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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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Recommend this newsletter to friends

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

In order to make it easier for every one to collect Indian issues may we humbly suggest to India Post to make available Yearly Collectors Pack of First Day Covers, Postal Stationery, and Special Postmarks. Also available should be a pack of current Definitive and Official (Service) stamps. This will surely put the fun back in stamp collecting and once again make philately a pleasure.

In this age of customer delight India Post should also be looking at new combinations and newer ways of selling their stamps.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Suraj Jaitly from Ludhiana, and the Hindustan Times.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDO-JAPAN MINIATURE SHEET SOLD OUT

The miniature sheet issued on April 26, 2002 to commemorate 50 years of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations is now sold out.

India Post deserves congratulations for the several innovations introduced with this issue. The information sheet was fully in color for the first time. A well-designed poster to publicize the issue was also brought out. If our memory serves us right than the last time India Post brought a poster out to promote an issue was in 1981 for the Brides of India set. Undoubtedly the most important innovation has been the introduction of a mini sheet of 16 stamps. This sheet has a decorative border with both the stamps positioned alternately horizontally as well as vertically throughout. This sheet is much appreciated by the philatelists in place of the regular sheet of 40 stamps.

We take this opportunity to suggest that India Post, as a matter of policy, should adopt a smaller sheet size of 10 stamps. This will allow more people to buy, easily preserve, and display these in the exhibits. Large sheets are unwieldy, more expensive, and are difficult to be displayed in an A-4 size exhibit sheet. The small sheet is a collectors item.

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PROGRAM OF ISSUES FOR 2002 ANNOUNCED

India Post announced the Stamp Issue Program for the year 2002 in two parts. The first part lists 4 forthcoming issues with confirmed dates of release. It is a bold step for India Post, as it is not known for sticking to the dates announced in past. The second list contains the issues listed as tentative with proposed dates of release.

Part 1

January:

- 07 - Directorate of Mines Safety, 100 years of
- 15 - Indian Army Himalayan Expedition
- 21 - Bauddha Mahotsava, Set of 4
- 28 - Year of Books

February 04 - Swami Ramanand

March 18 - Indian Ordnance Factories, 200 years of

April:

- 06 - Sido & Kanho Murmu
- 16 - Railways in India, 150 years of
- 26 - Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations, Set of 2

May 13 - Parliament of India, Golden Jubilee

June 12 - P L Deshpande

July 23 - Thakur Satyananda

October 12 - Kanika Bandyopadhyay

November 14 - Children's Day

Part 2

April: Bihar Chamber of Commerce

May:

Sant Tukaram
Durga Das
Frank Anthony
Cotton College Guwahati

June:

Ananda Rishi ji Maharaj
Swami Pravananda ji Maharaj
Arya Vaidyasala

July: Anglo Bengali Inter College Allahabad

August:

August Kranti: Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar
Personalities: Social Reformers - Chandraprabha Saikram, Ayyankail, T T
Krishnamachari, and Gora

September:

Tercentenary of Nagpur
Tourism: Andhra Pradesh - Chandragir Fort, and Golkonda Fort
Indian Heritage in Mathematics and Astronomy, Set of 2

October:

Artisans of India, Set of 4
Wild Life of India, Set of 4

November: Golden Voices of Yester years, Set of 4

December:

Mangroves of India, Set of 4
Temple Architecture, Set of 4 - Badrinath, Tripureswain, Mallikarjuna
Srisantan, and Jagannath
Dances of India, Set of 4

Dates To Be Decided:

Anna Bhau Sathe
Dadasaheb Gaekwad
Brajlal Biyani
Ananda Nilya Vimanam
Pandit Surya Narayan Vyas
Babu Gulab Rai
Dr. Vithalrao Vikhe Patil
Prabodhankar Thakre
Medicinal Plants, Set of 4

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ORPEX PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

India Post organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Orissa State Philatelic Exhibition from April 26 to 28 at Bhubaneswar. There were 68 exhibits in 160 frames. In a welcome development the jury for ORPEX consisted of 10 jurors, 6 philatelists and 4 officers of India Post.

S C Dutta, the Director General of India Post, gave the Awards away. Om Prakash Jagati won the highest honor of the show - Chief Post Master General's Award with a Vermeil Medal for his exhibit 'Glimpses of Indian Tourism'. Other winners of Vermeil Medal with Special Prize are - Ajit

Kumar Dash, J Jyoti, Moomin Sinha, Durgadutta Routray for 'Creator's Most Faithful Creation', 'Tourism', 'World Refugee Year', and 'Australian Antarctic Territory' respectively. J N Kanungo for 'Life History of Mahatma Gandhi' and Anup Kumar Raut for 'Gwalior State of India' won Vermeil.

Large Silver Medal recipients are - Anil Dhir, Shakil Ahmed, C S Basak, Moomin Sinha, and Biswajit Dash for 'Great Britain Reign of QEII', 'Memoirs of a Beautiful Young Woman', 'Health & Medicine', 'Finland 1860-1985', and 'Scouts & Guides' respectively.

Silver Medal with Special Prize was awarded to the St. Xavier's High School for 'Post Independence India'. Silver Medals were awarded to - Anjali Kanungo, Rajesh Kumar Sinha (2), Manorama Dash, Suresh Chandra Dhali, Santoshini Panigrahi, Sasmita Raut, Ranjit Dash, Prakhar Deep, Swayam Prakash, Anandita Raut, Sushree Sagarika, and D A V Public School (2), Sainik School, and St. Xavier's High School. Silver Bronze Medals were awarded to Kashinath Sahoo, Susanta Kumar Swain, Kalyani Basak, and Anuradha Mishra. Bronze Medal was awarded to 14 exhibits and Diploma was awarded to 1 exhibit. 14 exhibits received only the Certificate of Participation.

A set of three Special Covers with Special Postmarks on Lake Chilka, Pata Paintings, and Traditional Weaving design were brought out on the occasion. For your requirements please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Bhubaneswar

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YOUTH EXHIBITION AT BANGALORE

Karnataka Philatelic Society will be organizing a philatelic exhibition YOUTH KAPRPHILEX 2002 for youth aged 9 to 25 years at Bangalore on June 8 and 9, 2002. For more details please contact the Secretary of the Karnataka Philatelic Society P S Varaprasad varaprasadz@yahoo.co.in

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INDIA & STATES AT DAVID FELDMAN AUCTION

We would like to add to our report in the previous issue that the Catalogs of this auction sale are available online at David Feldman's Web Site: <http://www.DavidFeldman.com>. The Catalogs for this sale are also available from the auctioneer for postage costs at 20 SFr Each (\$US15, £10) or 70 SFr (\$US50, £30) for the set. Orders are to be forwarded to: David Feldman S.A., 175 route de Chancy (P.O. Box 81), CH1213 Onex, Geneva, Switzerland. TEL [41] 22 727.07.77, FAX [41] 22 727.07.78, E-Mail: [Admin@DavidFeldman.com](mailto:Admin@DavidFeldman.com) The valuations in David Feldman auctions are usually low and realizations are higher, so bid accordingly.

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PERMANENT PICTORIAL POSTMARK OF LUDHIANA

Suraj Jaitly of Ludhiana submitted three different designs for the Permanent Pictorial Postmark to be introduced at the Philatelic Bureau, Ludhiana. India Post selected one of these depicting the Clock Tower. India Post provided a different one on September 9, 2001, the first day of its introduction. That postmark was prepared in hurry and did not have any provision for changeable dates. India Post have now provided the one with provision of changeable dates, but is is different again.

To view the images of the postmarks, please click on the link below
<http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/News/PPP-Ludhiana.htm>

STAMPS FOR 2003

Aniruddha Sahasrabuddhe has sent in the following suggestion for the stamps to be issued in 2003 in response to our invitation for the same in the previous issue.

"There is going to be Cricket World Cup next year in May. I suggest that India should issue stamps commemorating this event. It should be brought out in a set of 5 stamps showing the winners of the Cricket World Cup, i.e., West Indies 1975-1979, India 1983, Australia 1989-1999, Pakistan 1992, and Sri Lanka 1996. Each stamp may show the Cricketing Symbol of the respective country in right corner and the country flag in the right hand side and a picture in the middle. If needed, I am also ready to help in the designing of the stamps."

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FAKE STAMP PAPERS RACKET BUSTED IN NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested five persons running a fake stamp paper racket on May 8, 2002. The police also recovered a dye used to print counterfeit US and Nepalese currency from them. After getting a tip-off, a deal was struck with the five for purchase of 10 stamp papers of Rs. 1000 each for Rs. 150 near the New Delhi Railway Station, said Deputy Commissioner of Police, (Special cell) Ashok Chand. The accused were running the racket for the past two years. Counterfeit stamp papers worth Rs. 0.6 million, besides two cell phones, and Rs. 35,000 in cash were recovered from them.

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POST DURING GUJARAT RIOTS

The large-scale communal violence in Gujarat is still continuing unabated since that fateful day of February 27, 2002. Official figures say over 1000 persons, majority of them being women and children, are killed in the riots so far.

Vir Sanghvi, the Editor of the Hindustan Times aptly wrote on April 21, 2002 regarding this: "Our problem is that we are still too numb to come to terms with the enormity of what has happened, still too unwilling to accept that Indians could have behaved with such savagery towards each other."

What is happening in Gujarat naturally affects the post offices, postal staff, and postal services too. We have been trying to obtain data from the very beginning without much success.

We have reports that a Postmaster, Memeon, with his wife and another Postmaster, Y R Makrani, both in Sabarkantha Postal Division were killed in two separate incidents during the riots in early March 2002. Delivery of mails has also been effected.

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LINKS UPDATE

International association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP) is now on the Internet at <http://www.aijp.org>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 7

Stamps and stamp collectors do from time to time attract the attention of the mainstream media especially as philatelists do continue to bring laurels for India.

'India Today' the leading newsmagazine of India took an interest in philately way back in 1987 after the biggest loss took place for Indian Philately. The then secretary-general of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) and the national commissioner for the AMERIPEX'86 world philatelic exhibition, M G Pittie lost five collections while carrying exhibits to Chicago, USA via Canada. The AMERIPEX'86 Committee announced a reward of US \$ 25,000 for information leading to the recovery of the exhibits lost. US Federal Bureau of Investigations was working on this case without much success.

Two of the exhibits lost belonged to P Gupta of Kolkata, the then President of PCI. One of his exhibits 'Cochin' was in the FIP Championship Class and another was 'Indian Maritime Mail'. An exhibit of 'India Classics' that included the famous 'Inverted Head' besides several philatelic jewels belonged to S B Kothari of Kolkata. The fourth exhibit 'Soruth' belonged to Dhirubhai Mehta of Mumbai and like all other exhibits had won Gold Medals on many occasions. The fifth exhibit 'Indore' belonged to a young exhibitor Ravi Dangi of Indore. These exhibits were then estimated at Rs. 15 million. As a trader and office-bearer of the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS) said in London: "The market value of two out of the five collections lost could be as much as half a million pounds."

Click here to read the article

http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/Features/india_today.htm

'The Week', another news magazine spoke in 1996 to leading philatelists and talked about the possibility of investing in stamps as a means of hiding black money.

Visit the following link to read the full article.

http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan/Content/Features/the_week.htm

We are continuing to receive responses from our readers on this column. Reproduced below is the response received from Umesh Kakkeri of Mumbai:

"Thank you very much for publishing my letter, which I had written to the president of PCI on INPEX-EMPIREPEX 2001.

It will be disgraceful to know that this very president of the PCI has not bothered to write to me or even sending the acknowledgement of my letter, or single line stating of considering or looking into the matter, since almost 4 months have been past for my writing a Registered Acknowledgement Due letter to him.

And on top of it, Mr. Dhirubahi Mehta and Mr. Vispy Dastoor, both former presidents of PCI, think I am a ping pong ball which they are hitting from one court to other (any body can make that out from their respective letters).

What any gentleman can expect from these shameless people occupying high offices and doing nothing?

I request you to publish this letter of mine, so that my fellow philatelists should know that what kind of people are taking care of Indian philately and what kind of people we are electing as a president of the topmost body in Indian philately (PCI)."

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 ON LOSS OF INWARD FOREIGN MAILS

Several complaints and opinions regarding the loss/damage of foreign mail have been published in the recent newsletters (including my complaint). I would like to add that even registered letters are now getting lost. A friend of mine sent me a birthday card, along with a few stamps and stickers by registered post from U.S.A, but they did not arrive. I have asked her to contact the post-office with the receipt. I also received some New Zealand stamps, sent by recorded delivery post. But the acknowledgement card, usually attached to the back of the cover, was missing, and I was not asked to sign on receipt by the postman. Recorded delivery needs to be signed for on receipt. Some stamp hinges and mounts have also gone missing. I had joined a beginners' club in New Zealand. They have sent me my membership card and free stamps three times already, but I am yet to receive them. In wake of all these discouraging events, I have been forced to stop trading or purchasing stamps through ordinary post. I also have to pay my fellow traders and dealers for sending me stamps through registered post (sometimes over \$10), and must register everything I send. Now that registered and recorded delivery post is also being lost, I am going to stop all trades for the time being. My small amount of pocket money is being wasted. I certainly cannot afford to pay such colossal amounts, to end up getting nothing. Whoever is responsible for the loss of mail (I repeat, I am not accusing anyone) can be credited with turning me, a student, away from stamp collecting.

ABHAI MISHRA ON ANTARCTIC PHILATELY IN INDIA

I have been a subscriber of your newsletter since the beginning. I enjoy reading it very much.

I had the opportunity to visit Antarctica with the XXI Indian Antarctic Expedition. Recently I came back from the icy continent. Before proceeding to Antarctica I checked with number of philatelists in India about "Indian Antarctic Philately", but unfortunately got a blank. India has been launching Antarctic Expedition since 1981. Department of Posts has also issued few stamps on Antarctica including First Indian Antarctic Expedition, Dakshin Gangotri Post Office, and Antarctic Treaty (setenant).

A Branch Office of North Goa Post Office does exist at Indian Antarctic Station, Maitri (erstwhile Dakshin Gangotri) and offers very good pictorial cancellation. During the expedition I was surprised to see the number of foreign philatelists' letters, sent to the leader of the expedition for cancellation at Maitri. It was very sad to know that we our self knew too little about it. I personally posted around 50 covers cancelled at Maitri to various philatelists in India, most of whom I know by name only.

I have posted some of the covers on the Expedition website at www.geocities.com/xxiiae. My personal website is at www.geocities.com/abhai_mishra2000 You may include the expedition website in your links so that other philatelist may also view those beautiful Antarctic covers.

FEATURES & RESOURCES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMP COLLECTORS STICK IT TO THE POLITICIANS

By Alan Crawford in Sunday Herald

PARTY politics can be a combative business and as far as conflicts go, this was decidedly first class. Scottish Liberal Democrats meeting in Perth for their party conference came face to face with opposition of a different kind yesterday when they found themselves competing for space with a convention of philatelists. The Dewar's Centre in Perth, scene of many a political and curling triumph, can rarely have seen such a showdown, as the LibDem faithful found themselves upstaged by superior numbers of stamp collectors attending a conference in the same building.

Any notion of harmony was dispelled as soon as the philatelists, attending the annual meeting of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, discovered that the party of coalition government in the Scottish Executive expected all consideration of twopenny blues, penny blacks and cape triangles to give way to political debate. According to the irate philatelists, the politicians began to muscle in on the collectors' space. 'They are wandering around as if they think they own the place,' complained Alan Watson, secretary of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. 'They forget we are sharing it with them. Typical politicians -- they think that politics is far more important than people enjoying themselves.'

The association's annual congress has so far attracted more than 500 stamp collectors compared to the 250 LibDem delegates, and is being held in the larger of the centre's two conference halls. Some of the stamp collectors grumbled about Liberal Democrat stewards asking them for passes. And there were mutterings over the sharing of facilities at the centre.

Watson said he was put off by 'the way they are milling around outside' and mentioned an argument over a room booking. 'But I think we are getting there,' he said. Watson said he was a Liberal Democrat himself but was 'far more interested in stamp collecting than politics'. 'It's a lot more fun,' he added. 'They are terribly serious through there and we are more interested in enjoying ourselves.'

Shetland MSP Tavish Scott said any slight disagreements had all been good humored, adding: 'The suggestion that the Liberal Democrats and stamp collectors would fall out over a room would be quite ridiculous. 'We were positively encouraging each other to go into the room first.' He did, however, express quiet satisfaction that so many of the philatelists had apparently confessed to being of a LibDem persuasion. 'Stamp collectors do seem to be a natural constituency for us,' he added.

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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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 12

POSTAL NOTICE

In anticipation of the publication of the next edition of the "Indian Postal Guide", the following calendar of mail steamer departures from Bombay is published: -

MAIL STEAMER CALENDAR FOR BOMBAY

N. B. - Where *Galle* is mentioned, mails may also be sent for the Island of *Ceylon* generally.

Where *Singapore* is mentioned, mails may also be sent for places in Netherlands India, Labuan, Bangkok (Siam) and Philippine Islands.

Where *Hong-Kong* and *Shanghai* are mentioned, mails may also be sent for other places in *China*, e.g., for Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Swatow and Whampoa through Hong-Kong and Ningpo through Shanghai.

Where *Yokohama* is mentioned, mails may also be sent for *Nagasaki*, *Hiogo* and other places in *Japan*.

Where the mails from Europe do not reach Bombay in time for the Kurrachee and Persian Gulf steamers, these vessels are detained for one day.

Where Mozambique is mentioned, mails may also be sent for *Delagoa Bay*, but as the call at *Delagoa Bay* is optional with the contractors for the service, the delivery of correspondence for that place cannot be guaranteed.

"P. and O." stand for Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company; and "B. I." Stand for British India Steam Navigation Company.

Mail steamers and places for which mails are sent. See also N. B. above. Leave Bombay 1873 -

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January - B. I. Steamer for Kurrachee and the Persian Gulf, also for Bagdad.

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January - P. & O. Steamer for Aden, Suez, EUROPE, and places beyond.

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January ... B. I. Steamer for Kurrachee

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January ... P. & O. Steamer for Australia

Ditto ... B. I. Steamer for Calcutta and intermediate ports on the West and East Coast, including Ceylon.

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January ... P. & O. Steamer for Aden, Suez, EUROPE, and places beyond.

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January ... P. & O. Steamer for Galle, Singapore, Penang, Hong-Kong, Shanghai and Yokohama; also for United States of America via Hong-Kong.

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January ... B. I. Steamer for Kurrachee and the Persian Gulf, also for Bagdad.

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January ... P. & O. Steamer for Aden, Suez, EUROPE, and places beyond; also via Aden for Zanzibar; also via Aden for Mauritius, Mahe (Seychelles) and Reunion.

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.

Updated Segments This Week: News, Articles, and Links.

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