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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 # 134 - September 18, 2003. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are now on the threshold of a season that also promises to be the  
busiest philatelic season in the known history of India!!!

We understand that a large number of new stamps in remaining 3 months of  
the year may exceed in number (and in value) then those issued in first  
9 months. The season is also expected to make a welcome new record in  
the number of exhibitions held by India Post.

Some philatelists may complain that it is difficult if not impossible to  
attend all philatelic events and collect all that is being issued by  
India Post. However, we will any day prefer this situation in place of  
the earlier national consensus about meager or no activity.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vijay Seth from New Delhi, The Economic Times, The Hindu, Sun Network, and [www.gunaah.com](http://www.gunaah.com)

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

INDIA POST'S NEXT STAMP ISSUE

India Post will issue a stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 on Janardan Swami on September 24, 2003.

This issue along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs.2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters in the country.

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TEMPLE STAMPS RELEASED

Philatelic Division of India Post's Director, Meera Handa released a set of 4 special stamps on Temple Architecture on September 15, 2003, at New Delhi. These stamps on Vishal Badri Temple - Badrinath, Malikarjunaswamy Temple - Srisailam, Tripureswari Temple - Udaipur (Tripura) and Jagannath Temple - Puri are in the denomination of Rs.5 each, the inland letter rate.

Temple Architecture in India evolved over the centuries with a conservative base overlaid by decorative details which vary from region to region. These variations reflected available construction material and skills of the artisans of the area.

The Vishal Badri Temple, dedicated to Lord Badrinath by Adi Sankaracharya, lies in a picturesque Himalayan valley of Garhwal. The hot mineral spring of Badrinath is renowned for its spiritual and medicinal value.

The Malikarjunaswamy Temple, Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh houses one of the twelve "Jyotirlingas" of Siva and one of the eighteen deities of the "Mahashakti" in a single complex. Located on the Nallamalai hills, near the Krishna river, its history began with the early Satavahanas, early rulers of Andhra.

The Tripureswari Temple is reported to have been built in 1501 A.D. by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya at Udaipur, Tripura. Dedicated to Mahashakti in her form as "Tripurasundari", it reflects Tripura's patronage of the Stupa-Sirsa style of architecture.

The temple at Puri, dedicated to Lord Jagannath, began in the 12th century by Raja Chodaganga Dev and completed in the 13th century by Raja

Ananga Bhima Dev, stands in the heart of the city, with an imposing spire. It carries the richness of the Kalinga style of architecture and the Lord's "Yatra" is an imposing festival.

Sankha Samnata designed the stamp, and First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs.2.

India Security Press of Nashik Road printed the stamps by photogravure in multicolor on imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 3 million each in the sheetlets of 16 stamps. There are 1.5 million stamps printed in the sheetlets of 16 individual stamps, one for each value and another 1.5 million in a sheetlet of 16 containing 4 sets of 4 stamps.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited on August 4, 2003 at Mumbai.

The provision of this postmark at New Delhi has already been reported earlier in issue # 128 of August 7, 2003.

For availability and charges, please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Mumbai GPO, Mumbai 400 001.

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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

October

- 2-4, Ahmedabad, GUJPEX, State Level
- 8-9, Lucknow, Philatelic Festival
- 9-11, Bilaspur, District Level
- 10-13, Jaipur, RAJPEX, State Level
- 16-19, Hyderabad, APPEX, State Level

November

- 8-10, Coochbehar, District Level
- 27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December

- 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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NEW NUMBERS FOR PRADIP JAIN

The telephone numbers of well known stamp dealer Pradip Jain of Patna have changed. The new numbers are as follows:  
Telephone 0612-2225929, Fax 0612-2238010, Mobile (Reliance) 0612-3225929

The postal address and email address remain unchanged as:

Post Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800 001, [philapradip@hotmail.com](mailto:philapradip@hotmail.com)

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NEW POSTAL SERVICE LAUNCHED

India's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, S Thirunavukkarasar launched the country's first postal packing material and the Bill Mail services at Chennai on September 17, 2003.

As the tele-density had remained at a meager seven per cent despite the telecom revolution, the 187000 odd post offices still continued to be the basic service provider in transporting communication and hence were of immense importance, he noted. The Minister informed that the Union Government was seriously contemplating to make these post offices as information cafes to be built on the model at Melur developed by the Indian Institute of Technology at Chennai (IIT-Madras).

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

Eleven cases of fake stamps involving about Rs.100 million, mostly at Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam, were registered according to the Director General of Police in Andhra Pradesh A R Sukumara. The DGP said on September 16, 2003 that the one-man committee headed by Additional Director General of Police Kamal Kumar was asked to submit its report on the fake stamps scam within one month. The committee would examine issues like delay in filing charge-sheets, reasons for the delay and those responsible for the delay.

2

Abdul Karim Telgi, the main accused in the Stamp paper scam was denied bail by a Bangalore city court on September 15, 2003. Telgi had in his application claimed health reasons - high blood pressure and high sugar for which he needed bail to undergo treatment. Rejecting his bail, B R Nanjundaiah, the Special Public Prosecutor, said that the state had all the facilities to treat and there wasn't a need to discharge Telgi for medical attention.

3

Maharashtra State Police's Special Investigating Team, probing the multi-billion fake stamp scam, filed a supplementary charge sheet on September 15, 2003 against 16 persons spelling out their role in the whole scam. The charge-sheet, running into more than 7,000 pages, was filed in the court of designated judge for Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), S M Shembole. These 16 persons include Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Dhule in Maharashtra Anil Gote, suspended assistant police inspector Dilip Kamath, lawyer of the prime accused (Telgi) Rashid Kulkarni, and Telgi's brother Azim.

The first charge-sheet was filed against the Abdul Karim Telgi on March 27, 2003 which mentioned details of how Telgi's gang infiltrated the India Security Press.

4

Andhra Pradesh Government has decided to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the racket. The decision to constitute SIT to be headed by Inspector General of Police (Recruitment) Krishnamraju, to exclusively deal with the case was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on September 11, 2003 at Hyderabad. However, Andhra Pradesh Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) would continue to be involved in the investigations and would assist the SIT. The setting up of SIT comes in the backdrop of CID's alleged failure to file a charge sheet in the case even after four years of investigation into the fraud.

5

Special teams of the Andhra Pradesh CID were sent to Pune and Bangalore on September 11, 2003 to investigate the multi-billion fake stamp scam. The teams, led by Deputy Inspector General of CID, Umesh Shroff, and V R K Mohan Rao, Superintendent of CID, would be investigating Yadav's involvement in the scam and its ramification in the State.

6

Top police officials suspect that the main accused of the country-wide multi-billion fake stamp scam, Telgi, has strong back-up for his operations from the notorious underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The Maharashtra police, who arrested Andhra Pradesh MLA C Krishna Yadav, had also taken along with them a few computers which were lying in the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Hyderabad. The computers were seized by the local police from the office belonging to Telgi in the city when he was arrested way back in August 1999 but they did not bother to study the information stored in them.

In 1999 Telgi was lodged in police lock-up after he was arrested at Begum Bazaar police station in Hyderabad. He enjoyed the stately treatment throughout his one-day stay in the police custody. A comfortable ambience was created for him in the police station where he was confined, including exquisite cuisine and air-cooling of the lock-up. He directed his operations freely and boldly from the lock-up itself with two cell-phones in hand. All this was reportedly organized at the instance of Yadav, who was then Minister in the state government, and Telgi's lavish doling out of money on all concerned in the police and the department of Registration.

Yadav's men extended every possible logistic support to Telgi for stocking the fake stamp papers worth billions of rupees. They identified and tightly guarded half-a-dozen warehouses at different places in the city. Thus, he nonchalantly carried out distribution of fake stamp papers to different states. Police are now trying to locate all the premises which were used then as stock yards.

Some of Yadav's close followers regularly collected money from vendors of the fake stamp papers in the city as their "mamool" (cut). Four of them were, in fact, arrested along with Telgi in August, 1999, itself but what is surprising is that the police did not pursue the matter and they were subsequently let off on bail.

The number of crimes Telgi committed under the cover of money and political influence are indeed mind-boggling. He even forged the signatures of 21 sub-registrars in the city and the surrounding nine municipalities and sold fake adhesive stamps. It is mandatory for adhesive stamps to be signed by the sub-registrars.

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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>

From PREMNATH KUDWA

1. The quote in the editorial of the issue #133 is very beautiful, thank you.
2. Mr Sukhnai is very right is expecting India Post to do something about the quality problems. Right now the only people enjoying from this are the dealers and some foolish collectors. Just last week I received on approval basis a pair of imperforate stamps of the Rs2 Rose definitive. And the price being asked was Rs600. The dealer knows I am not a collector of errors and yet has sent it across, maybe hoping for a killing.
3. I would like you to look at this auction on Bazee.com [http://www.baazee.com/jsp/BidForm.jsp?Trade\\_TradeId=23502063](http://www.baazee.com/jsp/BidForm.jsp?Trade_TradeId=23502063) for the 1949 bodhisatva die I and II used stamps on offer by him for Rs10000. He mentions on his auction page; "These two stamps belong to the "Regular Series" printed and sold in 1947. The stamp on the left was printed by mistake and only a few were sold before the "Error" was detected. Now it has become a very rare stamp and its value is very high. These stamps

are of one anna denomination each and of blue in colour." To my question and to that of someone else regarding the high pricing he says "Pal I just sold this pair of stamps for Rs.40000 in USA". What do you think is happening here?

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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

MMS'S DELIVERED BY POSTAL MAIL

Vodafone is launching a service in Portugal that allows postcards to be posted anywhere in the world using a mobile phone. Vodafone customers can use their mobile phone to take photographs, add text and send it to the home of family and friends.

To use the service simply send a photograph by MMS to the number 1599, together with the name and address of the person who is to receive the postcard. Free text can also be added. Immediately after successful delivery of the Postcard, Customers will receive a message confirming the reception and the forwarding by post of the message to the indicated address.

Each Postcard will have the photograph printed on the front and the text on the back. The Postcards will be sent automatically and delivered by post in an envelope to guarantee confidentiality.

Up to the end of November delivery of the postcards will have the promotional price of just US\$0.43 per postcard.

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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

ARMS, CASH FOUND IN POST MASTER GENERAL'S HOUSE

<http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=13251195>

<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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