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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 # 127 - July 31, 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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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

The 8th month of the year, August, is a happening month with several
festivals including India's 56th anniversary of independence that will
be celebrated on the 15th of this month.

August 12 is Raksha Bandha, celebrating the bonds between brothers and
sisters. The sister ties rakhi (forerunners of today's friendship bands)
on brother's wrist and the brothers in turn pledge to protect their
sisters.

August 20 is Lord Krishna's Birthday, Janmashtami that is celebrated in
a big way all over the country.

Celebration for some and matter of survival for others, the 1st anniversary of the Court Case against PCI falls on August 23rd.

Last but not the least Stamps of India Collectors Companion enters its 4th year on August 28th.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: S C Sukhani from Kolkata, Mid Day from Mumbai, Indian Express,

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.stampsfindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

The Army Postal Service issued the following Special Covers with Special Postmarks in the first quarter of 2003:

Jan 15, 23rd Field Regiment, Golden Jubilee
Feb 01, 299 Field Regiment, Silver Jubilee
Feb 24, Army Educational Corps, 7th Reunion
Mar 01, Armed Forces Medical Stores Depot Lucknow, Diamond Jubilee
Mar 13, 1st Armored Engineer Regiment, Diamond Jubilee
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##### NEW CUSTOMIZED POSTAL STATIONERY

The 11<sup>th</sup> issue of the customized envelope for Indian Ordinance Factory Kirkee Pune was released on May 26, 2003.

The 'postage pre-paid for Rs.5' is inscribed below the imprinted stamp. The envelope is in the size of 220 x 110 mm and is printed in the quantity of 50,000.

This issue, like other customized stationery, is NOT available to public or philatelists through the Post Office.  
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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee released a Special Cover with a Special Postmark provided by India Post to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) at a function held to mark the beginning of the celebrations on July 29, 2003 in New Delhi.

Also present during the occasion were Minister for Human Resource Development, Science & Technology and Ocean Development Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for State for Communications & IT S U Thirunavukkarasar,

Minister for State for Human Resource and Development Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, Education Secretary, Government of India, S.K. Tripathi and CBSE chairman Ashok Ganguly.

For availability and charges, please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street Head Post Office, New Delhi 110 001.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Following is an incomplete list of events scheduled till the end of the year. Additions and alternations are very much expected:

August

2-5, Coimbatore, COINSTAMPEX  
9-11, Jaipur, SCHOOLPEX  
15-17, Kolkata, National Stamp Fair  
? , Siliguri

September

? , Darjeeling  
? , Coochbehar

October

2-4, Ahmedabad, GUJPEX  
10-13, Jaipur, RAJPEX  
16-19, Hyderabad, APPEX

November

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX

December

? , Mumbai, MAHAPEX

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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HANDBOOK ON PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

India Post has just published a Handbook on Philatelic Exhibitions. The 100 page A4 size Handbook is divided in 3 parts, India Post Regulations for Philatelic Exhibitions (IP-PER), India Post Philatelic Awards System (IP-PAS), and India Post Philatelic Jurors Program (IP-PJP). All these rules come in to force on August 1, 2003.

The Handbook provides clear and detailed information on procedures for all levels of philatelic exhibitions organized as well as patronized and supported by India Post.

At present the Handbook is for internal circulation only, however we have been told that soon it will be made available as a priced publication thru philatelic bureaus.

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STORY OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF FORMER PRINCELY STATES

Pitamber Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. of New Delhi, [pitamba@bol.net.in](mailto:pitamba@bol.net.in), has just published a 44 page book in Hindi on the 'Story of the Postage

Stamps of Princely States in Central India'. The book is priced at Rs.35.

Its author, Gopi Chand Shrinagar is a well known name for philatelic writings in Hindi. He has published hundreds of articles in several magazines and newspapers for nearly three decades. And in the process has coined and popularized several philatelic terms in Hindi.

The book deals with issues of Gwalior, Charkhari, Datia, Orchha, and Bijawar and the author has brought some interesting facts about states. We believe this book will go a long way in creating awareness in general public about issues of former princely states of India

There are several factual errors in the work that could have easily been avoided if the author would have approached, for help, any of the senior philatelists; and he knows so many, so well. The author is familiar with the postage stamp catalogs of Stanley Gibbons and Scott but is not aware of Koeppel and Manners' monumental work on revenue stamps.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

G P A NEWS, Whole # 72 - July 2003, Monthly
Editor: H C Mehta
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association
Address: 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009
Annual Subscription including membership: Rs.100, Entrance Fee Rs.100

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

01

The Bombay High Court on July 23, 2003 asked the state government to explain why action was not taken against Abdul Karim Telgi, prime accused in the multi-billion fake revenue stamp papers scam, till 2001 though the crime was detected in 1995.

Chief Justice C K Thakker and Justice Vijaya Tahilramani asked the state to file an affidavit after senior advocate V A Thorat alleged that the first complaint against Telgi was filed on July 31, 1995 in Pune.

"Now we learn that this scam is of Rs.250 billion, which is more than the annual budget of the state of Maharashtra. If properly investigated, the total amount may exceed the annual budget of the country," the lawyer said.

Advocate Majeed Memon also told the court that though Telgi's anticipatory bail was rejected, he was not arrested. "During the bail application hearing, Telgi was present in the high court. Even police officers were in the court. A common man would have not dared to step out of the court corridor after his application was rejected. However, Telgi not only walked out, he remained scot-free for years," Memon said.

Additional chief secretary U K Mukhopadhyay will have to reply to this allegation on August 6, 2003. The court has also asked the state government to file a status report on the investigation.

Earlier, Advocate General Goolam Vahanvati submitted the report of the investigation in the case so far. He said the investigation officer has done an exceptionally good job.

He also informed the court that the Central government had decided to form a co-ordination committee which would co-ordinate the investigation in different states. Therefore, he said, there was no need to transfer the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

02

Kishore Dhingra, a resident of Mumbai was brought to Pune on July 26, 2003 for questioning by the Special Task Force (STF) investigating the multi-billion counterfeit stamp and stamp paper case.

Dhingra is said to be a close associate of Assistant Inspector Dilip Kamat from Mumbai police crime branch. Kamat has already been arrested for suspected links with the racket. Remanded to judicial custody, Kamat has been lodged at the Yerawada Central Prison.

Senior STF officials, speaking to The Indian Express on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that Dhingra has been brought to Pune by them. However, they asserted, he had not been arrested.

Dhingra, who belongs to a reputed family from Chembur, was disowned by his family members some years ago. Dhingra and Kamat are suspected to have taken the alleged ringleader of the multi-crore racket Abdul Karim Telgi to Goa illegally while Telgi was in the custody of Mumbai police.

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NEPAL BHARAT FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

A commemorative cover was issued on June 29, 2003 at Kathmandu on the occasion of the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Nepal Bharat (India) Friendship Society.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for August 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](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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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

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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>

AJOY BAGCHI FROM NEW DELHI

I have been reading your e-journal, "stampsofindia" with considerable interest. Thanks for keeping me in touch with the world of philately. Also read with surprise in HT about e-piracy that you are facing. What a world!

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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

One our regular contributors Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap, from Binningen, Switzerland recently wrote:

"I have just received a letter from Nashik from my friend. This envelope has been privately prepared by my friend as he always does. Posted on 23rd July from Nashik Head Office, the envelope bears on its front an advertisement in green, applied by using a rubber stamp. It reads as follows:

"Please avail Western Union Money Transfer Facility. For details please contact your nearest Western Union Agent."

As I have observed such private advertisement for the first time on a cover, I shall like to know:

Has the Head Post Office at Nashik allowed Western Union to impress an advertisement on private letters?

Does Indian Postal Authorities get any remuneration from Western Union for their advertisement?

Alternatively does Western Union pay India Post (or their branch at Nashik) for such advertisement?

Please note that this is not the "official" advertisement which we normally come across on postal stationeries (Aerogramme, Inland Letters or Post Cards) but purely of private nature.

Is it legal to make such advertisement?

I take for granted that this advertisement has not been impressed by my friend on the cover! In that case I shall not place such a query in

Readers Forum and ask explanation from India Post. Perhaps there are some other Indians residing abroad, who have also come across such "unofficial" private advertisements on their covers they receive from India.

I shall be thankful to know views and remarks of the readers to my query. Thank you."

We have been working on this subject since April 2003 when our attention to this type of advertisements on mail was drawn by Akhilesh Arka and Ajay Agrawal in online forums. Dr. P G Krishnamurthy wrote an article on it in the April 2003 issue of VadoPhil quarterly publication of Baroda Philatelic Society. Arka also published a short note on it in the July issue of India Post the journal of India Study Circle for Philately.

Dr. Murthy' article is available online at the following link <http://www.geocities.com/vadophil/Vadophil94.pdf>. In this article he claims that a scheme to introduce impressing ads on mail was introduced with effect from January 1, 2001.

Our research found evidence that India Post was promoting this scheme at least since mid 1980's. We will not be surprised if further research leads to an earlier date. It is possible that this may also have been launched in 1975 when the advertisements on postal stationery were introduced or soon thereafter.

In 1988 the rates were Rs.500 including Rs.200 as the manufacturing charges and Rs.300 as service charges at the rate of Rs.50 per day per die per office for 6 days minimum. The size was fixed as 2 x 3 inches. India Post offered to apply the messages manually or through stamp cancellation machines. The document also goes on to say "this media in the recent past was successfully tapped and it has been found that it has a marketing potential."

In collecting this type of material that has a hand-stamped advertisement separate from the postmark/s will raise the question of authenticity. The record of advertisements authorized by India Post at State/Circle level for the current year must be made procured by philatelists and postal historians who can then work backwards to compile the data for earlier years.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

LUFF AWARDS COME TO INDIA!

Geroge B Griffenhagen, Reuben Ramkissoon, and W Danforth Walker have been chosen to receive the 2003 Luff Awards, the highest recognition accorded by the American Philatelic Society. They will be saluted at the Stamps Show 2003 Awards Banquet on August 9, 2003 at Columbus, Ohio.

Established in 1940 in memory of John N. Luff, APS president from 1907 to 1909, who was considered the most prominent American philatelist of his era, the APS Luff Awards are awarded annually for distinguished philatelic research, exceptional contributions to philately, and outstanding service to the American Philatelic Society. Recipients sign

the Luff Award Scroll and are presented with engraved rings and certificates.

This year there is an Indian connection with not one or two but all three awardees.

Griffenhagen has helped the topical movement in India a great deal as both the organizations in India, Indian Topical Association and Indian Thematic Society will bear it out. He discovered and popularized the medicine tax stamp issued by erstwhile Indian Princely State of Cochin in his well known multi-volume work on medicine on stamps.

Ramkissoon is well-known to many Indian philatelists as THE collector of Mahatma Gandhi issues. It is great to know that he will publish a 300 page work 'A Philatelic Handbook of Mahatma Gandhi' next year.

Walker's knowledge of Indian Princely States and British India is phenomenal to say the least. He is well known to all serious collectors and exhibitors in these subjects worldwide and has visited India on many occasions, including as Jury at exhibitions.

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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



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