

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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 # 146 - December 11, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan  
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I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
India Korea Joint Issue Released  
Postal Stationery New Issues  
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New Special Postmarks  
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Nepal India Exhibition  
Recent Periodical Publications  
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Alternative Nobel Prizes  
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BACK ISSUES are available Online, in Print and on CD, please see the end  
of this issue for details.  
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Once again we have to look for another good Internet Service Provider  
(ISP) in place of Tatnova.com that closed down. We have to experiment  
by mailing through different ISPs as we have found that certain ISPs and  
email addresses don't work together.

We request you to kindly help us to find the best solution by letting us  
know the non-receipt of the issue/s in your inbox.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Prashant  
Pandya, Press Trust of India, The Hindu  
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We invite your inputs, please email to [feedback@stampsfindia.com](mailto: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

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

December 10 - Postponed  
S Nijalingappa, Rs5

December 11  
200<sup>th</sup> Session of Rajya Sabha, Rs5

December 18  
Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava, Rs5

December 20  
Swami Swaroopanand, 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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INDIA KOREA JOINT ISSUE RELEASED

India Post released a pair of se-tenant postage stamps in a joint issue with Korea on December 10, 2003. The stamps in the denomination of Rs15 each, the overseas airmail letter rate, depict ancient observatories of two nations, Cheomseongade, Gyeongju (647 AD) and Jantar Matar, Jaipur (1728 AD) from Korea and India respectively.

Bharati Meerchandani designed the stamps 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 0.8 million each in the sheetlets of 16 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

ADDENDA to the Issues of December 2003 (Issue #144 of November 27, 2003)

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

Envelope - MAHABALIPURAM, 500 Paise, Brown

31, ISP, Kannada, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M

31, ISP, Oriya, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M

31, ISP, Urdu, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M

31, ISP, Tamil, Live life with renewable energy, 1, M

Aerogramme - MAHABALIPURAM, 850 Paise, Blue

31, ISP, English, Global Trust Bank

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NEW PHILATELIC PRODUCTS

The Philatelic Bureau, Calicut Head Post Office 673001 has introduced many innovative products:

GLAMOUR PACK 2002

A pack consisting of all commemorative stamps issued in 2002. The pack priced at Rs400 contains 54 stamps with a face value of Rs314. The best thing about this pack is a booklet that illustrates and provides a write-up and technical data on each issue. This is much better than the annual collectors pack brought out every year. May we recommend that all the packs for 2003 should be like this one!

BOOKLET OF STAMPS & GREETING LABELS

This is a booklet of 6 stamps in the denomination of Rs4 that is inland book-post rate and also used for mailing greeting cards, and 6 self-adhesive multicolored labels featuring 'thank you', 'congratulations', 'best wishes', 'happy birthday', 'get well soon', and 'good luck'. The booklet is priced at Rs40.

STAMP CARDS

Calicut Philatelic Bureau's 2<sup>nd</sup> set of 6 picture post cards depicting stamps was launched on sale at BANGKOK 2003 world philatelic exhibition. The set priced at Rs25 is one of the best in quality of production and in usefulness by providing details of stamps on the cards. Their first set of 18 cards was a best seller and is now sold out.

The Philatelic Bureau, Kochi 682001 also recently brought out a set of 6 picture post cards depicting stamps. The set is priced at Rs25.

India Post's Kerala Circle brought out a set of 15 picture post cards depicting stamps at KERAPEX 2003. This is the first set of stamp cards of its type. The picture side of the card carries a picture and the relevant stamp is reproduced on the address side with description. The set is priced at Rs75 and is available from the Philatelic Bureau, Thrissur 680001.

AIRMAIL ENVELOPE

Thrissur Head Post Office 680001 is selling A5 size Airmail Envelopes of good quality with multicolor printing with Rs15 adhesive stamp affixed for Rs15 only. The envelope also carries an advertisement in Malayalam

about India Post's International Money Transfer service in partnership with Western Union. The envelope fulfills a need for Pre-stamped airmail envelopes that were last issued nearly 35 years ago and which are very much in demand in Kerala.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on September 27, 2003 at Elamakkara to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Her Holiness Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi. A special cover was also brought out on this occasion.

India Post provided a special postmark on September 28, 2003 at Anandashram to commemorate the birth centenary of Mother Krishnabai. A special cover was also brought out on this occasion.

India Post provided a special postmark on December 9, 2003 at New Delhi to Rotary International Presidential Celebration on Water Management. A special cover was also brought out on this occasion. Please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Sansad Marg Head Post Office, New Delhi 100 001 for availability and charges.

Dr. Y T Chandarana, Vice President of Baroda Philatelic Society and practicing dentist provided the concept for the special cover and special postmark design of the World Congress on Prosthodontics & 31st Indian Prosthodontic Society Congress. The cover was released by the President of India A P J Abdul Kalam on November 26, 2003. Dr. Y T Chandarana's collection 'Dentistry through Philately' was also on display at the Congresses held from November 26 to 29, 2003 at New Delhi.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PATHPEX, THRISSURPEX, & KANNURPEX

India Post organized district level philatelic exhibitions on September 19-20, 2003 at Pathanamthitta, on September 19-21, 2003 at Thrissur, and on September 20-21, 2003 at Kannur, all in Kerala Circle. Two special postmarks and special covers were issued on each occasion.

MUZPEX

India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on October 13-15, 2003 at Muzaffarpur in Bihar Circle. Three special postmarks and special covers were issued on the occasion.

KOTTAYAM DISTRICT

India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on October 20-21, 2003 at Changanassery in Kerala Circle. Two special postmarks and special covers were issued on the occasion.

BHRUGUPEX

The first district level philatelic exhibition of Bharuch district - was held at Rotary Youth Club, Opposite S T Depot, Bharuch on November 15-16, 2003. This exhibition was organized by the Bharuch Division of India Post to promote philately in Bharuch and Narmada districts. A Special

Cover was released on the occasion on the first day depicting Maharshi Bhrugu who established Bhrugukatchh, which is now known as Bharuch.

#### PHILATELIC FESTIVAL

The Principal Chief Post Master General of the Delhi Circle, Jyotsana Diesh inaugurated the Philatelic Festival organized by the Central Division of Delhi Circle of India Post on December 9, 2003 at Babu Samaj Sewa Kendra Community Hall, Panchkuian Road, New Delhi. A philatelic quiz was conducted by eminent philatelist Pulak Gupta. Post Master General of the Delhi Circle, R R P Singh gave away the awards to winners of stamp designs competitions held earlier at several schools. The exhibits of Pulak Gupta, Pallab Bose, Vijay Seth, Praachi Gupta, and of yours truly were displayed in the invitee class. Dealers booth were setup by Capital Stamp Company and S D Bhatia. India Post also operated counters selling philatelic products and greeting cards. Hundreds of students from several schools visited the festival and the event was well covered by the press.

#### CALENDAR OF 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

22-23, Surat, SURATPEX, District Level  
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>

#### NEPAL INDIA EXHIBITION

Nepal Philatelic Society and Nepal Bharat Friendship Society are jointly organizing a Postage Stamps Exhibition from January 25 to 27, 2004 on the auspicious occasion of Republic day of India to highlight the relationship between India and Nepal since 1816 when British Residency was established in Nepal and the communication started with other nations through Indian Embassy in Kathmandu.

This exhibition is National Level and is non competitive. The participation from philatelists in India is invited with exhibits related and focused on Indo-Nepal relations.

#### RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIGNET, Vol. 26 No. 2, July September 2003, Quarterly

Editor: S Sahoo

Publisher: Philatelic Congress of India

Address: D M Pitte, Suket, 4th floor, 29B Dongersi Cross Lane, Mumbai 6

Annual Subscription: Rs.100 in India US\$ 12 overseas by airmail

## FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

P N Jayasimha, formerly Superintendent of Central Jail at Parapana Agrahara and now Principal of Prison Training School in Mysore, and Assistant Jail Superintendent Nanjappa were arrested on December 9, 2003 by a Karnataka Police's Stamp Investigation Team (STAMPIT) on the charge of helping prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi to run the scam from jail. Both officials allowed free access of cell phone to Telgi and helped him to continue, expand and monitor the sale and circulation of fake stamp papers in different parts of the country.

2

Maharashtra State Government finally agreed on December 9, 2003 to hand over the probe into the multi-billion fake stamp scam to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal announced in the state assembly. Replying to a marathon debate on the scam, Bhujbal, who also holds the Home portfolio, told the lower house that it was decided to hand over the probe to CBI after Chief Minister Sushilkumar Shinde had consultations with the Law and Judiciary department. Earlier in the day Maharashtra Governor Mohammed Fazal advocated need to transfer the probe to CBI saying he has received a feedback from several quarters that an outside agency should conduct investigations instead of state-appointed SIT.

3

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has arrested Inspector K K Parmar of Mumbai police for his alleged connivance with fake stamps scamster Telgi on December 8, 2003. Parmar has been placed under suspension for not initiating appropriate legal action against the scamster when he was arrested by the Colaba police in 1995. Parmar figures in the seven cases registered by the Mumbai police against Telgi from 1995 to 2002, in which defective action was taken against the scamster, with an alleged motive of helping him get bail, sources said.

4

Mumbai Police arrested a retired Deputy Superintendent of Stamps, Baban Tukaram Ranjane on December 8, 2003 under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act and he was remanded to police custody till December 16, 2003. Ranjane, who has been accused of abetting Telgi, was questioned thrice before he was arrested. The prosecution submitted that though he was aware of Telgi's illegal activities in collusion with other officers of the General Stamp Office, he remained a spectator and had failed to take action against the three firms belonging to Telgi. A week ago, the SIT had sought information from Inspector General of Stamp Nitin Karir on the procedure adopted for granting stamp vendor licenses, the number of licenses given since 1995, and the role of officials involved in the process. The SIT has already recorded the statement of the then Superintendent of Stamp R L Mopalwar since he was the first to lodge a complaint against Telgi in 1995.

5

Delhi's North District Police arrested Surender Pratap Singh alias Munna Bhai, his wife Hemlata alias Dolly and one Dinesh Singh on December 7,

2003 and recovered fake stamps worth more than Rs15 million. The police also recovered printing materials including computer, scanner, colour tone cartridges, printer, exposers, printing block and blank water mark papers.

6

District magistrate Vinay Kumar has seized forged and fake stamp papers worth several million of rupees and took five persons to custody on December 6, 2003 following raids on stamp vendors inside the premises of the office of sub-divisional officer at Bagaha in Bihar's West Champaran district. A case was also registered with the town police station in Bettiah against the stamp vendor Amir Narayan Tiwari. The Bihar state government has already recommended a CBI probe in to the stamp racket.

7

The SIT on December 5, 2003 interrogated Director General of Police (CID, Pune) T K Choudhary in connection with the fake stamp racket. Choudhary is the first DGP-level official to be questioned by the SIT. As the then head of the Establishment Department, Choudhary transferred a police officer of the Mumbai Crime Branch's Cyber Cell to Nagpur reportedly on the request of his orderly, who in turn was influenced by prime accused Telgi. The official was reportedly assigned a sensitive case involving Telgi, and was nearing completion of the probe when he received marching orders for Nagpur.

8

Suspended Assistant Commissioner of Police Mohammed Chand Mulani, was arrested on December 4, 2003 in connection with the fake stamp racket, by the SIT. Mulani is accused of having taken bribe from the prime accused in the scam, Telgi, to shield some of his relatives. The SIT has also taped a conversation between Mulani and Telgi's lawyer Rashid Kulkarni, who has already been arrested. Mulani is the 61st person to be arrested in connection with the scam and the eighth officer to be arrested under Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). Mulani, was to retire on August 31, 2003 but was suspended by Maharashtra government on August 24.

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FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL ISSUES

Maria Libera of the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) informs that the investigations are ongoing to process denouncements of illegal stamps that have appeared or which are still on the market in the names of the following postal administrations: Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Union of Comoros, Congo (Republic), Congo (Democratic Republic), Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, East Timor, Eritrea, Estonia (its islands), Falkland Islands, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Kosovo (UNMIK), Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco (the Sahara Republic), Mauritania, Union of Myanmar, Niger, the Russian Federation (its internal republics and provinces), Rwanda, Sao Tome é Principe, Somalia, Tajikistan, Chad, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The UPU circulars already issued in the names of a large number of countries have unfortunately not yet stopped the continued proliferation of illegal stamps in the names of these and other countries. The combat

against this serious problem must continue and everyone needs to contribute by sending us as much material as possible that they see on the market that is or may be doubtful in nature and which requires investigation.

As part of strengthening the combat against the continuing proliferation of illegal stamps, collectors and dealers to continue to be particularly careful when they see issues on the market in the names of the targeted countries, in particular during philatelic exhibitions, on the Internet, and in various advertising materials. It is important that they have the listing of the legal issues and they double-check beforehand the authenticity of the stamps they want to purchase, than to regret their purchase later.

More and more of the countries now have their legal and official stamps on their own websites. More and more countries are also signing up to the UPU's WADP Numbering system which lists the official stamps issued since 1 January 2002 on the website, [www.wnsstamps.ch](http://www.wnsstamps.ch) and now have 143 postal administrations participating in the WNS system. Your comments on the value of this site are welcome.

The complete and up-to-date summary of circulars issued to date which denounce illegal stamps is being updated. Also, expanding the Philatelic entry in the UPU Website is now completed and information on illegal stamps is available there also.

The readers should feel free to contact her directly with any queries that they may have regarding stamps on the market and their authenticity, or any other philatelic issue and also to be on the mailing list for information on illegal stamps. The information is available in several languages.

Maria S. Libera, Program Manager, Markets Development, Responsible for Philately, Directorate of Markets, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Case postale, 3000 Berne 15, Switzerland. Tel: +41 31 350 32 15 /350 31 11 Fax: +4131 350 31 10 e-mail: [maria.libera@upu.int](mailto:maria.libera@upu.int)

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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.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

ALTERNATIVE NOBEL PRIZES

Jakob von Uexkull, a Swedish-German philatelic expert, sold his valuable postage stamps to provide the original endowment and founded in 1980, the Right Livelihood Awards often referred to as Alternative Nobel Prizes that are presented annually in the Swedish Parliament.

Alfred Nobel wanted to honor those whose work 'brought the greatest benefit to humanity'. Von Uexkull felt that the Nobel Prizes today ignore much work and knowledge vital for our world and future and introduced Right Livelihood Awards to honor and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today.

The 2003 Right Livelihood Honorary Award recognizes four people and organizations that will share the cash Award valued at €220000.

It was presented in a ceremony on December 8, 2003 in Stockholm to David Lange, whom the jury recognized 'for his steadfast work over many years for a world free of nuclear weapons'. Lange was prime minister of New Zealand in 1984 when the country passed legislation that banned nuclear-powered and armed vessels from New Zealand's territory and promoted the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

The Right Livelihood also honored Walden Bello and Nicanor Perlas of the Philippines 'for their outstanding efforts in educating civil society about the effects of corporate globalization, and how alternatives to it can be implemented'.

The Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice of South Korea was recognized for working successfully since 1989 to make Korean economic development more just, inclusive and democratic.

The other organization recognized was Sekem of Egypt, a group that aims to show how a modern business can combine engagement in world markets with a humane and spiritual approach to people and respect for the environment.

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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://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)

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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