

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First, Free & Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

~~~~~  
Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

~~~~~  
Issue # 118 - May 29, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

~~~~~  
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.

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

~~~~~  
We invite your inputs, please email to [stampsofindia@tatanova.com](mailto:stampsofindia@tatanova.com)

~~~~~  
I N T H I S I S S U E

Stamps used before their Official Release
Postal Stationery with Advertisements - New Issues
New Special Postmarks
Andhare Auction
New Minister
Reliance Infocomm to Sign Agreement with India Post
Fake Stamps Seized at Ahmedabad
Fake Stamps' Pune Case Update
Nepal's New Commemorative Postmarks
New Stamp Issue from Bhutan
Philately in Transition in India, Part 59
Readers Forum - Moses Mathurar
Also in the News - The Best Joint Stamp Issues 2002

~~~~~  
If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.  
Better still forward a copy of this issue.

~~~~~  
JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

All our continuous efforts have paid off and this issue is leaving our
desk on time. We hope that we would be able to stick to this time
schedule in the future as well and publish the issues on time.

Today is a special day being the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of
Everest which happened on May 29, 1953. Many events has been organized
in India and Nepal including a Mountaineering Philatelic exhibition on
May 27, 2003 at Kathmandu.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vijay Seth and R K Sultania from New Delhi, Hindustan Times, Indian Express, The Hindu, and NDTV.

Please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

~~~~~  
The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is now available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
~~~~~

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAMPS USED BEFORE THEIR OFFICIAL RELEASE

The following commemorative stamp issues have been seen used on mails for which the dates of issue are yet to be announced by India Post.

A stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 in honor of music maestro, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, seen used from Darjeeling Head Post Office.

Three stamps, two in the denomination of Rs.5 and one in Rs.15, on Chennai Museum, seen used from Guwahati Airport Post Office.

~~~~~ POSTAL STATIONERY WITH ADVERTISEMENTS - NEW ISSUES

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

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

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

'M' denotes multicolor printing.

POSTCARD - Mahabalipuram, 50 Paise, Brown
9, ISP, Hindi, J K Cement, 1.5 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - Mahabalipuram, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format
4, ISP, Tamil, AIDS, 1 Million, M
9, SPP, Malayalam, AIDS, 2 Million, M
10, ISP, Malayalam, AIDS, 2 million, M
10, SPP, Hindi, J K Cement, 1.5 million

To be continued in the next issue.

~~~~~ NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on the occasion of Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE) Golden Jubilee Zonal Symposium "Trends in Surveillance and Communication" at Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory (DEAL) on 28 May 2003 at Dehradun.

The Governor of Uttaranchal, Sudarshan Agarwal, released a special cover depicting globe and satellites on this occasion. The function was attended by President IETE - K K Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor HNB Garhwal University - Air Vice Marshal Natrajan, Director DEAL - Dr. A.S. Bains and the Chief Post Master General of Uttaranchal Circle- Madhu Narayanan.

The covers are available form abhai_mishra@rediffmail.com at Rs.15 each.

~~~~~  
ANDHARE AUCTION

Rohini Andhare's 3<sup>rd</sup> postal auction sale was held successfully on May 10, 2003. Andhare now informs that the unsold lots from this auction are available at first come first serve basis till June 15, 2003 at 5 to 20% below the estimated price. Please contact [crandhare@yahoo.com](mailto:crandhare@yahoo.com), Post Box 21, Bilaspur 495001, for details.

~~~~~  
NEW MINISTER

The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has been pleased to direct the allocation of portfolios to the new Ministers and changes in the existing allocation of portfolios among Ministers in the Union Council of Ministers on May 24, 2003.

In this reshuffle Ashok Pradhan has joined as Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology in place of Sumitra Mahajan who has moved to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas as Minister of State.

~~~~~  
RELIANCE INFOCOMM TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH INDIA POST

Reliance Infocomm is close to signing a deal with the postal department in a few days for using the post offices as bill collection centres. Some finer details are being thrashed out now, informed sources. The Reliance spokesperson declined to comment. With this deal, subscribers of the company's wireless in local loop – mobile service can deposit their bills at any of the post office counters. For collecting each bill, the postal department would be charging Rs 5 to Reliance.

With 1,55,295 post offices spread across the country, the post offices come across as a ready distribution network for various service providers.

~~~~~  
FAKE STAMPS SEIZED AT AHMEDABAD

In a major crackdown on bogus stamp paper racket in Gujarat, a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team seized fake non-judicial stamp papers worth Rs.80 million and postal stamps worth Rs.2.8 million from a house in Ghatlodia area of the city on May 24, 2003.

The seizure was made after revelation by Karnataka-based Sadiq Ibrahim Hudli, who was lodged in Bangalore-jail and was brought to Ahmedabad by CBI sleuths on May 22, 2003.

The operation was carried out jointly by a Special Investigating Unit of CBI from Delhi and officials of Gujarat CBI, led by the Superintendent of Police, CBI, New Delhi, A K Ohri.

The gang is believed to have been in operation since 2001, even providing home delivery service to people who needed judicial stamp papers for their legal work. In June 2001, the Gujarat CID (Crime) had busted a bogus stamp paper racket and arrested seven persons in the case. The case was handed over to CBI by the Gujarat government in October 2002.

CBI sleuths received specific information few months ago that Hudli, who was in Bangalore jail, was instrumental in the racket. Hudli, who was brought here by transfer warrant on May 22, 2003 was produced before a local court that remanded him to eight days CBI custody.

The CBI says it's too early to establish whether this fake stamp paper racket has any connection with another one busted in Pune recently.

But it does establish that there are now racketeers who see this as a profitable criminal activity - selling fake stamps and stamp papers, which deprives the state exchequer of crores of rupees.

~~~~~  
FAKE STAMPS' PUNE CASE UPDATE

Filing a fresh vakalatnama on May 23, 2003 on behalf of alleged mastermind of the bogus stamps racket Abdul Kareem Ladsaab Telgi before Additional Sessions Judge S M Shembole, Advocate Shrikant Shivade sought four weeks' time to file a say to the prosecution demand for attachment of Telgi's properties in Mumbai. The fresh vakalatnama was needed since the sensational case was recently given the status of a special case.

Shivade also sought copies of statements of co-accused in the case recorded by the investigators as these statements were vital for the prosecution since the case would be based on the same.

Studying the voluminous charge sheet would take some time, and he would have to consult Telgi, currently lodged in Bangalore prison, before filing the say on the demand to attach the properties, Shivade told the court. The court later adjourned the hearing in the case till June 10.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka government is yet to respond to the session court's order on producing Telgi in connection with the stamp-paper racket.

~~~~~  
NEPAL'S NEW COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS

May 5, 2003

30th anniversary of the 1st youngest summiteers on Mount Everest

May 8, 2003

25th anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest without oxygen

May 16, 2003

2547 birth anniversary of Lord Buddha, Lumbini Day

~~~~~  
NEW STAMP ISSUE FROM BHUTAN

A commemorative stamp of the "move for health walk", brought out by Bhutan post was released by the president of the world health assembly (WHA), at its 56th meet in Geneva on May 22, 2003

The 56th WHA, which began on May 18, has adopted the framework convention on tobacco control (FCTC) and elected Dr Jong-Wok Lee as its new Director General.

In his address to the assembly, Bhutan's Health and Education Minister, Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup, who led the four-member Bhutanese delegation, highlighted the challenges of the worldwide health issues and the Bhutanese efforts to develop and improve health conditions in Bhutan. He also said that he was successful in fulfilling his commitment to walk across the country to give meaning and purpose to the theme-move for health of the World Health Day 2002. The walk raised US\$ 1.7 million which would be used to ensure sustained immunization and provide essential drugs for the people of Bhutan. The Health Minister also urged the World Health Organization (WHO) and the world community at large to assist Bhutan to achieve its goal to be the first tobacco free country.

A photo exhibition and a video presentation on "move for health walk" is put up at the WHA to promote national efforts to raise public awareness for healthy living and raising contribution to the Bhutan Health Trust Fund. The WHA concluded on May 28, 2003.

~~~~~  
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>

~~~~~  
VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 59

LAW TO BE AMENDED TO CHECK ANTIQUES THEFT

The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 will be amended and stringent punishments introduced to prevent thefts and smuggling of antiques. Union Tourism Minister Jaghmohan said the government will place the proposed changes before the Parliament in the next session.

Speaking to Hindustan Times he said that theft or smuggling of antiques would be made a cognizable offence and punishment would also be increased to three years from the existing six months. Besides, the Central Bureau of Investigation would also have the powers to carry out search and seizure operations independently. At present, the CBI needs to seek permission from a magistrate and also have experts from the Archaeological Survey of India which delays operations.

Past experience shows that influential people and gangs are involved in the smuggling and theft of antiques, the minister said. "The changes are intended to strike back at these organised groups and people," he said.

Jagmohan also said the government is contemplating setting up of special courts to deal with such offences. "Cases keep on dragging, therefore we are exploring the possibility of either setting up of special courts or speeding up the trials in some manner," he added.

Earlier addressing CBI officials after inspecting idols and antiquities seized by the agency, Jagmohan said the government would move the court

for handing over the seized items to the National Museum or National Gallery of Modern Arts. The CBI has over 15000 antiquities lying with it.

Some of the Priceless items with the CBI:

- a) Three 'panch dhatu' idols which date back to Vijay Nagar Empire
- b) Idols relating to the beheading of 46 Jain Trithankara Idols
- c) Nine antique paintings of Raja Ravi Varma, including his last unfinished painting
- d) Terracota Pannel of Harappan Civilisation dating back to 2nd century recovered in 2003

This is a welcome announcement and we hope that when the changes are being made, before presentation to the parliament, the Honorable Minister would also look at other antiquities covered under the act including philatelic material. Especially as the provisions of the law have been abused by several philatelists with impunity.

~~~~~

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>

MOSES MATHURAR

Just want to know if there are expertizing services available in India. Most of the ones abroad are expensive and hence low cost options in India would be highly appreciated.

~~~~~

#### 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>

~~~~~

ALSO IN THE NEWS

THE BEST JOINT STAMP ISSUES 2002

Joint stamp issues are stamps released by two or more postal administrations at the occasion of a common event or anniversary and which are characterized either by a common design or the same date of issue or both.

The International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors (IPS-JSIC) was created in 1998 to bring together all stamp lovers who have found an interest in collecting Joint Issues. The Society itself has as main task to collect the information on joint issues and to redistribute this information to members and externals. Printed reports

and web site are the main working and communication tools of the Society. English is the official language of the Society.

The Society generates the following information:

The journal "Joint Stamp Issues" is produced four times a year and distributed to all members. It collects and updates all the information found on this topic and reports on older issues through Monographs.

The Catalog of Joint Issues was first published in 1997, an update is provided once a year to inform all collectors about new issues. The selection of the Best Joint Issue 2002 was based on the 2003 update published in February 2003.

The Web Site of the Society presents this information under another form and makes it available for those who have access to the net. Complete information published in the journals is also available on the net, on the special Members' site with access limited to members only.

The Society today represents 106 members distributed in 18 different countries. More information can be found on the web site or the direct e-mail link under jointissues@yahoo.com

IPS-JSIC members have chosen the Malaysia - Singapore Tropical Birds stamps issued June 27, 2002 as the Best Joint Issue 2002.

The second position was awarded to the Soccer World Championship stamps issued at different dates between April 27, 2002 and November 29, 2002 and involving the postal administrations of Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and Uruguay.

The third position was obtained by Canada and Hong Kong with the Coral twin stamps and souvenir sheets issued on May 19, 2002.

The selection was made among 35 joint pairs issued during the year 2002 involving 82 countries (actually only 61 different countries) and representing in total 152 stamps and 15 souvenir sheets.

~~~~~  
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.

~~~~~  
NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

~~~~~  
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.

~~~~~  
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

-----*****O*****-----

--

About STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -- ADMINISTRIVIA

Published by Madhukar Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for 'Stamps of India',
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110 063 India
Phone: + 91-11-25281578 Mobiles: 98681 40089 (MJ), 98111 60884 (SJ)
Web Site: www.stampsofindia.com

For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w03.htm>

Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Our now famous Disclaimer!
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w04.htm>

=====

© Copyright 2003. Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.