

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 190 - October 14, 2004. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We will mail the Issue #191 in couple of days and hope to be back on  
schedule with Issue #192 of October 28, 2004. Many 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: Prakash Mody,  
Press Information Bureau, and Press Trust 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 24: United Nations Peace Keeping Operations - Indian Soldiers of Peace, Stamp and Miniature Sheet Rs 5 each

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

ASHOKA CHAKRA WINNERS: NEERJA BHANOT AND RANDHIR PRASAD VERMA

Vice President of India, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat released a set of 2 set-tenant commemorative stamps in the denomination of Rs. 5 each on Ashoka Chakra Winners Neerja Bhanot and Randhir Prasad Verma on October 8, 2004 at a simple function attended by the Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad at New Delhi.

Neerja Bhanot has the pride of being the only Indian to have been conferred with the "Heroism Award of the Flight Safety Foundation". She is internationally acclaimed as 'the heroine of the hijack' soon after the incident of hijack of Pan American Airways flight from Bombay to New York when the plane was hijacked at Karachi Airport on September 5, 1986. On the fateful day, she as the Flight Purser of Pan American Airways, showed exemplary courage in coming forward and identifying herself as the crew member before the terrorist-hijackers. She also comforted the passengers, especially the elders and kids. At one point of time she even hid the passports of Americans who were the prime targets of the terrorists. Finally, at the end, when the hijackers opened fire and set off explosives, she acted swiftly and opened the emergency doors and helped a number of passengers to escape. However, while shielding three children from a hail of bullets, she was fatally wounded by the gunfire.

Randhir Prasad Verma, who joined the Indian Police Service in 1974, had the pride of eliminating the notorious 'Matka Gamblers' gang. On the fateful day of 3rd January 1991, immediately on coming to know about an attempt by dacoits to rob the Hirapur Branch of Bank of India in Dhanbad, he rushed to the spot barely with the help of his bodyguards and entered the building. He faced a hail of gunfire by the dacoits. He took out his service revolver and asked the robbers to surrender. However, the robbers fatally wounded him by two gun shots. When the robbers tried to escape, they were caught by the stunned spectators and two of them were lynched by the mob. Randhir Prasad Verma set an example for the society by his act of gallantry. He was not intimidated despite being outnumbered by the robbers who were armed with superior weapons.

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 each.

GURU DUTT

R Ganesan, Member (Operations) of the Postal Services Board, released a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs. 5 on legendary film maker and actor Guru Dutt on his 40th death anniversary, October 10, 2004 at a function at Mumbai.

Guru Dutt was born on July 9, 1925 at Bangalore and had his early education in Calcutta. He was interested in photography and had a natural inclination for dance and music. He was trained in dance at Uday Shankar India Culture Center at Almora and thereafter got a break as a dance director in movies. He then became an assistant director and finally a director with "Bazzi" in 1951. Baazi was a super hit and he married the playback singer of the movie, Geeta Roy in 1953. Guru Dutt was an established an acclaimed director, actor and producer in 1950's and early 1960's.

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.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals:

August 31, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, in English, Brilliant Tutorials, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

Special Postal Stationery

September, Postcard with message, in English, Philately King of Hobbies - Collect Postage Stamps -Contact Nearest Philatelic Bureau, India Security Press, Nashik

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

July 21: Tiruchirapalli, Pioneers of Indian Film Industry - M K Radha
October 4: Jamnagar, Symposium on Grasslands of Saurashtra & Kutch

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PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The application for initiating contempt of court proceeding against Philatelic Congress of India, Vispi S Dastur, Dilip Shah, and M G Pittie for violating the order of the Hon'ble court of August 7, 2004 came up for hearing on October 11, 2004. The next date of hearing was fixed for December 9, 2004.

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India came up for hearing on October 12, 2004. The next date of hearing was fixed for December 9, 2004.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Chennai

An exhibition of stamps of Mahatma Gandhi released by some 60 countries and release of a picture album on the Father of the Nation marked the launch of the centenary celebrations of the P S Charities and P S Higher Secondary School at Mylapore on October 2, 2004. The exhibition organized by G Rammohan, a philatelist and alumni of the school remained open on October 4 & 5, 2004.

Ambala

V C Roy, Director of Postal Services, Haryana circle, presided over a philately seminar at the General Post Office Ambala Cantonment to commemorate 150 years of the Indian Post on October 5, 2004. Prominent

philatelists Major R N Kaushal, K K puri, A K Gupta and K L Sarhadi addressed the philately enthusiasts.

New Delhi

India Post organized a seminar on "The road for the Future of India Post" on October 6, 2004 at New Delhi.

New Delhi

India Habitat Centre organized a presentation by Madhukar Jhingan on 150 years of Stamps of India on October 7, 2004 at New Delhi.

Chandigarh

Chandigarh Division of India Post organized a painting competition for school children on October 12, 2004 in commemoration of the Philately Day as a part of the Postal Week being observed from October 9 to October 15. The theme for the competition was 'India Post On The Move'. About 100 children from various schools participated in the competition. A workshop on philately was also conducted after the competition.

Trivandrum

The Chief Post Master General of Kerala Circle, K N K Karthyayani, inaugurated the Philately Festival 2004 and released the Philately Activity Book for children at Trivandrum on October 12, 2004 to commemorate India Post's 150th anniversary. Competitions on letter-writing, painting, story-telling based on stamps were also held as part of the festival. As many as 350 children from nine schools in the city participated. The treasure hunt added fun to the festival. A stamp exhibition featuring various types of stamps issued by the department was also held as part of the festival. Stamps on nature, heritage, eminent personalities of Kerala and India, flora and fauna, landmarks in the history of the State and the country were on display.

Mysore

Aparna Mohile, Retired Member, Postal Services Board inaugurated an exhibition on postal history and philately at Yadavagiri Post Office on October 12, 2004. The exhibition will remain open to October 15, 2004. V K Gupta, Director of Postal Training Centre, Mysore, released two picture postcards depicting the statue of the Postman of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar period erected in front of the Mounted Police battalion and a letter sheet from Madras (Imperial postal system) addressed to Melkote (Mysore 'Anche' postal system).

Jaipur

India Post celebrated 150 years of postage Stamp with lots of activities and Philatelic Societies of Rajasthan. I M G Khan, Principal Chief Postmaster General Rajasthan Circle presided over a Festival at St. Xavier's School on October 12, 2004 at Jaipur. Festival begun with distribution of a multicolor Brochure on history of 150 years of Postage Stamp compiled by Rajesh Paharia, General Secretary Philatelic Society of Rajasthan. Aman Sharma and Rajesh Paharia gave presentations detailing the establishment of India Post and its activities and on History of Postage Stamps and History of Postal Services in Rajputana respectively. A quiz competition was conducted. A compilation of papers in Rajasthan Philately seminar held a few months earlier was released. A Philately Display of Ten Frames covering 1854 to 2004 was presented in frames by Sarvesh Patni. India Post distributed free Greeting Card and the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan gave away free Stamp packets to participants and other students present.

October 11 12, Varanasi, District Level

October 14-16, Calicut, District Level

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

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

PSR MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Compiler: Rajesh Paharia  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur  
134 pages, Softbound, Rs 40  
Available from: Rajesh Paharia, [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com) 46 Geejgarh House, Jaipur 302 019

AUTOGRAPHS COLLECTING FOR THE BEGINNERS

Author: S S Hitkari  
Publisher: Phulkari Publications, New Delhi  
52 Pages, Softbound, Rs 100 postpaid in India  
Available from: Santosh Kumar Lahoti, [sklahoti@vsnl.net](mailto:sklahoti@vsnl.net) Secretary, Autograph Collectors Club of India, 'Shree Sadan', 26 P K Tagore Street, Calcutta-700006, Phones:(033)25305293/25436471, Mobile 033-3101 2533

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

ITS STAMP NEWS, Whole # 27, Vol. 7 # 4, Oct-Dec 2004, Quarterly
Editor: Suraj Jaitly surajjaitly@hotmail.com
Publisher: Indian Thematic Society indianthematicsociety@redeiffmail.com
Postal Address: MIG # 3464, Phase 2, Dugri Road, Ludhiana 141002
Annual Subscription: Rs. 100 or US \$8 by airmail

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THEMATIC PAGE OF INDIAN STAMPS UPDATED

Thematic Page of Indian Stamps at [www.geocities.com/stamparchive](http://www.geocities.com/stamparchive) has been updated and expanded with 10 new Themes, 354 Stamps and 59 Text pages. New themes on Presidents & Governor Generals, Prime Ministers, Gandhi, Nehru Family, Children's Day, Rulers & Royalty, Films, Music, Art & Artists and Corals have been added Existing themes have been updated with Stamp issues up to 2003. A few missing stamps will be added shortly. The webmasters look forward to your continuous patronage and shall appreciate your feedback and suggestions at [stamparchive@yahoo.com](mailto:stamparchive@yahoo.com).

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JAINISM ON STAMPS OF CANADA

During the last quarter of the 20th century, 'brain drain' from India brought few Jains to Niagara region. They were scattered all around and observed their religious practices within their homes. With the passing of time, they established themselves and got together to celebrate holy days and festivals. Since they were very few, they could not have a temple of their own. They joined hands with local Hindus who had formed in 1985 the Niagara Hindu Samaj. Later they established in 2001, Shiv Mandir (Temple) at 5284 Second Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2H 4K2, Canada. The Jains felt the need to have their place of worship. They requested the Hindus to share their sacred temple and the request was gladly accepted. Two Pratimajis (icons) of 23rd and 24th Tirthankars - Parshwanath Bhagwan and Mahavir Swami and a tablet of Namokar Mantra (Universal Prayer) made of marble are brought from India.

A two-day event for the consecratory installation ceremony, known as "Murti Pratishtha Mahotsav" was organized. On October 2 and 3, 2004, Pujyashri Chitrabhanuji blessed the Pratishtha Mahotsav with Vidhikar;

Naresh Shah guided the rituals assisted by resident Pundit Ramesh Chandji and Vasant Sheth provided the music. The ceremony started with welcome by NHS president Kamlesh Sharma and then Pravachan (discourse) by Chitrabhanuji. Snatra Puja, Kumbh Sthapana, Akhand Deep, Aarti, Mangal Deep and Shanti Kalash followed by Swamivatsalya Pritibhojan (holy feast) and on next day, Snatra Puja, 36 Abhisheks (18 of each Tirthankar), Murti Pratishtha (Mhoorat at 12:39 p.m.), Aarti, Mangal Deep, and Shanti Kalash, was conducted, followed by Pravachan by Chitrabhanuji, Swamivatsalya.

Along with this, the Jain Associations In North America (JAINA) held their Executive Committee meeting. JAINA president Anop Vora spoke Khshmapana (forgiveness). Mayor and other local dignitaries attended the function. Souvenir book with introduction of Jainism, special articles like Jainism in Canada and report with pictures of this event will be published on Diwali combing with annual publication. A tent was erected in the parking area to accommodate more than four hundred of guests each day. Mahatma Gandhi's birthday was observed in the evening of October 2, 2004.

To commemorate this occasion, a Jain and a philatelist, Prakash Mody prepared a limited quantity of two special 'picture postage' stamps and a commemorative envelope. Canada's 'picture postage' is where one can customize the design of the stamp. The stamps have the designs of the above two Tirthankars, but the picture of Mahavir Swami is not the one that is installed. The envelope has the photograph of the two Pratimajis of Parshwnath Bhagwan and Mahavir Swami (again not the same as the one installed), and the Namokar Mantra that in the centre was installed. Regular postmark of the Niagara Falls post office was obtained on Saturday, 2 October 2004.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/190-pix.htm>

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NATIONAL IN PAKISTAN

Ziaur Rehman, Director General of Post Office inaugurated the 5th national stamp exhibition PAKISTAN-04 on October 9, 2004 at the National College of Arts, Lahore. The three-day show was organized by the Philatelic Federation of Pakistan and the Pakistan Philatelic Association in connection with the Universal Post Union Day.

Around 100 frames of stamps were on display carrying over 1,600 cards bearing stamps in various numbers.

A jury consisting of Usman Ali G Esani, the vice chairman of the Quaid-e-Azam University, Rafquie Kabati, a PPPFP member and SM Masud, the PPA president, awarded

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SAARC LETTER WRITING COMPETITION

The 19th SAARC Letter Writing Competition was organized by Pakistan Post. Children up to 15 years of age from SAARC countries were eligible to participate. The subject was "I am writing to tell you how post can contribute towards peace" and was to be composed in not exceeding 1000 words.

The postal regions and circles of India Post organized this event at on October 10, 2004. The prizes at national level are First Prize of Rs. 2000m, Second Prize Rs. 1500, third prize Rs. 1000, and Consolation Prizes Rs. 250 to the best entry from each Postal Circle.

The best entry at the national level shall qualify as the Official Indian Entry for the SAARC level Competition. The Pakistan Post shall select the award winning entries. The prizes offered by the Pakistan Post for the competition are as follows:

- 1st Prize Rs.10000 worth Pakistani Pakistan Postage stamps album
- 2nd Prize Rs.7500 worth Pakistani Pakistan Postage stamps album
- 3rd Prize Rs.5000 worth Pakistan postage stamps album

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The Central Bureau of Investigation on October 8, 2004 raided the residences of five police officers of Maharashtra, Senior Inspector D K Ghule at Panvel, Sub-Inspector H M Vichare of Mumbai Crime Branch, Inspector Anil Deshmukh of Nashik city and Sub-Inspector R M Powar at Ambad in Nashik district in connection with the fake stamp scam.

Deputy Inspector General of Chennai Police's Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department, Amit Verma was questioned by the CBI sleuths on October 12, 2004 after collecting evidence suggesting that the local police did not take the investigations to its logical end despite registering two fake stamp paper cases in April 2002. Verma, a 1978 batch IPS officer, was asked to explain why facts of the two cases were overlooked even as he was aware of the findings of the probe being the supervising officer in the two cases. The Chennai Crime Branch-CID had developed these two cases on their own source information. Telgi was selling fake stamps through a licensed stamp vendor, Marina Services. On record, the local police had shown recovery of a paltry Rs 5,000 worth fake stamp papers. It is alleged that the local police had illegally detained Marina Services proprietor Mohammed Nizammudin for about three to four days in their bid to extort bribe. The alleged connivance between the local police and Telgi associates could also be ascertained that Karnataka StampIT, the special investigating team formed to probe the scam, recovered fake stamp papers worth Rs 1.7 billion fake stamp papers from the same Telgi associates in Chennai in October 2002, which was five months after the Tamil Nadu police had launched the probe and arrested them.

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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.>

ZULAIHA MOHAMED

I had been visiting Stanley Gibbon's catalogue archives and found that SG numbers are not allotted to any of the recent Indian stamps; by 'recent' I mean stamps after 2002. In the case of British Commonwealth, even stamps of fairly new countries like Swaziland are included & among the foreign countries, places like Azairbaijan have been given SG numbers. Do you think this is because the negligence of the Indian postal department?

Some years back, I had some correspondence going on with Stanley Gibbons about the missing numbers (of Indian stamps) in their published catalogue. I remember feeling quite ashamed when they remarked that they get quite a lot of such complaints only about Indian stamps!

Can you kindly look into this matter?

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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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PHILATELY IN EARLY YEARS

Compiled by Jeevan Jyoti, Bhubaneshwar

The hobby of stamp collecting is losing its charm day by day as new generation has switched over to modern electronic entertainments. Today philatelic societies have a very limited number of members. In local philatelic exhibitions the exhibits are of very poor standard. Can you imagine its popularity hundred years ago? It had an important place in news papers. Read these old clippings.

The Statesman, 106 years ago - October 27, 1898

That enterprising little situation, the Philatelic Society of India, continues as lively as ever. It now numbers over a hundred members, and its journal, edited by Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, is a production of very considerable interest. The number for September, which has recently appeared, is illustrated with representations of a number of old and rare stamp issues, and contains a mass of notes and correspondence relating to stamp collecting in this country, which cannot fail to be attractive to all who concern themselves with this fascinating pursuit.`

The Tribune, 96 years ago - August 18, 1908

PIGEON POST

The pigeon seems to have been used as a messenger from the very earliest times (writes a Manchester Guardian correspondent) and its enormous speed must have been of so great a benefit that it is interesting to consider why pigeon posts were not regularly organised. Lithgow, the great Scotch traveller (1852-1645) who spent 19 years in the East and introduced into England coffee drinking and Turkish baths, records the facts that the official carrier pigeons did the journey from Babylon to Aleppo in 48 hours, a 30 days' journey. And only a few years ago the Mission Magazine announced the inauguration of a pigeon post, in ten relays, from Nyassa to Zanzibar, by which news was carried 300 kilometers in six hours. Returning the birds is an evident but not insuperable difficulty. The hawk is the most likely explanation. Pigeons flying on a given line would draw all the hawks for miles around until the route was impassable. Hawks are quick to appreciate such chances. They are to be found, for instance, seated in numbers along the poles on the Canadian Pacific Railway, ready to swoop on the small birds frightened from the bushes by the rushing locomotive. The trains are so few that the small birds do not get used to them. In England the Railway cutting is the nesting place and sanctuary of our rarest and most timid songsters.

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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 for 'Stamps of India',  
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India  
Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089  
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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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