

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

~~~~~  
Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001  
~~~~~

Issue # 139 - October 23, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan
~~~~~

I N T H I S I S S U E

Stamp Issues Scheduled for Release

New Stamps Released

Special Postal Stationery

New Special Postmarks

New Stamp Cards

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Recent Periodical Publications

Supplies of Postal Labels

Fake Stamp Scam Updates

New Issues of Nepal  
~~~~~

To subscribe, send email giving your name, postal address, and
philatelic interests to stampsofindia@tatanova.com with "subscribe" in
the subject line.

To unsubscribe, send email to stampsofindia@tatanova.com with
"unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Back issues of this newsletter are available for download at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

Also available in print and on CD - details at the end of this issue.
~~~~~

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Happy Deepawali - the festival of lights.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: A V  
Jayachandran from Pondicherry, L R Rajagopal from Coimbatore, Raj Kumar  
from Hyderabad, Prashant Pandya from Vadodara, Shyam P Nhuchhe Pradhan  
from Kathmandu (Nepal), Times of India, Indian Express, New Indian  
Express, Mid Day, and Government of India's Press Information Bureau.  
~~~~~

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.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on photos, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

~~~~~  
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

India Post will issue a set of 4 special stamps on Greetings on October 30, 2003. Two stamps are in the denomination of Rs 4, inland book post rate and two are in Rs 5, inland letter rate. The book post/printed matter rate is applicable for greeting cards when they are not sealed.

India Post will issue a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on 150 years of telecommunications in India on November 1, 2003.

These issues 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.

~~~~~  
NEW STAMPS RELEASED

NARENDRA MOHAN

The Prime Minister of India released a commemorative stamp on Narendra Mohan on October 14, 2003 at a special function at New Delhi.

During the independence struggle, newspapers had the main task of mobilization of nationalist ideology and they were the chief instruments to carry out this task. Narendra Mohan was an illustrious successor to this legacy of powerful and fearless journalism when he became, in 1965, the editor of the Dainik Jagran that was set up by his father in 1947. In the heyday of English newspapers, he took it upon himself the mantle of upliftment of Hindi journalism. Mohan believed that the actual role of a newspaper is to voice the common man's views and that this is possible only when the mode of communication is a language that is commonly understood. He had a multi-faceted personality and has many literary works to his credit.

The stamp was designed by the Calcutta Security Printers Limited based on the photograph provided by the sponsors of the issue. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and 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.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in two colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 45 stamps.

GOVINDRAO PANSARE

India Post released a commemorative stamp on Govindrao Pansare on October 21, 2003.

A martyr who laid down his life for the motherland, Pansare played a noteworthy role in the popular movement against autocratic rule in Hyderabad State. He was an excellent organizer and took a lead in building many institutions and associations got farmers, porters, traders and women. He sowed the seeds of nationalism in the common man through these institutions.

Binoy Varghese designed the stamp and the 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 0.4 million in the sheets of 42 stamps.

~~~~~  

#### SPECIAL POSTAL STATIONERY

Further to the report in issue # 137 of October 9, 2003 we have learned that India Post has also issued a Reply Post Card in September 2003 printed by India Security Press Nashik Road with the message "Philately: King of Hobbies, Collect India Postage stamps, Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau".

This is not an advertisement but promotional message by India Post to promote philately in India. To meet the demand for the reply post 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 seized this opportunity for the promotional message of its own.

Earlier an Inland Letter Card was issued on May 5, 2003 printed by Security Printing Press (SPP) at Hyderabad and was later made available at philatelic bureaus.

~~~~~  

NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on July 17, 2003 at Hyderabad to mark 100 years of India Government Mint at Hyderabad. A special cover was also issued on this occasion.

India Post provided three different special postmarks on July 30, 2003 at Rajahmundry to mark Godavari Pushkaram. Three different covers were also issued on the occasion.

~~~~~  

#### NEW STAMP CARDS

Philatelic Bureau, Calicut has brought out a set of six types of Picture Post Cards on various themes reproducing Indian stamps on Famous Beaches

of India, Classic Painting series, Holy Buddhist Centers, Gems & Ancient Jewellery of India, The Ascent of Mount Everest and Diplomatic Relationship between India and Japan. These Picture post cards are available at Rs.25 per set of 6 cards. Please contact the Senior Postmaster, Philatelic Bureau, Calicut 673001 for your requirements.

~~~~~  
RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Belated news received - Army Postal Service organized circle level philatelic exhibitions at Mumbai on February 20, 2003 and at Lucknow on February 20 and 21, 2003.

SCHOOLPEX

A philatelic exhibition was held at Channapatna on September 12 and 13, 2003.

FAPCCI-HYPEX

Hyderabad Philatelic & Hobbies Society in association with Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry organized a philatelic exhibition on September 20 & 21, 2003 at Hyderabad. A special cover was issued on the occasion.

APPEX

India Post organized the 10th state level philatelic exhibition of Andhra Pradesh on October 16 -19, 2003 at Hyderabad.

Four special covers with special postmarks, one for each day, were released that feature Buddha Statue at Hussain Sagar, Sri Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Lambada Tribals, and Multi Modal Transport System. A souvenir was also released on the occasion. Please contact the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Hyderabad 500 001 for availability and other details.

196 participants including 110 in Youth class displayed their exhibits in 357 frames. In addition, 10 internationally acclaimed exhibits were displayed in Invitee class in 65 frames.

The Jury chaired by Chief Post Master General of Andhra Pradesh, T S Govinda Rajan consisted of Ashok Kumar Bayanwala and Dr Sita Bhateja with Charles Lobo and B K Nagpal as Apprentices.

The Chairman of Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education, Professor C Subba Rao gave away the awards. Sunita Mohammed bagged Osmania University's Trophy for 'Sea Shore Life' best exhibit in Championship Class and Valmick Desai bagged Chief Postmaster General's Trophy for the best exhibit in competition class for 'Watermark Panorama'.

Nagpal conducted a workshop on philately on the first and last day, on the 2nd day an essay writing competition for children was organized that was followed by a quiz competition conducted by Devendra Jain, and on the 3rd day a seminar on philately was organized. Bayanwala read his paper on Modern Postal History of India while A R Singhee recycled his old article in Ind Dak on Postal Stationery during the seminar.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following list of events scheduled for next few months 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.

October

31-Nov 1 & 2, Mysore, Regional

November

2-4, Pune, Coins Show

8-10, Coochbehar, District Level

14-16, Gwalior, Coins Show

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

xx-xx, Satara, District Level

December

26-29, Dharwad, KARNAPEX, State Level

January 2004

9-11, Tirupur, Coin-Stampex

9-12, Nagpur, MAHAPEX, State Level

NOTES

Ludhiana's regular exhibition held every year, on November 14, is not being held this year.

New dates are awaited for the Lucknow exhibition that was scheduled for October 2003.

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit

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

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

VADOPHIL, Whole # 96, October 2003

Editors: Prashant H Pandya & Timir R Shah

Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society

Address: 'Jaya', Dala Patel's Pole, Narsinhji's Pole, Vadodara 390001

Annual Subscription: Rs. 100

THE HYDERABAD PHILATELIST, Irregular - previous issue 1999, Oct 2003

Chairman of the Publication Committee: Shri Prakash Agarwaal

Publisher: Hyderabad Philatelic & Hobbies Society

Address: #4 Jawahar Nagar, Prenderghast Road, Secunderabad 500003

Annual Subscription: Rs. 75

SUPPLIES OF POSTAL LABELS

The Post Master General of Agra Region of the Uttar Pradesh Circle invites tenders for supply of laminated Self-adhesive preprinted duplicate Barcode stickers for Speed Post articles and Express Parcel Post articles. The last date to submit the tender is November 19, 2003. For more information, contact the Office of the Post Master General, Agra Region, Agra 282001.

FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

On October 20, 2003 the Special Investigation Team (SIT) alleged that Telgi, though he was behind bars, spoke to a member of the Mumbai Police's Crime Branch unit at Sahar airport, to ensure the release of one of his consignments of fake stamps seized at the Mumbai airport. The SIT is probing how Telgi got hold of a mobile phone inside the jail, but claimed to have evidence to back their claim about him speaking to a Crime Branch official.

SIT sources said Andhale was being grilled in connection with raids conducted by him on some offices in Fort and Andheri areas of Mumbai in May 2002. 'During the searches, he had recovered fake stamps worth several millions of rupees and picked up for questioning two persons who were selling the counterfeits'. The duo reportedly told Andhale that they worked for Telgi, who was then in a Karnataka jail, and also furnished his mobile phone number. 'Andhale then called up Telgi and demanded money to hush up the raids and set free his men'. Andhale not only hushed the raids, but also sold the seized stamps in the market. The SIT has named him as 'an abettor in Telgi's organized crime syndicate'.

Incidentally, Andhale was the investigating officer in the case registered against Telgi by the crime branch in 1998. SIT has alleged that he had 'gone slow' on the investigations.

SIT suspects that some officers in the Mumbai police had sought to sabotage the scam investigations by facilitating the escape of two key witnesses, Anand and Poojari, and killing of a third, Amir Choudhary. The CBD Belapur police recently identified Choudhary's body, which was recovered from Mumbai creek in June.

'The Mumbai crime branch had raided a storage facility in Bhiwandi in January and recovered fake stamp papers worth Rs 8.5 billion. But the officers were bribed not to name Telgi in the charge sheet, which was filed in April'.

In another raid by the city crime branch in November 2002, several machines used for printing the fake stamp papers were found at a place near Crawford Market, opposite the Mumbai Police Commissioner's office. 'Surprisingly, the machines were not seized,' an SIT officer said.

2

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Detection) Pradeep Sawant of the Mumbai Crime Branch and his junior, Assistant Commissioner of Police Ramakant Padwal, have been summoned to Pune for questioning by the SIT probing the multibillion fake stamp paper scam.

Sawant was indicted earlier in the year by the S K Jaiswal Committee report that revealed inconsistencies in the probe into the fake stamp scam. The report has suggested action against senior police officers including Mumbai Police Commissioner R S Sharma (he was Pune Police Commissioner when the scam was busted), then Joint Commissioner

Maheshgouri, and Deputy Commissioner Sawant, for lackadaisical investigation into the racket spearheaded by Telgi.

3

In a major breakthrough in the multibillion-rupee fake stamp scam, the SIT, led by C H Wakade, on October 18, 2003 arrested three senior police officials from Mumbai. The three arrested are Assistant Commissioner of Police Gokul Patil (intelligence department), police inspector Vashist Andale (Sahar airport crime branch), and Pratap Kakade of the Nalasopara police station (Thane rural). All the three have been booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

The arrests were made for their alleged laxity in probing the cases filed against Telgi, the kingpin of the racket, in various police stations in Mumbai since 1996. The officials even went to the extent of weakening the cases against Telgi, thus, ensuring that he is discharged from the charges.

The SIT opened investigations into the earlier cases after the Bombay High Court recently raised a query while hearing a writ petition filed by Anna Hazare. The social worker wanted to know what had happened to the previous cases filed against Telgi, and who were the officials responsible for lapses in investigating the cases. The high court appointed special investigating officer S S Puri to supervise the overall investigations in the scam and monitor the probe against the police officials involved in the scam in particular. The arrests were made after the lapses became known while investigating the cases.

Judicial Magistrate First Class, J C Jagdale on October 19, 2003 remanded the arrested police officials to police custody until November 3, 2003. Demanding their police custody, special public prosecutor Raja Thakare said Andale and the other two officials allegedly helped Abdul Karim Telgi, the alleged kingpin in the scam, when they were working with the Dharavi crime branch and the Meera Road Police Station respectively. Thakare said 'it was the patronage of such public servants that helped the racket spread in as many as 17 states'.

In a new twist to the stamp scam, Thakare alleged that the arrested Mumbai policemen had passed on hefty sums received from scamster Telgi to 'higher-ups' in the police. Thakare said that he did not want to reveal the names of senior officers, as there were media persons present in court. He underlined the need for the SIT to interrogate the trio.

He said Andale was senior to assistant police inspector Dilip Kamat, who was already under arrest. 'Andale is in-charge of investigations against accused Tarbez Telgi and Jabrez Sangvi and was aware of Telgi's involvement in the scam, but took no action,' he added. Thakare claimed that Andale knew that Andheri-Mumbai-based firms Mark Enterprises and S S Services were selling counterfeit stamps, but did not take action against them. 'Andale detained 10 members of Telgi's crime syndicate after finding fake stamps worth Rs 5 million at these companies, but released them without registering cases, for which he was allegedly paid Rs 1 million.'

Thakare said the SIT probing the scam had proof that the companies sold fake stamps worth millions of rupees after the incident. About the other two accused, he said Patil and Kakade, too, came to know of Telgi's involvement after a case was registered in the scam on August 22, 1999, and that they had visited his residence while working at the Meera Road Police Station. 'But no searches were carried out.'

He alleged that Kakade visited Telgi's place on seven occasions between September 2, 1999, and October 13, 1999. 'However, he neither shared this with the local police, nor did he keep a watch on Telgi's activities,' he added. Thakare said the failure of the accused officials to send the fake stamps seized from the racket to the India Security Press at Nasik helped it spread. He said Patil received Rs 0.6 million and Kakade, Rs 50,000, for the 'favors'.

Defence counsel Viraj Kakade argued that the SIT had already recorded the accused's statements and hence, they need not be sent to police custody. He also argued that the statement of a co-accused can not be a ground for granting remand, adding that the three junior officials were being made a scapegoat. Kakade said he had arrested 10 persons in the case and recovered a lot of money, while Patil said he had been arrested after Dheeraj Patel provided wrong information about him. Andale argued that a local Deputy Commissioner of Police had cleared him in a similar inquiry.

4

The Maharashtra State government suffered a major embarrassment on October 15, 2003 when Bombay High Court directed special investigating officer S S Puri to probe the role of Mumbai Police Commissioner, Ranjit Singh Sharma, in the fake stamp scam.

The court directive came up on a public interest litigation filed by social activist, Anna Hazare. The bench comprising Chief Justice C K Thakkar and Justice Abhay Oak asked the investigator to expedite the probe against the city police chief and to submit a report by November 12, 2003 as Sharma is scheduled to retire on November 30, 2003.

Suspicion was first cast on Sharma in a report by the Additional Commissioner of Police, S M Mushrif, submitted to the government early this year. Mushrif was asked to probe the lapse of the police in investigating the case.

Though Mushrif headed the investigation initially, he was later transferred for reasons not yet known. He then alleged that investigating officers, along with Sharma, had protected Telgi. There were also allegations that Sharma in his capacity as Pune police chief, had deliberately kept 'some loose ends' that helped Telgi and his associates to get away. 'Since Sharma is due to retire on November 30, his culpability in delaying action against the accused should be probed,' the court was told.

The High Court also ordered the Karnataka state police to submit certified copies of transcripts of telephonic conversations between suspended Assistant Commissioner, A C Mulani, and prime accused Telgi.

Meanwhile, Nitin Gadkari, leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, demanded further directive to probe the role of other 'higher-ups' in the government. 'Today's directive vindicates our stand,' he said. Gadkari had recently created a flutter by his allegation that 'some top' functionaries in the government had received Rs 200 million from Telgi to scuttle the probe.

NEW ISSUES OF NEPAL

Nepal issued a stamp on October 22, 2003 in the denomination of Rs. 25 to mark the Export Year 2003.

K K Karmacharya designed the horizontal stamp. Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna printed it in four colors by offset lithography in the quantity of 0.5 million in sheets of 50 stamps on high quality stamp paper with tropical gumming.

BENYAHIA MOHAMMED

I wish to exchange Algerian and wwd used stamps, wwd phonecards and Algerian mint postcards with others collectors from worldwide. Please contact me on email Benyamed@yahoo.fr

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

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>

NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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.

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://stampsonindia.netfirms.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

-----*****O*****-----
--

ADMINISTRIVIA

Published by Madhu Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for 'Stamps of India',
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India
Phone: + 91-11-25281578 Mobiles: 98681 40089 (MJ), 98111 60884 (SJ)

Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w03.htm>

Our now famous Disclaimer!
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w04.htm>

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMAPNION, Back issues in Print
Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500
Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs.950
Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250
Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs.650
Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMAPNION, Back Issues on CD
Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMAPNION, Back Issues on the Web Site
Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

=====
© Copyright 2003. Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.