

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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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Issue # 101 - January 30, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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

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I N T H I S I S S U E

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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

Like the close bonding we feel with our subscribers now, that is the feeling we got on a recent visit to Bhopal. We met with many old friends and had an opportunity to make new ones. In fact this feeling of bonding continues to be with us after our recent visit to Jaipur, where we had the opportunity to catch up with many philatelists and friends there.

Philately besides being an educative hobby also inspires long-term friendship that goes beyond the common interest. We hope that all philatelists would focus on this benefit of philately.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: The Hindu, and Press Information bureau of the government of India, New Delhi.

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

##### NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED

Arun Shourie has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Communications & IT from January 29, 2003. Prime Minister in a reshuffle asked Pramod Mahajan the Minister for Communications & IT and Parliamentary Affairs to resign and work for the party.

S Thirunavukkarasar from the Ministry of Shipping has taken over as the Minister of State for Communications & IT in place of Dr. Sanjay Paswan who has been shifted to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

##### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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The Ludhiana City Division of Department of Posts and Ludhiana Philatelic Club are jointly organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Level Stamp Exhibition 'LUPEX 2003' on February 15-16, 2003 at Ludhiana Head Post Office.

The various activities during the exhibition include Stamp Quiz Competition by Dr. S.K.Sondhi and Yash Pal Bangia, Philatelic Workshop by Prof. T.R. Bhatia and a Stamp Bazaar. A special cover with attractive cancellation is also being planned on this occasion.

Sufficient number of dealer booths would be provided. Dealers are requested to book their booths in advance to avoid any inconvenience. For further information contact: Dr.S.K.Sondhi, 20-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. Tel. 0161-2455344, e-mail: [sksondhi@sify.com](mailto:sksondhi@sify.com)

##### NEW ERRORS REPORTED

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Binod Kasera from Jaipur [udit\\_kasera@hotmail.com](mailto:udit_kasera@hotmail.com) reports a spectacular error of the Nagpur Tercentenary 1702-2002 commemorative issue. The perforation is inverted as well as reversed in relation to the sheetlet that results in top row being imperforated at the top. The image of this sheetlet is available at the following link:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/News/101-pix.htm>  
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##### MIZOPEX

The First ever Philatelic Exhibition in Mizoram was held in Aizawl on January 21-23, 2003. There were thirteen participants plus two schools. Well known artist and philatelic journalist, Dipok Dey of Kolkata was one of the Jury at the show.

In commemoration of the exhibition they have released three special covers one on Cheraw, the most colorful Mizo Dance form, second on the hillock where Thasiama's Mithun/Gayal gave birth and the third on the Traditional Mizo Woman's handloom.

The Logo was the portrait of a young girl attired in traditional costume and headgear. It is the first time that any exhibition in the world has adopted a living logo. Her name is Zonunmawii and on the inaugural day she wore the same dress, as featured on the logo and welcomed the Governor and the visitors to the exhibition. The images are available at the following link:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/News/101-pix2.htm>

#### MAPPEX

The Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Bhai Mahaveer inaugurated the 10<sup>th</sup> Madhya Pradesh Circle philatelic exhibition on January 28, 2003 at Bhopal.

There were 62 exhibits, including 29 in the youth classes, in about 150 frames. The majority of the exhibits were in the Thematic Class, which is in conformity with the trend that is prevailing in India. However small number of entries in the youth class points to the direction where more work is required.

S B Jain, former member of the Postal Services Board, gave the awards away on the concluding day, January 30, 2003.

The Jury consisted of the Chief Post Master General of Madhya Pradesh Circle, Manu Vyas (Chairman), Kaveri Banerjee, Post Master General of Indore Region (Co-Chairperson), Sahadeva Sahoo, President of Philatelic Congress of India, Dr. S P Gupta, P K Bisoi, Director of Postal Services at Bhubaneswar (Apprentice) and Anurag Priyadarshee, Director of Postal Services at Ahmedabad (Apprentice). However Dr. S P Gupta, being sick, and P K Bisoi, being under transfer, were unable to make it to Bhopal.

There were 3 Vermeil, 3 Large Silver, 7 Silver, 5 Silver bronze, 11 bronze, 22 Diplomas awarded by the Jury. Om Prakash Kedia of Indore won the Chief Minister's Trophy for his exhibit "English Cricket" and Anees Akhtar Siddiqui of Bhopal won the Chief Postmaster General's Trophy for his exhibit "Bhopal". Both these exhibits also won Vermeil medal. Dheerendra Singh Chouhan won the remaining Vermeil for his exhibit "Mahatma Gandhi". Padmakar V Pandharkar of Indore for "Barwani Fiscals", D N Ramesh of Gwalior for "Mushrooms", and Alok Kumar Bihani of Indore for "World of Cricket" won Large silver medals. The best youth exhibit "Big cats" of Monis Kidwai of Bhopal won 'Man Singh Nahar' Trophy.

#### ~~~~~ PCI CASES UPDATES

The Defendants, Philatelic Congress of India, in the suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against PCI moved an application for early hearing and preponement of the scheduled date of hearing, February 26, 2003. The application was scheduled for hearing on January 24, 2003 and as the Civil Judge was on leave it was rescheduled to January 28, 2003 when it was heard and the next date of hearing is now fixed for February 17, 2003.

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DECCAN PHILATELIST, Vol. 2 # 1, First Anniversary Number  
Editors: Lieutenant Colonel J Dutta (Chief), P J Lewis  
[lewispeter@vsnl.net](mailto:lewispeter@vsnl.net), & Dr. Anjali Dutta  
Publisher: Deccan Philatelic Society, Pune  
Address: A-12, Sacred Heart Town, 75/2 Wanowrie, Pune 411040  
Annual Subscription including membership: Not Indicated  
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PHILATELIC DISPLAY AT FATEHNAGAR

Mithoo Lal Bansal, the President of Bhilwara Philatelic Club, displayed his collection of stamps, coins & currency notes on invitation at a special exhibition organized as a part of inauguration of new building of Maharishi Dayanand Uchchh Prathmik School at Fatehnagar, Rajaasthan on January 14, 2003.

NEW WEB SITE

The official web site of India Post's Philatelic Bureau at Ernakulam in Kerala Circle, <http://www.philakochi.com> was recently launched. The visitors to the site can view and order the new issues and products on line. The standing order deposit account holders of the bureau enjoy the privilege of getting a free home page besides having access to their accounts online. The site also provides the facility of opening the accounts with the bureau online.

POST OFFICES TO SELL PRE-PAID PHONE CARDS

The Postal Department would soon sign a memorandum of understanding with cell phone companies for selling pre-paid cards, Tamil Nadu chief post-master general Dr U Srinivasa Raghavan said on January 20, 2003 at Tiruchirapalli. He told reporters that Bharti Airtel, a cellular service provider, was being provided e-billing facility by the post offices at 38 places through computers. Similar facilities would be extended to other cell phone companies also, he said.

The department would also ensure that Speed Post articles were delivered the very next day through all the post offices located in the circle. He said the department would soon sign an agreement with the railways for a hybrid system that would help it deliver the Speed Post articles to the addressee the next day itself. It would also utilize vehicles, now being used in cities, for transporting Speed Post articles to various destinations. The new Speed Post delivery system would be launched before February 15, he said. Special attention would be paid to industrial areas like Hosur, Maraimalainagar and Irungattukottai to book and deliver the Speed Post articles. The booking time would be extended and the delivery system would be made more efficient and prompt, he said.

He said a permanent philatelic exhibition would be set at Chennai and Tiruchirapalli.

TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

The following postal officers were promoted and posted with effect from January 20, 2003:

Sukhvinder Kaur, already working as Director of Postal Services at Jammu of Jammu & Kashmir Circle, on adhoc basis now confirmed,

V C Roy, already working as Director of Postal Services at Guwahati of Assam Circle, on adhoc basis now confirmed,

Niraj Kumar, already working as Director of Postal Services at Raipur of Chhattisgarh Circle, on adhoc basis now confirmed,

Manisha Sinha, from Assistant Director General (Financial Services) at postal directorate, New Delhi, to Director of Postal Services at Visakhapatnam of Visakhapatnam Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle

Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Director General (Establishment) at postal directorate, New Delhi, to Director of Postal Services at Kohima of Nagaland Division of North Eastern Circle

Harjot Kaur, Assistant Director General (International Relations) at postal directorate, New Delhi, to Director of Postal Services at Kanpur of Kanpur Region of Uttar Pradesh Circle

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from January 20, 2003:

A N Nanda, from Director of Postal Services at Visakhapatnam of Visakhapatnam Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle to Director of Postal Services at Bhubaneswar of Orissa Circle,

F P Solo, from Director of Postal Services at Kohima of Nagaland Division of North Eastern Circle to Director of Postal Services at Goa of Goa Region of Maharashtra Circle,

P K Bisoi, from Director of Postal Services at Bhubaneswar of Orissa Circle to Director of Postal Services at Bangalore of Karnataka Circle,

Smita Kumar, from being on leave to Director of Postal Services at Kurnool of Kurnool Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle,

Alka Jha Mishra, from Director (Foreign Post) at New Delhi in Delhi Circle to Director of Postal Services at Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands of West Bengal Circle,

Aindri Anurag, from Joint Director of Postal Staff College, Ghaziabad to Director of Postal Services at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh Circle,

P D Tshering, from being on leave to Director (Foreign Post) at New Delhi in Delhi Circle,

Lieutenant Colonel V K Gupta, from Army Postal Service to Director of Postal Training Center at Mysore

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The information for February 2003 with detailed information and announcements was updated on February 1, 2003 and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

A large section of India and States appears in Bonhams sale on February 12-13, 2003 at London, UK. Their contact details are as follows:  
E-Mail - [Stuart.Billington@Bonhams.com](mailto:Stuart.Billington@Bonhams.com) (or) [Rhian.Glover@Bonhams.com](mailto:Rhian.Glover@Bonhams.com) and  
Web Site <http://www.bonhams.com> TEL [44] 20 7468.8219, FAX [44] 20 7409.3466

We provide this information by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala. For updates to this information please visit their comprehensive Website [www.cwiakala.com](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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FRAUD ALERT - MORE ON NELSON COLLAMER

An article from New Zealand Stamp Dealers Association warns its members that one of its New Zealand members informs them that A certain Nelson Collamer is still active and had a cheque for \$5100 dollars bounce. No

goods were sent as the member's policy was cash first, goods after. A lucky escape.

Various associations during the last 2 years have circulated warnings of Collamer and the Collamer Foundation, both of Phoenix Arizona. "These have stated that he is still trying it on so be warned, do not consider sending material until the payment from any transactions are firmly in your bank account."

We have carried reports of cases where he cheated two stamps dealers and tried to cheat another in India, in issues # 83, 84, and 86

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STAMP CHASE

Deals in India and Indian States and other British Commonwealth countries, including KG VI High Values. Consult their website, where you can place your classified advertisement free. You may also leave your wants list on a special link. <http://www.stampchase.com> and email: [stampchase@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stampchase@yahoo.co.uk)

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 42

MAPPEX 2003 was a reminder of what has been constantly in focus in many of the previous newsletters - reforms are the need of the hour, philately in India needs Transparency, Glasnost, and perestroika.

The appointment of the Jury is done from the list of accredited jurors submitted by the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) to the Philatelic Division of the India Post. It is no secret that PCI has never considered a large number of qualified persons for the job while giving preferential treatments at every step to certain individuals.

This list has jurors in three categories, international, national, and state/circle. India Post and PCI appoint international and national jurors jointly while the state/circle exhibitions request the postal directorate for appointments. It is also well known in the philatelic community that several jurors lobby for and get assignments repeatedly while others don't get any.

Another undesirable activity that must immediately be stopped is the appointment of international and national jurors for state/circle level exhibitions. It is against natural justice since state/circle level jurors cannot go as jurors to national, and national level jurors cannot go as jurors to international exhibitions. Sahadeva Sahoo and Dr. S P Gupta - the philatelist members of jury at MAPPEX, both are national level jurors.

We believe it is the job of the leading philatelists to guide India Post on philatelic matters. Even if India Post makes an incorrect appointment it must be pointed out to them. And such appointees themselves must politely decline to accept such appointments.

It is not only free travel, boarding, lodging, and the prestige of the appointment but also the opportunity to exercise the influence that can be exerted over exhibitors and fellow collectors primarily to sell philatelic material at inflated prices and to procure philatelic material for free or nominal value that attracts the jurors.

Manu Vyas, Sahoo, and Bisoi were exactly in the same positions at Orissa Circle Philatelic Exhibition, ORPEX in April 2002 at Bhubaneswar that generated lots of controversies. The points raised by a concerned exhibitor, Shakil Ahmed, are still not settled. Vyas may not have had any ulterior motives but nonetheless his image suffers due to his reliance in philatelic matters exclusively on people such as Sahoo.

Dilip Shah, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, also attended the exhibition on the first day in an undefined role. He however was seen finalizing medals with Sahoo in what capacity only he and the organizers might be aware.

Not surprisingly this exhibition attracted its share of grievances from the collectors on jury decision-making including the best exhibit award.

The jury - exhibitor relations can improve once there is conformity on application of the regulations for evaluation of the exhibits between the jury and the exhibitor in place of ambiguity and personal preferences of the jury.

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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>

VINAYAK W KARNICK FROM AHMEDABAD,

(Former President of Gujarat Philatelic Association)

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on 100th issue of 'Stamp of India Collectors Companion', which I saw little while ago. You deserve kudos and appreciation from philatelists all over for producing such an excellent News Letter. I am sure all other will join me in applauding this venture. I always enjoy reading and benefiting. Best wishes for continued success.

DIPOK DEY FROM KOLKATA

On INPEX-2002

I have received a News Letter No. 3 of so-called INPEX-2002 dated 1st January 2003. In that newsletter they have given a childish clarification about the Logo. As I understand, the objection is not for the central design whether it may be of identical or similar to any stamp but for the name -INPEX. This is the name coined as acronym for 'Indian National Philatelic Exhibition' by the Department of Post for the national exhibitions organized by them since 1970. If any one uses this name it means that they are using it with a motive to get easy excess to the collectors and other, rather it is misleading. Collectors will think it has an official entity. In fact that it exactly what has happened with this exhibition, as many collectors are under the impression that it is a Departmental Exhibition. I don't know whether the Department permitted them to use this name INPEX.

On another note, no artwork for any proposed stamp should be published. It is unethical. The organizer should have this commonsense. Every year

many proposals are being sent to the Department for issuing stamp, I have made many such designs, so according to their logic; all the sponsors should publish or advertise their proposals in the newspapers. However, the organizers of this so-called INPEX are immature and imbecile.

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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

GREG MANNING AND AUCTIONEER SIGN AGREEMENT

Greg Manning Auctions, Inc. (GMAI) is a global collectibles auctioneer and merchant, with both Internet and live auctions and operations in North America and Asia. In North America, GMAI is a leading traditional and electronic -- Internet, interactive telephone, and Internet and live simulcast -- auctioneer and merchant/dealer of collectibles. Coins, stamps, sports cards, and affordable fine art are offered at <http://www.gregmanning.com/> and <http://www.teletrade.com/>.

Greg Manning, CEO and President of Greg Manning Auctions, Inc. (GMAI) announced on January 23, 2003 that GMAI and Auctentia, S.L., a wholly owned subsidiary of Afinsa Bienes Tangibles, S.A., have signed a definitive agreement for the acquisition by GMAI of Auctentia Subastas, S.L. of Spain, a majority interest in Corinphila Auktionen AG of Switzerland, and the Kohler group of auction companies of Germany. In addition, in two separate transactions, GMAI has agreed to acquire from Auctentia an inventory of stamps valued at approximately \$10,150,000 and fine art valued at approximately \$1,250,000, and has approved a \$5,000,000 sale of GMAI stock to Auctentia. GMAI will issue an aggregate of 13 million shares of GMAI in payment for the various companies, cash and inventory to be acquired in these transactions. The issuance of shares by GMAI is subject to shareholder approval, as well as other customary conditions.

Currently Auctentia holds approximately 43% of GMAI's outstanding shares. Esteban Perez, Chairman of Auctentia, stated, "This transaction creates a truly global collectibles company, featuring the merger of the finest stamp auction houses in the world, as well as the premier rare coin wholesaler in the United States." He continued, "The excellent reputation of all of our individual companies, combined with the strong management teams in each one, create a true auction network through which our consignors can sell to their advantage in Europe or America in a truly seamless fashion."

Greg Manning stated, "The bringing together of these great companies, who are the leaders in Germany, Spain and Switzerland, with our strong auction and rare coin businesses in the United States, marks the beginning of a new era in philately and numismatics." He continued, "We will continue to build our company in Asia and Latin America, with our first major philatelic auction in Hong Kong scheduled for April. We will



have greatly added to our overall purchasing power through these transactions, and we will aggressively pursue the top collections that come on the market."

Shareholders holding approximately 60% of the outstanding shares of GMAI have agreed, subject to certain conditions, to vote in favor of these transactions. The closing of each of these transactions, which is not conditioned upon the closing of the others, is expected to occur shortly after all necessary approvals are obtained.

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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

<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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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: [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com)  
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