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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 # 113 - April 24, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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To subscribe send email to [stampsofindia@bigfoot.com](mailto:stampsofindia@bigfoot.com) with name, postal  
address, and philatelic interests and "subscribe" in the subject line.  
To unsubscribe send email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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

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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

India Post's New Issues
Postal Stationery with Advertisements - New Issues
New Special Postmarks
Recent & Forthcoming Events
Recent Periodical Publications
Transfers & Postings of Senior Postal Officers
Postmen Strike Work in Madurai
UPU Congress 2004
Coin Fair at Mumbai
Philately in Transition in India, Part 54
Readers Forum - Avinash B Jagtap from Switzerland
Also in the News - US Military Ask Citizens to Stop Sending Troops Mail

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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,

The summer is here again and it is over 40 degree centigrade already!

The deadline for this issue seems to have got stretched like everything
that stretches in summer and contracts in winter.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter with a tall
cool drink.

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: ChennaiOnline
and TheKansasCityChannel.com

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 NEXT STAMP ISSUE

India Post has scheduled for release a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 on May 2, 2003 on Durga Das.

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.

POSTAL STATIONERY WITH ADVERTISEMENTS - NEW ISSUES

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The postal stationery with following advertisements is scheduled for release in May 2003.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity, Remarks.

'M' denotes multicolor printing.

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD - Mahabalipuram, 25 Paise, Red

22, SPP, Marathi, Navneet Publications, 100,000

30, SPP, Marathi, State Bank of India, 100,000

POSTCARD - Mahabalipuram, 50 Paise, Brown

21, ISP, Hindi, SIFPSA (family Planning), 1 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - Mahabalipuram, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format

04, ISP, English, CellOne countrywide cellular service, 1 million, M

21, SPP, Hindi, SIFPSA (family Planning), 1 million

27, ISP, English, Malar Hospitals Ltd., 0.5 million, M  
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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on April 15, 2003 at Patna to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira

This Special Cover is available for sale at the Price Rs. 15 from Pradip Jain

philapradip@hotmail.com Post Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800001.

Please add Rs.10 for regular mail and Rs.35 for registered mail with each order.
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##### RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

##### PHILEX

The Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, M S Thimmappa inaugurated PHILEX 2003 on April 18, 2003 at the Dome Hall of the Bangalore General Post Office (GPO). Karnataka Circle of India Post and the Karnataka Philatelic Society organized this three-day regional-level Philatelic Exhibition having the 'Kempe Gowda Tower' as its logo.

The Chief Post Master General of Karnataka Circle, Dr. K B H Nayar held a press conference on April 17, 2003 to promote the event.

The 240 frame exhibition included 70 from children and youth. As many as 85 philatelists exhibited in the exhibition. There was also a school section and "invitees class" .

Special covers were issued on all the three days. The cover released on April 18 by the Chairman of Karnataka Bank, Ananthakrishna, depicted a building constructed in 1884 on Museum Road that now houses the Senior Superintendent of Post Office of Bangalore East Division. The special postmark had a theme of an earlier cancellation of Anche Period, The President of Karnataka Philatelic Society, V Srinivasan, released a souvenir.

The Chief General Manager of Karnataka Telecom Circle, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., K Padmanabhan, released a special cover on April 19 with the theme being environment. The special postmark symbolically represented a tree.

The Chairman of Canara Bank, R.V.Shastri, released a special cover on April 20 with the theme of children. The cover depicted a painting made by Neha Adiga, a student of Carmel Convent Jayanagar, which won an award in a Stamp Design Contest.

The exhibition was utilized to impart training to teachers and children on Philately. A philatelic workshop for schoolteachers was held at the Conference Hall of the GPO on April 18, 2003. For students, a workshop was held the April 19, 2003.

A Philatelic Quiz for students was organized on April 20, 2003.

#### DOONTOPEX

This show is now rescheduled for July 18 to 20, 2003.

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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#### RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

VADOPHIL, #94, April 2003, Quarterly

Editors: Prashant H Pandya & Timir R Shah [vadophil@ipipi.com](mailto:vadophil@ipipi.com)

Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society

Address: "Jaya" Dala Patel's Pole, Narsinhji's Pole, Vadodara 390 001

Annual Subscription: Rs. 100 in India

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#### TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from April 9, 2002:

S Sarkar from the Post Master General, Nagpur Region of Maharashtra Circle to the Deputy Director General - Technology, Postal Directorate at New Delhi.

Colonel Om Praksh, from the Post Master General, Gorakhpur Region of Uttar Pradesh Circle to the Post Master General, Nagpur Region of Maharashtra Circle.

Colonel V Sadasivam from the Deputy Director General - Technology, Postal Directorate at New Delhi to Army Postal Service.

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POSTMEN STRIKE WORK IN MADURAI

More than 400 postmen went on a flash strike on April 21, 2003 at Madurai protesting against the termination of the services of the extra department postmen and not filling the 26 posts of postmen that fell vacant in various post offices in the city and increasing the workload "to unbearable levels".

The members of their unions said the officials who did not want any reduction in their perks, had not filled the vacancies for postmen in various post offices from 1999-2000 till 2002-03. Every year, they had reduced the number of postmen and redeployed the work though the city was expanding rapidly.

The officials had, in fact, agreed to increase the number of postmen to cater to the outskirts, but now they were reducing the staff strength.

They said redeployment of postmen was part of an alleged official plan to harass postmen as the postal employees had called for a strike May 1 and 2, 2003.

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UPU CONGRESS 2004

The Congress of Universal Postal Union is held every 5 years and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress was originally scheduled to be held in 2004 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. However hundreds of people dying in violent civil unrest meant that Ivory coast was no longer in a position to hold the Congress.

It will now be held in Bucharest, Romania. This will be the first time that the Congress will be held in Eastern Europe in 130 years of UPU.

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COIN FAIR AT MUMBAI

S M Shukla Memorial Committee held the 12th Annual Shukla Day Coin Fair at Mumbai from April 18 to 20, 2003.

Shukla, born on April 24, 1911, was a renowned numismatist and served as the Honorary Numismatist to the Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai for a long time.

Farokh S Todywalla indiaart@vsnl.com held auction #5 consisting 102 lots of coins, medals, tokens, and paper money on April 19, 2003 at the fair. Todywalla also maintains a website www.todyauction.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. Click here to view the ads and for the Terms for submitting your ad

VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 54

Following is an excerpt from the letter by national commissioner for BANGKOK 2003 world philatelic exhibition, Dr. R S Gandhi that he recently sent to participants:

"Regrettably it is now open secret that the Department of Posts (DoP) has adopted an indifferent attitude towards philately and PCI."

"More than 9 months has elapsed since my request dated July 24, 2002 for no objection certificate. Despite my two reminders & personal meeting with the Deputy Director General (Philately), the DoP has not forwarded mandatory no objection certificate to the HRD Ministry, Government of India as yet for clearance of items of 99 or more years old by the Archaeological Survey of India."

"Finding no way out, the undersigned wrote to (1) the Secretary to Government of India in the Department of Posts & Director General of India Posts and (2) Prime Minister of India and their reply is awaited."

"The Law of the Land forbidden to take away items of 99 or more years old outside the country without the permission of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)."

"The negative approach of some of our friends / brother in philately is well known and their whimsical & continued unfriendly hurdles during & after the PHILAKOREA 2002 event is forewarning."

"Accordingly I have been advised to be very conscious & careful on the matter of your exhibit and a way out is to modify and re-adjust the exhibit as not to include such philatelic items suspected to come under the ambit of ASI."

The procedure involved for participation of exhibits in international exhibitions is as follows:

PCI governing council appoints the national commissioners for all exhibitions to be held in a year. Accordingly the PCI secretary general confirms in writing to exhibition organizing committee, India Post, and to the appointed person. The commissioner on the basis of PCI general secretary's letter obtains a certificate from India Post. This 'Letter of Appointment of the National Commissioner by the Department of Posts, Government of India' (that Dr. Gandhi misleadingly is calling 'no objection certificate') is the key document that forms the basis of the permits from the Department of Culture, Reserve Bank of India, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and Indian Customs.

The participants are also required to sign a letter of authority in favor of commissioner and also an indemnity bond, both on stamp paper, absolving the commissioners from most responsibilities in case of mishaps.

The PCI also allows, but only to certain privileged commissioners to charge the participants expenses that at times are higher than the frame fees. This way the appointment as commissioner becomes an all expenses paid jaunt and opportunity to enjoy a foreign trip. A less privileged commissioner will have strictures passed against him for charging the expenses he may have actually incurred and debarred from future such appointments by the PCI governing council.

Dr. Gandhi, would fall under the privileged category, he is one of the PCI vice-presidents and is the first person ever to be appointed as an apprentice jury, at INPEX 2002 that was recently held, without the PCI governing council decision. The organizers claimed this exhibition as a national and a success. The organizers have a history of fraudulently claiming India Post's patronage and several other things for almost a year. They were forced to hastily withdraw a few of such claims from their web site after India Post sent them a notice. It is another matter that a visitor to this show reported less than 100 persons attending including organizers, jury, exhibitors, volunteers, visitors, and pigeons!

At present all government departments have been alerted and will not tolerate violations of the law of the land. The problem is not limited to obtaining certificate from India Post or permit in respect of material 100 year old form ASI as Dr. Gandhi will like participants to believe but that of following the procedures required by the law of the land in respect to several other mandatory permits.

In our opinion in these uncertain times of no exhibits going to HAFNIA 2001, exhibits confiscated on return from PHILAKOREA 2002, and no permissions as yet obtained for BANGKOK 2003, the participants must now seek suitable undertakings from the commissioners for well being of their exhibits.

We have full faith in the analytical capabilities of the participants from India in philatelic exhibitions abroad. We ask them to verify the contents of our publication and PCI's misinformation campaign. It will help them to decide on the best course of action that they need to take.

Those philatelists who seek long term well being of philately in India must resist the temptation of the immediate or short term personal gains, in this case participating abroad.

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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

In the Stamps of India Collectors Companion, No. 111 of 21 April 2003 there is a query from Mr. Sudip Dasgupta, pertaining to the flaw on SG

302 stamp of India (Indian National Flag) which he referred to, as a "scrach variety"). This you have rightly pointed out as a constant variety appearing on the stamp.

I had gone through an old Stanley Gibbons Monthly (November 2001) in which there is a reference to this flaw (in the article by Richard Lockyer "King George VI Varieties, Part 62- More Odds and Ends"). In this article he writes, "Commonwealth lists a very clear variety on the 3 and half anna from the 1947 Dominion Status Issue (CW S6B). The "7" of 1947 in the design on R5/6 has a clear flaw."

In the Bridger & Kay, "Five Reigns (1980) Commonwealth Catalogue", it has been stated "S6a- A marked flaw appears above the 7 (of "1947"/below "G" of "AUG" - Termed as "Teardrop Flaw" by Mr. Richard Lockyer) on Rows 5/6 (I believe it is a mistake, and should probably read : " Row 5/6 i.e. 6th Stamp in the row No. 5).

I do not have this stamp (with the flaw) in my collection, but it is possible some body in India (or else where) may have the complete (or in part from above) sheet of this stamp. As we are not so sure about its position on the sheet, an examination of the sheet concerned will reveal the fact.

Most probably it is ROW No. 5 (or 6? as you say), but what is the position of this particular flaw in that row? Is it No. 6? I would appreciate a response to this query.

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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

US MILITARY ASK CITIZENS TO STOP SENDING TROOPS MAIL
The pentagon says unsolicited mail and packages sent to Iraq are overwhelming the military postal system and threatening security, KMBC's Peter Barnes reported.

Mail to the Persian Gulf is overwhelming the military postal service. Military personnel receive 1,000 tons of mail a week, up from 10 tons per week last year. The Pentagon wants the unsolicited mail to stop, Barnes reported.

"It's a matter of trying to handle the sheer volume," said Edward Pardini, who works for the Military Postal Service.

The flood of packages and letters slows mail sent by soldiers' family members. It's also a security risk -- the Pentagon worries about chemical and biological materials like anthrax being sent to service personnel, Barnes reported.

"We had a request from one woman, if she could get donations from people, she'd send 1,000 -- maybe it was 10,000 -- pounds of fudge, which may not be that good in 100-degree heat," Pardini said.

To stop the overflow, the Pentagon has contacted dozens of Web sites that post addresses of service people, sometimes with names. It also has stopped many charitable organizations from sending unsolicited gifts.

But the Pentagon does want people to help -- by donating to government-approved programs like the USO, donating blood, or visiting this official Web site, DefendAmerica.mil, where they can buy troops phone calling cards, send e-mails or sign a virtual thank you card.

The point is to make sure that priority mail -- letters and packages from family and friends -- have a chance to reach soldiers in the field the fastest, Barnes 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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