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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

We are pleased to mention here that from now on you will see a lot more images on the website especially of the items that are currently getting released and special covers etc. that we are able to procure. This is due to an addition to our systems of a scanner that would facilitate the scanning of these items.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shyam Prasad Nhuchhe Pradhan, The Indian Express, and The Hindu

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

SIKKIM HELICOPTER POST

India Post in association with Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation launched a facility to post letters on board the daily Helicopter flight connecting the nearest Airport in North Bengal, Bagdogra to Sikkim's capital, Gangtok, on December 2, 2003.

The mail posted on board receives a special hand-stamped cachet. This privilege costs Rs50 per piece. The flight lasting 20 minutes, gives a view of the third highest mountain Kanchenjunga, Rumtek Monastery, and Gangtok Ridge and costs - Rs 600.

The mail posted on board on December 2, 2003 received an additional launch cachet.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/159a.htm>

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UPDATE ON FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Aacharya Bhikshu commemorative stamp scheduled for March 30, 2004 has now been postponed.

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NEW MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Following two Meghdoot post cards sponsored by the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) were released on March 10, 2004:

Ad in Hindi - Kisan Credit Card - Bullock & Plough

Ad in Hindi - Kisan Credit Card - Tractor

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/159b.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR OF 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 through local Head Post Office may be contacted for further details.

March

13, Stamp Fair, Kolkata

20-21, Chandigarh, District Level, NEW DATES

27-29, Port Blair, Regional

For a list of events held this year, please visit

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

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Special judge S M Shembale on March 10, 2004 at Pune granted permission to the economic offences unit (EOU) of Mumbai police (crime branch), to question seven accused in the stamp paper scandal, Kalim Shamsheer, Ramesh Chavan, Ganesh Magekar, Santosh Parab, Kishore Parab, Sanjay Pagare and Mohammed Syed. The police said they wanted to find out if the three accused arrested in Mumbai were linked to the gang of alleged kingpin of the scam, Abdul Karim Telgi.

Meanwhile, the court granted permission to income-tax (I-T) officials from the city to record the statement of Azim, the younger brother of Abdul Karim Telgi, at the Yerwada jail.

The court also granted permission to the Nasik police to record a statement of Sirajuddin Nasipudi, key aide of Telgi, in connection with a departmental inquiry. The statement will be recorded at the Yerwada jail from March 15 to 18. The inquiry is being conducted against the alleged acts of commission and omission by an investigating officer in Nasik.

And now, Telgi presents Fake Fuel Scam. The diesel and petrol – across the country is adulterated in connivance with officials of the petroleum ministry's anti-adulteration cell and oil companies, CBI director U S Mishra, said at New Delhi on March 10, 2004 even as the agency carried out raids at 92 places across India to nab culprits, prominent among them being the prime accused of the stamp scam case Abdul Karim Telgi. The CBI raided eight premises where front companies floated by Telgi were located and has sent samples of the fuel for testing. Mishra said the CBI had come across some documents during investigations into the fake stamp case that suggested Telgi had also made it his business to adulterate petrol and diesel.

The Bombay High court on March 9, 2004 rejected the petition filed by incarcerated former police commissioner & one of the accused R S Sharma challenging the appointment of S S Puri as the head of Special Investigating Team (SIT) probing the fake stamp scam. Chief Justice C K Thakker and Justice Dananjay Chandrachud hearing Sharma's petition ruled that the appointment of Puri in the rank of DGP was legal and within the framework of law and upheld earlier orders of the high court delivered on September 4 and 24, 2003 appointing Puri as SIT chief to probe the scam.

In a significant verdict, the Bombay High Court on March 5, 2004 upheld a special court order allowing Special Investigating Team (SIT) to conduct scientific tests on the accused in the fake stamp paper scam, including alleged kingpin Abdul Karim Telgi, for the purpose of investigations. Justice V B Palshikar and Justice P V Kakade rejected the appeal filed by six accused in fake stamp paper scam urging for a direction to restrain the Special Investigating Team from subjecting them to brain-finger printing, lie detector and narco-analysis tests. The six accused are Anil Gote, MLA, Ramachandra Rama Reddy, suspended officer of India Security Press, advocate Rasheed Kulkarni, stamp agent Manoj Mehta, and the two suspended police officers Dilip Kamath and Dattatraya Dal.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Nepal issued a new stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on March 5, 2004 to commemorate 50th anniversary of social services of united mission to Nepal 1954 - 2004.

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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 70
By Dr Avinash B Jagtap

After having spent about five months in India I came back to Switzerland. During my stay I had an occasion to meet budding philatelists, school boys and girls in Viman Nagar Air force High School in Pune. Here relatively large scale philatelic displays were organized by Mrs Parab, the Principal of the school and I was invited as a Jury. The enthusiasm of the children was enormous. I remembered my childhood days! I had helped many of these children to build their own thematic collections and arrange their displays. I felt that my help did produce results.

I also had an occasion to meet and consult elderly philatelists, who had already displayed at district and national levels and they expressed their wish that I may give them some fruitful ideas and tell them something new from the philatelic world in Europe. One of the philatelists had asked me to bring some philatelic materials, which could add substantially to his collection and enable him to get higher awards. So I had with me besides stamps, also stamp booklets, miniature sheets, postal stationery, maximum cards, etc. Some items I had were from Czechoslovakia and Germany, as my friends from this part had given me to show to my friend. To my great surprise my philatelic friend flatly refused to accept the so-called Picture Cards ("Bildkarten" in German), which had been officially sold by many European Countries, like Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium etc) where the lefthand half of a post card is printed with a colorful photograph of places.

I have no idea how the judges or juries at the exhibitions in India are trained, if they have to undergo certain "examinations" or tests and how badly it could influence the performance of enthusiastic exhibitors at home and at the international level. I am sure many Indian exhibitors must have gone through experiences, which would have marred their interest in exhibiting their displays. I feel there should be written regulations, regarding the way how a thematic exhibit is to be evaluated, what materials can be exhibited and which others should not be shown, what are the "model" procedures of exhibiting, the space devoted for write up, etc.

I expect that many thematic collectors will surely like to know what is wrong with our judges and juries at the philatelic exhibitions.

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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.>

PREMNATH KUDVA, Mangalore

Thank you very much for the intimation on the booking for the Maharana Pratap proof and UNC coins. I had checked the India Government Mint website just a couple of weeks back and there was no information on these coins, but I was able to see those details today.

One aspect you will have to inform your readers is that IG Mint Mumbai will accept payments rounded off to the nearest rupee only. Earlier we were able to make payments with paises included.

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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

M D G

MDG is a new category of Post Office introduced since April 2002 to provide all customer services and cutting down delays due to time taken in transit between the Post Office and its Head office. The setting up of MDGs is an initiative that seeks to improve the quality and efficiency of service provided to the public.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

JAPAN STRIKES BACK

Japan Post stated on March 4, 2004 that 300 sheets of stamps with images of Takeshima on them had been "carelessly" issued after being ordered by a stamp dealer this year.

A group of Japanese lawmakers applied on March 5, 2004 to buy customized postage stamps (also known as personalized or P-Stamps) showing a group of islets claimed by both Japan and South Korea in a long-standing territorial row.

A row over the rocky outcrops known as Takeshima in Japan and Tokto in South Korea flared in January 2004 when Korea issued stamps featuring the flora and fauna of the islands despite protests from Japan. The 2.24 million stamps sold out in about two hours.

Masahiro Morioka, a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, led six lawmakers in applying for stamps showing the outline of the islands under a recently introduced system whereby customers can have stamps made with their favorite images.

"It's a historical fact that these islands are Japanese territory, but South Korea issued stamps in January to emphasize their claim that the islands belong to them," Morioka said. "We had to respond to this."

The dispute over the islets, uninhabited except for a garrison of South Korean soldiers, has run since the end of World War Two and the stamp fracas has brought it to life again.

Morioka's group also applied to order stamps depicting two other disputed island groups -- the Senkakus, claimed by Japan and China, and the Northern Territories, four islands at the centre of a row between Japan and Russia.

An official at Japan Post, the government-backed organization in charge of Japan's postal system, accepted the applications but said no decision could be made without consulting other branches of the government, including the Foreign Ministry.

In February Japan Post refused to issue customized Takeshima stamps ordered by a private citizen, citing the diplomatic row.

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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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<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

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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