ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION ------The First, Free & 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 # 98 - January 9, 2003. Published Every Thursday Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan To subscribe send email to stampsofindia@bigfoot.com with your name, postal address, and philatelic interests. To unsubscribe send email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm IN THIS ISSUE A Million FDC for Dhirubhai Ambani Other New Stamps Released New Postal Stationery New Special Postmarks Forthcoming Exhibitions Philatelic Counter At Delhi District Courts Design A Stamp Contest: Uttranchal Transfer & Postings of Senior Postal Officers New India Post Web Site Bhutan's new issue The Calendar Of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions Philately in Transition in India, Part 39 Readers Forum - Suraj Jaitly from Ludhiana Also in the News - Swiss Post Launches First Braille Postage Stamp NewsScan - Post Offices For Rolls Revision Under Consideration If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still forward a copy of this issue.

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

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We begin this issue with greeting for the year 2003 and hope that all your dreams come true and all your aspirations are fulfilled.

With our first issue of the year being just on the 2^{nd} day of the New Year we were unable to meet the deadline. We hope that in the New Year we would be able to bring you updates on Indian Philately on a regular basis.

We began the year with paying tributes to our fellow Indians with a big conference saluting persons of Indian origin who have gone and made other nations as their adopted homes. As yours truly also has an exhibit that showcases stamps that have been issued by other nations to honor persons places and occasions all related to India he was featured in one the leading national dailies, the Hindustan Times, and the article is available on the following link: FOREIGN STAMPS RETELL INDIAN TALES by Vinita Faridi http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_134697,0006.htm

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Sudhir Jain from Satna, Swiss Post, and Government of India's Press Information Bureau at New Delhi.

We invite your inputs, please email to stampsofindia@tatnova.com Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MILLION FDC FOR DHIRUBHAI AMBANI After a long long time we saw people queuing for buying stamps on the day of issue.

A record one million First Day Covers (FDC) of this commemorative stamp issue were bought by the Ambani family. Ambanis also bought a total of 3.4 million stamps.

This is the fifth issue in newly introduced Sheetlet format and only 25,000 sheetlets are available for public. Seeing the popularity of the issue, we will risk predicting that this will be a difficult sheetlet for future collectors.

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Communications and Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan released the commemorative postage stamp on Dhirubhai Ambani, Industrialist and Corporate Icon, at a function in Mumbai on December 28, 2002.

Dhirubhai H. Ambani (1932-2002) played an important role in the country's quest for economic growth and regeneration. Rising from humble beginnings he went on to build India's largest business conglomerate through the brilliance of his entrepreneurial genius and sheer hard work.

Among the greatest contributions of Ambani was the way he generated an equity cult in India. Starting with the initial public offering of Reliance Industries in 1977, he attracted a large number of retail investors to the stock market with issue after issue. The trust that he earned from millions of shareholders, employees and customers was crucial to the phenomenal growth of Reliance Industries from a small time business firm in 1977 to one of the world leaders within two decades. Analysts have often marveled at four exceptional qualities of Dhirubhai Ambani which made his incredible success possible – the spirit of self-reliance, speed, size and scale of operations and ability to sell products by leading the market. In business, he adopted a strategy that could never fail – that of producing goods of high quality and selling them at the cheapest possible price. The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. A brochure containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 was issued on the occasion.

India Security Press of Nashik printed the stamps by photogravure in multicolor on Imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 3.8 million in sheetlets of 16 Stamps.

OTHER NEW STAMPS RELEASED

T T KRISHNAMACHARI

The Chief Post Master General, Tamil Nadu circle, U Srinivasa Raghavan released a commemorative postage stamp on T T Krishnamachari, Industrialist and Corporate Icon, at a function in Chennai on December 31, 2002. C V Narasimhan, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, speaking on this occasion said 'a stamp in his honor was a fitting tribute to a man who had "left a stamp of class" in his work for the progress of the country'. Veteran Carnatic vocalist Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer and T T Vasu, son of TTK and president of the Music Academy founded by TTK, were also present at the function.

Tiruvellore Thattai Krishnamachari (1899-1974), or TTK as he was popularly known, was one among the makers of modern India. He was instrumental in building the basic economic and industrial infrastructure of the country and also left his mark on the Indian Constitution as a member of the Drafting Committee. TTK began his life as a businessman and went on to lay the foundation of the hugely successful firm TT Krishnamachari & Co. in 1928, in Chennai. By the mid-thirties, when the company was well established, TTK decided to turn his attention to politics. He was initially elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly as an independent member, and later joined the Congress. In 1946, he was made a member of the Constituent Assembly at the Centre. After independence, during the years from 1952 to 1965, he served the country twice as a Central Minister. He was the first Minister for Commerce and Industry and then Finance Minister. He also remained incharge of the Steel Ministry for quite some time.

TTK was instrumental in setting up the country's three major steel plants and financial institutions like IDBI, ICICI and UTI. He introduced path-breaking tax reforms during his stint as Finance Minister. Embarking upon measures needed for providing social security, TTK expanded the pension scheme to cover family members of the deceased government servants by introducing a new Family Pension Scheme in 1964. He planned schemes like the Rajasthan Canal Schemes, Dandakaranya and Damodar Valley Projects. The Neyveli Projects owe their existence to the fillip given by TTK.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp. Binoy Varghese designed the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. A brochure containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 was issued on the occasion. 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 in sheets of 40 stamps.

FORTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

India Post released a set of two commemorative postage stamps on 'Forts of Andhra Pradesh', featuring the forts at Golconda and Chandragiri on December 31, 2002.

Golconda fort is a majestic monument, which lies on the western outskirts of Hyderabad city. Hyderabad itself owes its birth to Golconda, the capital of the Qutub Shahi dynasty. The fort is believed to have been built originally by the Yadava rulers of the region and later passed through the domination of different dynasties like the Kakatiyas and Bahmani Sultans. Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah, who set up a new structure in 1525, and his successors re-inforced the fortress over a period of 62 years. The magnificent architecture of the Golconda fort is manifest in its acoustic system, the structural grandeur of the palaces and ingenious water supply system. The ventilation system reveals the brilliant planning of the architects.

Chandragiri was the former capital of the Vijayanagar Empire. Located at the distance of 12 km from Tirupati in Chitoor district, the fort is said to have been built around AD 1000 by Immadi Narasimha Yadavaraya. The Vijayanagar Kings made additions at a later time. The well-secured fortification is a marvelous feat of construction, with cyclopean walls buttressed with the typical bastions at regular intervals and pierced with gateways and zig-zag entrances.

The stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 5 each, the inland letter rate. Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. A brochure containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 was issued on the occasion.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 3 million each in sheets of 27 stamps.

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

The advent of hi-tech postal stationery as reported in the previous issue, shall also cover the "Forces Letter" and "Green Envelope" used by the defence forces on active duty. These shall also be produced in new vertical format Inland Letter Cards and will have the bar code and MICR area for machine sorting of mail. The Red color "Forces Letter" is used by the ranks while the Officers use the "Green Envelope".

There are no postal stationery issues with advertisements scheduled for January 2003 however we had missed out on one item that was scheduled for release in December 2002.

The information in the listing is presented in following format: Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity, Remarks.

INLAND LETTER CARD - Panch Mahal, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format 31, SPP, Malayalam, Maveli Triveni 3 in one Perfumes, 1 million

NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a Special Postmark on December 24, 2002 at Patna to mark the "Tourism & Trade Mart 2002" (TTM). A Special Cover depicting Lord Buddha with Shanti Stupa at Rajgir and Lord Mahaveer with Lotus Temple at Pawapuri was also issued on the occasion highlighting Bihar's importance as the place of pilgrimage for Buddhists and Jains. The image of this cover is available at

http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/Postmarks/Dec-24.htm

TTM, a mega show of the travel trade, is being held by Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation for 16 days from December 21, 2002. A variety of cultural programs, food plaza and exhibition of traditional handicrafts is the major highlights of the TTM. Several programs including, quiz, debates, seminars and street plays are organized every day in a specially designed theatre. Several internationally acclaimed artists including Pundit Jasraj, Kishori Amonkar, Shovna Narayan and Madhukar Anand are also participating in the TTM.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Madurai Division of Tamilnadu Circle of India Post is organizing a district level exhibition, KOODALPEX, at Madurai on January 9-11, 2003.

Beed Division of Maharashtra Circle of India Post has rescheduled the district level exhibition at Beed to January 12-13, 2003.

Sambalpur Region of the Orissa Circle of India Post is organizing a regional level philatelic exhibition at Bargarh on January 15-17, 2003.

India Post will organize a district level exhibition at Tirur on February 3-4, 2003.

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

PHILATELIC COUNTER AT DISTRICT COURTS The Delhi Circle of India Post has opened a philatelic counter at District Courts Post Office at Delhi on experimental basis for three months with effect from December 2, 2002.

DESIGN A STAMP CONTEST

India Post organizes this contest every year all over the country and usually the entry adjudged the best at the national level is used as the design for the Children's Day stamp.

The contest in Uttranchal was organized on October 19, 2002 in Dehradun. Rajesh Verma, President of Uttranchal Philatelic Association and Umesh Sharma, Principal of Roop Rekha Art School evaluated the entries on December 31, 2002 and chose the winners at the state level.

TRANSFER & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS S B Bhattacharya, the Member (Operations) of Postal Services Board superannuated on December 31, 2002. Farewell.

Vijay Bhushan, the Chief Postmaster General of Punjab Circle was promoted and posted as Member of Postal Services Board at India Post's HQ at New Delhi with effect from January 1, 2003. He will be responsible for the 'Operations' portfolio. Welcome. NEW INDIA POST WEB SITE The Chairman of Postal Services Board, S C Dutta, launched the web site of Tamil Nadu Postal Circle <u>http://www.tamilnadupost.org</u> on December 26, 2002 at Chennai.

Fauna & Flora Heritage of Himalayan Kingdom Designer: Dayna Elefant Printer: The House of Questa (England) Process: Multicolor Offset Lithography Stamp Size: 28.45 millimeters x 42.58 millimeters Paper: 102 gm2 unwatermarked PVA gummed security-coated Perforations: 14 per two centimeters Release Date: December 16, 2002

BHUTAN'S NEW ISSUE

Values: A set of six different sheetlets, each containing six different horizontal 25 ngultrum stamps.

Sheetlet #1 - Animals of Bhutan (1) the Gaur [Bos frontalis], (2) the Hog Badger [Arctonyx collaris], (3) the Indian Cobra [Naja naja], (4) the Leopard Gecko [Eublepharius macularius], (5) the Gavial [Gavialis gangeticus] and (6) the Hispid Hare [Caprolagus hispidus].

Sheetlet #2 - Birds of Bhutan (7) the Yellow-Legged Gull [Larus cachinnans], (8) the Sand Martin [Riparia riparia], (9) the Asian Openbill [Anastomus ospitans], (10) the White Stork [Ciconia ciconia], (11) the Eurasian Oystercatcher [Haematopus ostralegus] and (12) the Indian Pitta [Pitta brachyura].

Sheetlet #3 - Butterflies of Bhutan (13) the Dead Leaf Butterfly [Kalima horsfieldi], (14) the Papilionidae [Troides aeacus], (15) the Papilionidae [Atrophaneura latreillei], (16) the Papilionidae [Temopalpus imperialis], (17) the Nymphalidae [Zeuxidia aurelius] and (18) the Nymphalidae [Euploea dufresne].

Sheetlet #4 - Flowers of Bhutan (19) the Primula cawdoriana, (20) the Meconopsis aculeata, (21) the Primula vigramiana, (22) the Primula stuartii, (23) the Saxifraga andersonii and (24) the Rheum nobile.

Sheetlet #5 - Mushrooms of Bhutan (25) the Entire Russula [Russula integra], (26) the March Wax Cap [Hygrophorus marzuolus], (27) the Fawn Tricholoma [Tricholoma fulvum], (28) the Sulfur Tuft [Hypholoma fasciculare], (29) the Poplar Tricholoma [Tricholoma populinum] and (30) the Annatto-Colored Cortinarius [Cortinarius orellanus.].

Sheetlet #6 - Orchids of Bhutan (31) the Coelogyne rhodeana, (32) the Coelogyne virescens, (33) the Phalaenopsis schilleriana, (34) the Angraecum eburneum, (25) the Dendrobium aureum and (36) the Dendrobium caesar x jag.

Souvenir Sheets: - A set of six sheets, each denominated at 90 ngultrum. SOUVENIR SHEET #1 - Estuarine Crocodile [Crocodylus porosus]. SOUVENIR SHEET #2 - Mandarin Duck [Ax gabericulata]. SOUVENIR SHEET #3 -Lycaenidae Butterfly [Portia philota]. SOUVENIR SHEET #4 - Paris polyphylla flower. SOUVENIR SHEET #5 - Red Tentacle Fungus [Clathrus archeri] mushroom. SOUVENIR SHEET #6 - Dendrobium chrysotoxum orchid.

THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS The information for January 2003 with detailed information and announcements was updated on January 1, 2003 and is now available at http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm

We regularly provide this information by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala who has now launched their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com where this information is continuously updated.

This new Website details all of the public philatelic auctions for the current month and the next, Direct Links Auctioneer E-Mail Addresses and Websites, Auctioneer's Announcements on Future Sales, A Philatelic Auction Glossary, The beginnings of a master listing of the worldwide classics-era numerical and alphabetical obliterators (cancellations), and links to Philatelic and Other Useful Websites.

VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 39 The Organizing Secretary of INPEX 02 & Secretary of the Philatelic Congress of India, B K Sinha has responded to 'Latest on INPEX 02' in issue # 97 of December 26, 2002 his response is given below:

"I am forwarding the email message I had sent out in reply to the India Post letter. There were not 3 points to be complied with - but six. There were three points we could never comply to (meaning: all points not complied and hence no frames). My reply to the DoP is self explanatory and in no way "jeopardizing the future of philately in India for petty immediate personal gains."

The objections we could not comply with were: a. Conducting the Pigeon Flight (we still in the dark how they are remotely connected to this).

b. The logo has the similarity of a stamp which was used without their permission (we believe that the Department has a notion that they have a copyright on all the stamps - presuming they do so, the design is not identical but similar, and hence does not violate any law. Did they seek the permission from the people of Orissa when they used the picture of the Konark Horse...we feel the DoP would now ask the catalogue publishers Gibbons, Scott, etal, not to use their stamp images). c. They indicated it was a criminal offense for publicising images of fake postage stamps (we had very clearly mentioned that the images were artworks of PROPOSED STAMPS - whether they intend issuing them is another matter).

If you still feel I have erred in my opinion on this matter, I shall publicly tender my apologies if I have a proper reasoning from your end."

We are not carrying the letter he is supposed to have e-mailed to India Post on December 26, 2002, as it is India Post's prerogative to respond to that.

Sinha's has done his best to confuse the matter further instead of tendering an apology, not necessarily public, but to India Post.

We believe that persons controlling PCI, by glossing over Orissa Philatelic Association's shortcomings in organizing earlier national, MILLEPEX 2000 in the name of the super-cyclone, have emboldened and encouraged Sinha & Company to repeat similar activities.

There were 6 points in India Post's letter of December 13, 2002, concerning the official website of INPEX 02. However the compliance desired by India Post was summed up in three points where the first point itself covered all the 6 points relating to the official website of INPEX 02 and as we see it is not complied with completely. The second point in the compliance desired was about printed material where nothing has been done. The third point was regarding the posters and banners of INPEX 02.

Sinha and Sahoo have been involved in organizing several "Pigeon Post" in Orissa at various occasions mainly the state level philatelic exhibitions. Therefore it is very strange when Sinha feigns ignorance about the role of post office in creating philatelic souvenirs -Pigeonogrammes in this case.

And it definitely is not our job to educate them on legal matters such as Copyright; we had once tried to explain the Antiquities Act to him but to no avail.

We disagree that they had "very clearly" mentioned that the images were artworks of proposed stamps as it was not the case. When was Sinha expected to know as the Organizing Secretary of INPEX 02 and the designer of those stamps "whether they intend issuing them"? Not even eleven days before their release?

The truth is that the namedropping is their way of working. India Post told them in May 2002 that they are not supporting this exhibition but Sinha & company till the evening of December 13, 2002 not only claimed India Post's patronage but also kept on flaunting their name at many junctures. Somehow Sinha has to figure out for himself that the number of exhibitors, dealers, sponsors, and advertisers would not have been a miniscule fraction if it were publicly known that neither India Post nor Orissa Tourism is involved with INPEX 02.

READERS FORUM SURAJ JAITLY FROM LUDHIANA On R P Oswal's Letter in issue # 97 of December 26, 2002

I think it is better for you to consult any Catalogue like Stanley Gibbons, for detailed definition of Omnibus issues. For obtaining old or new Omnibus issues, it is better for you to contact Stanley Gibbons or Souvenir Stamps in UK or to Kent Research in USA.

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. We strive hard to bring you comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions. We also would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send in your comments, views, reports, articles and other features for publication>

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

SWISS POST LAUNCHES FIRST BRAILLE POSTAGE STAMP The first Swiss postage stamp in braille is embossed on a brilliant red background, enabling sighted people to imagine what it means to be blind. With this 70 centime special stamp, Swiss Post - which has transported items for the blind free of charge since 1905 - is honouring the century-old commitment of the Swiss National Association for the Blind (SNAB) and the Swiss Library for the Blind and the Visually Impaired. The stamp will be available from 6 March 2003.

Swiss Post is one of the first postal organizations in the world to issue a Braille stamp. This issue commemorates the long-standing commitment of numerous non-profit organizations and in particular the century-old commitment of the Swiss National Association for the Blind and the Swiss Library for the Blind and the Visually Impaired in Zurich. Louis Braille, who was himself blind, invented Braille in the 19th century.

Graphic artist Sandra Di Salvo from Winterthur designed the 70-centime postage stamp. The tactile stamp is dominated by the number 70 in Braille and conveys an inkling of how the blind and visually impaired experience daily life. By designing a stamp with a high sensory impact, the artist was aiming to sensitize sighted people to the problems of visual impairment. This effect is heightened by the bright red colour and an ingenious interplay of hues: at first glance the postage appears simply to be a red square, but on closer inspection a glossy "70" emerges. This contrasts with the regular "Helvetia 70" wording.

The idea that the blind be exempt from paying postage was already proposed in Switzerland by Federal Councilor Zemp in 1905. Swiss Post thus became the pioneer for the now international practice of waiving postal charges for items for the blind, known as "Cécogrammes". Swiss Post now carries items for the blind weighing up to 7 kg free of charge.

The special stamp commemorating the "Centenary of the Swiss National Association for the Blind and of the Swiss Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired" will appear as a sheetlet with ten stamps. It will be available from 6 March 2003 at all Swiss post offices, philatelic salespoints and on the Internet at www.post.ch/philashop (see links on the right) and can be used for postage from the date of issue.

ASK US Please send your queries in detail (illustrations welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to provide an answer to you online.

NEWSSCAN

The Hindu, December 26, 2003

POST OFFICES FOR ROLLS REVISION UNDER CONSIDERATION By T. Ramakrishnan http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/2002/12/26/stories/2002122604780400. htm

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

We require regular correspondents everywhere in India to cover the philatelic activities in their area. We shall reimburse the costs of photos, covers, publications, courier and other charges. All contributions shall be acknowledged.

WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPSOFINDIA

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.

Updated Segments This Week: News, Articles,

STAMPS ON INDIA http://stampsonindia.netfirms.com The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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Published by Madhukar Jhingan for 'Stamps of India', Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110 063 India Phone: + 91-11-25281578 Mobiles: 98681 40089 (MJ), 98111 60884 (SJ) Web Site: <u>www.stampsofindia.com</u> Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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