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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 # 62 - April 25, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

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Recommend this newsletter to friends

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We continue from the previous issue where we had emphasized on the need for timely and wide publicity to the availability of Special Postmarks. There are several other Special postal markings that used to be publicized by the philatelic division of India Post in the past like the slogan postmarks used on dispatch and delivery of mails at selected post offices, on selected days, such as greeting messages on festivals.

India Post sets up special temporary counters for dealing with large volume of greeting card mail during October/November for the festival of Diwali and December for Christmas/New Year Greetings every year. Similar arrangements are made in August also for the festival of Rakhee. These counters use temporary postmarks with words such as 'Greetings' and 'Rakhee'.

India Post participates in various fairs all over the country and the postmarks of the temporary post offices set up there become collectors' items.

These types of postmarks are highly collectible. We can't but emphasize enough, the need to provide timely publicity regarding the availability of all these postmarks.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Vijay Seth from New Delhi, and the Department of Justice, USA.

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

##### RAILWAY MINIATURE SHEET SOLD OUT

We have been receiving reports that the well designed and well produced Miniature Sheet issued to mark the 150 years of Railways in India on April 16, 2002 was sold out at many places within three or four days of issue. This is not surprising because the quantity printed was only 100,000 sheets that were offered through 900 post offices all around the country and face value of the sheet, at Rs. 15, was low and the theme is popular worldwide.

##### STAMPS USED BEFORE THEIR OFFICIAL RELEASE

Indian Stamps used before their official release date can now be a new discipline in philately. These are coming in twos now.

Two more stamp issues have been seen used on mails for which the dates of issue are yet to be announced by India Post. These are stamps in the denomination of Rs. 4 in honor of Bhaurao Krishnarao Gaikwad and Vithalrao Vikhe Patil.

Earlier this year Murmu Brothers stamp in the denomination of Rs. 4 was prematurely sold three months before the actual date of issue, and Ananda Nilayam Vimanam of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams stamp in the denomination of Rs. 15 that was prematurely sold in mid March. The date of issue of this commemorative is yet to be announced by India Post. This issue was scheduled for March 18, 2002 and was postponed.

We may safely predict the commemorative stamp/s that may soon be available before being officially released. The first likely candidate is the stamp in honor of Prabodhankar Thakre, Great social reformer and father of Bal Thakre. It was scheduled for release on May 1, 2002 as per the Circular issued on April 19, 2002 and later postponed indefinitely vide the Circular of April 22, 2002.

##### ~~~~~ COLLECTORS PACK 2001 GOES ON SALE

On April 19, 2002 India Post put on sale the Collector's Pack 2001 at the Philatelic Bureau, New Delhi. The pack priced at Rs. 460 contains all the 75 commemorative and special stamps worth Rs. 410 issued in the year 2001. The pack does not as a rule contain Miniature Sheets and definitive stamps.

India Post counts a se-tenant stamp pair as one stamp while collectors count it as two stamps. This creates unnecessary confusion. As in the case of this pack as well which carries the inscription 'total Number of Stamps Issued: 69' instead of the correct figure - 75.

India Post must be congratulated for bringing out this pack relatively earlier than usual, as in last few years the packs were unusually very

late. Ideally the pack should be issued with the issue of the last stamp of the year.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

International Reunion Of INA Veterans

The first ever international Reunion of the Indian National Army veterans was held at New Delhi from April 19 to 21, 2002. INA organized under the dynamic leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in South East Asia during World War II had made a great impact on India's freedom movement. A Special Cover with Special Postmark was issued on April 20, 2002 on this occasion. The covers are available from the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street Head Post Office, New Delhi 110 001 for Rs. 9 per cover.

Tangassery Lighthouse

The District Tourism Promotion Council, Kollam issued a Special Cover with Special Postmark to mark the Tangassery Lighthouse Centenary Celebrations 1902-2002 on March 30, 2002. Enquiries may be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Head Post Office, Erankulam - 682011.

Indian Coast Guards

A Special cover and Special Postmark was issued on February 1, 2002 at Chennai (Madras) on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Indian Coast Guard. This is in addition to the Special cover and Special Postmark released on this occasion by the Defense Minister of India, George Fernandes on February 1, 2002 in New Delhi that was reported in issue # 54 of this newsletter.

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50 YEARS OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT

India Post will issue a stamp in the denomination of Rs. 4 to mark the 50 Years of Parliament on May 13, 2002. A commemorative Inland Letter Card shall also be issued on this occasion.

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EGPEX PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

East Godavari Division, Visakhapatnam Region, Andhra Pradesh Circle of India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on March 2 and 3, 2002 at Kakinada Town.

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POSTAL STATIONERY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2002

POSTCARD WITH ADVERTISEMENT - Panch Mahal, 50 Paise, Brown

- May 22, SPP, Gujarati, Women Empowerment Year
- May 23, SPP, Tamil, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Punjabi, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Malayalam, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Telugu, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Kannada, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Bengali, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Marathi, Women Empowerment Year

INLAND LETTER CARD WITH ADVERTISEMENT - Panch Mahal, Rupees 2, Blue

- May 1, SPP, Hindi, Phillips Radio
- May 5, SPP, English, Bapalal & Co. Jewellers
- May 7, SPP, English, BCG Vaccine Laboratory
- May 22, SPP, Malayalam, Women Empowerment Year
- May 22, SPP, Tamil, Women Empowerment Year

May 22, SPP, Bengali, Women Empowerment Year  
May 23, SPP, Punjabi, Women Empowerment Year  
May 23, SPP, Telugu, Women Empowerment Year  
May 23, SPP, Gujarati, Women Empowerment Year  
May 23, SPP, Kannada, Women Empowerment Year  
May 23, SPP, Marathi, Women Empowerment Year

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POSTAL TARIFF HIKE UPDATE

The government is not expected to reduce the postal hikes announced in the national budget, although the Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha said last month he would revisit the issue. After the budget is passed by the parliament, India Post shall announce the date from which these new rates shall be effective.

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INDIA POST'S ANNUAL REPORT

India Post has released its Annual Report for the financial year 2000-2001 as usual during the budget session of the Parliament. The bilingual publication also includes the Report on Activities for April-December 2001. The report covers Overview, Organization, Operations, Business Development Activities, International Relations, Technology, Financial Services, Financial Management, Human Resource Development, Vigilance Activities, Other Activities, and Developmental Activities in North East.

India Post handled 13,958 million unregistered articles and 245.2 million registered articles in 2000-2001 that is 10% less than the previous year. India Post earned Rs. 32978 million revenue against the expenditure of Rs. 48476 million. There is a deficit of Rs. 15497 million.

According to the Report the Average Cost of Service for a Post Card is now Rs. 5.80, for Printed Post Card Rs. 5.81, and for Competition Post Card 5.88; for an Inland Letter Card Rs. 5.78. These are made available to the public for Rs. 0.25, Rs. 2, Rs. 4 and Rs. 2 respectively. The highest subsidy is given to registered newspapers that costs Rs. 8.01 against the revenue of Rs. 0.20.

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G P A NEWS

The three issues of this monthly publication have arrived together in our mailbox. These are Whole # 54 - January 2002, Whole # 55 - February 2002, and Whole # 56 - March 2002,

Editor: H C Mehta

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association

Mailing Address: D Desai & Co., 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380009

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 5

In this issue also we continue with the ever controversial topic of 'judgments'.

A friend, who does not wish to be identified, called in to ask why we have started exposing the misdeeds of judging only from 1989 when this

malady has been going on from the day India Post organized the first ever national philatelic exhibition in 1970. We did explain that we had touched 1970 while writing on D N Jatia in issue # 59. We agreed that the nationals in 1975, 1977, 1982, 1986, 1993 and internationals in 1977 and 1980 do provide ample opportunities to document wrongdoings and in many cases there are several published reports in various publications in India as well as abroad. We had to start from somewhere and we began with 1989 that is not too old for the current generation of collectors.

We sincerely believe that the system has to be cleaned up first before any real development can take place. Therefore we definitely will be collating all previously documented as well as new reports for presentation here. Many of these may not have had the benefit of being seen by a large readership. We invite your contributions regarding your experiences with philately/philatelists in India as well as comments for publication here.

We are amazed that even after clear reports documenting ills of judging in Indian philately that had been authored by respected names and published by reputed publications, the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) and India Post have failed to take any corrective action.

India Post was one of the entities that created the PCI in 1976 by signing its Memorandum of Association. Army Postal Service (APS), represented by APS Historical Society, was also a signatory. The PCI, since its inception, has been working very closely with India Post and could not have survived thus far without generous official patronage. The head of Philately Division of India Post is always an ex-officio member of the Governing Council of the PCI from 1976 till date. The same is also true regarding representation of APS, either its head or the head of its constituent APS Historical Society. Effectively India Post has two reserved seats on PCI Governing Council of 26 members (23 elected and 3 co-opted).

India Post needs to play an equally active role to set right the ills plaguing philately in India. Almost all exhibitions at district, state, national and international level are organized by India Post or with their support even when they are at the initiative of any other organization. In absence of detailed regulations the group with vested interest have misguided India Post on numerous occasions in the past.

India Post must now clearly look at the benefits it derives by organizing exhibitions where International philatelic Federation (FIP) regulations are implemented in a selective manner that is damaging to our national interests. The blind following of the FIP rules, ignoring national interests has led to the wiping out of a philatelic discipline - First Day Covers (FDC), that sold in several hundred thousands and now sell in hundreds. The loss to India Post is estimated at over Rs. 150 millions per year taking the numbers of FDC sold if they would have remained static to the levels at the time of the creation of PCI.

India can organize world exhibitions without FIP and its Continental Federation (FIAP) where competitive displays are just couple of hundred frames. US postal service successfully held World Stamp Expo, more or less on the same lines, in 1989 and 2000 and is planning one for 2005. For India this will save fat fees for patronage paid to FIP and FIAP as well as the heavy expenses incurred for hosting international jury. Even

more important than saving money is saving philately in India that is dying a slow death due to the unprofessional way in which it is being managed for a very long time by some small group of people with vested interests.

The development of philately in India from the grass root levels up to world level is required. The interests of 15 or 20 exhibitors participating in FIP exhibitions per year have been hogging resources from the overall development of philately in India. This needs to be set right at the earliest.

A K Bayanwala once again writes on judging this time on INPEX-EMPIREPEX 2001, in the column 'From The Desk Of President' published in GPA NEWS, Vol. 5 # 7, Whole # 42, February 2002. We give below some excerpts:

"Every philatelic exhibition, in particular National Exhibitions, always leave bad taste in the mouths of the participants."

"It is very high time for the organizers and for stalwarts in philately, to think and change the rules or to force the existing rules to be compulsorily operative. For instant, Exhibition rules say that critic session should be arranged during the exhibition. But usually, we don't find such session in a National Exhibition."

"Actually, I want to stress on a point that extra care should be taken in judging the exhibits, or otherwise it will look like a "fixing of a judgment", and that will be bad for philately."

The complete text of this 'must read' column is available at <http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/Features/bayanwalaak1.htm>

A Critique Session (an Indian version of it) was held during the national exhibition in 1993 and an incident there led to a lawsuit against the India Post and PCI. Since then the Critique Session have never been held in India.

In fact questioning a philatelic juror in India is a dangerous thing to do. The usual practice is that jury handover the award list to the organizers and leave town before it is made public to avoid answering any questions. If all this is not a mockery of judging than we do not know what is.

#### 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>

S D BHATIA FROM NEW DELHI

I am an old philatelist - 80 years of age, having experienced philately abroad also as I was in Indonesia for 2½ years and in Hong Kong for 3½ years. I had the opportunity to go to Bandung Conference with Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru in the same flight.

The purpose of my writing this letter is to highlight difficulties being faced by the philatelists in Delhi. Many philatelists as usual came to the Philatelic Bureau at Parliament Street Delhi at 10 am to purchase stamp and first day covers of the commemorative stamp to be issued on April 6, 2002. But were told that the sale will start at 6 pm only after the formal release by the Prime Minister at his residence. Many collectors went back as they could not wait whole day long. One priest, Mr. Beecham came all the way from Faridabad.

This kind of problem happens when the release function is in Delhi. In cases where the function is outside Delhi the stamps are put on sale at 10 am. When the function is at Delhi the stamps are put on sale at 10 am all over India but at Delhi these are sold only after the formal release whatever time that might be.

This request has been taken up on many platforms with the officials of the Department of Posts with the assurance that it would be implemented. However, the reality is quite different, through this letter I request the Ministers and the Senior Officers of the Government of India to ensure that new stamps are available at Delhi Philatelic Bureau at the time of the opening of the bureau i.e.10 am at all times.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

#### ALSO IN THE NEWS

##### SAN FRANCISCO STAMP DEALER CHARGED WITH RIGGING AUCTIONS

A San Francisco stamp dealer and one of its executives were charged today with rigging bids at stamp auctions held in the United States and elsewhere, the Department of Justice announced.

In a two-count felony case, filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Davitt Felder Inc. and its President, Davitt Felder, were charged with conspiring with unnamed co-conspirators to submit collusive, noncompetitive, and rigged bids at stamp auctions from the early 1980s until at least June 1997 and for several months again in 1999. Stamps are often sold at public auctions at which the highest bid price determines who will purchase the stamps. Auction houses located throughout the U.S. and Europe hold periodic auctions for stamp lots.

According to the charge, Davitt Felder Inc., Davitt Felder, and their co-conspirators carried out the bid-rigging schemes by participating in pre-auctions to determine which stamp dealer would be the bidder for specific lots of stamps at the subsequent public auction; by agreeing not to bid at public auctions against other stamp dealers who submitted the highest bid price at the pre-auction; and by making payments to stamp dealers who agreed not to bid at public auctions when they were not the high bidder at the pre-auction.

"By rigging the bids of auctioned stamp lots, stamp dealers eliminated competition and, thus, the right of collectors to obtain stamps at fair and competitive prices," said James M. Griffin, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division's Criminal Enforcement Program.

This is the second case stemming from an ongoing investigation involving collusion by stamp dealers at auctions. On January 28, 2002,

Earl P.L. Apfelbaum Inc. and John Apfelbaum pled guilty to a two-count information charging them with conspiring to rig bids for stamp auctions. They are awaiting sentencing.

Davitt Felder Inc. and Davitt Felder are charged with violating Section One of the Sherman Act which carries, per count, a maximum fine of \$10 million for a corporation and a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$350,000 for an individual. The fine may be increased to twice the gain derived from the crime or twice the loss suffered by the victims of the crime, if either of those amounts is greater than the statutory maximum fine.

The investigation is being conducted by the Antitrust Division's New York Office and the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Anyone with information concerning bid rigging at stamp auctions should contact the New York Office of the Antitrust Division at (212) 264-0383.

NEWSSCAN

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

Linn's stamp News, February 11, 2002

ANTIQUITIES INVESTIGATION IN INDIA INVOLVES EXPORT OF CLASSIC STAMPS

<http://www.linns.com/print/archives/20020211/news1.asp>

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 10

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENC RULES

Continued from Issue # 61

Limits of weight and size.

6. No official cover exceeding two tolas in weight can be received by the Post Office and no official cover exceeding the limit of size - one foot and a half in length by one foot in width or depth prescribed for ordinary packets can be forwarded as a packet, though it may be forwarded as a parcel, if within the limit of weight above mentioned.

Letters and parcels superscribed "Service Bearing" by Government Officers.

7. Letters and parcels sent by Government Officers in their official capacity, which relate nevertheless to the private interests and concerns of the individuals addressed, may be endorsed according to the specimen form given of the margin under the full signature and official designation of the person by whom they are sent.

Service Bearing

To

AB

Calcutta

From

CD



Accountant General

Letters and parcels so addressed are regarded by the Post Office as private cover but are charged, on delivery with bearing postage at "forward" (i.e. prepaid) rates and not at double rates as in the case of ordinary letters. Under this head come replies sent to communications of the kind noted in the margin as well as any other communications of a like kind which Government Officers may make to individuals (whether private person or Government officers) relating to the private interests of the addressees.

Petitions, applications for appointments, requests for transfer, enquiries about title, to leave etc.

Letters and parcels superscribed "Service Bearing" addressed to Government Officers.

8. Letters and parcels sent by private persons to Government Officials relating to the affairs of Government and endorsed according to the specimen form given on the margin under the full signature of the sender (the address including the full official designation of the public office to which the cover is sent) are charged as ordinary, at the rate to which they would have been liable if prepaid by stamps and not at double rates as in the case of ordinary letters.

Service Bearing

To,

The District Superintendent of Police

Lucknow

Signature of Sender

This rule is intended to provide for cases of Zemindars reporting the occurrence of crime to a police officer of employers of laborers ending returns required by the protector and of any similar reports or returns authorized to be so sent.

Official covers not liable to redirection charge.

9. Official communication addressed to Government Officers "On Her Majesty's Service" or "Service Bearing" under the prescribed superscription and signature, are not liable to additional postage on account of re-direction.

Postage Due on Official covers to be initialed in Post Office.

10. The account of postage marked as due are covers delivered under the superscriptions of "Service Bearing" or "On Her Majesty's Service" will be initialed by the Post Master or Deputy Post Master of the office of delivery.

Government Officers found to receive and pay for covers under official superscription.

11. Government Officers are bound to receive and pay any postage which may be due on covers addressed to them under the superscription "On Her Majesty's Service".

Registration

12. The rules and conditions for the Registration of ordinary covers sent by letter post govern the registration of similar official covers,

the service labels affixed to them being supported by the prescribed superscription and signature.

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 WEB SITE UPDATES

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments - NEWS, ISSUES, EVENTS, AUCTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, DEALERS, and ARTICLES. In addition we provide question answers in ASK US. Also all Indian philatelic web sites as well as several useful philatelic sites are listed under LINKS.

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Updated Segments: News, Articles, and Ads

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New Ads Added This Week from - Manohar Lal, and Mafatlal Sheth

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