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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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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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We invite your inputs, please email to [stampsofindia@tatnova.com](mailto:stampsofindia@tatnova.com)

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I N T H I S I S S U E

India's Next Issue - Ghantasala  
100 Years of Manned Flight Stamps Released  
New Customized Postal Stationery  
Forthcoming Exhibitions  
District Level Shows at Agra and Kaithal  
Satish Misra  
Transfers & Postings Of Senior Postal Officers  
Season The Reason For Snail Mail  
New Issue Of Sri Lanka  
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Readers Forum - Maria Libera from UPU, Vijay Seth from New Delhi  
Also in the News - Yugoslavia Is Gone

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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

"Big dreams jostle with bigger nightmares, but stop breathing before  
you stop dreaming. Life without dreams has no meaning!"

Each one of us has a dream and there are some of us who are lucky and  
some of us who have the courage to pursue and realize our dreams.  
Kalpana Chawla also had many dreams and possessed the courage to pursue  
and fulfill many. But many dreams remained unfulfilled and will remain  
so because the Space shuttle Colombia was lost on February 1, 2003  
during its reentry in to earth's atmosphere killing all astronauts on  
board including Chawla.

It was a tragic moment especially for India as Chawla maintained close  
ties with India. Her biggest achievement was that she not only lived  
her dream but passed her dream on to those who came in contact with

her. Chawla should be remembered for teaching us the importance of dreaming high. We take this opportunity to salute the indomitable spirit of the dreamers and hope that each one of us would follow our dreams.

Victor Manta, the president of Philatelic webmasters Organization has created a wonderful page as a homage to the lives lost in the tragedy, at <http://www.values.ch/sna-site/rcsd/columbia/columbia.htm>

The biggest honor or homage to the lives lost in the tragedy would be to continue the work for which they lost their lives.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Vijay Seth from New Delhi, The telegraph,

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

##### INDIA'S NEXT ISSUE

India Post's next commemorative stamp issue in the denomination of Rs. 5 on Ghantasala is scheduled for release on February 11, 2003.

The 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.

##### ~~~~~ 100 YEARS OF MANNED FLIGHT STAMPS RELEASED

India Post released on February 5, 2003 a set of 4 stamps to mark 100 Years of Manned Flight at 'Aero India 2003' biennial international aero-space exhibition organized at Bangalore by Government of India's Department of Defense Production & Supplies.

Three stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 5, the current inland letter rate and one in the denomination of Rs. 15, airmail overseas letter rate. A Miniature Sheet containing one each of the 4 stamps was also issued on the occasion.

The stamps depict four aircraft models manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The first stamp features HT-2 (Hindustan Trainer # 2) that was the first aircraft designed and developed in India. The second stamp features Marut, a twin-engine transonic ground attack aircraft. The third stamp features LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) that is the world's smallest lightweight multi role combat aircraft. Dhruv the Advanced Light Helicopter is featured on the final stamp of the set.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps, miniature sheet, sheetlets and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet, suitably multicolor for this issue, containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 was 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 3 million each in sheetlets of 20 stamps that is 150,000 sheetlet of each denomination. The Miniature Sheet is in the quantity of 100,000.

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NEW CUSTOMIZED POSTAL STATIONERY

The 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the customized envelope was released for National Cancer Control Program.

The 8<sup>th</sup> issue on PLASTINDIA 2003 exhibition was reported earlier in issue # 94 of December 5, 2002.

The 9<sup>th</sup> issue consists of two customized envelopes, Rs. 5 (inland letter rate) and Rs. 25 (for registered with acknowledgement due) for South Eastern Railways.

The 10<sup>th</sup> issue is for NIIT (National Institute of Information Technology).

All envelopes are in the size of 220 x 110 mm.

These issues, like other customized stationery, are NOT available to public or philatelists through the Post Office.

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FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

February 15 & 16, 2003 - Ludhiana

February 19 - 21, 2003 - Jaipur

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DISTRICT LEVEL SHOWS AT AGRA AND KAITHAL

Agra Division in the Uttar Pradesh Circle of India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition at Agra from January 29 to 31, 2003.

Kurukshetra Division in the Haryana Circle of India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition at Kaithal on December 27, 2002.

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SATISH MISRA

The well-known auctioneer and dealer Satish Misra of Bareilly informs the change of their postal address. The new address is Satish Misra, 13 Raja Vihar, Rajendra Nagar, Barrilly 243122

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

Padma Balasubramanian was promoted and posted from Principal Senior Deputy Director General (CP) to Member (Infrastructure & Financial Services) of Postal Services Board at the postal directorate, New Delhi with effect from February 1, 2003. Earlier Member (Infrastructure & Financial Services) of Postal Services Board, T R Sharma demitted the office on superannuating on January 31, 2003.

R S Natarajamurthy was promoted and posted from Principal Chief General Manager of the Business Development Directorate to Member (Personnel) of Postal Services Board at the postal directorate, New Delhi with effect from February 1, 2003. Earlier Member (Personnel) of Postal Services Board, A S I S Paul demitted the office on superannuating on January 31, 2003.

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SEASON THE REASON FOR SNAIL MAIL

Marriage season is reason enough for slowing down official work, according to the department of posts.

The defense offered by the department – after it was dragged to a consumer court for allegedly taking "over six months" to shift some savings-account passbooks from a Howrah post office to the Lansdowne post office, in south Calcutta – included pressures of the marriage months as one of the excuses, besides procedural delays and the lack of adequate staff.

The Howrah District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum was not impressed, ordering the postal department to pay Rs 5,500 as compensation to the complainant, Alok Bandhu Trivedi. But the Ballygunge Government High School teacher has not received anything to date, forcing him to fight another round of legal battles.

Trivedi had applied to the postal department to shift his account and passbooks from the Danesh Sheikh Lane post office to the Lansdowne post office in April 2002. But he ultimately got them in October, though the postal department's legal team claimed in September that the passbooks were sent to the Lansdowne post office in July.

The court ordered the department of posts to pay Trivedi a compensation of Rs 5,000 for the harassment he had suffered and Rs 500 to meet the legal expenses he had incurred. The court has now asked the department to "show cause" why the order was not executed in accordance with the original verdict. The next hearing has been fixed for February 14, at which senior department officials must be present.

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NEW ISSUE OF SRI LANKA

The Philatelic Bureau issued a commemorative stamp on January 14, 2003 to mark the Golden Jubilee of Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo.

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DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY

Collector seeks VOC = Dutch East India Company revenues and documents. please contact me at [hphager@aol.com](mailto:hphager@aol.com) if you have anything to sell or trade or can refer me to someone.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 43

Before the end of the next month this column will be a year old and has been well received by the readers. However the powers that be at the helm of affairs in the current scenario of Indian Philately continue unabated to bend and break the system for their personal gains. This is clearly demonstrated by the actions of those who have been manipulating the system for long and still hope that they can continue with the practice.

M G Pittie of Hyderabad was a Juror at the National Stamp Exhibition of United Arab Emirates organized by Emirates Philatelic Association with Asian Philatelic Federation (FIAP) held from January 20 to 24, 2003 at Dubai during Dubai Shopping Festival, it was the 7<sup>th</sup> exhibition and Pittie has been a permanent fixture as a Juror at each one of these exhibitions due to some undisclosed reason. This year he took Vispi Dastur of Mumbai along.

The first such exhibition was held in 1997 where the exhibit "Speed Post - the Story of the Indian Express Mail Service" of yours truly was displayed in the invitee class. This exhibit later went on to be the Best Modern Philatelic Exhibit in the World in 1998 in Israel.

The Philatelic Congress of India (PCI), the member federation of FIP & FIAP, is not aware of any of Pittie's nominations in this regard. As the elections of the PCI were stayed by the order of the Court, there is no Governing Council since August 25, 2002 and no meeting has been held since. Yet this is no deterrent to persons such as Pittie.

Till 2001 PCI governing council was responsible for appointment of the Jury for various exhibitions being organized in India and abroad with India Post. But with many instances coming to notice it is now emerging that no reference needs to be made to the governing council of PCI by those who think they are in control of it.

Dhananjay Desai of Ahmedabad, the national commissioner to HAFNIA 2002 world exhibition with Sahoo's consent did not send any exhibit to Denmark during October 2002, as he was unable to obtain the official permission to take Dilip Shah's exhibit out of the country. The no show of the rest of the India exhibits was a loss of face for India. However, instead of being questioned on his actions Desai has been rewarded with an appointment as Apprentice Jury at the so-called INPEX 2002.

Sahoo, being investigated by the premier agency in the country, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for smuggling antiquities on several occasions, served as juror at MAPPEX organized by Madhya Pradesh Circle of India Post. Shah, who is also being investigated for similar charges, played a mysterious role in judging and was conspicuous by his absence on the last 2 days of the exhibition in spite of it being in his home state.

Our readers may draw their own conclusions on the goings on in philately in India. It is amply clear that the coveted visits as jurors are maneuvered. To be a juror from India it is more important to be the camp follower of those who controls PCI than the philatelic qualifications.

The FIAP and FIP have to figure out for themselves that the PCI as they knew died with D N Jatia in November 2000. The false pretenders neither represent the philatelist community in the country nor have the support of the Government 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>

MARIA LIBERA FROM UPU

I do not see any further reference either to the work of the WADP and yet India Post continues to be Chairman of the WADP. For your

information, the UPU itself is receiving many more queries from Indian collectors about illegal issues.

[EDITORS NOTE: This is part of a recent message to us from [maria.libera@upu.int](mailto: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.

We have also observed that the illegal issues are openly sold at Dealers booths at several exhibitions in India including the recently held MAPPEX 2003 organized by India Post. The concerned officials need to take note and do the needful to prevent this in future.]

VIJAY SETH FROM NEW DELHI

The set of four stamps and m/sheet issued on 5<sup>th</sup> February is a wonderful starter for the year 2003, the world and we are celebrating as the Centenary of flight. This set depicts the four most important achievements of the Indian Aerospace Industry, right from the 50's to the 21st century. The stamps are beautifully designed along with the miniature sheet and the sheetlets of 20 are also collectors item. Though one complete set of the sheetlets along with the Miniature Sheet is slightly expensive at Rs. 630. Perhaps a sheetlet of 9 or 10 is the right figure. I wish the India Post would issue more such sets on themes, as this is the 'in thing' for stamp collectors.

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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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

YUGOSLAVIA IS GONE

On Feb. 4, 2003, after its ratification in the parliaments of Serbia and Montenegro, the Yugoslav federal assembly approved the accord, renaming the country Serbia and Montenegro. The new union binds Serbia and Montenegro together for three years and provides the option to separate thereafter.

Earlier on June 25, 2001 Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia separated from Yugoslavia and started as independent nations. Later on March 1, 1992 Bosnia-Herzegovina also separated leaving behind republics of Serbia and Montenegro. Since June 1999 Kosovo in Serbia and Montenegro is under United Nations Administration.

Marshal Tito had created Yugoslavia (The Land of Southern Slavs) in 1945.  
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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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