

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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 # 107 - March 13, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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Back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at  
<http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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We invite your inputs, please email to [stampsfindia@tatanova.com](mailto:stampsfindia@tatanova.com)  
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I N T H I S I S S U E

India Post's Stamp Issues  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
New Special Postmarks  
New Commemorative Coins  
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Readers Forum - Avinash B Jagtap on Used Indian 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.  
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Our endeavor to visit as many exhibitions and philatelic events as possible led us to travel to various locations from the start of this year. This has resulted in delays in mailing of the newsletter like this one. We hope our readers would bear with us and appreciate the news that we bring to them.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the contributors and sources to this issue:  
Satish Misra from Bareilly  
[The name of B Digraskar from Jabalpur in the last issue was omitted by mistake from this space.]

Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is now available on-line <http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIA POST'S STAMP ISSUES

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

LUPHILEX

The district level philatelic exhibition held at Lucknow on March 1-3, 2003 was named LUPHILEX and not UPHILEX as erroneously reported in issue # 105 of February 7, 2003.

GUWAPEX

The Guwahati Postal Division in collaboration with newly formed Guwahati Philatelic Society is organizing "GUWAPEX 2003" on March 22 and 23, 2003. The exhibition will be non-competitive and along with the exhibition, Quiz competition, letter writing competition, video shows and interactive CD games will be held for popularizing philately especially amongst school children.

BARPEX

The first ever district level stamp exhibition BARPEX 2003 was held on March 10 and 11 2003 at Bareilly. Both days special cover was released with special postmark. Out of 50 frames, 27 frames were reserved for 9 exhibits from invitees. There were 10 exhibits in 23 frames in competition class. Y Kumar and R P Bhatnagar of Bareilly served as jury.

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

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

ISSF World Cup

India Post is providing a special postmark depicting Black Buck to commemorate the International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup at New Delhi on March 15, 2003. The Vice President of India, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, will inaugurate the World Cup and release the Special Cover. The ISSF World Cup is an annual event with about 30 countries participating. The special cover shall be available at Rs. 10 plus postage from Vijay Seth [vijay\\_hseth@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vijay_hseth@yahoo.co.in) who has designed the cover and the postmark.

State Flower Show

India Post will provide a special postmark depicting Rhododendron to commemorate the State Flower Show at Dehradun on March 15, 2003. Uttaranchal Philatelists Association is bringing out a special cover on

this occasion. The special cover shall be available at Rs. 10 plus postage from Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) .

Please add following towards postal and packing charges with each order:  
Rs.10 for delivery by ordinary post  
Rs.25 for delivery by registered post

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NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

India Government Mint, Mumbai has made arrangements for the sale of Commemorative Coins to mark the Birth Centenary of "Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan".

There are three denominations:

- 100 Rupees Coin of Quaternary Alloy, Circular, 44 mm dia, 35 gms.
- 10 Rupees Coin of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Circular, 31 mm dia, 12.5 gms.
- 1 Rupee Coin of Ferritic Stainless Steel, Circular, 25 mm dia, 4.85 gms.

Quaternary Alloy = 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% Zinc, and 5% Nickel.  
Cupro Nickel Alloy = 75% copper and 25% Nickel.  
Ferritic Stainless Steel = 82% Iron and 18% Chromium.

Proof Set of 3 is priced at Rs. 925 and the Un-circulated, set of 3 is priced at Rs. 470.

The orders will be taken from April 1 to May 31, 2003. The order form along with necessary details is also available on the website <http://www.igmint.org/syama.html>. Orders can be placed directly by Foreign Nationals on separate order forms.

Sales Tax at 13% will be charged on inland orders. Orders from the residents of Maharsashtra State will also be charged 1% Turn Over Tax and 10% Surcharge on Sales Tax, total of 15.3%.

Postal, Packing, Insurance Charges for Each Variety of Proof & Un-circulated set is as follows: Rs. 140 for 1 set, Rs. 200 for 2 sets, Rs. 250 for 3 sets, Rs. 330 for 4 sets, Rs. 400 for 5 sets.

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

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PHILATELIC CLUB IN PAKISTAN

We established a Philatelic Club in Pakistan, almost 14 years ago, for the service of philately. We need your help. Kindly send us your name, age, e-mail address, postal address, phone number, and details of what you collect, and what you can give. If you are a collector then send us your details. We will print all this for free. Club's mailing address is: [paknetmag@hotmail.com](mailto:paknetmag@hotmail.com)

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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.

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<http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 48

D N Jatia was too ill, with cancer of the prostate, to attend MILLEPEX 2000 held at Bhubaneswar in January 2000. In his absence, the jury, like a headless chicken, didn't know what they did.

MILLEPEX Jury under M G Pittie as the president awarded only one gold medal to a thematic exhibit on History of Aviation that opened with 1911 first official airmail in India! In case it was judged under aerophilately it would have scored zilch and would have also scored same if judged properly in thematics.

Only one gold medal in a nation of 1 billion people after 25 years of the Philatelic Congress of India speaks volumes for their existence.

In case the same kind of jury and judgments were in place in 1970 then D N Jatia would have never emerged as a leader in philately.

Several new classes were introduced in 2000 by singular efforts of yours truly that however were clubbed together for the purpose of judging by ill-informed jury. Yours truly then worked for two full years, 2000 and 2001, to rectify the mess that Pittie and his team had created at MILLEPEX. In the very next national in December 2001 the new classes were judged, except frugal, with their own specific rules supplied to jury by yours truly.

There were 9 jury apprentices for this exhibition and Pittie, controlling the jury affairs as the jury secretary this time, held back all the papers regarding them in spite of stern reminders by India Post. He however was forced to hand these over to B N Som, the jury chairman, in the PCI meeting of April 22, 2002. Pittie had unilaterally cleared 5 out of 9 apprentices and under his control the jury team leaders did not even bother to complete assessment papers in regards to apprentice postal officers.

A review committee was formed by the PCI governing council to look in the matter with Som, Sahoo, and Pittie that evaluated each case and cleared all the 9 jury apprentices.

In a blatant disregard to this democratic and consensus decision Pittie once again made R D Binani undergo apprenticeship in this so called, recently held INPEX 2002.

Mysteriously R S Gandhi joined as jury apprentice. Bahiwani who flunked apprentice jury test conducted by Jatia in 1997 and was made to undergo another stint as an apprentice in 2000 was elevated to Secretary of Jury in this so-called national. The general feeling amongst philatelists is that it helps being an unscrupulous supporter of powers that be.

The PCI governing council, that used to appoint jury and apprentices, has been non-existent since August 25, 2002, and apparently had no role in appointing these members for this so-called national that has the dubious distinction of being the first not to have been recognized by India Post.

Then who did it? The answer is the same set of people who have been doing so for a long time. The names of exhibitions and organizations may change but it is the same set of people who hog all key posts in organizing and other committees, and control the affairs against all norms of a functioning society.

The message is loud and clear - PCI's role as a society representing Indian philately was only a façade. It was gainfully misused till it was found convenient and is now discarded exposing naked ambitions, personal agendas, and an unholy nexus of powers that be and their sycophants.

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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>

Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap, Binningen /Switzerland  
ON USED INDIAN STAMPS

If one refers to any catalogues, may be Stanley Gibbons of London or Phila India of Mr. Manik Jain, most (or all?) of the post-independence Indian stamps are poorly valued than their mint counterparts. Why it is so? In fact nicely used Indian stamps are rare than the mint stamps. When I say "NICELY" it means stamps showing un-smearred, round dated cancellations. Most of the stamps which I receive on envelopes from India are so shabbily cancelled that they present an ugly appearance to otherwise nicely printed modern Indian stamps. Many commemoratives are with glossy surface, which does not allow any cancellation which could be clear and readable. I do not understand if the officers of India Post have ever thought of this fact. The main reason behind the cancellation is not just rendering the stamp useless for its re-use; but also that the recipient may know when and from which place the letter was dispatched (in case the sender fails to write it in his letter). I find it very very difficult to get nicely cancelled Indian stamps, which in other parts of the world are easily available, because of the care taken by the respective postal authorities. I shall be very happy to know what other philatelists think about this problem.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately  
<http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately  
<http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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RESEARCH NOTES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

US MAY ISSUE STAMP HONORING DIWALI

After issuing stamps with holiday themes such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and most recently, Eid, the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Commission under the US Postal Service may soon issue a stamp honoring "Diwali", the Indian festival of lights.

Democratic Congressman Frank Pallone, co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives demanding that the United States Postal Service issue a stamp honoring the festival.

"I feel that Diwali is truly a marvelous holiday that deserves recognition. As the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee continues its plans for issuing new stamps, I hope that it will consider issuing a Diwali stamp to honor this culturally significant holiday celebrated in the United States and abroad," he said.

"The spirit of Diwali has survived political, economic and social vicissitudes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the triumph of light, goodness, knowledge and truth," Pallone said.

"It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and is seen as a brand new beginning for all. The rich culture associated with the Diwali tradition includes observation of this holiday by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Muslims and Buddhists," Pallone said.

"The Commission has not issued a stamp honoring Diwali and I am hopeful that there will soon be a US postal stamp commemorating this beautiful festival celebrated in India and throughout the world," he said.

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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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About STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -- ADMINISTRIVIA

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