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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 and Savita Jhingan

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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Sorry for this inordinate delay in mailing this issue. We just had too  
much on our plate and are coping as best as we can. Thanks for bearing  
with us.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Ed Deschl, The  
Indian Express, and The Times of India.

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 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

October 8: Ashoka Chakra Winners, set of 2, Rs 5 each  
October 10: Guru Dutt, Rs 5

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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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

M C CHAGLA

Mohana Kumar, Member (Personnel) of the Postal Services Board released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on M C Chagla, a multifaceted genius of being a Jurist, Judge, Educationist, Diplomat, Minister and Statesman on October 1, 2004 at Mumbai.

Born in 1900, Chagla was the honorary recipient of Doctor of Law from several Universities both in India and abroad. He received the UNESCO Award for distinguished services to Human Rights in 1978. Graduated from Lincoln College, Oxford, England, Chagla started his career teaching law at the Government Law College, Bombay. Later, he practiced law and rose to the level Chief Justice of High Court of Bombay. He was also the ad hoc judge of the International Court of Justice at The Hague. He had also held the positions of Ambassador to the USA, India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Governor of Bombay. As a Cabinet Minister at the Centre, he led the Indian delegations in the Commonwealth Education Conference in Ottawa, General Conference of UNESCO and the UN General Assembly in the year 1964.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamps 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.6 million.

TIRUPUR KUMARAN

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Tirupur Kumaran, a martyr for the freedom of India on his birth centenary on October 4, 2004.

N Kumaran A V, popularly known as Tirupur Kumaran, was born in a poor wavers family at Chennimalai a small town in erode district of Tamilnadu. Kumaran could not continue his studies after 5th standard and got himself trained as a waver. After his marriage at the age of 17, he migrated to Tirupur famous for its cotton products.

Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Kumaran took active part in Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-31 by picketing at liquor shops and boycott of foreign goods. On January 10, 1932 a procession was carried out at Tirupur in protest of the arrest of Gandhi on January 4. Kumaran was marching with holding the Tricolor when he was brutally assaulted by the police but didn't let go the flag and died the next day.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamps 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.6 million.

150 YEARS OF INDIA POST

A P J Abdul Kalam, President of India released a set of 4 commemorative postage stamps and a miniature sheet in the denomination of Rs 5 each to mark the 150 Years of India Postage Stamps on October 4, 2004 at New Delhi. The function was also attended by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh besides the Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Shri Dayanidhi Maran and Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad.

First postage stamps that could be used all over India were issued on October 1, 1854. Earlier in that year a new act was passed and the office was Director General of Post Offices in India was established over and above four Postmasters General of Agra, Bengal, Bombay, and Madras respectively.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamps 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 Rs 2 each. India Security Press printed the stamps by Photo Gravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 100,000.

POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

September 30, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Tamil, 1 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

September 30, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in Punjabi, Small Savings, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

September 30, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, State Bank of Mysore, 1 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

September 16: Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, 3rd Regimental Reunion

October 2: 11th Battalion Maratha Light Infantry, Silver Jubilee

PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India in 2004 came up for hearing on September 29, 2004. The next date of hearing was fixed for November 5, 2004.

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 8-10, Ooty, Coins & Stamps
Devangar Kalyanmandapam, Cherring Cross, Mettupalayam Road
Contact: M Gyanmal, Hotel Maneck, Main Bazar, Ooty
Phones: 2443494 (office), 2442894 (residence)

October 9-11, Ajmer, District Level

October 9-12, New Delhi, Autograph Exhibition, National (NEW DATES)
AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg

Contact: Santosh Kumar Lahoti, Secretary, Autograph Collectors Club of India (Regd.), 'Shree Sadan', 26, P K Tagore Street, Calcutta-700006, Phones:(033)25305293/25436471 - Resi. Reliance Mobile 033-3101 2533, Fax: 91-33-24746899, Email: sklahoti@vsnl.net

October 29-30, Meerut, District Level
Contact: Rakesh Gupta, Mobile 0 98971 42640

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INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY AUCTION

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com) is holding its postal auction #26. The 65-lot auction closes on October 30, 2004.

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

South Division in the Delhi Circle of India Post organized a philatelic workshop at Cambridge School on September 24 and at Raisana Public School, C R Park on September 28, 2004. The workshops was conducted by senior philatelist Pulak Gupta and attended by the students from class VI to VIII in a group of 50. Some of the students had brought along their stamp collections. Many students had mounted the stamps using the adhesives and cello tape and were told to avoid these. It was interesting to note that it were girls who out numbered the boys in the hobby. Two prizes on asking the questions on the hobby. All were awarded the Stamp collectors kit. India Post had set up a special stall selling commemorative stamps.

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OBITUARY

G Sethurman, a member of the Coimbatore Coin and Stamp Club, and an active international correspondent died of a Cerebral Hemmerage on July 30, 2004 at Coimbatore. He was an excellent human being and was generous with his time and knowledge. Previously, his interest was in Antartica, and finally, whales and fishes on stamps. He is survived by his aged father and mother, two elder sisters and an elder brother.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

CBI has questioned S Ramani, who is of the rank of Director General of Police on two occasions after his name figured in the tapes allegedly containing telephonic conversation of main scamster Abdul Karim Telgi with his contacts. He was summoned to the agency's office in Chennai last week as well and grilled for several hours during which he was asked questions about his suspected links with Telgi. He was also asked as to why he failed in preventing the scamster in his designs of circulating fake stamp papers in the metropolis. CBI also claimed that Telgi, while in jail at Bangalore, had telephoned Ramani. His name also figured during the investigation of Deputy Inspector General of Police of Tamil Nadu Mohammad Ali, who was arrested in the Telgi scam case.

A large number of fake stamp papers and currency were seized from a house near Avanashi, about 40 kms from Coimbatore, and two persons, Jayaraj, and Raja were arrested in this connection, on October 3, 2004. Acting on a tip-off, a special team raided a house at Kaikatti Pudur and found a large number of fake stamp papers in the denomination of Rs 5,000 and Rs 1,000 and a few notes in the denomination of Rs 100. The team also seized photocopies of stamp paper, paint and equipment used for printing fake stamp papers. A motorcycle and a television set were also seized from the house, they said, adding that the total value of the seizure was about Rs 1 million. A search was on to nab three more persons involved.

Kingpin of fake stamp scam Abdul Karim Telgi was booked along with other unknown officials for running a forged visa racket, which facilitated illegal movement of people to the Middle East. The case, which relates to acquiring Indian passport by cheating, forgery of documents, misrepresentation of facts and suppression of information, has been filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Passports Act, 1967, a CBI release said in New Delhi on September 30, 2004.

Chennai's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arul Raj granted bail on September 30, 2004 to suspended DIG of Tamil Nadu police AP Mohammad Ali and two others arrested in connection with the fake stamp paper case, as the CBI had failed to file the charge sheet within the stipulated 90 days after their arrest. The other two, arrested along with Mohammad Ali on July 1, 2004, are a DSP S Sankar and a Life Insurance Corporation official Ramasamy Sadhu. Mohammad Ali and Sankar have been accused of suppressing certain important facts during course of investigation in 2002 and allegedly allowing associates of Abdul Karim Telgi, the mastermind behind the racket, to continue sale of fake stamp in Tamil Nadu. Sadhu has been charged with conspiring with the accused, Telgi and his associate, Nizamuddin, in the sale of the fake stamp paper.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for October 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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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

DR. AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen, Switzerland

In the recent issue of Stamps of India (No. 188/1st Oct. 2004) you have published a letter of Mr. Ranjit Singh of New Delhi. He has complained that you do not publish the list of forthcoming stamp. This is not true. In every issue you do devote some space for the forthcoming issues. Naturally it is only possible if the central department of post furnish you this data. As usual many stamps are issued without giving any information or intimation. In most of the countries the stamp issuing plan is widely published by the postal authorities, giving the date, themes, denominations and even cancellations to be adopted. In India this has never been practiced and the stamps are issued at random at the whim of the department, depending up on which Govt. is in power. The stamp issued in the memory of Mr. Rajeev Gandhi would not have been issued if BJP had been in power! It is indeed very sad that the proposed stamp to be issued on the 350 years of Tajmahal, has been postponed.

The cancellations applied to the stamps on the covers, which I receive from India are seldom clear and legible. Some hundred years ago, as Mr. Sigh writes, these impressions of obliterations were hundred times cleaner and clearer than those of today. Despite of the fact, that time

the technique of manufacture of an obliterator or the manner of using it were so to say "primitive". Why our postal department does not pay more attention and train postmen to apply clean and clear cancellations to the stamps (even on loose stamps not affixed to the envelopes, for philatelic collectors).

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

BASRAH CAIRO AIRMAIL SERVICE 1927-1929

The air services in Europe begun in 1919, flying primitive converted military machines that at times had to make an unscheduled landing in a field when bad weather or an engine problem was encountered.

In the United Kingdom a Government Committee was appointed in 1923 to review the policy of subsidizing airlines. It recommended that the main existing aircraft companies should be merged into one, with the mission of developing British Commercial Air Transport on an economic basis, and creating a company which would be strong enough to develop Britain's external air services. As a result, Imperial Airways Limited was formed on 31st March 1924 and on 1st April 1924 it took over the aircraft and services of: Handley Page Transport Limited, The Instone Air Line Limited, The Daimler Airway, and British Marine Air Navigation Company Limited.

Imperial Airways was charged with the task of pioneering a chain of long-distance intercontinental air services linking the countries of the British Empire with each other and with the United Kingdom. Between the two World Wars it achieved that aim.

The start of the Empire routes occurred when surveys of the Cairo-Karachi air route had been completed by 1st October 1925 by Sir Alan Cobham. As Suez was vital to sea communications to India and beyond, so this link between the Middle East and India was regarded as of paramount importance to the Imperial air system. The first section to this route to have become operational was from Cairo to Basra (Iraq) in January 1927.

Indian Post Office immediately took advantage of this air service to send ordinary and registered mails to Egypt, Europe, and America. The first dispatch of mails from India for conveyance by this air service was made from Karachi on the January 2, 1927. It was transmitted by the fast Gulf service maintained by British India Steam Navigation Company Limited between Karachi and Basrah. Since February 1927, a mail bag for Basrah containing articles intended for transmission by this air service was closed also by the Bombay General Post Office. The service was fortnightly until the end of March 1927. A special fee of Annas 3 per ounce or part thereof, in addition to regular postage was levied on each article intended for transmission by this service.

The introduction of through service to London in April 1929 revised the route via Alexandria instead of Cairo. Consequently it would not connect suitably with mail steamer schedule and hence was closed down in May 1929.

Sources: Postal Notices, and Annual Reports

ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### £11 MILLION STAMP COLLECTION

The first section, Great Britain, of a massive stamp collection belonging to an aristocratic racing driver, late Sir Gawaine Baillie and expected to fetch more than £11 million was auctioned by Sotheby's at London from September 29 to October 1, 2004 in four sessions.

Almost entirely unknown to international collectors, the collection of more than 100,000 stamps includes highlights that have not been seen on the market for several decades and the most important to be sold in more than 50 years.

Sir Gawaine raced alongside famous names such as Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart in the 1950s and 1960s. His greatest successes on the race track included beating three-time World Champion Jack Brabham to win his class in the 1966 British Championship. He kept quiet about his other passion of collecting stamps.

The extent of the collection only came to light after his death in 2003, when experts from Sotheby's were invited to view 280 albums in a vault. The collection will be auctioned in ten sections over 30 days between September 2004 and December 2006.

The exacting criteria he applied - each stamp had to be unused and in perfect condition - helped rank him among the greatest collectors of the world.

NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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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