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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 # 89 - October 31, 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

#### New Stamps Released

Stamp Issues in November

Kickboxing Championship

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Also in the News - Branded Postage Stamps

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

~~~~~ JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Continuing the thread of discussion in this space from previous issues
we wish to focus on hoaxes that sometimes misleadingly advise to delete
a file that is vital for your machine.

A warning email is sent advising, wrongly of course, that such and such
file on your computer is malicious and asking you to delete the same to
save your data.

Even a regular computer user will not know about all the system files,
their names and purposes that are there on a hard disk. What then is a
remedy in such a case? We think it can be summed up as taking care,
updating your knowledge, and having access to a computer savvy friend.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: The Hindu.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

THE BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dr. Sanjay Paswan, the Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative stamp on The Bihar Chamber of Commerce on October 28, 2002 at a special function held at Patna.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4, the former inland letter rate as this was originally scheduled for release in April 2002 before the postal tariff was revised upwards in July 2002. Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in five colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.8 million. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

MANGROVES

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, released a series of 4 stamps and a Miniature Sheet featuring Mangroves of India on October 30, 2002 at the 8th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, New Delhi.

Three stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate, and one is in the denomination of Rs. 15, the overseas airmail letter rate. A Miniature Sheet containing one each of the four stamps is also issued and is priced at Rs. 30. Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in five colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 3 million each. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps. The Miniature Sheet is printed in the quantity of 100,000 only.

STAMP ISSUES IN NOVEMBER

India Post has scheduled following stamps for release in the month of November 2002:

03, Swami Pranavananda

11, Nagpur Tercentenary

14, Children's Day

15, Handicrafts, Set of 4 and a Miniature Sheet

KICKBOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

India Post provided a Special Postmark on September 12, 2002 to mark the 9th National Kickboxing Championship at Kolkata. A Special Cover on the occasion was also released. Availability and the price may be had from the Director Kolkata General Post Office, Kolkata 700001.

EXHIBITIONS AT LUDHIANA and THRISSUR

Ludhiana Philatelic Club will organize an exhibition at Ludhiana on November 14 and 15, 2002.

India Post will organize a district level philatelic exhibition on December 9 and 10, 2002 at Thrissur in Kerala.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIPA Bulletin, Vol.23 # 2, March-April 2002, Bimonthly  
Editor: G Madan Mohan Das  
Publisher: South India Philatelists' Association  
Address: 41, Perumal Mudali Street, Sowcarpet, Chennai 600079  
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

PHILATELY NEWSLETTER in Hindi, Whole # 11, April-June 2002  
Editor in Chief: S C Dutta, Managing Editor: Devika Kumar, Executive Editor: Tilak De, Associate Editor: P N Ranjit Kumar  
Publisher: India Post  
Mailing Address: Director GPO, Kolkata 700001  
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

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AIR CRASH MAIL OF IMPERIAL AIRWAYS & PREDECESSOR AIRLINES

The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund announced a new publication "Air Crash Mail Of Imperial Airways & Predecessor Airlines" by Kendall C. Sanford. This 225-page book lists all the known crashes, interruptions and forced landings of Imperial Airways and its predecessor airlines. This is the first time a book has been published detailing the crash mail of a single airline. The book includes a photo or illustration of nearly every Imperial Airways and predecessors' aircraft that crashed or had a forced landing, and shows a cover and every known variety of cachet, label, manuscript marking or post office explanation, where mail has been recorded. There are 187 aircraft photos, 96 covers and 174 cachets shown, plus reproductions of newspaper clippings about Imperial Airways crashes.

The book lists 100 additional crashes and forced landings, and 46 additional cachet varieties not previously recorded by philatelic books and publications. This is based on the author's extensive collection of Imperial Airways crash mail, as well as years of research by the author in archives, newspaper libraries, early aviation magazines, and consulting over fifty books, magazines, and other publications.

The same numbering system has been used as in "Recovered Mail" by Henri Nierinck, published in 1992 & 1995. For the additional cachet and label varieties not previously recorded, the letters (identifying each type) not used by Nierinck have been used to avoid confusion between the Nierinck books and the new book. Thus, the numbering system used in the new book is an extension of the Nierinck numbering. The listings are shown chronologically by date.

The new book includes four Appendices - A. Identification of Covers Without Clear Postmarks, B. Imperial Airways & Predecessors Aircraft That Crashed or Were Interrupted, C. Imperial Airways & Predecessors Pilots Involved in Crashes or Interruptions, and D. an extensive Bibliography.

A Pricing Guide is included as a separate supplement. This is based on the current market for Imperial Airways crash covers, and will be an

invaluable reference for collectors, dealers and auction houses that are buying and selling such covers.

The author plans a CD-ROM version of the book, which will be available in the near future.

The author is taking advance orders for the new book, which will be available by the end of the year, and will cost UK£30.00 or US\$46.25 plus postage. Postage will be UK£2.50 - US\$3.85 surface, or UK£3.60 - US\$5.50 airmail. For customers in Switzerland, the book will cost CHF 75.00 including postage. Order from:

Ken Sanford, Aerophil, 12 Chemin des Tuilots, CH-1293 Bellevue (GE), Switzerland, Fax +41 22 774 2472, Email: aerophil@ch.inter.net
Payment can be made by "PayPal", or make UK£ or US\$ check payable to: "Ken Sanford".

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TENDER FOR DIGITAL BLOW-UPS

India Post is inviting sealed tenders for supply of Digital blow-ups of postage stamps from reputed manufactures. Tender documents, costing Rs. 50 are available with Philately Division, Room #108 M, Dak Bhawan, Sasad Marg, New Delhi 110001 till November 18, 2002. The tender shall be opened on November 25, 2002.

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FAKE STAMPS SCAM

STAMPIT, Karnataka's special Stamp Paper Investigation Team probing a multi-billion stamps and stamp paper racket, has recovered fake papers worth Rs 1.7 billion during raids it conducted in Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad.

They arrested 12 persons, alleged to be accomplices of the kingpin, Abdul Kareem Telgi alias Kareem Lala, in the raids conducted over the last few days, according to a police release here.

Kareem Lala was until recently in the custody of the Pune police and is currently lodged in the Bangalore Central Jail. His aides were operating on his instructions through mobile phones and an elaborate system of couriers in Delhi, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi, and Hyderabad.

STAMPIT also seized a Van, four computers, nine cell phones, six SIM cards, account books, applications for stamp vendor licences and Rs 275,000 in cash.

The team is looking at six ATM cards and several bank accounts, besides a bank guarantee for Rs 3 million for use in excise auction.

In earlier raids relating to the gang, Delhi police seized fake stamps worth Rs 2.46 billion and Chandigarh police recovered papers worth Rs 20 million.

Kareem Lala is suspected to have links in the India Security Press at Nashik. Fake stamps are believed to have also found their way into post office outlets.

STAMPIT is following leads in Mumbai and other cities to where some of Lala's accomplices have escaped, according to the police.

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WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTION CALENDAR

The Calendar Of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions for the month is updated in the beginning of every month with detailed information and announcements. The information for November 2002 is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

POSTMASTER ARRESTED IN BEHALA

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal Police arrested the postmaster of Kolkata's Behala sub-post office, where residents of the area had invested and lost more than Rs 30 million, on the night of October 22, 2002. The scam came to light only after the scamster's reported death in Gomukh, the glacier in Himalayas that is the source of the most revered river Ganga.

Golap Jha's arrest occurred within 12 hours of the CID taking charge of the investigation. CID inspector-general P N Saha said his department took charge of the case on Tuesday after one of the duped investors complained that he was cheated of Rs 900,000 by the post office.

"Apparently, the postmaster was directly involved in the scam. We have enough evidence against him," Saha said.

About 35 investors deposited more than Rs 30 million through Asish Dutta, alias Tapan, "the local agent employed by the post office". One of the investors, N G Karmakar, however, denied on Wednesday that he had leveled charges against the postmaster.

Last week, Dutta's family said that he died at Gomukh following a cardiac arrest earlier this month. "Apparently, Dutta's death certificate, produced by his family, is genuine. We are contacting the authorities concerned to get the details," Saha said.

On Jha's role, the inspector-general said: "We became suspicious because he went to the house of some depositors to return their monthly interest."

Two postal scams – one at Jadavpur and another at Baguiati – had come to light earlier, but only the agents were involved in both cases, Saha said.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 30

Dipok Dey from Kolkata needs no introduction to most of our readers. He belongs to that almost extinct breed of philatelists who has been working to promote philately in a selfless way unlike some who have made philately a one way ticket to personal gains. In addition to being an artist, designer of stamps, philatelic journalist, Dey has organized many exhibitions since 1979 in several districts including India's first private national exhibition CINEPEX-90 in 1990 at Kolkata. He had suggested the introduction of Competition Post Card to deal with the deluge of postcards for contests that found favor with India Post.

International philatelic exhibitions in India are fully funded by the Government. He recently wrote on this subject, as follows:

"The Department of Posts is planning to hold a further International exhibition. And I am sure that like all other previous exhibitions this will also be another purposeless and pseudo-philatelic show. I presume that this time also the Department will organize this show under the Patronization of International Philatelic Federation (FIP). Is it mandatory to be associated with FIP? What is the fun of paying a huge amount to FIP, just to use their name only? In return what support they will give us? Only they will send some Jury from their panel and this is another financial burden to the Department, as for each Jury the Department will have to spend minimum 200,000 Rupees.

Whatever the amount will be paid to FIP as patronization Fees and also the cost for the Jury hospitality, if this amount would have been distributed to various Philatelic Societies all over India, they could do some basic works that is the need of the hour.

[The bare minimum cost of associating with FIP is half a million US dollars, 250 million Rupees, towards patronage fees, air fare for Jury, accommodation and per day cash allowance for Jury and commissioners, and other expenses. - Editors]

If you go through the FIP rules and regulations you will find that it is totally based on European economy. What FIP did for the promotion of Philately for average collectors in developing countries? FIP should modify their rules in two separate groups, one for the Developed and the other for Developing countries.

Over last 30 years the Department had organized several exhibitions and spent several millions of Rupees, but what is the outcome? All these exhibitions failed to attract new comers. The new comers we meet step in to this hobby of their own will, but not with the inspiration of these exhibitions.

It is an undeniable fact that due these exhibitions a few millionaires came to limelight in the national and international philatelic exhibition market. They became the guide and philosopher of the Department. But it is interesting that financial responsibility is of the Department of Posts that will also provide manpower. Then what for this "In Association with..." credit is claimed? Just because they will supply to the Department some jury like their principal FIP? Unfortunately our Department of Posts never judged whether the supplied juries are competent enough or not.

By the way do you know in which institution these jury are being trained and obtained their skills? Some years back I had asked this question to D N Jatia. So far as I remember, he told me that if any collector obtained a Large Vermeil or so in any international exhibition generally he gets the chance to be a Jury. I argued with him that a collector may even get a Gold or Large Gold for his one collection- I take it as granted that he is having a profound knowledge about his subject, but in an exhibition there may not be a collection of his subject- then how he will judge the exhibits? He could not instantly reply to this question. In INPEX-93 two exhibits were awarded Gold? I asked each and every jury member how these exhibits got Gold? All the Jury replied to me that he has not evaluated that exhibit, better you asked other jury and so on. Only one Jury replied to me that these exhibits got large silver in

previous exhibition. Do you agree that this could be the criterion for judging an exhibit?

Juryship in India created an avenue for Trading without having a Trade Licence. Now it is clear that Indian philatelic juries' motive is not to promote philately but the self promotion so that they could add some more millions to their wealth and at the end of their life they could encash it either in Rupees or Foreign currency. I will not blame them; it is fault on the part of the Department of Posts. Whenever there is any National or International philatelic show was going to be organized by the Department they had associated themselves with one particular organization without giving any second thought -who is going to be benefited with this association whether the Department or some top people of this particular organization. Same people every time, what about the other members of that organization?

These same people will select the organizing committee members; they will select who will write articles for the souvenir, they will select the Jury. Department has no guts to go beyond their list. Even these people will select who will be the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) Members. This type of tie-up with the Department helped these people in many ways. Firstly they can remain at the top in their society, so that they can attend overseas exhibitions as Jury, Commissioners and overall they can create a market for their accumulation. If anyone dares against them - they could stop them easily- by offering the appointment as commissioner or apprentice jury or PAC member or by upgrading the medal etc.

I don't know whether PAC ever advised the Department how to increase the revenue for the country from philatelic wing. These people either individually or collectively never organized any philatelic show of their own."

We would like to know what Indian Philately gets by incurring half a million US dollars that is the bare minimum cost of associating with FIP?

Why not India Post spend this half a million US dollars on aggressively promoting philately in India at grass roots, a move that is bound to give rich dividends to India Post besides strengthening philately nationwide.

We are looking for answers and our friends in FIP and FIAP must realize that PCI has miserably failed to provide these to the philatelists in India and to the officers of India Post.

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READERS FORUM

DIPOK DEY FROM KOLKATA

The concept to supply pre-printed postal stationeries to the valued customers is not a new concept. In 19th Century most of the newspapers enjoyed this service from the postal authority. Now due to competition the old concept is renewed.

We are happy that it opens an avenue for the Department to earn money. It's Department's pride and collectors' lamentation.

As these stationery are not being sold in Philatelic Bureau, and it not possible for collectors to have these items, but for these items his collection will be incomplete.

So my suggestion to the Business Development Directorate of India Post is to make an agreement with the customer that certain percent of the stationeries will be sold from Philatelic Bureau. This will not hamper the exclusiveness of the customers, rather the customer will be happy that their items are being exhibited by a collector in National and International Philatelic Exhibitions thus they will be publicized.

<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>

FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

ALSO IN THE NEWS

BRANDED POSTAGE STAMPS

Singapore will issue a limited-edition series of stamps to commemorate the introduction of postage stamps in the island nation 150 years ago. The stamps will be released over an 18-month period beginning in November 2002 until the end of the 2004 World Stamp Championships, which Singapore will host.

Instead of historical landmarks and national icons, the Singapore Post chose technology brands as the novel theme for the series. The companies were selected based on their brand attributes and successes, as well as their effect on Singapore. Among the 15 companies included in the series are technology companies Microsoft, Siemens, Sony and Creative Technology.

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.

NEWSSCAN

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

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.

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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPSOFINDIA

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,

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://stampsonindia.netfirms.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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