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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 # 128 - August 7, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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address, and philatelic interests and "subscribe" in the subject line.  
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  
<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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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

Amarpreet Duggal, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices at Chandigarh,  
joined as Assistant Director General, Philately Division, Postal  
Directorate at New Delhi with effect from August 4, 2003.

On its own this appears to be a simple change in the Philatelic Division  
of India Post or is it India Post's contribution to women's empowerment?

Puzzled? Well here are the details of the officers of the Philatelic  
Division, see if you agree with us - Devika Kumar as Deputy Director  
General heads the Division, Meera Handa is the Director, and R Gayathri

is the Section Officer, now Duggal joins as Assistant Director General, all ladies!

Perhaps this is natural in a year when India Post is headed by Padma Balasubramanian the first lady to occupy the office of the Director General in 150 years of its existence!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rajesh K Agarwala of New Delhi, International Philatelic Federation (FIP), Times of India and 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.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION IN PRINT

We have been constantly asked to publish this newsletter in the printed form. We, on more than one occasion, came very close to launching a monthly printed edition but for various reasons this dream hasn't turned into reality yet.

On the third anniversary of Stamps of India Collectors Companion, we fulfill another longstanding demand of our readers by making available the back issues of the Stamps of India Collectors Companion in printed form.

We are getting a limited edition of 50 individually numbered softbound copies printed in four year-wise volumes as follows:

- Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500
- Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs.950
- Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250
- Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, Rs.650

Part 1 of Vol. 4 contains issues till the end of June 2003 and Part 2 with issues till end of December 2003 will be available in January 2004.

The orders for a complete set, weighing approximately 2.5 kilograms, shall be charged Rs.150 extra for delivery to destinations within India and Rs.650 extra for overseas destinations for delivery by registered book rate air mail. Thus the total cost including delivery charges is Rs.3500 for inland and US\$95 for overseas orders. The bank charges incurred on inward remittances, if any, will also be charged extra.

To reserve your copy, please email to [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) now.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS INDIA LIMITED

India Post provided a special postmark to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited on August 4, 2003 at New Delhi.

For availability and charges, please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street Head Post Office, New Delhi 110 001.

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SERVICE CHARGE ABOLISHED ON STANDING ORDERS

The levy of service charges of Rs.10 per dispatch to deposit account holders at philatelic bureaus is waived with effect from August 1, 2003 in respect of those stamps and philatelic items released on or after that date.

It was earlier waived with effect from October 1, 2000 but was reinstated with effect from March 1, 2003.

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AUCTION BY INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY

Indian Thematic Society of Ludhiana is holding its 21<sup>st</sup> postal auction. The 150-lot auction closes on August 30, 2003.

For further details please contact [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Following is an incomplete list of events scheduled till the end of the year. Additions and alternations are very much expected:

August

9-11, Jaipur, SCHOOLPEX  
15-17, Kolkata, National Stamp Fair  
22-24, Mumbai, Numismatic Fair  
? , Siliguri

September

? , Darjeeling  
? , Coochbehar

October

2-4, Ahmedabad, GUJPEX  
10-13, Jaipur, RAJPEX  
16-19, Hyderabad, APPEX

November

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX

December

? , Mumbai, MAHAPEX

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

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PHILATELIC LITERATURE AVAILABLE ONLINE

The website [www.kashmirstamps.ca](http://www.kashmirstamps.ca) has lots of information on erstwhile Princely State of Jammu & Kashmir. It covers postage stamps, postal stationery, postal markings, production processes, useful checklists,

Persian and Dogri languages and scripts, Calendar conversion utilities, and a reference area having an article index and bibliography.

The philatelic literature on Jammu & Kashmir is perhaps even more difficult of find than the philatelic material itself. The two important works on the subject by Masson, and by Sefi & Mortimer are available online here.

This is a welcome move not only for philatelists interested in Jammu & Kashmir but for all and we hope many more important but elusive works will soon be available online.

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FAKE STAMPS SCAM UPDATE

01

Gaffar Nabilal Tamboli (54) became the 48th accused person to be arrested by the special investigation team (SIT) investigating the multi-billion fake stamp scam.

Tamboli, who was one of the three people declared 'absconding' by the court recently, surrendered himself at the SIT office at the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) centre in Pune on July 31, 2003. Of the absconding trio, Laxman Tirvir had been arrested in Sangli last month, while Tabrez Telgi is still at large.

According to the SIT, Tamboli is the brother-in-law of stamp scam co-accused Azim Telgi, who is also in police custody. The Bundgarden police had raided a basement in the Botawala chambers in Fort, Mumbai on June 10, 2002 and unearthed huge quantities of fake stamps. The basement was rented by Tamboli from April 2000 for a monthly rent of Rs.12000 and a deposit of Rs.120,000. Investigations reveal that Tamboli undertook perforation work and dispatch of stamps from the basement.

The SIT is presently investigating Tamboli's bank accounts, in order to establish his extensive links with members of the Telgi family, who are residing in Bijapur, Khanapur and Mumbai. It has also been revealed that Tamboli was in constant touch with another 'absconder' in the scam case, Tabrez Telgi, a cousin of the kingpin, Abdul Karim Telgi.

Tamboli was also partner in Thane Polyorganics, one of the many bogus firms floated by kingpin Telgi.

Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) M N Bondre has remanded Tamboli to police custody till August 11, 2003.

02

On July 28, 2003 Anil Anna Gote's magisterial custody was further extended till August 8, 2003. Gote, the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Maharashtra State from Dhule, was arrested by the special investigating team on June 29, 2003 for his involvement in the fake stamp scam. He has also been booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Gote is believed to have used his political clout to help the organised syndicate of the alleged kingpin of the fake stamp paper scam, Abdul Karim Telgi.

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2003 FIP WEB SITE COMPETITION CANCELLED

International Philatelic Federation (FIP) has announced that the 2003 FIP Philatelic Web Site Evaluations have been canceled. The need for this action became apparent following examination of the time needed to meet the needs of these evaluations and also the requirements of the other duties of the primary participants in these evaluations.

There have been four FIP Philatelic Web site evaluations to date, beginning in 1999. In each year the web sites entered were awarded a ranking of Two Stars, Three Stars or Top 5%. From the last group, one was selected by the panel as the Best Philatelic Web Site. Logos appropriate to the results were authorized by the FIP for display on the sites that received them.

It is anticipated that, after further study, these evaluations may be resumed in 2004.

However the report of the 63<sup>rd</sup> FIP Board meeting on June 8 and 9, 2003 at Mulhouse (France) states that the competition was cancelled for financial reasons.

The report says 'immediate steps were taken to control expenditure and the board agreed to set up a procedure to manage finances. During the past year it was clear FIP was not getting the mileage from its expenditure on the FIP website and computer-related items. Steps have been taken to stop unnecessary expenditure here. Similarly FIP's expenditure on World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) and OLYMPHILEX activities which did not yield satisfactory results on returns has been reviewed. All in all, it was noted that what has been spent the last two years cannot be retrieved, but in the New Year unnecessary or unwise expenditure has been stopped.'

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WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

The First World Stamp Championship will be held at Singapore in 2004. The Special Regulations have been finalized and bulletin 1 is being printed and should arrive shortly.

Essentially the 'World Championship Class' which is limited to Traditional Philatelic Exhibits (approved by the 58<sup>th</sup> FIP Board Meeting on 15 March 2002 in Prague) will replace the 'FIP Championship Class', and otherwise WSC 2004 in Singapore will be a General World Exhibition.

All exhibitors in this class will be glad to know that there will be no additional surcharge of 100 Swiss Francs per frame as in previous FIP Championship Class, all Exhibitors with FIP Large Gold medals in Traditional Class and all FIP Grand Prix Winners, including previous FIP Grand Prix d'Honneur winners are eligible to apply. There will be no restriction to have won the qualifying medals in the 10 year timeframe.

Anil Suri is the Commissioner for India and may be contacted at [anilksuri@email.com](mailto:anilksuri@email.com)

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FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL ISSUES

WADP had recently sent the denouncement in the name of Ivory Coast.

The Circular #269 of July 28, 2003 reports the illegal postage stamp issues produced mostly as miniature sheets in the name of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on the following thematics: shells, dogs, butterflies, orchids, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, motorbike, table tennis, vintage fire engines, and trains. Many stamps carry the emblem of a specific organization. A certain number of miniature sheets are listed in dollars on one website at a very high price (19.95 USD) for the perforated format for the two sheets and at double the price (39.80 USD) for the imperforated format. The same miniature sheets are listed on another website at a much cheaper price (e.g. 3.00 USD each).

In May 2003 Kyrgyzstan reported the existence of following illegal issues of postage stamps: sheetlets issued in 2002, comprising nine (3x3) stamps with face values of 10 KGS, 20 KGS and 30 KGS depicting "Harry Potter", "Merry Christmas" (cartoon heroes) stamps, "John Paul II" and "Shahmaty" (chess) stamps; a sheet of stamps issued in 2001 depicting "JOHN PAUL II".

Maria S. Libera, [maria.libera@upu.int](mailto:maria.libera@upu.int), who is the Program Manager - Markets Development, & Responsible for Philately, at the Directorate of Markets, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland wrote "the UPU itself is receiving many more queries from Indian collectors about illegal issues".

For more details on the 'Fight Against Illegal Issues', please visit: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Orgs/WADP-05.htm>

The summary of UPU Circulars about illegal issues is available at: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Orgs/UPU.htm>

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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 63

We have received many responses from members of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) on Part 61 of Views & Opinions published in Issue # 125 of July 17, 2003.

The common point in most of the conversations and messages was that as members they were unaware of the situation as they have not been briefed

by the office bearers regarding the recent activities of PCI as well as the details and progress of the court cases.

Several members were shocked at the extent of fabrication of lies that the P Company is doling out as and when they do decide to circulate any information to mislead the members and others.

We have been updating information regarding the court cases and other happening of PCI on a regular basis. Now, through this newsletter we offer to make available to all members of PCI the complete details of the ongoing cases against PCI. The PCI members can avail this opportunity to learn the facts about the issues raised, responses submitted by PCI, and evidences on the activities of PCI Officers that are highly damaging to the philately in India and Indian philately abroad.

If you are visiting Delhi and would like to see the papers relating to cases you may contact yours truly at 98681-40089 for an appointment.

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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>

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

HAND-STAMPED ADVERTISEMENTS ON MAILS, Part 2

Following are our answers to Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap, from Binningen, Switzerland:

"Thank you for the publication of my query in "Stamps of India" e-mail bulletin and also for your answer and explanation that this type of advertisements has been observed since April 2003."

We believe that such advertisements have been going on since long and have seen official documentation confirming their existence since 1988 at least. More research is needed to find out the exact date of the introduction of this scheme.

"I am also a member of London based India Study Circle and I receive their tri-monthly publication. I must have overlooked the note by Mr. Akhilesh Arka. My questions still remain unanswered:  
Does India Post charge the undertakings for such advertisements? If, so how much?"

The current charges are Rs.900 for minimum 6 days per die per office and the sponsor has to also supply the rubberstamp as well as the ink pad to the post office.

"Is it not an encroachment on the privacy of the recipient of the letter? In other countries perhaps there could be a judicial enquiry in the matter, since the letter is the property of the recipient of the letter."

In our opinion the privacy of an individual is still not a mainstream concern in India. The note on Data Post service at the end of this communication provides an insight on the views of India Post.

"Perhaps there is no provision in the rules and regulations of UPU as regards this type of advertisements and UPU has nothing to say in this regard."

We don't think so.

"Of course this private advertisement has no philatelic value because the authenticity of these could not be confirmed, as against those printed by the India Post on their official postal stationery such as post cards (now also MEGHADOOT Cards!), inland letters and Aerogrammes. These are of immense interest from the point of view of Thematic Philately. Very few countries in the world have made use of this media. I would like to mention Belgium Post Cards with colored (Black/Red/Blue) advertisements on their post cards."

We agree wholeheartedly with comments regarding advertisements on postal stationery and their place in thematic philately. We also feel those hand-stamped advertisements whose authenticity is verifiable will have value in philately as well.

#### DATAPOST

Dr. Jagtap's comments on privacy have paved the way for publication of another issue that we have been intending to write on for some time.

India Post is collecting and selling data on individuals since 2001 in Bangalore and Hyderabad and has recently added other cities such as Ahmedabad.

India Post offers the following services under Data Post: data collection from households, data mining, and lease of database to Corporates. It has an extensive database of 0.5 million households in Hyderabad and Bangalore which one can access and put to use right way. The charges are Rs.4 per count up to 25,000 counts.



India Post claims that 'it provides zero error data on household with detailed information on consumer addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail id's, marital status, gender, age, occupation, passport ownership and much more information. Corporates can use this data for selling of their product. India Post can also build up an elaborate database attuned to the specific need and target to find out the right customer for corporates and has the specialization to develop and design questionnaires on client's behalf as well as brochures for their products and also undertake profiling, sampling and couponing exercises.'

India Post further offers 'If you would like to identify this information for any target group in any other part of the country, Data Post can make this information available very quickly, very accurately and very economically.'

With a large number of post offices and postal employees in every part of the country India Post's potential and the sheer power to collect data which is of value to the marketers is unquestionable. However while the world over concerns are being expressed on the "Right to Privacy" and "Right not to publicize personal preferences", the Data Post of India Post appears to have not taken this into consideration.

If India Post can commercially utilize the information that comes to it by virtue of its status as a Government body, why not the Census department itself expands its scope of collection of information and sells it to Corporates and makes money?

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

POSTAL INNOVATION ZIPS TOWARD 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
By Bill Straub, Scripps Howard News Service

The man who helped transform the American postal system in the 1960s and became a smiling symbol of efficiency is about to turn 40. If you intend to send a card, be sure to include in the address the nine-digit code that bears his name.

On July 1, 1963, what was then the U.S. Post Office Department introduced the Zoning Improvement Plan - much better known today as the ZIP code. The surging volume of mail in the pre-FedEx era, coupled with the increasingly diverse delivery system of planes, trains and trucks, forced the famously obstinate system to adopt the new code, the first significant change in the postal delivery system since the advent of airmail in 1918.

And the man chosen to deliver the ZIP code sermon was none other than Mr. ZIP himself, a goggle-eyed, uniformed, cartoon letter carrier featured in television commercials and in the margins of postage-stamp sheets. As it turns out, Mr. ZIP became one of history's great salesmen, achieving what is now a ZIP code compliance rate of more than 95 percent.

The idea of a number code to improve delivery was not immediately embraced by Americans, who saw their individualities being quickly reduced to numbers, like the ones provided by the Social Security system. The changes came at about the same time that Ma Bell, as the AT&T telephone company was known then, switched from the old letter exchanges, such as PA6-5000, to the numeric exchanges of today. Editorial writers intoned about "numerical neurosis" and Big Brother.

But the U.S. Postal Service, which succeeded the Post Office Department when the system was privatized in 1971, insisted that the changes were necessary. The private correspondence that had dominated the system's labors since Benjamin Franklin took over as the nation's first postmaster general in 1775 had been supplanted by a flood of business mail. By 1963, business mail constituted 80 percent of the total volume, consisting of utility bills, bank statements, credit-card bills and other pieces.

The Post Office simply couldn't keep up. Sorting the mail, once performed at a leisurely pace on a train's mail car, had to be done at a quicker pace. So, in early 1963, the department adopted a coding system credited by most sources to Robert Moon, who began tinkering with the idea while serving as a postal inspector in Philadelphia and Chicago in the 1940s.

The final product was a fairly simple five-digit code. The first number designates a broad geographic area - the Northeast, for instance, is represented by a zero, while a 9 signifies the far West. The next two numbers pinpoint population concentrations within those wide population areas, usually a state or several smaller states grouped together, while the final two designate specific post offices or postal zones in large cities.

Postmaster General John Gronouski announced that the ZIP code would arrive on July 1, 1963. At first, attaching a ZIP code to a letter or package was optional. It only became a requirement for second- and third-class bulk mailers in 1967.

The ZIP code proved such a success that the postal service expanded on it in the early 1980s with the ZIP-Plus-4 program. Originally aimed at bulk and large-volume business mailers, the new program added four numbers to the original five digits to achieve even better delivery.

The heavy lifting involved in promoting the ZIP code was, of course, left to Mr. ZIP, whose job was to remind people throughout the country to include the codes when mailing letters and packages. Mr. ZIP was the creation of Harold Wilcox, with the advertising agency of Cunningham & Walsh. His father was a postman.

Mr. ZIP first appeared publicly on Jan. 10, 1964, on a block of 5-cent commemorative stamps honoring Sam Houston. Accompanying him were the words, "Use ZIP Code."

Mr. ZIP carried out his duties, through rain and snow and gloom of night, until being forced into retirement in 1986 by a new postal service hierarchy that considered him an "anachronism."

Basically, the old boy was a victim of his own success. He has retired to wherever it is that old advertising icons go. Probably Florida.

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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>

The Times of India

FAKE STAMP ON THE POST by Arun Kumar Das

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/xml/uncomp/articleshow?msid=103654>

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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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