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

Number 46, July 26, 2001

Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

Published Every Thursday

Awards: Silver Medal with 'Felicitations of the Jury' at BELGICA 2001 World Stamp Exhibition

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Help the drive to increase readership, Recommend this newsletter to friends.

JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The next issue will be on August 9, 2001 and not on August 2, 2001 due to our being away to Tokyo from July 30 to August 8, 2001 for PHILANIPPON Japan World Stamp Exhibition 2001. Urgent messages may be sent to chief@stampsfindia.net during this period. Those of you who shall be at Tokyo may ask at India Post Booth at the exhibition for our whereabouts.

Dr. Kenneth Robbins of USA, well known for his collections of Indian Princely States that go way beyond philately, has very kindly consented to allow us to publish several of his writings on our website. We will keep you informed thru links in this newsletter as and when the web version of an article is ready and posted.

Ashok Kumar Bayanwala of Ahmedabad must be congratulated and supported for taking up the major task to document the Modern Postal History of India from 1947 to 1997 in a series of articles published in the monthly 'GPA News' since April 2001 issue. We have obtained his permission to not only publish these on our web site, but also to get involved in jointly evolving, enhancing, expanding, editing, and revising this magnum opus for the web version. We ask you to read this by clicking on the link <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Features/a511.htm> and let us have your ideas on further improvements. All illustrations shall soon be in color.

'Indian Postal History 1947-1997' presents the information in a chronological manner like a reference book. About one year has been covered with the part 4 published in July 2001, because the author wishes to cover the classic part of India's post-independence period, 1947 to 1957, in detail, as a matter of policy. The year 1957 for several reasons is a natural choice, for one, the introduction of decimal currency in the country. Our readers are also invited to contribute topics that have escaped coverage as well as additional information on the topics already published.

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

- M&SJ

PS: Our Thanks to the contributors to this issue:

Rajesh K Agarwala New Delhi, Vijay Seth New Delhi, Government of India Press Information Bureau New Delhi, O K Prakash Thrissur, and Prashant Pandya Vadodara.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Communications released a commemorative postage stamp on Chandragupta Maurya in the denomination of Rs.4 at Kanpur on July 21, 2001.

Chandragupta Maurya stands out as one among the most colorful personalities of Indian history. He was a far-sighted ruler, who not only expanded his territories, but also established a well-organized administrative system and gave it a sound financial base, thus laying the foundation for an enduring empire. Chandragupta Maurya had set a high ideal and is stated to have believed that his happiness lay in the happiness of his subjects and that in their troubles lay his troubles. Chandragupta's reign lasted for about 25 years. According to Jain tradition, he adopted Jainism, having been influenced by the saint Bhadrabahu. He is believed to have abdicated the throne in favor of his son Bindusara and pursued a spiritual life thereafter.

A commemorative postage stamp on Jhalkari Bai, in the denomination of Rs.4, was released by Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Communications at a function in Lucknow on July 22, 2001. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Rajnath Singh was the chief guest at the function.

The saga of Jhalkari Bai is illustrative of the seriousness of discontent among the common people against the colonial dominance and the extent of popular participation in the struggle. She was a courageous woman who came from a humble background and played a valiant role in the Jhansi theatre of the revolt of 1857. She is living memory in the folklore of the Bundelkhand region (which was part of the erstwhile state of Jhansi) even today. Jhalkari Bai bore an uncanny resemblance to Rani Lakshmi Bai, Queen of Jhansi, because of which the Queen took a special liking to her and inducted her into the women's wing of her army.

When discontent against the British policies was brewing, the people of Jhansi rallied around the Queen and resolved to take up arms to uphold the independence of their state. In 1858, there were several attacks on the Jhansi fort by the British and their native allies. Though the recorded

history does not reveal much about the antecedents or heroic exploits of Jhalkari Bai, the ever-loyal Jhalkari Bai must have been a pillar of strength for the queen in those trying times. It is said that when the fall of the fortress became imminent, Jhalkari Bai and some generals convinced Lakshmi Bai to escape quietly with a handful of supporters. In a ploy to deceive the British, Jhalkari dressed up like the Rani and took command of the army. The British found out the truth but it was too late, as the Queen had covered a considerable distance by then. Though Jhalkari Bai was forced to surrender, it is believed that the British military officers, who were impressed by her loyalty, courage and fighting prowess treated her with respect and freed her.

The First Day Cover along with the information sheet will be available for sale at all Philatelic Bureaus, Philatelic Counters, and at selected Post Offices all over the country.

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#### NEW ISSUE UPDATE

Issues in August 2001 are as follows:

August 2, 2001 – Corals, set of 4

August 5, 2001: D P Mishra

August 11, 2001: Brahm Prakash

August 19, 2001: August Kranti (Revolution), Balia

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AVAILABLE FOR SALE "Pakistan Overprints on India" by R Doubleday and U A Isani, Issues of American Philatelist complete years, & Mahatma Gandhi stamps, Miniature Sheets, Mint, Used, Perf and Imperf. Ask for details. RAMESH C AGARWAL. arcee_agwl@rediffmail.com
113 Manhar Park, Tarsali, Makarpura, Vadodara-390 010

GREETINGS CARDS

The 5th issue of greetings cards by India Post to be released in July 2001 shall consist of 15 designs for general greetings, 8 printed by Calcutta Security Printers of Kanpur and 7 by Madras Security Printers of Chennai.

The next issue of 24 designs on the Festival of Lights – Diwali is expected to be released soon.

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STANLEY GIBBONS CATALOGS, Stamps of the World 1995 (2 Vols.) – Rs. 2000, British C'wealth 1993 – Rs. 1750, 1995 – Rs. 2100, 1997 – 2500, 1999 – 2900, 2000 – Rs. 3000. Postage & Packing Extra, Only One copy each edition available.

Rajesh K Agarwala, [rkstamps@rediffmail.com](mailto:rkstamps@rediffmail.com)

Capital Stamp Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chanana Complex, 2215 Hardyan Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005. Telephone: (91-11) 5816045, After Hours: 567 1349, Mobile: 98102-26692

#### PHILATELIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The apex training institution of India Post, Postal Staff College at Ghaziabad will be organizing a Philatelic Management Program for Officers from July 30 to August 3, 2001.

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PHILANIPPON JAPAN WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION 2001

The show will be held at the West Exhibition Hall 3 and 4, Tokyo International Exhibition Center, "Tokyo Big Sight" (Ariake) from August 1 to 7, 2001. Yours truly shall be visiting this event for coverage.

M G Pittie, Secretary General of Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP) shall be the sole member of the International Jury from India and Dilip Shah, President Elect & Secretary General of Philatelic Congress of India is part of the three member Expert Team. The National Commissioner from India is Ajay Kumar Mittal of New Delhi.

India Post will have a Sales Booth at the show. The Bulletin 2 had listed 'Sheth Philatelic Services' (Mafatlal) of Mumbai, India in the List of Stand-holders Dealers, however this company has informed us that they have cancelled the participation.

India will release a set of 4 stamps on Corals on August 2, 2001. Gautam Gupta, Member (Operations), Postal Services Board will visit the show on first three days and Meera Handa, Director, Philatelic Division of India Post, shall be there for the whole duration of the show.

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KARNATAKA PHILATELIC SOCIETY ELECTIONS

The Karnataka Philatelic Society elected the following members as office bearers of the Society for the year 2001-2003 at the AGM held on July 1, 2001 at GPO Bangalore: V Srinivasan - President, Vaman Rao - Vice president, P S Vara Prasad - Secretary, and N R Sundar Raj - Treasurer.

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NATIONAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY ELECTIONS

The following officer bearers were unanimously elected at the meeting held on June 24, 2001 at Ludhiana: S P Bhandari – Chairman, Ashwini Chowdhari – President, Jaswant Rai Thaper – Senior Vice President, Raj Kumar Aggarwal – Vice President, Narinder Pal Singh – General Secretary, Surjit Singh – Joint Secretary, Gursagar Singh – Treasurer. The following were elected as the Executive Committee Members: V P Puri, Surinder Singh, Raju Bhatt, Ashwani Kumar, H William, and Anil Kumar Kapoor.

The next meeting of the Society, to be followed by lunch, will be held on July 29, 2001 at the Meeting Hall, Punjabi Bhawan, Near Bharat Nagar Chowk, Ludhiana from 10 am onwards. S P Bhandari will deliver a talk on Punch Marked Coins. For more information please contact nationalnumismaticsociety@yahoo.co.in

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AUCTIONS

PHILATELIC CLUB, THRISSUR

The club will shortly be holding a Postal Auction exclusively of Cochin State philatelic materials. There shall be about 90 lots of interesting items. For catalog please contact the Secretary, O K Prakash, Post Box 78, Perintalmanna 679322 or prakashphila@yahoo.com

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Links/post/d403.htm>

PERIODICALS RECEIVED

THE PHILATELIST, Vol. 9 # 1, Whole # 13, Jan-Dec 2000

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Publisher: Philatelic Club, Thrissur

Mailing Address: Post Box 19, Thrissur 680 001

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FEATURES

NOTES ON NEW SPECIAL DEFINITIVE SERIES

Special definitive series in 25-paisa denomination were first issued with the motifs of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru in 1976 and the Mahatma Gandhi series continued till 2000 in the 100-paisa denomination. With the introduction of the new definitive series on Natural Heritage in the year 2000, India Post also issued a new series of three Special Definitive Stamps.

The Special Definitive Stamps are issued in sheets of 10 x 10 = 100 stamps per sheet. 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. The printed sheet contains four panes that are cut after printing to make issued sheets. Serial numbers, date, month & year of printing have been found on this stamp till date. The marginal inscriptions on a 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 first Stamp in this series was issued on October 31, 2000 on the Iron man of India, Sardar Vallabhai Patel in the denomination of Rs. 2. It is a vertical design in Grey colour. "J" is the letter assigned for this denomination. The marginal inscription is "I.S.P. Nashik-Road J1", in capital letters and has been seen on the left margin of the sheet followed by "J2" on the left and right of the sheet. "J3" on the left and right of the sheet. The left inscription of "J4" has a colour band on top of the sheet printed in gray colour. "J4" is also seen on the right side. "J5" is also seen with the inscription on the left and right of the sheet. The right inscription of "J5" also has a sheet number 029173 on the top right hand corner. The left inscription of "J7" has been seen with four different printing dates, those are .5.II.01, .6.II.01 and 14.III.01, .3.V.01. "J7" on the left side has the sheet number 415841 printed, and "J7" is also seen on the right side. "J8" is also seen with the sheet number 252627 on the left side, and it is also seen on the right side.

The second Stamp in the Special Definitive Series was issued on January 23, 2001 on the founder of the Indian National Army in Singapore Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in the denomination of Rs. 1. It is a vertical design in Orange Brown colour. "F" is the letter assigned for this denomination. The marginal inscription is "I.S.P. Nashik-Road F2", in capital letters and has been seen on the left margin of the sheet followed by "F3" also seen on the left, margin of the sheet. Sheet Number "F4" has been sighted with the left inscription sheet number 101248 and

date of printing as 24.I.01, another "F4" sheet has been sight without the date of printing or sheet number.

The third Stamp in the Special Definitive Series was issued on April 14, 2001 on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the denomination of Rs. 3. It is a vertical design in Greenish Grey colour. "A" is the letter assigned for this denomination. The marginal inscription is "I.S.P. Nashik-Road A1", in capital letters and has been seen on the right margin of the sheet followed by "A3" seen on the left and right margin of the sheet.

Readers having more information on marginal inscriptions and cylinder numbers of any denomination are requested to contribute.

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STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

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

This week the following has been added to the site:  
NEW SERIES BY A K BAYANWALA 'INDIAN POSTAL HISTORY 1947-1997'

Our website, the Hub Site of 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>  
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ALSO IN THE NEWS

STANLEY GIBBONS ANNOUNCES DIGITAL CATALOGUES

Stanley Gibbons plans to release a major series of 'bespoke' digital stamp catalogues, which the company sees as a publishing innovation for the entire Stanley Gibbons catalogue publishing operation.

Their 'one country' digital catalogues will mean that philatelists no longer will have to buy a bulky catalogue containing some information they have little use for. In the future, collectors will be able to buy 'Malta', 'Argentina', 'Germany', 'Canada' or any other country they want as individual volumes.

"It's all about increasing choice and giving value for money," says SG production manager David Hardy, "The new digital 'one country' catalogue range will be both flexible and functional."

Final details are yet to be confirmed, but the new 'one country' series is expected to be launched with 'Australia' sometime in late August 2001. Because the Australia catalogue is one of the largest in the new series, the cover price will be around £12.95, and it's expected that other volumes will retail for as little as £8.95. Australia will be followed by Canada, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malta and Gibraltar.

The format of the new 'one catalogue' series is also innovative and exciting. Each set of pages will be printed on high quality cartridge paper and will be attractively housed in a specially designed four ring binder.

Individual volumes will come complete with general information pages, other vital philatelic information, and discount coupons for the other catalogues in the series.

Stanley Gibbons is keen to stress that the regular production of their standard printed catalogues will continue for the foreseeable future.

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NEWSPAPER SCAN

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

The Hindu Business Line, July 24, 2001  
E-POST DELIVERY AT THE DOORSTEP  
<http://www.blonnet.com/2001/07/24/stories/14243908.htm>

The Hindu, July 25, 2001  
WORKERS PROTEST AGAINST ECONOMIC POLICIES  
<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/2001/07/25/stories/02250003.htm>

The Hindu, July 25, 2001  
GOVT. EMPLOYEES GOING ON STRIKE TODAY  
<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/2001/07/25/stories/04252233.htm>

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA USED ABROAD

Our reader, Samuel W. Mangiameli of Santa Monica, California, USA wrote: " I know that stamps and cover of India "used abroad" is a popular area within Indian philately, given the fact that the Indian PO was the "mother" to so many different countries postal systems and Indian military men served in so many countries. There are several excellent sites covering this subject on the net, however, I'd like to suggest a regular column in which members could show examples, explore the subject, etc. There are even Indian covers used in Japan. I know because I missed acquiring one at an auction.

We would like to respond by saying that Our Research Coordinator and we were already working on serializing on 'India Used Abroad' among other subjects. 'Research Notes' is our regular column, and we invite all readers to contribute on this and any other subjects. Illustration are also welcome, these will be posted on the website (and NOT delivered in your mail box as a part of this newsletter) and a link provided herein.

NOTES ON PAKISTAN – Part 28

Earlier parts were published in our issues # 18 to 45, except # 26. These are available for free download at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

MORE AIR SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY

June 2, 1954, Lahore: The frequency of air service between Lahore and Karachi will be raised from three to five services a week from June 7, 1954.

From this date there will be two Convair services between Lahore and Dacca instead of one at present.

There will, however, be no service on Karachi – Lahore route on Thursday and Sundays.

The additional service on Lahore – Dacca route will be on Wednesday and the present Sunday service on the same route will now be changed over to Saturdays.

Karachi – Peshawar service via Lahore will remain twice a week as at present.

Pakistan is likely to open a new service on Lahore – Delhi route as soon as nationalization is complete.

#### PIA ANNOUNCES ITS INLAND NON – STOP SERVICE

PIA announced its Inland non-stop Super Constellation service between Karachi and Dacca from Monday, June 7, 1954.

#### ORIENT AIRWAYS LTD.

Effective from Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954 the following services are being suspended:

1. Convair Service operating over the route Karachi / Delhi / Calcutta / Dacca / Delhi / Karachi
2. Dakota Air coach Service operating over the route Dacca / Delhi / Lahore

Effective 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954 and until further notice booking will not be accepted to or from Delhi.

The following services are being introduced effective from Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1954 – Additional Convair service over the route Karachi / Lahore / Dacca.

Effective from Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1954 Convair Day return service between Karachi and Lahore.

The days of operation of all services originating from Karachi are being changed with effect from Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954.

#### PM INAUGURATES KARACHI – DACCA PIA SERVICE

12,000 miles hop in five hours.

#### ORIENT AIRWAYS

June 8, 1954, Peshawar: According to the new schedule of the Orient Airways service to and from Peshawar, the Plane would now arrive in Peshawar on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1-15 pm and will leave for Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7-30 am.

#### CRESCENT AIRWAYS DAKOTA CRASHES – NO LOSS OF LIFE

A Dakota freighter of the Crescent Airways crashed into an earth mound off the runway at Dacca Airport today (July 8, 1954) while attempting to take off for Karachi.

There were no passengers. All four members of the crew are safe. The aircraft is understood to have been severely damaged.

#### ORIENT AIRWAYS LIMITED

1. Effective from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 1954 the Convair Service between Karachi, Lahore and Dacca will operate East bound on Thursdays and Sundays, West bound on Fridays and Mondays.

Important change in the time schedule evening departure from Karachi and night flying from Lahore to Dacca.

2. Effective from Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1954, the Convair Service between Karachi and Lahore will operate on Wednesdays.

3. Effective from Tuesday

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

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#### READERS FORUM

<Send in your views for publication here>

AVINASH B. JAGTAP, BINNINGEN (SWITZERLAND) 21 JULY 2001 15:35

In the recent Newsletter No. 45 (19 July 2001) Mr. Mansoor Bolar has expressed his views on the revised Indian postal charges. I also find it ridiculous that a sender of a letter has to pay double the amount if his (or her) letter should weigh more than standard 20 g. I also agree with the proposal of Mr. Bolar that there should be "smaller slabs" for the extra postage to be paid for over-weight letters. One Rupee for every extra 5 grams. But I also think that for the man at the counter it is very easy to decide if a letter is within 20 g or more and he is not obliged to weight every increase of 5 gms which will determine the ultimate postage. Taking into consideration the volume of letters which the post office has to handle India Post is undoubtedly going to save much work and time of the postal worker who weighs letters and I doubt if balances in post offices are that accurate to determine every extra 5 gms!

#### AKHILESH ARKA

I have come across some issues of stamps released at the end of 1999 and beginning of 2000, where the paper & the colors the stamps are majorly different. All these stamps were printed by India Security Press. The stamps are: 1) UPU 4 values (1999) 2) Sri Satya Sai water supply project (1999) 3) The Hindustan Times (1999) 4) Family Planning Association of India (1999) 5) Jesus Christ (1999) 6) Tabo Monastery (1999) 7) Millennium Sunrise (2000) 8) 50 years of Republic of India- Gallantry Awardees (2000) 9) Endangered Species-Turtles (2000)

I came to know that the press in Nasik was shut for some time due to technical problems and after the press was re-started, the above stamps were printed. When this (re) printing happened, all the stamps were printed on different paper. Also the ink is glossy and bright. Does this classify as reprinting of commemorative stamps?

#### PREM MOHAN

Thank you for the Companion Newsletter of July 19. As a very active philatelist till mid eighties, I felt romantic about the world of stamps again. It makes a very nice reading. I would like to be on the subscription list. I would like to read it regularly.

I have a huge and reasonably organized collection of India, USA, Australia, theme of children, fdc and folders, special place cancellations etc. but mostly up to the beginning of 1980. It is located at my Calcutta residence, which I visit at intervals. Some is here in Jaipur. I have a huge stock of world stamps too. I would like to sell a part and exchange for my favorite theme or countries. I should be grateful to receive offers and suggested from any interested philatelist.

[premmohan@id.eth.net](mailto:premmohan@id.eth.net)

#### 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@stampsfindia.com](mailto:edit@stampsfindia.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. All contributions shall be acknowledged. Please Contact [admin@stampsfindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsfindia.com) today!

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THANK YOU.

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