfindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

### NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

### ADMINISTRIVIA

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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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