

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 # 108 - March 20, 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
Kusumagraj's Stamp Released
Recent & Forthcoming Events
Periodicals Received
The Flood of Imperforated Definitive Issues
Auctions Action
Service Charges Reinstated on Standing Orders
Prasadam by Post
India Post's Annual Report
New Publications - Airmails of Siam
Philately in Transition in India, Part 49
Readers Forum - Atish Kumar Jain
Also in the News - Kalpana Chawla on 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

With the cricket fever having subsided there is a WHO alert for a new strain of virus that is spreading severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Travel advisory's have been issued by many countries and staff at airports have been asked to look out for the passengers traveling through these regions. Well India is also tracking the virus and the various agencies are closely monitoring the situation.

Like all things this too will pass and if the war doesn't get the world the virus will.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the contributors and sources to this issue: Zee News,

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 Sant Eknath is scheduled for release on March 23, 2003.

India Post's commemorative stamp issue in the denomination of Rs. 5 on Frank Anthony is scheduled for release on March 28, 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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KUSUMAGRAJ'S STAMP RELEASED

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, India's Parliament, Manohar Joshi released a commemorative stamp at Nashik on March 14, 2003 on eminent Marathi litterateur Kusumagraj.

Paying rich tributes to the poet, Union Communications Minister Arun Shourie, who presided over the function, said Kusumagraj created a revolution through his pen. Because of personalities like him our country is still maintaining civilization and culture, the minister added.

Brahm Prakash 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 was issued on the occasion.

Madras Security Printers of Chennai printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in sheets of 40 stamps.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on February 26, 2003 at Jammu.

DEOPEX

India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on March 15-16, 2003 at Deoria.

KERAPEX

India Post has scheduled a state level philatelic exhibition on November 6-9, 2003 at Trivandrum, Kerala.

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

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PERIODICALS RECEIVED

PHILANEWS, #7, January February 2003, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Rajesh Paharia, [pahariarajesh@msn.com](mailto:pahariarajesh@msn.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Address: A S Mittal, President, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur -3  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

PHILATELY NEWSLETTER, Whole # 12, July September 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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THE FLOOD OF IMPERFORATED DEFINITIVE ISSUES

Hundreds of partly and completely imperforate sheets of several values of definitive and special definitive issues have come to market in past 6 months. That these were found in post offices all over India points to collapse of quality control mechanism at the printers - India security Press, Nashik Road.

The values noted were Re. 1 (Subas Chandra Bose - special definitive), Rs. 2 (Roses), Rs. 3 (Otter).

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AUCTIONS ACTION

MITTAL STAMP COMPANY'S POSTAL AUCTION

Mittal Stamp Company has mailed out the catalog of their postal auction number 18A closing on April 10, 2003. The sale features 1400 lots of India, Indian States, Cinderella, Fiscals, and foreign illustrated in 16 plates. For a free copy of the catalog please contact Mittal Stamp Company, G P O Box 253, Jaipur 302003  
[miitalstamps@yahoo.com](mailto:miitalstamps@yahoo.com)

R JAISWAL AUCTION

R Jaiswal will hold a public auction sale at Kolkata on April 19, 2003. The sale consists of over 1800 lots that cover Wholesale, Collections, India, Indian States, Fiscals, Foreign, Thematic, Publications, and Accessories. Illustrations are spread over 10 pages. The catalog is free and can be had from R Jaiswal, 79A S P Mukherjee, Kolkata 700 026  
[philcent@vsnl.com](mailto:philcent@vsnl.com) .

Please do mention this newsletter when contacting the auctioneers.

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SERVICE CHARGES REINSTATED ON STANDING ORDERS

Philatelic Deposit Account holders may kindly recollect the levy of service charges of Rs 10 per dispatch of philatelic material was waived with effect from October 1, 2000.

Keeping in view the rising cost on all fronts, the Department has no option but to discontinue the said concession and to levy some nominal charges. The service charges have now been re-instated starting with the dispatch of stamps and other related material released on or after March 1, 2003. However the customers may kindly note that they can receive window delivery of the material at the philatelic bureau free of the service charges.

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PRASADAM BY POST

'Swami Prasadam' a joint venture of India Post and Travancore Devaswom Board that started during the last mandala - makara vilakku season, is being extended to this vishu season also.

A large number of devotees, who used the service in the mandala and makaravilakku season, have demanded this to be made permanent. Even though the temple will be kept open during the first week of every Malayalam month, due to infrastructural limitations and non availability of sufficient prasadam, 'Swami Prasadam' can't be a round the year affair.

To get the prasadam by post, Rs 150 is to be sent by money order payable to The executive officer, Travancore Devaswom Board, Sabarimala, PIN 689713 Pathanamthitta (Via) Kerala.

In Post Offices having Speedpost facility, Speed post Money order service can also be utilized. The top of the money order form should contain the words "Swamiprasadam" in a conspicuous manner and the full address of the person to whom the prasadam is to be sent in the relevant space (the space provided for senders address on the Money Order forms).

Following items of the prasadam will be sent to the devotees:

A sealed tin of 'Aravana' prasadam: 250 ml  
Appam - Packed in an air tight cover: 7 nos.  
Lord Ayyappa's bhasmam and Malikapurathamma's manjal & kumkum: 1 packet  
Vavar Swamy's pepper and bhasma: 1 packet  
A small laminated picture of Swami Ayyappa.

Out of each money order sent, Rs 10 will be used for offering medicated drinking water (chukku vellam) to the devotees in the temple premises. Hence each devotee sending the money order will not only get the prasadam but will be participating in the pious deed of supplying drinking water to the devotees of Lord Ayyappa who trek the mountainous path to the sannidhanam.

Since the temple will be kept open only from April 11 to 18, 2003 the distribution of prasadam will be available only during that period. Hence Money orders will be accepted only up to April 5, 2003. The distribution of prasadam will start from April 12, 2003.

Please do not send telegraphic money orders since the same will not transmit the full address of the sender. The demand drafts and postal orders will also not be accepted. Send money by ordinary or speed post money order only.

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INDIA POST'S ANNUAL REPORT

India Post has released its Annual Report for the financial year 2001-2002 during the budget session of the Parliament. The bilingual publication also includes the Report on Activities for April-December 2002. The report covers Overview, Organization, Operations, Business Development Activities, International Relations, Technology, Financial Services, Financial Management, Human Resource Development, Vigilance Activities, Other Activities, and Developmental Activities in North East.

India Post handled 10,813.5 million unregistered articles and 217.2 million registered articles in 2001-2002 that is 22.53% and 11.24% less than the previous year respectively. India Post earned Rs 36,971 million revenue against the expenditure of Rs. 51,946 million. There is a deficit of Rs. 14,115 million.

According to the Report the average cost of service for a Post Card is now Rs. 6.11, and for an Inland Letter Card Rs. 6.14. These are made available to the public for Rs. 0.50, and Rs. 2.50, respectively.

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NEW PUBLICATION - AIRMAILS OF SIAM

"AIRMAILS OF SIAM - The Build Up and Further Development of Siam's Domestic and International Airmail Services in the 1920s and 1930s and the Adjustments of These Services During the WW2 Years", a Handbook by Nils Ramm- Ericson. Published by the Author, 2002, 426 pages. Soft cover, spiral bound, five separate parts. Available for UK£60.00, US\$90.00, or €85.00 including airmail postage worldwide, from Nils Ramm-Ericson, Sundholmogatan 44, SE-21641 Malmö, Sweden. Email: [nils.ramm-ericson@zeta.telenordia.se](mailto:nils.ramm-ericson@zeta.telenordia.se)

Ken Sanford of Aerophil, Switzerland has reviewed the book, as follows: The Handbook covers the initial 25 years of the development of air mail services of Siam (later Thailand). It is in five separate parts, covering the following areas:

1. Domestic Airmail Services - 1920-1945
2. Mail Carrying Individual Long Distance Flights, Goodwill Missions, and Other Special International Flights in the 1920s and 1930s
3. Airmail Services With International Carriers - 1928-1939
4. International Airmail Routes and Services in the WW2 Years
5. Airmail Rates, Stamps & Labels, 1920-1945

This includes an extensive Bibliography, a Comparison of Dates in the Rattanakosin Era, Buddhist Era & Christian Era, which is essential for deciphering dates in postmarks.

Also included in this section is a very useful chart showing days of the week by date for the period covered by the Handbook

The Handbook includes a tremendous amount of detail on each flight, incident or event, such as maps, aircraft & pilot photos, newspaper

articles, covers (both first flight and commercial), cancels, cachets, schedules and other information. Flights that crashed or had forced landings are included. Very little has been published in the past about the airmails of Thailand, and this Handbook provides much more information than has ever been published on the subject. It is obvious that the author has done extensive research in order to produce such comprehensive book on the subject. Most of the covers shown are from the author's international gold medal collection.

Thailand was an important stopover point for many of the early record flights, and first flights between Europe, India and points East. This Handbook will be an essential reference for collectors of airmail covers from these areas of the World. The author is only producing the number of copies of the Handbook for which he is receiving orders.

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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.stampsfindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 49

Philately has been known as the king of the hobbies and to keep it that way efforts of all concerned are required to sustain the interest of the young collectors in this hobby. The only way to make the hobby grow is to spread it at the grass roots.

In India, as in other fields so in philately, we need the infrastructure: national philatelic policy, regulations, a master plan for promotion of philately, syllabus for a course introducing philately at basic and other levels, funds, and the manpower to manage it all.

When we were young, we were willingly running around carrying out tasks given by the senior philatelists. We are not so young anymore and find ourselves still willingly running around but sadly there are no youngsters around.

A beginning has been made by the India Post by holding district level exhibitions with support of many local philatelic organizations. The effort of each and every one of the people involved in these events is to be commended. We are sure that these efforts will bear fruit soon and once again we will find lots of youngsters interested in philately.

The Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) in its 25 plus years of existence has been talking about promotion of philately but these have been mere words with no action forthcoming. Their sole focus has been more on winning gold medals for a few people rather than more and more collectors joining the hobby.

Each one of us who is passionate about philately must come together and join hands to spread philately at the grass roots.

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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>

ATISH KUMAR JAIN

I truly agree with Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap, Binningen /Switzerland regarding bad cancellation of stamps in post offices of India.

Last year, I had forwarded one such complaint to the then Minister for Communications, Shri Pramod Mahajan regarding cancellation of stamps with ink pens, which many post office staff do not know render the stamps invaluable. But the department has not replied back yet nor had any instructions been forwarded regarding usage of pens for cancellations.

Not only me but also all the philatelists will be very happy if postal department stops this untidy process of canceling the stamps with ink pens.

I am forwarding copy of my complaint letter sent to the department along with scan of the cover which I received in a very very poor condition.

11.11.2002

From: Atish Kumar Jain,
B-7, Kurian Uthup Nagar,
Moolavattom P.O.
Kottayam-686026,
Kerala.

To,
Shri Pramod Mahajan,
The Minister of Information Technology And Communication,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

With due respect, I would like to bring to your kind notice, the way in which the staff of Postal department cancel commemorative stamps affixed on covers.

On 09.11.2002, I received a registered cover booked from Pursaiwakkam, Chennai vide registration number 967 dated 06.11.2002 from one of my philatelist friend Mr. Velgean Fernando. On this cover my friend had affixed 9 commemorative stamps worth Rs.67 (including miniature sheet of Railways).

To my horror, I saw these stamps defaced/cancelled by your departmental staff in a very cruel and rude manner by using a pen (use of pen for canceling any stamp is prohibited because then these stamps do not have any philatelic value). I am enclosing herewith one photo of this damaged cover and stamps for your ready reference. It appears from the cover that the person who had used his pen has done it purposely to damage all the beautiful stamps, whereas this was not required since stamps had already been cancelled lightly from the booking office.

I ask you Sir, is this the way your department employees are trained to work?

Don't they know that canceling like this the stamps will lose all its philatelic value?

On the other hand I know that your department particularly Philately department is working day and night to develop this hobby from grass root levels by holding seminars, exhibitions, etc. for new philatelists.

Along with public the staff should also be trained so that they also know what the word "PHILATELY" mean.

If untrained staff work in your department, a day will come when this hobby will not be regarded as "KING OF HOBBIES" because nobody is going to collect such damaged and defaced stamps.

This is not the first time with me, it has happened like this before also 3 times and every time I have registered a complaint at Kottayam H.P.O.

I have one suggestion for getting rid of this bad habit of defacing and killing the stamps by a pen. In my opinion all the post offices should be provided with seal of "second cancellation" so that if by chance any stamp is leftover uncanceled, then it can be cancelled with this seal.

Like sometimes we get a cover with seal "DUE" on which a sender has affixed less valued stamps than required. Similarly, "second cancellation" seal can be affixed on stamps, which were not cancelled from booking office.

I hope you will care for the need of philatelists in order to develop philately.

I would be highly obliged if you reply to me personally.

Thanking you in anticipation of better services from your postal department for the overall development of philately.

Yours faithfully,
Atish Kumar Jain.

Cc to: Sr.Suptd. Kottayam H.P.O.,
Sr. Post Master, Kottayam H.P.O.,
Chief Post Master General, Thiruvananthapuram,

Post Master General, Ernakulam,
ADG(PG), N.Delhi,
Sr. DDG (CPT), N.Delhi.

Encl: Photocopy of the cover with stamps damaged by the staff of postal department.

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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

KALPANA CHAWLA ON STAMPS

Gambia, Grenada, Grenada Grenadines, Liberia, Maldives, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Sierra Leone are participating in a stamp tribute to the memory of the Crew of ill-fated Space Shuttle Columbia that is scheduled for release in March 2003.

Each postal administration will release a sheetlet of seven different vertical stamps, designed by Esther Ainspan, that depict an official photo portrait of the Space Shuttle Columbia crew. From left to right, the stamps depict (1) David M. Brown, (2) Rick D. Husband, (3) Laurel Salton Clark, (4) Kalpana Chawla, (5) Michael P. Anderson, (6) William C. McCool and (7) Ilan Ramon.

Each country's sheetlet will depict its national flag and the flag of the United States of America on the side of the text "In Memoriam/The Crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia." At the bottom, each sheetlet declares, "The People and the Government of (the participating postal administration) join the United States, Israel and India in mourning the tragic loss of the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia. Our hearts go out to the families of the astronauts."

The Gambia sheetlet contains 7 different 10 dalasy stamps. The Grenada and Grenada Grenadines sheetlets contain 7 different \$1 stamps. The Liberia sheetlet contains seven \$25 stamps, while the Micronesia and Palau sheetlets have seven different \$0.55 stamps.

In addition, The Gambia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines are issuing sheetlets for individual astronauts. The upper left hand stamp in the block of four stamps on each sheetlet will contain a similar group portrait of the Space Shuttle Columbia crew. A second stamp will feature a photograph of one of the seven astronauts. The other two stamps will feature images of the Space Shuttle program.

Gambia will be issuing a set of four sheetlets, each containing a block of four different horizontal 20 dalasy stamps. Each sheetlet will focus on one of the seven Columbia astronauts - (1) Michael Anderson, (2)

Kalpana Chawla, (3) Laurel Salton Clark and (4) Ilan Ramon. St. Vincent, will be issuing a set of three sheetlets, each containing a block of four different horizontal \$2 stamps. Each sheetlet will focus on (5) David Brown, (6) Rick Husband and (7) William McCool.

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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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