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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 # 130 - August 21, 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>  
Now also available in print, see details later in this issue

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have been coping with the cyber attacks and now we deal with SoBig.F
virus clogging e-mail in-boxes worldwide with bogus messages. This virus
was first detected on August 18, 2003 and is the fastest spreading email
virus of all times. This is the sixth version of this virus since it
first appeared in January 2003.

The virus comes via e-mail with the subject lines such as 'Thank You',
'Re: Thank You', 'Re: Approved', 'Re: Details', 'Your Details', 'Re:
Your Application', 'Re: That movie', 'Re: Wicked Screensaver', and 'Re:
Re: My details'. It spreads when unsuspecting users open executable file
attachments in pif and scr format in e-mails. The tricky code comes with
its own e-mail program embedded in it. The program seeks out e-mail
addresses stored on a computer's hard drive and then sends itself to
those other users across the Internet.

The virus-scanning software takes 3 seconds to scan a single piece of e-mail, and twice that long if it finds a virus. Because Sobig was causing such long delays, Internet service providers had to turn off the virus scan and let the end user deal with it.

Infected computers sent us hundreds of copies of Sobig on August 20 and 21, 2003. In addition, we have had hundreds of automated messages from network administrators of the addresses we had never known. The problem is that Sobig disguises the return address of the messages it sends, picking up legitimate addresses off the Internet.

Experts advise computer users to shore up their machines with anti-virus software and delete suspicious-looking e-mails.

We are investigating the source in our case as the infected incoming mail came from apparently the same source!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Foster Miller, The Hindu, Pittsburg Post Gazette and Centre Daily Times.

We invite your inputs, please email to stampsofindia@tatanova.com

Please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still forward a copy of this issue.

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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 SPECIAL POSTMARKS

700-YEAR-OLD BANYAN TREE

Pillalamarri, the famed 700-year-old banyan tree near Mahabubnagar, Andhra Pradesh will appear on a special cover being brought out by the India Post.

The magnificent tree with its branches stretching over an area of three acres is acclaimed as a "living legend" of the district. Over the years, the heritage symbol, located in the fields 4 km from Mahabubnagar town, attracted tourists from far and near. From a distance, it presents the look of a small hillock covered with thick foliage. As one draws closer, the majestic tree stands out like a giant umbrella, which can shelter up to 1,000 persons. There is a tomb of a Muslim saint underneath the tree.

On its part, India Post has resolved to do its bit to commemorate the tree by releasing a special cover during a philatelic exhibition at

Mahabubnagar on August 29 and 30, 2003. The special cover will be released by T S Govindarajan, Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Circle.

A special video show for children on 'stamp collection - an educative hobby', philately workshop, essay and quiz competitions for students will be the highlights of the two-day exhibition.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

KOLKATA

3<sup>rd</sup> National Stamp Fair was held on August 15-17 at Salt Lake, Kolkata. Although visitors' attendance was much less than earlier occasions yet most of the participants were not complaining as there was good dealer-to-dealer business. The Fair attracts dealers from all over India and neighboring Bangladesh. Indian Philatelic Traders Association, the organizers of the Fair plan to organize it on regular intervals and the next Fair is tentatively scheduled for December 2003.

NEW DELHI

North Division of the Delhi Circle of India Post organized a mini philatelic exhibition at Rukmani Devi Public School, Pitampura on August 19, 2003. A Stamp Design Competition was also organized on the same day while a workshop for the students was conducted a day before. Yours truly also contributed to this promotion by conducting the workshop, guiding the students to prepare the exhibits and evaluating the same.

CHENNAI

India Post is holding an exhibition of various collections of P S Seshadri, senior philatelist and member of South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai, along with collections of children of Nehru Stamp Club of Bakthavatchalam Vidyashram, Korattur. It will be held at Philatelic Exhibition Hall, Anna Road Head Post Office complex on 16 and 23 August (consecutive Saturdays). The exhibition is open to public from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and there is no entrance fee.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

August

22-24, Mumbai, Numismatic Fair  
27-29, Siliguri, Postal Fair  
29-30, Mahabubnagar, District Level

September

9-11, Cuddalore, District Level  
12-14, Bilaspur, District Level  
25-27, Mumbai, District Level  
? , Darjeeling, District Level  
? , Coochbehar, District Level

October

2-4, Ahmedabad, GUJPEX, State Level

10-13, Jaipur, RAJPEX, State Level  
16-19, Hyderabad, APPEX, State Level

November  
27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December  
? , Mumbai, MAHAPEX, State Level

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

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R P SHAH OF BARODA PASSED AWAY

Noted philatelist Rajnikant P Shah died on August 8, 2003 at Baroda. Shah was instrumental in forming the Baroda Philatelic Society in 1975. He served as Secretary from 1975 to 1982, as Vice President in 1983 and 1984, and as President from 1985 to 2002.

Baroda Philatelic Society has successfully organized 8 philatelic exhibitions at Baroda under his leadership. He was also member of the organizing committee of state level philatelic exhibitions in Gujarat in 1977, 1979 and 1998.

He has conducted several philatelic workshops in schools and since 1989 he was regularly invited by regional Postal Training Center at Baroda, to deliver lectures on philately.

Shah born at Baroda in 1933 started collecting stamps in 1946. He was collecting postal stationery, flight covers, exhibition covers, special place postmarks of India and in thematics - flowers, fruits, and archaeology.

Shah entered organized philately on being elected Honorary Secretary of Indore Philatelic Society in 1971 and 1973. In 1971 he organized a philatelic exhibition INDOREPEX 71 at Indore. He was a member of Madhya Pradesh Philatelic Advisory Committee from 1972 to 1973. He was also member of the organizing committee of MAPPEX-73, state level philatelic exhibition.

Our condolences to his son, Timir Shah, the secretary of the Baroda Philatelic Society and the joint-editor of society's quarterly journal.

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PRADIP JAIN BAGS VERMEIL IN US NATIONAL

Pradip Jain of Patna won a Vermeil medal at the APS Stamp Show 2003 for his book 'Indian Airmail Development & Operation (1911-1942)'.  
Congratulations!

APS Stamp Show is the largest annual national show in the USA and typically includes 150 dealers, 10,000 pages of exhibits, meetings of more than 25 national societies and over 100 educational seminars. This year the show was held at Columbus, Ohio from August 7 to 10, 2003.

Congratulations also to Kendall C. Sanford of Switzerland who also won a Vermeil medal for his book 'Air Crash Mail of Imperial Airways &

Predecessor Airlines'.

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CHINA 2003

The next international exhibition open for Indian philatelists is the 16th Asian International Stamp Exhibition being held at Mianyang in China from September 20 to 24, 2003. The last opportunity of participation was about a year ago in the PHILAKOREA 2002 where Customs Authorities seized all the exhibits as some exhibits were smuggled out.

It may be hard to believe but the fact remains that there is no information whatsoever available to philatelists in India regarding this show. National commissioner for India, S Sahoo has repeatedly told this newsletter that he has not received Bulletin 1 and has no information to share.

Sahoo was irregularly appointed in July 2002 as national commissioner for China 2003 by Dilip Shah, apparently as a reward for switching sides and joining the P Company.

When Sahoo was previously appointed national commissioner in 2000 for Bangkok, he did not bother to obtain necessary official permits and smuggled antiquities (material over 100 years old). It is understood that being a senior public servant he managed to travel to Bangkok on official passport and did not declare the contents of his baggage at India Customs.

It is feared that Sahoo still may carry exhibits to China again without any permissions. The participants will do well to ensure that their exhibits also do not meet the same fate as the exhibits smuggled to PHILAKOREA 2002.

The commissioners take indemnity on stamp paper absolving them of responsibility in case of any losses. It is now time the exhibitors take a do's and don'ts statement from commissioners in writing that the commissioners would also follow the laws of the land and be responsible for their actions.

It is expected that M G Pitte, the kingpin of the P Company along with perhaps one or two fellow company men will grace (?) the show as jury.

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GET WELL SOON, DAN

Dan Walker, owner of Collectible Insurance Agency and a trustee of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) was attending STAMPSHOW 2003 (August 7-10) in a wheelchair. He was involved in a head-on automobile accident in Carroll County, MD on July 22 and suffered a severely fractured ankle. Dan says that he doesn't remember any details of the accident. He was surprisingly in good spirits, quipping that he now owns shorts (he has a knee to ankle cast) for the first time in his life. Our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery.

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INDIA STATES REVENUES WEB SITE

Jiri Cerny informs that due to the technical problems he transferred the web site to a new address as <http://www.indiastaterevenues.com>

ALL INDIA POSTAL EMPLOYEES UNION

The 20th All India Conference of All India Postal Employees Union Postmen & Group 'D' was held at Lucknow from June 28 to 30, 2003.

Following officers were elected at the above Conference:

President: Shibram Chakrawarti, Kolkata

Vice Presidents: (1) K D Bhagat, Gaya, (2) Raja Menon, Kollam (3)Manu Bhai Parmar, Ahmedabad

General Secretary: Dev Raj Sharma, New Delhi

Deputy General Secretary: Shekh Humanyu, Nellore

Assistant General Secretaries: (1) Dharam Pal Dutta, Jullunder, (2) Vikram Shah, Lucknow, (3) R Sita Lakshmi, Bangalore

Treasurer: Mahabir Singh, New Delhi

Assistant Treasurer: S D Asthana, Lucknow

Organizing Secretaries: (1) G Krishnan, Tirunelveli, (2) Jivanand Bhattacharya, Dharmanagar, (3) A K Saxena, Bhopal, (4) Jwala Singh, Jaipur

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STAMP CIRCUIT CLUB

An online philatelic/Numismatic Web group with thousands of registered members offers free listing in the "Featured Links" - "Philatelic Dealers/Auctioneers" Section. For further information contact Moti Kremener, Philatelic Adviser & Manager [moti@stampcircuit.com](mailto:moti@stampcircuit.com), <http://www.stampcircuit.com>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 64

We once again revisit INPEX-EMPIREPEX 2001, the last recognized national held at Nashik on December 2001 as new information has come to light.

We have covered in detail the flouting of all rules by the members of P Company in case of exhibitors, Rajesh Varma of Dehradun, Umesh Kakeri of Mumbai, and Pragya Kothari Jain (son of Pradip Jain) of Patna.

We also believed all along that it was only a tip of the proverbial ice berg and were not surprised when recently another exhibitor R K Sarawagi of Kolkata narrated to us his similar unfortunate experience of high-handedness and willful disregard of all rules by the P Company.

Sarawagi as one of the co-authors of 'History of Postal Communications in Mewar' entered it in the literature class. Vispi Dastur of P Company, who was the Coordinator for the show and Chairman of the Organizing Committee besides being Co-Chairman of the Jury, communicated acceptance of the entry and asked for the fees. Sarawagi submitted the fees and later found that his entry was excluded from judging and does not even appear in the list of participants. Sarawagi is still awaiting the refund of his fees, return of two copies of the book submitted, and an unconditional apology from the organizers.

We fail to understand how the kingpin of the P Company, omnipresent Pittie takes one decision as the Chairman of the Allotment Committee and reverses the same as the Chairman/Secretary of Jury with impunity year after year. None of his sycophant and subservient colleagues dare question him as they stand to loose perks such as foreign jaunts.

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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>

DR. REUBEN A. RAMKISSOON, President, Chicago Philatelic Society  
It is a great honor to be selected to receive the Luff Award for 2003-- the highest such recognition given to its members by the American Philatelic Society.

Thank you for making an "Indian connection" with each of the three recipients this year - George Griffenhagen, Dan Walker, and myself. We are only too pleased to share this honor with our philatelic friends and the philatelic community of India.

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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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Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500
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Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250
Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs.650
Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)
For further details, please email to mjhingan@yahoo.com.

All the back issues are also available for free download at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>
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## RESEARCH NOTES

### JUNAGADH POSTAL & FISCAL ISSUES

Dr. Ken Robbins is writing an article on Junagadh using fiscal and postal philatelic materials in reconstructing its history and requests the readers to provide information - as any and all suggestions on the history would be useful?

For example, were "Soruth" stamps used in the states attached to Junagadh in the early 1940's?

Were United States of Saurashtra stamps used in the other USS states besides Junagadh?

Has anyone studied the history of how the Imperial post and state posts worked together?

Any information on the history of last days of the Nawab and the military postal history of that transitional period?

Any information on the customs and port debate with British India?

Any information on whether the trial prints of stamp money [not the commonly used ones] are genuine or whether they were used?

Any documents on the use of stamp money from any state?

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

AMERICAN PHILATELIC CENTER PHASE 1 DEDICATION

On August 16, 2003 the American Philatelic Center completed its Phase 1. A well attended dedication ceremony was held at the partly renovated building in the 104-year old match factory complex along Spring Creek at Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The American Philatelic Center is going to be the new headquarters of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). The 50,000-member APS founded in 1886 has been in State College since 1945. Before that the organization did not have a central office. APS current 25,000-square-foot headquarters since 1982 will be sold next month to partly offset the cost of \$7.5 million project. The move was motivated mainly by the needs of the APRL, which needs more space for its collection of philatelic reference material - four miles of shelving, plus another mile of information that is in storage.

The building, the newest of the 18 buildings in the historic complex, will initially house a handful of retail and professional businesses until the philatelic society and the library are able to complete their move by early next year. A few tenants, including a mortgage company and an insurance firm, have agreed to rent space in the 22,000-square-foot building, where improvements costing about \$1.5 million have already been carried out.

During the next year, the APRL will spend about \$2.1 million in renovations into 30,000 square feet in the American Philatelic Center. The second batch of renovated space will be devoted to the APS, its administration, stamp collections, exhibits and the Research Library itself.

The match factory was built in 1899 and opened for business a year later by the Pennsylvania Match Co. The company was one of the three that occupied the site until the match business shut down in 1947. A lumber supply and retail business, Claster's, occupied the site until 1996.

The site received a historic designation from the National Register of Historic Places two years ago, an outcome sought by borough officials partly as an incentive to developers who would be eligible for investment tax credits on the property. As it turned out, the tax credits weren't used because the APS is a nonprofit organization.

A marriage of the site to the APS and APRL was ideal because it continues the town's long-standing commitment to preservation and history.

As part of the deal with the library and society, Talleyrand Park in Bellefonte will double in size, from three acres to six acres. The park, named after the Frenchman who named the town, borders the match factory. Bellefonte, which means "beautiful fountain," was named after the borough's Big Spring, the third largest in the state.

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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

Indian Express, August 19, 2003

CENTRE REFUSES TO PUT ITS STAMP ON BAJIRAO 'LEGEND'

http://www.indianexpress.com/full_story.php?content_id=29912

<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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