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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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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

Stamp Popularity Poll

New Stamps Released

Postal Stationery with Advertisements - New Issues

Special Postal Stationery

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Recent & Forthcoming Events

Legislator Arrested in Fake Stamps Scam

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The Calendar of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions

POST-EXPO 2003

Readers Forum - Avinash B Jagtap, Jeff Siddiqui, Dickon Pollard

Indian Stamps on Foreign Literary Personalities

Also in the News - The World's First Underwater Post Office

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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

We have found 'Calendar Magic' a software that is a freeware and can be
downloaded from Simtel.Net as we feel it will surely be useful to
collectors interested in Indian Princely States as it provides Hindu
calendars and the facility for date conversions.

Its features include: Full year Gregorian, Afghan, Armenian, Baha'i,
Chinese, Coptic, Egyptian, Ethiopic, Fasli, French Revolutionary,
Hebrew, Hindu Lunisolar, Hindu Solar, Indian National, Islamic Civil,
Julian, Parsi Shenshai, Persian, Persian Qadimi, Sikh Nanakshahi and
Vietnamese calendars. A user option is provided to choose between
displaying/printing calendars showing each week starting on a Monday (in

line with the ISO 8601 international standard) and showing each week starting on a Sunday, as is popular in North America.

A month-by-month, side-by-side comparison of any two of the 21 calendar systems listed above. The display remains synchronized as you change day, month and year values in either calendar system being viewed. Again, users may choose between displaying each month with weeks starting on a Monday or on a Sunday.

Date conversions among the 21 calendar systems listed above, plus conversions to Balinese Pawukon, Thai Buddhist, old Hindu Solar, old Hindu Lunisolar and Mayan date formats. Julian day value, day of week and day of year information is also displayed. For Gregorian dates, many other facts are displayed, such as modified Julian day value, Lillian day value and Rata Die day value, and year related information including Roman numeral form, Dominical Letter(s), Dionysian Period, Julian Period, Golden Number, Solar Number, Roman Indiction and Epact.

Various special days are also recognized (e.g. Halloween), as are modern Olympic years, Commonwealth Games years, European Athletics Championship years, and World Athletic Championship years. Lists of Western Christian festivals, Eastern Orthodox festivals and Hebrew holy days for any (Gregorian) year, and "Observed Days" for any year from 1990 for nearly 200 countries worldwide.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Press Trust of India, Indian Express, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, Times of India, Mid Day, NDTV, Rediff, Gunaah, Sapa-AFP, Abhai Mishra, and Vijay Navalakha.

Please 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.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAMP POPULARITY POLL

India Post issued 54 commemorative and special postage stamps in 2002 and has now announced a popularity poll. Multicolor posters as well as folders carrying pictures of all stamps issued in the year along with entry forms are available from most post offices all over the country. There are several attractive prizes to be won by participants.

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

##### BADE GHULAM ALI KHAN

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs.5, the inland letter rate, on June 30, 2003 on Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

Khan, 1902-1968, was one of the greatest vocalists of the century and an exponent of the Patiala Gharana, left an indelible imprint on Indian music.

Bharti Mirchandani designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs.2. Alka Sharma designed the first day postmark. Information Sheet 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 0.5 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY WITH ADVERTISEMENTS - NEW ISSUES

The postal stationery with following advertisements is scheduled for release in July 2003. All issues in July are in multicolor!

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

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

'M' denotes multicolor printing.

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD - MAHABALIPURAM, 25 Paise, Red, Multicolor
20, SPP, Tamil, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, 100000, M
20, SPP, Hindi, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, 100000, M

INLAND LETTER CARD - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue,
06, ISP, English, Cell One cellular service, 0.5 million, M

ENVELOPE - MAHABALIPURAM, 500 paise, brown
20, ISP, English & Hindi, Handicrafts Resurgence in India, 1 million, M
20, ISP, Hindi, Live life with renewable energy, 2 million, M
20, ISP, English, Live life with renewable energy, 2 million, M

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SPECIAL POSTAL STATIONERY

India Post issued on May 5, 2003 an Inland Letter Card printed by Security Printing Press(SPP) at Hyderabad in the quantity of 10 million with the message "Philately: King of Hobbies, Collect India Postage stamps, Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau". The area of distribution was Maharashtra.

This has also been made available at philatelic bureaus recently.

This is not an advertisement but promotional message by India Post to promote philately in India. To meet the demand for the Inland Letter Cards these were to be printed and distributed in a particular area. As there were no ads available matching the criteria, these would normally have been printed with out an ad as was done till now. India Post ceased this opportunity for the promotional message.

Another Inland Letter Card, with a different message, and a Post card are in the pipeline with similar philatelic messages

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOP FOR POSTAL STAFF

For the first time a philatelic workshop for postal staff was held at Siliguri on June 16-17, 2003 under the aegis of John Samuel, the Post Master General, North Bengal & Sikkim Region of West Bengal Circle. The workshop was conducted by eminent philatelists, Dipok Dey and Madhukar Deogawanaka both from Kolkata. The objective of this workshop was to educate the postal staff about philately which will help them in marketing of postal services and philatelic products.

Out of 20 participants only one, Niladri Saha, Inspector, Jalpaiguri was aware of this hobby. Even though he is not a collector himself he is in the habit of collecting newspaper clippings about philately as he was keenly interested in the same. Other participants had superficial idea about philately but after this workshop their interest was evident.

However, on the first day the discussion focused on how gradually the communication system developed from the early dawn of human civilization to modern Postal System. The participants were provided the illustrated study materials by the faculty on the following subjects: History of Communication, Postal Reformation, Indian Postal History, Postal History of Indian States, Identification of Stamps, Thematic Collection, Fiscal Philately, and Philatelic Terms.

The participants were shown the relevant materials through projection and through displaying the original items of Postal History and different kind of stamps/philatelic products of various countries.

Second Day was devoted to practical training. During first half the discussion focused on the type of postal materials incorporated in collections of different streams of Philately. How to mount and write up a collection; how to put them on display frames and proper preservation and handling of materials; how to detect Forgeries particularly Photogravure Printed Stamps was also discussed

Due to shortage of time other printing process could not be discussed.

Sales Promotion and Marketing of Philatelic Products was the focus of the second half. How to organize workshop and exhibitions at schools and how to motivate the young generation was discussed in detail. Before going to any school there is a need to interact with the teachers and at the time of workshop Parents should be invited as well, there should be philatelic sales counter with sufficient materials. Display board with thematic stamps - such as Sports, Cinema, Birds, and Aviation etc. should be displayed.

The participants were also initiated to begin collecting themselves and to motivate their colleagues.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

GUJPEX

The 10<sup>th</sup> Gujarat state level philatelic exhibition will now be held on October 2-4, 2003 at Ahmedabad.

DOONTOPEX

The first philatelic exhibition of Uttaranchal is going to be held from July 18-20, 2003 at Dehradun. Three special covers, one for each day, are proposed to be released. Sir George Everest - the highest mountain in the world was named after him, Mount Everest, and he was the Surveyor General of Survey of India Headquartered at Dehradun, and Buddha Stupa at Clement Town, Dehradun claimed to be one of the tallest stupa in Asia, are the two of the subjects selected while the third was being finalized.

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

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LEGISLATOR ARRESTED IN FAKE STAMPS SCAM

The investigations into the multi-billion rupees fake stamp racket took a new turn with the arrest of a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Anil Umrao Gote, on June 29, 2003 at Pune.

Gote, who was called for interrogation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Maharashtra Government to probe the scam, was later arrested.

Gote allegedly had links with prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi and is suspected to have participated in the conspiracy to print counterfeit stamp papers and sell it in the market thereby causing revenue loss running into several hundred billions of rupees to the government. The accused had connived to print counterfeit stamp papers by purchasing a machine and dyes from the high-security India Security Press (ISP) in an auction at Nasik.

Gote is the first politician to be arrested in the scam, in which 25 accused - including two policemen - have been arrested so far, the sources said. Gote has been slapped with charges under the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crimes Act (MCOCA), besides other relevant sections of the IPC. Gote is the first MLA in Maharashtra to be arrested under MCOCA charges. This is the 45th arrest in the case.

An STF team led by Deputy Commissioner of Police C H Wakade produced Gote, along with a report seeking his custody for 30 days before judicial magistrate M N Bondre on June 30, 2003 and was remanded to police custody till July 14, 2003.

Special Public Prosecutor Raja Thakare submitted in the court that investigations so far have revealed that Gote, by wielding political influence, patronized the racket for his pecuniary gains. Gote's association with the alleged ring leader Abdul Karim Telgi dates back to 1983, Thakare said.

Defence Counsel Nitin Pradhan alleged Gote's arrest was 'an act of political vendetta'. 'In June 2002, Deshmukh government came under threat after independent MLAs and some Nationalist Congress Party MLAs withdrew support for it. Gote had played an instrumental role in engineering the rift. That is why he was interrogated by the state CID in July 2002,' Pradhan alleged.

He also submitted that the donations given to a political party were out of the purview of investigations under MCOCA. 'The money received by the trust was not paid to spread the (counterfeit stamps) rackets' operations,' he said.

Replying to the arguments by the defence counsels, Thakare clarified that Gote's arrest was not fallout of a political vendetta. 'Nothing could have prevented the STF from arresting Gote on the very first day had it been the case,' he added.

Anil Gote is a member of the Maharashtra Samajwadi Janta Party and had won from the Dhule assembly constituency by defeating his nearest rival Shardul Bapu of the Shiv Sena by a margin of 3,676 votes. Anil Anna Gote a resident of lane No 4 in Dhule was pitted against Congress candidate Pramod Shinde for the post of Deputy Speaker in the lower house a few years back by Sena-BJP combine.

Prior to his foray in politics Ghote worked as a journalist with LokSatta and joined Chandrashekar, former Prime Minister, a few years after that. He now runs the Maharashtra Samajwadi Janta Party from Dhule.

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REVENUE STAMPS EXTINGUISHED IN KARNATAKA

After months of confusion on whether the 'ban' on non-judicial stamps would extend to revenue stamps from Re 1 - Rs 10 denomination or not, Karnataka's revenue department has finally taken a decision on the issue.

From August 2003, for any financial transaction, there is no need of a revenue stamp.

"All transactions will be carried out without revenue stamps in future. The government has decided to ban revenue stamps (Re 1 - Rs 10 denomination). A notification to this effect will be issued shortly," revenue minister H C Srikantaiah, told The Times of India.

The public has been facing endless hassles from April 1, 2003 following a drastic shortage of revenue stamps, after the government stopped issuing them through the treasury. This was to bring an end to the circulation of an enormous number of fake revenue stamps.

Along with the notification, the government has decided to bring in a formal amendment to the Karnataka Stamps Act 1957, which is expected to come up in the next session of the Karnataka legislature.

As a consequence, the Re 1 stamp on which signatures are required for loans from banks and lending agencies, money transfers, disbursement of salaries and borrowing, will go out of circulation and all transactions would happen without any revenue going to the government.

The concept of revenue stamps was introduced in India during British rule. It was considered a revenue generation mechanism that is now outdated, according to the government.

Sources, however, pointed out that a ban on revenue stamps could result in loss of Rs 3 billion per annum. Srikantiah admitted that no decision had been taken on how to compensate losses.

But the minister claimed that the loss was "negligible" and not as projected. "At any given time, the loss incurred by the government due to circulation of fake revenue stamps is greater than what we are likely to suffer by banning them," he contended.

Revenue stamp is the third in a series after non-judicial stamp papers and court fee stamps are being discontinued. Following the detection of the multi-billion fake stamp paper racket, which has spread its network all over the nation, the government decided to discontinue all categories of non-judicial stamps.

While an alternative mechanism has been evolved for payment of stamp duty to the government, payment of court fee (ranging between Re 1 - Rs 10) has been given complete exemption.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS
The Calendar for July 2003 with detailed information and announcements was updated and is available at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

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POST-EXPO 2003  
The 7<sup>th</sup> International Postal Technology Exhibition & World Congress will be held on October 7-9, 2003 at Brussels, Belgium. India Post is likely to participate in this event.

POST-EXPO brings together top-level postal executives from more than 100 countries to participate in the World Postal Business Forum - organized in association with the UPU, the technology forum and the technology workshops.

New for 2003 is the introduction of the fleet and transportation display area. The postal industry is one of the largest fleet operators in the world. For the first time ever at POST-EXPO there will be the opportunity to see first hand the latest fleet vehicles, delivery transportation solutions, fleet management solutions and telematics from companies such as Daimler Chrysler, Volkswagen, Gran Turismo, Piaggio, Peugeot and Renault.

The postal industry processes and delivers 430 billion items every year and produces global annual revenue of \$220 billion. POST-EXPO provides the only annual opportunity to see an unrivalled collection of the latest generation technology solutions that are driving the industry forward. It succeeds in bringing together the decision makers, suppliers and buyers - the meeting place for serious business.

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For Worldwide Thematic Mint Stamps, Miniature Sheets, FDC, Postal Stationeries, & Postmarks Contact anmolgk@yahoo.com
J J Philatelic Centre, M-1 Diwan House, Ajay Enclave, New Delhi 110016

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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

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>

DR. AVINASH B. JAGTAP, BINNINGEN (SWITZERLAND)

In the issue No. 122 of Stamps of India, Mr. Rohan Khurana has put forward a query in connection with "The Missing Pearl Error". This error occurs with King George V (and NOT King George VI, as Mr. Khurana writes) definitive of British India issued in 1926-1933 (SG No. 215) on 2 Rupees stamp. One has to look for this in the central value tablet at the very base of this stamp. In this rectangular value tablet where the value "2 Rs" has been inscribed, see in the very south-west corner. One will find that one tiny "globule" (or "pearl") is missing. This error is visible even to the naked eye. I have noticed this error only in case of SG 215 (2Rs.) stamp. Naturally the same error will be found in the stamps with "SERVICE" overprints of British India and of Convention States (Chamba, Jind, Gwalior, Nabha, Patiala "rs Stamps, regular definitive and also Service Stamps).

This error was discovered long time ago, but has neither been recorded nor priced in Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue or in Manik Jain's Phila India 2003 catalogue; but has been mentioned in Bridger & Kay's "Five Reigns (1980) Commonwealth Catalogue", and is priced 15% more than the normal. It has also been mentioned that this error has been noticed also on other Rupee-Values also. However I have not come across this error in case of any other Rupee-Values except 2 Rupees (i.e. SG No. 215). It is a constant error; but its (or their) position(s) in the sheet is not known to me. I shall be very thankful to our readers if some one could throw more light on this error.

JEFF SIDDIQUI, USA

Regarding Mr. Khurana's query on the Missing Pearl varieties of KGV1

The best known examples are found on the Rs. 2 stamps; the first version is the pearl missing at about the centre of the top row of pearls (dots)

above the "2Rs" value. The second version is the missing pearl on the bottom row, second from the left corner. Each of these in turn has a "Disappearing Pearl" variety which is a small pearl (and which eventually disappeared).

Varieties of missing pearls are found on all the KGVI Rupee value stamps.

Derek Johnson of India Study Circle wrote a nice article about this subject a long time ago.

These varieties are also found on overprinted versions of the KGVI stamps, i.e., Pakistan, Burma, Muscat & Oman.

DICKON POLLARD of Murray Payne Ltd. www.murraypayne.com - the specialist UK firm of King George VI Commonwealth stamp dealers & the Publishers of the King George VI Commonwealth Catalogue

You've been sending me the newsletter for a long time now. I do read it, and particularly enjoy some of the more forthright views you publish.

Rohan Khurana should be referred to the full account of the missing pearl varieties given in Ron Doubleday and Usman Ali Isani's enormous book on Pakistan overprints on Indian Stamps and Postal Stationery, published by Pakistan Postal Services Corporation, 1993, pages 27-8.

Doubleday and Isani included in their seminal book on Pakistan overprints a section on the 'missing pearl' and 'small pearl' varieties on the 2r KG VI. (The same plate was used for 2r KG V, so these remarks apply equally to this stamp.)

The issued sheets are arranged in sheets containing 6 panes of 20 stamps each, each pane having four rows of five stamps each.

The Type 1 'missing pearl' is located in the top row of pearls surrounding the value tablet, above the left leg of the "R". This occurs on TR (top right) pane R1/5 and on LR (lower right) pane at R1/4, 1/5, 3/3, 3/5, 4/4 and 4/5.

The Type 2 'missing pearl' is located in the bottom row of pearls surrounding the value tablet, being the second pearl from the bottom left corner. This occurs on LR pane R4/1, and also either on TL (top left) or ML (middle left) pane at R4/5.

There is also a 'small pearl' variety, located in the same position as the Type 1 'missing pearl'; these are probably early states of the 'missing pearl'. The pearl is less than half the size of the normals. This occurs on TR pane R1/5, 2/1 and 2/3; MR (middle right) pane R4/4, and LR pane R1/4, 2/5, 3/5 and 4/5.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

INDIAN STAMPS ON FOREIGN LITERARY PERSONALITIES  
By Dr Meeta Shukla

Introduction  
Over the years, the Department of Posts and telegraph has been issuing

issued commemorative stamps to honour a host of notable non-Indian personalities. These come from all disciplines and walks of life. These include certain foreign luminaries from the field of literature too. The first such stamp was issued on the Soviet writer Maxim Gorky in 1968 and a careful scan of the list indicates that the last such stamp was issued some years back in 1999 on Kazi Nazrul Islam, who was an Indian born Bangladeshi poet. A list of 10 such personalities was gleaned. Some of them had an Indian association in their literary works, though not all. Some very notable literary giant who have left an imprint on India have not yet been bestowed this honour. It is interesting to take a look at these select foreign literary personalities.

Maxim Gorky (1868-1936)

Alexei Maximovich Peshkov, known as Maxim Gorky was a Russian and Soviet writer, a founder of the socialist realism literary method and a political activist. He was also a five-time nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature. [ Gorky's most famous works were *The Lower Depths* (1902), *Twenty-six Men and a Girl*, *The Song of the Stormy Petrel*, *My Childhood*, *The Mother*, *Summerfolk* and *Children of the Sun*. Gorky publicly opposed the Tsarist regime, and for a time closely associated himself with Vladimir Lenin. For a significant part of his life, he was exiled from Russia and later the Soviet Union. The greatness of Gorky as an author is that he transforms the workaday lives of the common people into literature of the highest kind. In this, he set the trend for progressive writers in Soviet Russia and elsewhere.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 28 March 1968 to mark his birth centenary (denomination 15 paise).

Bertrand Arthur William Russell (1872 -1970)

He was a British philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic, political activist and Nobel laureate. He was born in Monmouthshire into one of the most prominent aristocratic families in the U.K. In the early 20th century, Russell led the British "revolt against idealism". He is considered one of the founders of analytic philosophy. He is widely held to be one of the 20th century's premier logicians. He wrote *Principia Mathematica*, an attempt to create a logical basis for mathematics. His philosophical essay "On Denoting" has been considered a "paradigm of philosophy". In 1950, Russell was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "in recognition of his varied and significant writings in which he champions humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought".

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 16th October 1972 to mark his birth centenary (denomination 145 paise).

Friedrich Max Müller (1823 - 1900)

He was a German-born philologist and Orientalist, who lived and studied in Britain. He was one of the founders of the western academic field of Indian studies and the discipline of comparative religion. Müller wrote both scholarly and popular works on the subject of Indology. The *Sacred Books of the East*, a 50-volume set of English translations, was prepared under his direction. He translated the *Upanishads*, and researched Sanskrit under Franz Bopp, the first systematic scholar of the Indo-European languages. Müller published his first book, a German translation of the *Hitopadesa*, a collection of Indian fables. In 1845 Müller moved to Paris to study Sanskrit where he published the complete *Rigveda*, making use of the manuscripts available in England. He eventually became the leading scholar and intellectual commentator on Sanskrit and the culture of India.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 15th July 1974 to honour his contribution to Indian literature, especially Sanskrit language (denomination Re 1).

Nicholas Roerich (1874 -1947)

He was a Russian painter, writer, archaeologist, theosophist, philosopher, and public figure, who in his youth was influenced by a movement in Russian society around the spiritual. He was interested in hypnosis and other spiritual practices and his paintings are said to have hypnotic expression. Born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, he lived in various places around the world until his death in Naggar, [5] Himachal Pradesh, India. Trained as an artist and a lawyer, his main interests were literature, philosophy, archaeology, and especially art. Roerich was a dedicated activist for the cause of preserving art and architecture during times of war. He earned several nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize long list.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 9th October 1974 to mark his birth centenary (denomination 1 Re).

Leo Tolstoy (1828 - 1910)

Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy referred to as Leo Tolstoy, was a Russian writer and one of the greatest authors of all time. He is best known for the novels War and Peace (1869) and Anna Karenina (1877), often cited as pinnacles of realist fiction. He first achieved literary acclaim in his twenties with his semi-autobiographical trilogy, Childhood, Boyhood, and Youth (1852-1856), and Sevastopol Sketches (1855). Tolstoy's fiction includes dozens of short stories and several novellas such as The Death of Ivan Ilyich, Family Happiness, and Hadji Murad. He also wrote plays and numerous philosophical essays. In the 1870s Tolstoy experienced what he regarded as a profound spiritual awakening, as outlined in his non-fiction work A Confession. Tolstoy's ideas on nonviolent resistance, expressed in such works as The Kingdom of God Is Within You, were to have a profound impact on such pivotal 20th-century figures as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Tolstoy's concept of non-violence or Ahimsa was bolstered when he read a German version of the Tirukkural. He later instilled the concept in Mahatma Gandhi through his A Letter to a Hindu when young Gandhi corresponded with him seeking his advice.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 02 October 1978 to mark his 150th birth anniversary (denomination 100 paise).

Helen Adams Keller (1880 - 1968)

She was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a bachelor of arts degree. The story of how Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, broke through the isolation imposed by a near complete lack of language, allowing the girl to blossom as she learned to communicate, has become widely known through the dramatic depictions of the play and film The Miracle Worker. A prolific author, Keller was well-travelled and outspoken in her convictions. She campaigned for women's suffrage, labour rights, socialism, anti-militarism, and other similar causes. Keller proved to the world that deaf people could all learn to communicate and that they could survive in the hearing world. She also taught that deaf people are capable of doing things that hearing people can do. One of the most famous deaf people in history, she is an idol to many deaf people in the world.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 27th June 1980 to mark her birth centenary (denomination 30 paise).

Karl Marx (1818 - 1883)

He was a philosopher, economist, historian, political theorist, sociologist, journalist and revolutionary socialist. His two most well-known are the 1848 pamphlet The Communist Manifesto and the three-volume Das Kapital. His work has since greatly influenced subsequent intellectual, economic and political history. Marx's theories about society, economics and politics are collectively understood as Marxism. Marx actively pressed for its implementation, arguing that the working class should carry out organised revolutionary action to topple capitalism and bring about socio-

economic emancipation. Marx has been described as one of the most influential figures in human history. His work in economics laid the basis for much of the current understanding of labour and its relation to capital, and subsequent economic thought. Many intellectuals, labour unions, artists and political parties worldwide have been influenced by Marx's work, with many modifying or adapting his ideas. Marx is typically cited as one of the principal architects of modern social science.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 5th May 1983 to mark his 165th birth anniversary (denomination 100 paise).

José Julián Martí Pérez (1853 - 1895)

He was a Cuban National Hero and an important figure in Latin American literature. He was a poet, essayist, journalist, revolutionary philosopher and political theorist. He became a symbol for Cuba's bid for independence against Spain in the 19th century, and is referred to as the "Apostle of Cuban Independence. His writings were commonly cited as supporting socialism within Castro's administration. Martí is considered one of the great turn-of-the-century Latin American intellectuals. His written works include a series of poems, essays, letters, lectures, novel, and a children's magazine. He wrote for numerous Latin American and American newspapers; he also founded a number of newspapers. After his death, one of his poems from the book, "Versos Sencillos" was adapted to the song "Guantanamera", which has become the definitive patriotic song of Cuba.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 28th January 1997 to honour him (denomination Rs 11).

Sir William Jones (1746 - 1794)

He was an Anglo-Welsh philologist, a judge on the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, and a scholar of ancient India, particularly known for his proposition of the existence of a relationship among European and Indian languages, which would later be known as Indo-European languages. He founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784. Jones is also known today for making and propagating the observation about genetic relation between the Indo-European languages. In his Third Anniversary Discourse to the Asiatic Society (1786) he suggested that Sanskrit, Greek and Latin languages had a common root, and that indeed they may all be further related, in turn, to Gothic and the Celtic languages, as well as to Persian.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 28th September 1997 to honour him (denomination Rs. 4).

Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899 - 1976)

He was a Bengali poet, writer, musician, and revolutionary, and is the national poet of Bangladesh. He produced a large body of poetry and music with themes that included religious devotion and spiritual rebellion against fascism and oppression. Nazrul's activism for political and social justice earned him the title of "Rebel Poet". His compositions form the avant-garde genre of Nazrul Sangeet (Music of Nazrul). He is equally commemorated and revered in India, especially in West Bengal and Tripura. He assailed the British Raj in India and preached revolution through his poetic works, such as Bidrohi and Bhangar Gaan, as well as his publication Dhumketu . While in prison, Nazrul wrote the Rajbandir Jabanbandi . His writings greatly inspired Bengalis of East Pakistan during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Nazrul's writings explore themes such as love, freedom, humanity and revolution. He opposed all forms of bigotry and fundamentalism. Throughout his career, Nazrul wrote short stories, novels, and essays but is best known for his songs and poems. He pioneered new music forms such as Bengali ghazals. Nazrul wrote and composed music for nearly 4,000 songs, collectively known as Nazrul Geeti, which are widely popular even today in Bangladesh and India. At the invitation of the Government of Bangladesh, Nazrul and his family had moved to Dhaka in 1972.

A commemorative postage stamp was released by the P&T Deptt on 14th September 1999 to mark his birth centenary (denomination 3 Rs).

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THE WORLD'S FIRST UNDERWATER POST OFFICE

Vanuatu has unveiled what it claims to be the world's first underwater post office providing jobs for four dive-accredited postal workers operating in shifts.

Special waterproof postcards are available from shops on land at Port Villa and one can scuba dive three meters down to have these postcards embossed with a waterproof stamp, specially created by Vanuatu Post to celebrate the 83-island Pacific archipelago's status as a marine paradise.

Vanuatu Tourism described the fiberglass post office as being surrounded by beds of coral and shoals of multicolored fish in a marine sanctuary off Hideaway Island on the outskirts of Port Vila.

It is all aimed at drawing attention to the diversity of Vanuatu's underwater world, and easily accessible dive sites. Sea fans, soft corals and acropora gardens, plate corals and sponges and thousands of curious fish are there for all to see. And don't forget the ship wrecks including the mightiest shipwreck in the world, the SS President Coolidge.

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