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

The First & 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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Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The weather has taken a turn for the worst with snow fall in the  
northern part of India specially Simla, which the weather man claims has  
not seen so much snow in the last 21 years.

Luckily there were no plans to travel to any exhibition. The travel  
plans are being finalized for next month and hopefully the weather would  
turn a little warmer.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter. With a hot  
Cuppa!

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sudhir Kumar  
Jain, Akhilesh Arka, The Hindustan Times, and The Hindu.

We invite your inputs, please email to [feedback@stampsfindia.com](mailto:feedback@stampsfindia.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. Also, please mention this
newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

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.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUE

February 6  
Dr. B D Garware, Rs5

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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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARK

India Post provided a special pictorial postmark on January 24, 2004 at Bilaspur depicting Acharya Vidhyasagar Maharaj. A special cover was also issued to commemorate Jinendra Panchkalyanak Pratishtha & Tri-Gajrath Mahotsava for a newly constructed temple of first Tirthankar Bhagwan Rishabhath. The cover depicts the Temple, the idol of Bhagwan Rishabhath and Acharya Vidhyasagar Maharaj.

India Post provided special pictorial postmark on the Birth Centenary of Poet Kuvempu at Bangalore on December 29, 2003. A Special Cover was also issued on this occasion.

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JANUARY 26 HONOR LISTS

Every year January 26 is celebrated in India as the Republic Day, it was on this day in 1950 that India became a republic. January 26 is also celebrated in Australia as the Australia Day as it was on this day in 1788 that Captain Arthur Phillip took formal possession of the colony of New South Wales and became its first Governor.

Both India and Australia have a long tradition to present honors to their distinguished citizens on January 26. This year India's honor list included the name of the wife of late Arvind Pakvasa, the internationally acclaimed philatelist who specialized in Indian Princely States. And Australia's honor list included the name of late Hamilton Nelson Eustis for Service to philately; aerophilately and aviation history. Eustis died recently on December 14, 2003.

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RECENT & 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.

January
28-29, Berhampore, Murshidabad District Level

February

15-16, Aurangabad, District Level
15-18, Siliguri, Region Level, MEGHDOOT
19-20, South Delhi District Level, DESPEX
23-25, Coimbatore, District Level
27-29, Tirupur, COIN-STAMPEX

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

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PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN NEPAL

A philatelic exhibition highlighting the age-old bilateral ties between India and Nepal opened in Kathmandu on January 25, 2004.

Nepal's Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman Parashunarayan Chaudhari, opened the three-day exhibition being organized by Nepal India Friendship Society to mark the 55th Republic Day of India.

'The philatelic exhibition exemplifies the unique historical relations existing between Nepal and India' Chaudhari said. 'The people-to-people ties between Nepal and India transcends political boundary. Developed and prosperous India provides vast opportunity for Nepal's economic development as well' India's Ambassador to Nepal Shyam Saran said.

The stamps on display included those issued by the Nepalese Government on Lord Ram and Sita, those on late King Tribhuvan with his two wives, Kanti and Ishwori, whom he married from Punjab in 1918.

Stamps on the Golden Jubilee of first human ascent to Mount Everest by Tenzing and Hillary, stamps on Lord Buddha, Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, those on noted Maithali poet Vidyapati, were also on display.

President of the Nepal Philatelic Society Kedar Pradhan, recalled that Indian post office stationed at the Indian Embassy premises in Kathmandu provided postal services to the Nepalese Government since 1816, two years after the historic Sugauli Treaty was signed between British India and the Nepalese Government. The service continued till 1965. Nepal started printing postage stamps in 1881, he added.

The show was very successful and attracted more than ten thousand visitors over a period of three days.

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PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005

The Caretaker Secretary General of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI), Dilip Shah has appointed himself as India's National Commissioner for Pacific Explorer World Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Sydney, Australia in 2005.

It is pertinent to mention that the PCI's status as an incorporated entity is subject to ongoing judicial proceedings on account of gross violations of various laws of the land and no meetings have been held since August 2002.

For more information on this exhibition, please visit the official web site at <http://www.sydney2005.com.au>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

G P A NEWS, Whole # 76 - November 2003, Monthly  
G P A NEWS, Whole # 77 - December 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

The Andhra Pradesh Special Investigation Team (SIT) has taken three people into custody in connection with the multi-billion fake stamp paper scam. Those taken into custody have been identified as Dastagir M, who hails from Telgi's hometown Ghanapur in Karnataka, Ashish Chakravarthi of Kolkata and Ethiraj of Chennai. The trio is allegedly involved in various kinds of abetting and conspiring with stamp scam kingpin and main accused Telgi while operating the fake stamp paper racket in the country. The SIT, however, did not disclose when and where the three were held. Dastagir was remanded to judicial custody yesterday while the other two are still being interrogated, they said.

Based on recommendations of Special Stamp Paper Investigating Team (StampIT), the State Government of Karnataka on January 24, 2004 suspended four police officers for their alleged lapses in the investigations pertaining to fake stamp paper scam cases registered in the city. The suspended officers are Assistant Commissioner of Police Sangram Singh, City Crime Branch (CCB) Inspector Vali Basha, Sub-Inspector V A Khan and Deputy Superintendent of Police K M Muddaiah. Sources said the Home Department has issued an order placing them under suspension. After StampIT wrote to DGP T Madiyal recommending that these officers be retired compulsorily, the DGP forwarded the letter to City Police Commissioner S Mariswamy for verification and his remarks. Mariswamy has concurred with the StampIT views and recommended for suspension and departmental inquiry against Singh, Basha and Khan, who earlier worked in the City Market Police Station. In 1997, the City Market Police seized fake stamp papers and filed charge sheets against six persons. It is alleged that the police had deliberately left out Telgi's name. Muddaiah was then ACP of Central Crime Branch (CCB) and had supervised the investigation after it was transferred to CCB. Muddaiah is at present posted as Deputy SP, Doddaballapura, Bangalore Rural.

Sleuths of the Special Investigation Team (STAMPIT) on January 24, 2004 commenced a four-day interrogation of prime accused in the multi-billion fake stamp paper scam Abdul Karim Telgi, following his reported offer to expose "big sharks" in the scandal. Armed with a Special Court order, the investigation agency formally took Telgi into custody from Parappana Agrahara jail on the Bangalore outskirts and took him for customary medical examination and later questioned him. The Special Court earlier this week passed an order allowing handing over of Telgi to police custody for four days following an application filed by STAMPIT, which

submitted that the prime accused needed to be interrogated following his reported offer to make a confessional statement. Telgi was quoted as saying by his former lawyer Abdul Rehman that he would disclose the names of "big sharks" in the scandal. Karnataka High Court had on January 23, 2004 upheld the Special Court's order on Telgi, who had filed a petition questioning it.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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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.>

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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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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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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://www.stampsonindia.com>

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

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/w04.htm>

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, 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

Vol.5 2003, Part 2, Issue #123-148, July-December) Rs.

Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on CD

Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on the Web Site

Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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