

## Postal Stamps: reach collectors' books and not envelopes

Manpreet Kaur Narula

"If you can spend an hour from your week's time on pursuing your interest towards philately it can make a difference" says Senior philatelist Mahalingeswar Athani while encouraging a girl to chase her interest in philately during an philatelic exhibition held in the General Post Office on the occasion of celebrating 150 years of Indian postal service.

Most of us would be wondering what is philately? The word *Philately* originates from the Greek word "philos" which means loving while "atelia" means collection. Thus philately is the study of postage stamps and their collection.



The arrival of telecommunication in the world has seen the decline of the postal services. Though India has the largest postal network in the world with more than 1,53,333 post offices working to run communication smoothly throughout, the country cannot still deny the decline of postal services. In the contemporary scenario where peo-

ple are using less of postal services due to boom of

postmaster M.S.R Swamy. He didn't believe that philately has seen decline. He said that the philatelic exhibitions here held at various levels in school, colleges and

**"More of Philately exhibitions should be organised to aware people of the noble art of Philately."**

the interested students take part in various philatelic societies present all over the country and internationally. The same view was shared by the philately Association Officer Mr. Chinnapa. According to him with the increase in population the increase in school and colleges have also taken place that has subsequently led to the increase in Philately Associations in these schools and colleges. Mr. Swamy was also not fully convinced with the idea of decline of the postal services in the country and said that in country like India where the rural masses still don't have access to the modern technology rely on postal services to communicate.

At the same time Senior philatelist Mahalingeswar Athani expressed his concern on the declining status of Philately by saying that "To educate people about philately a well designed propaganda should be implemented, allowing exhibitions, hand outs and other medium that makes people more aware of the noble art of Philately."

Anusha Jha

It is still a year's wait for Bangaloreans when it comes to better traffic management. According to a press release on September 21, the Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Security) M N Reddy had said "We have planned a series of immediate measures, categorized as intelligent transportation, management, engineering and enforcement, to ease traffic congestion in the central areas and on Airport Road and Hosur Road. We will start implementing them in a week's time." Under the scheme, the release said, the police will use technology for reducing congestion and traffic monitoring cameras will be installed on high masts in important places. But it was clarified later to The Weekly Observer by M N Reddy that the scheme may not be implemented before December, this year.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Security) Abdul Saleem said that presently Transportation and Traffic Institute and Consultation are conducting a feasibility study. For the time being

**Surveillance cameras being designed for traffic hotspots in Bangalore.**

to ease the traffic congestion, roads have been made one way around Airport Road and Hosur Road, he said.

But Amol Dutt, resident of Airport Road said that making one-



Organised chaos- courtesy Eisebit

ways has, "added to the confusion that was already there." For instance, to reach the intermediate Ring Road from the 100 feet road, one has to take a two to three kilometer detour from Korihalli via Manipal, which takes up a lot of time and hasn't really eased the traffic woes, he said.

B H Sanjeev Kumar, Director of Transportation and Traffic Institute and Consultation is conducting the

feasibility study, said that the scheme for easing traffic congestion using surveillance cameras and display boards is being designed for traffic hotspots around Vidhana Soudha in a radius of two kilometers. This scheme would cover 50 intersections, he added. He said that the feasibility study would take three months, after which the budget will be allocated accordingly.

## Robin Sharma: The Monk who hasn't sold his Ferrari

Madhurima Duttagupta

A lawyer who quit his job and chose to motivate and influence people instead. Is this the story of the book, *The Monk who Sold his Ferrari*? Or is it the story of its author Robin Sharma himself? "This is a fictional story, you must remember," says the 41-year old inspirational writer, with a subdued smile. His book, *The Monk who Sold His Ferrari*, is about Julian, one of the most distinguished high profile trial lawyers, who is run down by the fast pace and endless demands of his hyper competitive legal world. He quits his work and travels to India. That's when his journey of self-transformation begins...

Madhurima Duttagupta asks the man himself the whys and hows of the several instances quoted in the book.

**Why does the monk have to sell his Ferrari to be happy? Why is renunciation of material benefits so necessary to glorify the concept of detachment?**

Actually, a monk doesn't need to sell his Ferrari to be happy. But you see, I have to make my story interesting so that people want to read it. I myself don't consider 'accumulating material benefits and luxuries' as bad. It is good to enjoy all the luxuries and comforts just as long as you don't chase money and make that the sole purpose of your life.

There is no need to renounce the world. It is more about being firmly grounded in this world and at the same time finding peace and greater meaning in life.

**Isn't Julian an escapist, since he gives up law simply because he was unable to cope up with the fast pace and competition in the legal world?**

Yes, may be. But that's how he realises the

new person is him. But definitely, one doesn't require to leave what she is doing in order to learn all this. One can make a difference just being in the profession she has selected. You just need to be a good human being irrespective of the profession you are in.

**In your books you talk of motivation and inspire people to chase their passion but there isn't any mention of ethics anywhere. Aren't ethics an integral part in the pursuit of one's ambition? Do you have**



Robin Sharma at the book signing session at Oxford Book Store, Bangalore

**any plans of influencing people on this front, in the future?**

Well...ethics is a crucial element today. But I have no intentions of writing a book on these lines. I guess the idea of ethics runs through all the chapters of my book without mentioning anything explicitly. It underlines

every chapter, be it work ethics, management ethics, or anything.

**Indian people carry a lot of baggage from the past - social norms, societal roles, traditions, etc. that govern their roles, decisions and actions to a large extent even today. How much to you think will the average middle class Indian relate to your ideologies?**

What you are trying to say is absolutely true.

**Where do you place corporate responsibility? since you have been associated with many corporate giants like IBM, Nike, Panasonic, General Motor and many others, who seem to have benefited from your ideas on self mastery and organisational excellence.**

Oh there so many things I would like change (he chuckles). Firstly, they should treat their employees and customers well. Secondly, they should spend a lot of time to build a world class culture. That will ensure a good work environment, making the employees happy and satisfied, leading to greater productivity. Thirdly, they should deliver value to customers. Finally, they should simply strive to be a 'good' company, good to the society.

**Any plans of influencing the rural India with your works?**

All I can say to that is, that, there are many women who have been largely influenced by my writing. In fact, one of them got into film making just some time ago, after reading my book.

**Can there be a sole mission of every per-**

**son's life? Isn't there an element of 'selfishness' required in following one's passion wholeheartedly?**

No, not at all. There can be several missions in one's life. It all depends on how one defines her 'mission'. My mission is to be a good human being, to bring peace and happiness in people's lives...It can be just anything.

I don't think there's any selfishness involved. I am a single father managing two kids. I have a very happy and active family and am also pursuing my passion. Life is a balance - it is upto you actually, how well you can manage things.

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That would be a real good suggestion! Though I haven't thought of rural India in particular, but we will soon be having this book in seven different languages in the next six months. It is already out in Hindi. Let's hope that helps in reaching out to many others as well.