

ISSN 0972-3587

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

The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

Issue # 157 - February 26, 2004. Published Every Thursday

Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

I N T H I S I S S U E

New Greeting Card

Postal Stationery New Issues

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Dubai and Gulf States Auction

PCI Court Cases Update

Postal Strike

Transfers & Postings of Senior Postal Officers

Stamp Scam Updates

Pakistan Stamp Color Catalog

Illegal Issues of Ivory Coast and Sahara

Philately in Transition in India, Part 68

Readers Forum - Pradip Jain from Patna

Also in the News - The Lord of the Rings

TO SUBSCRIBE, send email giving your name, postal address, and
philatelic interests to subscribe@stampsfindia.com

TO UNSUBSCRIBE, send email to unsubscribe@stampsfindia.com

To get BACK ISSUES, please see the end of this issue for details.

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

This season has been very active with exhibitions taking place back to
back across the length and breadth of the country.

We were crazy enough to attend three exhibitions - in Siliguri on
February 15 to 18, in Delhi on February 19 and 20 and in Amritsar on
February 21 and 22 - traveling 5000 kilometers in 10 days.

And no, we were not trying to make a new record.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Manohar Lal,
Khalil-ur-Rehman, Shakil Ahmed, The Times of India, and The Hindu.

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

If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this
newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

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.

~~~~~  
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW GREETING CARD

In a Stamps of India Collectors Companion Exclusive, we report the first Greeting Card with matching pre-stamped envelope for Book Post rates. The card is #126 in the denomination of Rs3 and 'Book Post' inscribed above the stamp design. This design number was originally issued in 2001 in the denomination of Rs4. The Book Post rate of Rs3 was in force from 2001 to 2002 and since 2002 the book post rates are Rs4. Thus this card was issued at least 2 years ago!

We have made enquiries and hope to find out more on this issue. Watch this space for further developments.

~~~~~  
POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisements is scheduled for release in March 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
3, ISP, Hindi, AIDS, 1.3
15, SPP, Hindi, Anti-Tobacco, 2, M

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue
3, SPP, English, Be with BSNL Cellone Mobile Phone, 1, M
15, SPP, Hindi, Anti-Tobacco, 2, M

~~~~~  
RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AMPHIL 2004

Raminder Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar inaugurated the District Level Philatelic Exhibition at Amritsar that was held on February 21-22, 2004.

17 exhibits including 2 numismatic exhibits were displayed in 48 frames. The Jury consisted of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Amritsar Division, V K Mahendru (Chairman) and Madhukar Jhingan. The Jury awarded 3 First Prizes, 3 Second Prizes, and 3 Third Prizes, and 3 Appreciation Prizes corresponding to the Gold medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal, and Diploma respectively as per India Post Philatelic Awards System. Punjab State Minister for Education, Professor Darbari Lal gave away the awards.

The Secretary of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Manjit Singh Calcutta released the special cover commemorating 400 years of Shri Guru Granth Sahib on February 21, 2004.

A stamp design competition was also organized during the exhibition.

#### DESPEX 2004

Jyotsana Diesh, Principal Chief Post Master General Delhi Circle inaugurated the First District Level Philatelic Exhibition in Delhi for South Delhi district that was held on February 19-20, 2004 at New Delhi.

The exhibition had a total of 60 frames including 39 frames for Invitee Class consisting of exhibits from the National Philatelic Museum, Army Postal Service and leading philatelists of Delhi along with the Jury's Exhibits. The competitive section's 21 frames included 7 youth exhibits. The competitive section consisted mainly of One Frame Class except for youth where less than one frame was also permitted.

The Jury was chaired by Director of Postal Services, Vandita Kaul, and consisted of Assistant Post Master General Rajesh Singh, Pulak Gupta, and Savita Jhingan, with Ravi Pahwa as Apprentice Juror.

The jury awarded 2 Gold, 6 Silver and 11 Bronze Medals along with 3 Diplomas. The Grand Prize of the Exhibition went to Mahendra Lal and the Trophy for the best exhibit in youth was awarded to Angeet Suri. The Director General of India Post, Vijay Bhushan gave away the awards.

Two special covers with special postmarks were released and featured World Wild Life Fund for Nature and Pulse Polio Immunization Program respectively. A Souvenir was also brought out on this occasion. A set of 10 Stamp Cards were also available as a pack of cards and in a booklet and was priced at Rs30 each. These issues are available with the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001.

6 Stamp dealers from Delhi and Meerut set up dealers' booth at the show.

Just a minute and a written quiz contest were conducted and every one evinced very keen interest in them, there was even senior participation besides school children in the written quiz.

#### KOTAPEX 2004

Jaswinder Singh, Post Master General, South Rajasthan Region, inaugurated the first District Level Philately Exhibition at Kota that was held from February 13 to 15, 2004. S R Meena, Director Postal Services presided over the function.

There were 21 exhibits in 105 frames including 4 entries in invitee class. The jury awarded 3 Silver and 3 bronze medals along with 10 diplomas to senior, junior I and junior II groups.

3 special covers with special postmarks were issued. On February 13 the cover depicted 'Fresco' of Kota Painting in Arjun Mahal Garh Palace Kota, and the postmark featured the Kota style turban. On February 14 the cover released by Vice chancellor of Vardhman Mahaveer Open University Kota depicted 'Indrasan' built of Marble at Chatra Vilas Garden Kota, and the postmark featured the statues of 'Charmanyavati' on the bank of Chambal river. On February 15 the cover released by Chief Post Master General Rajasthan Circle G Mohanakumar, depicted 'Garh Palace' situated on the right bank of Chambal river in Kota city and the postmark featured one of the Pillar indicating one of the four Vedas, situated at Aerodrome circle Kota.

#### NARMADAPEX

December 26-17, 2003, Hoshangabad, District Level

#### 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 through local Head Post Office may be contacted for further details.

February

27-28, Baripada, District Level  
27-29, Tirupur, COIN-STAMPEX  
28-29, Jalandhar, District Level  
28-29, Azamgarh, District Level  
28-29, Dewas, District Level

March

4-6, Coimbatore, District Level, NEW DATES  
13-14, Chandigarh, District Level  
27-29, Port Blair, Regional

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

~~~~~  
DUBAI AND GULF STATES AUCTION

Philagenta GmbH and Emirates Philatelic Association are holding Specialized Auction Sale of Dubai and Gulf States - stamps and postal history in 310 lots on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 in Dubai at Trade Centre. Some of the highlights are Bahrain and Kuwait Zeppelins, scarce usages as well as rarities from the Gulf States. All offers can be found at: http://www.philasearch.com/main.php3?set_sprache=en&set_page=haus&set_id=41

~~~~~  
PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) came up for hearing on January 14, 2004 where Y Kumar a witness for the defendant was cross examined and the next date of hearing was fixed for March 12, 2004.

~~~~~  
POSTAL STRIKE

According to a strike notice served on the Director General of India Post on January 28, 2004 by the National Federation of Postal Employees and the Federation of National Postal Organizations notified that over 600,000 employees of Postal, Railway Mail Service, Mail Motor Service, Administrative, Postal Accounts and Gramin Dak Sevaks would go on the one-day strike on February 24, 2004.

Tens of millions of workers struck work on that day to protest the Supreme Court ban on strikes. The Confederation of Central Government Employees & Workers observed strike in support of their demands, including withdrawal of Postal Service Amendment Bill, lifting of ban on recruitment, and restoration of the right to go on strike.

Consequently government offices, schools and banks were closed and public transport was affected. However the impact varied across the country, hitting Calcutta and Bombay worst and barely affecting New Delhi.

~~~~~  
TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

The following postal officers were promoted and posted with effect from February 17, 2004:

Dr U Srinivasa Raghavan from Principal Chief Post Master General of Tamilnadu Circle to the Member (Development) of Postal Services Board, Postal Directorate at New Delhi.

Lalhluna from Director Postal Services, Head Quarters, North Eastern Circle to Post Master General of North Eastern Circle

M Iawaphinaw from Director Postal Services, Arunachal Pradesh Division to Post Master General of Rajkot Region in Gujarat Circle

A N Nanda from Director Postal Services, Head Quarters, Orissa Circle to Post Master General of Northern Region in Kerala Circle

Meera Handa from Director, Philately Division, Postal Directorate to Post Master General of Delhi Circle

The following postal officers were promoted with effect from February 17, 2004 and remain on deputation:

S Thapar, K C Mishra, A K Shori, G Bhuyan, and A S Prasad

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from February 17, 2004:

M P Rajan from Post Master General of North Karnataka Region in Karnataka Circle to Post Master General of South Karnataka Region in Karnataka Circle

R R P Singh from Post Master General of Delhi Circle to Post Master General of Goa Region in Maharashtra Circle

T Paneerselvam from Post Master General of North Eastern Circle to Northern Region in Tamilnadu Circle

M S Ramanujam from Post Master General of Northern Region in Kerala Circle to Post Master General of Central Region in Kerala Circle

Vatsala Raghu from Chief Postmaster General of Orissa Circle to Chief Postmaster General of Tamilnadu Circle

~~~~~  
FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Former deputy chief minister & home minister of Maharashtra Chhagan Bhujbal's appearance before the Special Investigation Team on February 26, 2004 has been postponed to March 2, 2004.

Sameer Bhujbal, the nephew of Chhagan Bhujbal, was questioned for the second time on February 25, 2004 by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) at Mumbai.

Metropolitan Magistrate Illa Rawat on February 22, 2004 at Delhi declined a CBI plea for police custody of two Delhi Police officials arrested in connection with the fake stamp paper scam and remanded them to one day judicial custody. The CBI had arrested Inspector Puran Singh, and Sub-Inspector Gaurav Aggarwal on February 21, 2004 for allegedly distributing and possessing fake stamp papers supplied by Abdul Karim Telgi.

Another City Police Inspector, K Vijayendar Reddy, was arrested by the Andhra Pradesh Stamps Investigation Team (SIT) on February 20, 2004 at Hyderabad for questioning in connection with the fake stamp paper case. Reddy was the Station House Officer of Begum Bazar station when the stamps scam kingpin A K L Telgi was arrested by the Hyderabad police.

The Andhra Pradesh SIT arrested an inspector of police, Ashfaq Ahmed Khan on February 19, 2004 at Hyderabad on charges aiding and abetting Telgi's associate Rayees Quadri, to sell fake stamps papers in the State. Khan was already suspended and was questioned extensively by the SIT officials with regard to his alleged role in the stamp scam.

Maharashtra state government has decided to allow post offices, nationalized, scheduled and 'A' grade co-operative banks, private banks regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and financial institutions under control of state and RBI to sell stamps and stamp papers from April 1, 2004. The banks and post offices would get one per cent commission on the franking of stamps and would be allowed to charge Rs10 as Service Tax from customers on each purchase. Sale of stamps from licensed stamp vendors would continue and a final decision on them would be taken afterwards. The banks would have to deposit money before getting the franking machine loaded, while the post offices have been exempted, to pay afterwards as it is a government organization.

~~~~~  
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

PAKISTAN STAMP COLOR CATALOG, 2004-2005, 10th Edition  
Pages: 228 Pages on art paper,  
Price: Pak Rs700 + postage  
Publisher: Mohammad Ilyas Choudhary  
Address: 20, First Floor, Singhar Centre, 16 Maclagan Road, P O Box 2424, Lahore -54000, Pakistan  
Tel: 0092-42-7237126, 7700038, Mobile: 0300-4330125  
E-mails: [michoudhary11@hotmail.com](mailto:michoudhary11@hotmail.com) and [michoudhary11@yahoo.com](mailto:michoudhary11@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.pakistanstamp.com](http://www.pakistanstamp.com)

Lists all issues from 1947 to December 2003 with full details of Size, Designer, Printer, Printing Process, Format, Gum, Perforation, Imprint, Plate Number, Quantity, FDC, Leaflet, Colour, Errors and many more including Bahawalpur.

There are many details of interest and knowledge on the following topics: British Indian stamps overprinted 'PAKISTAN'; Brief Political & Geographical History; Chronological order of events; Local Machine Overprints; How to distinguish the different 'Overprints'; Relative scarcity of ordinary stamps; Pre-Nasik hand stamps overprints from 15th August to October 1947; Machine overprints after Independence; Hand stamps on ordinary stamps; Typewritten overprints on ordinary stamps; Manuscripts on ordinary stamps; Used abroad ordinary stamps; Pakistan Internal postal rates in 1947; The First Postmark "Pakistan Zindabad"; The Indian Independence Act 1947.

~~~~~  
ILLEGAL ISSUES OF IVORY COAST AND SAHARA

Maria Libera, maria.libera@upu.int sends two UPU circulars that have been published at the request of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco on behalf of the Sahara denouncing several hundred illegal stamps that have been printed and distributed in their name through a large number of sheet formats on a large variety of themes. There are issues which were already denounced more than several months ago and which unfortunately still circulate on the market.

Details about genuine stamps of Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco can be obtained directly from the following addresses:

Centre Philatélique d'Abidjan, Direction de la Production, Poste de Côte d'Ivoire, 01 B.P. 4056 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire. Fax:(+225) 20 32 24 82

Division de la Philatélie, Direction Courrier et Messagerie, Barid Al-Maghrib (BAM), Boulevard Moulay Ismail, 10000 Rabat, Morocco.
Tel: (+212) 37 70 46 21 or (+212) 37 70 99 34, Fax: (+212) 37 73 11 78
E-mail: philately@bam.net.ma, Web site www.bam.net.ma

The postal administration of Morocco continues to deplore the fact that illegal postage stamp issues inscribed "République Sahraoui" (Saharan Republic) or "Sahara Occidental" (Western Sahara) are still circulating on the international philatelic market, and being sold through various Internet sites and philatelic publications and wishes to stress once again that this supposed republic does not exist, and that all these postage stamps are illegal.

The summary of UPU circulars issued to date that denounce illegal stamps is being updated and is also available through the Philatelic entry in the UPU Website www.upu.int. Additional information on illegal stamps is available there also.

'Stamps of India' too provides information at the following link <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Orgs/wadp-05.htm> as part of strengthening the combat against the continuing proliferation of illegal stamps.

~~~~~  
FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

~~~~~  
VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 68

India was represented by non-qualified exhibits at 17th Asian international philatelic exhibition in February 2004 at Hong Kong in spite of having a large number of qualified exhibits. It is a matter of great concern that Indian philately is seen in such poor light internationally. This is treachery not only against philately but also against the nation.

Furthermore India's commissioner for HONG KONG 2004 carried exhibits without permits and he was consequently intercepted at Kolkata Airport by Customs on his return. His maternal uncle, Satya Sadhan Chakraborty being a Minister of Higher Education in West Bengal state government seems to have helped him flout the laws of the land with impunity. He also reportedly used a letter from Director General from West Bengal Police Dinesh Vajpayee.

The exhibits carried to HONG KONG 2004 were not selected on merit but followed the dangerous trend started by Sahadeva Sahoo with CHINA 2003.

Sahoo was appointed national commissioner for the 16th Asian international philatelic exhibition in November 2003 at Mianyang in China by Dilip Shah without any reference to the elected Governing Council or to the roster of commissioners whatsoever.

Sahoo did not give any information on participation to qualified exhibitors and not even to those PCI members asking for it repeatedly. Later he also refused to part with the information on awards in utter contempt of norms.

Sahoo once again (remember Bangkok 2000) carried without the requisite permissions 7 exhibits flaunting his former official position in the state government while smuggling antiquities.

The participants with unqualified exhibits were from his immediate neighborhood and were personally known to him. With his active connivance the exhibits were entered in junior class in China to avoid paying of entry fees while they had been exhibited in senior class at Orissa state level philatelic exhibition in April 2002, where he was a jury member.

All exhibits to world philatelic exhibition in October 2003 at Bangkok were carried with permits.

For the world philatelic exhibition in August 2002 in Korea few exhibits with permits and others without permits were taken from India. This was in disregard to the express instructions of their owners who paid thousands of rupees to the commissioner for obtaining mandatory permissions. The exhibits were seized by Customs on return and although the exhibits have since been released, the case is still on.

The PCI appointed commissioners have been carrying all the exhibits with permits, all the exhibits without permits, and part exhibits with permits and part without permits to an exhibition. It is this wayward functioning, and flouting the laws of the land at will, which has landed PCI into facing legal action seeking annulment of its incorporation.

We fail to understand why FIP and FIAP go to great lengths to ensure participation from India, however unmerited, even at the cost of violating the FIP rules for qualification of exhibits, for appointment of jurors, and for the working of the national commissioners? What is their compulsion? Are FIP rules not applicable to all?

FIP and FIAP must realize that they are unwittingly furthering the short term interests of a small group of persons who are falsely pretending to represent India's philately. These persons' total focus is on immediate personal gratification and these will disappear once they find out that they can no longer monopolize benefits. FIP and FIAP's active support to these persons will harm the long term philatelic interests of not only India but of the world.

We request FIP and FIAP to follow their own rules. The philately in India will take care of itself and in any case it can do without the 'favours' of this kind. Is it too much to expect?

~~~~~  
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.>

PRADIP JAIN from Patna

It is just shocking for us to know the sudden and sad demise of dear Bill Fincham. It is irreparable loss to family and Philately.

He was a strong pillar of India Study Circle and Indian Philately. His untimely demise is a great loss to whole philatelic fraternity but his work and legacy shall always keep him alive for many many years. I knew Bill since last over 20 years and always remained in touch.

~~~~~  
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>

ALSO IN THE NEWS

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

British Royal Mail issued a set of 10 stamps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien on February 26, 2004. The first two parts of The Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Ring and The Two Towers, were published in 1954. The third, The Return of the King, followed in 1955.

The stamps feature nine drawings by Tolkien and a map of Middle Earth drawn by the author's son, Christopher.

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

-----*****O*****-----
ADMINISTRIVIA

Published by Madhu Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for 'Stamps of India',
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India
Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089

Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Our now famous Disclaimer!

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

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back issues in Print

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)

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

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>

=====
© Copyright 2004. Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.
For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications please ask the
publisher for permission stating exactly what you would like to use, and
for what purpose, before using the same.