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S T A M P S   O F   I N D I A   C O L L E C T O R S   C O M P A N I O N  
The First, Free and Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India  
AWARDS: Silver Medal with 'Felicitations of the Jury' at BELGICA 2001

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# 55, Thursday, March 7, 2002. Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan  
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our main web site, the 'Stamps of India' is, at present, available ONLY at its alternate location - <http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan> and all our other web sites are off air for the time being. This is a temporary arrangement and we therefore have not changed the links either here or at site. This necessitates that you substitute stampsofindia.com with geocities.com/mjhingan in the links for them to work.

Meanwhile please use ONLY [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) in place of all email addresses at stampsofindia.com or stampsofindia.net, given either here or at our web site.

Our new address and telephone numbers are at the end of this newsletter.  
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I N T H I S I S S U E

Hike In Postal Tariff Proposed  
A New Breed of Post Card  
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Next Meeting of PCI at Bhubaneswar  
American Express Travellers Cheques at Post Offices  
India Post to License Couriers  
PCI AGM at Nashik  
Publications - Gandhi Stamps, JPS Bulletin, Phila Runner, Philanews,  
Also In The News - First Mail For Afghanistan In Two Decades  
Newspaper Scan  
Research Notes - India Post In The Year 1873, Part 3  
Readers Forum - Mansoor B of Mangalore

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Recommend this newsletter to friends  
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have been in touch over telephone and email with our friends in philately in Gujarat that saw the worst communal violence in India in recent times, and report with relief that all are safe.

We are now up to date having cleared the accumulated backlog with last three issues # 52, 53, and 54. In issue # 54 we have also moved all

advertisements together at one place and carried out other minor changes. Thus we now have much more freedom in formatting an issue.

We have had to email the previous issue, twice. We had originally mailed the issue on February 28, 2002 and that disappeared in thin air. 72 hours and 36 telephone calls later, we decided to mail the issue once again through a different ISP on March 3, 2002 that as usual was instantly delivered. The ISP for the first mailing, Bharti Tele-Ventures' MantraOnLine, allowed us the batches of 5 email addresses only that made us spend whole night to complete the job and then failed to deliver. This is a very unusual practice and we have encountered it for the first time in our emailing life of over 10 years. This is the same ISP we wrote about doing very much the same thing in our issue # 8 of October 16, 2000. This is shameful especially as it comes from one of the major operators of basic telephony and mobile services that has recently also become national and international long distance operator, planning public issues of equity, and is the major player in telephone instrument manufacturing too. We plan to bring it to the notice of the Bharti Group's Chairman and Managing Director Sunil Mittal.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors to this issue: Ron Rice, G Madan Mohan Das, and B K Sinha.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### HIKE IN POSTAL TARIFF PROPOSED

"Dak ki dar mein ijaafe ho gaye, Paanch rupyon ke lifaafe ho gaye, Un ke khat pehle bhi thay aate nahin, Aur na aane ke bahane ho gaye".  
(The rates of postage have increased and the envelopes now cost five Rupees. The letters from my beloved weren't coming even earlier and now one more excuse is there.)

The hike in the inland postal tariff has become an annual affair it seems. The Finance Minister of India, Yashwant Sinha in his national budget presentation in the Parliament on February 28, 2002 proposed once again a hike in postal rates. India Post shall announce the date on which the new rates will come in to force after the parliament passes the budget.

As per the budget proposals the Inland letter rate is slated to go up to Rs. 5 from Rs. 4 for the first weight slab of 20 grams and Rs. 5 from Rs. 4 for the additional 20 grams or part thereof. The Inland Letter Cards will now cost Rs. 2.50 from Rs. 2. Postcards having printed matter will cost Rs. 6 from Rs. 3 and the Postcards used in response to competitions organized through media will now cost Rs. 10 from existing tariff of Rs. 5.

Parcel rates have been increased to Rs. 19 from Rs. 16 for the first 500 grams and Rs. 16 from Rs. 15 for additional 500 grams or part thereof.

The proposed increase in the book post category in the Book, pattern and sample packets is Re. 1 for the 50 grams, to Rs. 4 from Rs.3. It is reduced by Re. 1, to Rs. 3 from Rs. 4 for additional 50 grams or part thereof.

There is a major change in postal rates for book packets containing periodicals and printed books. These rates are now based on the value of the publication.

Book Packets containing Periodicals costing up to Rs. 20 would need postage of Rs. 2 for first 100 grams and Rs. 3 for additional 100 grams or part thereof, while those costing between Rs. 21 to Rs. 50 would be charged Rs. 4 for first 100 grams and Rs. 5 for additional 100 grams of part thereof. For periodicals costing Rs. 51 and above Rs. 8 for first 100 grams and Rs. 9 for additional 100 grams would have to be paid.

Book Packets containing Printed books of up to Rs. 50 in value would be charged Re. 1 for every 100 grams. The tariff for printed books of value between Rs. 51 and Rs. 250 would be Rs. 2 for every 100 grams, while that for books of Rs. 251 and above value would be Rs. 8 for every 100 grams.

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A NEW BREED OF POST CARD

Postcards in India come in many types, ordinary costing 50 paise, postcard with printed matter for Rs. 3 and postcard for competitions for Rs. 5. Now India Post plans to introduce another new product, Meghdoot Postcards. It will cost 25 paise and will have advertisements on the address side in the space that on a regular postcard is available for writing. This forms part of Finance Minister's budget proposals and shall be introduced on a date announced by India Post after the parliament passes the budget.

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NEXT NATIONAL EXHIBITION ANNOUNCED

Sahadeva Sahoo, President of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) announced that the 10<sup>th</sup> National Philatelic Exhibition will be held at Bhubaneswar from December 25 to 29, 2002. INPEX 2002 will have about 1000 standard size frames and is being organized by the Eastern India Philatelists' Association under the patronage of India Post and the PCI. Sahoo shall be the PCI Coordinator for this exhibition.

For more details please contact the Organizing Secretary of the exhibition, B K Sinha, INPEX 2002 Secretariat, N5/265 IRC Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar 751015; telephone +91-674-555209; email [bksinha@yahoo.com](mailto:bksinha@yahoo.com)

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INDIAN PARTICIPATION AT PHILAKOREA 2002

The PHILAKOREA 2002 World Stamp Exhibition will be held from August 2 to 11, 2002 at Pacific Hall and Indian Hall at COEX in Seoul. The exhibition is being organized by the Ministry of Communication and the Philatelic Federation of Korea under FIP Patronage and FIAP Auspices, and supported by Ministry of Human & Resources Development, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, and Ministry of Culture & Tourism. Over 150 countries are participating in this 3500-frame exhibition there will be 250 booths spread over 20,000 square meter area. India Post shall also have a booth at the show.

Korea earlier hosted world exhibitions in 1984 and 1994 and both were memorable events for India. D N Jatia was reelected president of FIP

garnering better support than was given in 1980, and in 1994 Dilip Shah won the Grand Prix D' Honneur!

PHILAKOREA shall be the only FIP world show in the year 2002. The General Assembly of World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), 67th FIP Congress, and the 9th Government Postage Stamp Printers Conference (GPSPC) will also be held in conjunction with PHILAKOREA 2002.

M G Pittie and Ajeet Singhee, both of Hyderabad, were appointed Jury. Pittie shall be the Team Leader of Asia Section of Traditional Class and represents Korea not India! Ajeet Singhee shall be judging in the Postal Stationery Class.

G Madan Mohan Das of Chennai is the National Commissioner from India. 24 applications were made from India out of which 16 exhibits, including 2 in Literature Class, were accepted by the organizers. The participants from India are: Ajit Choradia - 'Indian Classic A study', H G Bisani - 'Postage stamps and Stationery of Gwalior State', Ajay Kumar Mittal - 'Indore', Anil Suri - 'Fiscals of Cochin', Anjali Dutta - 'Fiscals of Gwalior', Damayanti Pittie - 'Handstruck Postage Stamps of British India 1779-1854', Bijoy Kumar Sinha - 'Universal Postal Union', Dinesh Chandra Sharma - 'Summer Olympic Games', Ravi Bhansali - 'Modifications', S Satish Kumar - 'The Fluttering Rainbow', Nidhi Mittal - 'History of Architecture', Moomin Sinha - 'World Refugee Year', Ananya Dutta - 'British India Postage Stamps', Salahudeen H Mohammed - 'Handstruck Stamps of Great Britain', Radha Krishan Sarawagi & Madhukar Deogawanka - 'Brahamini Dawk History of Postal Communications in Mewar', and Madan Middha - 'Year Book of Philately'.

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COUNTERFEIT STAMP PAPERS RACKET BUSTED IN TAMILNADU

A major racket in the printing of counterfeit stamp papers has been uncovered in Tamil Nadu. The Crime Branch in Chennai has arrested four people in this connection and seized about Rs 1.4 million worth of fake stamp papers of Rs 5000 and Rs 1000 denominations from them. The racket has been on for a couple of years and the extent could be huge.

It is a double loss for the state government. On the one hand, many properties are undervalued and on the other, counterfeit stamp papers are used to register properties. In a bid to tackle this menace the authorities are toying with the idea of substituting the present system of registering properties through stamp papers with a more foolproof way of payment of duty.

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EVENTS

NAGARPEX: 35000 persons visited the first district level exhibition of Pune Region from January 5 to 7, 2002 organized by India Post at Ahmednagar. 36 participants exhibited in 102 frames. Philatelists, P G Bhargave and S A Vijaykar were members of the Jury. Chief Guest, Dilip Gandhi, the local Member of the Parliament, distributed the awards. Two special covers and special postmarks, and a Souvenir were brought out on this occasion.

The district level exhibitions, Sholapex at Solapur and Satarapex at Satara shall be held in October 2002.

ORPEX, The seventh Orissa state level exhibition will be held from April 26 to 28, 2002 at the Institute of Engineers, Madhusudan Nagar, Bhubaneswar. One Special Cover, three Special Postmarks and a Souvenir cum Catalog of Exhibits will be released on this occasion. The dealers booths are available for Rs. 5000 for the duration of the exhibition. For details please contact the Organizing Secretary, ORPEX 2002, Office of the Chief Post Master General, Bhubaneswar 751 001.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARK

A special cover with special postmark will be issued to mark the Silver Jubilee of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi on March 9, 2002. Mail orders may be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street H O, New Delhi 110 001.

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HERITAGE SITES ON POSTAL STATIONERY

India Post in an unusual move decided to use a single motif for a calendar year for all types of postal stationery. The motif for the year 2002 is Panch Mahal at Fatehpur Sikri. It is one of the 22 Sites from India on the World Heritage List by UNESCO and the logo of World Heritage program appears on the stamp design.

On January 1, 2002 the Single Postcard, Reply Post Cards, Competition Post Card, Inland Letter Card, Envelope, Aerogramme, and Registered envelope with Panch Mahal motif were issued in the denomination of 50 paise, 50+50 paise, Rs. 5, Rs. 2, Rs. 4, Rs. 8.50, and Rs. 21 respectively. These were printed by India Security Press, Nashik Road, in the quantity of 0.5 million each except the Competition Post Card that was printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

Both the government owned security presses, India Security Press at Nashik Road and Security Printing Press at Hyderabad will use the same motif for the postal stationery with advertisements throughout the year. The private security printers, Calcutta Security Printers and Madras Security Printers will use other motifs as per the instructions of India Post from time to time.

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JAMMU & KASHMIR AT NUTMEG AUCTION

Nutmeg Stamp Sales is offering through auction the Jammu & Kashmir collection of Robert Lyman, in nearly 400 lots, over 100 of which are excellent postal history items. There are too many wonderful items to mention, and the catalogue is well illustrated. The Lyman collection is a "special auction" within Nutmeg Mail Auction #46, closing March 26, 2002. To request a catalog email [info@nutmegstamp.com](mailto:info@nutmegstamp.com) or visit <http://www.nutmegstamp.com>

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CONFERENCE OF MUSEUMS

India Post's National Philatelic Museum at New Delhi participated in All India Annual General Conference of the Museum Association of India held at Bhopal from March 1 to 3, 2002 as a Special Invitee. This is first time that the philatelic museum has participated in such an event and we hope it will benefit with interacting with other museums.

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Postal Services Affected During Strike In Kerala

Trade unions called a statewide general strike in Kerala on March 5, 2000 in support of state government employees on strike. More than 325,000 state government workers have been on strike for a month to protest a government decision to curtail leave travel benefits and

defer payment of February and March salaries by 15 days due to a severe funds shortage. Workers in state-run industrial units, banks, insurance companies, the postal service and the telecom were all off work. Buses and other vehicles were off the road and with all shops, offices and institutions lying closed the strike brought all activities in Kerala to a halt. The government has shown no signs of relenting and the strike looks set to intensify in days to come, with doctors and hospital staff planning to join in.

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NEXT MEETING OF PCI AT BHUBANESWAR

The next general meeting of PCI will be held at on April 28, 2002 at 9.30 hours at the Institute of Engineers, Madhusudan Nagar, Bhubaneswar 751 001. Later on the same day PCI Governing Council will also meet.

The members are requested to send their points for insertion in agenda to the President, Sahadeva Sahoo, by April 15, 2002. His address is Vice-Chancellor Bungalow, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, 5R-1, Unit - 8, Krishi Vihar, OUAT Colony, Bhubaneswar 751 003. The telephone numbers are (674) 561606 (Residence) and (674) 402677 (Office) and the email [sahadevas@yahoo.com](mailto:sahadevas@yahoo.com)

Kindly intimate your arrival to B K Sinha, Secretary PCI. He may be contacted by phone (674) 555209 or email [bksinha@yahoo.com](mailto:bksinha@yahoo.com). In case of difficulty in contacting him through phone, the President may be contacted.

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AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELLERS CHEQUES AT POST OFFICES

India Post has agreed to sell and encash the American Express Bank's travellers' cheques at select Speed Post offices. Initially, the service will be available at 253 post offices (yet to be identified) mainly in the metros and important tourist destinations. On its part, AmEx will use Speed Post and other postal services to reach its customers. This is a win-win situation. While AmEx gains from the large network of post offices, the move will generate additional revenue of about Rs 50 million per year for India Post.

AmEx will set up linking facilities at these post offices and train personnel for the job. India Post does not plan to recruit manpower for this. "... will use the surplus workforce created because of the computerization of some 3,000 post offices,". The cheques at the post offices will be available in all the denominations and currencies the bank offers globally. The post offices will also function as payment collection centres for AmEx customers. However, the partners have not yet worked out the mode of payment for the services. Putting the infrastructure in place will take around two months, after which post offices will begin selling travellers' cheques.

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INDIA POST TO LICENSE COURIERS

Indian Post Office Act of 1898 is to be amended to bring private courier operators under India Post. The Postal Services Board would be made the licensing authority for private courier operators. The obligations, suspension, appeal procedures and penalties are being provided for in the new Act for violations by the registered couriers. Provisions are also being made for punishing unauthorized persons from carrying/delivering mail. The penalties include a two-year term in jail and Rs 25,000 in fine or both.

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#### PCI AGM AT NASHIK

The annual general meeting of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) for the year 2001-2002 was held from 11 AM onwards on the Christmas Day at Nashik during INPEX-EMPIREPEX 2001.

The issues raised by the members included ensuring regional representation in nominating PCI representatives to the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Government of India, that the Governing Council to take decisions in selecting representatives or nominees of PCI to any commission or committee of FIAP, FIP and the like and also in selecting National Commissioners and Jury members to Philatelic Exhibitions, and that the members representing the PCI in any manner, inside or outside the country, must report on his/her performance to the Governing Council. After discussions it was also agreed that the decisions of the Governing Council should be put up before the General Body whenever the General Body met thereafter.

As the meeting was held during the 9<sup>th</sup> national, a lot of discussion took place on the exhibition and its management. The organizers could not mount all the exhibits including those in the invitee class even though the mounting went on till the last day. And as usual the youth exhibitors were the worst sufferers. Vispi Dastur, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee blamed the frames provided by India Post as the reason. India post supplied over 1100 frames against a requirement of about 900 frames needed. The extra frames are requisitioned and provided as a matter of course to take care of frames damaged in transit. With sufficient time and proper planning mounting difficulties could easily be avoided. Believe it or not, the transportation of frames to the venue, their erection, fitting of glass to the frames, and mounting of the exhibits was all aimed to be achieved with in 24 hours.

Colonel Jayant Dutta of Pune wanted strict adherence to rules on allotment of frames and not allow 8 frames to less than Large Vermeil medal winners nor allow Large Vermeil winners to get 5 frames. Several cases of the violations of the rules in allotment were reported. Dr. Kumud Kanitkar of Mumbai wanted that the local organizing committee be given a handbook on organization and arrangements of an exhibition. Pradip Jain suggested that norms be laid down for special prizes, that some rules in appointing apprentice Jury must be followed and to avoid any mismanagement in organization a Coordinator be appointed for all national exhibitions by the PCI. Chandrakant Andhare of Chhatisgarh Philatelic Association requested that the jury must interact with the exhibitors to let them know of the jury's comprehension. Dr. Satyendra Kumar Agarwal of Varanasi also wanted a guidebook for the working of the Jury.

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#### NEW BOOK ON GANDHI STAMPS

'Gandhi in Stamps: The Courier of Truth and Non-violence' by Prof. P C Jain published in 2002. 125 pages. ISBN 81-86880-88-7. Price Rs.900 or US \$ 75. The contents of the book include: Preface 1. The courier of truth and non-violence - introduction, 2. World's glowing tribute to Gandhi, 3. The dawn of life, 4. Gandhi in South Africa, 5. Journey to Summit, 6. Satyagraha, 7. Dandi March 8. Quit India Movement, 9. Charkha, Khadi and Village Industry, 10. Gandhi, Nehru and other leaders, 11. Gandhi, the Saint, Savior and Seeker of Truth, and Index.

The title may be had from the publishers, Aravali Books International Private Limited, W-30, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi-110020, India, Telephone: 91-11-6841564, 91-11-6911417, Fax: 91-11-6849782, Email: [aravali@nde.vsnl.net.in](mailto:aravali@nde.vsnl.net.in)

JPS BULLETIN, #150, October-December 2001, Quarterly  
Editor: S S Basan  
Publisher: Jamshedpur Philatelic Society  
Address: P O Box 86, Jamshedpur 831 001  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 75 in India

PHILA RUNNER, # 2, February 2002, Quarterly  
Editor: Humera Ahmed [pmgpune@vsnl.com](mailto:pmgpune@vsnl.com)  
Publisher: Pune Postal Region, India Post  
Address: Mrs. P P Bhosale, Secretary Philatelic Advisory Committee & OSD, Regional Office, Pune 411001  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 30 in India  
We picked up a copy of the issue #1, November 2001 at INPEX-EMPIREPEX but missed out on reporting the same earlier as a friend walked away with it. It is a quality publication and we have no hesitation in recommending the same.

PHILANEWS, #1, January-February 2002, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Rajesh Paharia, [pahariarajesh@msn.com](mailto:pahariarajesh@msn.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Address: A S Mittal, President, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur -3  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

IND DAK, Vol.25 No. 9 & 10, September & October 2001, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Dr. P S Dixit  
Publisher: P R L Publications Private Limited  
Address: Varaprasad, Director, P O Box 4064, 31 Service Road, REMCO Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560040. [varaprasadz@yahoo.co.in](mailto:varaprasadz@yahoo.co.in)  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 125 or US\$ 20 by airmail

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CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

We require regular correspondents everywhere in India to cover the 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@stampsofindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsofindia.com) today!

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STAMPSONINDIA.COM UPDATES

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>  
EVENTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>  
AUCTIONS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a700.htm>  
PUBLICATIONS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Publications/a600.htm>  
ORGANIZATIONS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Orgs/a400.htm>  
DEALERS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Dealers/a800.htm>  
ARTICLES <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Features/a500.htm>  
ASK US <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Questions/f00.htm>  
LINKS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Links/z00.htm>  
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ALSO IN THE NEWS



FIRST MAIL FOR AFGHANISTAN IN TWO DECADES  
From 'The Dawn', Karachi, February 3, 2002

Afghanistan's postal service resumed operations in the capital on February 2, 2002 for the first time in more than two decades with a promise to deliver mail anywhere, any time. "We are trying to provide a good service and deliver letters on time for anyone who pays - inside and outside the country," said postmaster Mohammad Gulam Safi. Hundreds of customers queued up at 18 post offices that opened in the capital to buy stamps or make international telephone calls from new booths erected by authorities. Letter writers did brisk business on the pavements outside, while vendors selling pens and paper quickly staked out their patches.

To read the full story, visit <http://www.dawn.com/2002/02/03/int6.htm>

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NEWSPAPER SCAN

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

The Times of India, February 14, 2002  
ONE-STOP POST SHOP: ARRAY OF SERVICES ON THE CARDS  
[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=999236&sType=1](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=999236&sType=1)

The Times of India, February 15, 2002  
POSTAL UNIONS FIGHT FOR THEIR SURVIVAL  
[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=1004370&sType=1](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=1004370&sType=1)

The Times of India, February 16, 2002  
DATA POST LAUNCHED IN TN  
[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=1085322&sType=1](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=1085322&sType=1)

The Economic Times, February 21, 2002  
INDIA POST LTD.  
[http://www.economictimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=1605295&sType=1](http://www.economictimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=1605295&sType=1)

The Economic Times, February 28, 2002  
PAYING BILLS WAS NEVER SO EASY  
[http://www.economictimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=2292732&sType=1](http://www.economictimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=2292732&sType=1)

The Economic Times, March 2, 2002  
POSTAL TARIFF HIKES WON'T BRIDGE GAP  
[http://www.economictimes.com/articleshow.asp?art\\_id=2511863&sType=1](http://www.economictimes.com/articleshow.asp?art_id=2511863&sType=1)

The Hindu, March 6, 2002  
DEPT. OF POSTS, UTI BANK TO LAUNCH COBRANDED CARD  
<http://www.hinduonnet.com/stories/2002030601571900.htm>

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 3

POSTAL NOTICE

The postage chargeable on letters sent to the countries mentioned below *through Trieste* is altered as follows, with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1873: -

Austria, Luxembourg, German States, Austrian Post Offices in Turkey  
Present Rates per ½ oz., 8 annas 8 pies; Revised Rates per ½ oz., 8  
annas

Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland, Moldavia, Wallachia Servia  
Present Rates per ½ oz., 9 annas 4 pies; Revised Rates per ½ oz., 9  
annas

- F. R. Hogg, Officiating Director General of the Post Office of India.  
Calcutta; The 5<sup>th</sup> March 1873

POSTAL NOTICE

All letters intended for Jedda, Mecca, or other places in West Arabia  
should be prepaid as far as Suez, i. e., at the rate of six annas per  
half ounce. Such letters will be forwarded from Suez by the Turkish post  
or such other means of conveyance as may offer the best prospect of  
speedy delivery.

- F. R. Hogg, Officiating Director General of the Post Office of India.  
Calcutta; The 8<sup>th</sup> March 1873

POSTAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that under a Treasury warrant received from Her  
Majesty's Post Master General, the postage on letters for Zanzibar  
forwarded *via* Bombay to Aden by the Mail Steamers of the Peninsular and  
Oriental Steam Navigation Company and thence by the British India Steam  
Navigation Company's vessels, is increased from 4 annas to 8 annas per  
half ounce.

2. Prepayment in full by this route is compulsory.

3. Letters forwarded by this route and by the continuation of the line  
to Mozambique, Delagoa Bay, Natal and the Cape of Good Hope, will also  
be subject to an increase from 4 annas to 8 annas per half ounce.

4. Prepayment in full by this route is compulsory.

5. Letters forwarded by this route can be registered only for Natal and  
the Cape of Good Hope, the registration fee being 4 annas per cover.

- F. R. Hogg, Officiating Director General of the Post Office of India.  
Simla; The 19<sup>th</sup> May 1873

POSTAL NOTICE

Under an arrangement concluded by Her Majesty's Post Master General, the  
postage payable on *Registered* letters addressed to Cairo or any place in  
the interior of Egypt, covered by British packet, is increased from 6  
annas to 7 annas 4 pies per half ounce in weight.

2. The fee for registration payable on each letter is also increased  
from 4 annas to 6 annas.

3. No charge will be made when these letters are delivered.

4. The rates of postage payable on ordinary letters to Cairo and places  
in the interior of Egypt remain unaltered.

- G. Battye, Officiating Director General of the Post Office of India.  
Simla; The 14<sup>th</sup> August 1873

To be continued.

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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.  
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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. We strive hard to bring you comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions. We also would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send in your comments, views, reports, articles and other features for publication>

MANSOOR B OF MANGALORE

I am delighted to see your newsletter back on the web. I would like to throw light on the pen cancellations (line drawn across the stamps by using their pens, usually ball pens) used by the Postal workers to cancel the stamps when they are not cancelled by the concerned country or place.

Most of the stamp collectors are angered when beautiful or valuable stamps are cancelled by this method, as they steal the beauty of stamps. It is not that the stamp collector wants the stamp to remain un-cancelled but the way the stamp is cancelled makes the stamp lose its value.

I would like other readers to comment on this method of cancellation and would like to know what the Postal rule says with regard to the un-cancelled stamps. Does other countries follow the same method etc.

I look forward to hear from other senior Philatelists and to know if there was any action suggested tackling this problem.

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