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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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To get BACK ISSUES, please see the end of this issue for details.
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The power of connectivity on the net or on the mobile is all prevalent today. Fellow philatelists have suggested that it would be economical if every one was on the same network and could communicate with each other on low rates. Currently Reliance is one such network in India.

All philatelists who carry a Reliance mobile can send in their numbers and we would maintain a directory of all such numbers on the site and make it economical for philatelists to communicate from across the country.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Anil Suri, Press Trust of India, Indo-Asian News Service, 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

HONG KONG 2004 AWARDS

Eleven exhibits from India participated in 17<sup>th</sup> Asian International  
Philatelic Exhibition held from January 30 to February 3, 2004 at Hong  
Kong. Subrata Chakrabarti, was the national commissioner from India with  
M G Pittie and Damayanti Pittie were the jurors from India. Following  
awards were received by the exhibits from India:

Silver Medal

Mohd. Saifullah - Pre Independence India 1854 - 1947  
Subrata Chakrabarti - Indian Postal Stationery Post Independence  
Subrata Chakrabarti - Evolutions & Development of Birds

Silver Bronze Medal

Mohd. Mujibullah - Railways

Silver Bronze Medal in Literature Class

S Kotadia - Indian Inland Letter Cards with Advertisements & Slogans  
S Kotadia - Indian Inland Post Cards with Advertisements & Slogans  
Manik Jain - Phila India Guide book 2002

Bronze Medal

S Kotadia - Pakistan  
A M Mollah - Modern Indian Revenues  
Janardan Shastry - Water Birds

Excellent in Open class

Kishore Jhunjunwala - Mahatma Gandhi

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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 MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards were recently issued:

Ad in Hindi - Education for all  
Ad in Hindi - Small Savings Schemes

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POSTAL STRIKE IN KERALA

An indefinite strike by thousands of postal employees in Kerala was called off on February 4, 2004 after union leaders were told that no privatization was intended.

The decision to call off the strike was taken after union leaders discussed the issue with Kerala's Chief Post Master General K N K Karthiyayani. Briefing newsmen, Karthiyayani said it was unfortunate that the message of making "our department more professional to counter the competition of courier agencies was mistaken." Our employees were under the impression that it could set the way for privatization, she said. "The strike was called off after this was explained to them. From Thursday things will be back to normal."

Conciliatory talks were held between the Northern Region Post Master General M Ramanujam and the Joint Council of Associations of Employees at Kozhikode on February 3, 2004.

The strike, which for the past 11 days was confined to north Kerala, spread to all parts of the state on February 4, 2004 crippling postal services. Employees of all 5,077 post offices in the state struck work to protest against awarding of licenses to private individuals to collect Speed Post articles.

Of the 5,077 post offices in Kerala, 51 are head post offices, 1,463 sub-post offices, 527 extra departmental sub-post offices and 3,036 branch post offices. There are 44 Speed Post counters and the area served by each post office is 7.67 sq km while the national average is 21 sq km.

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NATIONWIDE E-POST SERVICE LAUNCHED

India Post has introduced nation-wide e-Post Service with a view to bridge the digital divide and to bring the benefit of the revolutionary internet technology to the people living in the rural areas and other remote areas.

Launching this service at a function at New Delhi on January 30, 2004, the Secretary of the Department of Posts, Vijay Bhushan stated that e-Post is a great landmark in the history of India Post.

He said that a pilot project in 205 Post Offices in five States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Kerala was started two years ago and it is now being launched nation-wide.

With the launching of e-Post service by India Post, he stated that e-mail can now be sent and received by even people living in remote areas, even without the sender or the addressee having access to the computers or internet.

About 650 Post Offices have been designated as e-Post Centers covering all districts and major towns. These e-Post Centers are provided with

Internet connection, computers, printers and other necessary equipment. All other Post Offices will book the e-Post messages and send them to the nodal e-Post Centre for transmission. The service can be availed across the counter in the Post Offices or through pre-paid cards. e-Post messages will be treated at par with the unregistered letters under the Indian Post Offices Act, 1898. The rates for the e-Post services are Rs.10 per page per addressee.

Highlighting the features of the e-Post Service, Bhushan stated that the e-Post service is not limited to the e-Post Centers. It can be availed of from any Post Office. Messages booked at other Post Offices are sent to e-Post Centers for scanning and dispatch. Similarly, messages received at e-Post Centers for areas beyond their delivery jurisdiction are printed and sent to the concerned Post Offices for delivery. He further added that besides delivering to the postal address anywhere in India, e-Post messages can also be delivered to any e-mail ID anywhere in the world. Since e-Post messages are scanned and sent, they can be in any language and can even be handwritten. They could also contain pictures and graphics and can be sent to multiple addresses, he stated.

Besides availing e-Post Service through Post Office it can also be accessed from customer's home or office. Customer can access the service at the e-Post portal [indiapost.nic.in](http://indiapost.nic.in). A customer has to register as the user and can make payment through the pre-paid card that is available from selected Post Offices. The pre-paid cards are of Rs.500 and Rs.1000.

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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.

February

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

March

3-5, Coimbatore, District Level

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

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CONVEYANCE OF MAIL ABROAD

India Post invites sealed tenders from Airlines and Postal Administrations for the conveyance of Express Mail Service (EMS), Airmail and Surface Air Lifted (SAL) Mail of Indian origin to various international destinations. The last date for applying is March 4, 2004.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for February 2004 has been updated and is now available at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Supreme Court on February 3, 2004 directed the states to provide full details of cases related to a multi-billion rupee fake stamp scam to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) within a fortnight. This would enable the agency to indicate the number of cases it could take up for investigation, the court said. Accepting a suggestion from Solicitor General Kirit N Raval, who appeared for the CBI, a bench comprising Chief Justice V N Khare and judge S H Kapadia asked the CBI to file an affidavit in three weeks stating the scam cases it wanted to investigate. The bench was passing orders on a petition by advocate Ajay Agrawal seeking a CBI probe into the scam.

Special Investigation Team (SIT) on February 3, 2004 filed 1600-page supplementary charge sheet in a special court of B N Deshmukh, charging seven accused in the fake stamp racket, including former Mumbai Police Commissioner R S Sharma, with aiding and abetting the crime syndicate of prime accused Telgi. Other accused charge sheeted include Deputy Commissioner of Police Pradeep Sawant, Joint Commissioner of Police Sridhar Vagal, suspended Assistant Commissioner of Police M C Mulani, Tabrez Telgi (nephew of kingpin Abdul Karim Telgi), former Deputy Superintendent of Stamps (Mumbai) Baban Tukaram Ranjane and Vijay Salunkhe. This is the fourth charge sheet in this case. The first charge sheet was filed against Telgi and 32 accused on March 27, 2003 which gave details of how he and his gang infiltrated into the Nashik-based India Security Press.

SIT arrested Police Inspector A Sonwalkar on February 2, 2004 at Mumbai on the charge of shielding prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi in the 1995 case registered by Cuffe Parade Police Station. At that time, Sonwalkar was the investigating officer. SIT has charged Sonwalkar with allowing Telgi to escape the clutches of law despite his anticipatory bail petition being rejected by Mumbai High Court.

How can you supply more than you produce, almost Rs 100 billion worth every year? India Security Press figures show that while for 1997-2002, the period that coincided with the activities of Abdul Karim Telgi, stamp paper valued at Rs 12,360 billion was ordered by Central and State Governments, and the total supply was worth only Rs 3,769 billion. It was the forgers, led by Telgi, who are believed to be benefiting from the shortfall worth Rs 8,591 billion. But very strangely these figures also show that on an average, stamp papers worth almost Rs 100 billion rolled out every year over and above what was shown as being produced. It was only in one intervening year (1999-2000) that the supply figures are realistic in that they are lower than production figures. While the courts are yet to take note of this issue of additional supply, top Government officials had been briefed six months ago.

Maharashtra government has served a show-cause notice on January 31, 2004, the day he retired from service, to Director General of Police, CID, T K Choudhary, in connection with the transfer of a police

inspector who was probing a case against stamps scamster Abdul Karim Telgi. The notice has asked the retired police official to reply within six weeks why action should not be initiated against him for alleged lapses in the transfer of inspector Jahid from Mumbai crime branch to Nagpur. SIT had earlier quizzed Choudhary thrice at Pune.

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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

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 66

M G Pittie did it again! He once again flouted all norms and rules that are applicable to all except him and his friends! Pittie holds no office in the Philatelic Congress of India yet appointed Subrata Chakrabarti as national commissioner from India in January 2004. Bulletin 1 of the Hong Kong 2004 17<sup>th</sup> Asian International Philatelic Exhibition was published in November 2002 and the last date for acceptance of entry forms was April 15, 2003 for everyone else.

We had reported in Issue # 140 of October 30, 2003 that "There appears to be no national commissioner appointed by the Philatelic Congress of India and no participation in the competition class from India". This was later confirmed by the communication received from the Secretary General of Hong Kong 2004 and also reflected in Bulletin 2 that was published in November 2003.

The quality of the 11 exhibits and the means adopted in participating along with repeated gross violations of the laws of the land we are sure would lower the heads in shame of all law abiding Indian philatelists.

Chakrabarti did not obtain the necessary certificate/permission/NOC from the Department of Posts, Department of Culture, Reserve Bank of India, Archaeological Survey of India and Indian Customs for the exhibits and smuggled these out of the country.

M G Pittie, in traditions befitting under-developed countries of the third world, is a permanent member of the jury at all Asian Internationals. This time he 'managed' to take along his sister-in-law, Damyanti Pittie, also as jury.

Can any one or FIAP enlighten all of us as to -

When did FIAP receive the appointment of Subrata Chakrabarti and under whose authority was this appointment made?

Why FIAP accepted Subrata Chakrabarti as India's national commissioner at the last minute?

Why FIAP accepted entries 9 months after the due date?

Why FIAP accepted entries that were not qualified?

Who appointed the Pitties as jurors and when?

What role if any the national associations play in either nominating or consenting jurors from their country?

Does the Hong Kong Postal Administration that funded the show know the truth about this?

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

VALENTINES FROM LOVELAND

Each year, sweethearts around the globe send hundreds of thousands of valentines to the Loveland, Colorado, USA for re-mailing with a Loveland postmark.

This year's annual valentine postmark program was launched on February 2, 2004 with following mailing deadlines to get the special holiday stamp and get to its destination by Valentine's Day, February 14:  
For international destinations, cards must be in Loveland by February 3.  
For out-of-state destinations, cards must be in Loveland by February 9.  
For destinations within Colorado, cards must be in by February 12.

Last year, volunteers stamped more than 231,000 pieces of mail from more than 100 countries with a special Valentine's Day greeting and postmark.

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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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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)

Vol.5 2003, Part 2, Issue #123-148, (July-December) Coming soon

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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