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

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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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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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NewsScan - PRE-1857 STAMPS AT UK AUCTION HOUSE

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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still forward a copy of this issue.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

With the Cricket World Cup just round the corner every one is talking  
about centuries and so are we, this newsletter is also reached 100. We  
could not have attained this century without your help and support. We  
look forward to your continued support to achieve many more centuries.

Once again it is important for us to receive your feedback to make this  
newsletter more informative and useful.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Rajesh  
Paharia from Jaipur, The Hindu, chennaionline.com, Indian Express, The  
Telegraph, Mid Day

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

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists
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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### NEW ISSUE UPDATE

India Post's next stamp issue is scheduled for release on February 5, 2003 to mark 'Aero India 2003' that is a biennial international aero-space exhibition organized jointly by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Ministry of Defense at Bangalore. The issue consists of 4 stamps, 3 in the denomination of Rs. 5 and 1 in the denomination of Rs. 15. A Miniature Sheet shall also be issued.

The 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.

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POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUES IN FEBRUARY 2003

The postal stationery with following advertisements is scheduled for release in February 2003.

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

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD - Panch Mahal, 25 Paise, Red
01, SPP, English, Life Insurance Corporation, 100,000
03, SPP, English & Tamil, Tata, 100,000

POSTCARD - Panch Mahal, 50 Paise, Brown
03, SPP, Bengali, xx, 1 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - Panch Mahal, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format
10, SPP, Malayalam, xx, 1 million
28, SPP, Hindi, Anti-TB, 1 million
28, SPP, English, Anti-TB, 1 million
28, SPP, Hindi, TB is Curable, 1 million
28, SPP, English, TB is Curable, 1 million

For a complete list of issues, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/Stationery/a202.htm>

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##### NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark and released a special cover on January 20, 2003 at Salem to mark the 17th Southern State Science Fair.

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FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

RAJPEX 2003, the state level stamp exhibition scheduled from February 17 to 21, 2003 at Jaipur is postponed due to non-availability of sufficient number of display frames,

JP-PEX 2003, a district level exhibition will be held at Birla Auditorium at Jaipur from February 19 to 21, 2003. A Seminar on Modern Philately, Workshop with Audio Video presentation, and Quiz will also be organized during this exhibition. The special postmarks and special covers will be issued on all three days.

In belated news, a district level exhibition was held at Udhampur on November 21, 2002.

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PCI CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against PCI and others came up for hearing on January 20, 2003. Some of the defendants filed their written statements and the next date was fixed for February 14, 2003.

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MANGALAPEX

Speakers at the inauguration of the three-day "Mangalapex 2003" at Mangalore on January 15, 2003 stressed the need for individuals, young and old alike, to pursue creative hobbies. They expressed concern that hobbies such as philately and numismatics were declining with the advent of new-age entertainment.

Inaugurating the event, the Chairman of the Karnataka Bank Ltd., Ananthakrishna, said the joy of a hobby had to be experienced to be believed. Such exhibitions helped rekindle people's interest in hobbies and provided a diversion from the daily grind. Noting that the present means of "diversion" was television, he said it was not a healthy trend. Other avenues of diverting one's mind through cultural and spiritual means and hobbies provided the necessary creative outlet to people.

The Chairman of the Lamina Group of Companies, N Vinay Hegde, who released the souvenir, said philately was more than a hobby. It enlarged one's mind and provided information on various facets of life. Noting that the culture beamed down into our living rooms was alien to the Indian cultural ethos, he said it was imperative for all concerned to show a sense of understanding on this vital issue.

The Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, K B H Nair, who released a special cover on Rani Abbakka, said the department planned to popularize philately at the village level. Special covers were a unique way of shedding light on forgotten aspects of the history of any area and a means to honor personalities.

The General Manager of the Dakshina Kannada Telecom District, K J Chacko, who was the chief guest, said people had forgotten the art of writing letters with the advent of technology. This had taken the spotlight away from philately as a hobby. He lauded the conviction shown by his sister department in keeping a tradition alive by conducting such informative exhibitions.

The Director, Postal Services, South Karnataka Region, Charles Lobo, who presided over the function, noted that Mangalore was the first division to organize a divisional-level exhibition. He said 280 philatelic frames had been displayed at the exhibition, including 76 frames for invitees, 95 frames for senior groups, 65 for juniors, and 40 for Nehru Philately clubs. He pointed that the exhibition was a festival of stamps, and added that these small pieces of paper were the true ambassadors of any nation.

The parish priest of St. Sebastian's Church, Bendore, J P Tauro, blessed the occasion. The Senior Superintendent of Post Offices and Chairman of Mangalapex 2003, M A Naik, welcomed the gathering. K Babu

Naik, Vice-Chairman of Mangalapex 2003, proposed a vote of thanks. M K Krishnayya, President of the Dakshina Kannada Philatelic Association, and K S Shetty, Secretary of Mangalapex, were also present on the occasion.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RAJASTHAN

The Philatelic Society of Rajasthan elected unanimously its New Governing Body for Year 2003-2005 on January 11, 2003.  
President - A S Mittal, Vice President - Ashok Sharma, General Secretary - Rajesh Paharia, Joint Secretary - N L Gheyi, Treasurer - J D Kumar, Librarian - Umesh Agarwal, Executive Members - Ramesh Khanna, Jayant Pandya, N C Bhandari, Yogesh Bhatnagar, and Shaukat Ali

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LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS

The website of Dakshina Kannada Philatelic Association http://www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa has been featured in the latest issue of Limca Book of Records that was recently brought out.

The philately section in this issue of Limca Book of Records has come out very well with lots of color images.

Congratulations to its Webmaster Yoga Jeppu who also had contributed a feature for Limca Book of Records on Re. 1 stamps.

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

A K Bhatnagar, Deputy Director General (Postal Operations & Inspections) at postal directorate, New Delhi is promoted as Senior Deputy Director General (Postal Operations & Inspections) with effect from January 1, 2003.

R Ganesan, the Chief Postmaster General, is promoted as Principal Chief Postmaster General with effect from January 1, 2003. He will retain the charge of Maharashtra Circle.

B V Sudhakar, Director Postal Services of Hyderabad Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle was promoted and posted as Postmaster General of Aurangabad Region of Maharashtra Circle with effect from January 14, 2003.

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from January 14, 2003:

B L Modak, from Postmaster General of Aurangabad Region of Maharashtra Circle to Postmaster General of Rajkot Region of Gujarat Circle,

A P Srivastava, from Additional Director of Postal Staff College, Ghaziabad to Postmaster General of Mumbai Region of Maharashtra Circle,

Shobha Koshy, from Deputy Director General (Establishment) to Deputy Director General (Postal Operations & Inspections) at postal directorate, New Delhi,

Indu Gupta, from being on leave to Additional Director of Postal Staff College, Ghaziabad,

A K Sharma, from being on leave to Deputy Director General (Establishment) at postal directorate, New Delhi.

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COPS ABSCONDED WITH STAMP SCAM KINGPIN

The Mumbai police suspended four policemen on January 15, 2003 who allowed Abdul Karim Telgi, mastermind in the multi-billion countrywide fake stamp scam, to stay in his lavish Cuffe Parade home while he was supposed to be in police custody. Authorities had earlier sealed the ground floor flat at Meena Manor in November 2002.

Assistant Inspector B P Kamat, Sub-Inspector G M Dewade, constables P T Pise and M K Borude, all from Mumbai Crime Branch (Unit V), had been dispatched to Karnataka last week to bring Telgi to Mumbai. They were not heard from since.

Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector General Subodh Jaiswal received news that Telgi was at his Cuffe Parade home. Jaiswal notified Mumbai Police Commissioner R S Sharma, who sent another police team to Telgi's home. There they found Telgi and the four policemen. He was escorted back to the lock-up in the evening.

Apparently, after reaching Mumbai, instead of taking Telgi to the Crime Branch office, the four policemen took him straight to his sealed house at Cuffe Parade. Since then, Telgi led a lavish life there.

Mumbai Commissioner of Police Sharma said that an inquiry has been initiated against the four policemen. Deputy Commissioner of police (crime) Pradip Sawant is expected to submit a report in the next three weeks.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 41

AUCTION HEAT ON STAMP COLLECTOR by Dalip Singh

Stamp collector Dilip P Shah was booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation for auctioning a rare collection of antiques in England in 2001. Now, the bureau will send letters rogatory to Britain and America to verify Shah's claim that the stamp collection belonged to his NRI brother who had listed it at Spink and Son for auction.

Shah, the winner of PhilaKorea 94, a showcase event for stamp collectors, was booked under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

Now, the CBI is sending a letter rogatory to Britain to ascertain that the stamps owned by Shah are those shown in photocopies and an auction catalogue seized by the bureau during a search of Shah's Jabalpur residence. It also seeks to find out how Spink and Son got the stamps.

Another letter rogatory - to the US - is being sent to find out if the stamps actually belong to Dilip Shah's Atlanta-based brother Dhiraj.

CBI sources said the draft report of the letters rogatory was sent to the Union home ministry for clearance more than a week ago. Once cleared by the ministry, the report would go to the Union law ministry for vetting, after which a local court would dispatch the letters rogatory to Britain and America.

Shah, who has collections of rare stamps, wanted to exhibit them at the grand prix in Seoul in 1994. In the export permit he obtained from the Archaeological Survey of India, he declared that the stamps belonged to him.

He got the permit, displayed 540 stamps at PhilaKorea and won the grand prix. He returned with all the stamps.

Shah, who was the general secretary of Philatelic Congress, a private association of stamp collectors, also participated in a Singapore competition the next year and returned with all the stamps.

The CBI said Shah decided to auction more than 160 antique stamps at Spink and Son in October 2001.

Shah said he decided to sell them to get his finances in order before retiring.

However, the auction could not take place as the Indian High Commission in London objected to it, the CBI sources said.

Shah says, as the stamps were owned by a member of the family, he did not realise it was essential to specify – at the time of obtaining the permit to display the stamps at Seoul and Singapore – that the stamps were actually owned by his brother and not him.

Shah's collections are believed to be one of the finest, some of them depicting a human head and Queen Victoria and East India Company emblems. One of the stamps is pasted on an envelope addressed to the "Maharani of Cossipore" in West Bengal. The prices of the stamps, which included 2 anna and 4 anna ones, at the aborted auction ranged from £200-18,000.

CBI sources said people continue to export antique stamps for hefty sums. A senior CBI officer said stamp collectors should be aware of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act to avoid coming under the police scanner.

The above article has been reproduced from 'The Telegraph', Kolkata of January 21, 2003. The 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi had also carried a story on the same case on January 17, 2003 'Pre-1857 Stamps At UK Auction House' and the link is given later in the issue.

As the CBI officer has mentioned above the stamp collectors should not only be aware of the law but should also abide by it to avoid any action being taken against them.

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READERS FORUM

<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>

S D BHATIA FROM NEW DELHI

Bhatia, aged 81 years with over 50 years in philately, recently suggested to Communications & IT Minister and the Chief Minister of Gujarat as follows:

The post should issue a 10 paise stamp to be compulsorily affixed on all postal articles except postcards. The revenue thus collected should be spent on relief and rehabilitation of victims of the riots and earthquake in Gujarat.

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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>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

THAILAND'S SCENTED STAMPS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

The Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) will launch its popular rose aroma stamps at post offices nationwide on February 1, marking the second straight year the kingdom has issued the stamps after a successful debut in 2002.

"We hope the public uses this stamp for Valentine's Day," a CAT official said. Four million stamps are being printed in two designs and will be available for four Baht (about 9.3 US cents) each, she said.

One stamp depicts the roses in the shape of a heart while the other shows a bear holding a rose bouquet. This year's aroma stamps feature the unusual Blue Nile Rose, a lavender-colored, sweet fragrance blossom.

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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.

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NEWSSCAN

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, January 17, 2003

PRE-1857 STAMPS AT UK AUCTION HOUSE

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/printedition/180103/detCIT04.shtml>

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

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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.

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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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