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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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Issue # 109 - March 27, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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address, and philatelic interests and "subscribe" in the subject line.  
To unsubscribe send email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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Back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Second Set in Medicinal Plants Series  
Sant Eknath's Stamp Released  
Postal Stationery with Advertisements - New Issues  
Transfers & Postings of Senior Postal Officers  
PCI Cases Update  
State Passes Act to Check Bogus Stamps  
Prime Accused in Nashik Stamp Scandal Nabbed  
Philately in Transition in India, Part 50  
Also in the News - More Embroidered Stamps!

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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,

'Beware the ides of March' as warning issued centuries ago seems to have  
affected our schedule of mailings. Well we are trying to overcome it and  
trying to reach you the issues on time. The frequent outstation visits  
haven't helped much in keeping to the schedule.

We appreciate your support and concern and would continue to strive to  
meet our deadlines.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Mid Day,  
Gunaah.com,

Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

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The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is now available on-line <http://www.stampsfindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND SET IN MEDICINAL PLANTS SERIES

India Post is releasing the second set of 4 stamps, all in the denomination of Rs. 5 each, in the Medicinal Plants series on April 7, 2003. Earlier a set of 4 stamps was issued in 1997.

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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SANT EKNATH'S STAMP RELEASED

The Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Sumitra Mahajan released a commemorative stamp at Aurangabad on March 23, 2003 on the 16<sup>th</sup> century Marathi saint poet, Eknath.

Sant Eknath is part of the 'Great Quartet' of Vithoba's poets along with Jnanadev, Namdeo, and Tukaram.

The design for stamp in the denomination of Rs. 5 and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2, is based on the material supplied by the sponsors. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 was issued on the occasion.

India Security Press of Nashik Road printed the stamps by photo gravure in four colors on imported unwatermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in sheets of 35 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY WITH ADVERTISEMENTS - NEW ISSUES

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

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity, Remarks.

'M' denotes Multicolor printing.

POSTCARD - Mahabalipuram, 25 Paise, Brown  
01, SPP, Tamil, xxxxxx, 0.5 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - Mahabalipuram, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format  
01, SPP, Tamil, xxxxxx, 0.5 million  
04, SPP, Bengali, xxxxxx, 1 million  
19, SPP, English, United India's Personal Accident Policy,

ADDENDA

Issues in March 2003

Additions to those listed in issue # of 105 of February 27, 2003

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD - Panch Mahal, 25 Paise, Red  
17, SPP, English, BSNL, 0.1 million, M

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from March 6, 2002:

Smita Kumar from the Director - Postal Services, Kurnool Region of Andhra Pradesh Circle to the Director - Mail Management, Postal Directorate at New Delhi.

The following postal officers were transferred and posted with effect from March 11, 2002:

A K Bhatnagar who was posted as the Chief Post Master General of Uttar Pradesh Circle with effect from February 18, 2003 has now been posted as the Senior Deputy Director General - Postal Operations & Inspections, Postal Directorate at New Delhi.

Consequently Shobha Koshy, Deputy Director General - Postal Operations will now look after Corporate Planning.

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PCI CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India and others came up for hearing on March 21, 2003. The next date for hearing is now fixed for May 7, 2003.

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STATE PASSES ACT TO CHECK BOGUS STAMPS

Alarmed at the multi-crore fake stamp-paper racket, the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly today passed by voice vote the Mumbai Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1958 to prevent use of bogus stamp papers. Revenue Minister Shivajirao Patil-Nilangekar, while tabling the bill, said fake stamp-paper racket has its roots in eight states.

"In order to ensure prevention of further use of such bogus stamps for registration and also with a view to dispel the doubts and fear from public, the state government has decided to take strict measures", he said.

The measures include staying the sale and use of adhesive stamps of the value of more than Rs 100, validation of existing stock of stamps and stamp-papers with signature and seal of the authorised officer of the treasury, sub-treasury or the general stamp office.

The measure also includes purchase of stamps and stamp-papers only from authorised agencies by payment, either in cash or through "chalans" from treasuries and wide use of franking machines, the minister said.

Though the bill was cleared after the opposition withdrew its proposal to send the bill to the joint select committee, the house witnessed exchange of words between the Shiv Sena-BJP members and Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal.

During the two-and-half-hour-long debate on the vital bill, Eknath Khadse (BJP) raised the matter of "tardy pace" of investigations into the stamp-paper racket involving prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi. "Why is the state government hesitating to hand over probe into the scam, involving Telgi to CBI", he questioned.

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PRIME ACCUSED IN NASHIK STAMP SCANDAL NABBED

S K Singh, prime accused in the Rs. 5.4 million Nashik stamp fraud case was nabbed by the Jharkand state police after they received a tip off that he was in the city.

Crime branch officials from Nashik left for Jharkand and arrested Singh and brought him back to Nashik. He was produced before the court where he was remanded to police custody.

Singh was absconding ever since the two-year-old scam was exposed.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is the most effective way to reach the highest targeted readerships for Indian Philately worldwide. The advertising is FREE for the subscribers. The ads are published online in an Advertising Supplement. Send in your ad, today. Click here to view the ads and for the Terms for submitting your ad <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 50

The philatelists in India have been talking about forming a new national federation for quite some time, worried by the non-action of those who have been at the helm of affairs of Philatelic Congress of India.

An active organization representing all segments in a transparent manner is the need of the hour. A national organization not only for coordinating the participation of Indian philatelists abroad as exhibitors, commissioners, jurors, and delegates but also to focus a lot more on significant work to be done with in India. The national organization needs to mobilize all necessary resources, active participation and networking with citizens, communities, educational institutions, voluntary organizations, government and non government agencies, and corporate houses to expand the awareness about stamp collecting.

It will be a good idea to follow the example of China in developing philately countrywide, keeping in mind the size of India as well as the number of small and large clubs/societies functioning here. The need is to bring all these organizations under one umbrella and to share skills and resources.

The national organization therefore should function in a decentralized manner to allow various constituents to carry on their activities with in the overall objectives of the national body and yet function independently with much greater freedom. To be complementing each

others work rather than competing for the same share of the philatelists.

We invite you to share your views on this.

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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>

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

MORE EMBROIDERED STAMPS!

The five nations will celebrate the current Centenary celebrations for the creation of the popular Teddy Bear with the issuance in late April 2003 of a special series of Swiss-embroidered postage stamps.

This will be only the second time that postage stamps have been produced in the embroidered format. The Teddy Bear Embroidery Stamps for Gambia, Grenada, Grenada Carriacou, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Sierra Leone will be printed by the Swiss firm of Bischoff Textil AG in St. Gallen that in 2000 printed the world's first Embroidery Stamp for Swiss Post.

Each of the five participating postal administrations will release a similar design of a Teddy Bear, but with differing color and border patterns. The Gambia Embroidery 150 dalasy Stamp will feature the Teddy Bear with yellow yarn with blue writing. White yarn with pink writing will serve as the background for the Grenada \$15 Teddy Bear Embroidery Stamp, while the \$15 Grenada Carriacou Embroidery Stamp will highlight the subject of the Teddy Bear against a background of white yarn with red border and writing. The St. Vincent \$15 Teddy Bear Embroidery Stamp will utilize orange yarn with brown writing and border; and the Sierra Leone 12000 Le Embroidery Stamp will feature the Teddy Bear on blue yarn with black writing.

These new embroidered stamps should prove especially popular as the stamps will have the unique and delightful touch and feel of embroidery.

As many Teddy Bears are actually embroidered, these new stamps will be an especially relevant method of paying tribute to the important contribution that the delightful Teddy Bear has made to hundreds of millions of children and those who are young at heart.

The new Five-Nation Embroidery Stamp tribute to the Centenary of the Teddy Bear differs from traditional stamps printed on paper, in that these embroidery stamps utilize a polyester thread on a high-quality and satin-weave base. These new Teddy Bear Embroidery Stamps constitute a stunning three-dimensional stamp and have had the thread especially made and dyed for this special stamp printing.

Due to continuous supervision by Bischoff's staff, almost no errors have occurred. Unlike normal postage stamps, small differences in appearances among these embroidery stamps cannot be labeled a fault or listed as different varieties.

The Embroidery Teddy Bear Stamps will be printed in sheetlets, blocks of four and also as single stamps.

Readers interested in the new Five-Nation Embroidery Postage Stamp tribute to the Centenary of the Teddy Bear can contact a stamp dealer or the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation, 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001.

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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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About STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -- ADMINISTRIVIA

Published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) 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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