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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First, Free & Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India
AWARDS: Silver Medal with 'Felicitations of the Jury' at BELGICA 2001

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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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Recommend this newsletter to friends
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

In editing and publishing this newsletter our primary focus is on gathering news from all over India and delivering it to all those who want it every week. We consider the cost of this operation as our contribution to the wonderful hobby that has given us a lifetime of enjoyment.

We have kept this newsletter free to avoid not only the financial costs of administration of subscription, but also costs in terms of time and energy. We accept advertising as we consider the ads of philatelic nature in a philatelic publication as reading matter at par with editorial content. We send a form letter giving rates and terms to all

those who inquire about advertising. We have not sent any reminders till date to those whose ads we have carried but who haven't paid, as we don't want to add more work to our plate by way of handling accounting and the ads are not for any kind of financial gain.

This in no way undermines the fact that funds are required for smooth running of our operations and we do seek financial contributions and sponsorships for our projects from our readers even though we do not go around soliciting for the same.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the contributors and sources to this issue: Kedar Pradhan from Kathmandu, Anil Suri from New Delhi, Press Trust of India, Times of India, Business Standard and The Tribune.

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

##### POSTAL TARIFF HIKE TO BE REVIEWED

Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha hinted at the possibility of a rollback in the hike in postal rates as announced in last month's budget. Winding up the discussion on the budget on March 22, 2002 in the upper House of Parliament - Rajya Sabha, Sinha told members who had demanded rollbacks in several tax and price hike measures: "I will take up postal and other tax issues when the finance bill is discussed in the House (after the recess)." Sinha, however, declined to elaborate on the steps that might be taken on the postal front, saying he had to take the unpopular measures of hiking rates because of the difficult fiscal situation.

Postal rates were increased by 25-100 per cent in the budget for 2002-03. The government has already bowed down to pressure from allies and cut by half the increase it had announced earlier for cooking gas. However, it stood firm on another unpopular price hike - that of kerosene. Sinha tried to defend the government's rather tough budget, stating that the difficult fiscal situation had forced him to take "unpopular measures".

##### NEW ISSUES IN APRIL 2002

India Post will issue a stamp and a miniature sheet, of Rs. 15 each, to mark sesquicentennial of Railway in India on April 16.

A se-tenant pair of stamps depicting Kathakali and Kabuki dances will commemorate the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. The stamps shall be issued only in a sheetlet of 16 (8 pairs) instead in the normal sheets of 40 stamps. A miniature sheet will also be issued on the occasion. The stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 15 each. This is a joint issue with Japan.

##### FORGED FRANKING RACKET

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The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) claimed to have unearthed a racket in forging franking marks on envelopes and parcels with the arrest of three persons on March 21, 2002 at New Delhi. The persons arrested, Gajender Kumar Sharma, Y K Sharma and Dinesh Sharma have

allegedly caused loss of millions of rupees to the Postal Department by tampering with meters of franking machines and using forged dies of the machines to mail bulky annual reports of a leading business house in Faridabad, spokesman of the CBI said.

Abhishek Enterprises, a licensed postal agent, took up jobs of franking and posting annual report of a business house to its shareholders. The business house handed over 89,000 copies of their annual report for franking and posting to the shareholders. For this, the business house handed over 16 demand drafts to the mailing agent amounting to Rs. 1,459,657 drawn in favor of the Senior Post Master in Ghaziabad. The suspects, employees of the mailing agent, in connivance with officials of the Postal Department opened three savings accounts in Kaushambi Post Office and Mukund Nagar Post Office in Ghaziabad district. The amounts of the 16 demand drafts were deposited in these accounts and subsequently the money was siphoned off.

The investigation disclosed that the mailing agent posted the envelopes, containing the annual report of the business houses, after franking them with forged franking die through Ghaziabad Post Office instead of posting them through designated Post Offices at Delhi. A number of such envelopes containing fake franking impressions have been seized. During searches conducted in Delhi and Ghaziabad, the CBI seized franking machines along with the forged dies. Tools used in opening the franking machines and tampering with the seals affixed on the machines were also seized, the spokesman said.

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INDIAN POST OFFICE BILL

Communications Minister Pramod Mahajan moved a resolution on March 16, 2002 and withdrew the controversial Indian Post Office (Amendment) bill of 1986, in the lower house of the parliament - Lok Sabha on the recommendation from upper house - Rajya Sabha. The bill proposed powers for the government to open and censor mails of ordinary citizens.

Mahajan said the government would come forward with a comprehensive amendment to the postal Bill during the Budget session. He said the Bill would be sent for Cabinet approval and after which it would be referred to the Standing Committee. It would then be presented in Parliament. He said, before the new Bill is brought, the current Bill needs to be withdrawn.

The Bill was returned to Parliament for reconsideration by the then President of India Zail Singh under Article 111 of Constitution of India nearly 15 years ago.

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PHILAKOREA UPDATE

It is reliably learnt that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is unlikely to issue the mandatory Temporary Export Permit (TEP) for the exhibits that have items over 100 year old so that they may be taken to Korea. It is expected to affect about 7 out of 14 accepted exhibits that contain such items and these may not be able to participate in PHILAKOREA.

Dilip Shah's attempt to participate in HAFNIA 01 with his exhibit on Gwalior State was responsible for all the exhibits failing to participate from India. However ASI had made it clear that the TEP can't be issued as Shah is under investigation for the violation of the

same law under which the TEP is issued. Why the National Commissioner did not send at least those exhibits that did not require TEP is not known. It was a matter of concern internationally but this however did not bother M G Pittie to continue as a Jury from India at HAFNIA.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is currently investigating Shah on a complaint made by ASI for alleged violations under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act. Although incommunicado and not attending the work since October 10, 2001, Shah refuses to resign from the two posts of the Secretary General and President Elect of Philatelic Congress of India. The allegations are of very serious nature and attract confiscation of his Grand Prize winning India exhibit and jail term of up to three years.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARK

A Special Cover with Special Postmark was released by Uma Ram Mohan Rao, the first lady of Tamilnadu to mark the three-day national seminar on the conservation of Eastern Ghats, at Tirupati on March 24, 2002. The cover depicts Redsanders, for which the Eastern Ghats are famous.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and the Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI) jointly organized the seminar at the Srinivasa Auditorium, Sree Venkateswara University campus, Tirupati.

Tamilnadu Governor P S Ram Mohan Rao inaugurated the seminar and P V Jaya Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests presided over the function.

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PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Pakistan organized a national at Lahore five years ago in 1997. The next national philatelic exhibition in Pakistan is tentatively scheduled for end April 2002 at Karachi. We will continue to provide updates in the forthcoming issues.

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ISRAEL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN NEPAL

Nepal Philatelic Society is organizing a 4-day long Philatelic Exhibition at Nepal Art Council Hall, Kathmandu from April 10 to 13, 2002. The exhibition is focused on stamps of Israel only, to celebrate the 54th Anniversary of establishment of Israel. This event will give philatelists, students, teachers and general public information on land; people; geography; culture and heritage; education, science and technology; flora and fauna of Israel.

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TENDER FOR ALBUMS

India Post is inviting sealed tenders for supply of albums of postage stamps from reputed manufactures. Tender documents, costing Rs. 50 are available with R Gayathri, Section Officer - Philately, Room #108 M, Dak Bhawan, Sasad Marg, New Delhi 110001 till April 10, 2002. The tender shall be opened on April 15, 2002.

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DELHI PHILATELISTS IN THE NEWS

The Hindustan Times on March 14, 2002 covered the well-known Delhi philatelist, Bharat Kapur who was part of the winning team at Pro-Am Golf competition.

Earlier, the Pioneer had published illustrated write-ups on the multiple Gold medal winners at world philatelic shows, Anil Suri and Manohar Lal in December 2001 and February 2002 respectively.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

<Please make good use of this space and let us have live discussions on the topics of concern and interests that are affecting philately>

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA

A positive attitude is the guiding principle in discussing the below mentioned issues in this newsletter and even though we have resisted pressure to highlight issues of this nature in this Newsletter during its 20 month long life. But we feel that the Newsletter is definitely an appropriate platform where these issues could be discussed.

After the demise of D N Jatia in late 2000, who admittedly was in absolute control, the qualified leader/s with vision are yet to emerge on the Indian philatelic scene. Meanwhile for over a year now directionless drifting has been the norm. Nothing of importance is discussed in general body or governing council meetings of PCI and every thing important including awards and appointments, are available for the asking, but for a price, from a small group of people who are attempting to hold control and whose acceptability factor in general hovers close to zero.

We consider it our duty to report truly the Indian philatelic scenario. We had hoped that better sense would prevail and collectively the senior philatelists would try to give a positive direction to philately in India. Instead an attempt is being made to control it through the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) that has been run as a privately owned business and not as public society, that it is meant to be, in 26 years of its existence. Earlier the favors were dispensed by Jatia but now it is the small group that considers itself the true inheritors of this privately owned lucrative philatelic business better known to the world as PCI.

This group is prepared not to allow a change even at the cost of creating a negative image internationally. Encouraging new collectors and guiding them to emerge on the International philatelic horizon was something that Jatia did with ease. Instead this group continuously nominates themselves and their loyal and pliable cronies to positions of commissioners and jury members. These members then use these positions to settle personal scores at international shows. They do not even have the vision to let go of the district level exhibitions even though they have been, with the help of Jatia, acting as experts internationally. If there philatelic knowledge were to be tested they would feature nowhere even on the National scene.

India has the potential of nurturing international philatelists many folds the numbers that are currently participating. But it is the close sighted view of this small group that has disgusted many an emerging philatelists to simply give up the hobby and pursue other ventures.

We request the India Post to also come forth and recognize individuals and institutions that have been doing good work in promoting philately. The PCI even though it is meant to represent the interest of the

philatelists has been actually doing damage to the promotion of philately being done by the India Post by misrepresenting the interests of the general collectors.

In the forthcoming issues we will document the material that we have received that would highlight the degenerated state of philately in India today and hope that other likeminded people would join hands in focusing on the problems and collectively finding a solution to its ailments.

Please send in your views and opinions to make this column make a difference to philatelic scenario in India and in the International arena.

READERS FORUM

<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 this newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send in your comments for publication>

SURAJ JAITLEY of Ludhiana

I have gone through your Stamps Of India Collectors Companion No. 57 and noted the comments about foreign mail. Please note that from last six or seven years my 90 percent mail from foreign countries reached me after opening & re-packing only, which you can observe after having a look on the mail covers. Local Postal Authorities refused to give any comments on the same and state that they are delivering all mails as received. Now a days, Pen cancellations on the foreign mail are also increasing rapidly, where as this practice is in routine on local mails including Speed Post & Registered Letter.

FEATURES & RESOURCES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

JAPAN OFFERS ALL-IN-ONE MAIL-HANDLING SYSTEM

NEC Corporation has developed a system that automatically detects and postmarks stamps on mail, as well as reads postal codes and addresses and sorts the mail. Until now, the postmarking machine and the reading machine have been independent of each other. In the new system, a single camera is used to both detect stamps and recognize writing, resulting in a 30 per cent reduction in space requirements. The function that reads handwritten addresses on envelopes and postcards has also been improved, and the processing speed has been boosted to enable the system to handle 40,000 pieces of mail an hour.

NEC has already received from Ireland's public postal service a roughly 1.2 billion yen order for two systems to be placed into operation in August 2002. Mail-handling systems now generate about 10 billion yen in annual revenues for NEC, with around 8 billion yen coming from overseas. It expects to attract orders from Europe and Asia because domestic and foreign postal services are working to increase mail-handling system efficiency as postal operations are increasingly privatized.

NEWSSCAN

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

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POSTAL STATIONARY ISSUES 2001

POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUES WITH ADVERTISEMENT 2001

We have checked and rechecked each and every entry for this listing and can state with confidence that it is now complete to the best of our knowledge and ability, authenticated, and corrected. It is uploaded at our site and replaces the listing published in four parts in Issues # 49 to 52. A total of 111 items, 55 Single Post Cards, 53 Inland Letter Cards and 3 Aerogramme were issued with ads in 2001.

[www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/Issues/Stationery/a202-2001.htm](http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/Issues/Stationery/a202-2001.htm)

We are working to determine the exact number of items without ads that were issued in this year. Due to change in postal tariff Single Post Card, Reply Post Card, Envelope, and Registered Envelope were issued in both the denominations, pre and post hike, by India Security Press (ISP) and Security Printing Press (SPP). However only ISP produced the Registered Envelopes during this year. Since 1999 the year of issue and the name of printers is inscribed on all postal stationery issues. It would add Aerogramme, only by ISP, and Inland Letter Cards, by ISP, SPP, and perhaps by other printers as well. The possible number could be 15-20. Then there are 115 Greeting Card envelopes and 1 customized commemorative envelope too. All this adds up to a record 240 plus postal stationery items issued within a year. Putting together a collection of modern postal stationery will be a challenge from now on.

In addition we are working on complete and authentic lists of postal stationery issues on Census of India 2001, and of Greeting Cards. These shall also be uploaded at our site as soon as ready and the readers shall be informed through this newsletter. If, in spite of all the effort that we put in, there are still some issues that require fixing, our readers are requested to send in their inputs.

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NEW ARRIVALS IN LITERATURE

Well-known philatelist and former Director General of West Bengal Armed Police, Sidney Kitson of Kolkata has authored 'A Philatelic Tribute to Police of India & the Sub-Continent' it is a handsomely produced coffee-table book published by the Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Khushwant Singh while reviewing this book wrote - The story of our postal services and their close collaboration with the police needed to be put on record. They could not have found a better authority than S. Kitson, now living a retired life in Kolkata, to do so.

We could not resist adding this quote from his review "My opinion of the Indian Postal Services rocketed sky-high ten years or so ago when an irate Canadian Khalistani wrote me a very abusive letter in Gurmukhi with the address in English which read: 'To bastard Khushwant Singh, India'. It was delivered to me within a week of its dispatch from Canada. I can't think of another country in the world where postal services would have bothered to locate an individual with so unsavory reputation to discharge the duty entrusted to it."

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 6

NOTIFICATION (Continued from Issue # 57)

BANGHY POST

Not exceeding 10 tolas in weight -  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna for Registered Newspapers & Proof Sheet, 1 anna for Unregistered Newspapers &c.,

Not exceeding 20 tolas in weight - 1 anna for Registered Newspapers & Proof Sheet, 4 annas for parcels, and 2 annas for packets.

Exceeding 20 and not exceeding 30 tolas in weight -  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas for Registered Newspapers & Proof Sheet, 6 annas for parcels, and 3 annas for packets.

For every additional 10 tolas -  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna for Registered Newspapers & Proof Sheet, 2 annas for parcels, and 1 annas for packets.

Note -

(1) Postage can be prepaid only by means of a proper stamp, or stamp adhesive or

(2) Any articles sent by letter post can be registered under the regulations applicable to registrations of letters.

LETTERS

What Articles Treated As Letters

2. Any article, not coming under the condition prescribed for registered newspapers, proof sheets or unregistered newspapers, which does not exceed ten tolas in weight, and which is not specially superscribed for transmission by banghy post, is treated as a letter, and any article, not coming under the conditions prescribed for registered newspapers or proof sheets, which exceeds ten tolas in weight, and which is superscribed for transmission by letter post, or is pre-paid at the letter post rate, or is judged from outward appearance or other considerations to be intended for transmission by letter post, is also treated as a letter.

Unpaid Or Insufficiently Paid Letters

3. The postage chargeable on a letter, if not prepaid, is double the amount which would have been chargeable if prepaid, and if the prepayment is insufficient, double the deficiency is charged.

REGISTERED NEWSPAPERS

What Articles Treated As Registered Newspapers

4. Periodicals publications, published at intervals not exceeding 31 days, which have been registered for transmission by post in the office of the Post Master General (or officer exercising the powers of Post Master General) of the postal circle in which they are published, and which fulfill the under-mentioned conditions, are treated as registered newspapers.

N. B. - The registration of a paper expires at the close of the calendar year following that in which the registration was effected, and must be renewed if a continuance of the privilege beyond that time is desired.

Each Registered Newspaper Charged Separately

5. The postage rated given above are chargeable upon each registered newspaper; but an extra or supplement to any registered newspaper bearing the same date as the newspaper, and transmitted there with under the same cover, is deemed part of the newspaper.



Prepayment Of Registered Newspapers Compulsory

6. Registered newspapers can be forwarded by the letter post at the above-mentioned rate only if the postage be fully prepaid. A registered newspaper posted unpaid or insufficiently paid will be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office.

To be Continued

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.

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.

STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments:

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