

Published Every Monday  
Number 7, October 9, 2000  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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GREETINGS ON VIJAYADASHMI – OCTOBER 7  
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

October 9th is celebrated all over the world as World Post Day. It is actually the Day of World-Post (international mail) and not a World Day of the Post (in general). It is the day in 1874 that the oldest intergovernmental organization in existence - Universal Postal Union (UPU) was founded.

The dispatch of letters in earlier times depended on the messenger services maintained by the Kings, prominent business houses, religious and educational institutions. Franz Von Taxis is credited for setting up the first international postal service in the 16th century. The exchange of mail between Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, France, and Spain was brought under this service and henceforth was to be governed by international agreements. These bi-lateral agreements created a very complex situation where several postal rates needed to be calculated in various currencies to different units of weight according to distances in various countries.

By the 19th century the complexities reached an extreme, imagine 1200 different postal rates and the whole world was not even covered! The introduction of faster means of transport, steamships and railways, for carrying mail kept on adding to this tally. Add to this the success of the adoption of a single rate for nationwide post and invention of postage stamp in England by Sir Rowland Hill in 1840. All these factors forced the postal administrations worldwide to realize the need to standardize the rates and simplify the formalities for international mail.

At the initiative of Heinrich Von Stephan, a senior postal official of the Confederation of Northern Germany, the Swiss Government convened a conference at Bern on September 15, 1874 that was attended by delegates from 32 countries. After discussions an agreement was reached and on October 9th, 1874 a treaty establishing a General Postal Union was signed. The Bern Treaty came in to force on July 1, 1875 and in 1878 the name was changed to Universal Postal Union.

India was represented in this treaty by the British and joined as a member in its own right in July 1876. UPU holds a congress every five years and formulates new postal regulations, modifications, and updates the same. The 15th congress was to be held at

New Delhi in 1963 however the state of emergency, caused by China attacking India in 1962, forced the Government to cancel it. It was hosted by Austria in 1964. The 20th Congress held in Washington DC, USA was presided over by K R Murthy, a former Director General of India Post, which is a great honor for our country and its postal services. Yours truly attended this Congress as well as the World Stamp Expo (organized by USPS as part of the Congress) as members of the delegation representing the Republic of Nauru.

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

- M&SJ

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## IN THIS ISSUE

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### ALSO IN THE NEWS

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Visit [INDIA AS A TOPICAL](#) - A Stamps of India Site

This site is devoted to foreign stamps and philatelic items on Indian themes.  
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### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHED

On October 1, a new web site, as a quarterly electronic journal, devoted to Indian Princely States "Princely States Report" (PSR) was launched by Indigo Post, Inc. - a philatelic research and publishing firm. PSR is currently a not-for-profit publication, financially supported by Indigo Post and Ron Rice, its volunteer editor and website designer. Mr. Rice says in the editorial "the purpose of PSR is to provide a free, very accessible resource for Indian States collectors. My ultimate goal is to build an extensive inventory of articles and resources that address all aspects of Indian States philately. I also want to tap into the deep well of Indian States history and publish general articles on the maharajas, military history, village life, religious issues, et cetera." [Click here to visit the site](#)

#### INLAND LETTER CARD RELEASED

The Inland Letter Card (ILC) to commemorate the 50 years of the ILC was released at the Philatelic Bureau, New Delhi. October 2nd being Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, a national holiday, the Bureau was specially opened from 10 am to 12 noon for the release. 1000 out of the 2000 ILCs received were sold within two hours on that day. By early October 4 the remaining quantity was exhausted. The ILC was released only at New Delhi. Other places will get the supply in due course. The total print order is 2 million.

#### NEW MEMBER JOINS POSTAL SERVICES BOARD

Mr. Gautam Gupta joined on October 6, 2000 as the Member of Postal Services Board, Department of Post, Ministry of Communications, Government of India. He will be looking after Operations portfolio. Mr. B N Som, the Chairman of the Postal Services Board, was looking after this portfolio earlier.

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Help the drive to increase readership of Stamps Of India: Collectors' Companion.  
Recommend Stamps Of India: Collectors' Companion to friends and colleagues.

#### STAMP POPULARITY POLL 2000

This is to select the most popular stamp issued by India Post in 1999. The poll is open to all. Entry forms along with a brochure illustrating all issues of 1999 are available at all Head Post Offices in the country. We have also given the entry form for your convenience at the end of this issue. You have to enter two-digit code number available in the Stamp Popularity Poll 2000 brochure.

100 participants will win a Collectors Pack containing India Postage Stamps if their choice matches that of the majority. In case more than 100 participants select the three most popular stamps correctly, the 100 entries will be selected by draw of lots.

Three special prizes will be selected from the 100 prize-winning entries by draw of lots. The special prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Rs. 5000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Rs. 3000, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Rs. 2000.

Completed entry forms may be submitted to the nearest Head Post Office or by post to the Director (GPO), Mumbai GPO, Mumbai 400 001, India. The last date for receipt of entries is October 25, 2000. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

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Mint & Used Year Units, Errors and Varieties, Postal Stationery, and Booklets  
INDIAN STAMP COMPANY, Chhipi Tank, Begum Bridge Road, Meerut 250 001  
Telephone: 0121- 543245 Fax:0121 – 546972, E-mail: [rkgupta@stampsofindia.com](mailto:rkgupta@stampsofindia.com)

#### PROGRAM FOR 2001 ANNOUNCED

Last week Mrs. Madhu Narayanan, Deputy Director General (philately) of India Post released the Stamp Issue Program for the next year as follows:

Stamp Issue Program 2001

Jan 26: Great Political Leaders, Set of 4, (E M S Namboodiripad, Prof N G Ranga, Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, Sane Guruji)  
Feb: Census of India 2001  
Mar 04: Geological Survey of India  
Apr: Temple Architecture, Set of 4  
Apr: Bhagwan Mahavira  
Jun 05: Corals, World Environment Day, Set of 4  
Jul 06: Personalities: The Struggle for Independence, Set of 4, (Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, C Sankaran Nair, Deshpriyan Krishnanath Sarmah, Shaheed Baikunth Shukla)  
Jul: Mumbai Stock Exchange  
Aug 15: Personalities: Socio-Political, Set of 4, (Swami Ramanandji, Frank Anthony, Durga Das)  
Sep: Personalities: Art, Culture, and Literature, Set of 4 (Master Mitrasen, Freyderk Chopin, Bharathi Dasan, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan)  
Oct 02: Gandhi – The Man of the Millennium  
Oct 21: Global IDD Day  
Oct: Bauddha Mahotsav Celebrations  
Nov 14: Children's Day, Technology, Set of 4  
Nov: Indian Astronomy, Set of 2 (S Chandrasekhar, Panini)  
Dec 31: Greetings, Set of 4  
Date to be decided:  
Dances of India, Set of 4  
Hitopadesa & Jataka Tales, Set of 4  
Medicinal Plants, Set of 4

#### PROGRAM FOR OCT-DEC 2000

Oct 15 Folk Art: Madhubani Paintings, Set of Set of 3 singles and a se-tenant pair,  
Oct 16 Pandit Raj Kumar Shukla  
Oct 17 Shankar Dayal Sharma, Former President of India  
Oct 31 Sardar Patel  
Nov 14 Children's Day  
Dec 07 Asiana-Indepex 2000, Gems & Jewelry, Set of 8  
Dec 07 Maritime Heritage  
Dec 31 Personalities: Historical, Set of 4  
(Prithvi Raj Chauhan, Bhama Shah, RajShree Bhagya Chandra, Jorawar Singh)

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#### INDIA AND COUNTRIES OF SUB-CONTINENT

Mainly Postal history material

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[agarwalak@hotmail.com](mailto:agarwalak@hotmail.com)

A K AGARWAL, P O Box 266, 93/170 Anwar Ganj, Phool Wali Gali, Kanpur 208 001 India

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

NEWSPAPER SCAN

THE TIMES OF INDIA, DELHI EDITION, OCTOBER 2, 2000, FRONT PAGE  
OTHER MEDALS INDIA WON IN SYDNEY, BY BONITA BARUAH

New Delhi: A poser: How many medals did India win in Sydney where the Olympics have just come to close? One bronze? Wrong. The correct answer is one bronze and three silver-bronzes. The bronze, as everyone knows, is for weightlifter Malleswari. The silver-bronzes, though Olympics related, were not won for any sporting feat but, hold your breath, for postage stamps.

Yes, Olympics is not just about sports but about stamp collection, too. A sideshow of the Games, the Olympic stamp collectors' competition, is a big draw for philatelists. Besides the 72-strong squad to the Sydney Games, there were three Indian entries in what is known as Olympilex. "The Olympilex has become an integral part of the Games for the last six Olympics," says Madhukar Jhingan, president of the Olympic Philatelists of India. The man behind the idea is none other than the president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, himself an avid stamp collector.

The winners this time are philatelists Rajesh Verma from Dehradun. His collection on the First Fifty Years of the Olympics won him a silver-bronze. U V Shenoy from Mumbai, with his Hundred Years of Olympics, won two prizes – one for his collection another for an article on stamps. The third participant, T N P Rao from Bangalore, who offered his collection on Soviet Sports, drew a blank. Four years ago, at Atlanta, India's stamp collectors won two bronzes.

The screening process for sending entries is almost as difficult as choosing the Indian squad. The entries require clearance from RBI, customs, the postal department, and, believe or not, the Archaeological Survey of India. The last is mandatory because many of the stamps are invaluable and have an antique value.

THE HINDU, DELHI EDITION, OCTOBER 2, 2000, FRONT PAGE – METRO PLUS  
NOT JUST A STAMP-SIZED DELIGHT BY ANJANA RAJAN

The age-old snail mail replete with its colourful stamps, postman and his bicycle bell may not be the favoured mode of communication any more. But it has quaint joys denied to those who send messages through e-mail. ANJANA RAJAN visits National Philatelic Museum on New Delhi's Parliament Street to discover a treasure trove of information....

In the good old days when Columbus sailed the ocean blue, his well-wishers back home had to wait in suspense to find out how his journey shaped up. Luckily he survived to tell his tale, even though it was a pretty mixed up one, with Indians on the wrong continent and so on. Had Columbus the options seafarers have today, he would have been in constant touch with his friends through satellite links and e-mail, and someone might well have headed him off in the right direction before he changed the course of history.

Now that technology has converted our wide world into a global village, and only seconds are required to send a message thousands of miles away, e-mail has become a favourite

mode of letter writing for millions across the universe, including India. Even those who don't own a computer or Internet subscription make use of the thriving Internet cafes springing all over. Business affairs or family news, witty love letters, even hate mail between ex-spouses, all kinds of missives hurtle through cyber space day and night. It beats the courier system, since you don't have to be at home to receive the letter.

It beats airmail, since your messages reaches its destination faster than you can blink. You can send bulky documents, photographs, voice recordings, home movies, and animated greeting cards. And for those things that have more than a virtual existence, like parcels of cookies, bouquets of flowers and knitted jumpers, some agency is always ready to carry out your e-mailed instruction to the T.

There's only one thing you cannot do with your e-mail, and that is collect the stamps on the envelope. In my opinion that is a devastating disadvantage. But for all those who miss the bell of the postman's bicycle and the thrill of receiving envelopes with colourful stamps, there is a place of pilgrimage in the heart of Delhi. Step into the National Philatelic Museum on Parliament Street to revel in the beauty and marvel at the intricacies of snail mail.

This small gallery on the ground floor of the Dak Bhawan building provides the visitor a panoramic view of India's history and culture through its postage stamps. It also provides some fascinating glimpses of the development of postal services in the country since 1852.

The exhibition of postage stamps and first day covers is painstakingly laid out. It is aesthetic, brightly lit and interesting even if you are not an avid philatelist. Enlargements and sculptures provide variety. Apart from stamps and first day covers, there are prints of mail carriers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The 'harkara', who transported letters from city to city, passed on his charge to the 'dakiya' whose job it was to deliver to the addresses' door. From there it was the responsibility of the 'chuprassie' to take the letter into the addressees' chamber. From the portly 'chuprassie' to the skin and bones 'harkara', it is easy to imagine the strain required in each job. There is also a map of the 'harkara' lines, or mail and parcel routes used in the Bengal Presidency in 1852, marked with Mail stage, Banghy stage, Dak Bearers stage and other symbols. All the postage stamps issued since Independence are represented. The Jai Hind series of stamps issued in 1947, bearing the lions of the Ashoka Pillar, with the words Jai Hind printed across the, seem to carry the scent of those heady years when Independence was new. The history of India's freedom struggle is told through numerous commemorative stamps. The displays are accompanied by brief explanations outlining historical and cultural events as they unfolded during the Independence movement.

As pointed out in the introductory panel, people from varied walks of life participated in the struggle for Independence. Stamps issued in memory of various personalities of those times are accompanied by paragraphs describing their lives and contribution. Going through the exhibition is a great education. Every child has heard of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who appear on several stamps. But fewer know of names like the

19<sup>th</sup> Century social reformer Savitribai Phule, the first Indian woman to pursue teachers' training, who, along with her husband Jotirao Phule, championed the cause of women's education. Among numerous other freedom fighters in Pandita Ramabai, a Sanskrit scholar and educationist who worked for women's emancipation and social reform. If only our primary school youngsters could make kites out of their so-called general knowledge books and be taken round exhibitions of this sort! But that may only occur to people when a question is asked about India's postal history on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'.

India's first postage stamps were issued in Sindh in 1852. They bore the merchant mark of the East India Company and were known as Scinde Dawks. It is interesting to learn that India was the first country to launch official air post in 1911. The route was from Allahabad to Naini. It was also one of the first countries to issue specialized airmail stamps in 1929.

Ranjit Kumar, Assistant Director-General, who has taken a personal interest in the setting up of the museum, which was inaugurated on August 17, explains the difference between commemorative stamps and definitive stamps.

The latter are the mass-produced simpler ones, designed at lower cost and available at all post offices. These are of less value to philatelists, who prefer to collect the commemorative and thematic series that are in fact miniature works of art, since they steal a march over those of many countries of the world.

If stamps are works of art in themselves, they can be combined in artistic ways too. Two framed collages, labeled Postage Stamp Art, made by an anonymous artist out of used stamps and inland-postcards, are displayed in the gallery. One is clearly the Qutub Minar.

The high-tech generation might prefer e-mail. But you have to admit, there is a grace to an envelope with a stamp on it that an e-mail printout can never match. Oh yes, snail mail is worth the wait any day. Having said that let me e-mail this piece before I miss my deadline!

----- advertisement -----

#### WANTED HELP

We want regular correspondents and contributors everywhere in India. We are presently in no position to pay market rates but shall reimburse the costs of photographs, covers, souvenirs, speed post and other communication charges. Your contribution shall appear with your byline. Regular correspondents name shall appear in every issue as a part of our team as well as at our web site(s). Occasional contributions are also welcome.

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#### NEW ISSUES

## STAMPS

Next issue: October 15 – Folk Art: Madhubani Paintings, Set of 5

COLLECTORS PACK 1999 containing all issues of 1999 is now available at all philatelic bureaus at Rs. 300.

## POSTAL STATIONERY

October 2

Inland Letter Card, Commemorating 50 Years of Inland Letter Card, Advertisement – Cummins Generating Sets, in English, Madras Security Printers (MSP)

October 2 – Available on

Post Card, publicizing INDEPEX- ASIANA 2000, India Security Press (ISP)

Aerogramme, publicizing INDEPEX- ASIANA 2000, ISP

Pre-Stamped Envelope for Registered Mail, publicizing INDEPEX- ASIANA 2000, ISP

October 3

Postcard with Advertisement

– Census of India, Developments Milestone, in English, ISP

– Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in English, Security Printing Press (SPP)

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

– Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in English, ISP

October 4

Postcard with Advertisement

– Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India, Group Photo of the Nation, in English, SPP

– Census of India, Group Photo of the Nation, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India, Developments Milestone, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India,?, in Kannada, SPP

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

– Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India, Developments Milestone, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India, Tell us about yourself, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India, Information collected is confidential, in Hindi, ISP

– Census of India, ?, in Kannada, SPP

October 5

Postcard with Advertisement

– Census of India,?, in Kannada, SPP

– Census of India,?, in Kannada, SPP

– Census of India,?, in Bengali, SPP

– Census of India,?, in Bengali, SPP



– Census of India,?, in Bengali, SPP

October 6

Postcard with Advertisement

- Census of India,?, in Oriya, SPP
- Census of India,?, in Oriya, SPP
- Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in Marathi, ISP
- Census of India, Group Photo of the Nation, in Marathi, ISP

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in Oriya, SPP
- Census of India,?, in Assamese, ISP
- Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in Bengali, SPP
- Census of India, Mirror if the Nation, in Marathi, ISP

October 8

Postcards with Advertisement

- Census of India,?, in Sindhi, Urdu Script,

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Census of India,?, in Sindhi, Urdu Script,

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Foreign customers can also avail the facility by opening an account with Director (GPO), Mumbai GPO, Mumbai - 400001 with initial and subsequent deposits in foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 1000.

#### EVENTS

##### DISTRICT LEVEL EXHIBITIONS

Mr. V P Dhawan informs that a district level exhibition on October 14 and 15 shall be held at Patiala.

Prashant Pandya, our correspondent from Gujarat, reports that a district level exhibition on October 31 and November 1, 2000 shall be held at Nadiad.

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THANK YOU.

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STAMP POPULARITY POLL 2000

ENTRY FORM

1. NAME

2. DATE OF BIRTH

3. POSTAL ADDRESS

4. THE BEST THREE STAMPS OF 1999 IN THE ORDER OF PRIORITY:  
(Enter two-digit code available in the Stamp Popularity Poll 2000 brochure.)

FIRST

SECOND

THIRD

5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THEME FOR DESIGN OF POSTAGE STAMP?

(Tick one choice from the list below)

a) Organizations/Institutions/Events

b) Culture & Heritage

c) Nature/Flora & Fauna

d) Science & Technology

e) Personalities

f) Socio-Economical/Political

g) Sports

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