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

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

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The cricket mania in India is reaching its feverish pitch with India
having reached the Super Six of the ongoing World Cup in South Africa.
All hopes are now pinned on India bringing the World Cup home after two
decades. Our best wishes to Indian team.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue:

Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is
now available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INDIA POST

Padma Balasubramanian, an Officer of 1967 batch of the Indian Postal Service, has taken over as the Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Communications & IT as the head of Department of Posts, Director General of the India Post, and the Chairperson of the Postal Services Board. She succeeds S C Dutta, who superannuated on February 28, 2003.

She as the Chief Post Master General of Delhi Circle of India Post organized the most successful state level philatelic exhibition in 1997. 'Dakiana 97' excelled in several ways over the world exhibition held in Delhi later that year.

Her appointment also breaks the glass ceiling and she is the first lady to rise to this position since the office of the Director General was created 150 years ago in May 1854. Earlier Aparna Mohile became the first lady to be a Member of the Postal Services Board in 2001, and in 1979 Susheela Chaurasia was appointed Post Master General of Madhya Pradesh Circle as the first lady Post Master General in the world!

Balasubramanian also takes over as the Chairperson of the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP). In 2000, when the then Director General of India Post, B N Som, was elected as the Chairperson of the WADP in Madrid it was understood to be a post he occupied in his personal capacity. However when S C Dutta took over as the Director General of India Post in February 2002 it was for some as yet unexplained reason changed to an ex-officio position.

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INDIA POST'S NEXT STAMP ISSUE

India Post's next commemorative stamp issue in the denomination of Rs. 5 on Kusumagraj is scheduled for release on March 14, 2003.

The 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 Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

STAMPEX-24

March 1-2, 2003, Jallandhar, district level

Naresh Pahwa from Jallnadhar wrote on February 28, 2003: "Many thanks for inserting the news of Stampex-24. As per earlier experiences only 250 covers were prepared, but to my surprise, though exhibition is to open tomorrow and cover is yet to be released, I have received a request for about 500 covers and now I will speak to Senior Superintendent Of post offices to arrange for more if possible. It confirms proof of popularity of your Magazine." The image of the cover is available at the following link:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/News/106-pix.htm>

GUJPEX

The state level philatelic exhibition in Gujarat will now be held in Ahmedabad on September 21-23, 2003.

DOONTOPEX

India Post is organizing a district level philatelic exhibition at Dehradun on May 2-4, 2003. For details please contact the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Dehradun 248 001.

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special pictorial postmark to commemorate the 31st Rose Festival held at Chandigarh from February 28 to March 2, 2003. The festival was inaugurated by the Governor and UT Administrator, Lieutenant General J F R Jacob who also released a picture post card on this occasion. The image of the card is available at the following link:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/News/106-pix.htm>

Rakesh Walia stampswalia@indiatimes.com designed both the post card and the post mark and the same is available at Rs.10. Orders with remittance should be mailed to the following address: Rakesh Walia, 5156/2, MRC, Manimajra-160101, Chandigarh. Rs. 10 may be added for ordinary post and if the material is required by registered post then the registration charges of Rs. 25, may also be added.

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FAREWELL, YASHPAL BANGIA

Yashpal Bangia superannuated on February 28, 2003 after 38 years of service at Ludhiana Head Post Office (HPO) that he joined in 1965 as a postal assistant. His last posting was as the Public Relations Officer of Ludhiana HPO.

Bangia is last of the group of philatelic officers that were known all over India in the philatelic community. He is the founder Honorary Secretary of the Ludhiana Philatelic Club, author of several books on philately in English, Hindi, and Punjabi and above all a person with keen interest in promotion of philately and instrumental in organizing number of stamp exhibitions, design a stamp competitions, workshops, quiz and other programs.

He played a significant role in the establishment of the Philatelic Museum at Ludhiana - the first of its kind in Punjab. His work was honored with "Dak Seva" award in 1986 and "Bal Sahitya" award in 1994.

It is heartning to learn that Bangia would continue to contribute to the Philatelic movement even after his retirement from service.

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NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

India Government Mint, Kolkata has made arrangements for the sale of Commemorative Coins in Proof & Un-circulated varieties released in the memory of "Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee".

There are four denominations:

100 Rupees Coin of Quaternary Alloy, Circular, 44 mm dia, 35 gms.  
50 Rupees Coin of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Circular, 39 mm dia, 30 gms.  
10 Rupees Coin of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Circular, 31 mm dia, 12.5 gms.  
2 Rupees Coin of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Eleven sided, 26 mm, 6 gms.  
The Quaternary Alloy means 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% Zinc and 5% Nickel and the Cupro Nickel Alloy means 75% copper and 25% Nickel.

Proof Set of 4 is priced at Rs. 1150 and the Un-circulated, set of 3 (Excluding Rs. 2) is priced at Rs. 740. The orders may be placed to the General Manager, India Government Mint, Alipore, Kolkata - 700 053. The order form along with necessary details are also available on the website <http://www.igmint.org/syama.html> Orders can be placed directly by Foreign Nationals against advance payment in US Dollars on separate order forms.

Sales Tax as applicable at the time of delivery of Coin sets is to be charged extra. At present Sales Tax @ 10% on cost (rounding to nearest

rupee) plus surcharge @10% plus additional surcharge @5% on Sales Tax is to be paid by applicants booking the coin sets.

Postal, Packing, Insurance Charges for each variety of Proof & Un-circulated set is as follows: Rs. 130 for 1 set, Rs. 220 for 2 sets, Rs. 300 for 3 sets, Rs. 380 for 4 sets, Rs. 460 for 5 sets, and Rs. 80 extra per set beyond 5 sets.

Delivery will be on the basis of "First booked, first delivered @ 150 coin sets" per month after close of booking. There is no fixed delivery schedule.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The calendar for March 2003 with detailed information and announcements was updated on March 1, 2003 and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala. Updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

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FAKE STAMP PAPERS SEIZED

Police arrested a person from Mumbai's suburban Bandra and recovered fake stamp papers worth Rs half a million from his residence on February 27, 2003. Acting on a tip-off, Mumbai police alongwith the registrar department officials raided the place. A case for forging documents and defrauding people has been registered against the accused.

All this is a part of the nationwide multi-billion rupees fake stamp scam that had been thriving for the past 12 years. The case may be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in view of the national, and possibly international, ramifications of the racket.

The banks and insurance companies in Maharashtra State can pay in cash instead of stamp paper. Karnataka State has also banned the use of stamp papers.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is the most effective way to reach the highest targeted readerships for Indian Philately worldwide. The advertising is FREE for the subscribers. The ads are published online in an Advertising Supplement. Send in your ad, today. Click here to view the ads and for the Terms for submitting your ad <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 47

The so-called INPEX 2002 that falsely claimed to be the 10<sup>th</sup> national philatelic exhibition of India is finally over.

The way it was organized one gets the feeling that the organizers could have gone ahead in December 2002 as per their original plan and done with it instead of rescheduling it. A national was held in January 2000 in Bhubaneswar and everyone was told not to criticize it for its failures due to super cyclone in end 1999. The same set of organizers thus emboldened and in league with minuscule group of persons that attempt to exercise total control on philately in India along with usual set of sycophants stand exposed to what their agenda is - self promotion.

That this exhibition was jinxed from the very beginning goes without saying. On the day of inauguration there was a general strike in whole of Orissa against the police arresting a 12 year old girl for killing two other little girls.

Believe it or not this so-called national of a country of over a billion people had an attendance of less than 100 including organizers, jurors, exhibitors, and volunteers!!!

Most of the awards were on expected lines rewarding persons for their sycophant quotient and to wean away from opposition. If an exhibitor raises his voice s/he will be rewarded for the fear of losing her/him to the opposition.

B K Sinha, the chief perpetrator, was awarded gold medal for his UPU exhibit. This very exhibit was a no-show in PHILAKOREA 2002. It contains antiquities and we had informed Sinha and his mentor and PCI president, S Sahoo, that he must obtain the mandatory Temporary Export Permit from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) through the national commissioner, G Madan Mohan Das. This he at first refused to do but later Sahoo and Das tried for the same, without success. If this exhibit was taken to Korea it would have met the same fate as all other exhibits to Korea without permit have met - confiscation.

Ajay K Mittal was rewarded with a gold medal for his readymade exhibit on Kishengarh Fiscals primarily for his nuisance value. This exhibit like his earlier exhibits of Indore postage and fiscals was also bought readymade. The Indore fiscal exhibit is still lying with customs since its return from Korea.

The final gold medal went to B K Nagpal, a blind supporter of M G Pittie and A R Singhee, all natives of Hyderabad, for his exhibit of Hyderabad. We are ascertaining the source of material in this exhibit.

The Championship Award also went to a Hyderabad resident, Valmik Desai for his exhibit that was no-show in HAFNIA 2001. This also contains antiquities and was not included in the application for permit from ASI by national commissioner Dhananjay Desai, though eventually none of the exhibits went to HAFNIA 2001.

Om Praksh Jagti, posing as a person domiciled in Orissa won the best exhibit award of ORPEX 2002 - official Orissa state level philatelic exhibition. In 2001 national at Nashik and now the so called national at Bhubaneshwar Jagati has filed his application from Bangalore. However his exhibit did not fare so well in this show as another exhibitor, Jeevan Jyoti's exhibit won a better prize this time than it received at ORPEX. All this is clear evidence, if any was ever needed, that Shakil Ahmed was completely right in questioning the judging at ORPEX where action is still pending from India Post - the organizers of ORPEX.

One of the three Large Vermeil medals was awarded to 'GPA NEWS' a monthly bulletin of Gujarat Philatelist's Association, whose president Ashok Bayanwala, was also a member of the jury, seemed to have rewarded his own work.

We, ever the optimists, look at positive side of tidings. Most of the Indian jurors on international jury list were not officially involved with the jury work for this so-called national for the first time. However, ever the exception, Pittie along with his elder sister-in-law

was very much a part and parcel of the jury. And Pittie's comrade in arms from Hyderabad, Singhee was busy doing his favorite job - remote controlling. Dilip Shah made a brief but brave appearance for the first two days of the show.

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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>

AVINASH B JAGTAP FROM SWITZERLAND

From 2nd November 2002 to 25th February 2003 I was in my home-town Pune. This time I had an opportunity to visit philatelic groups in Dr.(Mrs.) Nagarwala High School and Viman Nagar High School in the cantonment area of Pune. My friend Mr. Anand Shirolkar and Mr. Musa (Principal, Nagrawal High School) have been trying their level best to educate and train school boys and girls in the field of philately. This is a new dimension of acquiring General Knowledge besides thick volumes of encyclopedia.

I had a great pleasure to distribute hundreds of thematic stamps amongst these budding philatelists and I am taken with great experience to that part of my early life when I was a school boy like them and collected every thing which came my way, like match-box labels, Cigarette box covers, feathers, pebbles, coins, pictures, covers of shaving blades and stamps. I was brought to the paradise of my childhood by these boys and girls, when I saw how happy they were to get these small pieces of papers, which we call stamps. Even the teachers in these schools are now after stamps and they are also taking interest in showing their school boys how stamp-collecting could add to their knowledge and pleasure.

When in Europe not only adults but also the school boys and girls are loosing their interest in this hobby of philately, I feel very proud of boys and girls of my motherland taking keen interest in this pleasant hobby.

I congratulate Mr. Anand Shirolkar and Mr. Musa for their sincere efforts to popularize philately in Indian Schools. I hope that other Indian Schools follow the path shown by Pune based schools.

ANNA GOLON, THE EDITOR, STAMPCOM2001

As editor of a new e-mail newsletter to be launched soon, which wants to promote the stamp collector's interests in making sure that they only have access to authentic stamps, I read in several English language journals from around the world that the UPU now has a WADP Numbering System. I happened to come across the website wnsstamps and after checking out some technical aspects, which I will comment on another time. I have an important question for the UPU. Why does a UPU site which claims to work for authentic stamps, does not make any mention of the problem we collectors have with illegal stamps? I would expect that a site that has the blessing of the UPU, that this site would also be used to warn against illegal stamps which are flooding us in the names of countries which are even your WNS members. How are you helping these countries to know what is on the market, and what are you doing about the countries where there are many illegal stamps and which are not on the system yet?

As a collector of ships on stamps, it has been upsetting for me to learn that some of the sheetlets that I purchased not too long ago in the name of Afghanistan, and then I learn that these were actually illegal ones!

Thank you at least that you have made known such information on illegals to the press.

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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

ALSO IN THE NEWS

VATICAN TO ISSUE ASSASSINATION STAMP

The Vatican will issue a stamp commemorating the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II as part of a 25-stamp set marking the quarter-century of his papacy.

The stamps, each dedicated to a year of John Paul's papacy, will have a face value of 0.41 euros and will be sold as of March 2, 2003 in sheets of 25. The Vatican will issue 250,000 sheets.

The stamp marking the assassination attempt will be in black and white, while the other 24 stamps - including the pope's 1989 meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his 1986 visit to Rome's main synagogue - will be in color.

In May 1981, Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca fired two shots at the pope, who was riding in an open car through St. Peter's Square. One of the bullets hit the pope's abdomen, an injury doctors say forever weakened the pontiff, who currently suffers from symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Agca served almost 20 years for the 1981 shooting before Italy pardoned him and extradited him to Turkey in 2000.

The Vatican office will also issue, at a cost of 2.58 euros, a silver stamp made in pope's native Poland.

The commemorative stamps can be pre-ordered from the Vatican's Philatelic and Numismatic Office.

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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

STAMPSONINDIA

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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About STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -- ADMINISTRIVIA

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