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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Season of rains is half gone with no rains in Delhi. Some parts of India  
are fighting floods while others are reeling under draught conditions.  
India is indeed a country full of paradoxes.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: The Press  
Trust of India,

We invite your inputs, please email to [feedback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:feedback@stampsofindia.com)

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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 images, 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

STAMP ISSUES IN AUGUST

- 13 - Olympic Games 2004, Set of 4
- 16 - India Iran Joint Issue, set of 2
- 17 - Murasoli Maran
- 18 - Rajiv Gandhi Renewable Energy Day
- 26 - S S Vasani
- 30 - Panini

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.

NEW SECURITY FEATURES FOR STAMPS

An inter-ministerial committee looking in to fake stamps scam has decided that postage stamps, along with fiscal stamps and stamp papers, will now incorporate security features to prevent circulation of fakes.

There will be much more white space in the stamps. Both the paper and the gum will be fluorescent in case of stamps that would make them glow under ultra-violet light. While the paper will appear yellow under ultra-violet light, the gum will either look yellow or pink, depending on the type of adhesive used.

The fiscal stamps will carry the batch and year of printing. The perforation will be much finer as laser will be used for the job. There will be an oval perforation on each stamp, whose position will change with the batch number.

The postage stamp will feature perforation in shape of the logo of the India Post. Ashok Chakra will be printed on the background of each stamp. ?

The stamp papers will have a security thread along with a secret number and carry the batch and year of printing.

POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in August 2004.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks

'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Postcard

28, SPP, Tamil, xxxxx, 1

HANDBOOK OF PHILATELY

India Post has just published the third edition of the Handbook of Philately and it is now available at Rs16 at all philatelic bureaus in the country. The Handbook primarily is a compilation of India Post's instructions and procedures relating to philately. It serves as user's manual for postal officers running philatelic bureaus and counters, as well as a reference book for the administrative and philatelic operations for postal officers and philatelists.

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PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India came up for hearing on July 27, 2004 and the next date of hearing was fixed for August 28, 2004.

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India in 2004 came up for hearing on July 21, 2004 and the next date of hearing was fixed for August 16, 2004.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August 11-13, Know Your Army through Army Postal Service
Kasturchand Park, Nagpur

August 14-15, Kolkata, Stamp Fair, NEW DATES
Art Gallery, Charnock City, Salt Lake City

October 1-3, Ahmedabad, Dak Bharti

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POSTAL STAFF COLLEGE WORKSHOP ON PHILATELY

Postal Staff College, Ghaziabad is the apex training institution of India Post and caters to the needs of its management cadre.

The college organized a two day Workshop on Philately on July 26 and 27, 2004. 17 senior officers of India Post, up to Post Master General rank, participated from all over India.

Yours truly served as a member of the faculty and as a panelist in the panel discussion that was the concluding session.

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INDIA POST'S MONOPOLY ON SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES

This year's finance bill proposes to enable certain banking companies or other companies or institutions by notification in the official gazette, to accept deposits under certain schemes of the central government, which is currently the sole preserve of the post offices. The loss-making India Post earns 40% of its income out of selling small savings schemes like the National Savings Certificates, Indira Vikas Patra, Kisan Vikas Patra, Post Office Monthly Income Scheme and Post Office Recurring Deposit Scheme to the public and collecting deposits. However Communist parties are opposed to this and as their support is critical, these proposals may not be carried out.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The CBI has sought the help of Interpol to trace Salauddin Ashraf Mohammed, an accused in the stamp racket. Salauddin is believed to have taken refuge in Kuwait. Salauddin along with Pradeep Kumar and Syed Ajmal, all residents of Bangalore, have been on the run from city police for several years. They are wanted in the Upparpet fake stamp case registered in August 2000. The City Police had arrested several persons and seized Rs 100 million worth of fake stamp paper from a house in that case. Salauddin was in charge of the front offices for the racket in city. Pradeep Kumar was in charge of opening bank accounts in city for Sai Enterprises and City Enterprises, the front offices.

Abdul Karim Telgi's key associate Mohammed Hafeez was produced in a district court in Delhi on July 25, 2004 after being brought from Hyderabad. The court has sent him to CBI's custody for 10 days. Hafeez was running Telgi's operations in northern India since 1997. He ran a

dozen front companies in Delhi to sell the counterfeit stamps. Hafeez surrendered in Hyderabad last week.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested another absconding Stamp Scam accused from his hideouts in Borivilli in Mumbai on July 25, 2004 after accused Bipin Patel revealed his name during the interrogation. Solanki is a close associate of accused Patel who was arrested from a guest house in Kandivli in Mumbai on July 23, 2004. Another accomplice of the accused, Sefali, had been in judicial custody since April 2003. All three had been allegedly involved in selling fake stamp and stamp paper procured from Telgi in various parts of Gujarat including in Surat.

Arun Rathi alias Maheshwari – a suspected aide of Telgi and one of the prime accused in Gujarat module of the scandal was arrested from Borsad town of Anand district, about 70 kilometers from Ahmedabad on July 24, 2004. Anand local crime branch nabbed Rathi from Surya Mandir area of Borsad on a tip-off and after preliminary interrogation, handed him to the Ahmedabad city police. Rathi has confessed that he worked for Telgi for 2 years and marketed the fake stamps in Ahmedabad through an office in Bapunagar area before 2 years. Rathi, who was arrested and later bailed out in recovery of Rs 80 million worth fake stamps in Ahmedabad last year, is absconding in a similar fake stamp scam offence registered in Surat. His name also figures in fake stamp offences registered by the Rajkot police. The CBI had reportedly announced Rs 25,000 reward for any person informing about whereabouts of Rathi. Rathi was closely associated with another prime accused Kishore Patel.

The CBI has nabbed stamp scam accused Bipin Patel, who had been absconding for the past six months, from a guest house at Kandivli in Mumbai on July 23, 2004. A CBI spokesman said Patel had been absconding since a warrant was issued against him by an Ahmedabad court on December 16, 2003. The Gujarat police had filed two cases against accused Patel for procuring fake stamp and stamp papers from Telgi and selling them in the state. The Rajkot police had also filed a case against him for the selling of fake stamps in the district.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) at Bangalore ordered on July 21, 2004 that the matter of recording the confessional statement of retired Assistant Commissioner of Police T G Sangram Singh, who was arrested by the CBI in connection with the fake stamp paper scam, be shifted to the court of 10<sup>th</sup> Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) and that Singh be produced before the 10th ACMM on July 23, 2004.

The CBI filed a charge sheet on July 23, 2004 against G Vetrivel Sami who was allegedly instrumental in supplying Telgi's fake stamps to Chandigarh and Ludhiana. The agency claimed that Sami – who also went by the name by of Swami – opened a number of offices in the names of M/s Unique Services and M/s Quick Services in the two cities at the behest of another Telgi aide, Hafiz and took up the sale of fake stamps to several insurance companies and banks. The fake stamps, the agency alleged, were supplied by Telgi from Mumbai to Hafiz's office in Delhi from where these were allegedly transferred to Chandigarh and Ludhiana.

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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

Dilip Shah has mailed on July 6, 2004 a notice for an 'Annual General Meeting' of the Philatelic Congress of India scheduled for August 8, 2004 at Ahmedabad.

This is however not a properly convened meeting and is called without any authority whatsoever and without consultation of its members. The meeting therefore is illegal.

The law requires that an AGM should be held every year but PCI has never bothered with such niceties. Their suddenly developed fondness for AGM is questionable.

Through the efforts of yours truly to work in accordance with laws of land an AGM was held 2001. That opportunity was used to ratify unauthorized and illegal operation of PCI bank account by Dhirubhai Mehta that was going for years and was exposed by yours truly in 2000. Later Shah and P Company illegally superseded the decisions of the AGM with impunity. It happens only in PCI.

This time also it is an attempt to call a meeting at the convenience of time and place of Dilip Shah and his cronies and its agenda exposes their evil designs.

The first item on Agenda is confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held in Mumbai on July 25, 2002 which are circulated now. In true PCI tradition these minutes are a collection of blatant lies and afterthoughts and not a true record of the proceedings.

The next item is to inform members about court cases against PCI and decide on future course of actions. More interesting will be if they tell the course of actions they have taken so far.

Next on agenda is approval of the accounts for 2002-2003. Logically the accounts for 2003-2004 should also be on agenda. Perhaps they will on the agenda of the next meeting scheduled after two years! Because their publication at this time will drag PCI to deeper into troubles as it will expose the unauthorized huge expenses.

The agenda at No. 4 states - Ratification of the following nominations or appointments: (a) Nomination of Jurors sent for the Bangkok - 2003 and Singapore - 2004 exhibitions. (b) Appointment of National Commissioner for the ESPANA 2004 exhibition. (c) Nomination of Shri Dilip Shah sent for the Bureau Member of the FIP Commission for the fight against Forgeries, as per the advise of FIAP(!).

This appears to be a mischievous attempt to ratify some, but not ALL appointments illegally made in last two years and also appoint persons as jury, commissioners, delegates, and bureau members of FIP Commissions for next two years.

The non-inclusion of illegal appointments that they do not even wish to ratify is part of a premeditated plan to keep members in the dark about the truths in these matters. This is in the PCI tradition to fool all the members all the time.

The Agenda at No. 5 states - Appointment of National Commissioners and nomination of Jury for the following International Exhibitions: (a) OLYMPHILEX - 2004 - Athens, Aug. 2004. (b) PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005 (Specialised International) - Sydney, April 21 to 24, 2005. (c) TAIPEI -

2005 (Asian International) - Taipei, August 19 to 24 2005. (d)  
WASHINGTON 2006 - Washington, May 27 to June 3, 2006.

Believe it or not, they wish to appoint, on the Sunday - August 8, 2004, national commissioner for OLYMPHILEX 2004 that opens at Athens on August 12, 2004!!! Conveniently the dates of the exhibition are omitted from the agenda.

They want the members to believe that they still have to appoint national commissioners while the truth is they already have appointed at least 2 out of other 3 exhibitions.

Item No. 6 on the agenda states - Appointment of the PCI Delegates and Observers to the FIP Congress in Singapore.

Once again they want approval for something that they have already done.

The agenda illegally incorporates the items hitherto included only in the governing council meetings such as approval of new membership applications.

All this exposes their nefarious designs that they actually do not have any need of elections, or governing council at all.

Shah has been a PCI Secretary General for 18 years and plans to illegally continue to be one for his life by illegally convening meetings such as this every two years!!!

Shah deserves to be sacked immediately in a democratic process as he is being investigated by the country's premier investigating agency CBI for smuggling of antiquities and has a case registered against him.

It is pertinent to mention here that the complaints of criminal misdemeanor are also filed with the appropriate authorities against M G Pittie, S Sahoo, A R SInghee, B K Sinha and others.

The notice of the meeting is signed by Shah as 'Secretary General' while on accompanying accounts for 2002-2003 he signs as 'President', while in fact he is neither!

Shah has on several occasions with various government authorities submitted that there is no governing council of PCI since August 25, 2003 and the term of the last governing council was over on that day. However in the tradition of PCI Officers acting as if above the laws of the land, he continues to function as Secretary General.

The Treasurer and Joint Treasurer from the last Governing Council also illegally occupy their respective offices and work unabated and unashamed.

Shah was 'President-Elect' till August 25, 2002 and according to the rules & regulations of the PCI was to automatically take over as the President in the succeeding meeting after the elections where Sahoo would have become the immediate past president and would have continued in the governing council for the next two years. However no meeting of PCI general body took place since the last 2 years but this has not deterred Shah from falsely functioning as the president.

Today Shah is President and Secretary General of PCI. He has also not vacated the office of the President-Elect and will on august 8, 2004

will occupy the office of Immediate Past President as well. Now if he takes over the office of Treasurer, Joint Treasurer, and Vice Presidents, there will be no need for any one else or holding elections ever.

This is the time for all members of PCI who respect the laws of the land to assert their rights and take Shah and similar such persons to the task. The need of the hour is that all PCI members must support the truth and the right cause.

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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.>

MANSOOR BOLAR, Mangalore.

I agree with Dr. Avinash B Jagtap regarding the personality stamps issued by India Post. I think that India Post issues too many stamps on Personalities, many of them unknown to the collectors. The design of some of these stamps (portraits) are of poor quality and are not attractive, the foreign collectors avoid these stamps.

I would also like to know the present rules regarding exhibiting of self-adhesives, some of the points I would like to clear are:

1. Can used self-adhesives stamps exhibited, If so how is it separated from paper (soaking does not work most of the times) is it to be cut along the border with the paper at its backside, what about its perforation.
2. If mint self-adhesives stamps are to be exhibited what are the conditions, Is it to be exhibited as a whole sheet, how can a single or set of 4 stamps to be used, How can it be separated from a sheet and presented etc.
3. Are there any set of rules regarding exhibiting self-adhesives framed by any International/local body.

I would like the Senior Philatelists/Jurors who have attended International exhibitions and also others who have exhibited self-adhesives stamps to comment on this.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

THE SCOPE FOR RESEARCH

"India has so much to offer, and so many mysteries to be solved that there is room for decades of study and research, even on the more popular subjects". - Derek Lang

Lang who needs no introduction to the philatelists with India interest, went on to add "It took the best part of 90 years to throw some accurate

light on the CEF issues, and it may be that even this story is not yet complete." And this reminds us what Sir Isaac Newton said almost at the similar age - "I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me". This is not modesty but wisdom that comes with a life long study and research.

Lang wrote in 'British India Postal Stationery' (1997): "In this and previous works, it has been a primary objective to register the fact and figures that have been seen. Some may not always make much sense, but are placed on record, together with the unstinted studies of some earlier enthusiasts, for the benefit of those who take up the cause". This immediately strikes a rapport with all those who has experienced research firsthand. This is a good research practice and must be followed by all scholars.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### USA LAUNCHES PHOTOSTAMPS

United States Postal Service has approved a new form of Personal Computer Postage known as PhotoStamps\* and these were introduced on July 23, 2004.

PhotoStamps\* is an online commercial service that allows customers to create postage with their own designs, images, and photographs. The product is a variation of Stamps.com's NetStamps\*, and has been approved and in popular use since June 2002. PC Postage products like NetStamps use secure Information Based Indicia (IBI) technology to provide maximum revenue protection and mail intelligence while also providing extended value to the customer.

The PhotoStamps label measures approximately 1.4 inches by 1.8 inches and includes unique serrations on one side. The label base material of the PhotoStamp product has proprietary invisible florescent material printed onto it for added security. The image covers approximately two-thirds of the face of the label with the remaining one-third containing the indicia information, two dimensional (2D) barcode, a human readable unique serial number, and the postage face value.

During the market test phase, PhotoStamps offers seven full-rate postage mail types and values for use with assorted mail pieces. The mail types and values are: Postcard (\$0.23), Regular envelope (\$0.37), Large envelope (\$0.49), Two-ounce envelope (\$0.60), Three-ounce envelope (\$0.83), Four-ounce envelope (\$1.06) and Priority Mail® service Flat Rate envelope (\$3.85).

The online interface also allows customers to change the border color of their PhotoStamps labels.

\* = Trademark

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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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