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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 # 120 - June 12, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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
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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

New Stamp Issues

New Special Postmarks

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Recent Periodical Publications

New Web Site

Oops!

University Admission Forms Available at Post Offices

Fake Stamps Caught at Mumbai

Fake Stamp Scam Accused Arrested

Public Interest Litigation against Fake Stamp Scam

LANKA PHILEX 2003

Readers Forum - F J Bradshaw, Atish Kumar Jain,

Also in the News - Mail without Rail

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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 recent debates in the newspapers after the class 12 Board exams regarding regular courses and vocational courses reminded us that though several attempts have been made to launch university level vocational courses on Philately - collecting and trading on a regional level, a national level syllabus has not been adopted.

We invite all like minded persons to come forward and contribute to create a syllabus that can be adopted on a national level. We would also contribute to this effort.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Indian Express, Mid Day, and www.gunaah.com

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

NEW STAMP ISSUES

India Post has scheduled for release on June 19, 2003 a set of 3 stamps and a miniature sheet on 'Government Museum, Chennai'. The stamps in the denomination of Rs. 5, Rs. 5, and Rs. 15 shall be issued in the sheetlets of 20, 20, and 10 stamps.

India Post will issue a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs. 5 in honor of music maestro Bade Ghulam Ali Khan on June 30, 2003.

These 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 in the country.

NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

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India Post will provide a special postmark on June 17, 2003 at New Delhi to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first space flight by a lady cosmonaut.  
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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Gandhi Gallery

A permanent gallery of stamps released in different countries on Mahatma Gandhi has opened at the Gandhi Sangrahalaya (museum) at Patna. The display has been put together with the help of the Bihar postal authorities.

State Level Shows

India Post shall be organizing several state level philatelic exhibitions later this year including Gujarat and Rajasthan in September, Andhra Pradesh in October, Kerala in November, and Maharashtra in December 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

G P A NEWS, Whole # 69 - April 2003, Monthly

Editor: H C Mehta

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association

Address: 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009

Annual Subscription including membership: Rs.100, Entrance Fee Rs.100

PHILANEWS, #8, March-April 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

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NEW WEB SITE

A new web site has joined the ranks of Indian philatelic web sites. Please visit www.indianpost.com. The site has images of all issues of India since independence available both in chronological and alphabetical order.

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OOPS!

To err is human but to really foul up and mess up the things you need a computer. The ease of use of 'cut and paste' requires better proof reading and we once again regret an error in our report on Muktabai in the previous issue # 119 of June 5, 2003 that a miniature sheet was also issued for this issue.

The fact is that there was no miniature sheet issued for this issue.

We are however pleased that our eagle eyed readers will spot every error and thank Atish Kumar Jain for pointing this out.

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UNIVERSITY ADMISSION FORMS AVAILABLE AT POST OFFICES

Hundreds of thousands of students collect forms and prospectus for admission to various courses every year from Delhi University. This year post office has stepped in to make the availability more convenient for the first time. 30 selected post offices across Delhi have made available the admission forms of Delhi University from June 4, 2003.

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FAKE STAMPS CAUGHT AT MUMBAI

The Manpada police have seized fake stamp papers worth Rs 3.7 million in Dombivali, Mumbai and have arrested 9 people in connection with the case on June 7, 2003 who are also reportedly linked to the multi-billion Telgi fake stamp scam.

The police received a tip off that a group of men dealing in fake stamp papers were to meet in Gandhi Nagar Chowk and laid a trap for them. After hours of waiting a group of men and women arrived at the spot. At around 5.30 pm another group arrived in an auto rickshaw and got off at the same spot. Even before the two groups met each other the cops greeted them. On interrogation the cops found fake stamp papers in the denomination of Rs 100, Rs 50 and Rs 20 on them.

The arrested accuseds have been identified as P G Pawar (55), K Dongre (28), S Dongre (19), S Pawar (38), Shailesh Arvind (24) and Paresh Arvind, C Sawant (37), S Salvi (30) and H Shaikh.

Pawar was identified as the main conspirator in the scam as he previously worked at the Nashik Road Security Press and knew how to print and make stamp papers.

The police had arrested his wife Sarla Pawar in 1995 in the multi crore fake stamp paper case and her interrogation had led cops to other hideouts which were later raided, however Pawar managed to escape before he was nabbed. He continued his activities from different hideouts until the cops nabbed him yesterday. A police team led by Senior Police Inspector Shamsheer Khan Pathan made the arrests.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM ACCUSED ARRESTED

32 year old Sudhakar Krishna Mahale from Karnataka was arrested on June 7, 2003 by the Special Task Force (STF) investigating the counterfeit stamp and stamp paper case.

Mahale was arrested at Diva near Mumbai by a STF team led by Deputy Inspector General of Police S K Jaiswal, Superintendent C H Wakade and Inspector Datta Mane.

Mahale, who hails from Karnataka, was produced before a Judicial Magistrate (First Class) in Pune on June 8, 2003 and was remanded to STF custody till June 24, 2003. The STF officials submitted in court that Mahale looked after the marketing of counterfeit stamps and stamp papers in Pune, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi.

They stated that Mahale floated Mutha Enterprises, which had an office on Fergusson College Road, to sell counterfeit stamps and stamp papers in Pune. The STF officials also stated that investigations so far have revealed that Mahale had opened accounts with various banks and handled some transactions through these accounts for the racket.

Mahale's arrest takes the total number of arrests in the case to 42. Pune police had filed a charge sheet naming 24 persons on September 3, 2002. Later, the STF officials filed a charge sheet naming 38 persons in the MCOCA court.

Madhav Mutthu Devadia alias Madhav M D, a stamp vendor from Thane who was earlier arrested for alleged links with the racket, was handed over to the police from Thane by a Judicial Magistrate (First Class) on Monday.

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PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION AGAINST FAKE STAMP SCAM

Anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Mumbai High Court on June 10, 2003 praying for a direction to Maharashtra government to implement and make public the report of Subhodh Jaiswal Committee on investigations into the multi-billion stamp paper racket.

The PIL, filed through lawyers P A Sebastian and Majeed Memon, is expected to come up in due course before Chief Justice C K Thakker and Justice Vijaya Tahilramani.

The respondents to the PIL are the State Government, Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, the Additional Chief Secretary (home) and the Director General of Police.

The PIL has urged the court to direct the respondents to produce before it the report submitted by special investigative team headed by Subodh Jaiswal on the investigations into the bogus stamp paper racket.

Hazare alleged the government had not taken any action on the report although the committee had recommended action against the then police commissioner of Pune R S Sharma, ACP Mulani and P I Deshmukh.

Sharma is now the police commissioner of greater Mumbai.

The Jaiswal committee report had indicted all the three officers and recommended dismissal of Mulani and Deshmukh.

As regards Sharma, the report blamed him for lopsided probe and held him responsible for the lapses as he was involved in day to day investigations as a superior officer.

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LANKA PHILEX 2003

Sri Lanka's national level philatelic exhibition at Colombo's Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium Arena will be held from July 31 to August 3, 2003.

W M Piyasena, Post Master General of Sri Lanka is the patron of the show. About 120 Frames (16 sheets each) of exhibits and 20 sales Booths have been planned.

India Post has already booked a sales booth at this show.

For further information and for booking of sales booth please contact the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of LANKA PHILEX 2003, Rohan Karunanayake rohanis@eureka.lk

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

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>

F J BRADSHAW FROM MANCHESTER, UK

I have collected Indian Stamps for 30 years and I despair of all the unknown heads that probably appear because some politician persuades the post minister that a local worthy on a stamp will improve his prospects.

The current definitive situation is a complete mess!

Most first day covers give no info on the subject of any kind. Fewer, better stamps would improve matters!

ATISH KUMAR JAIN FROM KOTTAYAM,
Whatever points our fellow philatelist, Dr. Avinash Jagtap from Switzerland has written are very much correct. Take the case of definitive issues and also of the personalities.

Here I would like to point on issue of stamps on personalities.

Year,	Total Issues,	Personalities,	Famous
2000,	60 stamps,	25 stamps (41%),	5 stamps (8%)
2001,	70 stamps,	40 stamps (57%),	11 stamps (16%)
2002,	52 stamps,	22 stamps (42%),	2 stamps (4%)
2003,	21 stamps,	12 stamps (57%),	4 stamps (19%)

I had made a percentage study of personalities and percentage of famous amongst them for the last three and half years.

Firstly, percentage of personalities in a single year is very very high and famous amongst them is very very low.

So, people are getting fed up with so many issues on personalities and that too unfamiliar personalities.

But recent issue like Golden Voices of Yesteryears featuring Kishore Kumar, Mohd. Rafi, Mukesh and Hemant Kumar needs to be appreciated.

One more thing to be noted in this regards is that when Information Minister was from Bihar, maximum stamps were released on personalities from Bihar, and when Minister was from Maharashtra, the maximum stamps were on personalities from Maharashtra.

And now when ruling party in India is BJP, stamps on saints (Swami Ramanand, Sant Tukaram, Anand Rishi ji Maharaj, etc) are being released every month. As Dr. Avinash had clearly pointed out that "Our Post Department can do away with so many personality stamps - personalities who are almost unknown even in the neighboring states of India!", it is a fact that the personality who is honored with a commemorative stamp now a days is even unknown in his own state also.

It appears that issues of postal stamps have become a political matter, rather than a hobby.

Indian postal department does not have a clear rule on issue of stamps.

In some cases stamps on personalities have been issued in the same year when that particular personality had died (eg. Sivaji Ganesan, Dhirubai Ambani, etc.). In some cases our department is just sleeping with open

eyes like there is no stamp issued on former President N. Sanjeeva Reddy who had died nearly a decade ago whereas later expired former President Shankar Dayal Sharma has been honored with a beautiful stamp.

Hardly there are any good issues on animals, trains, birds etc. which are more popular themes.

Hobby of stamp collection is considered as a good source of general knowledge, but if these types of unknown personalities are honored then what general knowledge a collector will acquire?

Last year Southern Railway had completed 100 years but no stamp on that!

Now it is high time to urge our postal department to stop issuing stamps on unknown personalities only for political gains. Otherwise the hobby of collecting stamps will lose its charm.

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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

MAIL WITHOUT RAIL

Britain's postal service said on June 6, 2003 that it will stop using trains to transport mail from next March, ending a tradition spanning over 170 years.

The Royal Mail said it expected to make annual savings of £90-million by using only road and air transportation. About 14 percent of British post - or at least 10 million items a day - is carried by rail.

"We need to move ahead and create a new distribution network which is more robust and has greater flexibility to improve quality of service as well as one which is more cost effective than we have now," said Paul Bateson, managing director in charge of logistics for the Royal Mail, which is run by partly privatized company Consignia.

The Royal Mail had previously said it would cut back its use of trains, which began carrying post in 1830, because they are too unreliable.

'It threatens the whole idea of next-day postal deliveries'
But a rail workers' union urged the government to fight Friday's decision, warning it would cost 500 jobs, harm the environment and prove more expensive.

"This is a cost-cutting step too far and if the government has any self-respect left they will step in to stop it," said Bob Crow, general secretary of the Rail Maritime and Transport Union.

"This move threatens 500 jobs, it threatens the environment, it threatens the whole idea of next-day postal deliveries and it threatens to cost the taxpayer a fortune."

The Royal Mail took the decision to use only lorries and planes after failing to reach a deal with freight carrier English Welsh & Scottish Railways on transport costs.

"There is a marked difference between the price we believe we should be paying for rail services and that which was on the table," Bateson said.

'We cannot negotiate any longer'

"We are disappointed that, after two years of discussions with EWS, we have been unable to make any headway. But we cannot negotiate any longer."

EWS said it would continue efforts to retain the Royal Mail's custom, and warned that the decision to use more lorries would clog Britain's roads.

"We are shocked that Royal Mail is threatening to walk away from the railway," said Allen Johnson, chief operating officer of EWS. "EWS has made numerous competitive price offers in response to changing specifications from Royal Mail."

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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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