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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

We appeal to all members of the Philatelic Congress of India to be an  
active member, ascertain the facts for yourself, and make your own  
decisions about what's going on and don't believe everything you're  
told!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Ashok Tiwary,  
Rajesh Agarwala, The Indian Express, and The Times of India.

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

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

August 13 - Olympic Games 2004, Set of 4, Rs5, 5, 15, & 15  
August 16 - India Iran Joint Issue, Set of 2, Rs15 each, Sheetlet of 8  
August 17 - Murasoli Maran, Rs5  
August 18 - Rajiv Gandhi Renewable Energy Day, Rs5  
August 26 - S S Vasani, Rs5  
August 30 - Panini, 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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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

We now have information on more issues of the postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in August 2004. Kindly ignore the incorrect report in Issue # 179.

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

Postcard

16, ISP, Hindi, AIDS, 3  
23, SPP, Tamil, xxxx, 1

Inland Letter Card

16, ISP, English, [www.manageyourheadache.com](http://www.manageyourheadache.com), 1

Aerogramme

31, ISP, English, Tamilnadu Tourism, 0.5, M  
31, ISP, English, Tamilnadu Tourism, 0.5, M

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MYSTERIOUS MEGHDOOTS

In Issue # 150 of January 8, 2004 we reported on a Meghdoot post card in Hindi on AIDS in December 2003. We now know that this card's date of issue was in January 2004.

In March 2004 a repeat order for 200,000 Meghdoot post cards with same ad as above was issued.

The original printing shows the year of printing as 2003 while on the repeat order it is 2004, thus making it another issue for philatelists. Unfortunately it has been perceived as such by India Post and the 2<sup>nd</sup> printing was not supplied to philatelic bureaus.

As the area of distribution for this issue is Bihar, therefore all who are interested in having the 2<sup>nd</sup> printing, please contact your friends in Bihar for supply of this issue.

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

July 29, 2004: Jamshedpur, 75 years of Industrial Harmony  
July 29, 2004: Jamshedpur, J R D Tata, Birth Centenary

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NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL

S K Dwivedi joined as Assistant Director General in Philatelic Division at India Post HQ, New Delhi on July 30, 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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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

Delhi Circle of India Post organized philatelic workshops on July 22 and 26, 2004 at N K Bargodia Senior Secondary School and Central Reserve Police Force School, respectively.

Senior philatelist, Pulak Gupta, conducted the workshops that were attended by the students of classes VI to VIII in a group of about 40 students.

The participating students were briefed on introduction of stamps, types of stamps, how to put them in the album with a different treatment for the mint and the used stamps, followed by a practical demonstration on how to remove the stamps from the paper. A brief was also given to the students as to how to build the collections and prepare exhibits to participate in the exhibitions.

All participants had brought their collections with them in Bargodia School and were individually briefed as to how to organize their collections. The three, who had the best organized collection were awarded the Stamp Collectors Kit.

An interactive session with the students was organized In CRPF School after the workshop where the participants were asked the questions regarding the subject taught in the workshop and the four students who gave correct answers were awarded the Stamp collectors kit.

A special stall selling the commemorative stamps and the Greeting Cards was setup by India Post on both the occasions.

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USED STAMPS SCAM

The Special Task Force and the Uttar Pradesh police on July 29, 2004 arrested Subhash Chandra Goel in Ghaziabad and recovered recycled stamps worth Rs5 million. This stamp scam is believed to have been operational since the last three years and it is reported to have cost the postal department revenue worth several million of rupees.

Following Goel's interrogation, two persons, Tapas Chandra Roy, a resident of Luv Kush Colony, Himmatganj, in Khuldabad police circle, working as a fax operator in the Railways and Vijay Kumar Agarwal of Khushal Parvat, in Attarsuiya police circle, working as an auditor at the AG office were arrested in Allahabad and recycled stamps worth Rs3.7 million were recovered.

The accused would erase the ink from the used stamps with a chemical available in the market and resell them. Goel revealed the involvement of the Postal personnel in West Bengal, Gujarat, Chennai, Goa and Delhi who sold recycled stamps through the counters of the Post offices in these states.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Police in Bihar on August 3, 2004 recovered fake stamps worth Rs20 million from a village in Patna district, but the mastermind behind the racket Manohar Kumar Mishra managed to escape. This is the second time in four days that they have made such a seizure. In the earlier raid on July 31, 2004, the police had seized fake stamps valued at Rs20 million, a printing press and arrested 10 people. The gang had been busted after a tip off by the Intelligence Bureau. Police had also seized a diary with names and addresses of agents. Bihar police have set up a special team to probe whether the gang had any links with Telgi, the main accused in the multibillion rupees fake stamp racket.

On July 30, 2004 the remand of Tamil Nadu DIG A P Mohammed Ali arrested by the CBI in connection with the fake stamp scam was extended till August 13, 2004 by a metropolitan magistrate. Ali was produced before the magistrate today by the CBI with a plea for extension of remand. The magistrate after perusal of the police records and progress of investigation directed the extension.

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ILLEGAL ISSUES OF DJIBOUTI

Maria Libera [maria.libera@upu.int](mailto:maria.libera@upu.int) of WADP/UPU informs that a circular has just been published at the request of the Republic of Djibouti denouncing a series of illegal stamps. This is the sixth such circular that has been issued since the beginning of 2004.

The circulars of similar nature continue to be in preparation by the following postal administrations that are victims of the production and distribution of illegal stamps: Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaidjan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Union of Comoros, Congo (Republic), Congo (Democratic Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, East Timor, Eritrea, Estonia (its islands), Falkland Islands, Gambia, Georgia, Guiné-Bissau, Guinea (Republic), Kosova (UNMIK), Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Union of Myanmar, Niger, the Russian Federation (its internal republics and provinces), Rwanda, Sahara Republic (by Morocco), Sao Tome é Principe, Somalia, Sudan, Tadjikistan, Tchad, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

As circulars already issued in the names of a large number of countries have unfortunately not yet stopped the continued proliferation of illegal stamps, WADP renew their appeal for assistance to the philatelic community to receive as much material as possible that is 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 should continue to be particularly careful when they see issues on the market in the names of the targetted countries, in particular during philatelic exhibitions, on the Internet, and in various advertising materials. It is important that they check the listing of the legal issues (through [wnstamps.ch](http://wnstamps.ch) website) and double-check beforehand the authenticity of the stamps they want to purchase, than to regret their purchase later.

To be noted also that more and more of the countries concerned have their legal and official stamps on their own websites. More postal

administrations are still 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)). 154 postal administrations are currently participating in the WNS system.

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

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for August 2004 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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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

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 75

We were shocked to see the following in the issue #88 of the 'Flash' published by the International Philatelic Federation (FIP):  
"Please note for future correspondence the new address: Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo, President PCI, D-3, BJB Nagar, Bhubaneswar".

The million dollar question is that how did FIP ascertain the correctness or otherwise of the request for change of the address as well as the status of Sahoo as the President of PCI? Especially so as the FIP Board was informed of ongoing litigation challenging the very existence of PCI as a legal entity on many occasions since August 2002.

The elections of the Philatelic Congress of India were held at Mumbai under the supervision of a Court Observer on August 25, 2002. The declaration of results was stayed by a court order. However Dilip Shah took over charge of the Office of the President from Sahadeva Sahoo. We had pointed out that he can't do so till "subsequent meeting" as stipulated in the PCI rules & regulations.

Shah even had his letterheads with new designation printed in advance and started signing away as President while still holding the charge of the office of the Secretary General.

Immediately after the elections, Sahoo described himself as Immediate Past President. He must have written in that capacity to India Post as we have evidence of India Post addressing to him as Immediate Past President.

The quarterly journal of the PCI - Signet, Vol. 25 # 2 (July-sep 2002) published after the elections also record that the Shah is the President. Signet is edited, printed, published, and mailed by Sahoo and he has stated his designation in the PCI as Immediate Past President in the "Statement of Ownership" as required to be published under the Registration of Newspaper laws in 2003 and 2004.

Suddenly Sahoo has once again become the President of PCI, how? And how can PCI keeps on changing presidents every two years in spite of the Court has stayed declaration of results of elections?

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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.>

DR SATISH Y DEODHAR, Faculty, IIM-Ahmedabad.

Read your note on Mopla problem. Yes, someone should write a monograph on it, a historian perhaps. I chanced upon your email newsletter some months ago while I was canvassing for getting a stamp for Bajirao Peshwa, which we did recently. Since then, found your e-newsletter on stamps very informative and useful. Wish you all the best.

ZULAIHA MOHAMED

I was pained to note what was written about the Moplah Rebellion & would like to you to read this extract which I got from the internet regarding the subject

In 1921, the Malabar Muslims, known as Moplahs, started a rebellion against the British raj that they treated as enemies of Islam. The British suppressed the agitation of Moplah Muslims in connivance with the Hindu landlords and deported some leaders of the rebellion to Andaman Islands. The leaderless mob had been floating aimlessly. In early 1940s, the Indian National Congress veterans like Late Mr. Abdurehiman, and even Mahatma Gandhi termed the rebellion as "Freedom Struggle." But some myopic communal historians depicted it as an "anti-Hindu aggression," quoting some isolated incidents from here and there in their apparent bid to give the Movement a communal hue.

Most Keralites agree with this view.

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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

INAUGURATION OF NEW DELHI

India's First commemorative issue consisting of 6 stamps to mark the Inauguration of New Delhi as the new capital of India was issued on February 9, 1931. The stamps were available for sale on that day at all head post offices and most sub post offices.

The following instructions issued at that time on the use of these stamps are very interesting.

1. These stamps will be used in place of or together with ordinary postage stamps for all postal purposes including foreign postage. A month's approximate supply has been printed but the stamps will continue to be on sale till exhausted.

2. The commemorative stamps will not be on sale at the telegraph offices or at the telegraph window of combined post and telegraph offices, though telegrams bearing these stamps wholly or in part if presented by the public will not be refused.

3. None of the denominations of 1/2, 1, and 2 annas of these commemorative stamps will be used on receipts or documents for revenue purposes. As none of the six denominations have been surcharged "Service" they will not be used on government service.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### STAMP MADE OF WOOD

By Dr Avinash B Jagtap (Binningen, Switzerland)

It may sound funny and next to impossible, a stamp made of real wood; but the Swiss Post is not yet at its end of innovation! After the issue of round self-adhesive postage stamps to commemorate Sydney Olympics (2000), the first-ever embroidery stamp (2000), stamp with the flavour of real Swiss Chocolate (2001), stamps depicting roses with the real fragrance of rose (2002), the Swiss Post has again demonstrated its rich heritage of innovation!

This new stamp of wood will be issued in limited quantity on 7th September 2004. It will be of rectangular shape with dimensions 40x50 mm and will be 0.7 mm thick. It is made of high quality fir. The word "HELVETIA" and the denomination "500" (5 Swiss Francs) will appear on the stamp and the typical year rings of the wood will decorate the stamp. It will be self-adhesive. It will be on sale at all post offices and philatelic sales points and will also be on sale in the 2004 year-set.

The announcement of this novelty was not disclosed till 5th August. Usually there is a special occasion for the issue of such "out-of-way" stamp, for example the Swiss National Exhibition, which is held after every 4 years. Also it is not clear how the Swiss Post decided to choose such a material, which is brittle and a stamp made of wood would not "survive" the shocks and rough handling, including the pressure applied by the obliterator for canceling it!

The Swiss Post claims that they wanted to remind to the Swiss and to the world that although Switzerland is in reality a rich nation, it is surprisingly very poor in natural resources! Very few people in the world know this fact. One of their great natural resources is "Water" and now also "Wood". The stamp presented by Swiss Post together with representatives from the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAFEL) and the Swiss Wood Industry Federation (Lignum). Swiss Post demonstrates the many possible uses for Swiss wood and its significance for a tiny country like Switzerland. This wooden stamp is likely to arouse the public interest, not only in Switzerland but all over the world.

According to the Swiss philatelists Swiss Post will better their revenue by selling this stamp mainly to the philatelists and it is believed that most of these stamps will never be used for franking letters. This stamp with denomination of 5 Swiss Francs are used for paying the postage (plus registration fees) of a registered letter in Switzerland. There will not be a block of four stamps, as it was in case of the reputed embroidery stamp. The embroidery stamp, sold at 5 Swiss Francs is now catalogued at a value of 12 Swiss Francs, and the block of four sold at 20.- Swiss

Francs is catalogued at 350.- Swiss Francs. Perhaps the wooden stamp may also face a similar "fate" in future! Swiss Post issued about 1.3 million embroidery stamps, of which there were about 10000 blocks of four. Most probably the number of Wood Stamps will be much lower than that of the embroidery stamp. Swiss Post normally declares the figures of stamps issued after about a year and a half. It is said that Swiss Post collected a revenue of about three to four millions of Francs by issuing the embroidery stamp, most of these stamps found their way in the collections of philatelists all over the globe, so the covers franked with these stamps and gone through the postal channel are scarce and this will determine their price. The marketing strategy will surely reward Swiss Post, even when these wooden stamps will not be sold and used as normal postage stamps but will be treasured as a novelty world over. The embroidery stamp was "copied" by other countries, perhaps this wooden stamp will have its "rivals" in days to come!

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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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