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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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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

It is that time of the year again when there is festivity in the air and
some begin to dream of a white Christmas and others begin planning their
winter break. Braving the winter chill we continue our endeavour to
send out the issues on time.

The year is at an end and there is one more issue to go before we see
the dawn of the year 2004.

We wish to thank all our readers who informed us regarding the receipt
of the previous issue as we were having some difficulty due to the
change in the internet service provider (ISP). We have received some
messages regarding the non-receipt also and wish to inform that the
issue is posted on our website and may be down loaded by any reader who
has not received it.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: 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

SEMINAR ON PHILATELY

Delhi Circle of India Post organized a Seminar on the 'Promotion of Philately' on December 17, 2003 at YMCA International Conference Hall, New Delhi. It was an attempt to bring different stake holders in Philately to the same platform to discuss the various means by which philately could be promoted.

The seminar began with a presentation by Devika Kumar, DDG (Phil) on Perspective of Department of Posts, where she highlighted the objective of the Department to make philately a well known recreational activity and to target the young people as most philatelists are veterans. She also mentioned that there were various stake holder who collectively need to focus on the bigger picture and not only on areas of their concern.

Yours truly presented a paper on Perspective of Collectors and what they desire from the India Post in terms of services for philately to make it easier and more enjoyable for the collectors to continue to enrich their collections across the world with Indian Stamps.

Gowri Ishwaran the Principal of Sanskriti School gave a wonderful presentation on Perspective of Students and use of stamps and philately in education. She explained how the involvement of the students increased many folds when the teachers used stamps as an educational aid for teaching subjects like maths, social sciences, fun activities like just a minute, write a short paragraph or tell a story on the stamp and research based on the image of the stamp.

The seminar was attended by Jyotsna Diesh, Principal Postmaster General Delhi Circle and the moderator for the discussions was V S Saxena, Member Postal services Board (Retd) Vandita Kaul held the activities together and proposed the vote of thanks. It was good to see a healthy interaction between the officers of the Department, the philatelists and different school representatives. The recommendation from the seminar would be circulated to all concerned and be used for the promotion of philately at different levels.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

December 18

Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava, Rs5

December 20

Swami Swaroopanand, Rs5

December 22

Sangeet Natak Academy, Set of 3, Rs5 each, Miniature Sheet Rs.15

December 29

Folk Music: Lalan Fakir & Allah Jilai Bai, Set of 2, Rs5 each

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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200TH SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA STAMP RELEASED

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee released a stamp on the 200th Session of Rajya Sabha on December 11, 2003. The stamp depicts in the denomination of Rs5, the inland letter rate.

The bicameral Central Legislature was first inaugurated in India in 1921 as Council of States and Legislative Assembly. The new constitution of India after independence renamed these houses as Rajya Sabha (House of States) and Lok Sabha (House of People) that are the constituents of India's Parliament. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamp, the First Day Cover and the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing 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 four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 0.8 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post will provide a special postmark on December 28, 2003 at New Delhi on the Golden Jubilee of the University Grants Commission. A special cover is also being brought out on this occasion.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

The new issues of the postal stationery including advertisements are now available at the 8 philatelic bureaus in India. Ahmedabad is the latest bureau added in October 2003.

The work relating to the Meghdoot Post Card is decentralized to the Circles. The head of postal circles now can approve new proposals and

place orders direct to Security Printing Press, Hyderabad, the designated printer for this item of the postal stationery.

The Inland Letter Card with the multicolor advertisement of Andhra Bank in English in the quantity of 0.5 million was issued on November 15, 2003. The original date of issue of this was December 15, 2003 that was rescheduled and advanced by one month.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION HALL, CHENNAI

D Hemchandra Rao, president of Madras Coin Society and member of South India Philatelist Association exhibited his collection on the theme 'Maritime Heritage and Indian Navy' at the Philatelic Exhibition Hall of Anna Salai Head Post Office, Chennai. He displayed stamps, coins, bank notes, postmarks covers and other forms to cover the history of the Navy and that of the Mohenjo Daro period in 3,000 BC.

Rao recently exhibited his collections on Navy Day 2003, in Chennai and the Indian Navy requested him to loan his collections on Coast Guard Ship to be taken on-board CGS Varaha on a goodwill mission to Indonesia and to other countries.

CITPEX

Central India Philatelic Society in cooperation with the Lions Club of Satna organized a Regional Philatelic cum other collections exhibition at Satna (Madhya Pradesh) on December 14, 2003. Senior philatelist and author of famous book 'Indian Paper Money' Kishore Jhunjunwala of Mumbai was the Chief Guest and G P Lath, District Governor, Rotary District 3120 (Lucknow) was the Special Guest of this exhibition. Vivekanand Ojha, Mumbai and Arvind Malik, Jabalpur were the members of jury headed by Jhunjunwala. The exhibition was organized at Lions-Rotary Bhawan and well visited by large number of citizens and students. In the concluding function, Ramesh Lajpatrai, President of the Society welcomed the guests and Sudhir Jain, Secretary of the Society presented the report on the exhibition. The Secretary of the Lions Club Dr. Shivesh Singh gave the vote of thanks.

Following were the prize winners -

Philatelic Group

First - Dr. M C Sharma, Rewa (Wild Life)

Second - Namrita Tiwari, Satna (Music)

Third - Sanjay Kumar Shukla (Big Cat Family)

Non-Philatelic Group

First - Miss Kopal Agarwal (Feathers)

Second - Anurag Jain (Currency)

Third - Umashankar Agarwal (Special number notes)

Consolation - Sachin Tolwani and Abhiraj Singh

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>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

G P A NEWS, Whole # 75 - October 2003, Monthly

Editor: H C Mehta

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association

Address: 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009

Annual Subscription including membership: Rs.100, Entrance Fee Rs.100

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PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The recently constituted Philatelic Advisory Committee met for the first time on December 6, 2003 at New Delhi.

Vijay Bhushan attended as the new Vice Chairman in place of Padma Balasubramanian superannuated on November 30, 2003. Devika Kumar is the Member Secretary of the Committee.

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FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL ISSUES

Republic of Guinea on November 27, 2003 denounced 49 miniature sheets containing 206 stamps as illegal that have been printed and distributed in its name. There are still many illegal issues circulating in the name of 'République de Guinée' and more denouncements are to follow.

The Office de la Poste Guinéenne (OPG) has just been informed that a considerable number of illegal postage stamps bearing the name of the Republic of Guinea have been produced and freely disseminated on the philatelic market by private companies and dealers. We utterly condemn such activities and protest against them in the strongest and most severe terms. These postage stamps not only damage our reputation and tarnish our image, but also inflict even greater damage on philately as a whole and on the Universal Postal Union.

"The very existence of such stamps is illegal and offensive to the Republic of Guinea. It is, in particular, a violation of the national legislation of the Republic of Guinea, and specifically of its postal law and provisions on the production of its postage stamps. Under the terms of this law, the postal administration of Guinea is the only bodies authorized to issue and disseminate postage stamps in the name of the Republic of Guinea. Moreover, it is a flagrant violation of article 6 of the Universal Postal Convention and the associated provisions of the Letter Post Regulations, as well as of the Union's Congress decisions in this regard."

"It is regrettable to note the diversity of the means of disseminating these illegal stamps, which appear on numerous websites and in

publications promoting philately in general. It is even more worrying to note the extent to which genuine postage stamps are mingled with illegal postage stamps, totally confusing collectors and potential buyers as to the authenticity of all the postage stamps they see in the name of the country concerned."

"We have ourselves identified several hundred such illegal stamps, whose deceitful advertising even affirms the following: 'The origin of these stamps may be questionable and may be listed as illegals. We therefore suggest that you buy them only because you like them. We offer them because they are on the market.' This same advertisement has been used with reference to illegal postage stamps issued in the name of other African countries suffering from a similar situation. The fraud even promotes these illegal stamps at a relatively high price, with one price for perforated formats and twice as much for imperforate ones. There are also pre-cancelled versions bearing false postmarks and cancellation dates."

"This situation is exacerbated by the fact that the logos of various organizations are reproduced on many illegal postage stamps. These organizations might take legal action against us for abusing their intellectual property, but, we hereby disclaim all responsibility for such abuse."

"To put an end to this scourge, we are counting on the initiatives of the World Association for the Development of Philately, the Pan African Postal Union and the Universal Postal Union. We once again call upon all parties to redouble their efforts and vigilance regarding illegal stamps which may be produced, disseminated and sold on their territory, with the postal service being used as the preferred means of transmission. We request that they undertake the necessary investigations and transmit all relevant materials to the UPU. We are counting on everybody's cooperation to identify and track down the criminals."

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to give the address of our philatelic bureau, which aims to facilitate contacts amongst philatelists and to promote our country's true philately:

Bureau philatélique de Guinée, Office de la Poste Guinéenne
Direction Générale, BP 2984, Conakry, Guinea
Tel: (+224) 453 401/411 422
Fax: (+224) 41 40 45
E-mail: ousmane@sotelgui.net.gn or opg@biasy.net

Partial listing of Illegal postage stamp issues produced in the name of the Republic of Guinea (An incomplete summary of the illegal postage stamps discovered. Certain illegal postage stamps may be dated 2002 or 2003):

Issue: "Celebrities/famous figures"
Immoral scenes, sexually explicit and completely unethical
Details: */** Five miniature sheets

Issue: "Fairy tales, fantastic tales, cartoons"

Details: * Ten miniature sheets

Issue: "Paintings"

Details: */** Fifteen miniature sheets

Issue: "Vehicles (Transport)" Trains and locomotives

Details: */** Nineteen miniature sheets

Notes:

*These sheets and miniature sheets are sold in euros in perforated, imperforate and first day cover formats.

**These sheets and miniature sheets are also sold via a website, at a high price for the perforated format and twice as much for the imperforate one!

This list is not exhaustive. We will provide a follow-up as and when further cases are identified.

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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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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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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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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w04.htm>

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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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