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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & 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 # 140 - October 30, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan
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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm> and also
available in print and on CD (details at the end of this issue).
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are chalking out a long term plan for carrying original research on a  
regular basis and reinventing the Features & Resources segment of this  
newsletter. We invite your inputs to help us select the areas to focus.  
Please let us know what your interests are and what topics would you  
like to see covered.

If you have want-list seeking information on any area, however narrow or  
offbeat, now is the time to mail it to us. Anything and everything  
regarding philately and postal services of India (British, French,  
Portuguese, and others) including post offices abroad, and Indian  
Princely States is welcome.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Prashant Pandya from Vadodara, Shyam P Nhuchhe Pradhan from Kathmandu (Nepal), The Indian Express, The Times of India, Mid Day Mumbai, NDTV, and News.com.au

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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.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on photos, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

November 1, 2003 - 150 years of Telecommunications in India, Rs. 5  
November 7, 2003 - Bengal Sappers Bicentenary, Rs. 5  
November 9, 2003 - Kalka Simla Railway,  
November 12, 2003 - Snakes, set of 4 stamps, Rs. 5 each  
November 12, 2003 - Snakes, miniature sheet Rs. 20  
November 14, 2003 - Children's Day,  
November 22, 2003 - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 2 Guards (1 Grenadiers), Rs. 5

These issues 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.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisements is scheduled for release in November 2003. This month once again has all items in multicolor.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:
Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue
24, ISP, English, 'The Garden of Five senses' Delhi Tourism, 1, M

Envelope - MAHABALIPURAM, 500 Paise, Brown
21, ISP, Bengali, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M
21, ISP, Gujarati, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M
21, ISP, Marathi, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M

21, ISP, Telugu, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M
21, ISP, Punjabi, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M
21, ISP, Malayalam, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M
21, ISP, Assamese, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post will provide a special postmark on YMCA at New Delhi on November 10, 2003.

For availability and charges, please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Sansad Marg Head Post Office, New Delhi 100 001.

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INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS IN 2004

HONG KONG 2004

The 17th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition will be held from January 30 to February 3, 2004 at Hong Kong.

Bulletin 1 was published in November 2002 and the last date for entry forms was April 15, 2003. There appears to be no national commissioner appointed by the Philatelic Congress of India and no participation in the competition class from India.

Visit the web site of HONG KONG 2004 for more information

www.hongkong2004stampexpo.com

ESPANA 2004

This world philatelic exhibition will be held from May 22 to 30 at Valencia, Spain.

The Bulletin 1 is available and the last date for entry forms is October 30, 2003. Rajan Jayakar namratajayakar@hotmail.com is the national commissioner for India.

Visit the web site of ESPANA 2004 for more information

<http://www.fesofi.es/pagconte/valencia2004/index2.htm>

WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

The first World Stamp Championship 2004, the equivalent of the Olympic Games in sports, will be held in Singapore from August 28 to September 1, 2004. The WSC 2004 is planned for higher standards of competition. The WSC 2004 is also commemorating the 150th anniversary of introduction of postage stamps in Singapore. In 1854 the stamps were introduced in India and Straits Settlements including Singapore were then part of the Bengal Presidency.

The Bulletin 1 is available and the last date to submit entry forms as has now been extended to December 15, 2003. Anil Suri

anilksuri@email.com is the national commissioner for India.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following list of events scheduled for next few months is subject to change. We update it in every issue with the information received during the week. The organizers may be contacted for further details.

October

31-Nov 1 & 2, Mysore, Regional

November

2-4, Pune, Coins Show

8-10, Coochbehar, District Level

14, Satara, District Level

14-15, Ludhiana, The club finally decided in favor of holding the show

14-16, Gwalior, Coins Show

15-16, Bharuch, District Level

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December

26-29, Dharwad, KARNAPEX, State Level

January 2004

9-11, Tirupur, Coin-Stampex

9-12, Nagpur, 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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NEW WEB SITE

Ramakrishnan P has recently launched a new web site

<http://www.geocities.com/pavnur/>. The site is focused on Army Postal and philatelic issues. It has three lists, India's Stamps on defense theme, special postmarks and special covers by India Post, and special covers issued by the Army Postal Services.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for November 2003 was updated and is available at

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

Due to technical difficulties, the detailed information and announcements are not available for November 2003. A chronological listing with the auctioneer's Website urls to help you browse catalogs is uploaded. The detailed info and announcements will resume for December 2003.

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

Maharashtra's former Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and former Revenue Minister Ashok Chavan would be questioned by the Special Investigating Team (SIT) for 'granting a stamp paper vending licence to Telgi some years ago despite the latter being booked by the Mumbai's Colaba and Cuffe Parade police stations in stamp paper racket'.

The SIT also plans to question Mumbai police chief R S Sharma, a former Mumbai police chief, three additional commissioners of police, four deputy commissioners of police, Personal secretary to former state chief minister, and 2 additional collectors attached to stamp duty registration office.

The SIT sources said some years ago the state faced a shortage of stamp papers and Telgi's marketing agents were stationed outside the stamp office, selling fake stamp papers at a premium. The SIT wants to investigate whether 'shortage in supply of stamp papers was deliberately created by certain politicians to aid Telgi's racket'.

SIT sources said that Telgi purchased a second-hand printing machinery from the India Security Press at Nashik and printed stamps and stamp papers. 'In Mumbai the Telgi's press was situated at Bora Bazar street in Fort area and some of city policemen knew about it but they did precious little to seize the machinery'.

The SIT is also investigating the role of a politician in providing Telgi with imported paper, the kind used in printing of stamps. The SIT is also probing the import of second-hand printing machines from Australia 1998 and suspect some of 300 printing machines, which were cleared through Mumbai port, could have fallen into the hands of racketeers.

2

SIT has sought attachment of properties of prime-accused Abdul Karim Telgi and freezing of his bank accounts, even as three other co-accused sought bail on the ground that there was no material to nail them in the alleged crime. It will come up for hearing before the designated judge, S M Shembole, on October 30, 2003.

3

Nearly a month after its formation, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Andhra Pradesh government to probe the fake stamp scam, is still setting up shop. It has got an office, telephone connections and a couple of cars but not all the personnel. The team is still forming.

The SIT wants to study the fake stamp case in detail before filing a charge sheet. In 1999, the case was first detected by the Hyderabad's Begum Bazar police Station. It was subsequently transferred to the CID. The latter agency dragged its feet on filing a charge sheet - which is the key document needed to take any case to its logical conclusion.

Initial SIT investigations seem to show that the confessional statements of the accused and the case diaries prepared by the Begum Bazar police in the early stages had several holes. The entire case needs to be reworked, if the accused are to get maximum punishment. Given the lapse of nearly four years, the SIT have a daunting task in gathering evidence against the accused as ample scope had been given to the latter to tamper.

4

Thane sub-inspector Pratap Kakde, who was arrested recently by the SIT has been accused of weakening the case against prime accused Abdul Telgi at the Mumbai's Mira Road police station in August 1999. Kakde had allegedly colluded with a senior police officer to favor Telgi and SIT is probing the role of this officer too.

Kakde had "manipulated" the case diaries and records to favor nine accused persons arrested in the case. One of the accused, Vijay Sawant, was a key aide of Telgi. But due to "lapses" in the police investigations, he was released on bail. The other accused were merely carriers of counterfeit stamps.

"No detailed statements of the accused were recorded. There was no corroborative evidence from independent witnesses. Kakde, the investigating officer, had not made policemen, who were part of the raiding party, witnesses. He told the court that he was the sole police witness as well as the complainant in the case."

The charge sheets were also not filed within the stipulated 90-day period, resulting in some of the accused persons being released on bail.

In the charge sheets filed in December 1999, Telgi was shown as an absconder. However no efforts were made to issue a proclamation against Telgi or to trace his whereabouts.

SIT sources said that no efforts were made by the investigating officer to trace the printing press where the fake stamp papers were printed.

5

New details in the Telgi case reveal the close links of the mastermind Abdul Telgi with a Maharashtra Member of Legislative Assembly, Anil Gote. Police now say Gote used his connections to issue fake licences for Telgi and to launder money.

Telgi and Gote, now arrested under the Organised Crime Act, worked as a team, one using his political clout to help the other expand his multi-billion empire of fake stamps.

In 1994, police say, Telgi used Gote's political influence to get his Stamp Vending license. In January 1996, Telgi was declared as absconding but showed up 2 years later at a public function organised by Gote's Kisan Trust in the town of Dhule, Gote's stronghold.

In return, police say Telgi made a series of payments to Gote and also used him to launder money. Between December 2001 and April 2001, police claim Telgi paid Gote about Rs 1 million in seven installments.

Together they also misused the names of political leaders to launder money, forging receipts of fake donations to Kisan Trust from former Government of India minister Ram Jethmalani and Member of Parliament Lalit Suri who had no idea of it. The money was in fact paid by Telgi.

Police also say that Gote, whose Mumbai address was Hotel Ritz in Churchgate had run up hotel bills of over Rs 3.1 million over the last five years, all of which was paid by Telgi.

6

The SIT has found that Telgi paid Mumbai Police's Crime Branch Officials millions of rupees for various favors. These include everything from going slow on the case to allowing him out of jail to eat at home. At least nine crime branch officers have been named by SIT for their collusion with Telgi and for granting him favors in exchange for cash. Of these five have been arrested, while the remaining four are expected to be arrested soon.

The SIT has not received satisfactory explanation for three main issues from any of the senior crime branch officers: During Telgi's custody (October 2002 to January 2003) with the crime branch, he was never kept in the Crawford Market lock-up but always in the Office of Crime Unit at Dharavi where he used his own cell phones, that of the crime branch officers and the crime office phones freely, and had all kinds of expensive meals ordered from hotels.

There were also days and periods when Telgi was allowed to stay put in hotels and at his residence in Cuffe Parade, where he was found partying with the cops.

When the Mumbai crime branch made a seizure of Rs 8.5 billion worth fake stamps and stamp papers from Bhivandi in Thane in January 2003 and arrested two men. Despite the case in Bhivandi, even the witnesses were men from Mumbai. The crime branch officers maintained that it was part of the same Telgi case but failed to mention him as an accused, who should have been named as the prime accused.

The SIT investigators now suspect that Rs 50 million was demanded from Telgi to omit his name from the case. However, when Telgi pleaded that he did not have 'liquid funds' available, finally, the deal was struck for Rs 7.6 million to be paid in three installments.

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NEW ISSUES OF NEPAL

Nepal issued a stamp on October 26, 2003 in the denomination of Rs. 5 on Sankhadhar Sakhwaa.

K K Karmacharya designed the horizontal stamp. Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna printed it in four colors by offset lithography in the quantity of 1 million in sheets of 50 stamps on high quality stamp paper with tropical gumming.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

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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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FRAUD ALERTS

RUBYSTAMPS

Arvind and Moses Mathuram inform that Ebay id 'Rubystamps' has listed a large number of items from India/Indian States at eBay. Be careful about bidding on these items. I noticed that in India proper, SG S2, SG O8, O16, O17, and O18 are obvious forgeries. There may be others. It is very dangerous to buy those high value stamps without a certificate, as a mere scan (that too one of low resolution) cannot help one decide if the item in question is genuine. Of late, there has been a deluge of offerings of Scinde Dawks and other high value items, none of them with any expertization.

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RESEARCH NOTES

MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT unveiled 'Meghdoot Post Card' at a well-attended function on September 2, 2002 at New Delhi. The first Meghdoot Post Card with advertisement of the Tamil movie "Baba" was launched on sale in Post Offices in Tamil Nadu.

Meghdoot Post Card is priced at half the cost of the existing post card. Currently, the normal post cards 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. The cards are supplied to the post offices in the area/s specified by the advertiser. A small quantity of Meghdoot Post cards is also made available at the select Philatelic Bureaus of Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai, that handle postal stationery.

Meghdoot Post Cards are printed by Security Printing Press at Hyderabad in sheets of 8 cards.

Meghdoot literally means the cloud-messenger and is title of a play in Sanskrit penned by Kalidasa a few millenniums earlier. Meghdoot is also an award that India Post presents for meritorious services to its employees annually.

Following is a complete list of Meghdoot Post Cards

01. September 2, 2002, Baba (Tamil movie starring Rajnikant)



02. October 15, 2002, TVS MAX 100 Mobike
03. November 21, 2002, 32<sup>nd</sup> National Games at Hyderabad
04. February 1, 2003, Life Insurance Corporation of India
05. February 3, 2003, Tata Steel
06. March 17, 2003, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
07. March 22, 2003, DHFL - Dewan Housing Finance Limited
09. May 22, 2003, Navneet Publications
10. May 30, 2003, State Bank of India's Kisan Credit Card
11. June 5, 2003, Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation Limited
12. June 9, 2003, AIDS (in Telugu)
08. April 17, 2003, Hindustan Petroleum's Lal Ghora Diesel Engine Oil
13. July 20, 2003, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
14. July 20, 2003, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Chhattisgarh
15. July 30, 2003, Godavari Pushkarams 2003
16. August 1, 2003, Central Ground Water Authority (in Hindi)
17. August 1, 2003, Central Ground Water Authority (in English)
18. August 11, 2003, Coconut Development Board
19. September 1, 2003, Daman Tourism
20. September 1, 2003, Diu Tourism
21. September 1, 2003, State Malaria Control Society, Gujarat
22. September 10, 2003, Tamilnadu AIDS Control Society
23. October 4, 2003, Cleanliness (in Tamil)
24. October 22, 2003, State Bank of India Bikaner & Jaipur
25. October 22, 2003, Afro-Asian Games
26. October 29, 2003, Cleanliness 2(in Tamil)

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

\$ 48 MILLION FOR AN AUSTRALIAN STAMP

The 1914 King George V penny red was recently bought by a Melbourne stamp dealer Gary Watson, acting on behalf of a private collector, for a record price of \$48,400 at auction. Its value was boosted by the fact that it lacked perforations along the bottom edge.

It had been unearthed earlier by Adelaide dealer Steve Meharry, who picked the stamp from a collection he was asked to appraise that was owned by a 90-year-old local man. It caused a stir in stamp circles as the particular penny red had not been heard of for about 30 or 40 years.

While some Australian stamps sold in groups and some stamps issued by individual states have fetched more, it was the highest price paid for an individual item since the Commonwealth of Australia began issuing stamps in 1913.

The previous record price paid for an individual stamp was \$39,600 at an auction in May 2001.

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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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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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.

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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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, (January-June) Rs.650

Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on CD

Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on the Web Site

Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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