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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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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 Issue Scheduled
Proposal Invited for Stamp Issues in 2004
Recent & Forthcoming Events
New Special Postmarks
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New Security Features to Fight the Fakes
Readers Forum - K Chaitanya Dev
Also in the News - The Rolling Stones
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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

After the excruciating heat Delhi has had some rain, don't know whether
this should be called pre-monsoon showers, low pressure disturbance or
some other fancy name that the met department has for it, but it has
provided some much needed relief.

According to the met department the advent of monsoon in our region is
expected on time, whatever that means. We only know that Delhities have
some more dust storms, humidity and heat to bear before the weather
would turn pleasant some time in late September or early October.

Meanwhile, we will continue to listen to the weather reports and hope
for the best and dream of cooler climes.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Press Trust of India, Hindustan Times, Mid Day, and the Indian Express.

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.stampsfindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAMP ISSUE SCHEDULED

India Post will issue a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs. 5 on V K Rajwade on June 23, 2003.

This 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 in the country.

~~~~~ PROPOSAL INVITED FOR STAMP ISSUES IN 2004

India Post has invited public proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps for the year 2004. The subjects proposed are heritage and culture, flora and fauna, important events, art, music, paintings, sculpture, etc.

Generally 50 commemorative postage stamps are released in a year. The proposals should be written or typed or printed legibly on white paper and addressed to the Chief Post Master General of the postal circle in the state.

They can be sent directly to the office of the Chief Post Master General or handed over to any of the divisional superintendents in the district. The last date for receipt of the proposals is 31 July.

The submitted proposals would be examined on the basis of specific guidelines laid down by the Philately Advisory Committee and those approved by it would figure in the stamp issue program of 2004.

~~~~~ NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark to commemorate the silver Jubilee of Salt Lake English Medium School on January 8, 2003 at Kolkata.

~~~~~ RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

APPEX 2003

Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle is organizing state level philatelic exhibition from October 16 to 19, 2003 at Hyderabad.

Chennai Philatelic Exhibition Hall

The Philatelic Bureau at Head Post office, Anna Road, Chennai June 7, 2003 displayed stamps on 'Environment' and would exhibit the same on 14 June at the philatelic exhibition hall. The philatelists G Balakrishna Das, T Murugavel, S K Lakshmanan, J Rolands Nelson and P S Seshadri would display their stamp collections at the exhibition. Stamps and other philatelic materials would be on sale. There is no entry fee for the exhibition. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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KEN SANFORD REVIEWS INDIAN AIRMAILS

Indian Airmails - Development and Operations (1911 - 1942), by Pradip Jain, Published by the Author, 2002, 210 pages. Hard cover with slip case. Available for UK£35.00, US\$50.00, or €50.00 for surface postage. Add £5.00, \$7.50 or €7.50 for airmail postage worldwide, from M/s Phila-Art, Post Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800 001, India, Fax 0091 612 2238010, or email: [philapradip@hotmail.com](mailto:philapradip@hotmail.com).

The book covers the pioneer period of Indian Airmails, starting with the World's first official airmail service from Allahabad to Naini on 18 February 1911, which was flown by French pilot Henri Pequet. A nice selection of pilot autographed postcards and covers from this service are shown. The next section is a detailed history of Indian Airmails - Development and operations from 1911 to 1942. Next are early military probing and expeditionary flights from London to Cairo, Karachi, Delhi & Calcutta in 1918. Next is the Ross & Keith Smith flight from Great Britain to Australia in November 1919, which passed through India. Shown are a rare cover to Delhi and a cover from Bandar Abbas to Karachi, as well as covers from Calcutta to Brisbane and Calcutta to New Zealand.

The next section shows numerous covers carried on record flights and attempts through India. Then shown are the RAF Experimental trial flights. Many of the cards and covers shown in the book are those which were prepared and organized by Stephen Smith, who was a prominent aerophilatelist living in Calcutta at the time. His colorful and delightful cachets and labels add special interest to the covers and cards. Many rare covers are shown-some where only two or three covers were carried.

Next are the RAF Kabul evacuation flights in 1929-only four pieces known, and the Mount Everest survey flights of 1933. The regular airmail services of Imperial Airways in 1933 are well covered, as well as domestic services in India up to 1938, and other early airline services through India, such as by Air France. There is a chapter describing the production of airmail stamps and special postcards & envelopes starting in 1929. The next chapter covers crash covers with an Indian connection, such as the various Imperial Airways crashes which were carrying mail to or from India. This reviewer notes a few crashes missing from this section.

There is a short chapter showing Zeppelin covers originating in India or addressed to India. Airmail etiquettes and labels produced in India are shown, and the final chapter shows various air mail instructional markings. There is a short Bibliography. One very nice thing about the book is that all covers and illustrations are shown in full color, and it is understood that the covers & cards shown are from the author's gold medal award winning collection.

A few typographical errors were noted, and in fact the author included an errata list at the end of the book. Overall, the book is very well done and I recommend it for the collector of Indian Airmails.

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COP ARRESTED IN STAMP SCAM

In a new twist to investigations into the multi-billion stamp paper racket, a special investigating team (SIT) arrested a police officer of Mumbai Crime Branch on June 13, 2003 under a stringent Maharashtra law on the charge of allegedly developing nexus with the prime accused, Abdul Karim Telgi.

Suspended police inspector Dilip Kamat was produced before JMFC K M Jaiswal, who remanded him to police custody till June 26, 2003. He was arrested in Mumbai under Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act and produced at the judge's residence in Queens Road area of Pune.

Seeking his custody, special public prosecutor Raja Thakre told the court the accused had links with Telgi and claimed there was sufficient material to nail him in the alleged crime.

Kamat and two constables had been suspended early this year after they were found helping the prime accused Telgi during interrogations. The trio had allegedly allowed Telgi to indulge in luxuries at his Cuffe Parade residence where he was taken for investigations.

They were caught napping in the flat during a surprise visit by Subhodh Jaiswal, heading the SIT. Following a report submitted by SIT to Mumbai police, the cops were suspended.

Kamat has been arrested for allegedly developing links with the organized crime syndicate of Telgi. Altogether 43 persons have been arrested in the scam involving sale of counterfeit stamps and stamp papers.

The scam also exposed chinks in the Nasik-based India Security Press, one of the establishments of the government of India to print currency notes and stamps.

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MUMBAI HIGH COURT TO HEAR FAKE STAMP SCAM PIL

Mumbai High Court listed for hearing on July 2, 2003 a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) praying for a direction to Maharashtra government to implement report of Subhodh Jaiswal Committee on investigations into the multi-billion fake stamp racket involving prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi.

The PIL filed by Anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare on June 10, 2003 came up for hearing on June 12, 2003. Lawyers P A Sebastian and Majeed Memon mentioned the matter before Chief Justice C K Thakker and Justice Vijaya Tahilramani, who decided to hear it on July 2, 2003.

The respondents are the Maharashtra State Government, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, Additional Chief Secretary (home) and Maharashtra's Director General of Police Subhash Malhotra.

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, assistant commissioner of police Mulani and police inspector Deshmukh. Sharma is now the police commissioner of greater Mumbai.

The PIL also urged for a direction to Karnataka government to produce audio tapes of recorded telephonic talks which allegedly reveal that Telgi had offered bribe of Rs 5 million to a cop concerned with the investigations in the case.

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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KEY ASSOCIATE OF STAMP SCAM KINGPIN ARRESTED

The investigations in the multi-billion fake stamp scam has taken a significant turn with the arrest of a key aide of the prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi who had financed purchase of machine used for printing counterfeit stamps.

The accused Manoj Mehta was arrested on June 12, 2003 by the special investigating team (SIT) from his residence at Garoda Nagar in suburban Ghatkopar in Mumbai and produced before a Pune court which remanded him to police custody till June 26, 2003 prosecutor Raja Thakre said on June 13, 2003.

The SIT alleged Mehta, who had direct links with Telgi, had deposited cash in his account and bought a demand draft for purchase of machinery to print fake stamps and stamp papers.

In a related development, SIT has sealed a factory owned by Telgi in Thane and moved a special court in Pune for attachment of immovable properties of the accused located in Mumbai, he said.

SIT had initially sought attachment of thane polyorganics factory-owned by Telgi but when it found certain activities going on there it sought permission of the court to seal the factory, the prosecutor said.

SIT has also moved the court to attach five other properties belonging to Telgi in Mumbai. They are Cuffe Parade apartment, Shirrn Manzil apartment, Sunny House apartment, Mat Uradas estate apartment and Atankar lodge. SIT alleged that all the properties were purchased by Telgi with the scam money. The court would give its ruling on July 5, 2003 on attachment of Telgi's properties.

Meanwhile, Telgi's lawyer has given an undertaking in the court that the properties would neither be sold nor any third party rights would be created therein until the court gives its order.

SIT took over investigations in this case in November 2002 and has so far arrested 42 persons in connection with the scam.

The accused had allegedly participated in the conspiracy to print fake stamps and stamp papers with the help of an official at the India Security Press at Nasik, one of the government establishments which prints stamps and currency notes.

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NEW SECURITY FEATURES TO FIGHT THE FAKES

The detailed investigation by the Stamp Investigation Team (STAMPIT) into the multi-billion racket involving fake stamps and stamp papers has prompted the Centre to change their security features.

The Ministry of Finance has decided to incorporate foolproof security features, including numbering, watermarking and a thin thread through the paper as in currency notes, into different types of stamps and stamp papers.

"In future, judicial stamps, special adhesive stamps, postal stamps, and court fee stamps bearing the seal of the Government of India will be difficult to counterfeit. Several security measures, which were so far only used in currency notes, will be introduced here," a STAMPIT official said.

Special adhesive stamps are those used while making transactions involving stocks, debentures and for home loans, foreign bills and insurance, besides revenue stamps and court fee stamps.

All these stamps are printed at the Government Printing Press in Nashik, and STAMPIT investigations have revealed a nexus between some press employees and racketeers led by alleged kingpin Abdul Karim Lala Telgi.

It has been found that the arrested employees had been diverting special paper procured to print stamp papers and stamps and also disposing off old machines to the gang. STAMPIT's investigation has forced the Centre to take a fresh look at the procurement and disposal practices of the Nashik press.

STAMPIT sources told that the Ministry has appreciated the good work done by the special Karnataka police team, and the Centre started thinking about changes following the team's report to the Finance Ministry.

The Ministry has written to STAMPIT that the parallel market for special adhesive stamps and judicial stamps, which cannot be sold by private agents, has been an eye-opener.

The nationwide racket headed by Lala has forced several states to abandon the use of stamp papers entirely and go in for franking machines. Lala's racket, incidentally, also included fake postal stamps.

Though fake stamps and stamp paper rackets were unearthed in nine states by different state police and investigative teams, in all cases, the finger of suspicion pointed towards Lala, who is now in the Bangalore Central Prison.

Maharashtra, West Bengal and Delhi police have on their own seized fakes worth Rs. 30 billion. STAMPIT has helped seize another Rs. 4 billion worth in other states apart from its own seizures to the tune of Rs. 1.66 billion within Karnataka.

STAMPIT has already filed five charge sheets in the case and is ready for trial. As the High Court is short of clerical staff, it has not yet named a judge for the day-to-day trial.

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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>

K CHAITANYA DEV

While I was surfing the India Post web site [www.indiapost.org](http://www.indiapost.org) I came across the following article:

Conditions for reproduction of Stamp Images

Re-production of stamps is allowed for illustration purposes in Philatelic Publication or in an article relating wholly on postage stamps which may appear in any magazine, newspaper or publication of a general character. Such reproduction should however, be only in black. If stamps are to be produced in colour for publicity purposes, prior permission of the Director General of Posts must be obtained. To avoid similarity with the postage, such reproduction must be distinctively in smaller or larger sizes than the actual stamp and must be without

perforation on the edges. Further, a cross bar will also be placed on one- corner of the stamp, obliterating the denomination. It must be noted that reproduction of the stamp in colour of the actual size of the stamp with perforation of the edges may be deemed to be taken as production of the actual stamp"

Now in India and abroad, many philatelic publications, journals, catalogues, price lists etc. are published (mainly in colour) which does not follow this rule. Are the publishers/editors of these publications aware of this rule? How does India Post intimate the public on such rules?

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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

THE ROLLING STONES

The Austrian post office is commemorating The Rolling Stones's 40 Licks Tour by issuing the stamps of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood to coincide with the band's show in Vienna on June 18, 2003.

Each Stone stamp - personally authorized by the band - is worth 0.55 Euro and marks the first time that anyone apart from the country's heads of state have appeared on a stamp.

"After 40 years of rock 'n' roll it's not often you get a first," a spokesman for the band said. "The band are absolutely delighted."

A limited run of a million stamps will be produced.

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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>

NATIVE PASSION

The Times of India, June 14, 2003, Mumbai

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/xml/uncomp/articleshow?msid=2349>

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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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