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

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Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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Issue # 71 - June 27, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

More on INPEX 2002  
New Stamps Released  
Thakur Satyananda  
Platinum Jubilee of the Indian Institute of Bankers  
New Special Postmarks  
India Post invites Overseas Agents  
Change In Telephone Numbers  
New Edition of India Catalog  
New Coin Web Site  
Fake Stamp Scam Update  
Philately in Transition in India, Part 14  
Readers Forum - Umesh Kakkeri, Shakil Ahmed  
Also in the News - China to Issue Personalized Stamps  
Research Notes - Indian Postal Orders, Part 5

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If you've found this newsletter useful recommend it to a friend.  
Better still forward this issue.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We attended a stamp release function, on June 22, 2002 at the residence of the Prime Minister of India, after a long time. Believe it or not, none other than the Prime Minister himself enriched our philatelic knowledge.

One of the stamps being released was on Pandit Suryanarayan Vyas, who was a multi-faceted personality. One of the notable things he did was to document and bring to light writings of epic poet Kalidasa to rekindle the pride for the Ancient Indian Heritage in public during British rule. He started organizing Kalidasa Festival every year at Ujjain since 1928. Today the government organizes it.

In the year 1956 there was a Kalidasa Festival organized in Russia and a commemorative stamp was also issued on this occasion due to his efforts. India followed suit by issuing a set of 2 stamps on Kalidasa in 1960. Not surprisingly Vyas was also a member of the committee that finalized the designs of these Indian stamps.

Research at times brings out unknown yet relevant information to the notice of everyone and makes very interesting reading.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Xinhua News Agency.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### MORE ON INPEX 2002

India Post on their official web site <http://www.indiapost.org> has published the following: 'INPEX-2002 - An important Announcement': It has come to the notice of this Department that the organizers of INPEX-2002, an exhibition being held at Bhubaneswar in December 2002 have claimed that the exhibition has the patronage of the Department of Posts. It is hereby clarified that the Department of Posts is not connected in any way with INPEX - 2002.

##### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

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The Minister for Communications & IT, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pramod Mahajan, on June 16, 2002 in Pune released a commemorative stamp on P L Deshpande who made his mark for over 50 years in the fields of Marathi literature, music, drama and films.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4 that was the inland letter rate till May 31 this year. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million. The issued sheets contain 48 stamps.

[This report was erroneously left out from inclusion in the previous issue.]

On June 22, 2002 three stamps were issued in two separate release functions. The Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his official residence in New Delhi released a set of two commemorative stamps in Personalities series. One stamp is on Babu Gulabrai who had made enormous contribution to Hindi literature. The other stamp is on Pandit Suryanarayan Vyas who was a noted writer in Hindi, Marathi, and English as well as an astrologer of fame.

The stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 5, the first commemoratives in the current inland letter rate. Bharti Mirchandani designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million each. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

The Minister for Communications & IT, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pramod Mahajan, on June 22, 2002 in Akola released a commemorative stamp on

Brajlal Biyani a freedom fighter, creative writer, and journalist from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4 that was the inland letter rate till May 31 this year. Suresh Kumar designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

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THAKUR SATYANANDA

India Post's next stamp issue in the denomination of Rs. 5 on Thakur Satyananda is scheduled for July 23, 2002.

The stamp shall be produced in the quantity of 400,000 only. The stamp along with the First Day Covers and the information sheets, at Rs. 2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters.

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PLATINUM JUBILEE OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF BANKERS

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Bimal Jalan released a multicolor commemorative pre-stamped envelope (PSE) on April 30, 2002 at the inauguration of Platinum jubilee celebrations of the Indian Institute of Bankers at Mumbai. This is the second customized PSE issued by India Post. The imprinted stamp depicts logo of the platinum jubilee and inscribed 'postage pre-paid for Rs. 5'. The envelope is in the size of 11 x 22 cm.

The first customized PSE was issued on December 1, 2001 on World Computer Literacy Day sponsored by National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT). The imprinted stamp was inscribed 'postage pre-paid' only. The envelope is in the size of 12.5 x 19 cm.

Both these issues are NOT available to public or philatelists from the Post Office.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

We have received belated information on the following special postmarks provided at Kolkata this year.

January 20, 2002

The Dover Lane Music Festival, Golden Jubilee Year,

March 30, 2002

Rotary Peace Conference, March 29 to 31, 2002

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INDIA POST INVITES OVERSEAS AGENTS

India Post is looking for partners in different parts of the world to represent them and sell their products.

The established philatelic dealers may send in their trade inquires or apply for the agency for selling stamps and other philatelic products in their area. They should write to India Post providing a business Profile, the countries already represented, if any, the annual turn over, and the desired percentage of commission on sale.

The responses may be sent by post to: Devika Kumar, Deputy Director General (Philately), Department of Posts, Government of India, Dak Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, India.

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CHANGE IN TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The telephone numbers for some of the officers in Philately Division of India Post have changed, the new numbers are:

Director - Meera Handa - 3096020

Assistant Director General - P N Ranjit Kumar - Telefax 3096034  
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NEW EDITION OF INDIA CATALOG

Manik Jain as the publisher informs that the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Phila India Catalog covering the period up to June 2002 is under preparation and shall be ready for release by the end of the year. This catalog was first published in 1967, predictably as a pricelist.

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NEW COIN WEB SITE

Sudhir Jain of Satna [mrsudhirjain@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsudhirjain@yahoo.com) has prepared a website of some coins from his collection on Bhagwan Mahaveer on the occasion of 2600th Janma Kalyanak Year of Bhagwan Mahaveer. In this website you can see the following coins - Coin issued by East India Company in the year 1616. Coin issued by Government of India on 25th April 2002. Coin issued by Government of Nepal on 13th April 2002. Gold & Silver medallions issued by Government of Punjab on 25th April 2002. Website address is - <http://www.geocities.com/sudhir000in/coin.html>  
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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATE

The kingpin of the scam is Abdul Karim Telgi who is in the Bangalore Central Jail and his brothers Abdul Rahim Telgi and Abdul Azim Telgi were running the racket on his instructions meanwhile.

Karnataka State Government had set up a Special Investigation Team 'STAMPIT' to deal with the case. StampIT has created its own website, <http://www.stampit.info> that provides information on the racket, details of the investigation, and the number of accused arrested and wanted are available in English, Kannada and Marathi. The site is being regularly updated and most news stories are provided a link there.  
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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 14

This issue highlights matters related to jurors, in the Indian scenario they are no where to be found after the results are announced but manage to be part of the jury team at world philatelic exhibitions under the patronage of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) as often as they can manage.

The philatelists in India were surprised to learn from PHILAKOREA 2002 web site of the appointment of two jurors from India - M G Pittie and A R Singhee, both from Hyderabad. Pittie shall be the Team Leader of Asia Section of Traditional Class and represents Korea not India? Singhee shall be judging the Postal Stationery Class, as per the web site.

The Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) has 32 members on its Governing Council, however as per the available records no request from the organizers of PHILAKOREA 2002 was received nor any nominations approved.

The President of FIP, Knud Mohr and FIP Consultant to PHILAKOREA, Koh Seow Chuan when contacted in the first week of April 2002 couldn't provide satisfactory replies regarding appointment of Pittie and Singhee.

Later, there was an unsuccessful attempt in end April 2002 to bring on record a letter of nomination signed by Dilip Shah in November 2000 much after this issue was raised with Mohr and Koh.

The appointment of Pittie violates the provision of FIP GREX 31.4 as the approval of PCI was neither sought by the organizers nor granted. Similarly the appointment of Singhee violates the provision of FIP GREX 31.6 and 32.3, as PCI has neither received a request from the organizers for nominations nor has sent any nominations.

Further, the appointment of Pittie violates the 'spirit of fair justice' as Damyanti Pittie, an exhibitor at PHILAKOREA 2002, is related to him.

M G Pittie has already been instrumental in presenting her with the 'Grand Prix National' as President of the Jury during the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Continental exhibition in Calcutta in December 2000. There is a complaint pending against the above decision with the organizers of the exhibition, the PCI and India Post. Anil Suri, a philatelist from New Delhi, has questioned the ownership of items in her exhibit. Suri says "She illegally and immorally borrowed items from Dilip Shah that were a part of his Grand Prix Collection and this enabled her to be awarded Grand Prix National at Calcutta in 2000. Shah, the Secretary General & President-Elect of PCI as well as a Jury at the said exhibition, connived with Mrs. Pittie in defrauding the jury into believing that she had adhered to the Rules of the exhibition stipulating that the exhibitor should be owner of the entire exhibit for 2 years (GREX 17.1)."

PCI was in the process of implementing a rotation system for appointment of jurors from India acting on complaints that Pittie managed to get appointed to four exhibitions in 2001 - Hong Kong, Nepal, Japan, and Denmark, without any reference to PCI. Appointments such as PHILAKOREA have not allowed PCI to implement the policy of rotating jurors for the International Exhibitions.

We hope the organizers of International Exhibitions in future would co-operate with national federations and help them to adhere to their internal policies by following the FIP regulations.

The FIP regulations (GREX) guiding the appointment of jury members are as under (The relevant portions are highlighted):

#### 31.4

The Exhibition Management appoints up to 25% of the jury members from the accredited Jurors of its own National Federation, in accordance with Article 31.1. Should the Member not have sufficient accredited jurors, the Exhibition Management and the FIP Consultant will agree from which Members additional accredited jurors may be drawn to fill their quota. The Exhibition Management MUST FIRST OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM

THE MEMBERS from whom additional accredited jurors are to be drawn before such additional accredited jurors may be invited.

### 31.6

The Exhibition Management shall appoint the balance of the jury members from the list of accredited jurors SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS. Each Member shall have the right to nominate up to three jurors in different disciplines on the request of the Exhibition Management. If possible, the selected jury members should come from those countries which are represented by the greatest number of exhibits. A maximum of two jury members (senior consultants and FIP quota jurors not included) with different specialised knowledge may be appointed from each Member. A jury member may not also serve as Commissioner save as provided under Article 22.3.

### 32.3

The procedure for appointment of Jury members will be as follows: THE EXHIBITION MANAGEMENT WILL ASK FOR NOMINATIONS of a short list of accredited jurors in accordance with Article 31.6; FIP Board Members and Commission Chairmen should not be nominated, they will always be nominees for the FIP quota.

The Exhibition Management will then prepare out of the above lists a tentative composition of the jury;

The FIP Consultant, in consultation with the Exhibition Management shall ensure that there are sufficient qualified team leaders on the jury and also that at least 10% of the jurors are recently qualified. He will also indicate which jurors should be selected as FIP nominees.

### READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. We strive hard to bring you comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions. We also would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send in your comments, views, reports, articles and other features for publication>

### UMESH KAKKERI FROM MUMBAI

Kindly refer to your issue no. 70 within which you had mentioned that Department of Post does not intend to hold next (Bhubaneshtar/Dec 2002) exhibition as a national exhibition. While I was attending the meeting of Empire of India Philatelic Society on Saturday June 22, 2002, I had revealed the said subject in the meeting. One Mr. M. G. Pittee who was also present in the said meeting, openly said that Mr. Jhingan is writing any thing in his newsletter and the information which he is giving is all false and baseless, the government is now ready to hold the exhibition. Otherwise we (PCI) can hold the national exhibition without government's support and surprisingly Mr. Vispi Dastoor also supported Pittee. This was amazing for me, as Dastoor had taken government support for organizing the EMPIREPEX-INPEX exhibition at Nasik.

Therefore as an amateur philatelist I would like to know, on behalf of all fellow readers, that either Mr. Pittee or Mr. Jhingan who is

misleading the collectors. Are you not update with news or Mr. Pittee is tarnishing your image, going from club to club?

SHAKIL AHMED FROM CUTTACK

It cannot be admitted that the facts stated in issue # 69 were unsubstantiated and hearsay as Mr. Sinha calls them in issue # 70, without explaining how that is so. In my letter June 3, 2002 to Mr. Sahoo I gave examples of not only of Ms. Moomin Sinha but also of Mr. A. K. Dash and Mr. Omprakash Jagati, why these facts are not countered? For Ms. Moomin Sinha I thank Mr. Jhingan for rightly pointing out and Mr. Sinha is to answer for the same. Regarding Mr. Dash and Mr. Jagati facts are true as such Mr. Sinha has no words to say to it in his opinion.

Mr. Sinha also says that several points mentioned by me are inconsistent with facts and reality. He does not mention what are those and as such I have no scope to comment on it.

There is nothing about forged signatures in the minute book at Nasik in my letter of June 3, 2002. Our signatures at PCI and EIPA meetings are for the attendance only that are taken at the commencement of the meeting. The confirmation or ratification of the decisions or actions taken is the subject matter of the next meeting.

Mr. Sahoo has not yet replied to my letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002 that shows his acceptance, being the President of PCI, of the points raised by me.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

CHINA TO ISSUE PERSONALIZED STAMPS

The State Post Bureau of China (SPB) is to issue postage stamps with a blank tab on which pictures can be printed according to customers' requirements, starting May 10, 2002.

The China National Philatelic Corporation (CNPC) is entrusted by the SPB to provide the service of printing pictures on the blank tabs. These stamps cannot be sold on market, but can be used for mail. Customized stamps have been popular in some developed countries and regions such as Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong, said sources with the SPB, adding that the service in China would be directed at enterprises and public figures. Customized stamps are also made to mark international and national events.

During the World Stamp and Coin Exposition to be held in Beijing in September 2002, the CNPC will customize stamps for visitors, said Zhu Ming, director of the Department of Personalized Stamp Services of the CNPC.

Customized stamps specially designed for the 35th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank were issued on May 10, 2002.

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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## RESEARCH NOTES

### INDIAN POSTAL ORDERS, PART 5

On January 1, 1987 the rates of commission were revised upwards to 50 P for values up to Rs. 10 and Re. 1, Rs. 1.50, Rs. 2, Rs. 2.50, and Rs. 5 respectively for higher values. The earlier stock of postal orders was locally hand-stamped with new rates.

The format of Indian postal orders was revised to bring it in line with standardized bank checks. The Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) technology facilitates subsequent mechanized handling and accounting. The revision of the format also reduced the cost of production. The hundred plus years old Post Office Savings Bank was not a member of the bankers' clearing house till then. During 1987 and 1988 all Head Post Office, roughly 450 in number, joined their local clearinghouse. All banks, on the directive of the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, had already adapted the MICR technology for most of their checks and drafts.

On September 1, 1987 the first set of MICR postal orders were issued in nine denominations as follows: 50 paise, Re 1, Rs 2, 5, 7, 10, 20, 50 and 100. For the first time numerical prefixes were used, single digits from 1 to 9 in serial order for denominations beginning with 50 Paise. The earlier non-MICR issue, in stocks, remained concurrently on sale till it exhausted.

Sometimes later the design was modified. A spelling error in Hindi for the word 'Commission' was corrected along with slight modification in the matter of the placement of the text in the design.

On May 26, 1999 the rates of commission were revised upwards to Re. 1 for values up to Rs. 10, and Rs. 2, Rs. 3, Rs. 4, Rs. 5, and Rs. 10 respectively for higher values. The earlier stock of postal orders was locally hand-stamped with new rates. This is the currently available issue at the post offices in India.

It seems the denomination of 50 paise has been discontinued. The new alphabetical prefixes are back. 'A' for Re.1, 'B' for Rs. 2, 'C' for Rs. 5, 'D' for Rs. 7, 'E' for Rs. 10, 'F' for Rs. 20, 'G' for Rs. 50, and 'H' for Rs. 100. The numbers are now printed in the center of the bottom instead of the left of the bottom.

### ASK US

Please send your queries in detail (illustrations welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to provide an answer to you online.

### CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

We require regular correspondents everywhere in India to cover the philatelic activities in their area. We shall reimburse the costs of photos, covers, publications, courier and other charges. All contributions shall be acknowledged.

### STAMPSONINDIA WEB SITE UPDATES

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.

Updated Segments This Week: News, Articles,

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