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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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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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

Prime Minister Unveils Everest Stamp Design
India Post's Forthcoming Stamp Issues
New Stamps Released
New Special Postmarks
WADP Workshop
Paper Supplies for Registration Envelopes
Indian Postal Services Association
Philately in Transition in India, Part 58
Readers Forum - Rakesh Walia from Chandigarh
Also in the News - Milk & Mail Mix

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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 weather in Delhi reminds one of the Merchant Ivory movie 'Heat and Dust'. The mercury touched the highest note of the season recently and dust storms are raging. Yet the weather gods have been kind to send some rain showers to provide relief from the excruciating heat.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vijay Seth from New Delhi, Press Information Bureau Government of India New Delhi, and Daily Post Echo.

Please 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.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIME MINISTER UNVEILS EVEREST STAMP DESIGN

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the golden jubilee celebrations of the First Ascent of Mount Everest, on May 20, 2003 at New Delhi. He also gave away the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards. The function was attended by Sir Edmund Hillary, Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Vikram Verma, Minister of Communications, IT & Disinvestment, Arun Shourie and many distinguished mountaineers including the son of Tenzing Norgay.

On this occasion the Prime Minister also unveiled the design of the stamp commemorating the golden jubilee celebrations of the First Ascent of Mount Everest. This ceremonial unveiling of design before the issue date is a first for India Post.

The event received wide coverage on the national news channels and at the time of the unveiling an album was presented to Sir Edmund containing the stamps that are yet to be issued. As this was only the unveiling of the design of the stamps this presentation should not have taken place.

The stamp, in the denomination of Rs.15, shall be issued in a sheetlet of 12 as well as in a Miniature sheet on May 29, 2003. On this day 50 years ago Tenzing Norgay of India and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand reached Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world.

INDIA POST'S FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

India Post has scheduled for release a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 on May 30, 2003 on Muktabai.

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.

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

The Director General of India Post, Padma Balasubramaniam released the set of 4 commemorative stamps and a miniature sheet on May 15, 2003 on legendary playback singers Mukesh, Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, and Hemant Kumar - the Golden Voices of Yesteryears in a special function at New Delhi where another legendary singer Manna Dey sang. Those present at the function included Mukesh's son and singer Nitin, Kishore Kumar's wife Leena Chandavarkar and her son Sumit, Mohammed Rafi's son Shahid Rafi, and Hemant Kumar's son Jayanta Mukherjee and wife Moushmi Chatterjee. Others present on the occasion included singer Udit Narayan and his son Aditya, the veteran voice of radio Ameen Sayani, apart from writer Kamleshwar and former cricketer B S Chandrashekar.

Balasubramaniam informed that Saregama HMV had decided to put replicas of the stamps on the covers of their musical album Golden Voice of

Yesteryears. She noted that music was integral to the life of not only Indian films, but every Indian.

Sayani, who had known the singers personally, said though each was different in temperament, they were similar in their dedication, hardworking attitudes, and depth of heart. He regretted that the postal department had omitted singer Talat Mehmood from the list of singers being honored with commemorative stamps.

A release function was also organized by Ambesh Upmanyu, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Jaipur City Division, at Jaipur in conjunction with a musical program where befittingly the songs of the singers being honored on stamps were rendered by local artists.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamps in the denomination of Rs.5 each, the inland letter rate, 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.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 0.8 million each in the sheetlets of 12 stamps. The Miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 100,000.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on May 11, 2003 at Ernakulam to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of INS Hansa, the first naval air station commissioned at Cochin on May 11, 1953.

Sikandar Bakht, Governor of Kerala and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Madhvendra Singh also released a special cover on this occasion. The Special cover depicts TU 142 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, Sea Harrier taking off from INS Viraat along with Sea King Helicopter, Dornier, and TU 142 in flight.

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WADP WORKSHOP

The Director General of the Universal Postal Union, Thomas E Leavey, delivered the keynote address at the workshop on Illegal and Abusive Issues organized by World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) and Intergraph on May 16, 2003 at Montriux, Switzerland.

The Assistant Director General in the Philately Division of India Post, P N Ranjit Kumar represented India at this workshop.

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PAPER SUPPLIES FOR REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

India Security Press, Nashik Road invites sealed bids (in Two Bid System) only from the manufacturers for the supply of Azure Laid Ledger Paper, 100 GSM, in sheet size of 59.5 x 89 cms for Registration Envelopes. The last date for submitting the bids is July 2, 2003

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INDIAN POSTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

The following persons won in the elections held on May 9, 2003 at New Delhi: President - Jyotsna Diesh, Vice President - R R P Singh,

Secretary - Vasumitra, Treasurer - S K Dwivedi, and the Member of the Executive Committee from outside of Delhi - K K Sinha.

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SCOUTING

Advanced collector of scouting history wants to buy items like jamboree badge and philatelic items from all India jamborees of 1937 (Delhi), 1953 (Hyderabad) and 1956 (Jaipur). Early scouting collectibles of period prior to 1950 are also wanted. Good prices paid. Write to A M Mollah, E-302 Gaurav Galaxy, Mira Road East, District Thane 401 107, Maharashtra. E-mail [ammollah@vsnl.net](mailto:ammollah@vsnl.net)

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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 58

A friend recently called in and congratulated us on the name of this column. We were naturally surprised and asked him to explain. He said that we have done a smart thing in naming this column whose acronym PITII points directly to Pittie who has captured power in post-Jatia Indian philately. No amount of denying from our side helped our friend change his mind however for us it was a time for comical relief.

There is no denying the ground reality that Pittie and company (P Company) ruthlessly rules philately in India. However P Company refuses to realize that situation has changed since Jatia has gone and his shoes are too big for them to step in to as they are no match for his political and other skills.

It is common knowledge in India that the shortest route to a gold medal is buying it off the jury, be it straight payoff or a roundabout way of buying useless material at inflated prices from him/her. It is this commercial operation, the lure of all expenses paid foreign jaunts as jury and commissioners, and score of other opportunities to make money that is at present shaken by the actions of PCI members who demand transparency. As one of P Company's key member, A R Singhee said openly in the last PCI meeting of August 25, 2002 "It is a question of our survival" and he was dead right.

Absolute power corrupts absolutely and thirty-five years of total control on Indian philately by Jatia and then by P Company has led to absolute rot, mess, decay, and several cupboards full of skeletons. We are saddened to record that majority of philatelists active in organized philately today have mistakenly presumed the examples set by P Company as the way to go about in their philatelic pursuits.

Except for those who seek favors, not deserved otherwise, others do not support the P Company. The favor-seekers are known for their fickleness

and P Company is aware of the type of people around them so it is busy doling out favors to all those who ask for, be it a gold medal, appointment as commissioner, nomination as delegate/member to various committees. All they ask in return is the proof of the services rendered and the lower one stoops the higher the reward.

P Company is even inducing somewhat neutral persons by offering such carrots in the hope that these new inductees will help them strengthen and maintain the status quo having developed a vested interest.

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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>

RAKESH WALIA FROM CHANDIGARH

The Golden Voices of Yesteryears stamps were released at 9 AM at Chandigarh whereas the formal release function in New Delhi was supposed to take place at 5.30 PM and normally the stamps are put on sale only after they are released in Delhi or wherever the main functions is being held.

The postmark used at Chandigarh Philatelic Bureau for this issue is quite different to that of the one specifically reproduced in the information sheet.

1. The circle on the top which includes the mike is placed in the middle where as the one shown in the brochure is placed towards the left.
2. The city name is produced outside the box where as it should have been in side the box.
3. In the New Delhi Postmark, the name of place is as follows: Hindi - Pincode-English where as the one used at Chandigarh is as follows Hindi -English-Pincode.

Despite my informing the Postal Officials about the same about 10 days ago the correction has not been done.

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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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

MILK & MAIL MIX

Householders across Merseyside and Cheshire in UK will soon be having their post delivered by the milkman. The country's biggest doorstep

supplier Express Dairies was granted a huge extension to its postal delivery service on April 24, 2003.

Independent postal regulator Post-comm has granted the license following a consultation as part of the deregulation of the postal service.

Express Dairies has two main processing plants in the UK - one at Aintree - and has 25 depots across Merseyside and Cheshire. A company spokeswoman yesterday confirmed that thousands of people in the region would now receive some of their post via a milkman.

She said: "We enter into contracts with various businesses to supply post to their customers. It's not just people who receive doorstep deliveries who we serve - the milkmen just deliver to the homes as they do their rounds. Express uses its network of about 100 depots plus franchised milk round staff to deliver parcels and packets over the critical last few miles."

The number of letters and parcels able to be delivered by milkmen and women will now increase to 46m postal items a year for the next seven years. Express Dairies is already delivering thousands of items to households every week. Authority for that came from an interim license granted last summer, but the company now expects that number to grow quickly.

Tim Smith, executive director of Express Dairies, said: "We have taken the concept of delivering parcels and packets from businesses to households by our dedicated round staff and proved it works. We have been successfully delivering items like books, periodicals, contact lenses and CDs for a growing customer base, including leading branded operators and the largest fulfillment houses. We deliver excellent service, competitive pricing and real value to our customers."

But the move has been condemned by the Communication Workers Union who represent many Royal Mail workers. John Keggie, deputy general secretary of the CWU, said: "We think this proposal from Postcomm runs the risk of turning the Royal Mail into a Boy Scout operation. There is a lot more to delivering mail across the country than shoving letters through a letterbox. Without any disrespect to milkmen, what the Royal Mail provides is security and trust, which we believe is appropriate from a full-time, professional workforce."

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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:

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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