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STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION

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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#56 Thursday March 14, 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 in place of all email addresses at stampsofindia.com or stampsofindia.net, given either here or at our web site.

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I N T H I S I S S U E

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Readers Forum - Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap on Pen Cancellations

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Recommend this newsletter to friends
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The original research in postal history of India including princely states and post offices abroad is very dear to us. However, we feel that we are not doing enough for it through our column 'Research Notes' in every issue of this newsletter. We think the subject may be better served, by dealing with it in more depth, albeit less frequently. Say once every month or even every two months in a separate publication of about 20 A4 size pages devoted to it. We seek your response to this.

We need to know (1) whether you are interested in postal history of India, (2) your choice of frequency of publication - once every month or every two months (3) the number of pages desired (4) and finally the million dollar question, whether you will be willing to pay for it? (5) and If the answer to question # 3 is yes, then how much per year? Of course any suggestions you wish to make are welcome, as always.

We are updating our records and checking the name and postal address in addition to the email address for our subscribers. For the majority we do have this info and request the others to kindly send in their name and postal address. This is also a good time to see if you wish to change your email address and that your name is spelled correctly. Needless to say we respect your privacy and do not sell or rent this data at all. The issue of April 4, 2002 will not be mailed to incomplete records and we will notify these persons individually.

We take this opportunity to offer our apologies for non-availability of our free email service on stampsofindia.net, since last several months. This issue is related to hosting of our sites at their own URL and everything that makes the world go around i.e. MONEY.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors to this issue: Sudhir Kumar Jain from Satna, and Prashant Pandya from Vadodara.

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

##### THE FIRST CUSTOMIZED GREETING CARDS

India Post issued the first customized greeting card for 'NovaPen' - 'the convenient insulin experience' in January 2002. The card, in small size, is for birthday greetings and printed in the quantity of 10,000. The sponsors of the issue intend to send it to the doctors on their birthdays. This issue is not available to public or philatelists.

##### INDIA POST'S VSATS ARE DOWN

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The VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals) system introduced two years ago by India Post is not working apparently due to shifting from INSAT 2C satellite to newly launched INSAT 3C satellite. The new and faster system is expected to be in place in a few days. There are 77 VSAT stations in the country. They are connected to the Extended Satellite Money Order Stations via telephone. Over a million money orders are sent every day. Post offices all over the country have not been sending money orders via the speedy VSAT over the last few weeks, leaving thousands of people who have already sent money through the service in the lurch. With the temporary stoppage of VSAT, post offices are currently sending money orders via the older, manual system. This is causing an inordinate delay in dispatching money orders. VSAT came as a breath of fresh air, as it promised to transfer money within hours, as compared to the lengthy manual money order system prevalent earlier.

NEW SPECIAL POSTMARK

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On 2nd March 2002 a special cover has been issued at Patna on Jainism. India Post has provided a special postmark on it. In the 2600th birth year of Lord Mahavir, Bihar Puravid Parishad and Jain Sangh of Patna jointly organized National Seminar on Lord Mahavir in Art, Archeology & Literature at Patna (Bihar) on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002. Special cover issued on this occasion depicts photo of an idol of Jain Tirthankar of Maurya Period, 3rd Century B C that is the oldest Jain idol of the world. It was found in Lohanipur, near Patna and exhibited at Patna Museum.

Special postmark bears line sketch of bronze Jain Dharma Chakra of 2<sup>nd</sup> BC Naresh Kumar Jain of Patna was instrumental in this issue.

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CABLE TV OPERATORS REGISTRATION

The Post office has provided all kinds of services to citizens. The government does not have any other organization that can match the reach and area of operation of the Post Office. Recently we learned another such service that is being provided at the state level.

In Tripura State the Cable TV operators are required to get their licenses registered with the Head Post Office concerned prior to starting of business in the state. The registration charges are Rs. 500 for a calendar year. The operators are to renew their license on payment of renewal fee of Rs.500 for every calendar year 15 days prior to expiry of the validity of their license. The State Government may take necessary action on the Operators running their business without any valid registration.

Our Indian readers may let us know if other state governments are using post office for this or any other service that is not available countrywide.

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BARODA PHILATELIC SOCIETY ELECTIONS

Annual General Meeting of Baroda Philatelic Society, Vadodara, was held on March 10, 2002. Following members were unanimously elected to the Governing Council for the year 2002.

President: R P Shah

Vice President: Prashant H Pandya

Hon. Secretary: Timir R Shah

Joint Secretary: Dr. Chirayu S Bardoliwala

Treasurer: D T Desai

Librarian: K H Kacchhia

Members: Vikram S Talati and Abhay U Mande

Internal Auditors: V C Chokshi and D K Puneekar

Office Coordinator: Parul H Shah

The Associate Membership to the Society is welcome. Visit <http://www.geocities.com/vadophil> for more details

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES January to March 2002

POSTCARD WITH ADVERTISEMENT Panchmahal, 50 Paise, Brown

March 10, SPP, Tamil, Aids

March 26, ISP, Hindi, State Innovation Family Planning Project Agency

March 26, SPP, Bengali, Parachute Uttam

INLAND LETTER CARD WITH ADVERTISEMENT Panchmahal, Rs 2, Blue

January 7, SPP, Kannada, National Savings, Stamp - Peacock

January 21, SPP, Telugu, Ambica Agarbatties,

January 21, ISP, Hindi, Engine brand Mustard Oil

January 29, SPP, English, Karur Vysya Bank, Stamp - Peacock

February 28, SPP, English, Pothy's Aalayam of Textiles

February 28, SPP, English, Adyar ananda Bhavan Sweets & Snacks

February 28, SPP, Tamil, Lakshmi Vilas Bank

March 10, SPP, Tamil, Aids

March 15, CSP, Hindi, Agmark, Multicolor, Stamp - Ellora Caves

March 15, MSP, Hindi, Agmark, Multicolor, Stamp - Rhino

March 15, SPP, English, National Insurance,
March 26, ISP, Hindi, SIFPSA
March 28, MSP, Malayalam, Aids, Multicolor, Stamp -Rhino
March 28, SPP, English, REPCO Bank Chennai,
March 31, SPP, Tamil, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

AEROGRAMME WITH ADVERTISEMENT Panchmahal, Rs 8.50, Mauve
January 1, MSP, English, West Bengal Tourism, Stamp - Agra Fort

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REGIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

Kurnool Region of India Post organized a Regional Philatelic Exhibition at Anantpur from February 15 to 17, 2002.

South Bengal Region of India Post organized a Regional Philatelic Exhibition at Durgapur from March 9 to 10, 2002.

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AUCTIONS

Indian Thematic Society indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com is holding its 16th postal auction closing on April 15, 2002. There are 39 lots of India, worldwide thematics, and philatelic literature.

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PUBLICATIONS

VADOPHIL, #89, January 2002, Quarterly  
Editor: Prashant H Pandya [vadophil@yahoo.com](mailto:vadopphil@yahoo.com)  
Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society  
Address: "Jaya" Dala Patel's Pole, Narsinhji's Pole, Vadodara 390 001  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 100 in India

SIGNET, Vol. 24 #4, January-March 2002, Quarterly  
Editor: S Sahoo [signetpci@yahoo.com](mailto:signetpci@yahoo.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Congress of India  
Address: Dak Bhawan Annexe, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 100 in India

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EGROUPS ON INDIAN PHILATELY

There are two eGroups, both at Yahoo that we know of on Indian Philately. Yahoo is one of the free service providers that allows eGroups to function with one email address & website that lets you share photos & files, plan events, send a newsletter, stay in touch with friends and family, discuss sports, health, current events, and more. The Groups were earlier known as Clubs at Yahoo but the clubs are now merging with Yahoo Groups.

Princely States of India eGroup at Yahoo Groups was set up in April 2001 for discussion of all topics related to the princely states of India be it history, politics, stories, collectables, genealogies, etc. Tangential subjects are also acceptable, such as the British Raj or the post-Independence states of India. Commercial postings are also acceptable, as long as you add "\$\$\$" in the subject line of your message. Ron Rice, the editor of Princely States Report, is also the Group Moderator for this eGroup that now has over 50 members. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/princelystates/>

Ron says that there should be enough to generate effective and fun group discussion. Consider uploading a scan of latest philatelic or numismatic acquisition, and then post a message telling all about it.

Consider sending a note about your personal interests as they relate to the princely states. Many of us are in the throws of interesting research, and there are likely to be kindred spirits in this forum who can provide assistance and/or swap war stories. Have you recently read or written a book about the princely states? Send us a brief review or synopsis! Do you know of any princely states research that is going on in the universities? Tell us about it!

Indian Philatelists Forum moderated by Prashant Padya at Yahoo Groups has nearly 100 members. This group was started in September 2001. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/indianphilatelists/>

As a member, of either of the Group, you will be able to, Post messages to your Group by email -- and stay in touch with your Group from anywhere, without having to log into the Web, Search the message archive in your Group by keyword, create and maintain databases to store information, choose from thousands more Groups that fit your interests, choose from more descriptive search results to help you locate the right Group for your needs.

Additionally, Group owners and moderators (known as founders on Yahoo! Clubs) will be able to, moderate messages before they are posted, moderate members to decide who is allowed to join your group, turn certain features on and off whenever you like, offer members custom levels of access to Group features, customize moderator abilities, add HTML to your Group description (known as the Founder's Message in Yahoo! Clubs), and much, much more!

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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 info 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>
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- 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>

THIS WEEK

Updated Segments: News, Articles, and Links.
Added Content: 'Establishment of Post Offices in Baroda' by Prashant H. Pandya in the Articles segment.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

WORLD'S OLDEST POSTCARD SELLS FOR RECORD PRICE

A picture postcard, believed to be the world's oldest, was sold on March 8, 2002. Eugene Gomberg, a collector from Latvia, paid 31,750 pounds for postcard put up for auction at the London Stamp Exchange by postal historian Edward Proud. This is a new record price for a postcard.

Dating from 1840 the printed, hand-colored caricature postcard is believed to be 20 years older than rival claimants from Germany, U.S. and Austria, which all date from the 1860s. Proud discovered it in February after a private collector brought it to his attention. Victorian eccentric Theodore Hook had mailed it to himself as a practical joke in 1840, the same year that Britain started the world's first prepaid postal system by issuing the "Penny Black" stamp.

The British Philatelic Association authenticated the "Penny Black" on Hook's card. Proud earlier hailed the postcard as an important find. "It proves that Hook was behind one of the greatest Victorian inventions," he said.

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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

Zee News TV Channel

THE ONE STOP FACILITY STORE BY SHWETA KHANNA

<http://www.zeenews.com/links/articles.asp?aid=36139>

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 4

POSTAL NOTICE

Consequent upon the establishment of a British Post Office at Beyrout, correspondence may now be sent to that place at the following rates:  
*Correspondence for Beyrout via Bombay through British Post Office at Alexandria*

Letters per ½ oz. ... 8 annas 8 pies

Newspapers not exceeding 4 oz. ... 1 anna 4 pies

Packets of books and patterns:

- not exceeding 1 oz. ... 1 anna 4 pies
- exceeding 1 oz. and not exceeding 2 oz. ...2 annas 8 pies
- exceeding 2 oz. and not exceeding 4 oz. ...4 annas
- every additional 4 oz. or part thereof ... 4 annas

2. Letters for Beyrout can be registered by the above-mentioned route on payment of a fee of 8 annas.

3. The prepayment of letters is optional, and that of newspapers, books and patterns compulsory.

- F. R. Hogg, Officiating Director General of the Post Office of India. Simla; The 28<sup>th</sup> October 1873

This completes all the postal notices known for the year 1873. There was a long Notification on 'Inland Rates' and 'Official Correspondence Rules' from this year that we shall serialize from the next issue. In

addition there were the half-yearly 'Mail Steamer Calendar' that we plan to put up later on the site with link here.

#### DÉJÀ VU

We reproduce a very interesting postal notice dated March 28, 1899 that is very current in content. See 'A New Breed of Post Card' story in the previous issue.

With effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1899, single and reply cards of private manufacture may be posted for transmission by the Inland post as post cards, provided that they are in conformity, as regards size and weight, with the inland post cards issued by the Indian Post Office. Such postcards may be posted either with or without adhesive stamps affixed to them in payment of postage; if sent unpaid, however, double the postage rate for a postcard will be charged on delivery.

2. With effect from the same date, advertisements, engravings, and certain other matter, viz., the name and address of the sender and the date of posting, will be allowed on the address side of postcards whether issued by the Post Office or of private manufacture. The heading "Post-card" or "Reply post-card" will also be allowed to be written, printed, or otherwise impressed on the address side of cards of private manufacture. This will be subject to the condition that sufficient room shall be left for a clear address and for the official marks of the Post Office.

- A. U. Fanshawe, Director General of the Post Office of India.  
Calcutta; The 28<sup>th</sup> March 1899

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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>

#### DR. AVINASH B. JAGTAP ON PEN CANCELLATIONS

I read the letter by Mr. Manssor B. of Magalore in your News-Letter No. 55 of March 7, 2002.

Naturally it is disgusting when one receives an envelope with beautiful pictorial stamps affixed to it that have been pen cancelled. If the envelope is from a foreign country, the stamps, which had not been previously cancelled in the country where the letter had originated, may face the pen cancellation. Even in Europe I receive such letters (mostly from UK) with stamps, which had not been postmarked in Great Britain, pen cancelled. This pen cancellation is undertaken in Great Britain itself and not in Switzerland.

Many times the stamps are not at all defaced. This is equally true in case of Indian stamps affixed to the envelopes, which I receive from time to time. Since there is no international rules or regulations, regarding how these stamps should be rendered useless, so that they cannot be used once again, we cannot expect any other possibility than this easy way of canceling them, namely "pen cancellation".

The question of Indian stamps delivered in India, may also be pen cancelled, if they miss the obliterator of a postman in the post office. This is then objectionable, since the un-cancelled stamps can be still obliterated anywhere in India, even when they miss the sight of a postman at the originating location. The foreign stamps on foreign mail, as a rule cannot be and should not be cancelled by Indian obliterator! Otherwise it will be a foreign stamps used in India! and perhaps it will fetch more money than it is really worth.

I have such Indian stamps of 1900-1920 era, where these stamps bear French or Portuguese obliterator. Could these then be treated as Indian stamps used abroad? I have also an Indian stationary cover addressed to Germany, bearing one KG V stamp, which was cancelled in Germany with the wording "Entwerted in Leipzig" ("Cancelled in Leipzig"). This German obliterator was specially designed for cancellation of foreign stamps and the cover should be regarded as unique, even it should not be looked upon as an object for speculation!

At present we have two alternatives, either stamps on your cover (received from India or abroad) may not carry any cancellation at all or they may bear pen cancellation. In both cases the stamp or stamps on the cover will have no value and this cover should not be exhibited as such in any display.

~~~~~Advertisements~~~~~  
INDIA MINT YEAR PACKS, FOREIGN THEMATIC SETS & PACKETS 52nd Year of Business - No pricelists, Enquires welcome. Ask for Catalog of Postal Auctions for Postal History Material. Mittal Stamp Company, PO Box 253, GPO Jaipur 302001 Email mittalstamps@yahoo.com

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BUY & SELL INDIA MINT STAMPS AND POSTAL STATIONARIES
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Stamp Syndicate, 19, Chandni Chowk Street, Kolkata 700072,

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Rakesh K Gupta, INDIAN STAMP COMPANY, Chhipi Tank, Begum Bridge Road, Meerut 250001. Telephone: 91-121-663245, Fax: 91-121-546972

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WE BUY & SELL: India & Princely States - Stamps, Postal History Covers, Postal Stationery, FDC, Errors & Varieties, Revenues, Cinderellas, Literature, Thematics, GB & Br. Commonwealth satishmisra@indiatimes.com

SATISH MISRA, 112 Punjabpura, Bareilly 243003 Tel & Fax: 91-581- 448970

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Perf and Imperf. Ask for details. [aarcee\\_agwl@rediffmail.com](mailto:aarcee_agwl@rediffmail.com)  
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TEL (0265) 635892 FAX (0265)649308

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India - Mint Year Sets from 1947 to date, Errors & Varieties,
Stationary; Indian States, Whole World, A to Z all Themes. Enquire with
your specific want list for our prompt response. rkstamps@bol.net.in
Rajesh K Agarwala, CAPITAL STAMP CENTER, 2215 Hardhiyan Singh Road, 2nd
Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005 Phone: [Office]
5728110, 5816045 [Residence] 5260163, 5271349 [Mobile]: 9810226692

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLISHERS' PRICES FROM 'STAMPS OF INDIA'  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Publications/a600.htm>

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Join INDIA POST'S STANDING ORDER DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Links/post/d403.htm>

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