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STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION

The First, Free & Only Email Newsletter on Philately, Postal History, & Postal Services of India.

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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## JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We thank all of you for your order of the books. We have now decided to absorb the cost of registered airmail as a special offer for a limited time. You may transfer the required amount directly to our bank account # 47403, Union Bank of India, 'F' Block, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110 001, in favor of Madhukar Jhingan, under advice to us. Please note that 'Postal Stationery of India 1947-2000' shall be dispatched end June 2001.

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

- M&SJ

Our Thanks to the contributors to this issue: Vijay Seth, New Delhi and Charles Bromser, Member of the Bureau, FIP Astrophilately Commission, Australia

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIA POST AT BELGICA 01

India Post will have a booth at BELGICA 01 World Philatelic Exhibition being held at Brussels, Belgium on June 9-15, 2001. Year and other packs and stamps recently issued will be available at the booth that will also provide a special postmark to commemorate the show. Rameshwari Handa, Deputy Director General, Philately at India Post HQ shall be there for the whole duration of the exhibition.

B N Som, Director General of India Post, Chairman of Postal Services Board, Secretary (Posts) to the Government of India in the Ministry of Communications, Trustee of Universal Postal Union's Quality of Service Fund, and the Chairman of World Association for Development of Philately shall visit on June 11 & 12 for the General Assembly of WADP.

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#### NOTES ON NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES

##### PART - I

One of the neglected areas of modern Indian philately is the study of definitive stamps. After a gap of over 15 years, India Post introduced a new definitive series in 2000. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> definitive series since independence and is devoted to the Natural Heritage of India. The series was launched with the issue of two stamps on April 30, 2000 in the denominations of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10. In this series the size of the Rs. 5 definitive stamp has been reduced to accommodate 70 stamps to a sheet. The Rs.10 stamp is issued in sheets of 50.

The stamps are printed by photogravure process on multiple Ashoka Capital watermarked paper by India Security Press, Nashik Road. The normal position for watermark is upright. Two types of gum, Yellow and bluish white, are noted. The printed sheet contains four panes that are cut after printing to make issued sheets. The printed sheet also carries a serial number, date, month & year, and a horizontal or vertical band of 4 bars in various shades of a color. The marginal inscriptions on sheet contain the name of the press in Hindi & English and the cylinder number in one line. Every denomination is assigned a letter that precedes the cylinder number.

The Rs. 5 definitive postage stamp depicts the Leopard Cat, vertical design in two colors, yellow and brown. "G" is the letter assigned for this denomination. The marginal inscription is "I.S.P. NASHIK-ROAD G1", in capital letters and has been seen on both, the left and right side of the sheet. This has also been seen with the cylinder number G2 on both, the left and right side of the sheet. A sheet with inscriptions on left carries the serial number 043333 on the top left corner. A sheet with inscriptions on right carries the date 13.XI.00 just on top of the Hindi inscription.

For some reason the letter assigned to this denomination was changed from "G" to "M". The first cylinder number seen with the "M" is 4. This has also been seen on both, the left and right side of the sheet. Perhaps the numbering of cylinder is continued in serial from "G". The name of the press in English is not in capital letters. The M4 on the right side of sheets has been seen with serial number 375117 and with the dates 20.XI.00 and 23.XI.00. The M5 on the left side has been noted. A horizontal band of 4 bars of shades of brown color at top right corner is seen on one of the sheets. One sheet was seen with a big margin on the right side and a single line of perforation of the next sheet.

The Rs.10 stamp depicts the Tiger - Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, horizontally printed in two colors, green and orange-brown. "N" is the letter assigned for this denomination. The marginal inscription "I.S.P. NASHIK-ROAD N1 " is all in caps on the left side of the sheet. The printers color registration mark, a sign of plus, is seen on sheets printed with N1 at the top as well as at the bottom. The N1 on the left side has also been seen with blind perforations on the complete row of 10 vertical stamps on the left. The cylinder number N2 was seen on the left side with a

serial number 211153. The next cylinder number noted is the N5 appearing on the left side. It has been seen with only the top half of the inscription letters printed. Sheet with N5 is also seen with normal inscription on left side and the date 26.VI.00 just below the English letters. A vertical band of 4 bars of shades of green color is noted on the left side before the Hindi inscription. The printer's color registration mark is on the top.

Part II, in the next issue, will cover the 25p, 50p, Re. 1 & Rs. 3 values. Readers having more information on marginal inscriptions and cylinder numbers of any denomination are requested to contribute.

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#### KOREA 2002

Further to our report in the previous issue, we have learned that KOREA 2002 World Philatelic Exhibition will also include the Astrophilately class.

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#### FAKE OR STOLEN BEARER BONDS

The police in North West Delhi on May 12, 2001 claimed to have busted a gang of four engaged in selling forged or stolen "Kisan Vikas Patras" (bearer bonds) at 25 per cent of the cost for the past seven months. The KVPs worth over Rs. 5 million recovered from them. Investigations have revealed that the gang so far had done business worth Rs. 10 million. KVPs can be bought only at post offices. This gang had seals of as many as 22 post offices across North India including Alwar, Ambala, Jalandhar, Jammu Cantonment, Chandigarh, Bareilly, Ludhiana, Jaipur and Ferozpur Cantonment.

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#### COMPETITION 2001, ANNUAL PHILATELIC INTERNET SITE EVALUATION

Since 1999, the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) provides an annual evaluation of philatelic Internet sites, as a continuation of its program to encourage and promote all forms of philatelic literature. The evaluation specifically recognizes those sites which, in the opinion of the evaluating panel, are especially deserving in terms of content, philatelic significance and production. In addition, it provides short critiques for all participating sites, with helpful suggestions for possible improvement.

The evaluation includes the following classes of entries:

1. Open class, consisting of sites maintained by individuals, groups, philatelic societies, philatelic libraries or similar organizations who are members or affiliates of an FIP National Federation;
2. Official class, consisting of sites maintained by postal administrations which are members of the UPU.

#### Procedures

1. Participants must apply for evaluation using the FIP application form, which may be obtained on-line from this site, or through e-mail at [franciskiddle@talk21.com](mailto:franciskiddle@talk21.com). Applications may be submitted electronically or by mail to the address specified on the application form. Closing date for applications for the 2001 evaluations is July 1, 2001.

2. A copy of the application form, together with an administrative fee of U.S. \$25 or equivalent, must be submitted to the appropriate national FIP member federation. Upon determination that the applicant meets the necessary membership/affiliation qualification, the FIP evaluation panel will inform the applicant of the site's acceptance for evaluation.

3. Sites will be evaluated live, not from hard copies or diskettes. To provide equal opportunity of available technology and to allow applicants to schedule upgrades and site maintenance, all sites will be accessed, reviewed and downloaded on the same date, as designated on the application form and/or confirmation notice. In the event of uncontrollable circumstances which may affect availability or functioning of a site on the specified date, it is the responsibility of the applicant to promptly notify the FIP evaluation panel to allow for possible revisit of the site or refund of the application fee.

4. Panel members will individually review each site, then reach a consensus evaluation. Those sites considered by the panel as especially deserving will be recognized as FIP's Top 5%, Three Star and Two Star Sites of the year, and will be authorized to display the specially designed FIP logos on their sites acknowledging the distinction. As warranted, special prizes may also be awarded, including a nominated "Best Philatelic Site of the Year". All participants will receive individual critiques reflecting the panel's findings, to include comments on specific strengths and suggestions for possible improvement. Results will be announced at a selected FIP world exhibition; for 2001, the announcement will be made at the HAFNIA 01 world philatelic exhibition being held from October 16 to 21, 2001 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

5. Questions and comments on the evaluation program and the procedures should be sent to: Francis Kiddle, e-mail: [franciskiddle@talk21.com](mailto:franciskiddle@talk21.com) ; mail: Punch Tree House, Reading Road North, FLEET, Hants GU13 8HS, Great Britain, fax: (44)1252.810766, phone (44)1252.613881.

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STAMPSONINDIA.COM UPDATES

This week the following segments have been updated on the site:

News, Links, Events

This week the following has been added to the site:

Our website, the Gateway to Indian Philately, presents the information in following segments:

NEWS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/a100.htm>

ISSUES <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/a200.htm>

EVENTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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~~~~~ALSO IN THE NEWS~~~~~

ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC WEB PUBLISHERS

The Association of Philatelic Web Publishers (APWP) was founded in February 2001, in order to promote, support and develop philately through publishing activity on the Internet. The Association of Philatelic Web Publishers facilitates the relationships and the exchange of experience among its members, by encouraging direct contacts and cooperation as well as by organizing on-line and off-line study groups, meetings, forums, competitions, common Web exhibitions and other activities. The APWP is the only worldwide organization that represents the interests of this new category, the philatelic Web Publishers.

APWP members are stamp collectors who actively contribute to the development of the stamp collecting on the Web, by creating interesting, attractive, and interactive philatelic sites that cover all aspects of philately. In addition they creatively use the new dimension opened by the World Wide Web, a very effective, inexpensive, convenient, and pervasive medium.

One of the main aims of the Association of Philatelic Web Publishers is to regain, through the Web publishing activity in the philatelic domain, the interest of young generations' for stamp collecting.

The office of the APWP is situated in Switzerland.

All philatelic webmasters are invited to visit <http://www.values.ch/apwp.htm> and join the APWP.

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~~~~~NEWSPAPER SCAN~~~~~

<Contribute newspaper clippings on philatelic and postal matters for publication here>

We were pleased to know from Postal Order News, the Journal of Postal Order Society, Whole # 59, Vol 16 #1, January 2001 issue that the article titled INDIA POSTAL NOTES by Richard Solly published in January 2000 issue has been voted the best article of the year 2000. This article was earlier published in India Post, Journal of India Study Circle, UK. For membership in the Postal Order Society, please contact the Secretary, Mal Tedds [mtedds@btinternet.com](mailto:mtedds@btinternet.com)

A review of India Post's publication INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE THROUGH INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS by Vishnu Saksena has appeared in May 2001 issue of the American Philatelist, the Journal of the American Philatelic Society, USA. For information on APS please visit their web site <http://www.stamps.org>

The Hindu, May 13, 2001

ONE-CRORE POSTAL RACKET BUSTED

<http://www.indiaserver.com/thehindu/2001/05/13/stories/1413218n.htm>

Note: The crore is equal to 10 million.

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~~~~~RESEARCH NOTES~~~~~

Segment Coordinator: Manohar Lal [mlal@stampsofindia.net](mailto:mlal@stampsofindia.net)  
Mailing Address: 9-B/6654 Dev Nagar, Gali # 6, New Delhi 110005.

[Most of the writings here are the first time publication of Manohar Lal's painstaking research conducted over eight years, full time, at National Archives of India and other institutions since his retirement as Chief Engineer of Northern Railways. He has published two books and several articles. He won Gold with Felicitations of the Jury for his exhibit Postal History of Indian Army 1914-1922 at London in 1990 as well as for his exhibit Postal stationery of India 1855-1947 at New Delhi in 1997.]

#### POSTAL HISTORY OF PAKISTAN – Part 21

Earlier parts were published in our issues # 18 to 38, except # 26. These as well as all back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

#### PLANE CRASHES WITH 16 ABOARD – ORIENT CONVAIR DISASTER

Orient Airways plane on its way to Dacca from Karachi, crashed in West Bengal territory. The Orient Airways Convair left Karachi for New Delhi on Thursday (March 12, 1953) night on its scheduled flight to Dacca. Crash Site – 45 miles east of Agartala in Tripura Hill ranges and 30 miles East of Kailashahar. (This is third air crash for Pakistan Airways).

#### LAHORE – DACCA ORIENT CONVAIR WILL TOUCH DELHI

March 16, 1953, Lahore: The Orient Airways Convair plane flying between Lahore and Dacca will touch the Delhi Airport from April 4, 1953 according to the Lahore Orient Airways office.....The halt of the plane at Delhi will be for refueling purposes.

#### CRASHED CONVAIR MAILS PROBABLY LOST

March 19, 1953: The ill fated plane of the Orient Airways which took off from Karachi for Dacca on March 12 was carrying mails for places in East Pakistan, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal posted on March 12 and late on March 11 at Karachi and on March 10 and 11 at other places in West Pakistan. The report available hitherto indicates that almost all the mails carried by the plane were lost says a Press Note issued yesterday.

#### INSURED AIR LETTERS TO UK, N. IRELAND AND BERMUDA

From April 1, 1953 airmail insured letters will also be accepted to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Bermuda, says a Press Note.

#### MAIL AND PARCEL SERVICE TO SOUTH KOREA

A Press Note issued by Pakistan Posts and Telegraphs Department last night announced that letter mail and parcel post services with South Korea (Corea) were now available. The Note said that for the present letter mail service will be confined to uninsured articles both by the surface and the air routes. The rates of postage for surface mail articles are the same as those for all foreign countries other than Bharat, Portuguese India, Ceylon, Nepal, Aden, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

#### ORIENT AIR CRASH LETTER SALVAGED

March 26, 1953, Dacca: An official of the Pakistan Posts and Telegraphs Department will shortly take delivery from the Tripura state authorities of some letters and papers which have been recovered from the crashed Orient Airways Convair an authoritative source said today. The official may be in Dacca on Friday (March 27, 1953).

#### CRESCENT AIR TRANSPORT

Revised schedule with effect from April 1, 1953

Karachi – Hyderabad – Karachi

Karachi – Departure 06.30, Hyderabad – Arrival 07.15, Departure 07.35; Karachi - Arrival 08.20

Karachi – Hyderabad – Nawabshah – Sukkur – Jacobabad and back

Karachi – Departure 06.30, Hyderabad – Arrival 07.15, Departure 07.35; Nawabshah – Arrival 08.10, Departure 08.40; Sukkur – Arrival 09.40, Departure 10.00; Jacobabad – Arrival 11.30, Departure 11.00; Sukkur Arrival 11.30, Departure 11.50; Nawabshah – Arrival 12.50, Departure 13.20; Hyderabad – Arrival 13.55, Departure 14.15; Karachi – Arrival 15.00.

#### LETTERS FROM CRASHED CONVAIR DISTRIBUTED

March 29, 1953, Dacca: Four bags of letters – the only “survivors” of the crashed Orient Airways Convaire – were brought from Tripura and distributed to the addresses by Post and Telegraph Department here. The Post Master General had earlier sent an official to take delivery of the bags from Tripura authorities. The letters he said had escaped the fire that charred the ill-fated plane and the rest of its contents. – APP

#### INSURED AIR LETTERS FOR PERSIAN GULF

From May 1, 1953, Insured letters will be accepted for dispatch by airmail to the British Post Office Agencies in the Persian Gulf says a Press Note issued yesterday. The Note adds the rates of insurance fee will be Rs. 1/1/- for every Rs. 300/- of the insured value of part thereof.

#### COMET CRASH

Calcutta, May 23, 1953. All the 43 persons, including a crew of six perished when a westbound BOAC Comet airliner on a scheduled Tokyo-London flight was caught in a thunder storm blowing over Calcutta yesterday evening drifted off its route and crashed 22 miles from Calcutta.

#### 18 KILLED IN AIR INDIA CRASH NEAR DELHI

New Delhi, May 9, 1953. All 13 passengers and the crew of 5 perished when an Air India Dakota crashed at about 10 this morning shortly after taking off from Palam Airport for Bombay for a scheduled flight.

#### 2 MORE PLANE ACCIDENTS IN INDIA. NO CASUALTY

New Delhi, May 10, 1953. At Bombay, A Dakota of Air Services of India on the Bombay-Bangalore flight was damaged after running 200 yards from the Juhu runway. The failure of the under carriage to work resulted in the accident. One of the 15 passengers was injured. The aircraft was grounded.

At Patna, a Bharat Airways Dakota, which took off from Dum Dum on May 9, enroute to Delhi, had to make a forced landing at Patna due to bad weather. No one was injured. The plane developed engine trouble while landing at Patna. There was no damage to the plane nor was any body injured.

#### AIRMAIL SERVICE TO MULTAN SUSPENDED

May 20, 1953: Due to the suspension of Orient Airways' Karachi – Multan – Lahore air service, airmail service to and from Multan will no longer be available, says a Government Press Note. The Note adds: The airmail service from Karachi to Lahore and vice versa which was available for four days in a week, will now be available for three days in a week viz on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays ex-Karachi and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays ex-Lahore. Latest hours of posting may be ascertained from the nearest post office.

#### NO LOCAL POST CARDS

May 23, 1953: Reports have appeared in the local Press that the Posts and Telegraphs Department intends to introduce local postcards at reduced rates. These reports are incorrect, as the cost of handling a postcard is already more than the present rate of nine pies, says a Government Press Note issued yesterday.

#### HAJ NOTES QUOTA FOR PILGRIMS

May 24, 1953: Pilgrims to Mecca will get a travel quota of Rupees 700 to Rupees 1000 in Haj Notes. The maximum for Deck passengers has been fixed at Rupees 1000, Second class passengers Rupees 1,300 and First class Rupees 1,500 and air passengers Rupees 1,400.

Children from 10 to 16 will get half the quota. The notes will be converted into Rials in Saudi Arabia. They are not legal tender in Pakistan. Pilgrims who decide not to go Hedjaz after obtaining Haj notes must surrender them immediately. Failure to surrender them is an offence.

To be continued in the next issue.

The above is gleaned from the microfilms, available at the Nehru Memorial Library New Delhi, of the 'Civil & Military Gazette' and 'Dawn', published from Lahore and Karachi respectively.

#### 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 online. Submit here [askus@stampsofindia.com](mailto:askus@stampsofindia.com)

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#### FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. 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. Also we would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send your comments, questions, news, reports, articles and other contributions to [edit@stampsofindia.com](mailto:edit@stampsofindia.com) We look forward to hearing from you!

#### CONTRIBUTERS INVITED

We require regular correspondents everywhere in India to report on philatelic activities in their area. We shall reimburse the costs of photos, covers, publications, courier and other charges. The contribution shall appear with your byline. Please Contact [admin@stampsofindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsofindia.com) today!

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#### DISCLAIMER

While every attempt has been made to ensure that the information presented here is accurate, let's face it, accidents and typos happen. Be aware that should you come to grievous bodily harm as a result of the information presented here, or worse yet, you get a philatelic question wrong on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati?' (Who Will Be A Millionaire's Indian version), and other similar game



shows 'Sawaal Dus Crore Ka' (The Question of 100 million) as well as 'Jeeto Chhappar Phaad Ke' (Win a Windfall), just remember you were warned so we won't be held accountable.

THANK YOU.

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#### ABOUT THE EDITORS

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 the American Philatelic Society.

#### ABOUT THE PUBLISHERS

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