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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 # 99 - January 16, 2003. 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 Dates for INPEX 02  
New Special Postmarks  
Forthcoming Exhibitions  
THRISSURPEX and KODALPEX  
Joyce Brand Passes Away  
Fake stamps seized  
Fight Against Illegal Issues  
Maximum Cards  
Philately in Transition in India, Part 40  
Readers Forum - Premnath Kudva from Mangalore  
Research Notes - Travencore-Cochin Post Card by Ed Deschl  
Also in the News - Conmen Dupe Postmaster  
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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still forward a copy of this issue.
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi,  
The beginning of the year seems to have been an indicator for the  
things to come and we hope that the malady of delay would not be  
repeated beyond January. We regret the delay in mailing this issue and  
would endeavor to stick to the schedule day of mailing.

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

- M&SJ

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

We invite your inputs, please email to [stampsofindia@tatnova.com](mailto:stampsofindia@tatnova.com)  
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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW DATES FOR INPEX 02

The INPEX 02 will now be held from February 26 to March 3, 2003 according to their Newsletter # 3 dated January 1, 2003.

The exhibition will be split into two parts - one part consisting of a display of 400 frames for the first three days, and the second part display of 400 frames would be on the next three days. The class and category of exhibits selected for each of the two parts will be decided later. Results for the first and second parts of the exhibition would be announced during the evenings of 27 February 2003 and 2 March 2003 respectively.

The participants who have already submitted their exhibits have an option to withdraw/recall their exhibits. Exhibits would be returned on receiving letter/email/telephone call, from the participants and shall be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Similarly those dealers intending to withdraw should submit their request by 15 January 2003 for the refund of the stall charges.

The newsletter mentions the Department of Post's letter number DO3-7/2002-Phil dated 31 May 2002, signed by Devika Kumar, DDG (Phil), assuring the supply of frames. We would appreciate if the organizers share the complete letter with the philatelists in India.

Interestingly only those points that were emailed to us on December 28, 2002 by B K Sinha and published in our issue # 98 are repeated in this newsletter. The score of other points purported to have been sent to India Post in Sinha's email of December 26, 2002 (a copy was also emailed to us) are conspicuous by their absence.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark to mark the first 'Pravasi Bhartiya Divas' (Non-Resident Indians Day) on January 9, 2003 at New Delhi. A special cover was also issued on the occasion.

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FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Amritsar Philatelic Club is organizing SCHOOLPEX-2003, Inter School Stamp Exhibition, on January 15-16, 2003 at Amritsar.

The Department of Posts will provide a special postmark and a special cover featuring Guru Nanak Dev University will be issued on this occasion. The price of Cover is Rs. 10 each. The Bulk Buyer will get discount. Please send Money Orders or Demand Drafts in favor of Naveen Banura payable at Amritsar.

Naveen Banura, Secretary, Amritsar Philatelic Club, Post Box No. 57, Amritsar - 143 099. Email: [nkbanura@hotmail.com](mailto:nkbanura@hotmail.com)

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THRISSURPEX

Jose Kattakaran, the Mayor of Thrissur inaugurated the THRISSURPEX-2002 district level philatelic exhibition at Thrissur on December 30, 2002. 'Koodiyattom', the oldest surviving Sanskrit theatre tradition and the 'Pulikali', a folk art form performed only in Thrissur during the Onam festival were featured on the special postmarks for December 30, and 31, 2002 respectively. The special cover brought out on the occasion depicts 'Sakthan Thampuran Palace' that was reconstructed in Kerala Dutch style in 1795 by Ramavarma Thampuran of the Princely State of Cochin.

KOODALPEX

The Chief Postmaster General of Tamilnadu Circle, U Srinivasaraghavan inaugurated the 'KODALPLEX-2003' district level philatelic exhibition at Madurai on January 9, 2003.

A special cancellation on jasmine flower, for which Madurai district is famous for and the special cover on 'Jallikattu' was also released on the occasion.

~~~~~ JOYCE BRAND PASSES AWAY

We regret to note the sudden passing away of Joyce Brand on December 29, 2002. As the hardworking Membership Secretary of the India Study Circle for Philately she was an important member of the global community of Indian Philately. Her friends all over the world will surely miss her.

~~~~~ FAKE STAMPS SEIZED

The Mumbai police have seized, in one of the largest such seizures ever made, fake stamp papers to the tune of Rs. 8.27 Billion from a godown in Bhiwandi in Thane district.

One of the counterfeiters, Shabbir Ahmed Mushtaque Shaikh, 31, was arrested on the night of January 12, 2003 from a truck laden with fake stamp papers. Indeed, more arrests are expected in Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore. Shaikh broke after sustained interrogations and led police to the godown in Bhiwandi where he had dumped the stock fearing raids after the Pune police bust.

It is a high-technology operation used to run a high-stakes game. The police seized computers, scanners, printing presses and two truckloads of fake stamps and stamp paper stored neatly. The huge stock included fake revenue stamps, postal stamps, foreign bill stamps, share transfer-paper stamps, broker's note, non-judicial stamp papers and insurance stamps.

'The seizure could be the tip of the iceberg, and the interstate racket could be more than one could imagine,' said joint commissioner of police (crime) Sridhar Vagal. That ties in with the views expressed in Mumbai last week by the Karnataka police chief who said the fake-stamp rackets busted constitute only 10 per cent of the actual counterfeiting industry nationwide.

All the fakes are expertly made. 'Even the government exchequer was puzzled when samples were sent for verifications,' said Vagal, displaying the papers with Nashik government press logos imprinted. 'How they print and how they distribute is still a part of investigations'.

The police suspect the racket busted is related to Rs 22 billion stamp-paper seizures made in Pune last year and a confirmation that inter-state gangs are working as a syndicate.

~~~~~ FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL ISSUES

WADP had recently sent the denouncement in the name of Myanmar and plan to publish a denouncement of many illegal issues in the name of Afghanistan, soon.

Maria S. Libera, maria.libera@upu.int, who is the Program Manager - Markets Development, & Responsible for Philately, at the Directorate of Markets, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland wrote "the UPU itself is receiving many more queries from Indian collectors about illegal issues".

For more details on the 'Fight Against Illegal Issues', please visit: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Orgs/WADP-05.htm>

The summary of UPU Circulars about illegal issues is available at: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Orgs/UPU.htm>

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MAXIMUM CARDS

Juan Barberá is interested in the acquisition of maximum cards of the following topics: islands of the whole world. Also maximum cards of fauna and sports of all the countries of the world. All with postmarks previous to 1970. E-mail: [todolamp@wanadoo.es](mailto:todolamp@wanadoo.es)

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 40

We reproduce below a letter dated April 28, 1998 from Vispi Dastur to Dilip Shah, a copy of which was sent to all governing council members by Dastur. The letter is only a small indicator of the infighting that has been prevailing in PCI for a long time now and also shows that people were not above personal remarks and maligning.

"My Dear Dilip,

It is past the midnight hour with silence all around except in my heart, for the last few hours I have been pondering whether to write this letter or not. Ultimately, my conscience prevails upon me to pen these words.

My thoughts go back to 1982 when a young enthusiastic philatelist approached me in a very friendly manner and I immediately took a liking to him. Although I was not aware that he was a big businessman with immense wealth, in my heart I felt that there is a young man with a genuine love for philately and an ardent desire for knowledge who would definitely go a long way in philately. However, I must confess that even I did not then dream that one day that young philatelist would bring home a Grand Prix d'Honneur and make us all proud of him.

Dinoo and I were happy to see you turning into a first class philatelist. Wherever I spoke, whether before philatelists, Lions or Rotarians, Experimenters in International Living or before students, I proudly mentioned about our "Mr. Universe of Philately". Dinoo and I also took a great liking to you, Divyabehn and your family.

When I received, along with the Insurance Receipt, your small note mentioning my "being busy in drinking a cocanut and watching the sea beauties on sea beaches of MumbaI" I was hurt as it was completely false. I assumed it to be a humorous note from one friend to another; more so as only a couple of days before we had discussed the matter of the minutes. Hence, I did not reply although I felt it was not in good taste for a Vice President and Secretary General of a National Federation to write in this manner to/about its President.

I am shocked to learn that you have sent copies of this derogatory and defamatory note to members of the Governing Council even though the matter of the minutes was discussed with you. Dilip, have you ever seen me misbehaving with any lady? I have a reputation for character, honesty, integrity and loyalty which I have built up over the years, I feel it very keenly that a dear friend like you should have distributed this defamatory and derogatory note which maligns my integrity and character.

Let me assure you I do not drink any alcohol or tea or coffee or cocanut water nor is there any more misdemeanor with "beauties on the beaches of Mumbai".

This false maligning, defamatory and derogatory statement coming from a friend like you and distributed by the Vice President and Secretary General to the members of the Governing Council is indeed in poor taste.

Have I committed a Himalayan crime that you should circulate such a note about your friend and President to the members of the Governing Council and that too at the fag end of his term of office?

Did you not anticipate the repercussions your letter would create vis-à-vis my spouse?

For the love of philately and the PCI I not wish to pursue the matter further. Let the dead past bury itself; let us look to the future.

We need cooperation and collaboration if the PCI is to survive and prosper; we should endeavour to work as a team instead of running down another human being.

I pray that Saraswatidevi's blessings be on you and you do not distribute such false maligning notes about any one in future.

I shall always consider you as a dear friend. To me friendship is eternal and so if a dear friend sometimes falters I do not crucify him.

With warm personal regards and wishing you further success in your philatelic and other endeavours,

Yours sincerely,
Vispi S. Dastur
President, Philatelic Congress Of India"

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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>

PREMNATH KUDVA FROM MANGALORE

On 'A Million FDC for Dhirubhai Ambani' - Issue # 98 of January 9, 2003:

That the Ambani family bought a total of 3.4 million stamps including 1 million FDC was indeed news that I got only on your newsletter. I do not know if it is correct to give such a huge lot of stamps to one organisation or group.

With only 400,000 stamps available to the public we know what will happen to the premia on the stamp. Most people still remember the 300,000 or 400,000 Raj Kumar Shukla stamp which is now being sold by dealers for Rs 75. The Ambani sheetlet will also start fetching large premiums.

Whether or not the Ambani family intentionally wanted their late patriarchs stamp to fetch huge premiums will be a matter of doubt and debate. But selling such a huge chunk of stock to one group surely requires a further look. As it is the 10-year wait after the death of a person to issue a stamp in his favour had been waived for this issue.

Even in death Mr Ambani must be chuckling to himself.

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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>

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RESEARCH NOTES

Ed Deschl from USA, the well-known author of the Comprehensive Catalog of the Indian Princely States Postal Stationery writes:

I currently have a question that your readers may be able to answer - there is on the market copies of the 4 pie blue Travencore-Cochin post card with an overprint (surcharge) altering the overprint to 3 pies. I fully believe the overprint to be bogus, HOWEVER was there ever a contemplation of a 3-pie postcard rate in Travencore-Cochin in 1950?

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

CONMEN DUPE POSTMASTER

A gullible postmaster fell prey to the tricks of two conmen and handed over a sum of Rs. 200,000 belonging to the Nizamabad head post office, late night on December 17, 2002.

The incident that had all the elements of an action thriller started with a telephone call to the postmaster, Rajaram. An unidentified caller informed the postmaster that the brother of a senior postal department official had been caught while smuggling gold biscuits worth Rs. 2.5 million near Nizamabad. He wanted the postmaster to pass on the information to the officer.

The caller then reeled out two cellular telephone numbers and asked him to call the particular numbers to confirm the arrest. The innocent postmaster called up one number that was said to belong to the 'senior postal official'. In fact one of the conmen received the call and

claimed that he was the senior postal official. He reportedly told the postmaster that he was on his way to Nizamabad with Rs. 200,000.

He requested the postmaster to make arrangements for payment of Rs. 200,000 to the customs official, as his vehicle had broken down on the way to Nizamabad. The postmaster, as advised by the conman pretending to be a postal official, called up the other number only to be told that he should come with the cash to the main entrance of the District hospital and hand over the same to a particular person. Accordingly, the postmaster came in an auto-rickshaw and handed over the cash to the conman who told the postmaster to pass on the information to the senior postal official that his brother had been released.

The gullible postmaster got down midway and contacted his senior official to be told that he had never received any call nor his brother was arrested. The hapless postmaster rushed to the police station and informed the police about the cheating.

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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.

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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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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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