

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 191 - October 21, 2004. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of a short series of articles on 'Indian Airmails: The  
External Routes' appears in this issue under 'Research Notes' column.  
This is the result of our ongoing research in this area.

We have first of all separated those flights where the mails have been  
flown officially by the Indian Post Office. And these official flights  
we further divide in to Inland and External routes.

We need your support, contribution and cooperation in this online  
collaborative project. Let us have your views and benefit of your  
knowledge. All interesting and relevant facts are also welcome. We will  
appreciate scans of relevant covers that you have in your collections  
for adding the same to the site version of the articles.

By the way, has it occurred to anyone that this year also marked the  
75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first England India air and airmail service?

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Saleem M Khan,  
Shyam Prasad Nhuchhe Pradhan, and 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.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

October 24: United Nations Peace Keeping Operations - Indian Soldiers of Peace, Stamp and Miniature Sheet, Rs 5 each

October 24: Marudhu Pandiar Brothers, Rs 5

October 25: Greetings, Set of 2, Rs 4 each

October 27: Dr S Roerich, Rs 5

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

New Arrivals:

July 5, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Marathi, Cataract is curable, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

Special Postal Stationery

This is the REVISED AND CORRECTED version of the report published in Issue #190 of October 14, 2004.

September, Postcard with message, in English, Philately King of Hobbies - Collect Postage Stamps -Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau, SECURITY PRINTING PRESS, HYDERABAD. PRINTED IN SHEETS OF 8

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

October 14: Calicut, Gandhi at Malayalam Daily Mathrubhumi's Office

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 29-30, Meerut, District Level

Venue: Pandit P L Sharma Memorial Hall, Near Eves Cinema, Hapur road  
Contact: Rakesh Gupta, Mobile 0 98971 42640

November 3-5, New Delhi, National Level (Noncompetitive)

Venue: Godrej Auditorium, World Wide Fund for Nature, Lodhi Estate  
Contact: Ravi Pahwa, Mobile 0 98684 43685

November 17-19, New Delhi, District Level & State Level Youth

Venue: Russian Centre for Science & Culture, Phirozshah Road  
Contact: Ravi Pahwa, Mobile 0 98684 43685

November 19-21, Gwalior, Stamps and Coins

Venue:

Contact:

November 24-25, New Delhi, Mini Exhibition  
Venue: Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan  
Contact:

November 26-28, Bhopal, District Level  
Venue:  
Contact:

December 4-5, Sholapur, District Level  
Venue:  
Contact:

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

A Philatelic Workshop was organized in Delhi at B D Salwan School on October 12, 2004. This day was observed as Philately Day as a part of the National Postal week celebrations. The school had been organizing its own annual stamp and coin exhibition.

The workshop conducted by senior philatelist Pulak Gupta was attended by the students from class VI to VIII in a group of 50 students. In the workshop they were introduced to the hobby of stamps collection, types of stamps, how to arrange them in the album with a different treatment for the mint and the used stamps. It was followed by a practical demonstration on how to remove the stamps from the paper. The students were also told on how to make exhibits for display in the exhibitions. After the workshop an interactive session with the students was conducted where the students asked the questions.

The students enthusiastically participated in the philatelic quiz that followed. All the students were asked the questions and 5 students who answered maximum questions were selected for the final round where 3 reached the final round and competed for the top positions.

Also on the occasion India Post organized a special stall selling commemorative stamps.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

October 19: Mountain Series 2004, Set of 8, Rs 10 each  
The stamps depict the mountains above 8000 meters high in Nepal on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Cho Oyu.

01. Mount Cho Oyu, 8201 meters, the sixth highest mountain in the world and the fifth highest mountain in Nepal is located in the Sagarmatha zone in Khumbu Himal region. Cho Oyu was first ascended by Herbert Tichy, Joseph Joechler and a Sherpa Pasang Dawa Lama of the Austrian team on October 19, 1954.

02. Mount Everest, 8848 meters, the highest peak in the world and the nature's greatest gift to Nepal is located among the world's majestic peaks in the Khumbu Himal region in the Sagarmatha zone. The King of the Mountains, peak XV - the highest of this planet, was first explored by the then Surveyor General of Survey of India, Sir George Everest in 1841. In 1865 it was named Mount Everest. Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand, the two members of British expedition team led by John Hunt set world record for climbing Mount Everest for the first time on May 29, 1953. Since then Mount Everest has become an excellent centre of attraction for the mountain adventurers from all over the world.

03. Mount Kanchanjunga Main, 8586 meters, the third highest mountain in the world and the second highest in Nepal is located in the Mechi zone in Kanchanjunga range of Himalayas. It was first ascended by George Band, Joe Brown, Tone Streather and Norman Hardie of British expedition team on May 25, 1955.

04. Mount Lhotse, 8516 meters, the fourth highest mountain in the world and the third highest mountain in Nepal is located in the Sagarmatha zone in Khumbu Himal region. It was first ascended by Ernst Reiss and Fritz Luchsinger of the Swiss team on May 18, 1956.

05. Mount Makalu I, 8463 meters, the fifth highest mountain in Nepal is located in the Koshi zone in Mahalangur range of Himalayas. It was first ascended by the French team on May 15, 1955.

06. Mount Dhaulagiri I, 8167 meters, the seventh highest mountain in the world and the sixth highest mountain in Nepal is located in the Dhaulagiri zone in Dhaulagiri range of Himalayas. Dhaulagiri I was first ascended by a Swiss team on May 13, 1960.

07. Mount Manasalu, 8163 meters, the eight highest mountain in the world and the seventh highest mountain in Nepal is located in the Gandaki zone in Mansiri range of Himalayas. Manasulu was first scaled by T Imanishi, Kiishiro Kato, Minoru Higeta and Gyalzen Norbu of Japanese expedition team on May 9, 1956.

08. Mount Annapurna I, 8091 meters, the tenth highest mountain in the world and the eighth highest mountain in Nepal is located in the Gandaki zone in the Annapurna range of Himalayas. Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal of French expedition team were first to reach on the top of Mount Annapurna I on June 3, 1950 and earned the fame of being the first expedition to reach the Himalayan peak above 8000 meters.

The stamps are designed K K Karmacjarya and printed in four colors plus gold for the border by offset lithography by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria in sheets of 32 in the quantity of 0.125 million each.

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NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh released commemorative coins of Re 1 and Rs 100 on 150 Years of India Post October 4, 2004. It is expected that the bookings for these coins will be opened by the Government of India Mints in 2005 with deliveries scheduled in 2006!

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Thane court has rejected the bail plea of fake stamp racket accused Abdul Karim Telgi on October 18, 2004 on the ground that the charge sheet is yet to be filed in this case. The Thane court is hearing the 1999 case registered in Kashi-Mira police station involving sale of fake stamps. In August 1999, one P Jain was arrested with fake revenue stamps. He named one Umesh Khandewal who in turn pointed at Bhausahab Jagdale, a postal employee, for allegedly selling fake revenue stamps from the GPO counter. Jagdale revealed names of Uday Sawant and Vijay Kadam. The former was an employee of Telgi and from him, the police recovered stamp printing machinery, which allegedly belonged to the scam kingpin. There are 10 accused in the case, including the investigating officer, sub inspector Pratap Kakade, who has been arrested under MCOCA.

Another application, seeking permission to allow Telgi to speak to his mother and wife, was rejected on the ground that the accused was being held at Yeravada jail in Pune. Telgi was asked to file his plea before S M Shembole, the special judge presiding over Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act court in Pune.

Six persons accused in the fake stamp scam case underwent polygraphic and brain mapping tests on October 14, 2004 at the State Forensic Science Laboratory in Bangalore after the CBI secured orders from the Special MCOCA court in Pune. The orders came in response to an application moved by the CBI seeking its permission for conducting the tests on the six accused which included three members of stamp scam kingpin Abdul Karim Telgi's gang, two police officials and an employee of India Security Press, Nashik. One of the accused, Abdul Rashid Kulkarni once represented Telgi as his advocate and another Manoj Mehta helped him in money laundering operations as well as in petroleum adulterating business. Azeem Telgi, brother of Telgi, who helped him in recruiting members for his gang from Khanpur and those adjoining Karnataka, is also undergoing the tests. The two police officials D P Kamath and D Y Dal of the Crime Branch of Mumbai, who allegedly assisted Telgi and his crime syndicate during pending investigations, were also undertaking the lie detector test. Kamath had allegedly visited the Bangalore central prison to meet Telgi and on his behest he seized stamps from Telgis' adversaries. He also allegedly helped the stamp scam mastermind to stay in his flat and continue his illegal activities during his investigation by the Mumbai crime branch.

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India, Many Indian States and British Commonwealth Stamps at ebay, Click below, it will take you straight to my Shop at ebay. And Good Luck, we have lots from 99P to £2000, I promise you will not waste your time.  
<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/id=138724162?ssPageName=L2>

#### FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

#### 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.>

ASHOK KUMAR TIWARY, Jamshedpur

Now days we philatelists are going through "Ratioing" or quota system while buying philatelic materials from Philatelic bureaus.

This rationing system was introduced on 5th October, when a miniature sheet of Rs. 20 was issued on '150 years of India Post'. Jamshedpur philatelic bureau got only 100 copies, whereas it has more than 1000 PD Accounts. This bureau supplies philatelic materials in all part of the Jharkhand state as well.

So, when we philatelists had gone to buy it, we were told that a rationing system has been introduced for this issue & only some of the PD account holders will get it. After a long discussion, we philatelist could get one each.

Meanwhile I made contact to other part of the country to get this miniature sheet at other philatelic bureau. Everywhere I came to know

about this Rationing system. Even some of my friend requested me to arrange that issue here in Jamshedpur for them.

Why is it happening? Is there any restriction for printing such attractive sheets in larger quantity? Or, dealers are managing this situation for there benefit? Recent issue of Rs. 5 miniature sheet on the 'voyage of TARANGINI' was printed in very little quantity like 50,000 only. Now dealers are quoting it for more than Rs. 100. Is this miniature sheet going to make new high?

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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

BASRA CAIRO AIRMAIL SERVICE 1927-1929, Part 2

[Part 1 was published in the Issue # 189 of October 7, 2004]

In 1921, the Royal Air force began a weekly airmail service between Cairo (Egypt) and Baghdad (Iraq) and from October 1921, it was opened to public as well. The route between Cairo and Baghdad was largely over featureless desert and a 400 mile long track was especially laid out as a navigation aid. The service was operated by De Havilland DH34s aircraft.

The Cairo Baghdad Airmail Service was the first airmail service of the British Empire. It was taken over by Imperial Airways in January 1927 and was extended to Basra. The first flight carrying Indian mails from Basra was on January 7, 1927. Very little public mail may have been carried in this flight as the Press Communiqué was issued after this date. The postal notice that came after the Press Communiqué is dated January 20, 1927.

Initially the air service was fortnightly on alternate Fridays from Basra. The frequency was increased to weekly on every Wednesday from April 16, 1927 from Basra. The flight left Cairo every Wednesday after taking airmails received via Port Said from the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company Mail Steamer scheduled to arrive at Bombay on Friday of the following week. The mails for India were picked up from Basra by Persian Gulf Fast Mail Steamer of British India Steam Navigation Company that was scheduled to reach Karachi on Thursday of the following week. Thus there was a saving of a day.

Indian mails were closed at Karachi every Saturday evening for dispatch by Steamer leaving for Basra on the next day morning. Such mails for onward transmission beyond Cairo were expected to catch the Steamer that left Bombay on the same Saturday.

The transit time by this service was 13 days between Karachi and London, 7 days between Karachi and Cairo, and 6 days between Karachi and Baghdad. The mails from places in the north-west of India only were benefited by the saving of time.

It was required that 'Air Mail - Urgent - Basrah - Cairo' must be superscribed on mail articles. The requirement for this superscription was replaced on December 29, 1927 by the Airmail label. The label introduced earlier in 1927 was now required to be affixed on top left hand corner of the address side.

The mail articles were also required to be prepaid with an air fee of Annas 3 per ounce of part thereof in addition to the ordinary postage. Indian Post Office clarified on January 19, 1928 that the letters and single postcards to be eligible to be carried on Basra Cairo airmail service must at least be prepaid to cover the air fee. However the packets were still required to be fully prepaid with ordinary postage and air fee.

Sources: Postal Notices, and Annual Reports of the Indian Post Office

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### COLLECT VIRTUAL STAMPS!

Computer technology now provides an innovative boost to the age-old hobby of stamp collecting. Swapping virtual stamp images electronically, pasting them into digital albums and stamping your outgoing e-mail letters are all part of the fun of virtual philately.

It had to happen sometime. With an explosion in the world's virtual reality markets, where not even the dearly departed escape without a virtual funeral service, CyberStamp Club has launched a major initiative in the philatelic field. Now you can collect stamps on your own PC through [www.cyberstampclub.com](http://www.cyberstampclub.com) as an attractive extension to more usual philatelic pursuits.

Virtual or cyber stamps are defined as "accurate digital images of genuine postage stamps, in mint or used condition, which are scanned and transferred between collectors electronically. They are collected for exactly the same reasons as normal stamps in as far as their non-physical form will allow."

The site [www.cyberstampclub.com](http://www.cyberstampclub.com) is primarily directed at the vast traditional philatelic market, as a complimentary aid to modern stamp collecting. It proclaims: "virtual stamp collecting is a rewarding computer hobby that has everything to do with the appreciation of postage stamps and not much to do with old-fashioned rules." This refreshing approach launches an age-old pastime dynamically into the new millennium ... and cyberspace, stimulating renewed interest in all aspects of the world's number one hobby. Within a few months of going live, Cyberstamp Club signed up over 100 pioneer members of all age groups from many countries. This represents a consistent 5% unique hits to member conversion rate. And there are literally several million on-line philatelists who have yet to discover this fascinating stamp site.

Interest in virtual stamps, or quality-scanned images of actual postage stamps, does not lie with stamp collectors alone. Because of the vast universe of commemorative material, which has been issued throughout the world over for over 150 years, no group is unable to make practical use of the CyberStamp material: Researchers, historians, bird watchers, animal lovers, artists, etc. ... all will find the miniature art depictions invaluable as visual or illustrative aids in their particular field of interest.

CyberStamp Club provides simple directions for anyone to convert their favourite computer programs into virtual stamp albums or stamp stock books. Technical tips and advice are accompanied by generous downloads of interesting and highly attractive virtual stamp material.

There is a growing culture of virtual services on the internet ... from virtual dating to virtual banking. It is within this established culture that the virtual stamp-collecting concept thrives. Already, people from dozens of countries around the world have subscribed to the club's free membership and services, and more are joining daily.

CyberStamp Club foresees a time when many a bored secretary, hospital convalescent, tired business or home executive will trade their favourite computer game or puzzle for the absorbing pastime of theme stamp collecting on computer. With virtual stamp collectors trading directly through [www.cyberstampclub.com](http://www.cyberstampclub.com) and among each other, virtual philately is set to take off like a virtual hula-hoop.

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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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Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089  
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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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