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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

BIOPEX-89 A GRAND SUCCESS SIPA ADDS ANOTHER FEATHER TO ITS CAP

The South India Philatelists' Association, Madras, with its unique Philatelic Exhibition - the 'BIOPEX-89', which is mainly devoted to Biology (Bio-Philately) has done a great service to the Nation.

There were about 275 frames of exhibits purely related to animals and plants. Animals include, Animal, bird, fish and other living organisms that are capable of independent movement. The other 125 frames of exhibits were related to other thematic subjects. Out of these 87 frames of exhibits were from juniors, generally speaking the enthusiasm evinced in this Biology subject was really exemplary.

In fact the main idea of this BIOPEX-89 Exhibition was to educate the public especially the children about Wild life (which includes animal, bird, plant etc.) and the importance of its environment.

The views contained in the articles published are the author's own and not necessarily those of the Association.

The inaugural day was Thursday, 5th October 1989. In the absence of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, President, W. W. F. India who could't be present in time because of delay in Air flight, Mr. U. Mohan Rao, Chairman, BIOPEX-89, took over the proceedings and welcomed the Governor of Tamilnadu Dr. P. C. Alexander and requested him to inaugurate the exhibition.

The 5 days exhibition was inaugurated by his Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu, Dr. P.C. Alexander, by lighting a Kuthuvilakku.

Then Dr. (Mrs.) Nanditha C. Krishna, Chairperson, W. W. F. Tamilnadu State Office, in her speech said, the exhibition was an attempt to promote philately and the cause of Wild life Conservation. She said the W. W. F. had undertaken several projects to protect the

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SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month-Regular meeting at the Philately Bureau, Anna Road, Post Office.

THIRD SUNDAY of every month-Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 6, Nannian Street, Madras-3.

(Timings: 10.45 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

environment and had undertaken afforestation of the Adyar estuary and the hills near the Thirumalaivaivavoor temple near Vedanthangal.

Mr. V. S. Varadhan, Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle released a special cancellation cover on the occasion. Both the covers and cancellation were designed by the SIPA members to suit the subject, 'BIO-PHILATELY'. The cancellation depicted, the 'Gangetic Dolphin', or 'SUSU' (Plantanista Gangetica), an unusual and in many aspects an unique species found only in the Ganges and Brammaputra rivers of India.

There were two special covers, one carried the design of a flower, the arum lily, one of the calla lilies, which blooms up to 7 inches long is a familiar potted plant but is becoming rare in the wild: shown as attracting an insect which helps in pollination. When both the covers had emblems of SIPA and WWF as part of the cover designs, the other cover had the logo as part of the cover design along with a background illustration of a typical forest cross section. The Logo depicted, cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), once plentiful in India, Western Asia and Africa. This graceful feline, the fastest runner of the animal kingdom (it can attain speeds of over 100 km ph) is now extinct in India. The cheetah symbolises the possible fate of many of Indias beautiful but endangered wildlife species.

Lion District Governor Mr. T J. George released a Souvenir and congratulated the organisers for putting up the BIOPEX-89 Exhibition.

The attractive Souvenir was prepared and brought out by the South India Philatelists Association. The Souvenir with messages of greetings and a number of articles with illustrations on BIO-Philately from eminent Philatelists and Naturalists along with a good number of advertisements is worthy of finding a place in any philatelic and as well in any nature oriented library. The beautifully designed cover of which is an added attraction.

Mr. D. H. Rao, Vice-President, SIPA read out the messages received from a number of dignitaries including that of His Excellency

the Governor of Tamilnadu, Minister of State, Communications, India, Her Majesty the Queen of England, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandria as President of World Wide Fund for Nature, United Kingdom.

Then the inaugural speech of His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu was delivered.

In his inaugural speech Governor Dr. P. C. Alexander said efforts to tackle the problem of environmental degradation should be taken at the global level. Whenever some major calamity occurred in one part of the Globe, all countries around it were directly affected as in the case of chernobyl disaster.

In the case of developing countries, the Governor Dr. P. C. Alexander said, International assistance became crucial not only in tackling the problem of environment degradation but also in striking a balance between development and environment problem.

The Governor said the problem of population explosion and the process of increasing uncontrolled urbanisation were the obstacles in conserving environment in India. He said that during the last couple of years, there had been increasing awareness among the people to protect the environment. This he said had been possible because of the integrated approach adopted by environmentalists. "From being the fasion of a few, the subject of environment protection had moved from periphery to be the centre of attraction", he said.

The Governor also expressed that the credit for the increased awareness among the public should go largely to voluntary groups as there had been very little contribution by the educational system or the socio-political system. He said, voluntary groups had succeeded in several issues such as preventing the Silent Valley project and banning the export of frog legs.

The Governor of Tamilnadu, said that the global out look on environment was also grim with about six million hectares of dry land being converted into deserts every year,

that is an area of the size of Saudi Arabia would get converted into desert in the next three decades. Also 11 million hectares of forest land was lost every year, which meant in the next three decades, an area of the size of India would get converted into desert, Acid precipitation, burning of fossil fuels, industrial gases and wastes, were the factors which led to depletion of various resources.

Then Mr. G. M. Das, President SIPA, thanked His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu for having graced to occasion. He also thanked all those present and others who have rendered their services for the achievement in putting up this grand exhibition.

The exhibition was well arranged in the spacious hall. There was a good attendance on all the days by school children, philatelists and the public.

There was a close co-operation by W.W.F. members who were taking care of events such as quiz, essay contests, painting and oratory competitions for school and college children.

The valedictory function of the exhibition took place on 9th October 1989 at 4-30 p.m.

Mr. L. M. Menezes, Special Officer, Corporation of Madras was the chief guest, Mr. V. S. Varadhan, Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle presided.

Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, President, SIPA. Welcomed the guests.

Mr. Varadhan in his speech praised the South India Philatelists' Association and the

W. W. F. for successfully conducting this BIOPEX-89 stamps exhibition. He also presented mementos to the three Doyens of Philately: Mr. V. N. S. Rau, Mr. P. M. Medhora and Mr. D. R. Mistry.

Then Dr. M. Natarajan, Rotary Governor Dt. 323 presented Special Cover to the Chief Guest.

Mr. M. G. Pittie, a prominent International Jury Member (Philately) who was one of the members of the Jury Panel for BIOPEX-89, gave a speech explaining in detail the standard of the exhibits and the report of the Jury.

This was followed by Dr. (Mrs.) Nanditha C. Krishna, Chairperson, W. W. F. Tamilnadu Office, Madras, with a speech praising the efforts of the organisers for propagating philately and through which creating the awareness of environment and making known the importance of wild life.

Then Prizes were distributed to the award winners by Mrs. Pameela Menezes.

After the vote of thanks by our Vice-President, Mr. K. Prasad, National Anthem was played.

The exhibition came to a close after the viewing of the same by the Chief Guest.

(The Citations issued to the Doyens of Philately and a report of BIOPEX-89 by Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, President, SIPA along with the particulars of Participants and award winners are being sent separately.)

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Issue of Special Covers by ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

The Army Postal Service is bringing out the following special covers and information sheets on the date and occasion noted against each :

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Nomenclature</i>	<i>Occasion</i>	<i>Date of Issue</i>
1)	11 Mahar Regt	Silver Jubilee	01 October 89
2)	9 Maratha LI	Silver Jubilee	01 October 89
3)	6 Dogra Regt	Silver Jubilee	01 October 89
4)	EME Re-Union	6th Re-Union	15 October 89

Interested Philatelists may please send their demand through Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, H. O. Madras-600 002.

Speed Post 'geared' to meet competition from courier services

Speed Post services have come a long way in Tamil Nadu since the introduction three years ago, and the Postal Department is geared to meet the competition from courier services, according to Mr. V.S. Varadhan, Chief Post Master General, (Tamil Nadu Circle).

Talking to newsmen here on Friday, he said that from August 1986 (when the scheme was launched) to June 1989, the number of articles booked per month had gone up from 3,742 to 33,037 and the number of articles delivered from 2,406 to 32,570.

Realising its importance, the Planning Commission has recognised Speed Post as a planning activity and, therefore, separate allocation would be made for augmenting the staff and vehicles and for publicity, Mr. Varadhan and Mr. V. Balaguru, Post Master General said.

The Finance Ministry was likely to allot Rs. 1 crore for Speed Post services in the country and Tamilnadu would also benefit by it. Hitherto, the Postal Department was funding it out of its own budget.

There were eight Speed Post centres in Tamil Nadu-Madras, Madurai, Trichi, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruppur and Pondicherry - and Kanchipuram and an extension counter at Hosur.

Innovative feature : An innovative feature of the service in Tamil Nadu was the arrangement in Madras for collection from the door-steps of customers. Mr. Varadhan said Pick-up service was provided at the Anna Road Post Office and the Guindy Industrial Estate Post Office. These two post offices served customers and business houses located on Anna Road, Greames Road, C-in-C Road, Whites Road, Cathedral Road. Nungambakkam High Road, Egmore and the Guindy Industrial Estate. The GPO at George Town and the

Padi post office would also give this service from this month.

While the domestic Speed Post service covered 54 centres in the country the International service covered 35 countries. Articles and money orders sent by Speed Post were delivered at 49 centres in the country the next day while at the other five centres-Cuttack, Surat, Gorakhpur, Jamshedpur and Moradabad-on the third day of booking.

Acknowledgement facility was provided at a nominal charge of 50 paise. Regular customers had the facility of deposit accounts. Money-back guarantee was a feature of the scheme.

Chengai-Anna and Pudukottai districts had been chosen for introduction of the Panchayat dak seva scheme for providing postal services in villages where regular post office was not justified.

The services offered would be sale of stamps and covers, registration of articles and collection of letters. The village Panchayat would choose a person for the job. He would get an honorarium of Rs. 150 a month.

It was planned to open 75 branch post offices and eight sub-post offices in the State in 1989-90. Last year Rs. 1.12 crores was spent on post office buildings and Rs. 40 lakhs on acquisition of land. This year (1989-90) Rs. 1.5 crores would be spent on buildings. Head post offices were planned at Dharmapuri, Tirukkoilur, Karaikurichi, Devakottai and Tenkasi besides 60 staff quarters at Mettupalayam, Coonoor, Palayamkottai and Erode.

A commemorative stamp on Namakkal Kavignar would be released on October 19.

(Courtesy The Hindu, Saturday, August, 5, 1989.)

PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, President, South India Philatelists Association has been nominated as a member (Philatelist) of the Philatelic Advisory Committee 1989-91 which functions in the Department of Posts.

The new Philatelic Advisory Committee for the years 1989-91 has been constituted with 29 members.

Shri Giridhar Gomango, Minister of State for Communications is the Chairman and Shri S. K. Syed, Secretary Deptt. of Posts is Vice-Chairman.

Shri S. P. Chatterjea,

Shri Dilip Shah,

Shri Yogesh Kumar,

Shri S. Sahee,

Shri Madhukar Deewaganka,

Shri G. B. Pai and

Shri Pradeep Jain are the other Philatelic members.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

As decided in the Bangalore Meeting (Regional Meeting of Philatelic Congress of India, held at Bangalore) Mr. S. P. Chatterjea (President P. C. I.) requested Secretary Deptt. of Posts to organise the next National Philatelic Exhibition in Calcutta in connection with the 300th Anniversary of Calcutta sometime in May/Dec. 1990. While agreeing to the proposal, the Secretary informed that he was ascertaining the views of the Chief Postmaster General, Calcutta as the main responsibility will have to be shouldered by him. Messrs Chatterjea & Jatia also met Mr. S. B. Jain, Chief Post Master General in the matter. Mr. Jain was otherwise agreed to the proposal but informed that he was preparing an estimate of Expenditure & Revenue and would send the views to the Secretary soon. Let us expect that the Deptt. will hold the National in 1990.

(Courtesy : *SIGNET-July-September, 1989*)

