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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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Issue # 59 - April 4, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
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

The primary use of this column is to establish a dialog between us, that is you the readers and us the editors. Many a times we use it for thinking aloud and then look for your response, feedback and suggestions to effect the required change accordingly. After all it is published for you.

We view our job to present the newsletter in a way that is interesting, useful and enjoyable for you. Though we are crazy enough to publish it every week, we do await the feedback for about a month usually before effecting any change.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Vinod K Jain and Vijay Seth of New Delhi, Reuters and Aftenposten.

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

##### P-STAMPS IN INDIA

Personalized stamps were introduced in India without much fanfare, in Kolkata by West Bengal Postal Circle at the Industrial India Trade Fair 2001 in December 2001 on an experimental basis in collaboration with a local software company. A total of 513 sheets were sold during this trial. These were also made available at Calcutta Book Fair during January and February 2002 where 892 sheets were sold. These are figures doled out officially but eyewitnesses insist that actual figures are manifold of these.

Seven varieties of stamps from issues including Panchtantra, Greetings, Raj Kapoor, and Rani Avanti Bai printed by Calcutta Security Printers Limited and Madras Security Printers Limited were used in the experiment. A sheet of personalized stamp consisted of either 6 or 8 stamps in the denomination of Rs. 4 with the photograph of the customer adjoining each stamp and was made available at a premium of Rs. 30 per sheet above the face value of the stamps in the sheet.

Editors note: We feel that P-Stamps hold tremendous potential for promoting philately and also as a commercial proposition for India Post and they should handle it in a proper manner instead of taking it up on a local level.

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SPECIAL COLLECTORS PACK

India Post recently issued a Collectors Pack of issues of 2000 for sale at Rs. 325. The pack contains all commemorative or special stamps issued in the year except R K Shukla and Turtles se-tenant pair.

The Collector Pack 2000 issued earlier for Rs. 350 containing all issues was sold out in no time as only 1000 such pack were released due to unusually short print run of 100,000 copies of R K Shukla issue.

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##### ANOTHER PREMATURE RELEASE REPORTED

The second premature release of 2002 is the commemorative issue depicting Ananda Nilayam Vimanam of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams in the denomination of Rs. 15. This issue was scheduled for March 18, 2002 and was postponed. Obviously some post offices out of 900 that sell the new issues on first day did not get the information on time regarding postponement and released the stamp and FDC on the scheduled date.

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PHILAKOREA 2002 UPDATE

B N Som, the former Director General of India Post and member of Philatelic Congress of India's (PCI) Governing Council wrote "I was taken aback to learn from your report that ASI has decided not to allow export of stamps aged over 100 years for exhibition purposes also. This is a lingering problem. To solve the matter on a long-term basis, we had decided in PCI meeting of November 4, 2001 at New Delhi that a sub-

committee will, after obtaining expert legal opinion of Mr. G B Pai, pursue the matter with the Government with active support of India Post. What is the progress on that front?"

Well, we have been speaking to a number of concerned persons and the consensus emerging is that import and export of philatelic items should be freely allowed not only for exhibition purposes but also for buying and selling. This is a must not only for the growth but also the survival of the hobby in the country and to continue to find the rightful place for Indian philately in the world. It will require a clear directive of the Government of India to keep most philatelic items if not all out of the purview of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972. A proposal in this regard is being submitted for discussion and formation of a committee at the next PCI meeting on April 28, 2002 at Bhubaneswar. Meanwhile under the dynamic leadership of Som with the benevolent guidance of Pai the philatelists in the capital will lead the way to make it happen.

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INDIA & STATES AT STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS

Stanley Gibbons (Australia) Pty. Limited of Melbourne, Australia is holding Public Auction #66 of over 1000 lots on April 27, 2002. Lots on India and the Indian States include an 1852 1/2 Anna scarlet Scinde Dawk with a 2002 RPSL Certificate. For more information contact [SGAMelb@OzeMail.com.au](mailto:SGAMelb@OzeMail.com.au)

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MITTAL POSTAL AUCTION

Mittal Stamp company of Jaipur is holding their Postal auction sale #17A of 1250 lots on April 25, 2002. The material on offer includes India - Stamps & FDC, Postal Stationery, Errors, Flaws & Freaks, Banghy and Pre Stamp Period Covers, Steamer Service, Traveling & Railway PO, Slogans, Airmails & First Flights, and Refugee Relief. Additionally postal and fiscal issues of Indian States, World Gandhi and other Indian themes, Foreign, Cinderella, and wholesale lots are also offered. For more information contact mittalstamps@yahoo.com

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WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTION CALENDAR

We have now resumed our service of providing the Calendar Of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions for the month that is updated in the beginning of every month with detailed information and announcements. The information for April 2002 is now available at <http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

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PHILATELIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The apex training institute of India Post is organizing a Philatelic Management Program for the officers from April 8 to 12, 2002. The objectives of the Program focus on promotional activities in philately after assessing the business options, customer requirements, and marketing strategies. Vishnu Saksena, Former member of Postal Services Board, Meera Handa, Director & P N Ranjit Kumar, Assistant Director General from Philatelic Division of India Post HQ, Ambesh Upmanu Senior Superintendent of Post Offices Jaipur, and Madhukar Jhingan, are some of the speakers scheduled at this Program.

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FREE ADVERTISING

Stamps of India Collectors Companion is the most effective way to reach the highest targeted readerships for Indian Philately worldwide.

Accepting a suggestion from our longtime reader J Mathews of Abu Dhabi, we are now offering free advertising opportunity to the subscribers beginning with next issue. Send in your ad to [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com)

#### Terms & Conditions

Location: in the Advertising Supplement near the bottom of each issue

Format: 3 Lines + URL, Up to 64 Char Per Line.

#### Restrictions:

1. Only One ad from a subscriber will be accepted at a time.
2. All ads shall be published at the sole discretion of the editors.
3. No correspondence regarding advertising will be entertained.

#### UPDATES

'A Philatelic Tribute to Police of India & the Sub-Continent' by S Kitson reported in previous issue, is priced at Rs. 995.

The listing of Postal Stationery with Advertisements 2001 as reported in previous issue, is now further corrected. The printer of 'Buy Indian Handicrafts' Inland Letter Card is CSP and not MSP as reported.

#### 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>

I'm writing in response to "Views & Opinions... Philately In Transition In India". There are many individuals outside of India who care deeply about Indian philately and the sad state of affairs within the PCI. I count myself among the same. Is there anything we can do in our own countries to help the Indian philatelic community? Please advise.

- Ron Rice, USA. Editor: Princely States Report, Member: India Study Circle for Philately

Thanks for giving your comments on the real problems of philately in the country. Though PCI is the lone body within the country to organize philately but what I observed during my association with PCI - that it is rather damaging the hobby. I think it is of no worth to an ordinary philatelist. "Signet" the official mouth organ of PCI is the worst philatelic magazine in the philatelic world. PCI perhaps is meant only for the seniors and serves no purpose for an ordinary collector. This body has become a business platform for the organizers. If you go through the past you will easily find out that only specific personalities manage everything of PCI and an ordinary collector has no say in the affairs of this body.

- Shiv Garg

#### PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA -2

The philatelic activities in India are well documented from 1872 onwards till 1940s when civil and military officers, and leading businessmen of British origin in India were the leaders in the field of philately.

The modern history of Indian philately can be said to have, a beginning with Jal Cooper who was the undisputed leader of philately in India since 1940s till his death in August 1972 and the last thirty years undoubtedly belonged to D N Jatia. With this the contributions of the other collectors / dealers are not being undermined but these two names do stand out in the history.

Interestingly Cooper who was a full time dealer, almost single-handedly did more to develop philately at grass roots than all the other dealers or collectors of his time. He wore many hats competently. He was fiercely independent and took stand against the philatelic establishment as well as faulty policies of the Government of India, while staying at the top of philatelic industry in India. His books that are like a bible of Indian philately are still in demand. He is acknowledged and respected all over the world even today.

Jatia, though a collector, had a larger turnover buying selling stamps, accessories, and literature than all the dealers of his time. He truly was a one-man industry however he operated it in a clandestine manner. For example Jatia represented David Feldman's Auction House of Switzerland in India for over two decades, and was the main supplier of new issues to several large corporations like Franklin Mint of USA.

In December 1970 when India Post organized the first national Jatia with connivance of then Philatelic Officer at India Post HQ S P Chatterjea won two gold medals and from that time onwards Jatia and Chatterjea worked as a team till death do them part. The Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Ministry used to have one philatelist each from North, South, East, and West recommended by the respective Post Masters General of the area. Chatterjea managed to impose Jatia in 1971 on the PAC as the fifth philatelist in the committee months after the original committee members were announced.

Realizing Chatterjea's position of strength in India Post and the lucrative nature of philately the team continued to search for means of making money. When Chatterjea manned India Post's Sales Booth at Munich 1972 world philatelic exhibition Jatia received commission on the sale of stamps. This arrangement continued for next five years till Chatterjea remained in office.

In INDIPEX 73 world philatelic exhibition at New Delhi in 1973 Jatia used every means to wrangle the Grand Prize National and the Jury had to club several of his exhibits to be able to provide the award. On the basis of this achievement Jatia managed to get appointed as a jury at a world philatelic exhibition in France in 1975. And to consolidate his position in the same year he founded the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) during the second national exhibition held by India Post.

PCI became a member of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). Since 1986 "voting" for 17 institutional seats and by 1992 "voting" for 6 individual seats happened. Until then the elections for the 23 seats of the Governing Council used to take less than 20 seconds to conduct. The results of elections were, as they say, pre-decided.

Jatia was a law unto himself and above all laws. He was the decision maker remote controlling other PCI office bearers as puppets. He remained President for 4 years till 1979 although the PCI constitution provides for a single term of 2 years. He then continued till 1982 as Immediate Past President on the Governing Council of PCI. A resolution was then passed that past presidents will permanently carry on in the Governing Council forever with full voting rights. This even though against all democratic norms, however failed to stir protest. Hypothetically a situation may arise when the past presidents may have majority in the Governing Council that has 23 elected members.

Jatia's first priority was to consolidate. He wanted the numbers on his side and blind loyalty was instantly rewarded. Others did not matter even if elected on PCI Governing council and several persons left the hobby in sheer disgust. Several others, including those who were jurors when Jatia was the novice exhibitor, were unceremoniously dumped. Any one who dared challenge his authority or question any of his moves was dealt with severely and it was ensured that such persons couldn't participate in philately in India.

Jatia had his share of good qualities as well; he fought in the Jury Rooms for even those Indian exhibitors that were not his camp followers. Because he knew that even Internationally his strength was in numbers. But he was only human and it was his actions or inactions that resulted in destruction of philately at grass roots. He greedily reaped the crop sowed by others but failed to sow any. When he appeared on national philatelic scene there were in excess of 250,000 First Day Covers serviced for every issue and it came down to 2,500 by the time he left this world.

After Jatia passed away in November 2000, serious attempts are being made to turn the PCI towards transparency and accountability that it is not at all accustomed to. Naturally such moves are being violently resisted by a small coterie of Jatia loyalists trying to imitate him in exercising absolute control and dispense favors for a price.

To be continued in the next issue.

#### 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>

#### RENU V FROM COCHIN

I am a student who really enjoys the Stamps of India newsletter. I read with interest Mr. Suraj Jaitly's comment on the tampering of foreign mail. I would like to say that almost 70% of non-registered incoming foreign mail, to my address gets lost (I do not wish to accuse anyone of stealing it, but am interested to know where this mail goes).

Among the important mail that was lost were: A welcome pack from Stamp Hunters' Club, New Zealand Post Office. A membership card and calendar and some free stamps from New Zealand post. 75 Mint + used stamps from USA. 2 Presentation Packs and one miniature sheet from Isle of Man Post Office. 25 + World War stamps. 50 world wide used stamps from Italy. 50 used stamps from Israel. 125 used French stamps

As a student and beginner, it is very difficult for me to exchange stamps and find that I get nothing in return, thanks to the loss of mail. It is also hard to purchase stamps from all over the world, to find that they do not turn up. Contacting the local and general post offices has led me nowhere. I now am forced to pay all my contacts to send me by registered post. It is time something was done about this.

ONKAR SINGH DHILLON FROM PATIALA.

I saw the views of sh. Suraj Jaitly regarding postal department I fully endorse the views given by him. I am experiencing same problem here at Patiala since the last more than 20 years. I have given complaints to different Senior Superintendent of Post Offices as well as to Senior Post Masters during this period. But nothing concrete has been done. Every time same excuse is offered that it is not being done here in Patiala, may be some person is doing in Ludhiana or in Delhi. Or some time they name Railway Mail Service. Is there any body who can do something to curb this?

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

THIS IS ERRORS SEASON FOR SOCCER PHILATELY

San Marino issued a set of six commemorative stamps featuring some of the great moments of Italian soccer at the World Cup but with incorrect scores. The stamps for Italy's 2-1 victory in the 1934 final over Czechoslovakia have doubled the score line to 4-2. And the result for the dramatic 4-2 win over Hungary in 1938 is given as a less spectacular 1-0. Postal authorities in San Marino say they will not recall 130,000 sets produced of the incorrect stamps but are considering offering new corrected versions.

Norway is to issue a new stamp in honor of the Norwegian Soccer Federation's 100th anniversary April 12, 2002. The 1.3 million stamps have a picture of a soccer referee in action. But it's the wrong referee and the Norwegian postal service has no idea whose likeness it is. The stamps were supposed to show Lars Johan Hammer, a 27-year-old referee who looks nothing like the man in the picture. "The man on the stamp wasn't me. I don't have glasses or a mustache, the man on the stamp does. It left me speechless," Hammer told the local newspaper Sunnmørsposten.

Now the postal service is trying to track down the unidentified celebrity with efforts that included a nearly full-page wanted poster in Verdens Gang, Norway's largest newspaper. "We have several tips that he may be a German who was a referee at the Norway Cup (annual youth soccer tournament)," said Gjølme. She said they intend to issue the stamp on April 12 as planned, so they hope the man - if found - doesn't mind.

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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>

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POSTAL TREATIES ON THE NET

The complete text of India's Postal Treaties with Bhutan, China (for Tibet), Pakistan, and Bangladesh are available online on the web site of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Several other treaties regarding postal money orders with several countries are also available. There URL is <http://www.meadev.nic.in/> then click on "Bilateral Treaties" or go directly to their Library's web site <http://mealib.nic.in/> and then click on "Bilateral Treaties".

RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 6

NOTIFICATION (Continued from Issue # 58)

Conditions to be observed in respect of registered newspapers.

7. Registered newspapers can be forwarded by letter post at the above-mentioned rate only if the following conditions be observed, viz : -

(1). - It shall be without a cover or in a short cover open at the ends.

(2). - There shall be no word printed on such newspaper after its publication or upon the cover thereof, nor any writing or mark upon it, or upon the cover of it, except the name and address of the person to whom it is sent, and the name and address of the sender.

(3). - There shall be no paper or thing enclosed in or with any such newspaper.

(4). - The newspaper must bear in print immediately above the address the word "registered" followed by the registration number given by the Post Master General.

N. B. - The word "registered" followed by the number may be printed on the paper itself or on its cover, but must in all cases be immediately above the address.

(5). - The newspaper must be posted at the place of publication.

N. B. - It is immaterial whether the paper is posted by the publisher or by any one else, or whether it is posted on the day of publication or on a subsequent date. When a registered newspaper is re-directed, "forward" postage is charged at the lower rate, even though the redirection may take place at an office other than that of the place of publication. Registered newspapers when re-posted are treated as if posted for the first time, and are entitled to transmission at the lower rate only if the conditions be fulfilled.

PROOF SHEETS

May be sent by letter post at registered newspaper rates under certificate

8. Proof sheets, marked as such, may be sent by the letter post either without covers or in covers open at the ends at the rates prescribed for registered newspapers, provided that the contents be correctly certified on the cover by the signature in full of the sender.

UNREGISTERED NEWSPAPERS, &C.

What articles treated as unregistered newspapers.

9. Any cover not exceeding ten tolas in weight which is posted with the ends open (so as to admit of examination of contents) and prepaid with one anna postage, and which does not contain any letter or communication of the nature of a letter, unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed, is treated as an unregistered newspaper.

PARCELS AND PACKETS

What articles treated as parcels or packets.

10. All articles committed to the post offices, which are superscribed for transmission by banghy post, or which do not fall to be treated as letters, registered newspapers, proof sheets, or unregistered

newspapers under the preceding paragraphs, are transmitted by banghy post as parcels or packets.

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.

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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:

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THIS WEEK

Updated Segments: News, Auctions, and Issues

Added Content:

~~~~~ Advertisement Supplement ~~~~~

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