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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 # 110 - April 3, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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address, and philatelic interests and "subscribe" in the subject line.  
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Back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at
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We invite your inputs, please email to [stampsofindia@tatanova.com](mailto:stampsofindia@tatanova.com)

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Postal Stationery that Glows
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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

April 1, All Fools or April Fools Day as it is popularly known is
celebrated the world over and friends are always trying to fool each
other with tricks and harmless untruths and half truths.

However extremes are not desirable and reflect the doer in bad light and
taste. An email message showing [mjhingana@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) in 'from field', and
madhukar1@email.com in 'return path field' was mailed on April 1, 2003
to about 590 addresses with "Hot News" as the subject. The message, a
poor take on our editorials, solicited US \$ cash for 'my sustenance'
and 'US war efforts'!

The person who did the mailing apparently gleaned 258 email addresses
from our web site from news, auctioneers directory, and other areas.

Another 74 addresses to this was added by this person, perhaps stolen from other sources. Finally the earlier 258 address were added once again hence most persons would have received 2 copies of the same message. Perhaps, the person felt 500+ addresses would look impressive on the header regardless of the fact that they were duplicated. In any case the message reached only a small number of subscribers.

Some of our friends took it as April fool's Day joke and responded to us in the same vain. This is a serious matter as it is the theft and misuse of our identity, spamming and punishable offense under the current laws.

Through this platform we would like to inform all our readers and well wishers that we did not send this April Fools Message, it must have come from a fool only. All our communication comes in the form of this newsletter and we have no need of separate mailings. We will appreciate your prompt report on receiving any suspicious message in our name in the future.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Indian Express

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

POSTAL STATIONERY THAT GLOW

Keeping pace with technology, India Post is also implementing new techniques. The logo of India Post is printed in fluorescent ink that is visible under ultra violet lamp on the matching stamped envelopes for greeting cards as well as on customized stamped envelopes issued since 2000. This has been introduced as a security measure.

The logo printed by Madras Security Printers (MSP) is clear and complete that is, it has the inscription 'India Post' in Hindi and English in addition to the stylized wings. While the logo printed by Calcutta Security Printers (CSP) is larger it shows only the stylized wings of the logo without any inscription and comparatively faint. The logo can be found below the imprinted stamp on issues printed by MSP and besides the imprinted stamp on issues printed by CSP.

This opens a whole new chapter in Indian philately and will make UV lamps a necessary philatelic accessory.

We are happy that once again we are the first with this news report.

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

FRANK ANTHONY

The Chief Post Master General, Jyotsna Diesh, released a commemorative stamp at New Delhi on March 28, 2003 on Frank Anthony.

Anthony, born in 1908, represented Anglo-Indian community in the parliament and its forerunner bodies since 1942 till he passed away in 1993.

Suresh Kumar designed the stamp in the denomination of Rs. 5. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2, and the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 was issued on the occasion.

India Security Press of Nashik Road printed the stamps by photo gravure in four colors on imported unwatermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in sheets of 35 stamps.

#### KAKAJI MAHARAJ

The Minister for Communications & Information Technology and Disinvestment, Arun Shourie released a commemorative stamp at New Delhi on March 30, 2003 on Kakaji Maharaj.

P P Dadukaka, 1918-1986, affectionately known as Kakaji Maharaj is revered by his followers as a spiritual master. He was an original thinker, philosopher, and organizer par excellence and belonged to Swaminarayan faith.

The design for stamp in the denomination of Rs. 5 and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2, is based on the material supplied by the sponsors. 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.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 0.5 million in sheets of 40 stamps.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

Children's Painting Competition

India Post is providing a special postmark to launch the first district philatelic exhibition DOONTOPEX 2003 at Dehradun on April 6, 2003. The Governor of Uttaranchal, Sudarshan Agarwal, will inaugurate the Children's Painting Competition being organized at the Raj Bhawan (Governor's House) and release the Special Cover. The special cover shall be available at Rs. 10 plus postage from the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Dehradun 248001.

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**RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### PATPEX

India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition at Patna from March 28 to 30, 2003.

On first day the special cover featured India Cricket Superstar, Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar who was declared as 'Man of the Series' (Tournament) of Cricket World cup 2003 and awarded the Golden Bat. On the second day the special cover featured Indian - American Astronaut Kalpana Chawla who lost her life in the Space Shuttle Colombia crash. The special cover on the third day carried anti-dowry message. These special covers are available for sale at Rs. 15 each from Pradip Jain [philapradip@hotmail.com](mailto:philapradip@hotmail.com) Post Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800 001. Please add a minimum Rs.35 on each order towards postage & packing.

#### DOONTOPEX

The Prospectus is now available for this exhibition that will be held at Dehradun from May 2 to 4, 2003. The dealers booths are available for Rs.1,000 for the duration of the show. For bookings and 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>

#### POSTAL AUCTION BY INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY

Indian Thematic Society of Ludhiana is holding its 20<sup>th</sup> postal auction. The 40-lot auction closes on April 30, 2003. For further details please contact [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com)

#### PCI CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against the Philatelic Congress of India came up for hearing on March 31, 2003. It is now fixed for May 9, 2003.

#### THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for April 2003 with detailed information and announcements was updated on April 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](http://www.cwiakala.com).

#### CHARGE SHEET FILED IN FAKE STAMP SCAM

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Rs. 23 billion fake stamps and stamp paper scam submitted its charge sheet against Abdul Kareem Ladsab Telgi and 38 other accused on March 27, 2003. The charge sheet details how the Telgi gang had managed to infiltrate the Nashik-based India Security Press (ISP).

Special public prosecutor Raja Thakare submitted the charge sheet spread over 11,000 pages in the court of special MCOCA judge S M Shemole. The investigations so far have revealed the connections between a few ISP people with the accused, Thakare told the court. The sleuths already have arrested a serving ISP clerk along with two retired officers including a former purchase manager at the security press.

Admitting the charge sheet, the Judge also allowed an SIT petition seeking to continue investigations and file a supplementary charge sheet

if needed. The sleuths are yet to unearth Telgi's possible links in the government besides the counterfeit stamps and stamp papers supplied to the banking and insurance sector. The SIT also has been working to identify the voice of a person, believed to be a State minister, in conversation with Telgi on one of the micro-cassettes seized by the investigating team. Telgi has not cooperated with the Maharashtra police team which had attempted to obtain samples of his voice, the court was told.

Telgi, facing about 30 cases including the murder of one his employees, has been in the custody of Karnataka state police. Five of the accused including Telgi's nephew are still absconding, while 32 are in magisterial custody and Jameer Gulab Sanadee alias Jameer Ahmed Shaikh who was arrested on March 21, in police custody.

The charge sheet comprises statements of more than 600 witnesses and about 1,000 other documents, Deputy Inspector General of Police Subodhkumar Jaiswal who heads the SIT, said, adding that his team had made every effort to complete the Herculean task in the shortest possible time. "We have meticulously collected the scam-related documents to build our evidence," he said.

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PAKISTAN

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 51
Wow this column is 50 and continuing!

We have had touched on many topics that affect Indian philately, we discussed issues and people, past and present.

The response to this column has been heartening to say the least. We look forward to your continued support that encourages us to go on.

We will continue in our efforts and hope that they will make a difference to the way that philately is conducted in India.

In view of the resurgence and restructuring in Indian philately the need of the hour is for all concerned to join hands and function in a transparent manner to make a new beginning.

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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

I am happy to note that my remarks on the Cancellations on Indian Stamps have been read and at least Mr. Atish Kumar Jain of Kottayam has written in response to my complaint. Naturally the postman in the post-office, who cancel stamps on cover, is not trained in cancellation of stamps and he is least bothered about the philatelic value of the stamps. I did not mention this factor as I wrote about cancellation. In fact the value of cancelled stamps is almost nil. My point was, we in India do not value the aesthetic value of any material. Any thing in our every day life, may be our home, streets, books, utensils, any collectables such old photos, paintings, etc. etc. are never taken care of... I have also some stamps bearing ball-pen cross cancellations, which I also notice on covers from GB.

A few days ago I received a registered letter from India, with that beautiful miniature sheet commemorating 150 years of Indian Railways. A registration label (self-adhesive) was applied on to this miniature sheet by the Swiss Post (Not Indian Post!), rendering the miniature sheet on the cover useless! It is not always Indian Post which is responsible for such philatelic faults! I think it is an universal philatelic problem!

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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

DESIGN IT YOURSELF STAMPS!

Just how much excitement and innovation can you fit into one issue of stamps? When is a lemon not a lemon? Well, once you stick a moustache and a funny pair of glasses on it, for a start. How about a pair of cowboy boots and a Stetson hat? Or even a whole range of other devilish disguises.

British post office issued a set of 10 stamps on Fruits and Vegetables on March 25, 2003. They're fun, fruity and set to change the way small kids (and big ones too) look at stamps forever. As the world's first ever DIY (Design it yourself) stamps, this unique set of 10 - featuring

a range of popular fruit and vegetables - come complete with 76 'character building' stickers to let you give your stamps a life of their own.

Royal Mail's Fun Fruit and Veg issue, provides huge amount of excitement and innovation. It also has many firsts to its credit this issue is the first set of Design-it-yourself stamps issued by Britain, it's also the first set of stamps aimed at children and it's the first set of stamps where the images extend outside the stamp 'frame'

In this issue you get a set of 10 beautifully photographed stamps depicting the best in British fruits and vegetables, and also get a set of 76 adhesive stickers to decorate, adorn and customize your stamps into an enormous range of characters. The stickers feature everything from noses and spectacles to lips, hat, hair and feet and are an excellent example of the British sense of the absurd.

It's truly a set of stamps that stretched both the imagination of the designers and the technical limits of Royal Mail's sorting equipment.

The design is the brainchild of Johnson Banks, a company that has established itself as one of the pre-eminent British design outfit in its short 10-year life. Founder Michael Johnson, who cut his teeth previously with designs for the Greetings range, came through with the breakthrough idea of DIY interactive stamps. These have created a storm during market testing with youngsters and older teenagers.

As for the technical challenge; Royal Mail had to be certain that the adhesive face and body parts wouldn't come off in the wash - or at least in the company's expensive sorting machinery. A rigorous testing program took place at Royal Mail's Swindon Technology Centre where the stamps were tested on all machines imaginable and the mission was judged a complete success.

The Fun Fruit and Veg stamps will be joining their real life brethren in Sainsbury's stores up and down the country. No fewer than 500,000 stamp packs - priced at £2.70, the value of the stamps - will be on sale at Sainsbury outlets.

They will of course also be available at Post Office branches, although sadly Royal Mail has as yet no plans to offer edible examples of the stamps over the counter.

The fruit and vegetables photographed for the stamps by Kevin Summers comprise a Strawberry, Potato, Apple, Pepper, Pear, Orange, Tomato, Lemon, Brussels Sprout and Aubergine.

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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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