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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

The 'Stamps of India' team wishes all readers a happy and prosperous  
2004.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: A V  
Jayachandran, and Shyam Prasad Nhuchhe Pradhan.  
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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

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

January 14

C D Deshmukh, Rs5

January 16

Nani A Palkivala, 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

LALAN FAKIR and ALLAH JILAI BAI

India Post released a set of 2 special stamps in the denomination of Rs5 each, on noted folk musicians Lalan Fakir and Allah Jilai Bai in the Personalities Series on December 29, 2003.

Lalan Fakir was the all-time emperor of Baul songs - the most popular folk songs of rural Bengal and his contribution to making them even more popular is immense. Rabindra Nath Tagore was deeply influenced by Lalan's ideology and composed many songs based on his baul philosophy. He preached spiritual ideology based on the tenets of philanthropy, universal love and secularism.

Allah Jilai Bai was born in a traditional family of musicians. Her mother used to sing in the court of Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner, Rajasthan and young Jilai Bai used to accompany her mother. Her melodious voice was found to be so captivating that she was put under the tutelage of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh when she was merely eight years old. Her forte was Maand and Lok Sangeet. She was awarded 'Padamashri' by the Government of India besides several other prestigious awards by various other Academies of art and culture.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamp, and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed 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 0.4 million each in the sheets of 50 stamps.

MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 on December 31, 2003 to commemorate Major Somnath Sharma, the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, the highest gallantry award.

Sharma was born in a family of soldiers and doctors and took to the army life reveling in the challenges of a hard life. In 1947 he was selected to be a part of the force that was sent to rescue Kashmir from tribal raiders. His company was surrounded by more than 700 enemy forces and began to sustain heavy casualties. Sharma urged his company to fight the enemy tenaciously and kept exposing himself repeatedly to heavy fire to urge his company to hold on that resulted in the reinforcements to get into position and stem the tide of the enemy advance. Major Sharma set an example of soldierly qualities seldom equaled in the history of the Indian Army.

India Security Press designed the stamp. Alka Sharma designed 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.

India Security Press of Nashik Road printed the stamps by photogravure in multicolor on imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

S NIJALINGAPPA

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 on December 31, 2003 to commemorate S Nijalingappa who straddled the history of Karnataka and left a mark that has never been effaced.

The teachings of Nijalingappa's parents laid the foundation for a secular outlook. He became a lawyer and his guiding principles as a lawyer were truth and justice and he believed that making money was not the goal of a lawyer. He played an important role in the liberation of the motherland and participated in the flag movement in 1938. Formation of a separate Karnataka State and leading it as its first Chief Minister was a major milestone in his life. He was committed to creating a humanistic egalitarian, moral and democratic political environment. He visualized an India that was economically strong, socially vibrant and modern in outlook.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamp. Alka Sharma designed 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.

Madras Security Printers of Chennai printed the stamp by Photo Offset in four colors on Imported Un-watermarked Stamp Paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisements is scheduled for release in January 2004.

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

Post Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 50 Paise, Brown  
10, SPP, Hindi, Anti tobacco, 6, M  
10, SPP, Hindi, Sony Max TV Channel, 2, M  
15, SPP, Tamil, xxxxxx, 1

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue  
31, SPP, Tamil and English, Small Savings, 2

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NEW MEGHDOOT POST CARD

Thanks to the recent decentralization of the work relating to issue of Meghdoot post cards to the Circles from the Directorate, the information on the new issues of these has become as elusive as the information on the special postmarks.

A Meghdoot post card was issued on November xx, 2003 featuring ad of Government of Andhra Pradesh's 'Hyderabad YES Regional Forum'.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

KARNAPEX 2003

India Post organized the 9<sup>th</sup> Karnataka state level philatelic exhibition from December 26 to 29, 2003 at Dharwad and was one of the very well organized shows.

An Information Brochure giving details of places of interest around Dharwad, and important telephone numbers was published that was very useful.

180 participants including 69 in Youth class and 10 Schools displayed their exhibits in 421 frames. In addition several internationally acclaimed exhibits were displayed in the Invitee class in 36 frames.

The Jury chaired by Chief Post Master General of Karnataka, Dr. K B H Nayar consisted of Dr Sita Bhateja and Dhananjay Desai with K Prakash and P N Ranjit Kumar as Apprentices.

K Padmanabhan, the Chief General Manager of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's Karnataka Circle, gave away the awards. There were 5 Vermeil, 13 Silver, 24 Silver Bronze, 58 bronze and 40 Diplomas awarded. 32 special prizes were also awarded.

The Department of Posts Award for the best exhibit in the School Collections Class was won by the Vijaya High School, Bangalore. Pooja Kulkarni won the Department of Posts Award for the best exhibit in the youth class and H M Ananda Murty won the Department of Posts Award for the best exhibit in the senior group.

Four special covers with special postmarks, one for each day, were released. The first day was befittingly devoted to Indian Classical Music as such greats as Panchakshari Gavai, Kumar Gandharva, Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur, and Pandit Basvaraj Rajguru all belong to Dharwad. The second day's special cover features Vijaya Nagar empire's ruins and royal emblems of other Kingdoms in Karnataka. The third day was devoted to the folk dance. The special cover for the fourth day commemorated the

death centenary of Rev. Ferdinand Kittel who compiled the first Kannada English Dictionary in 1894. A souvenir was also released on the occasion.

18 picture postcards, and 7 greeting cards, all depicting Indian stamps were also issued on the occasion. Karnataka Circle of India Post also published a full color illustrated book on permanent pictorial postmarks in Karnataka and released it during KARNAPEX. Also published was a List of Stamps from 1852 to 2003. Please contact the Philatelic Counter, Dharwad Head Post Office 580001 for availability, prices and other details.

A philatelic quiz competition, workshop on philately for School Teachers & students, Seminar on Thematic Philatelic, Jurors' Session with participants, and philatelists' interaction with postal officials were organized during the show.

#### 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 2003

18-19, Bikaner, District Level

January

3-5, Sangli, Coin-PEX

8-10, Karaikudi, Chettinad Philatelic Festival

9-11, Cochin, Coin & Stamps

9-12, Nagpur, MAHAPEX, State Level

23-25, Bangalore, COINEX

24-26, Shimoga, District Level

February

27-29, Tirupur, COIN-STAMPEX

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

ITS STAMP NEWS, Whole 24, Vol.6 #4, October0-December 2003, Quarterly

Editor: Suraj Jaitly

Publisher: Indian Thematic Society

Address: MIG #3464, Phase Two, Dugri Road, Ludhiana 141002

Annual Subscription: Rs130 or US\$8 by airmail

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#### NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Nepal released the last issue of the year 2003 on December 23, 2003 as follows:

Visit Nepal Series, Set of 3 stamps depicting Ganesha, Buddha and Kali Gandaki "A" Hydroelectric in the denomination of Rs5, Rs30 and Rs5 respectively.

Flower series, set of 4 stamps depicting Lotus, Picrorhiza, Himalayan  
Rhubarb and Night Jasmine in the denomination of Rs.10 each.

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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

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.>

SATISH N TAKALIKAR

I am a regular reader of your esteem e-weekly Stamps of India Collectors  
Companion. I eagerly wait for every new issue. This is really a weekly  
feast for stamp lovers. Your research notes add to our knowledge and  
create more interest in Philately.

I am interested in getting complete list of Post-cards (without Ads)  
issued by India Post after independence. Frequently I am coming across  
new design.

Wishing a prosperous New Year 2004 to all members of Stamps of India  
family

DR. REUBEN A. RAMKISSOON, (President, Chicago Philatelic Society, USA):  
As 2003 draws to a close, I want to express my gratefulness to you and  
your staff for the service you have been providing to the world on the  
broad front of Indian philately

It would be wonderful for the hobby when we get to the place where fake  
and forgeries did not have to occupy so much space and attention.

Please accept our best wishes for a successful year of service and  
operations in 2004.

E G (GEOFF) LONGBOTTOM, Norfolk, England

Congratulations on a full year of issues - and thanks for producing such  
an excellent and valuable e-magazine. Happy New Year

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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>

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>

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back issues in Print

Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs500

Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs950

Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs1250

Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs650

Vol.5 2003, Part 2, Issue #123-148, (July-December)

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on CD

Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs500 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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