

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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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Issue # 168 - May 13, 2004. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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The BACK ISSUES are available in Print, on CD, and Online at  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The General Elections 2004 for the 14<sup>th</sup> parliament have concluded on May 10, 2004. Just for the record there were 543 seats up for grabs and 5,435 candidates were vying for them at 687,402 polling stations and seeking votes from more than 671 million voters. The Cost? At least US \$ 2.25 billion! But then India is a big country.

The elections were conducted in four phases spread over a month, and for the first time completely with the Electronic Voting Machines that facilitated faster and accurate counting of votes.

The results on May 13, 2004 once again proved the inherent strength of Indian democracy and brought a surprised change in the government.

On a personal note, this was the first time for yours truly to have voted. We now have decided to vote in every election possible in future. Although we didn't believe that if one does not vote one doesn't get to complain about what the government does. The reason we didn't vote before was that we didn't want to have anything to do with politics and the dirty stuff involved with it. We always believe that all have a right, as citizens, to feel however we want about what government does whether we voted or not. Sometimes there was just nothing on the ballot we cared to support, or not support.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: The Times of India, The Indian Express, Press Trust of India, Mid Day Mumbai,

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

INDIA-FRANCE, THE BEST JOINT ISSUE OF 2003

The members of the International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors (IPS-JSIC) have chosen the France-India stamps issued on November 29, 2003 as the Best Joint Issue 2003. We congratulate Devika Kumar the head of Philately Division of India Post and Kamleshwar Singh, the stamp designer.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/168a.htm>

The second position was awarded to the Waterbirds stamps issued on October 4, 2003 by the postal administrations of Hong Kong, China and Sweden. The third position was obtained by China and Hungary with the Book twin stamps issued on September 30, 2003.

The selection was made among 28 joint pairs issued during the year 2003 involving 59 countries (43 different countries) and representing in total 147 stamps and 17 souvenir sheets. Details can be found on the Society web page <http://perso.club-internet.fr/rzimmerm/index.htm>

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES UPDATE

New Arrivals

May 3, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, "Vasanth & Co.", 1 million, Multicolor, India Security Press

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/168b.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

May 15 - Siddhar Swamigal, Rs5

May 27 - Professor Dr Indra Chandra Shastri, Rs5

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.

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PICTURE CARD ON 30 YRS OF THE NUCLEAR TEST

The year 2004 is being celebrated as National Science Awareness Year and the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan is bringing out a Picture Card to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's first nuclear test at Pokaran in Rajasthan that took place on May 18, 1974.

The Cards will be released by Shrimat Pandey IAS, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology on May 18, 2004. These cards will also be posted on the same day from Pokaran Post Office and will bear cancellation of Pokaran of that date. A multicolor card in Size of 6x4 has the Picture of Nuclear Test Site at Pokaran and the logo of the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan on front and the brief history of the nuclear test at the back of the Card.

100 Sets of 200 Picture card mounted on written up Sheet with one card showing the back postally used from Pokaran on May 18, 2004 and one with front view will be sold for Rs 20 each on first come first served basis. Outstation requirements have to pay by DD/Mint Stamps along with Ordinary / Registered / Speed Post charges at actual. Please write or email at [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com) to Rajesh Paharia, General Secretary, Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, 46 Geejgarh House, Hawa Sarak, Jaipur 302019.

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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.

June 18-20, Nainital

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

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

G P A NEWS, Whole # 81 - April 2004, Monthly  
Editor: H C Mehta  
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association  
Address: 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009  
Annual Subscription including membership: Rs.200, Entrance Fee Rs.100

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Special judge S M Shembale on May 10, 2004 issued production warrant against the four accused in the multi-billion rupee fake stamp racket, Abdul Karim Telgi and Kadar Shah Yosuf Singoti, both lodged in the Bangalore jail; Jaiprakash Singh, who is in Yerwada jail; and Mohammed Sayeed Yasin, who is imprisoned in Mumbai. The CBI officials, through their counsel Raja Thakare, had asked for the custody of the accused for interrogation. The matter will come up for hearing on May 20.

CBI, probing the stamp scam, has given an undertaking before the Supreme Court that it would not subject the accused to the modern narco-analysis or truth serum test till further orders on appeals challenging a Bombay High Court order permitting such tests to be conducted on them. A bench of Justice K G Balakrishnan and Justice B N Srikrishna recorded the undertaking given by Additional Solicitor General R N Trivedi on behalf of the CBI during arguments on appeals filed by accused Anil Gote and M R Mehta on May 9, 2004.

Mumbai's L T Marg police on May 5, 2004 arrested a 26-year-old youth from Uttar Pradesh, Mohammad Nasim Mohammad Jahir Khan for selling fake

stamp papers worth Rs 7 to 8 million to vendors in Mumbai and Delhi through courier services. He has been remanded to police custody by the magistrate.

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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.>

BRIGADIER PAVAN GULATI, President, The Army Philately Society (TAPS)  
I am keenly looking forward to Espana 2004 being held in Spain from 22nd May to 30th May 2004. I wish that there could have been more representation from India.

I am looking forward for results especially from Indian entries. I will appreciate if you could send me the position/ prizes obtained by Indian participants.

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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

INDIA SOUTH AFRICA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

On October 16, 2003, the South African Post Office issued a miniature sheet to celebrate 10 years of bilateral relations between South Africa and India.

Indian mission in South Africa started from May 30, 1993 and South African Mission in New Delhi from November 1, 1993. An agreement on full diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed on November 22, 1993.

Designed by Thea Swanepoel the miniature sheet features a map that shows South Africa and India highlighting geographic relations between the two countries. Also incorporated in the design is the pot that was found at the Masorini archaeological site in the Kruger National Park, the Umgeni river in KwaZulu-Natal as well as the flower, lotus or water lily, that is the national flower of India.

The face value of miniature sheet is R 3.35 that is the postage rate for B5 size envelope. Government Printers produced the miniature sheet by Offset Litho in the quantity of 30,000.

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/168c.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>

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