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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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Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan
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of this issue for details.
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Looking at the coverage of persons including stamp dealers arrested  
recently in connection with the fake stamp scam it appears that no one  
in the print and electronic media in India has ever heard of the hobbies  
of Philately and Numismatics that is collection of stamps, coins,  
currencies and bank notes. Therefore it may be impossible for them to  
comprehend that this is a recognized business worldwide and collectibles  
form part of legitimate commerce all over the world.

The media has been showing loads of stamps, both used and mint, as well  
as currency notes of various countries found on the premises of the  
stamp dealers and in an irresponsible manner pronouncing that all these  
are fakes. They also alleged that all used stamps were meant to be  
reused after removing postal markings.

For this gross non-awareness of philately in India the philatelists, both amateur and professional, as well as India Post is responsible.

We believe in the saying that 'Problems are opportunities in work clothes' and thus would like to see this opportunity being utilized by all concerned with philately to spread the word about the hobby to the masses.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Anil Suri, Sanjay Kansal, Vispi Dastur, Press Trust of India, and The Hindu.

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We invite your inputs, please email to feedback@stampsfindia.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**

**INDIA 2004 POSTPONED**

India Post has announced that it has postponed the INDIA 2004 World Philatelic Exhibition proposed to be held during December 2004. The new dates will be announced later.

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NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INDIA POST

Vijay Bhushan, a 1967 batch officer of the Indian Postal Service, took over as Secretary (Posts) to Government of India in the Ministry of Communications on November 30, 2003. Bhushan shall also be the Chairman of the Postal Services Board and the Director General of India Post.

A Graduate from St. Stephens College, New Delhi Bhushan did his M. Sc. in Economics from the London School of Economics. He has worked in the Cabinet Secretariat and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He has been a UNDP Consultant to the Royal Government of Bhutan in 1989. He has held many senior positions in the Department of Posts and was Member Operations before assuming charge as Secretary Posts.

The philatelists in India and the world over have high expectations from him being the former head of the Philately Division of India Post and the Chairman of the World Association for the Development of Philately.

The Stamps of India Team welcomes Bhushan and wishes him all the best for his new assignment and is sure that he would bring laurels for the country from the international arena.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

December 10

1. India Korea Joint Issue, Set of 2, Rs15, in Sheetlet of 16
2. S Nijalingappa, Rs5

December 11

200<sup>th</sup> Session of Rajya Sabha, Rs5

December 18

Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava, Rs5

December 31

Major Somnath Sharma PVC, Rs5

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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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

HARIVANSH RAI BACHCHAN

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs5, on renowned Hindi poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan on his 95th birth anniversary on November 27, 2003 at a function at Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh Governor Vishnu Kant Shastri, and corporate captains, Reliance vice-chairman Anil Ambani with his wife Tina, Godrej chief Adi with his wife Parmeshwar, and Sahara India chief Subroto Roy Sahara were also present on this occasion besides Bachchan family members including the poet's son Amitabh Bachchan, daughter-in-law Jaya, grandson Abhishek.

Bachchan's first collection of Hindi verse 'Madhushala' earned him instant recognition and continues to remain one of the most popular set of Hindi verses even today. He enriched Hindi literature from 1932 to 1995 with about 74 books and writings that ranged from poetry, drama, essays, and translations, to stories and books for children.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing a write-up and technical data and priced at Rs2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs2.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by Photo Offset in two colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

INDIA FRANCE JOINT ISSUE

India Post released a pair of se-tenant postage stamps and a miniature sheet in a joint issue with France on November 29, 2003. The stamps in

the denomination of Rs22 each, the inland registered post rate, depict a rooster from a 15th century colored print and a peacock from a 19th century jewellery from France and India respectively. The miniature sheet is priced at Rs44.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamp, miniature sheet and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs 2.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by Photo Offset in four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 3 million each in the sheetlets of 16 stamps. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 50,000 only.

YASHPAL

India Post released a stamp to commemorate the birth centenary of the noted Hindi writer Yashpal in the denomination of Rs5 on December 1, 2003.

Yashpal's short stories, essays, novels and reminiscences reflect his intense patriotic fervor and his relentless campaign for an equal place for women in the society. His novel 'Jhoota Sach' (False Truth) with partition of India as its subject has been compared to the works of Balzac, Victor Hugo and Leo Tolstoy's War & Peace in its scope and breadth.

The basis of the stamp design is a portrait of the author by Gogi Saroj Pal. Bijoy Varghese designed the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs2.

India Security Press of Nashik Road printed the stamps by photogravure in four colors on imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 35 stamps.

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#### CHINA 2003 AWARDS

16<sup>th</sup> Asian International Philatelic Exhibition was held at Mianyang in China from November 20 to 24, 2003. Sahadeva Sahoo, the caretaker President of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) was the national commissioner for India. V S Dastur was the only jury from India and no other jury was nominated to replace M G Pittie the permanent jury from India in Asian exhibitions who was unable to make it due to family reasons.

The awards for Indian participants at China 2003 are as follows:  
Subrata Chakravarty and Richi Richa Das (youth class) won Large Silver Medals for 'India Postal Stationery 1947-75' and for 'Life & Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi'. Subrata Chakravarty and Daniel Montero won Silver Medals for 'Birds' and for 'Waterfowls'. Om Prakash Jagati won Silver Bronze Medal for 'Glimpses of India'. Moomin Sinha (youth class) and Bijoy Biswal won Bronze Medals for 'Sound of Music' and Natural World of Australia'.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

KERAPEX 2003

India Post organized the 10th Kerala state level philatelic exhibition from November 27 to 30, 2003 at Trichur. The show was very well organized and was a trendsetter in many ways.

KERAPEX 2003 is the first state level exhibition in India to have its own web site <http://www.kerapex2003.com>. Another very interesting and useful feature was the publication of an Information Brochure giving details of places of interest around Trichur, places of worship in Trichur, telephone numbers of public services, of organizers & senior officers of India Post, of venue and of hotels where the officers and guests were staying during the exhibition.

218 participants including 98 in Youth class and 8 Schools displayed their exhibits in 495 frames and 5 publications. These are new records crossing the magic number of 200 participants and 500 frames in competition class for a state level exhibition. In addition several internationally acclaimed exhibits were displayed in Invitee class in 44 frames.

The Jury chaired by Chief Post Master General of Kerala, K N K Karthiayani consisted of Dr Sita Bhateja and Manohar Lal with Mervin Alexander and P A Ravindranath as Apprentices.

Molly Tharakan the wife of the Director General of Kerala Police, Hormese Tharakan gave away the awards. There were 10 Vermeil, 22 Silver, 25 Silver Bronze, 39 bronze and 36 Diplomas awarded. In School Collections Class the Bhavan's Vidya Mandir, Kochi won the Chief Minister's Rolling Trophy and Government High School won the Education Minister's Rolling Trophy. Website

Four special covers with special postmarks, one for each day, were released that feature Education, Environment, Festivals, and Medicines for which Kerala is well known. A souvenir was also released on the occasion. Please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Trichur 680001 for availability and other details.

A workshop on philately, a philatelic quiz competition, a painting competition, oration based on stamps, story writing based on stamps besides philatelic treasure hunt was organized during the show.

NATIONAL AIR RACE

The Aeronautical Society of India with support of the Indian Air Force organized the first national air race to mark the centenary of the powered flight. 50 participants took off in their light, medium, and heavy aircrafts from Barrackpore in East, Goa in the West, and Bangalore in the South to land at Nagpur, the geographical centre of India on November 22, 2003. Deputy Prime Minister of India L K Advani distributed prizes on November 23, 2003.

Vijay Seth of New Delhi displayed at Nagpur his philatelic collection in 8 frames, 4 on India aviation stamps and covers, 2 on Wright Brothers, and 2 on pioneers of aviation.

India Post provided a special postmark and issued a special cover on November 20, 2003 at Bangalore to commemorate the event.

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.

December

9, New Delhi, Festival of Stamps
19-21, Kolkata, National Stamp Fair - CANCELLED
26-29, Dharwar, KARNAPEX, State Level

January 2004

9-11, Tirupur, Coin-Stampex
9-12, Nagpur, MAHAPEX, State Level

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

POSTAL HISTORY OF PORTUGUESE INDIA

The 'Postal History of Portuguese India' authored by the eminent philatelist specializing in Portuguese India, Umesh Kakkeri shall be ceremoniously released in Goa on December 17, 2003.

Kakkeri is the first Indian to have researched the Portuguese India postmarks and this work is a ready reference to Portuguese India philately, giving a detailed postal history from the beginning of Portuguese possession to the liberation and the postmarks used during the Portuguese era from 1923 till 1961 including first day postmarks.

The book also gives the chronological list of the stamps with photos issued during the Portuguese possession in India including their designer, printer, quantities printed, colour, paper and errors & variety, etc. postage stationary like post cards, lettercards, aerogrammes used in Portuguese regime.

This book is not only a must for a Portuguese India philatelist but a collector item to a person interested in postal history of any state - in short a must for the library.

The review of the book shall be published in the first issue of the newsletter for the year 2004. Meanwhile The book having 16 colour photographs of rare and unique philatelic material may be ordered directly from the author who may also be contacted for further information umesh_kakkeri@hotmail.com

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE NORTH POST, Vol. 18-19, November 2003,

Editors: Dr. S K Sondhi & Dr. R L Bansal
Publishers: Ludhiana Philatelic Club
Address: 20A Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana 141001
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

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GUMMING OF STAMP PAPER

India Security Press of Nashik Road invited bids for gumming and super calendaring of all over Ashoka Pillar watermarked stamp base paper reels and cutting in to sheets. A reel of base paper is 4600 meters long with 1.05 meter width. The reels shall be cut in to sheets of 51x71 centimeters and 51x76 centimeters.

The last date for sale of bid documents is December 30, 2003. The bids must be submitted by January 15, 2004 and shall be opened on January 16, 2004.

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STAMP DEALERS CAUGHT IN STAMP SCAM

Prasoon Agrawal was arrested by Police on November 26, 2003 from his residence in Nashik in connection with fake franking case registered at Mumbai's suburb, Versova in 2002. He was absconding for a year and was traced to Nashik where he was living under assumed identity of Abhay Bansal. The police seized computers used by the suspects for franking.

Police also arrested his younger brother Pranay Agrawal, and their two servants Anil Jadhav and Mansingh Nepali. Following their interrogation police seized fake special adhesive stamps worth over Rs 7.2 million from a dump in Nasik on November 29, 2003.

Yogesh Khare, a local correspondent of Zee TV, feeling left out from being part of the team breaking the news story decided to create some exclusive news for him. Khare discovered another house belonging to Agarwal and entered it along with TV cameraman colleague in the early hours of December 1, 2003. Khare found over 200 cartons, broke open several and found large quantity of mint & used stamps and currency notes. Soon after telecast of this a team of the Nashik police raided the house and seized the stamps and currencies.

Police raided two houses in Panvel, Navi Mumbai, on December 2, 2003 and seized 450 bags and 550 boxes and recovered large quantity of coins, used and new postal stamps of various nations.

Police raided on December 3, 2003 a house in Belapur, Navi Mumbai that resulted in recovery of 22 cartons of used and unused stamps from different countries being seized. Most of the stamps recovered on 3rd evening were from European and Latin American countries.

The brothers are second generation stamp dealers. Prasson Agarwal was also based in UK for a few years while Pranay Agarwal was operating from UAE for some time. The brothers also have participated in some FIP world philatelic exhibition with a dealer's booth.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The Economic Offence Wing of Mumbai Police arrested Navi Mumbai's Assistant Commissioner of Police R B Yenam on November 2, 2003 for alleged lapses in the probe. Yenam, the eighth policeman to be arrested, is allegedly involved in one of the seven cases registered against the Telgi syndicate in Mumbai. Yenam was a Senior Inspector in Dharavi unit of crime branch in 1998 when one of the seven fake stamp paper cases was probed by him. Along with him, Assistant Police Inspector Dilip Kamath and Police Inspector Dattatraya Dal were also posted in the same unit of the crime branch. Both Kamath and Dal have already been arrested for allegedly going soft on Telgi. Yenam was produced before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on November 3, 2003 and was remanded to police custody till December 9, 2003.

2

Maharashtra's Special Investigation Team (SIT) arrested Mumbai's former Police Commissioner, R S Sharma on December 1, 2003, a day after his retirement under Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act in connection with the multibillion rupee fake stamp racket. The tenth and the highest ranking policeman arrested by the SIT, Sharma as Pune's Police Commissioner headed the investigation into Telgi's multifarious, nationwide fake stamp racket. SIT also grilled Sharma on November 30, 2003, his last day in office, after he declined to come over for further questioning on November 29, 2003. On December 1, 2003 he was grilled for the fifth time before being arrested.

Also on December 1, 2003 the 12-member team of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Bhure and Police Inspector Ashmita Bhonsle raided Sharma's residence. The ACB search, which lasted for more than five hours, went on past midnight.

Sharma was produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class M N Bondre at Pune on November 2, 2003 and was remanded to police custody till December 9, 2003.

3

Mumbai's Assistant Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Ramakant Padwal was suspended on November 29, 2003, a day before his retirement for allegedly shielding prime accused Telgi and reported negligence in investigations. Padwal had allowed his juniors to reportedly go soft on Telgi when the latter was in the custody of Mumbai police early this year.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for December 2003 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

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.

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SANT TUKARAM COINS

India Government Mint, Kolkata has made arrangements for the sale of Proof & Un-circulated Commemorative Coins in the memory of Sant Tukaram. The booking will remain open from December 1, 2003 to January 15, 2004.

Coins are in four denominations, Rs100, 50, 10, and 2. The Hundred Rupees Coin is of Quarternary Alloy, Circular in shape (44 mm dia, 35 grams). Fifty Rupees Coin is of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Circular in shape (39 mm dia, 30 grams). Ten Rupees Coin is of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Circular in shape (31 mm dia, 12.5 grams). Two Rupees Coin is of Cupro Nickel Alloy, Eleven sided 26 mm size from flat to crest weighing 6 grams. Quarternary Alloy is 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% Zinc, and 5% Nickel. Cupro Nickel Alloy is 75% copper and 25% Nickel.

Proof Coins are available in the set of 4 (Rs100, Rs50, Rs10, Rs2) priced at Rs1130, whereas un-circulated coins available in a set of 3 (Rs100, Rs50, Rs10) priced at Rs750. In addition, a provisional sales tax of 11.5% is also payable. Postage, insurance, and packing charges are Rs130, 220, 300, 380, 460 for one, two, three, four, five and six sets respectively. Coins can be booked by submitting a demand draft drawn on Kolkata branch of any Nationalized Bank in favor of 'Reserve Bank Of India - A/C India Government Mint, Kolkata'

Delivery will be on the basis of first booked, first delivered. About 150 coin sets are expected to be delivered per month. There is no fixed delivery schedule.

The order form along with necessary details is also available on the website <http://www.igmint.org/>

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

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.stampsfindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

WORLD AIDS DAY

The State Post Bureau of China issued a stamp to mark the World AIDS Day in the denomination of 80 cents at Beijing on December 1, 2003.

The stamp printed in the quantity of 9.13 million, with the design of a heart-shaped red-ribbon, symbolizes the care and support given by the society to HIV carriers and AIDS patients.

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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 international  
philatelic sites are listed under LINKS.

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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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)

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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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