

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION  
The Weekly Newsletter from the [www.stampsOfIndia.com](http://www.stampsOfIndia.com)

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greeting Cards for Christmas & New Year  
Indepex-Asiana 2000 Meetings  
Issue Sold Out on First Day  
Madhubani Paintings Stamps on T-shirts  
More on Foreign Post Rates  
Insurance for Speed Post  
Vice Chancellor Sahadeva Sahoo  
New Stamps Released  
India Balloon Mails  
Multicolor Ads On Stationeries

### ALSO IN THE NEWS

Newspaper Scan  
- A Slice of History at Calcutta GPO  
- MTNL sign MOU with postal Dept

### STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

New Issues: This Week  
Events: APPHILEX 2000, District Level Exhibitions  
Publications: Periodicals  
Auctions: Sukhani Europhil  
Organizations: Gujarat Philatelic Association  
Links: Aurangabad Postal Region

### READERS FORUM

Ashok Bayanwala, Prakash Jambudi

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Check the end of this issue for information to Subscribe and Unsubscribe.

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### JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are happy to bring out the issue on this Thursday, instead of the next as announced, on the suggestion we received from several readers. As a reader put succinctly " the

advantage should be in the favor of the readers and not the publishers". We agree. We also realize much of the news presented in this issue would have been somewhat stale if we did not release it now. Thank you readers. Your feedback will help make Stamps of India Collectors Companion an even better newsletter. "Together we can and we will."

Another reader had recently commented that the newsletter now has a settled look. We interpreted this as some semblance of comprehensiveness in news coverage is now there; let us focus on strengthening other areas and uses of this newsletter.

Lots of subscribers, especially who have joined recently, have asked for the availability of back issues. We are in the process of making all back issues available in pdf format on our web site [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com). Please use 'Adobe Acrobat Reader', freely downloadable from lots of places on web, to read the pdf format files. We shall also provide a link at our site to download the 'Adobe Acrobat Reader'. Meanwhile we will be happy to email the back issues on demand.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable help we continue to receive from several sources, at all hours of day and night, and from near and far. We are grateful to all those who have contributed in any manner to this publication. Every single line of contribution matters!

It is most satisfying when our readers appreciate our work, although as a matter of policy we do not publish the complimentary portion of the mail, we wish to thank all those who have sent messages of appreciation.

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

- M&SJ

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREETING CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

India Post launched a new product Greetings Card with pre-stamped envelopes wherein the stamp is exact replica of the design of the card, on September 6, 2000. A total of 32 cards mainly for Deepavali Festival were released.

Now another set of about 29 cards are being made ready for release in the second week of November 2000 for Christmas and New Year season. At the time of closing the issue we do not have the details on the number of small (priced Rs. 12) and medium (priced Rs. 15) cards in the set. We also hope for better arrangements for first day of sale and postmark facility this time.

----- advertisement -----

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

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## INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000 MEETINGS

The Organizing Committee of the show will be holding a meeting at Dak Bhavan, India Post HQ, New Delhi on October 4, 2000 at 11 am. The dates of the show are just a month away, December 7-12, 2000. This is going to be an important meeting to fine-tune the details of the six-day show.

The Steering Committee of the show shall be meeting earlier on the evening of October 3, 2000 at the same venue.

#### ISSUE SOLD OUT ON FIRST DAY

Unprecedented low print order of 100,000 topped by a low face value of Rs.3 and the Raj Kumar Shukla Commemorative is sold out at most places on the first day of issue itself, and by next day every where else. At this stage it is not clear whether even deposit account holders will get their ordered filled in full and whether it will be available in the annual collectors pack. We gather that in dealer-to-dealer business the price being quoted was Rs. 50 while retail price shot up to Rs. 100 each within two weeks of this release.

The issue on Maharaja Bijli Pasi scheduled for November 16, 2000 release may also be in the same quantity, so if you would like to include it in your collection, be there on day 1 to buy the stamp. Forewarned is forearmed.

----- advertisement -----

Join INDIAN STAMP COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION, for details [isca@stampsofindia.com](mailto:isca@stampsofindia.com)

#### MADHUBANI PAINTINGS STAMPS On T-SHIRTS

India Post has made good quality nicely printed T-shirts depicting the enlarged designs in full color from the set of stamps on Madhubani Paintings issued on October 15, 2000.

There are 4 different designs and the price is Rs. 95 each. The T-shirts shall be available at all philatelic bureaus shortly.

----- advertisement -----

Join REVENUE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, for details [rpa@worldrevenuestamps.com](mailto:rpa@worldrevenuestamps.com)

#### MORE ON FOREIGN POST RATES

The major restructuring in the rates of foreign post parcel rates in all categories – surface, air, surface air lifted, and EMS, became effective November 1, 2000. However in the view of the huge size of changes to be made in the database it shall not be possible for some time to use the computers at the post office counters. The articles shall be booked manually for some time.

There is a Rs. 20 charge, unchanged, on all parcels that are presented to the Customs in all categories except EMS.

We regret that we are unable report in this issue on the limits of insurance for foreign post parcels as promised in the last issue. We have conflicting reports from the post office. The International Mails branch at the India Post HQ has sent a list of new rates, country wise, with columns for weight wise rates, limit of weight, and limit of the amount of insurance. While the HQ insists there are no changes made in the limits of insurance, the postmasters at some post offices say equally strongly that there are changes. It is a long

list that requires a lot of time for careful comparison with the earlier list to arrive at any conclusion. Kindly bear with us till the next issue.

#### INSURANCE FOR SPEED POST

India Post will provide insurance facility for the first time to International Speed Post (EMS) articles up to Rs. 100,000 (about US\$ 2150) mainly for gold coins and ornaments, bullion, precious stones, and jewelry.

#### VICE CHANCELLOR SAHADEVA SAHOO

Hearty Congratulations to the President of our national federation - Philatelic Congress of India (PCI), Sahadeva Sahoo on being appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology. Sahoo, a senior officer with the Government of India was the Chairman of Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited and earlier to that the Chief Secretary of Orissa State Government.

----- advertisement -----

Join OLYMPIC PHILATELISTS OF INDIA, for details [opi@olympil.com](mailto:opi@olympil.com)

#### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

A definitive stamp in the denomination of Rs. 50 was released on October 30, 2000. The bicolor stamp depicts the bird – Paradise Fly Catcher. India Security Press, Nashik Road printed the issue by photogravure process on watermarked paper in panes of 50. This is the seventh stamp in the 8<sup>th</sup> definitive series – Natural Heritage. There is one FDC being used for the whole series priced at Rs. 2. Informative brochure was not issued.

On April 30, 2000 the first two stamps of the 8<sup>th</sup> definitive series in the denominations of Rs. 5 and 10 depicting Leopard Cat, and Sunderbans Tiger were issued. Next the four stamps were added on July 20, 2000 in the denominations of Rs. 0.25, 0.50, 1 and 3 depicting Black Buck, Nilgiri Tohr, Saras Crane, and Indian Otter.

There was no release ceremony held for this or earlier definitive issues. We suggest a function in collaboration with World Wild Life Fund for Nature, Bombay Natural History Society or a similar organization may be organized on the occasion of the next issue in the series.

On October 31, 2000 a stamp in the denomination of Rs. 2 was released to launch the new Special Definitive Series depicting a portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the occasion of his 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. Rs. 2 prepays the postage on book post such as unsealed greeting cards.

The main release function was held at Ahmedabad and S S Bhandari, Governor of Gujarat released the stamp. Special functions were also held for the release at Nadiad, Gujarat, the birthplace of Sardar Patel and at New Delhi.

India Security Press, Nashik Road printed the mono-color issue by photogravure process on watermarked paper in panes of 100. No FDC and informative brochure was issued.

The Special Definitive Stamps are in use concurrently with the regular definitive series. The dates of the other two denominations in this series, Re.1 and Rs. 2 depicting Subhas Chandra Bose, and B R Ambedkar respectively, will be announced later.

Alka Sharma has designed the pictorial first day of issue postmarks.

----- advertisement -----

Visit [www.stampsonindia.com](http://www.stampsonindia.com) Stamps from all over the world on Indian topics.

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**BALLOON MAILS IN INDIA**

An exhibit from the reference collection of Balloon Mails in India formed by Pulak Gupta was put up on display at National Philatelic Museum on November 1, 2000. The exhibit shall remain on the display till November 30, 2000.

The museum was inaugurated in its new convenient premises on August 17, 2000. Besides having permanent exhibits, the museum also has a section where an exhibit by an eminent philatelist would be on display. The first exhibit at the museum since the inauguration was "Beyond the Boundaries" consisting of stamps from all over the world on Indian topics, belonging to yours truly that remained on display till October 31, 2000

**MULTICOLOR ADS ON STATIONERIES**

We understand that India Post is all set to release postal stationeries with multicolor advertisements. It may happen as early as December 2000. This opportunity may also be utilized to develop better designs for imprinted stamp as well as better stock of paper used for manufacturing.

----- 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  
Telephone: (91-512) 315005 [agarwalak@hotmail.com](mailto:agarwalak@hotmail.com)

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**ALSO IN THE NEWS**

**NEWSPAPER SCAN**

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

The Hindustan Times, Ranchi Edition, October 29, 2000, page 2

(This edition of the Hindustan Times is not on the net.)

**A SLICE OF HISTORY AT CALCUTTA GPO** by Shruti Todi

Calcutta: October 28: DID YOU know what a letterbox looked like in the time of Queen Victoria? Have you ever seen a first-generation telephone? If not, you are advised to head for the Postal Museum and Philatelic Library at city G P O, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The Museum, inaugurated on November 2, 1979, marking the 125<sup>th</sup> year of Indian postal services, has a collection of rare Victorian letterboxes in fancy shapes and sizes. The

canopies of the boxes range from lotus-shaped to that in the form of the British crown. There are ornamental designs and inscriptions on their bodies.

Moving ahead, one sees an array of telephones. Models range from the box-type to the gecko phones. There's the magneto box-type phone, an advanced machine in 1920, and the American special-type auto telephone from 1945. On display are brass badges and leather belts inscribed with postal designations. The walls of the museum are covered with traffic and circuit maps dating back to the 1930s.

Showcases exhibit passbooks, order books, savings bank ledgers and journals dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There's a pair of ornamental brass scales that the department used to weigh packets and parcels and an old coin-cutter that was used to round out defective coins. There are hurricane lanterns, steel helmets and signal lights – relics of bygone era.

For those of you who find the idea of throwing bottles in the sea with messages in them romantic, there's a write-up on how the concept of the "bottle post" came about. Unknown to the Indian Post Offices, the seas are apparently full of messages and letters floating about in glass receptacles like wine and milk bottles. The museum also gives information on the mail runners. Extensively employed in the pre-British period, the mail runner was thought to be the most reliable and fastest means of exchanging messages.

The Philatelic Library has a large collection of stamps, brass tokens and books on philately. The walls are covered with war and defence medals that tell the glorious tale of the Army Postal Service. There's a well-preserved collection of invaluable postcards and envelopes.

The Postal Museum and Philatelic Library is not very popular with Calcuttans or tourists. One reason could be the lack of proper maintenance. Labels are missing from most exhibits, those that exist are in faulty language.

It's a pity, for the collection, though not enormous, houses a number of interesting and invaluable articles from the past. Although the Museum and Library was constructed to promote the study of postal history and philately, the public's lack of awareness has stood in the way of realization of the project. A photo gallery has been added this year to introduce a new element of interest.

"We don't have too many visitors because people don't know much about this place. And due to lack of public funds, we are unable to promote the Museum"

Times of India, New Delhi edition, November 1, 2000, page 7  
MTNL signs pact with postal Dept  
(for delivery of 1.1 million telephone bills every month in Delhi)  
<http://www.timesofindia.com/today/01mdel4.htm>

----- advertisement -----

BUY OR SELL India, Errors, Varieties, Stationery & Booklets SEND YOUR WANT LIST

COMPLETE MINT SET OF 32 GREETING CARDS WITH PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPES  
US\$ 32 including delivery by registered airmail anywhere in the world  
INDIAN STAMP COMPANY, Chhipi Tank, Begum Bridge Road, Meerut 250 001  
Telephone: (91-121) 663245, Fax: 546972, E-mail: [rkgupta@stampsofindia.com](mailto:rkgupta@stampsofindia.com)

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#### STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

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

#### ISSUES

##### STAMPS

October 30

Paradise Fly Catcher, Definitive, Rs. 50

October 31

Sardar Patel, Special Definitive, Rs. 2

Next Issue: November 14, 2000 Children's Day

#### POSTAL STATIONERY

October 23 – Available on October 29

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Hero Puch Mobikes, in English, ISP

October 30

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- United India Insurance, in Gujarati, ISP

October 30 – Release Delayed

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Apollo Tyres, in English

- Apollo Tyres, in Hindi

October 30 – Release Delayed

Post Card with Advertisement

- Brooke Bond Tea, in English

- Wheel Washing Powder, in Hindi

October 27 & October 31 – Available on October 31

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, in English, SPP

October 31 – Release Delayed

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Census, in Manipuri

October 31 – Release Delayed  
Post Card with Advertisement  
- Reynolds Pen, in Hindi  
- Priya Marie Biscuits, in English

October 10 – Available on November 1, 2000  
Post Card with Advertisement  
– Census of India, Developments Milestone, in Telugu, SSP  
– Census of India, Mirror of the Nation, in Telugu, SSP

November 1  
Inland Letter Card with Advertisement  
- LG, Preserve Nutrition, in Tamil, SPP  
- LG, Sampoorna, in Kannada, SPP  
- LG, Preserve Nutrition, in Malayalam, SPP

November 1 - Release Delayed  
Inland Letter Card with Advertisement  
- LG, , in Telugu  
- LG, , in Punjabi  
- LG, Television, in English

#### POSTMARK

November 7  
25 years of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), New Delhi.  
Special Cover duly postmarked - Price Rs. 8  
Available from the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street H O, New Delhi 110001

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE – SPECIAL COVER & POSTMARK  
Price Rs. 8 each. Orders from civilians may be placed thru the nearest philatelic bureau.

October 1  
3/9 Gorkha Rifles, Diamond Jubilee  
3/3 Gorkha Rifles, Diamond Jubilee

October 6  
28 Madras, Silver Juibilee

----- 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.

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## AUCTIONS

### SUKHANI EUROPHIL

The catalog is already out of the next auction scheduled for December 9 and 10, 2000 at Calcutta during INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000. Their email is [raj.sukhani@gems.vsnl.net.in](mailto:raj.sukhani@gems.vsnl.net.in)

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## EVENTS

### APPHILEX 2000

The Southern Command of Army Postal Service is organizing a philatelic exhibition at Army School, Ahmedabad Cantonment on November 10-11, 2000.

### DISTRICT LEVEL EXHIBITIONS

KHEDAPEX 2000, Nadiad, October 31-November 1, 2000

Ashok K Bayanwala, President of Gujarat Philatelic Association, Ahmedabad informs that a two-day show was held at Mai Mandir Complex, Mai Nagar, Nadiad 387002. Ashok K Bayanwala from Ahmedabad, and Prashant Pandya (our correspondent for Gujarat) from Vadodara were the philatelist members of the Jury along with H L Vaghela, Senior Superintendent of Post, Nadiad Postal Division. The exhibits from 22 participants were displayed in 60 frames. The Jury shifted three entries to the 'above competition class'. 1 vermeil, 2 silver and 7 bronze medals were awarded.

----- advertisement -----

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## PUBLICATIONS

### PERIODICALS RECEIVED

Philately Newsletter, Jul-Sep 2000, Whole #4, in Hindi

Edited by a team of postal Officers headed by B N Som, Director General of India Post  
Official quarterly publication of India Post, Government of India

This is the first issue of this publication in Hindi. Editions in other Indian languages are also on the cards. To obtain a copy and to subscribe contact nearest philatelic bureau.

Ind Dak, Vol. 24 No. 10, October 2000, Edited by K P Achar

P R L Publications Private Limited

#84 P & T Colony, R T Nagar, Bangalore 560032

Perhaps the only surviving monthly periodical!

GPA News, Whole # 40, November 2000, Edited by H C Mehta

Gujarat Philatelic Association

C/O Desai & Co., 1-M National Chambers, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009

The availability of Stamps of India Collectors Companion gets a mention on the first page of this issue. On the same page is a picture of the British P-stamp with the mug shot of one of yours truly.

----- advertisement -----

5 DIFFERENT INDIA TELEPHONE CARDS \*Scarce\*

US\$ 23 including delivery by registered airmail anywhere in the world

Rajesh K Agarwala, Capital Stamp Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chanana Complex, 2214-2215

Hardhyan Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005 [rkstamps@rediffmail.com](mailto:rkstamps@rediffmail.com)

Telephone: (91-11) 572 8110, 581 6045, After Hours: 558 0163, 567 1349

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ORGANIZATIONS

GUJARAT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

GPA has rescheduled their monthly meeting to December 3, 2000 in view of several of their members shall be visiting Indepex-Asiana 2000 in Calcutta from December 7 to 12. GPA organizes regular meetings on the second Sunday of the month at 10 am at the Sanidhya Bhavan, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad.

----- 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](mailto:webmaster@stampsofindia.com) today!

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LINKS

Visit links page at stampsofindia.com. Every site on Indian philately is listed here. If you find a broken link or a site not listed here please inform [admin@stampsofindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsofindia.com)

Following new links has been added:

<http://www.aurangabadpost.com/>

Official web site of the Aurangabad Postal Region under Maharashtra Circle of India Post. One of the most useful features of this site is the availability of All India PIN Code Directory online.

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READERS FORUM

Ashok Bayanwala from Ahmedabad has appealed to India Post for immediate withdrawal from sale a greeting card with accompanying pre-stamped envelope that depicts the auspicious sign of swastika in reverse. Instead of facing right it faces left. This hurts the sentiments of Hindus. The sign of swastika is a symbol for Lord Ganesha who is worshipped first, before any other God, at the beginning of any and all undertakings. There is one more card in the series of 32 issued on September 6, 2000 that depicts swastika correctly.

Prakash Jambudi, also of Ahmedabad, adds, believe it or not, that there is one more error in this particular item. The stamp design on the envelope is inverted in relation to the design of the card.

It is amazing that the design is composed of not one but three swastikas in varying sizes, all in reverse, stamp design is inverted and the glaring errors was not caught at any stage and released for sale.

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## FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve "Stamps Of India Collectors Companion". We strive hard to bring you the comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please let us have your thoughts and suggestions for the same.

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](mailto: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](mailto:askus@stampsofindia.com)

## ADVERTISE

Do you want to advertise on Collectors' Companion - the weekly newsletter from stampsofIndia.com? To reach more than 500 readers interested in Indian philately every week, contact us at [ads@stampsofindia.com](mailto:ads@stampsofindia.com)

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## THANK YOU.

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- The Online Resource for postal history and philately of India and Indian States

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

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