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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 Meghdoot Postcard
New Maxim Cards
New Special Postmarks
Recent & Forthcoming Events
Nashik Acquiring Multicolor Offset Machines
Transfers & Postings of Senior Postal Officers
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Sri Lanka New Issues
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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

We always believed that this newsletter will also serve the cause of the
promotion of philately for India's neighboring nations. This is first
issue that has news from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka besides India.

We have earlier reported on these countries as well as also on Bhutan
and Pakistan but not three together.

We would love to have regular inputs from Afghanistan, Maldives,
Myanmar, and all the other nations mentioned above. We request our
readers to regularly contribute news from these areas.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: The Hindu, The Times of India, Deccan Herald, Indian Express, Mid Day, and Shyam P Nhuchhe Pradhan from Kathmandu Nepal.

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 MEGHDOOT POSTCARD

Meghdoot Postcard with advertisement of Hindustan Petroleum's Lal Ghora Diesel Engine Oil was available at the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street, New Delhi on July 9, 2003.

This issue was originally scheduled for April 17, 2003 and was later rescheduled for release on July 1, 2003.

This card is printed by Security Printing Press at Hyderabad in sheets of 8 cards in the quantity of 100,000.

This card is available for sale in select Philatelic Bureaus, which handle postal stationery, of the following cities: Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai.

All the Meghdoot Cards issued earlier were on sale in the area desired by the advertiser. However for the first time the advertisers will take the entire quantity printed and will distribute it along with their promotional package to their target audience - the truck drivers and farmers.

Meghdoot postcard was introduced in September 2002. It is priced at half the cost of the existing regular post card that currently cost 50 paise. 50% of the space available on the address side of the card is made available for advertising in multicolor. The rate of the advertisement is Rs.2 per card and the minimum order for print is 100,000 cards.

~~~~~ NEW MAXIM CARDS

The North Bengal & Sikkim Region of India Post has issued two maxim cards on Centenary of Darjeeling Railways and DHR (Darjeeling).

The cards are available at Rs. 10 each from the Philatelic Division, Office of the Post Master General, North Bengal & Sikkim Region, Siliguri.

~~~~~ NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

Union Minister of State for Communication & IT, S Thirunavukkarasar released a special cover and presented it to Tamilnadu Governor, P S Ramamohan Rao on the occasion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of 'Nrithyodaya' at the Narada Gana Sabha on July 7, 2003 at Chennai.

India Post provided a special postmark on this occasion. An extension counter of Anna Philatelic Bureau at the venue sold duly postmarked special covers at Rs 10 each.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

KERAPEX

The state level philatelic exhibition of Kerala will now be held at Trichur from November 27 to 30, 2003.

SILIGURI

The North Bengal & Sikkim Region of India Post will organize a Post Office Festival and mini philatelic exhibition in August 2003 at Siliguri.

DARJEELING

The North Bengal & Sikkim Region of India Post will organize a philatelic exhibition in September 2003 at Darjeeling.

COOCHBEHAR

The North Bengal & Sikkim Region of India Post will organize a philatelic exhibition in September 2003 at Coochbehar.

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

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NASHIK ACQUIRING MULTICOLOR OFFSET MACHINES

The General Manager, India Security Press, Nashik Road invites sealed tenders (in two bid system) for supply of 4 colour dry offset printing machines - 2 numbers, from the manufacturers or their authorized dealers.

The last date for collection and submission of Bid Documents is July 23, 2003 and the same shall be opened on July 24, 2003.

The cost of Tender document is Indian Rs.1100 (US\$30) and the same along with detailed specifications can be obtained on payment of US\$30 by overseas suppliers or Rs.1100 by furnishing Demand Draft from a nationalized bank or Indian Postal Order drawn in favor of the General Manager, India Security Press, Nashik Road, payable at Nashik Road. Overseas Tender may be rejected on National Security ground.

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

The following postal officers were promoted and posted with effect from June 26, 2002:

Kalpna Rajsinghot from Assistant Director General (CP), Postal Directorate at New Delhi to the Director Postal Services of Sambalpur Region of Orissa Circle and replacing S K Kamila proceeding on training

Manjari Kalia from Karnataka Circle to the Director Postal Services of Goa Region of Maharashtra Circle replacing F P Solo proceeding on deputation

Harpreet Singh from West Bengal Circle to the Director Postal Services of Mizoram in North East Circle replacing T Pangerungsang proceeding on deputation

M Venkatswarulu from Andhra Pradesh Circle to the Director Postal Services of Kurnool Region in Andhra Pradesh Circle

Dr. Ashok Choudhury from Rajasthan Circle to the Director Postal Services of Agartala in North East Circle replacing Trishaljit Sethi transferred

P N Ranjit Kumar from Assistant Director General, Philately Division, Postal Directorate at New Delhi to the Director Postal Services of Maharashtra Circle

Smriti Sharan from Assistant Director General(planning) Postal Directorate at New Delhi to the Director Postal Services of Visakhapatnam Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle

A P Upmanyu from Rajasthan Circle to the Director Postal Services of Andaman & Nicobar Islands of West Bengal Circle

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from June 26, 2002:

Chandra Prakash from Joint Director of the Postal Staff College India at Ghaziabad to the Director Postal Services of Kanpur Region of Uttar Pradesh Circle replacing Harjot Kaur proceeding on deputation

M Sampath to the Director Postal Services at HQ of Andhra Pradesh Circle replacing Sharda Sampath transferred

Sharda Sampath from being on leave the Director Postal Services of Hyderabad Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle replacing Aindri Anurag proceeding on deputation

Trishaljit Sethi from the Director Postal Services of Agartala in North East Circle to Joint Director of the Postal Staff College India at Ghaziabad replacing Chandra Prakash transferred

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATE

KINGPIN'S BROTHER ARRESTED

Abdul Azeem Telgi (42), , younger brother of the alleged kingpin in the racket Abdul Karim Telgi was arrested at Bangalore by STAMPIT at their office where he was called for questioning around 6.15 p.m. on July 1, 2003.

Azeem is the only income tax payer in the infamous Telgi family. A few months ago, the I-T Department had even slapped a notice on him. "He has not replied to it so far," sources said.

Abdul Azeem Telgi is one of the 35 accused in the Bund Garden Police Station case registered on June 7, 2002 for possession, sale and circulation of fake stamp papers and stamps. In this incident, police had seized huge stocks of fake stamps and stamp papers worth several billion of rupees along with the printing machines, perforating machines and other printing equipment.

On August 19, 2000 the Bangalore City police had arrested two people and seized fake stamps, stamp papers, embossing and franking materials showing a face value of nearly Rs 1 billion and Rs 4.5 million in cash. The kingpin of the racket Kareem Lala alias Abdul Kareem Telgi was arrested at Ajmer in Rajasthan on November 7, 2001.

Considering the sensitive nature and wide ramifications of the case and also the alleged huge loss to the State exchequer, the State Government had constituted a special investigation team under the direct supervision and control of R Sri Kumar, Additional Director General of Police.

Pune police, who are investigating the racket in Maharashtra, had requested Azeem's arrest for a case booked under the Maharashtra Organized Crime Act (MCOCA) and Bombay Stamp Act in Pune.

On July 2, 2003, Azeem was produced before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who rejected a bail petition filed by Telgi's lawyer Chowhan. The Magistrate granted a transit remand and ordered that Azeem be produced before a Pune court by 5 p.m. on Thursday. The STF also told the magistrate that Azeem needed to be taken to Mumbai, Bangalore, Belgaum, Khanapur and Hyderabad for further investigations.

He was booked under a stringent MCOCA and was produced amid tight security on July 3, 2003 before Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) M N Bendre at Pune who remanded him to police custody for a fortnight, till July 16, 2003.

Seeking his remand, prosecution said he was handling all the business transactions of prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi during the latter's absence. Azeem was suspected to be involved in the scam as he had financed purchase of machinery used for printing counterfeit stamps, the court was told. The 12-point remand report from the STF stated that Azeem had paid excise duty for a printing machine imported by his elder brother.

In her argument presented before the JFMC, Assistant Police Prosecutor Sujata Chitnis, asked the JMFC to grant a 30-day police custody under the MCOCA for Telgi. Chitnis said that Azeem was the brother of prime accused, Abdul Karim Telgi and the police investigations had established his involvement in the scam. According to Chitnis, there was evidence of Azeem Telgi having acquired lot of wealth from the sale of fake stamps, which he had invested in real estate in various places.

Prosecution also alleged that Azeem had appointed certain persons to sell the counterfeit stamp papers thereby causing loss of revenue to the government running into several billions of rupees.

Investigators were yet to search for these stamp sellers, who were lured into the racket by promising government jobs, to find out whether the fake stamps were still in circulation. Chitnis said references to Azeem figured in the statements of many accused arrested earlier in connection with the scam.

Defence counsel Haneef Shaikh maintained that Azeem was in no way connected with Kareem Telgi's activities and he was arrested just for being a Telgi.

Azeem is also the Vice-President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (I) Minority Cell and vice-president of Khanapur Town Panchayat in Belgaum district. He was underground for sometime after the scam broke last year. He is the 46th accused arrested in connection with the stamps scam.

Officials of the Stamp Investigation Team (Stampit), Karnataka, assisted the Special Investigation Team of Pune following a written request by the latter.

The arrest of Telgi's brother is likely to throw more light in the case, the prosecution said.

Several persons including a sitting Member of Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra from Dhule, Anil Gote, officials of Nashik-based India Security Press, a police inspector of Crime branch Mumbai and others have been arrested in this case. All of them have been booked under MCOCA.

KINGPIN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW ARRESTED

Bangalore Police also arrested Telgi Zaheer Maniya, brother-in-law of the alleged kingpin in the racket Abdul Karim Telgi, from Bijapur last week following a tip-off. He has been remanded to STAMPIT custody for seven days and is being interrogated. According to STAMPIT sources, interrogation has revealed that Maniya was a front man for Telgi and had kept some cash and original documents of properties - all belonging to the racket kingpin - with him. They also said he had also helped Telgi recruit people for his work.

Sources said Maniya's Bijapur residence was searched and some incriminating documents recovered. Maniya and Telgi are also blood relatives, sources said. While Telgi is currently languishing in Bangalore Central Jail, STAMPIT investigation has revealed that the fake racket has spread to several states.

KARNATAKA MINISTER'S BROTHER TAKES LIE-DETECTOR TEST

Minister Roshan Baig's brother, Rehan, whose passport was impounded by STAMPIT, has been subjected to a polygraph test to probe alleged links with the kingpin in the racket Abdul Karim Telgi. "One more session with the lie-detector is due. It will be conducted soon," sources said.

Rehan Baig, who was a partner in Telgi's kerosene dealership, had also rented out office accommodation to the kingpin. He was in Saudi Arabia

for a year and had returned to the city in April when he was picked up. Investigations are on to ascertain his involvement in the scam.

WANTED BY POLICE

In a related development, the police have advertised in newspapers the names of three wanted accused who are allegedly absconding. They are Tabrez Ahmed Abdul Rahim Telgi, Laxman Maruti Patil and Gaffar Nabilal Tamboli. A special court has already declared them as proclaimed offenders.

The public notice said "any information leading to the arrest of these accused may be given to C H Wakade, superintendent of police, special investigation team SRPF GR II Ramtekdi, Pune or over telephone no. (020)6877225."

"Any person giving information leading to the arrest of these three persons will be suitably rewarded and any one found harboring them will be liable for legal action," the notice said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ASKS DETAILS OF SCAM

The Government of India has asked Maharashtra state government to furnish all the details in the investigation into the multi-billion fake stamp scam at a meeting with the Union Home Joint Secretary in New Delhi on July 9, 2003. Officials from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Tamil Nadu – the other states affected by the scam – will also take part in the meeting to be held at the bureaucratic level.

What has taken Maharashtra by surprise, however, is the alacrity with which the meeting has been summoned. 'We don't know if this is a coincidence, but the meeting has been called within days of the arrest of the Member of Legislative Assembly from Dhule, Maharashtra, Anil Gote,' highly-placed sources at Mantralaya said.

Gote was arrested last week by the Special Investigating Team in Mumbai for allegedly helping Abdul Karim Telgi, the prime accused in the scam. The police claim Gote helped Telgi get a stamp-vendor's license in 1983 and that he was involved in many financial deals with Telgi.

However, the most crucial evidence against Gote is the official correspondence with two senior Union Ministers over the transfer of a highly-placed officer at Nashik Security Press. The officer, Ganga Prasad, is said to have helped Telgi in buying a press to print fake stamp-papers. Copies of the correspondence were found in a raid at Telgi's premises and police now believe Gote may have played a role in staying Prasad's transfer.

Three other officers from the Nashik Press have also been arrested for allegedly helping Telgi.

Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal said he did not want to comment on the case as the issue was pending in court. "The Centre has every right to seek details when the scam has taken place on such a wide scale," he said.

He also refused to comment when asked if this was another attempt by the Centre to launch a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The state has already rejected one such suggestion by Union Home Minister L K Advani's office.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

A stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 was issued on July 7, 2003 to commemorate the 57<sup>th</sup> Birthday of His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev. K K Karmacharya designed the stamp that was printed by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria in four colours by offset lithography in the quantity of 1 million in sheets of 50.

A stamp in the denomination of Rs.25 was issued on July 7, 2003 on Tea Garden of Eastern Nepal. Mohan N Rana designed the stamp that was printed by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria in four colours by offset lithography in the quantity of 0.5 million in sheets of 50.

A special postmark was issued to commemorate the 12 years festival of Lord Machindra Nath (red) on June 22, 2003.

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BANGLADESH CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Bangladesh National Philatelic Association (BNPA) will celebrate its 25th anniversary from July 21 to 27, 2003. To mark this event it will organize weeklong programs like exhibition, auction, workshop, seminar, philatelic tour etc. A souvenir will also be published.

The membership of BNPA is available at US\$ 15 for one year and US\$ 100 for lifetime.

The exhibition is being organized on a non competitive basis. The entry fee is 100 Taka. The exhibits must reach before July 18, 2003 by registered parcel or courier.

Only BNPA members can participate in the auction and 10% from the item sold goes to the club.

Dealers and collectors can publish advertisement in the Souvenir. It will be offset printed in about A4 size and will be about 48 pages, 1000 copies.

The rate of advertisements is:

Back page 15000 Taka

Back page inside 12000 Taka

Inside full page 5000 Taka

The ads must reach before July 18, 2003. All payments can be made by western union money transfer in the name of the BNPA.

Please contact over e-mail b_n_p_a@yahoo.com for details.

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SRI LANKA NEW ISSUES



To commemorate the World Post Day a new stamp will be issued on October 9, 2003, it will feature the convocation of Buddhist Monks in activity spreading Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

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FOR WORLDWIDE THEMATIC MINT STAMPS, Miniature Sheets, FDC, Postal Stationeries, & Postmarks Contact jjanmolgk@yahoo.com
J J Philatelic Centre, M-1 Diwan House, Ajay Enclave, New Delhi 110018
Mobile Phone: 98106 51829 [Please note the corrected email address]
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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>

##### ROHAN KHURANA

I thank Dr. Avinash B Jagtap, Jeff Siddiqui and Dickon Pollard for sharing all the information on the KGVI Missing pearl error.

I am yet to see any other value than KGVI - Rs 2 having the "Pearl Missing Error". I am sending with my e-mail a scan of a KGVI, Rs 2 stamps which has a pearl missing error. The error has been circled in Red.

I request anyone who has pearl missing error, to send me a scan each.

#### ~~~~~ 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

##### ELTON JOHN ON STAMPS

With the much-publicised Elton John concert generating a lot of interest, Maltapost have announced that the Philatelic Bureau will be commemorating the concert with the issue of a Miniature Sheet featuring

four images of the international superstar at various stages of his career.

"It's not every day that you get a superstar like Elton John to give a concert in Malta", Maltapost Senior Manager Marketing and Business Development Michael Stewart said. "We feel this event deserves some form of recognition". The design of the Miniature Sheet has been approved by Sir Elton John himself, who is understood to have been delighted with Maltapost's plans.

The attractive Miniature Sheet, which has been produced by Jean Pierre Mizzi of JP Advertising, also includes a stamp showing a beautiful floodlit view of Valletta's Bastions and Marsamxetto Harbour, with a face value of Lm1.50. This Miniature Sheet issue is being heavily publicised both in Malta and abroad, particularly among the Elton John Fan Clubs, and sales are expected to be brisk, as the Miniature Sheet is being considered an attractive addition to Elton John memorabilia.

The Miniature Sheet will go on sale at all 30 Maltapost branches and from the Maltapost Mobile Unit on Tuesday 1st July. Philatelists and Elton John fans will also be able to purchase the Miniature Sheet from Mobile Units at the Floriana Granaries on the evening of the concert.

The Miniature sheet will be available as a First Day Cover, in mint or cancelled format, in a Presentation Pack and as a Souvenir folder. The Miniature Sheet can also be viewed on the Maltapost website [www.maltapost.com/elton](http://www.maltapost.com/elton). Enquiries can be made directly to the Philatelic Bureau on [philately@maltapost.com](mailto:philately@maltapost.com)

The fml15 tickets for the concert were available from 30 Maltapost outlets in Malta and Gozo. This arrangement had helped to avoid long queues, as the sales had been spread throughout the island.

In addition, Maltapost had also offered to visit industrial estates with their Mobile Units if requested to do so, in order to cope with the demand.

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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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