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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 # 129 - August 14, 2003. Published Every Thursday
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

India Study Circle Congratulates Stamps of India
Society for the Visually Handicapped
Recent & Forthcoming Events
Recent Periodical Publications
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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

Freedom means different things to different people. In this space we
have the freedom to express our ideas and views. Yet our readers have
the freedom to write their views and opinions on what we write in the
newsletter.

So let us enjoy our freedom together in this month when India celebrates
its 56th anniversary of independence.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rishi Chandiook of New Delhi, the Times of India, and the Economic Times.

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

INDIA STUDY CIRCLE CONGRATULATES STAMPS OF INDIA

The Executive Committee of the India Study Circle for Philately sent the following message:

"Having followed over the past months your comments on and investigations into the activities of the Philatelic Congress of India and its leadership, we wish to congratulate you on your tenacity and investigative journalism in exposing the misdemeanors and use of patronage at the head of the PCI."

"We are of the opinion that the office holders of the PCI both past and present, have much to answer for and by their actions have been highly detrimental to the development of philately in India, and in fact, have been a positive deterrent to the encouragement of aspiring young philatelists."

"The India Study Circle for Philately has a substantial number of its near 600 members resident in India. The induction of new philatelists is the very life-blood of philately in India, moreover, we see their eventual enrolment into the India Study Circle as a vital part of our future membership."

"We therefore view with considerable concern the current activities of a few in India and offer our support to any action which will improve matters and advance the cause of philately in India."

Gerald Sattin FRPSL - President
David Haskell - Chairman
Chris Haines - Secretary
Cliff Gregory - Treasurer
Peter Leever - Editor, India Post
Dr Bill Fincham - Research Coordinator

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#### NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

##### SOCIETY FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

India Post provided a pictorial special postmark on July 15, 2003 at Kolkata to mark the two decades of Braille service to persons with visual disability by the Society for the Visually Handicapped, Kolkata. A special cover was also issued on the occasion by the Society.

Please contact the society at [svh@vsnl.com](mailto:svh@vsnl.com) for further details.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOLPEX 2003

The Director of Postal Services in Rajasthan Circle of India Post, Sarita Singh inaugurated the 8th Inter School Stamp Exhibition on August 9, 2003 at St. Xavier's School at Jaipur. The exhibition was jointly organized by St. Xavier's School and the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan (PSR) with active cooperation of India Post.

She also released a Special Cover with Special Postmark depicting Mahatma Gandhi and commemorating 61 years of Quit India Movement.

The monthly meeting of the PSR was held on July 10, 2003 at the exhibition. Yogesh Bhatnagar and J D Kumar conducted a workshop on the same day.

Jury consisting of senior philatelists, A S Mittal, Ashok Sharma, and Jayant Pandya evaluated 115 exhibits from the students of 15 schools.

The Chief Post Master General of the Rajasthan Circle of India Post, G Mohana Kumar gave away the awards on August 11, 2003.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

August

14-17, Chennai, COINEX 2003
15-17, Kolkata, National Stamp Fair
22-24, Mumbai, Numismatic Fair
27-29, Siliguri, Postal Fair

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 and earlier, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, #10, July-August 2003, Bi-monthly
Editor: Rajesh Paharia, pahariarajesh@msn.com
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan

Address: A S Mittal, President, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur -3
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

OOPS

We regret that the email address of the Pitamber Publishing Company was incorrect in issue # 127 of July 31, 2003. The correct email address is pitambar@bol.net.in

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BIDS INVITED FOR PRINTING FDC AND BROCHURES

The Class 'A' printers based at Delhi/New Delhi empanelled with Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity or the Directorate of Printing of the Government of India are invited to bid for the printing contract for the First Day Covers and Information Brochures that accompany every new issue of the commemorative/special stamp.

The value of the contract is approximately Rs.2.2 million. The tender documents will be supplied by August 21, 2003 and the last date of receipt of the same is August 25, 2003.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR -PHILATELY DIVISION

R P Sharma, Assistant Director in the Philately Division at the India Post HQ, superannuated on July 31, 2003. He was with the philately division since the last four and a half years, and had served in other divisions of India Post prior to joining the Philately Division.

Sharma's contribution in regard of new postal stationery shall be long remembered. Farewell and best wishes for his future ventures.

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INDIA POST PROTECTS TURF FROM FOREIGN COMPANIES

India Post has come in the way of DHL's ambitions in India. In a spirited attempt to protect its market share in the lucrative market for parcels and express mails, India Post has opposed the latest proposal by the Netherlands-based DHL Worldwide Express BV (DHL BV) to acquire a further 45.56% equity capital of DHL India from its present shareholders.

India Post has argued that the transfer of shares will allow Deutsche Post, which recently bought over DHL Worldwide, to enter India and "take away the best portion of the market without the obligations to serve the interiors of the country". Interestingly, this is the first time the government has sought India Post's views on a foreign investment proposal by any foreign parcel/express logistics company.

DHL BV has proposed to acquire 13,04,500 fully, paid-up equity shares of Rs.10 each at a price equivalent to Rs.805.99 per equity share, involving a total forex inflow of about Rs.1.05 billion.

According to DHL, it is engaged in the business of international air express services and therefore, falls under the automatic approval route, permitting up to 100% foreign holding.

DHL BV first got approval in March 2002 to purchase 14,84,720 equity shares of Rs.10 each, representing 51.9% equity capital of DHL Worldwide

Express (India). Interestingly, India Post was not a party to the government's consent that time.

India Post has argued that the earlier approval to transfer shares was accorded before Deutsche Post took over DHL.

Therefore a distinction should be drawn between the two applications. "DHL is now the parcel/express division of Deutsche Post with its headquarters in Germany and known as Deutsche Post Euro Express and not the name stated in the communication mentioned above," says India Post in a its objection letter.

It says that the increasing volumes of shipments being transported by DHL India require substantial infrastructural investment to maintain its competitive capabilities in India. However, DHL India's current shareholders are unwilling to support any further investments.

DHL India was incorporated in April 2001 with an authorized share capital of Rs.0.5 billion. The company's present paid-up capital is around Rs.286.5 million consisting of 28,63,470 equity shares of Rs.10 each. DHL India is engaged in the business of international air-express services and has an alliance with local courier major, Blue Dart Express, to handle the domestic section of the parcel pick-up and distribution business.

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FAKE REVENUE STAMP RACKET BUSTED IN MUMBAI

The police busted a fake revenue stamp racket and arrested two persons in this connection. Fake stamps valued over Rs.0.65 million were seized from Suresh Pitale and Chedilal Vishwakarma.

Police said they were not connected with the Abdul Karim Telgi gang which is involved in the multi-billion fake stamp scam. Acting on a tip-off that bogus stamps were being sold in Andheri area, the police laid a trap and arrested Pitale and stamps worth Rs.5,000 were found on him.

A search of his house in Kandivli yielded stamps worth Rs.0.645 million. Later police arrested his accomplice Vishwakarma. Senior inspectors Anand Bhilare said the accused were arrested in a similar case of bogus stamps eight years ago in Alibaug and are currently out on bail in that case.

The police are on the look out for six others in the case. "We are still to ascertain who manufactured and supplied the fake stamps to the accused," Mr Bhilare said.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

01

Judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) M N Bondre on August 6, 2003 remanded Abdul Rashid Sikandar Saheb Kulkarni alias Rafique Kulkarni, lawyer of Abdul Karim Telgi – alleged kingpin in the fake stamp racket – to police custody till August 16, 2003.

The 49th accused to be booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) in the multi-billion scam was produced before the court by the Pune police's special investigation team (SIT).

Demanding 30 days' police custody for Kulkarni, special public prosecutor Raja Thakare said the SIT had arrested Kulkarni only after gathering sufficient evidence of his involvement in the racket. It had come to a point when, without custodial interrogation, further investigation could not proceed.

Thakare revealed that on January 10, 2003, when the police raided the kingpin's flat at Colaba, Mumbai, they recovered Kulkarni's suitcase, bearing Rs.5 million in cash. Thakare said the SIT summoned Kulkarni in January 2003, but he did not respond. "The SIT could have arrested him then but did not," he said.

Thakare, however, admitted Kulkarni had appeared before the SIT on May 25, 2003. Thakare further revealed that Kulkarni's explicit role in the scam came to light only after the arrest of suspended assistant police inspector Dilip Kamat. Thereafter, Kulkarni's residence was searched and a cassette tape recorder found.

The recorder had been fitted in a car which had earlier been used in the murder of a Telgi associate. Kulkarni's role in that murder needs further investigation, he submitted. Further augmenting his case, Thakare claimed two witnesses had told the SIT that Kulkarni had earned millions of rupees by transgressing all (professional) norms and assisting the crime syndicate.

"He received Rs.3.5 million on two different occasions when Telgi was in the custody of the Pune police," Thakare alleged. The SIT is yet to recover the amount from Kulkarni. Mounting a strong counter-attack, defense counsel Shrikant Shivde alleged that Kulkarni had been arrested without proper understanding of the law.

The SIT holds a grudge against Kulkarni, Shivde said, for he has proved an obstacle in their path since the beginning. "I agree, he had filed the vakalatnama on behalf of Telgi and other accused. This is what is held by the police against him." Shivde pointed out that Kulkarni has never been named a suspect.

"A lawyer going to his client's flat is not an offence," he argued. The defense counsel refuted reports that Kulkarni had acted as an agent for the police and the scam accused. He reiterated the allegation that the SIT had threatened Kulkarni when he refused to reveal any police officers involved in the scam. "Kulkarni is merely a scapegoat in the fight between two lobbies of police officers," Shivde said. He said the murder charges (related to the car tape recorder mentioned above) were beyond the scope of the SIT, which is in charge of the fiscal scam.

Shivde claimed Kulkarni was burdened by heavy loans and did not have millions of rupees as alleged by the prosecution. He, therefore, requested the court to grant magisterial custody and insisted the SIT

may interrogate Kulkarni only from 10 am to 5 pm. He expressed the fear that Kulkarni may be tortured during nightly interrogations.

02

Pandemonium prevailed in the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka state on August 8, 2003 with Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) members demanding the resignation of small-scale industries minister R Roshan Baig following a statement from retired police officer H T Sangliana that the former's brother had links with fake stamp kingpin Abdul Kareem Lala Telgi.

Sangliana had stated in a section of the press that Baig's presence in the cabinet resulted in the state government being hesitant of referring the racket to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for inquiry.

The issue figured in both Houses of the legislature. In the Legislative Council, M R Tanga (BJP) said: "He should be dropped from the cabinet or he should prove his innocence by filing a defamation case against Sangliana and the newspaper." Chairman B L Shankar directed the government to speak to the reporter and to Sangliana, to verify his "sweeping remarks' on the issue." Sangliana has accused several politicians and police officers of having links with Lala. Nothing prevented him from revealing this when in service," he pointed out.

In the Legislative Assembly, opposition leader Jagadish Shettar sought to move an adjournment motion, while members shouted slogans and tore up books. "Why are you not giving the investigation to CBI? You are scared because a minister's brother is involved," Shettar stated. Home minister Mallikarjun M Kharge said discussions in the House would hamper the scam investigation. "Our efforts to book the culprits will go waste. We are not hiding or protecting anyone," he maintained. Heated exchanges ensued between ruling and opposition benches. AIPJD floor leader B Somasekhar accused speaker M V Venkatappa of being "unable to control the situation," before the House was adjourned.

After an hour-and-a-half of discussions in the Speaker's chamber, it reassembled, only to see further disruption. "Political interference has tied the hands of Additional Director General of Police R Srikumar's stamp investigation team. Why have you not interrogated the minister's brother?" BJP members shouted.

Kharge said of the ten cases under investigation, charge sheets have been filed in seven. "The Centre asked our opinion on giving the case to CBI. We said our investigation is at an advanced stage, there is no need for CBI." CBI seized Lala's passport on July 30, 1998. "They have full powers to investigate. There is no political pressure. The opposition is just trying to gain political mileage," Kharge maintained. This sparked off further furor. BJP legislators even prevented the Speaker from making a statement. Amidst the din, the House passed four bills and withdrew the Karnataka Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill, before adjourning sine dine.

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BNPA SILVER JUBILEE PROGRAM CONCLUDES

The week-long silver jubilee celebration and philatelic exhibition of Bangladesh National Philatelic Association (BNPA) ended on July 27, 2003.

Syed Margub Murshed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, attended the closing ceremony as chief guest, held at the Dhaka General Post Office (GPO). BNPA President Prof. Kazi Shariful Alam presided.

Margub Murshed gave away prizes among four winners from the junior group who exhibited their stamps. A total of 17 students of different schools took part in the exhibition.

Certificates were also given to the senior participants who are renowned philatelists. Thirty-four philatelists exhibited their best collections.

Prof. Shariful Alam said the association, formed in 1978, has organized 20 philatelic exhibitions in the last 25 years. It also holds auction of stamps every month.

The association organized a philatelic exhibition, workshop, reception for renowned philatelist Abdus Salam, museum tour, auction and quiz program to mark its silver jubilee.

Over 20 thousand stamps were put on display in the exhibition.

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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>

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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

GODAVARI PUSHKARMAS MEGHDOOT POST CARD

With a view to assist a thematic philatelist looking for the story behind the issue, we provide here the story behind the Meghdoot Post Card issued on July 30, 2003 publicizing "Godavari Pushkarmas 2003".

Pushkaram is a 12-day festival celebrated in reverence of the holy rivers once in 12 years. This period for a river is regarded as a pious occasion purging people of all evils and a dip in the river any time of the year is considered holy and cleansing; an invisible power is believed to flow through the river during Pushkaram.

This year the Godavari Pushkaram festival is being celebrated from July 30 to August 12, 2003. Rajahmundry is the traditional site however 8 additional sites are opened this year.

To boost tourism, the Andhra Pradesh state government has made this the event of the year. Publicity of the event six months prior to the festivities seems to have helped; the administration expects at least 35 million visitors.

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### ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### MAIL RAIL FOR SALE

London's secret under-ground railway - the postal system that carries parcels and letters across the city - is to be put up for sale. Royal Mail said it was in discussions with several organizations about a "wide range of alternative options" for the 75-year-old Mail Rail network that would keep it as a "going concern".

James Taylor, of Royal Mail, said: "It is too early to even speculate on what we can do with it." Royal Mail, which made a £600m loss last year and has a £4.6bn pensions black hole, says that operating the miniature railway costs four times as much as using the roads. Taylor said: "It doesn't serve the purpose it was originally created for. The reason is that the locations of the mail centers have moved."

But Andrew Pelling, chairman of the London assembly's public service committee and author of a report this week into the future of Mail Rail, criticized what he called "short-term decision making". "It is such a shame to see an asset like this going for mothballing ... Other capital cities would love to have this type of facility and use it actively." He suggested the network could be used to transport goods and valuable items such as jewellery to department stores, freight to airports, and alcohol to the West End. "London is now more a city of drinkers than writers of letters," said Pelling.

The Mail Rail network runs for 23 miles between Whitechapel and Paddington. At its peak, it served nine stations and shifted 7m bags of letters but now it is down to 3.4m bags a week, with just three stations still open: Paddington, Mount Pleasant and Whitechapel.

The company said the 76 workers would be offered retraining or voluntary redundancy but there would be no compulsory redundancies. A few staff would be retained to maintain the railway.

Mail Rail and its driverless miniature trains, each 8.4m long and 1.2m high, were conceived in the 19th century to combat congestion on London roads.

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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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