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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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Number 43, July 5, 2001

Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

Published Every Thursday

Winner of Silver Medal with Felicitations of the Jury at BELGICA 2001 World Stamp Exhibition

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## IN THIS ISSUE

New Stamps Released

New Issue Update

India & China To Enhance Cooperation In Postal Sector

Indo-French Alliance For Faster Postal Services

WADP Workshops & General Assembly

FIP Logo Competition

BELGICA 2001

Periodicals Received This Week – Ind Dak, Top Phil

New Publications – CEF Diaries, Postal History of the Spanish Philippines

New Links – Patna GPO

Stampsfindia.Com Updates

Also In The News – Pradip Jain's Contribution

Research Notes – Postal History of Pakistan – Part 25

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## JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We thank you for your messages of congratulations on this newsletter winning the award at BELGICA 2001.

We share some more good news with you in this issue, the wait is over and our site has finally moved to a better server, and all our email addresses are operational. Even though it meant waiting for the issue of this newsletter but we wanted the site to be operational and had to devote our undivided attention to it. We don't want to make it a habit and the situation wasn't helped any due to pressure of work and our continued absence, first to Brussels and then to Bhubaneswar & Calcutta.

To err is human, as our Correspondent for Gujarat, Prashant Pandya pointed out that the previous issue was erroneously numbered 41 instead 42. This was not the only error - The line should have read as 'GPA News and Philatelic Society of Rajasthan Newsletter' "In This Issue" under the 'Periodicals Received This Week'. In Rajesh Agarwala's ad for used copies of Stanley Gibbons Catalog, the price for British Commonwealth 2000 edition should have been Rs. 3000

and not Rs. 2000 as published. And finally, In our report on 'The 100 Greatest Stamps Ever' we missed out on an Indian stamp in the list – King Edward Rs. 25 – Rank 25 and also missed to add 'Overprinted Service' after Mahatma Gandhi Rs. 10. The revised text should read, " We were pleased to note 4 Indian stamps in this List of Honor. These are Mahatma Gandhi Rs. 10 Overprinted Service – Rank 45, King Edward Rs. 25 – Rank 25, 'Lithographs' (The first all India issue) 4 As. –Rank 17, and Scinde Dawk' (The first stamps in Asia) ½ An. Blue- Rank 16. We regret these errors and the inconvenience caused.

Postal stationery issued in 2001 will be covered in next issue, kindly bear with us till then.

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

- M&SJ

PS: Our Thanks to the contributors to this issue: Pradip Jain of Patna, Prashant Pandya of Vadodara, Vijay Seth, T S Sinha, and Rajesh Agarwala of New Delhi, Paul Burega of Canada in 'Philatelic Literature Review' 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2001.

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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Communications released a commemorative stamp on Suraj Narain Singh on May 31, 2001 at Pandaul in the denomination of Rs.3, the inland letter rate at that time. Suraj Narain Singh, 1908-1973, was the foremost revolutionary nationalist in Bihar for almost two decades, during a tumultuous phase of India's struggle for independence. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day of issue postmark. Madras Security Printers Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 400,000. The issued sheet contains 40 stamps.

A commemorative stamp on B P Mandal was released on June 1, 2001 at his birthplace, Madhepura by Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Communications in the denomination of Rs.3, the inland letter rate prevailing till May 31, 2001. B P Mandal, 1918-1982 was former Chief Minister of Bihar and a member of parliament. In 1978 he was appointed Chairman of the Government of India's Backward Classes Commission. The Report submitted by him in 1980 is one of the most significant and forceful commentaries on the socio-political situation in the country. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp. The First Day Cover design is based on the material received from the sponsors of this issue. Nenu Gupta designed the pictorial first day of issue postmark. Eagle Press Private Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 400,000. The issued sheet contains 40 stamps.

Tapan Sikdar, Minister of State for Communications released a commemorative stamp on Samanta Chandra Sekhar on June 11, 2001 at Bhubaneswar in the denomination of Rs.3, the inland letter rate prevailing till May 31, 2001. Samanta Chandra Sekhar, 1835-1904, was named the greatest naked eye astronomer, greater than the famous Tycho Brahe, in 1899 by the well-known scientific journal 'Nature'. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp. The First Day Cover design is based on the material furnished by the National Center for Radio Astrophysics, Pune. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day of issue postmark. Madras Security Printers Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 400,000. The issued sheet contains 40 stamps.

Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Communications released a commemorative stamp on Sant Ravidas on June 24, 2001 at Ludhiana in the denomination of Rs.3, the inland letter rate

prevailing till May 31, 2001. Sant Ravidas, circa 15<sup>th</sup> century AD, was one of the brightest luminaries in the firmament of the Bhakti Movement, which was the religious renaissance. Alka Sharma designed the stamp based on a painting by Phulan Rani. The First Day Cover design is based on the material supplied by the sponsors of this issue. Nenu Gupta designed the pictorial first day of issue postmark. Eagle Press Private Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 700,000. The issued sheet contains 40 stamps.

The First Day Cover along and the information sheet for these issues, priced at Rs. 2 each, are also available on sale at all Philatelic Bureaus, Philatelic Counters, and at the Head Post Offices all over the country.

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**NEW ISSUE UPDATE**

Next Issue:

July 6, 2001: Personalities Series: The Spirit of Nationalism, Set of 4, Rs. 4 each  
Syama Prasad Mookerjee, C Sankaran Nair, U Klang Nongbah, and Krishna Nath Sarmah.

Addition to the Program

August 12, 2001: Chaudhury Brahm Prakash (The First Chief Minister of Delhi)

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**INDIA & CHINA TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN POSTAL SECTOR**

A high level official delegation led by Tan Xiaowei, Deputy Post Master General of the State Post Bureau of the People's Republic of China called on the Minister of Communications, Ram Vilas Paswan here on June 2001. Both the countries have agreed to further enhance cooperation in the postal sector and share information pertaining to universal postal service obligation, information on postal legislation and reforms, philately, etc. among other things.

Paswan apprised the visiting Deputy Postmaster General of the vast postal network and the social obligation of connecting every household in the country through the postal services. India today has 1,54,000 post offices in the country employing over 6,00,000 employees making it the largest postal network in the world. The Minister said that both India and China have common goals to achieve and are confronted with similar problems. Paswan said that India is trying to be self-reliant in the field of postal sector by way of introducing new value-added services.

The Chinese Deputy Post Master General appreciated India Post for efficiently handling higher number of mail items than China and hoped that cooperation between the two countries would continue to grow.

India and China have very good postal links. There is substantial exchange of letter mail, parcels and Speed Post (EMS) between India and China. EMS Service (for documents/merchandise) was introduced on September 1, 1990.

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#### INDO-FRENCH ALLIANCE FOR FASTER POSTAL SERVICES

India Post and La Poste of France will have business alliance in development and marketing of International Express Post that will provide guaranteed and faster delivery of parcels and other consignments between India and Europe. For this purpose, Mumbai will function as the hub for India and Paris will be the hub for Europe. This decision was taken at the Indo-French Joint Committee on Posts and Telecommunications that met in Paris on June 13, 2001. The Secretary, Department of Posts B N Som and the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications Shyamal Ghosh led the Indian delegation. During the meeting it was decided that India Post and La Poste of France will cooperate in Philately, Database Post, financial retail services, technology upgradation of post offices and postal consultancy.

India Post is in the process of developing business alliance with various postal administrations all over the world in order to provide better international services to its customers.

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#### WADP WORKSHOPS & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The third General Assembly of the World Association for Development of Philately (WADP) was held on June 12, 2001 at Brussels, Belgium during BELGICA 2001 World Philatelic Exhibition. This was the first General Assembly under the Chairmanship of B N Som, Director General of India Post who was elected to the post at the second General Assembly at Madrid in 2000.

It was proposed to hold the fourth General Assembly at Seoul, Korea in conjunction with PHILAKOREA 2002. The matter would be finalized at the next Board Meeting of WADP. If the General Assembly takes place in Korea it will be for the first time that it would be held outside Europe.

Two workshops, both on June 11, 2001 preceded the General Assembly. The WADP Project Team on "Best Practices for Philatelic Exhibitions" under the chairmanship of Latvia Post held a workshop/seminar style meeting. The participants included the postal administrations of Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, India, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia; Secretary General of FIP, FIP Consultant to BELGICA 2001; President of IFSDA; Secretary General of ASCAT, and the Chairman of WADP. Here are some of the ideas that emerged during the discussions in the meeting - due to the considerable financial and human resources requirement, the organizers need to have at least 4 years time for planning and preparation. The organization of a philatelic exhibition should have cooperation among all philatelic partners concerned (the posts, the collectors and the trade). A member from each one of these organizations should be there, in the organizing committee from the start. Help should be taken from specialists for conducting the exhibition when ever possible. The aim of philatelic exhibitions should be to attract the general public and the youth in particular by portraying philately as an attractive hobby. Thematic exhibitions that are complementary to other events like the Olympic Philatelic Exhibition should be encouraged. Promotion and Publicity for the exhibition are very important and also ensure maximum participation by the public. For the venue the Capital city need not always be selected. Sponsors and related activities also need to be planned so more people can benefit from the large investment needed for holding the exhibitions.

In the absence of the postal administration of Russian Federation, the Chairman of WADP Project Team on "Combating Fraudulent Issues" the discussions were held in an informal manner. The shocking examples of illegal issues, several in bad taste and poorly produced, being aggressively

marketed to collectors along with legitimate issues through advertisements, catalogs, and web sites were shown by Maria S Libera, Assistant Secretary of WADP.

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#### FIP LOGO COMPETITION

International Philatelic Federation (FIP) invited entries for selection of a new logo. The well-known postage stamp designer, Sankha Samanta of New Delhi submitted 3 out of a total of 10 designs received. The designs were displayed in a frame and all Juries and commissioners at BELGICA 2001 were required to vote for the new logo of FIP. None of the entries were striking enough to hold the attention. In our humble opinion the existing FIP logo should not be changed until and unless a really good design is found.

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#### BELGICA 2001

The show was inaugurated on the evening of June 8, 2001 in a short but powerful ceremony. It was very nice to see the harmony between the postal administration, the philatelists and the stamp dealers. The first speaker was a prominent stamp dealer, Pierre Schittecatte of Belgium.

A lot of interesting activities were happening for children in the huge Youth area, face painting, competitions, based on networked computers; specially developed stamp collectors beginners kit and meeting with famous cartoon and caricature artists were really popular. One area was also earmarked for China where craft activities were conducted for children.

P-stamps was another popular activity that attracted maximum crowds, the extensive publicity in the general media brought a lot of visitors who would not normally attend a stamp exhibition. The Belgian Post, in an unprecedented move, extended the facility of making P-stamp to all booth holders without charges!

Morocco and China were partner countries of the show. There were joint issues and special areas for these 2 countries where there was display of paintings, artifacts, costumes and spices etc. Morocco even had a lady make henna designs on the hands of the visitors.

The show podium in the center of the exhibition was used for small official functions, seminars, musical and other performances by various well-known artistes and was well publicized in the local media. One of the star attractions was the visit by the famous chess player Anatoly Karpov.

India Post's Booth was situated at an ideal location, almost next to the large sales area of the host country, Belgium. We believe this was the best location India Post's Booth has ever got, definitely in the past 25 years. And it reflected in good sales. India Post provided a Special pictorial Postmark, one for each day of the show. The design was same but the dates were changed every day. The Postmark was provided primarily on philatelic passports, which were very popular.

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#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### DIARIES OF A B THOMPSON & W T VAN SOMEREN, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, CHINA FIELD FORCE

By D N Jatia

B N Som, Chairman of World Association for Development of Philately (WADP) and Director General of India Post ceremoniously released the latest publication by Philatelic Congress of India at their regional meeting at Bhubaneswar on June 24, 2001. The book is priced at Rs. 750.

Since the publication by PCI of 'The China Expeditionary Force 1900-1923' by Brigadier D S Virk, Dr. John Hume, Derek Lang, and Gerald Satin in 1992 (still available for Rs. 750) there was a constant demand from the philatelists to publish the complete text of the two diaries of the postal superintendents as brief excerpts which were included, whetted the appetite of the readers.

#### POSTAL HISTORY OF THE SPANISH PHILIPPINES 1565-1898

By Don Peterson & Geoffrey Lewis

The book discusses postal routes, rates, and markings of the Spanish period, beginning in 1565, when the first letter was mailed, through the issuance of stamps in 1854. It addresses transport of mail by sail and steam ships via various ports in India, the Persian route, the Cape of Good Hope route, and others. Internal and overseas rates, registration fees, newspaper and circular rates, and the use of Indian, Hong Kong and Straits Settlements stamps are covered, as are official, military, and consular mail, and markings on incoming and outgoing mail.

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#### Join INDIA POST'S STANDING ORDER DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

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#### PERIODICALS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

IND DAK, Vol.25 No.5 & 6, May & June 2001, Monthly

Editor: Dr. P S Dixit

Publisher: P R L Publications Private Limited

Mailing Address: Varaprasad, Director, P O Box 4064, 31 Service Road, REMCO Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560040. [varaprasadz@yahoo.co.in](mailto:varaprasadz@yahoo.co.in) Telephone: +91(80) 3302502

Annual Subscription: Rs. 125 or US\$ 20 by airmail

Mode of Remittance: By bank draft in favor of the publisher

Due to reorganization of P R L Publications Private Limited, the publishers of IND DAK, the issues for May & June and July & August shall be combined issues. In the new setup Dr. Sita Bhateja remains as the Chairperson, and Dr. P S Dixit is the new Managing Director and Varaprasad the Director. All editorial and publishing material should be addressed to Dr. Dixit. Varaprasad shall handle all matters concerning subscription, advertisement, administration, and accounts.

TOP PHIL, Vol. 19 # 10-12, Oct-Dec 2000, Whole # 76, Quarterly

Editor: Madan Middha

Publisher: Indian Topical Association

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NEW LINKS – PATNA GPO

The Patna General Post Office, Bihar becomes the first post office in the country to go online.  
The URL is: <http://www.patnagpo.org>

Visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Links/z00.htm> for all sites on Indian philately, postal services, and other useful topics. If you find a broken link or a site not listed there please inform [admin@stampsofindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsofindia.com)

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STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

This week the following segments have been updated on the site:  
News, Links, Publications

This week the following has been added to the site:

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

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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

PRADIP JAIN'S CONTRIBUTION

Ramji Mishra Manohar Media Foundation, Patna, Bihar has launched a bilingual quarterly journal 'Media Today' for providing a forum for discussions on media related issues. Renowned professional philatelist Pradip Jain is the Secretary of the Foundation and consequently the back cover of the inaugural issue of Media Today depicts 17 Indian stamps on Media, in color.

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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 medal 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.]

#### BHARAT - PAKISTAN PARLEYS OPEN TODAY

September 29, 1953, New Delhi: Exchange of Enclaves – The total area of Cooch – Behar enclaves is 26,875 square miles and that of East Pakistan enclaves is 19,202 square miles. The question that will be considered is how West Bengal would be compensated for surrendering a large area. It is possible that the advantage might be taken during negotiations over enclaves for minor rectification of the boundaries between Bharat and Pakistan.

#### TRIAL FLIGHT TO KABUL

October 3, 1953, Lahore: The first Bharati plane (a Dakota) on a trial flight to Kabul on New Delhi – Amritsar – Lahore air route landed here today at the Walton Civilian Airport. After a brief halt, the plane took off for Kabul. This new air route will reduce the flying time from six to four hours. – APP

#### ENCLAVES' ISSUE NOT SOLVED

October 4, 1953, Calcutta: Dispute may be referred back to Karachi & Delhi

#### BHARAT ISSUES STAMPS TO COMMEMORATE CONQUEST OF EVEREST

October 5, 1953, Panmunjon: The two new Bharati stamps commemorating the conquest of Mount Everest issued on Saturday by the Bharati Postal Department were on sale yesterday for Bharati Custodian Forces in Korea.

Bharati soldiers could buy for respectively 3 and 19 US cents the two and 14 annas stamps issued on the Gandhi's birthday.

The words 'Conquest of Everest' in English and 'Everest Vijaya' in Hindi appear on the stamps together with the date it was conquered (May 29, 1953).

Bharati troops also used on the first day the cover issued on the occasion which bears a picture of Tensing on top of Mount Everest holding an ice axe with flags. - AFP

Earlier parts were published in our issues # 18 to 42, except # 26. These as well as all back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLISHERS' PRICES FROM 'STAMPS OF INDIA'

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#### FEEDBACK

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#### CONTRIBUTERS INVITED

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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' (Question of 10 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, the American Philatelic Society, and members of Olympic Philatelists of India, Indian Philatelic Press Club, Association of Philatelic Web Publishers and International Association of Philatelic Journalists.

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