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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Edited by Madhukar Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

July 1, marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Postcard. Surprisingly  
this momentous occasion has gone unnoticed.

July 1 also marks the anniversary of the first stamps in Asia, Scinde  
Dawks, issued in 1852 and also the first stamps in USA, issued in 1847.

This seems to be a favorite day with the stamp issuing authorities and  
an important day for the philatelists. Be it in Asia or America.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Press Trust of  
India, and The Indian Express.

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 images, 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 ISSUES

There are no stamps scheduled for release in the month of July 2004. The next issue likely is the set of 4 on Athens Olympics in August 2004.

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

THE GREAT TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY

India Post released a set of 3 stamps in the denomination of Rs.5 and a miniature sheet to commemorate the 200 years of the 'The Great Arc', also known as the 'Great Trigonometrical Survey' on June 28, 2004.

The presentation function to release the stamps was organized at a record 900 places in India.

The stamps depict two of the greatest contributors to the survey - Radhanath Sikdar, Nain Singh and the theodolites and other instruments.

The Great Arc, regarded as the longest measurement of the earth's surface ever to have been attempted, was commenced from St Thomas Mount in Madras. It triangulated its way across the entire length of the Indian subcontinent establishing the highest point above sea level on earth, the Mount Everest. The survey nearly took 50 years to complete and covered inhospitable and perilous terrain from the southern most tip of the Indian sub-continent to the frozen wastes of the Himalayas. The Great Arc made it possible to map the entire sub-continent.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamp, Miniature Sheet, and the First Day Cover and Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs2 each. Calcutta Security Printers printed the stamps by Photo Offset in the quantity of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 50,000 only.

AACHARYA BHIKSHU

The Vice-President of India, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 on Acharya Bhikshu at a function in New Delhi on June 30, 2004. The Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology Dr. Shakeel Ahmad was present on the occasion.

Aacharya Bhikshu, the founder of Jain Swetamber Terapanth Sect, was a man of revolutionary ideas who was propelled to react after he made an intense study of ancient texts and became acutely aware of not only their misinterpretation, but also the distorted version of religion prevalent in society. It was after the sudden demise of his father and wife in quick succession that he took to ascetic life under the guidance of Aacharya Raghunathji. He set out from the village of Bagadi expressing his disenchantment with conservative fundamentalists, false beliefs and blind faith and reached Kelba in Mewar, Rajasthan. There he took a vow and established the Terapanth religious Sangha on June 28, 1760. Aacharya Bhikshu was a philosopher saint, perceptive writer, sensitive poet and social reformer. He composed about 38000 shlokas and

his writings have been compiled in two volumes as "Bhikshu Granth Ratnakar". Among his compositions, "Nav Padarth Sadbhav", is regarded as a significant philosophical composition that deals exhaustively with the nine gems of Jain philosophy. It advocated a society free of exploitation. He was the harbinger of a religious revolution and plodded to rid society of several evils. He advocated strongly the purity of means in achieving the goal. He said neither the fear of punishment nor the temptation of reward can make a religion work. For this a transformation of the heart is essential.

Alka Sharma designed the stamp, the First Day Cover and the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.4 million.

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/175a.htm>

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in July 2004.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:  
Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks  
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Postcard

05, SPP, Hindi, Cataract, 1  
05, SPP, Tamil, Cataract, 1  
05, SPP, Telugu, Cataract, 1

Inland Letter Card

05, ISP, Hindi, Cataract, 0.5, M  
05, ISP, Gujarati, Cataract, 0.5, M  
05, SPP, Hindi, Cataract, 1  
05, SPP, Marathi, Cataract, 1  
09, ISP, Tamil, xxxxx, 1, M  
09, ISP, Telugu, xxxxx, 0.5, M  
09, ISP, Tamil, xxxxx, 1, M

Aerogram

28, ISP, Goa Tourism, 1, M

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

Following two Meghdoot post cards were recently released:  
Ad in Hindi - Bihar Government, Public Health Engineering Department  
Ad in Hindi - Education for all, Bihar Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/175b.htm>

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NEW & RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS

June 28, New Delhi,  
Panchsheel 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Designed by Kamleshwar Singh & produced by Stamps of India  
Completely sold out at the Philatelic Bureau, New Delhi

June 30, New Delhi,  
Weapons & Electronics Systems Engineering Exhibition, New Delhi

Available at the Philatelic Bureau, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110001  
Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/175c.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August 12-15, Kolkata, Stamp Fair  
Art Gallery, Charnock City, Salt Lake City

TANAPEX - Tamilnadu State Level  
Please ignore the incorrect info regarding the venue and the dates in  
issue # 174. We await the correct info.

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P M MEDHORA REMEMBERED

The octogenarian Medhora and his wife were the unfortunate victims of  
the riots in Mumbai in 1993. They were killed when a mob torched their  
home.

Medhora was the acknowledged professional expert on Indian Princely  
States. He also was the editor of the India's Stamp Journal for 20 years  
after taking over the reins on the demise of the legendary Jal Cooper in  
1972.

Abdul Aziz Khan, a fellow philatelist and Urdu fiction writer is  
bringing out a collection of mini-short stories compiled from over 1,200  
published between 1984 and 1990 in the Urdu daily Hindustan. One of the  
story deals with the death of Medhoras.

"Just hours before he was burnt alive, Medhora had called me, asking me  
not to step out of my house. Sadly, he himself became a victim to the  
madness. I was distressed and I poured my heart into this small story,"  
he recalls, "I will dedicate my book to him."

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NEW SERIES OF STAMP PAPERS

The India Security Press (ISP) will issue a new series of stamp papers  
from July 1 with enhanced security features for all denominations.

According to the ISP general manager Prakash Narayan the new stamp  
papers will carry a distinct serial number for all denominations and the  
name of the state that indents it. Currently, only stamp papers of  
denominations higher than Rs 10,000 carry serial numbers. None carry the  
name of the state that buys it from the ISP.

While most of the states have placed orders for the new series of stamp  
papers, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had not done so, Narayan said. The  
two are against the old practice of selling stamp papers to the public  
and collecting money while legal deeds drawn up on these are registered  
later. They have called to make sale of stamp paper and registration of  
deeds simultaneous. The states might, therefore, cut back on purchase  
from the ISP.

Besides, Andhra collects revenue through banks that sell stamp papers in  
places where there is no state treasury. The two states will buy partly  
from ISP and stocks of their treasuries and banks.

The new series comes even as the ISP is grappling with the fallout of  
the fake stamp paper scam. Narayan's predecessor, Ganga Prakash, and  
several officials were arrested by the CBI for allegedly colluding with  
Abdul Karim Telgi and selling him a printing machine without dismantling  
security features.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi and other accused in the multi-billion fake stamp scam were produced before a special court at Pune and remanded to further magisterial custody till July 17, 2004. Telgi was brought to the court amid tight security and produced before special Judge S M Shembole by the CBI along with other police officers following expiry of his remand. Other accused that were produced in the court included the former Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai police Pradeep Sawant, former Assistant Commissioner of police M C Mulani, and other police officers. Others who were produced in the court also included former TDP MLA C Krishna Yadav, Samajwadi Janata Party MLA Anil Gote, Telgi's advocate Rashid Kulkarni and others.

Meanwhile, Telgi filed an application in the court seeking medical reports of the tests conducted on him which was agreed by the court. In the earlier hearing in Pune, Telgi had complained to the court of "ill treatment" by the jail authorities of Yerawada jail. He had filed an application in the court through his counsel seeking his transfer from the cell in which he was kept on the ground that he was having breathing problems. His allegation of ill treatment was, however, denied by the jail authorities who told the court that his allegations were baseless.

The CBI arrested a person in Mumbai on June 24, 2004 who is allegedly the key aide of stamp scam prime accused Abdul Karim Telgi and was involved in spreading the counterfeit racket in Madhya Pradesh and the national capital. CBI spokesman said that Abdul Gaffoor Mujahid was arrested in Mumbai after an agency team from Bhopal gathered evidence against him. According to the CBI FIR, the accused was allegedly instrumental in opening of several offices of Telgi in Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Gafoor is wanted in several cases in Mumbai, Bhopal and Delhi.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for July 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](http://www.cwiakala.com) .

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MARU TRADERS, Bikaner give free medicine for diabetes  
Please email for more information to [rootoutsugar@hotmail.com](mailto:rootoutsugar@hotmail.com)

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

INDIAN PRINCELY STATES

Soruth was the first Indian Princely State to issue postage stamps in 1864. Earlier Mysore had asked for stamps but was turned down.

The Foreign Department of the Government of India issued a Circular No. 872G on 16 April 1877 stating that prior approval should be obtained regarding postage stamps issued by Indian states.

Circular No. 1609 I-G of 4 November 1879 asked for 5 sets of specimens for all stamps including fiscal stamps.

Circular No. 199 I.G. of 6 February 1882 directed that specimens of all stamps should be sent to Superintendent of Stamps.

Circular No. 469 I.G. of 15 March 1882 directed that two sets of postage stamps should be sent to the Director General of Post Offices in India.

Circular No 5084-I of 29 December 1888 added postcards to the list of issues that require prior approval.

The records of the government of India thus provide authentic information confirming facts and at times adding to our knowledge regarding postal and fiscal issues of Indian Princely States.

Acknowledgements:

Director General of National Archives of India, New Delhi

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

CHINA DESTROYS BILLIONS OF STAMPS

China began on June 25, 2004 to destroy over 3 billion yuan (365 million US dollars) worth of commemorative or special stamps released between 1992 and 2001, a move to boost the country's philately market suppressed by oversupply.

The stamps, collected from local post offices across the country, were minced by a large machine at the Beijing Postage Stamp Printing Bureau. It would take two months to finish the job of destroying all the stamps.

Liu Jianhui, director of Postage and Stamp Management Department under the State Post Bureau of China, said that oversupply of those stamps issued between 1992 and 2001 was blamed for the depressed stamp market.

The stamps to be destroyed account for 94 percent of all the inventories of provincial post offices, said the official.

Some of the commemorative and special stamps are sold below their face value at the stamp market.

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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

Published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India',  
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India  
Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089  
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