

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION
The Weekly Newsletter from the stampsOfIndia.com

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

What do you want to read about in future newsletters? Our goal is to make this both valuable and informative to our readers. We want to be sure that we are accomplishing

this so please let us know what you want to read about. We also request you to re-read the message under "Feedback" at the end of this issue.

One of the major decisions we wish to implement is to change the day of publication, from Monday to Thursday. To deliver the news on Monday morning we process the gathered news and features during the weekend. We were finding it difficult to obtain any last minute clarification or supplemental information required. To overcome this we shall now present news on activities from Thursday to Wednesday on Thursday. The next issue #11 shall be published on November 9 instead of November 6, 2000.

We feel there is a need for extra effort in gathering information on special postmarks and request our readers in India to please help. Our readers abroad can also help us by informing on special postmarks on Indian topics provided in their country.

Please read revised guidelines for reproducing content from Stamps of India Collectors Companion at the end of this issue.

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

- M&SJ

----- advertisement -----

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bijli Pasi Commemorative

Ram Vilas Paswan, India's Minister for Communications announced in a public meeting on October 23, 2000 at Lucknow that a stamp will be issued on November 16, 2000 to commemorate Maharaja Bijli Pasi who ruled near Lucknow about 800 years ago. This is in addition to the program of issue for 2000.

----- advertisement -----

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FOREIGN PARCEL POSTAGE RATES REDUCED!!!

For the first time the rates for foreign parcels in all categories have been reduced, by 30% on an average, and harmonized with Expedited Mail Service (EMS) rates to boost the traffic. These are now based on the various services provided by India Post. The EMS rates are the highest, followed by Air Mail, Surface Air Lifted (SAL), and Surface Post. The new rates shall be effective from November 1, 2000.

Another major development will be the reduction of weight slabs of existing 1 kg to 250 grams. Also, from now on rates for all categories of parcels will be on a zone basis.

The New Rates for Parcels by Surface Post are: All rates are in Indian Rupees.

Zone	First 250 grams	Next 250 grams or part
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1 Asia	360	30
2 Africa	360	40
3 Middle East	370	40
4 Australia	360	30
5 Europe	410	30
6 South America	460	45
7 North America	360	40
8 Others: Sri Lanka	305	20
Pakistan	340	15
Maldives	360	30
Bangladesh	200	10

Domestic rates apply for Bhutan and Nepal however the Registration is compulsory.

The New Rates for Parcels by Air Mail are:

Zone	First 250 grams	Next 250 grams or part
1 Asia	375	45
2 Africa	375	45
3 Middle East	375	45
4 Australia	375	65
5 Europe	450	65
6 South America	485	90
7 North America	375	90
8 Others: Sri Lanka	320	25
Pakistan	360	25
Maldives	375	45

Domestic rates apply for Bhutan and Nepal however the Registration is compulsory.

Domestic rates also apply to Bangladesh with an additional surcharge of Rs. 210 for the First 250 grams and Rs. 10 for Next 250 grams or part.

----- advertisement -----

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EMS RATES REVISED

International Expedited Mail Service (EMS) - Speed Post, are being marginally revised upwards from November 1, 2000. The last revision of rates was done 7 years ago. The impact of the increase will be offset to some extent by increase in weight content of each slab from existing 200 to 250 grams. The rates till now were applied on the basis of distance – up to 5000 kilometers, and over 5000 kilometers. These shall now be applied on zone basis.

The New Rates are:

Zone	First 250 grams	Next 250 grams or part
1 Asia	425	50
2 Africa	425	50
3 Middle East	425	50
4 Australia	425	75
5 Europe	675	75

6 South America	525	100
7 North America	425	100
8 Others: Sri Lanka	375	25
Pakistan	375	25
Bangladesh	375	25
Maldives	375	25
Nepal	375	25

The existing EMS rates for Bhutan, effective from March 1, 2000 shall continue. The rates are: Rs. 75 for First 200 grams, Rs. 15 for Next 200 grams or part up to 1 kg, Rs. 40 for Next 500 grams or part.

The above rates are for documents only and Rs. 50 per postal article shall be charged extra for merchandise.

----- advertisement -----

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SAL SERVICE EXTENDED

India Post introduced the "Surface Air Lifted" service from April 1, 1993 with 4 countries – Germany, Singapore, UK, and USA. The main feature of this service is that the mail is dealt as surface mail within the country of origin and the country of destination but carried by air between two countries.

7 more countries - Egypt, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, and UAE, were added to the service from October 15, 2000.

The SAL service was extended further to 12 more countries - Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland from April 1, 1999.

Now, with effect from November 1, 2000 the service is being extended to another 15 countries – Australia, Botswana, Brazil, China, Finland, Greece, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. With this the SAL will be available to a total of 38 countries.

At present there are different rates for each country. This is now streamlined by applying the rates on Zone basis from November 1, 2000.

The New Rates are:

Zone	First 250 grams	Next 250 grams or part
1 Asia	310	35
2 Africa	340	35
3 Middle East	340	25
4 Australia	340	65
5 Europe	420	35
6 South America	510	85

----- advertisement -----

Join REVENUE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, for details rpa@worldrevenuestamps.com

THE LIMITS OF INSURED PARCELS

From November 1, 2000 the limits of insurance for foreign post parcels are being revised. We hope to bring you the details in the next issue.

MAJOR FIRE AT MADRAS GPO

A major fire that raged since midnight on Sunday destroyed a historic 18th Century building - Madras GPO. The fire was noticed around midnight and could be brought under control only at 8.30 am on Monday October 23, 2000 by pressing over 50 fire tenders, 2 snorkels and a number of water tankers in service. The heritage building's interior, the sections housing the post office savings bank, mail delivery departments, public counters, 25 computers, a server, Mail, parcels and furniture were destroyed. Fortunately there were no human casualties. The fire could have been caused by an electrical short circuit or leakage.

Principal Chief Post Master General of Tamilnadu Postal Circle of India Post - A V B Menon and Post Master General (Chennai) Vatsala Raghu reached on the spot hearing the news. Later a team of senior officers from the India Post HQ in New Delhi - Ms. Meera Dutta, Deputy Director General (Estates) and Mr. A. S. Jana, Chief Engineer, reached Chennai to examine the extent of the damage.

GPO resumed its operations from a corner of the devastated building on next day - October 24, 2000. The Tamilnadu State Government is helping by providing the space at nearby Chennai Collectorate building. India Post meanwhile has requested the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai, to make a study of the fire-ravaged GPO building to assess the possibility of rehabilitation and renovation.

The building, a Victorian Gothic structure built with red lime and mortar, was constructed between 1874 and 1884. The GPO began functioning in the building from April 26, 1884. Chennai is the new name for Madras.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FESTIVAL MAILS

Further to report in our last issue on India Post's special arrangements for the collection/sorting/transmission and delivery of Deepavali festival Mail, we now have details for Delhi. Separate Reception Counters were set up at following 52 Post Offices from October 20 to 28, 2000 to process Deepavali Greetings/Mail expeditiously.

1. Ashok Vihar PO, 2. Andrews Ganj PO, 3. Civil Lines PO, 4. Chankyapuri PO, 5. Delhi GPO, 6. Delhi Cantt. PO, 7. D.H.Q. PO, 8. Distt. Court PO, 9. Eastern Court PO, 10. Gandhi Nagar PO, 11. Hauz Khas PO, 12. I.A.R.I. PO, 13. I.P.Estate PO, 14. I.P.HO, 15. Janpath PO, 16. Jangpura PO, 17. Janakpuri PO, 18. Jhilmil PO, 19. Krishna Nagar HO, 20. Karol Bagh PO, 21. Keshav Puram PO, 22. Kalkaji PO, 23. Lodi Road HO, 24. Lajpat Nagar PO, 25. Malviya Nagar PO, 26. Malka Ganj PO, 27. R.K.Puram (Main), 28.

Mehrauli PO, 29. Mayapuri PO, 30. New Delhi HO, 31. New Sabzi Mandi PO, 32. Nangloi PO, 33. Naraina Ind. Estate PO, 34. Sansad Marg HO, 35. Patpar Ganj PO, 36. Patel Nagar PO, 37. Pushpa Bhawan PO, 38. Paschim Vihar PO, 39. Ramesh Nagar HO, 40. Rajouri Garden PO, 41. Rohini PO, 42. R.K.Puram-V PO, 43. R.P.Bhawan PO, 44. Sarojini Nagar HO, 45. S.R.T.Nagar PO, 46. Shahdara PO, 47. Srivivas Puri PO, 48. Shakurbasti PO, 49. Seelampur PO, 50. S.J.Enclave PO, 51. Tilak Nagar PO, 52. Vasant Vihar PO.

India Post makes special arrangements three times a year, for the Rakshabandhan festival that usually falls in August, for Deepavali in October or November, and for Christmas & New Year.

We wish to compile an all India list of post offices where the special arrangements were made. Also we wish to confirm that all these post offices use a special "Greetings" postmark. We request our readers to kindly help.

----- advertisement -----

INDIA AND COUNTRIES OF SUB-CONTINENT

Mainly Postal history material, Postal Auction - Ask for your free copy

A K AGARWAL, P O Box 266, 93/170 Anwar Ganj, Phool Wali Gali, Kanpur 208001, India
agarwalak@hotmail.com

ALSO IN THE NEWS

BHUTAN POST TIES UP WITH OVERNITE

Overnite Express Limited, one of the major courier service in India, and Bhutan Post have tied up for the delivery of documents and parcels in India and Bhutan.

FORGOTTEN COUNTRIES – PORTUGUESE INDIA

An article in the Stamp Lover, October 2000, published monthly by the National Philatelic Society (founded in 1899), 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT, UK

NEWSPAPER SCAN

Click on the link for complete story. Use your browser's "back" button to get back.

The Hindu, October 23, 2000

Centuries-old GPO gutted

<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/holnus/04231810.htm>

The Times of India, October 23, 2000

Fire destroys 18th century Chennai GPO building

<http://www.timesofindia.com/today/23indu7.htm>

Business Line, October 24, 2000

Chennai GPO gutted

<http://www.indiaserver.com/businessline/2000/10/24/stories/142460r3.htm>

The Pioneer, October 24, 2000
Fire destroys historic GPO building in Chennai
<http://www.dailypioneer.com/archives/secon33.asp?cat=\state2&d=States&t1=Oct24>

The Hindu, October 24, 2000
GPO now presents a bleak look
<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/2000/10/24/stories/0224000m.htm>

The Times of India, October 24, 2000
Historical 116-year-old GPO gutted
<http://www.timesofindia.com/today/24indi6.htm>

The Hindu, October 24, 2000
A failure to heed Fire Service suggestions?
<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/2000/10/24/stories/04244010.htm>

The Times of India, October 24, 2000
Fire destroys 116-year-old Chennai GPO building
<http://www.timesofindia.com/today/24home3.htm>

The Hindu, October 25, 2000
Increase in global speed post rates `marginal'
<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/2000/10/25/stories/0225000j.htm>

The Hindu, October 25, 2000
GPO resumes operations
<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/2000/10/25/stories/04252232.htm>

The Hindu, October 26, 2000
IIT experts asked to study GPO building
<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/2000/10/26/stories/0426401x.htm>

----- advertisement -----

BUY OR SELL

India, 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

STAMPSONINDIA.COM UPDATES

Check here for the Latest in the following categories: Issues, Events, Auctions, Publications, Organizations, Dealers, Articles, etc.

ISSUES

STAMPS

Next Issue: October 30, Paradise Fly Catcher, Definitive, Rs. 50

POSTAL STATIONERY

October 23 – Release Delayed
Inland Letter Card with Advertisement
- Hero Puch Mobikes, in English

October 27 – Release Delayed
Inland Letter Card with Advertisement
- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, in English

----- advertisement -----

JOIN PHILATELIC DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Philatelic Deposit Account holders have the facility of placing standing order on the philatelic bureau for supply of new stamps, First Day Covers, Brochures as well as new Postal Stationery with or without Advertisement. An Account may be opened with initial and subsequent deposits of Rs. 200. Application forms and more details about the Philatelic Deposit Account Scheme are available at all the Philatelic Bureaux in India.

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

AUCTIONS

SUKHANI EUROPHIL

Their next auction is scheduled for December 9 and 10, 2000 at Calcutta during INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000. More details are awaited. They may be contacted by email at raj.sukhani@gems.vsnl.net.in

EVENTS

INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000 December 7 -12

The web site of INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000 has been evaluated as 2-Star Site in the FIP Web Site Competition 2000. Congratulations.

There were 49 participants from 19 countries this year including 2 from India. Last year there were 66 entries from 21 countries. However 8 countries, including India, entered the competition for the first time this, the second year of the competition. 1 Site was adjudged FIP Best Philatelic Web Site, 3 sites, including 1 from India, were ranked as Top 5% Sites, 20 sites were rated as 3-Star Sites, and 22 as 2-Star Sites. Three sites fell below the criteria of a ranking.

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Forward "Stamps Of India Collectors Companion" to friends and colleagues with a copy to us to enable us to include them in the mailing list.

PUBLICATIONS

PERIODICALS IN MAKING

ITS Stamp News, Published quarterly, Edited by Suraj Jaitly
Indian Thematic Society, MIG#3464, Phase II, Dugri Road, Ludhiana 141 002,
The editor solicits articles on thematic philately as well as the advertisements for the next issue of the journal - a special number on the occasion of INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Philatelic Bulletin, Vol.2 No. 3, Sep-Oct 2000, Edited by Dr. K N Pillai
The Malabar Philatelic Club
Lakshmi Nilayam, IMA Hall Road, Calicut 673 011

----- 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 part of our team as well as at our web site(s). Occasional contributions are also welcome. Please contact webmaster@stampsofindia.com today!

READERS FORUM

Following is an excerpt from an excellent article by Y V JEPPU "1953 Railway Centenary Stamp: A Case for Design Error". The complete article, with visuals, is available online at http://www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa/art15/railstamp.htm

In 1953 the Department of Posts issued a stamp to commemorate the centenary of the railway in India. The stamp depicts a locomotive said to have been in use in 1853 and also another locomotive in use in 1953. The interesting fact is that the locomotive depicted for 1853 is the Fairy Queen of Type 2-2-2 and not the GIP No 1 of Type 2-4-0 actually used for the train. This is a design error in the stamp as the 2-2-2 type engine was not in use in India in 1853 as the Fairy Queen was imported only in 1855! The expanded view of the 1853 locomotive shows 3 types of wheels in use on the engine. The front 2 wheels which are small, the middle pair of large wheels and the last pair of smaller wheels. There is no doubt about the 1853 engine shown in the stamp being the same model as the Fairy Queen. The two cylinders in front and the chimney are typical of the Fairy Queen as could be seen in the latest photograph. In any case the engine shown in the stamp is not GIP No. 1 (shown in the stamp issued in 1976).

R K SULTANIA of New Delhi comments on recent postal stationery issues:

The postcard with advertisement – Use Condom - in Hindi released on September 20, 2000 was the first issue of an advertisement printed by Security Printing Press Hyderabad in the vertical strips of 5 postcards instead of the usual vertical strips of 4.

Of late the postcards with advertisements printed by India Security Press Nashik Road in vertical strips of 4 usually have a constant variety in the top card of the strip. That is 'I' of India is missing or broken and other varieties of similar nature. This was first noticed in the

postcard with advertisement – Birth Control Pills - in Hindi scheduled for September 20 and available on September 27, 2000.

Two distinctly different inks are noticed in the aerogramme with advertisement – Send Gifts to India released on July 3, 2000. The dark red ink is scarce.

ALSO FROM STAMPS OF INDIA - COVERAGE FROM GROUP SITES

STAR OF INDIA SPECIAL POSTMARK

The “Star of India” is the oldest sailing ship afloat. It is now part of San Diego Maritime Museum.

Design: Naval fleet seen through a porthole. Four ships can be seen: an aircraft carrier, a cruiser, a destroyer and a battleship, "San Diego Maritime Museum Salutes Fleet Week." The words "Star of India" refer to a famous sailing ship.

Dates: October 14-15

Request for obtaining the postmark must be sent within 30 days after the date of special postmark to: Star of India Station, Old Time Philatelic Center, P O Box 85530, San Diego CA 92186-5530, USA

The above information is presented here by the kind courtesy of Paul Brenner. Brenner maintains a website <http://home.earthlink.net/~postmark1/> and publishes a offline – printed journal “Postmark Advisory”. He says that there are about 2,500 to 3,000 pictorial postmarks used by the United States Postal Service (USPS) in any one year and he is able to cover about 1000 only. About one third of the cancels used by the postal service are not publicized in the Postal Service's Postal Bulletin!

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Also we would like to learn how our ezine impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send your comments, questions, news, reports, articles and other contributions to admin@stampsofindia.com We look forward to hearing from you!

ASK US

Please send your queries in detail (illustrations welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to provide an answer to you. Submit here askus@stampsofindia.com

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THANK YOU.

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Mailing Address:

18 School Lane, First Floor, Side Entrance, Babar Road, New Delhi 110 001. India

Telephone & Fax: 91-11-3320052, 91-11-3356828

Madhukar and Savita Jhingan are Life Members of numerous philatelic organizations among others of the Indian Stamp Collectors Association, Philatelic Congress of India, and American Philatelic Society.

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