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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 # 133 - September 11, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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NewsScan - "Catch 'em young, stamp a hobby" by Sudeshna Banerjee

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We recently found an inspirational quote that we share with you in this  
issue, "Be like a postage stamp, Stick to one thing until you get there"  
- Josh Billings.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Rajesh  
Agarwala & Vijay Seth of New Delhi, Press Trust of India, Economic  
Times, The Hindu, Indian Express, NDTV, [www.gunaah.com](http://www.gunaah.com),

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We invite your inputs, please email to stampsofindia@tatanova.com

Please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still forward a copy of this issue.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

The 12th issue of the customized envelope for National Insurance Academy Pune was released on August 21, 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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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

The following list of events scheduled till the end of the year is subject to change. We update it in every issue with the information received during the week. The organizers may be contacted for further details.

September

18-20, Darjeeling, District Level
19-21, Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Stamps & Coins
27-29, Mumbai, District Level
? , Coochbehar, District Level

October

2-3, Lucknow
2-4, Ahmedabad, GUJPEX, State Level,
9-11, Bilaspur, District Level
10-13, Jaipur, RAJPEX, State Level,
16-19, Hyderabad, APPEX, State Level,

November

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December

? , Mumbai, MAHAPEX, State Level
26-29, Dharwad, KARNAPEX, State Level

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

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OOPS!

The date of issue was incorrectly reported as June 30, 2003 instead of September 3, 2003 in the news 'Our World Of Special Children' Stamp Released published in the issue # 132 of September 4, 2003.

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PCI CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against PCI and others came up for hearing on September 5, 2003. The next date for hearing is now fixed for October 1, 2003 when the arguments will continue.

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) came up for hearing on September 9, 2003 and the next date of hearing is now fixed for January 14, 2004 when Y Kumar a witness for defendants will be cross examined. Kumar filed an additional affidavit by way of evidence.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIGNET, Vol. 26 No. 1, April June 2003, Quarterly  
Editor: S Sahoo  
Publisher: Philatelic Congress of India  
Address: D M Pitte, Suket, 4th floor, 29B Dongersi Cross Lane, Mumbai 6  
Annual Subscription: Rs.100 in India US\$ 12 overseas by airmail

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BANGKOK 2003 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

The following entries have been accepted by the Organizing Committee of Bangkok 2003:

Nishi Agrawal, Patna, India After Independence;
Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, Patna, Indian Feudatory State - Barwani;
Sathi Veerachandra Menon, Thrichur, The Saga of Cochin Stamps;
Ranjit Singh Gandhi, Patna, Indian Postal Meter Markings;
Rajesh Paharia, Jaipur, Refugee relief Tax System & Overprints;
Lallan P Singh, Patna, How & Why of Birds;
Rajan Jayakar, Mumbai, Fiscals of British 1901-1947;
Prashant Pandya, Vadodara, The Story of Milk;
Surendra Kotadia, Mumbai, Inland Post Cards with Ads & Slogans;
Surendra Kotadia, Mumbai, Inland Letter Cards with Ads & Slogans;
Surendra Kotadia, Mumbai, Airmail Letter Cards with Ads & Slogans;
Pradip Jain, Patna, Indian Airmails.

B K Sinha, Bhubaneswar has reportedly withdrawn his exhibit Universal Postal Union from participation.

The jury includes India's M G Pittie who seems to be a permanent member of jury to all exhibitions abroad whether small or big. The PCI governing council had nominated Damayanti Pittie in April 2002 at Bhubaneswar for this job yet it is Yogesh Kumar who is going as the second jury, nominated by whom?

We hope Dr. R S Gandhi, India's national commissioner, takes care of the exhibits and obtains all mandatory official permissions.

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GUN BATTLE AT IMPHAL GPO

A man who snatched a carbine from a Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) man on guard duty at the Imphal General Post Office was shot dead by police commandos on September 4, 2003.

Official sources said the man, identified as Md Kayamudin, entered the GPO from the back entrance before snatching the carbine of a CRPF guard and sprinting upstairs where he took three women hostage. Moments later,

the CRPF entered the ground floor and began firing at Kayamudin on the floor above, with the man also retaliating. Bursts of heavy gunfire were traded between the CRPF and Kayamudin for an hour from 2:45 pm (IST).

The gunshots caused panic among employees of the GPO and nearby offices, as traffic in the area came to a standstill and a search operation was launched. Later, police commandos attached to the Imphal West District Superintendent of Police office launched an operation, in which Kayamudin was killed.

An identity card stating that Kayamudin was a grade four employee of the Manipur Planning Department was recovered from the shirt pocket of the gunman, the sources said. It is being verified whether the ID was genuine. Also found in the man's pocket was a gate pass issued by the legislator of Lilong assembly constituency in Thoubal district for entering the secretariat building.

Director General of Police S Bimalchandra Singh told media persons that Kayamudin might have been acting alone while his motive was not known. Singh who inspected the spot said it was not known whether Kayamudin was a militant or not. No senior post office official was available for comment. Asked if Kayamuddin had demanded money from the GPO, official sources said that things happened so swiftly, that it could not have been possible for him to have demanded money.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

The police arrested seven persons on September 9, 2003 at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, and recovered counterfeit stamps worth Rs.0.532 million if sold in the market. Police also recovered fake court-fee stamps, judicial stamps and lawyer welfare stamps.

One of the accused was the main supplier of the paper used for making the stamps. This person hailing from Kolkata was also accused in a similar case in the 24 Paraganas district in West Bengal.

The other accused, who hails from Darsi, was also listed as an accused in another case along with a stamp vendor from Eluru, two persons from Kolkata and another printing press owner from Vijayawada. In that case the police had recovered fake stamps which would have earned Rs.225000, if circulated, from the possession of those who were arrested.

The arrested person has confessed to having already circulated fake stamps in different parts of the State and earned a sum of Rs.0.75 million.

2

The leader of the opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council, Nitin Gadkari, on September 8, 2003 accused the Democratic Front government in the state of shielding two ministers alleged to have been bribed by kingpin Abdul Karim Telgi. He claimed he had evidence to prove that two top ministers in the Shinde government received Rs 200 million and Rs 100 million from the Telgi and producer Bharat Shah respectively. "I

have met the governor in private and apprised him of the matter," he added. A diary in the Telgi case also mentions the minister's name, he said.

3

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Andhra Pradesh from ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and former Minister Chennaboyanna Krishna Yadav was arrested on September 6, 2003 in Hyderabad by the special investigating team (SIT) of the Maharashtra police and brought to Pune for further probe into the multi-billion fake stamps scam.

Yadav, who represents Himayatnagar constituency, was picked up from his residence by the SIT following an arrest warrant issued by a Special Judge of the Maharashtra Crime Control Court. Yadav is accused of helping the prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi, in the sale and distribution of fake stamps and the stringent provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act have been invoked against him apart from provisions of the Bombay Stamp Act and various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Yadav is the 53rd accused and 2nd MLA to be arrested in the fake stamp paper scam. Maharashtra MLA Anil Gote, was earlier arrested in connection with the racket.

Public prosecutor Avadhoot Chimalkar on September 7, 2003 sought a 15 days' police custody for Yadav and argued that Yadav had helped the counterfeit stamps and stamp-paper business thrive in Hyderabad under his guard. He had also received Rs 5 million from Telgi, the alleged.

Earlier, SIT had sent Yadav's voice samples to New Delhi-based Central Forensic Science Laboratory which confirmed that it is the former minister's voice on the tape. Telgi, however, refused to give samples of his voice.

SIT officials played a tape before Judicial Magistrate First Class D K Anubhule, which they claim is a recording of conversation between Telgi and Yadav. The recording on a micro-cassette had been seized during a raid at Telgi's flat at Kareem Court building in Mumbai on January 11 this year. The conversation could have taken place sometime in 1998-99 when Yadav was a minister in the Naidu ministry; it was stated in the court.

Yadav will be in SIT custody till September 20, 2003.

After suspending Yadav from the TDP to control the damage to the party's image, its president and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on September 9, 2003 ordered an inquiry by a senior Indian Police Service officer to list out the lapses on the part of state police's Criminal Investigation Department. Kamal Kumar, managing director of the Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation, will conduct the inquiry and submit a report within a month. "The inquiry officer would investigate all angles including possible collusion of police officials and politicians," Naidu said.

The Chief Minister's action came in the wake of increasing criticism that the State police did nothing to pursue the case even after 37 persons were arrested way back in 1999 and that they were under pressure not to investigate further. TDP MLA Krishna Yadav, who has been arrested a few days ago, was a minister when this scandal broke out.

Naidu is also writing a letter to Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the multi-billion fake stamp racket as it has now been established that the racket involved in circulation of fake stamps has spread across the country.

A new method for sale of special adhesive stamps is expected to be introduced in the state soon as an anti-dote to the inter-state multi-billion racket in fake stamps.

Shaken by the arrest of a former minister by Maharashtra police and alleged involvement of other bigwigs including police in the scandal, the Andhra Pradesh government is working on a scheme where an individual can acquire genuine stamps only after remitting the cost initially in a bank and obtaining a challan (delivery note). The registration offices will supply the stamps on production of the challan (delivery note).

After the fake stamp paper racket surfaced four years ago, the State government stopped sale of stamps valued above Rs 1,000 to prevent their circulation when police arrested about a dozen people in the city and in Visakhapatnam in that connection.

Notwithstanding these measures, the officials are admitting that even now one third of the adhesive stamps in circulation are fake resulting in loss of around Rs 2 billion to exchequer.

It is learnt that the stamp vendors and touts deliver fake stamps in bulk at 50 percent of the face value to the banks and other commercial firms which require them for attestation of documents and for collateral securities. The Stamps & Registration department cannot even check the genuineness of stamps as the attested documents are sent to the records rooms.

4

In a significant development, the Maharashtra state government on September 4, 2003 declared that retired additional director general of the state anti-corruption bureau, S S Puri, will investigate the multi billion fake stamp scam which is spread across nation. The government gave this assurance to the Bombay high court during a hearing on a public interest petition filed by social activist Anna Hazare.

A division bench of chief justice C M Thakkar and Justice Abhay Oak ordered Puri to probe the role of police officials and submit a report in four weeks. The hearing has been adjourned to October 15, 2003.

The court also ordered Puri to acquire from the Karnataka police the audio tapes which allegedly contain incriminating conversation between certain investigating officers from Pune and the kingpin of the racket,

Abdul Karim Telgi. It is alleged that the police officers are heard asking Telgi for a huge bribe in order to weaken the case against him and his family members. Karnataka police were the first to arrest Telgi and were quick to appoint additional director general of police, R Srikumar, to probe his racket.

The Maharashtra government appointed deputy general of police, Subodh Jaiswal, to probe the racket. Now, after the high court order, Jaiswal, will work with Puri. Jaiswal has already submitted a report to the government and arrested a few police officials under the stringent organised crime Act for their role in the scam.

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STOLEN NOTES

On June 24, 2003 one album containing 78 notes of the Bengal Presidency (Chapter 1, pages 15~37 of Indian Paper Money) was stolen in Mumbai. If any fellow collector or dealer comes across any of these notes or hears any news about them, they are requested to inform us immediately. We will be extremely grateful for any information that leads to their recovery, and will abundantly demonstrate our appreciation.

For more details just click <http://www.indianpapermoney.com/stolen>

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MOUNTAINS

Looking for MNH stamps, SS and FDC on topic mountains from India, Nepal and Pakistan, all after want list. Offer MNH stamps/used stamps, SS and FDC from Europe. KLAUS MÜLLER, mulle.k@mail.tele.dk, Alleen 117 4.th, Dk 2770 Kastrup, Denmark

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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>

S C SUKHNAI, Kolkata

In the course of last few months it appears the Nashik press has lost all quality control in the production of the Postage Stamps. The philatelic market is now flooded with imperforate stamps, misplaced /

blind perforation as well as imperf between. In the new Definitive series the following values have been seen with imperforate varieties:- Re.1 Bird, Re.1 Netaji, Rs.2 Rose, Rs.3 Otter, Rs.4 Bird, Rs.5 Cat, Rs.20 Amaltaas

There are also imperf between varieties in Dhirubhai Ambani Commemorative issue.

Each of the above varieties in the definitive series are in quantity, therefore I feel this will intentionally spoil the market for stamps.

I hope India Post will wake up and try to find the truth and unearth the loop holes.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

By Miroslav Mesanovic

During first part of August 2003 "Posta Srbije", the official post company of Serbia and "PTT Crna Gora", the official post company of Montenegro finally agreed on issuance of definitive and commemorative stamps on the territory of State Community Serbia And Montenegro.

The agreement was necessary, because the two republics use different currencies. The republic of Montenegro's official currency is EURO. The republic of Serbia's official currency is Serbian Dinar. The Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija use EURO (in Albanian dominant areas) and Serbian Dinar in Serbian enclaves and in the whole Northern part of Province (including North area of Kosovska Mitrovica).

From now on, the two postal companies will use the same stamps - which was not the case since last summer. The part of the above mentioned Province, with dominant Albanian citizens, will for now on use UNMIK stamps.

The first stamp was issued with the topic "100 Years of Serbian Sisters' Group". This group is a humanitarian organization of Serbian women, who have been helping to all those who required help. Besides Serbian Red Cross, this is the oldest humanitarian organization in Serbia. The stamp shows Delfa Ivanic, one of the most eminent members, the emblem of the Group and the Serbian tricolour in the background. The design is by Marina Kalezic. Printed by ZIN, Belgrade. Perforation is comb 13 1/4 + the safety oval perforation. Number of copies printed: 28000 in sheets of 25. Face value: 16 SRD / 0.25 EUR.

The second stamp was issued with the topic "125. Years of the Military Museum in Belgrade". The Museum was founded in 1878 by King Milan I Obrenovic. The stamp shows the museum complex at the Kalemegdan Fortress in Belgrade and the founder King Milan I Obrenovic. Designed by Nadezda Skocajic. Printed by "Forum", Novi Sad in 28000 copies in sheets of 25. The perforation is 13 3/4. Face value: same as above.

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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

The Telegraph, September 8, 2003

CATCH 'EM YOUNG, STAMP A HOBBY by Sudeshna Banerjee

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1030908/asp/calcutta/story_2342656.asp#

<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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