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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 # 125 - July 17, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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

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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

Amarnath Yatra Traveling Post Office  
Railway Mechanical Workshop Gorakhpur  
3<sup>rd</sup> National Stamp Fair  
G P A News

High level Officials Meet on Fake Stamps Scam  
International Postage Stamp Design Contest  
Philately in Transition in India, Part 61  
Readers Forum - Jeff Siddiqui on 'Missing Pearls'  
Also in the News - Michel Rundschau's Stamp Survey 2001

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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

Rain Rain go away and come back another day! This is the feeling right  
now among the residents of Delhi who have been inundated with heavy rain  
fall, according to the met reports the entire year's rainfall has  
happened in the month of July only and the month is still not over. The  
weather is hot, humid and muggy causing lethargy.

As they say there is a positive and a negative side to every thing, the  
rain fall has made the farmers happy yet the average person finds it  
very difficult to even commute to work with water logged streets.

We also had our own interesting experience of missing a train due to the  
water logged streets.

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, Indian Express, and Today.

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

##### AMARNATH YATRA TRAVELING POST OFFICE

Amarnath cave, situated in a narrow gorge at the far end of the Lidder valley at the altitude of 3,888 meters, is 141 kilometers away from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. There lies the ice lingam of Lord Shiva that is formed naturally of an ice stalagmite, which waxes and wanes with the moon.

The pilgrims in large number trek to the cave during the Sawan month of the Hindu calendar. The trek is covered in four days, with night halts at Chandanwari, Sheshnag (Wawjan), and Panjtarni. The state government has to restrict the number of pilgrims keeping in view the space and facilities available. This year about 200,000 pilgrims are expected to trek to Amaranth between July 11 and Aug 12, 2003.

India Post has been providing the postal facilities to the pilgrims on way to Amaranth through a temporary traveling post office since mid 1950s. The mail from this post office is quite scarce and we suggest all our readers to make an effort to obtain some covers even if they personally don't collect this kind of material.

##### ~~~~~ NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark to commemorate 100 years of the Mechanical Workshop of North Eastern Railway Gorakhpur on June 4, 2003 at Gorakhpur. A special cover was also released on this occasion.

For availability, price, and other charges please contact the Office of Post Master General, Gorakhpur 273008.

##### ~~~~~ RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

##### 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL STAMP FAIR

Indian Philatelic Traders Association (IPTA) is organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Stamp Fair at Kolkata from August 15 to 17, 2003.

The event will be held at spacious Art Gallery of Charnock City at Salt Lake City, which is itself a very popular Super Market. It is expected that a good number of visitors from this affluent part of the city who regularly frequent this spot during the weekends would also visit the event. School students' visits are also being organized. A spot auction is also being planned. Table space for stamp dealers is available for Rs.2250. For further details please contact [ipta@vsnl.net](mailto:ipta@vsnl.net)

IPTA had earlier successfully organized national stamp fairs in December 2002 and April 2003.

IPTA's Monthly Stamp Fairs on Saturdays are regularly being held. The next dates are August 2, and September 6 at Rotary Sadan, Kolkata. Table Space is available at Rs. 600.

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 # 70 - May 2003, Monthly  
G P A NEWS, Whole # 71 - June 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

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HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS MEET ON FAKE STAMPS SCAM

The Government of India has estimated a loss of a whopping Rs.300 billion due to the rampant use of fake stamps in the country. A review of the magnitude of the scam and the need for urgent remedial measures was taken on July 9, 2003 at a high-level meeting chaired by India's Home Secretary, N Gopalaswami, at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by chief secretaries and police chiefs of several states as well as the heads of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Intelligence Bureau (IB).

Interestingly, Government agencies are in agreement on how members of the underworld have taken to forging stamps in a big way and are pumping the proceeds for financing films and purchasing property.

CBI chief P C Sharma says that 'Printing fake stamp paper seems to have become a lucrative activity for the underworld. Several security measures need to be adopted and the problem needs to be tackled on a war footing'. The CBI chief said that following stamp paper frauds detected by Delhi Police, they were soon going to register cases against persons who had printed fake paper worth over Rs.2 billion in New Delhi. Besides this, several cases have been registered by police in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

It has been decided that besides beefing up controls at security presses, some improvements and administrative measures need to be taken by the Central and state governments.

The IB which had done a detailed study on fake currency notes has now been asked to examine the nexus between the underworld and fake stamp sales.

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INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP DESIGN CONTEST

Korea Post is organizing an International Postage Stamp Design Contest. There are two categories, Youth (under 17 years of age) and General with two themes each. The themes for the Youth are - Space Science (Space

Exploration) and Bio-Science (The Mysteries of Life) and for the General are - FIFA (International Federation of Football Associations) Centennial and 12<sup>th</sup> World Water Day.

The entry forms may be downloaded from [www.koreapost.go.kr](http://www.koreapost.go.kr) and should be submitted by September 17, 2003 with the design in the size of 15x20cm that must be attached on the front of A4 size hardboard with the form on the back.

Judges selected from experts in Fine Arts, postage stamps, design, and other disciplines will evaluate the entries during October 2003 with the award ceremony scheduled for November 2003.

There are over Won 13 million (Rs. 500,000 or US\$100,000) worth of awards to be won and the four Grand Prize winning entries are expected to be used on Korean postage stamps in 2004.

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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.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 61

Umesh Kakkeri from Mumbai sent the following message on July 13, 2003: "Since last few issues you have stopped the PCI cases update. Please let us know exactly what has happened or what is going on in these cases. The fight that was going on is still on or stopped? Or is there any other reason for not publishing about it. Please do incorporate the news regarding PCI cases in every issue of your journal, even though the case may have been adjourned for the next hearing, to keep the matter alive."

In our meetings with PCI members all over the country, institutional as well as individual, we find that there is very little or no information available with them regarding the past history and current activities of the PCI.

Some say that PCI members themselves are responsible for this state of affairs as people get the government they deserve. If a small group of self-centered individuals, better known as P Company, controls all the affairs of PCI in gross violation of democratic norms and legal provisions, it is so because the members inadvertently allowed it to happen. Members either did not take interest in the affairs or were afraid that if they question any member of the P Company they will not be included in the distribution of medals and offices of profit. There is an ancient Indian saying 'silence is a sign of approval' (maunam sweepkriti lakshnam). Emboldened by this silence, the P Company has falsely been claiming sole representation of philately in India and of Indian philately in international forums.

The way PCI has been run from its very inception as a private business; it is not surprising that members do not have a sense of belonging that is so essential in an active organization. Several well known philatelists preferred giving up philately in disgust instead of stooping low to match the activities of the P Company is a matter of record.

Now this may appear as 'whether chicken came first or the egg' kind of problem - whether the members of PCI or the P Company is to be blamed for allowing mismanagement to happen. Whether the members were not sufficiently vigilant or the P Company hijacked the controls.

We have been updating our readers on a regular basis regarding the activities of PCI and would continue to do so in the forthcoming issues as well.

A society is the sum total of its members and every member's action and inaction affects the society. We believe that it is time for every member to introspect and interact with other members to decide how they want their society to be.

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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>

JEFF SIDDIQUI, USA

I have in my collection the following missing pearl stamps of Br. India:  
KGV Single Star Watermark Re.1, Re.1 (service) and Rs.2  
KGV Multi-Star Watermark Re.1 (service), Rs.2 and Rs.2 (service), and Re.1 (BAHRAIN),  
KGV Rs.2, Rs.2 (service), Rs.2 (BAHRAIN), Rs.2 (OMAN), Rs.2 (JIND), Rs.5 (service), Rs.15 (BAHRAIN on inverted watermark).

For simplicity's sake, I have not broken out some of the above which also exist with missing pearls on TWO different locations like KGV Rs. 2. Additionally, I have damaged (disappearing) pearl varieties on most of the above plus KGV Rs.10.

Derek Johnston's article on Missing Pearls should be available in India Study Circle's archives.

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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

MICHEL RUNDSCHAU'S STAMP SURVEY 2001

'Michel' of Germany needs no introduction to philatelists as they are a household name being the publisher of worldwide stamp catalogs. 'Michel' also publish a monthly magazine 'Michel Rundschau' that has regularly been reporting in December issue every year a survey of stamps issued in the preceding year. However the survey for issues of 2001 was delayed to April 2003 issue.

According to the survey of 2001, 273 countries and territories issued 13879 stamps, including 1302 miniature sheets. The total face value exceeds over Rs.0.5 million. However this is lower than previous year when a record 17544 stamps, including 1595 miniature sheets, were issued.

The top ten countries with highest number of issues are along expected lines: Grenada 680, Liberia 571, Gambia 481, St. Vincent 386, Sierra Leone 350, Guyana 298, Japan 286, Guinea 262, Antigua & Barbuda 246, and Dominica 221. The face value of the complete year of issues of Grenada in 2001 exceeds Rs.30000.

The ranking for some of the leading stamp issuing countries was as follows USA with 155 stamps ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the list, Australia with 139 was #19, France with 134 was #21, South Africa with 120 was #25, China with 109 was #27, New Zealand with 107 was #28, and Great Britain with 106 was #29.

In 1971 the total number of issues was about 8800, in 1981 it was 7666, and in 1991 it reached 10448.

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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

Published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.stampsofindia.com)

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