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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The First, Free & Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Awards Received: Silver Medal with 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001.

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Issue # 65 - May 16, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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If you've found this newsletter useful you might like to recommend it  
on to a friend. Better still forward this issue.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Continuing with suggestions to India Post for the promotion of  
philately in the country, in this issue we suggest that a complete  
record of stamps, stationery, postmarks, and other philatelic products  
such as special packs issued during the three preceding months anywhere  
in the country should be provided in their quarterly 'Philately  
Newsletter'. The collection and publication of this information should  
be given priority over any other kind of content.

It is not necessary to print it in full color and on art paper. We  
believe India Post will better serve the cause of philately with a  
newsletter that may be printed on ordinary paper in single color but  
one that provides more useful content spread over more pages.

The 'Philately Newsletter' is reportedly printed in the quantity of  
35,000 copies. On the other hand it is not even distributed to the  
25,000 standing order deposit account holders with philatelic bureaus  
in the country. We suggest an audit of circulation figures be  
undertaken at the earliest to find out where the copies are eventually  
being consumed. And if the idea is only to break and establish records

than we humbly suggest that 'Philately Newsletter' should be supplied to each one of the 150,000 post offices in the country that, we assure, shall be a world record.

In a lighter vein, by increasing the number of pages India Post shall also have the opportunity to accommodate more fellow postal officers by designating them as 'editors'. Currently the four-page 'Philately Newsletter' has four editors!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: O K Prakash, from Perinthelmana, Sunil Joseph from Kottayam, and Press Information Bureau of the Government of India at New Delhi.

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

##### GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Krishan Kant, Vice-President of India released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the Golden Jubilee of Parliament of India at a function held on May 13, 2002. The function was organized at the new Parliament Library Building in the Parliament House Complex that was inaugurated by the President of India K R Narayanan only last week on May 7, 2002. A "Roman Feast" followed the function, which started at 7 in the evening. Full-page advertisements were released in the several national dailies however, as usual, there was no picture of the stamp in the ads.

The stamp design shows the decorative inner view of the Central Hall of the Parliament, and also incorporates one of the inscriptions from another dome inside the Parliament. This is the first stamp of India that is printed in Gold color and furthermore the image is also embossed.

The first meeting of the constituent Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1946 was a historic event as the Assembly was a fully sovereign body, independent of external authority. After the attainment of freedom on August 15, 1947 and the coming into force of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, the character of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) underwent a change. It became the provisional Parliament of the country. May 13, 1952 marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of Independent India. It was on this day that India's Parliament met for the first time after the General Elections.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4 that is the current inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp, the First Day Cover, and the pictorial first day postmark. Samanata also designed the layout of the Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, priced at Rs. 2; the information sheet continues to be in color, after the introduction of color with India Japan Issue of April 2002. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo-offset

in single color on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 3 million. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

In addition an Inland Letter Card in the denomination of Rs. 2 to mark the occasion was also brought out. India Security Press of Nashik Road printed it in single color in the quantity of 5 million. The design of the imprinted stamp depicts the Parliament building.

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PRABODHANKAR THACKERAY

The next issue in the denomination of Rs. 4 on Prabodhankar Thackeray, the father of Shiv Sena Chief Balasaheb Thackeray, is scheduled for May 19, 2002.

The stamp shall be produced in the quantity of 400,000 only. The stamp along with the First Day Covers and the information sheets, at Rs. 2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters.

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

The Army Postal Service issued the following Special Covers with Special Postmarks this year:

January 11, 2002  
120 Infantry Battalion (TA) Bihar, Golden Jubilee of

February 5 2002  
Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine, Golden Jubilee of

Civilians may order these covers thru the nearest philatelic bureau.

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PROPOSALS FOR 2003

Alexander Inshakov from St. Petersburg, Russia has sent in the following suggestion for the stamps to be issued in 2003.

"In 63<sup>rd</sup> issue of Collector's Companion you offered to make proposals for India Post's future issues. As a long time collector of Indian stamps I would like to make such proposal for 2003 and future years. Back in 1990 the three stamps dedicated to the Cities of India had been issued. I think this set may be continued, and each year the three other stamps about different cities would be issued. There are a lot of very interesting cities in India and I think these stamps will be a good worldwide promotion of tourism in your beautiful country."

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ESPANA 2002 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION FOR YOUTH

The Governing Council of the Philatelic Council of India at its meeting on April 28, 2002 at Bhubaneswar appointed Madhukar Jhingan as the National Commissioner from India for ESPANA 2002 SALAMANCA World Philatelic Exhibition for Youth to be held from November 17 to 22, 2002 at Salamanca in Spain. The young philatelists desiring to participate may contact him via email at [madhukar@bigfoot.com](mailto:madhukar@bigfoot.com)

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARK

In response to our editorials regarding Special Postmarks we have begun to receive information on issues of 2001 and 2002. We will continue to update the list of issues for 2002 in here.

January 5, 2002 - Raipur, Chhatisgarh

14<sup>th</sup> National Jamboree of Bharat Scout & Guides

February 16, 2002 - Karkala 574104, Karnataka  
Bhagvan Shree Bahaubali Swamy Maha Mastakabisheka Mahotsava

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POSTAL HIKE UPDATE

We have been reporting in our earlier issues regarding the Postal Rate hike, on May 14, 2002 the President gave his assent to the Finance Bill, 2002. With this, the Bill as passed during the Second Phase of the current Budget Session of Parliament, has been notified in the Gazette of India as Act No. 20 of 2002. The Act has come into force with immediate effect. The Finance Act, 2002, seeks to give effect to all the amendments effected in the Direct and Indirect Taxes Laws to provide for new taxes, concessions, relaxations and subsidies for the current financial year 2002-2003.

India Post is yet to notify the date from which revised postal tariff shall come in to effect.

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PHILATELIC CLUB THRISSUR A G M

The 24th Annual General Body Meeting of Philatelic Club Thrissur was held on 5th May 2002 at Bharathiya Vidhyabhavan hall Trichur. There was A philatelic quiz for School and College Students was conducted in connection with this AGB. 6 prizes and consolation prizes for the same were also distributed in the AGB. The winners of Inpex Emperipex 2001 were presented with a memento. Identity cards to the life members were distributed. The spot Auction had very interesting items. The General Body elected Dr. K. S. Mohan as the President and Mr. O. K. Prakash as Secretary and Mr. C. P. Seby as the Treasurer.

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FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL ISSUES IN INDIA

The illegal issues are openly being sold at philatelic exhibitions either organized or supported by India Post at district, regional, state, and national level. It is time that India Post should take some result-oriented deterrents to put an end to this menace in India.

Sunil Joseph of Kottayam recently wrote to WADP (World Association for the Development of Philately) regarding the illegal issues being sold by 'Big stamp dealers' at INPEX-EMPIREPEX 2001 at Nashik during December 2001. This exhibition was fully supported by India Post. Yours truly had also noticed and taken up this matter with the Chairman of the Organizing Committee INPEX-EMPIREPEX 2001, Vispi Dastur, during the first day of the show itself. Dastur failed to take any action despite his assurance to do so perhaps his hands were full as he was the Joint Chairman of the Jury as well as the Coordinator of the show.

Maria S Libera, [maria.libera@upu.int](mailto:maria.libera@upu.int) from WADP responded to Joseph as follows: 'The war you are also waging against these type of issues is commendable and I think you should not hesitate to require action from the associations of dealers and collectors that you must have in India as well. If you or other collectors which you know have any doubts whatsoever about the authenticity of any stamps, please let them know they should contact me (us at the UPU), at the WADP Secretariat. The more people that raise questions, the better.'

'Please also continue to remind your readers and members, on a permanent basis, that they should feel free to contact the WADP Secretariat

directly with any queries that they may have regarding stamps on the market and their authenticity.'

'WADP is currently processing denouncements from Angola and Guiné-Bissau in particular and are awaiting confirmation of likely denouncements from the postal administrations of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo (Republic), Congo (Democratic Republic), East Timor, Estonia, Georgia, Guinea, Kosovo (UNMIK), Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Sao Tome é Principe, Somalia, Tadjikistan, Tchad and Turkmenistan. Collectors should be particularly careful when they see issues on the market in the names of these countries.'

For more details on the 'Fight Against Illegal Issues', please visit:  
<http://www.geocities.com/mjhingam/Content/Orgs/WADP-05.htm>

The summary of UPU Circulars about illegal issues is available at:  
<http://www.geocities.com/mjhingam/Content/Orgs/UPU.htm>

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

PHILANEWS, #2, March-April 2002, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Rajesh Paharia, [pahariarajesh@msn.com](mailto:pahariarajesh@msn.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Address: A S Mittal, President, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur -3  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 8  
We have been constantly receiving feedback for this column and we are in the process of compiling the same. We will continue with more inputs on philately in transition 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>

AVINASH B. JAGTAP ON IND DAK

I was taken with great surprise to read that the Nov.-Dec.2001, issue of Ind Dak which I received was the last one as per notification you received from Mr. Varaprasad, the director of Philatelic Research Library & Publications Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore. I had written to you a month before in this connection and was eager to find some body who could give me some information.

Ind Dak had published several articles of mine which I had written after then-editor Mr. K. P. Achar had complained that Indian philatelists neglect Indian Journals and publish their findings and articles in foreign journals. This naturally gave me incentive to prove otherwise. As long as Mr. K. P. Achar functioned as Editor of IND DAK, he showed his capability to edit and publish a journal. Ind Dak was also praised in Europe and was also awarded a Bronze Medal at an int. philatelic

exhibition a few years ago. But since Mr. K. P. Achar gave up the editorship, irregularities started. Ind Dak then appeared before its readers as bi-monthly. Dr. P. S. Dixit was the Editor and I thought it would still continue to be India's only philatelic journal. But now it seems that even Ind Dak has to face financial difficulties.

I had paid the annual subscription of equivalent of USD 20/- for this year. I TAKE FOR GRANTED THIS HAS BEEN LOST WITHOUT GETTING ANY THING IN RETURN. I had already spent more than four fold only on posting my articles to Ind Dak, without expecting any remuneration for it, which I get lavishly from Swiss journals.

I had written three e-mails plus one letter to Mr Varaprasad, whom I had sent my Demand Draft of Rs 960/- under registered post from Poona, two of my letters to Dr. P. S. Dixit on his Bangalore address and one to his close friend at Nadiad, all these letters in connection with IND DAK have remained unanswered till today! So it is mysterious when I get information from you in your News Letter No. 63 that Ind Dak has ceased to exist and this information was furnished Mr. Varaprasad!

May I cite one example? Many years ago I had sent on M.O. of Rs 18/- to Mysore Philatelic Publications at Jayalakshmipuram, Mysore for a copy of "BOMBAY G.P.O. Earlier Days" by Mr. M.M.Inamdar. I never received this book neither my money was returned. At that time I wrote a letter to Mr. P. M. Medhora, Editor of India's Stamp Journal, with whom I was in contact for more than 5 years and placed my complaint in connection with non-receipt of this book, for which I had got a very strange treatment. Mr. P. M. Medhora sent me HIS OWN COPY, which he had received from Mr. Inamdar, with dedicatory note of the author! I was so much touched when I got this "Reply" from Mr. Medhora. I wept when I learnt that tragic and inhuman news that during the communal riots in Bombay, Mr. Medhora and his wife both were burnt alive in their flat by the fanatic mob!

I wonder how many of the readers have already paid their subscription of IND DAK for this year without learning any thing from Dr. Dixit or Mr. Varaprasad, about what has happened to their money? Dear Mr. Jhingan, I request you to re-produce this letter in your next News Letter. Let people know the things behind the curtain. I do not mind for my Rs 960 they are gone; but I deplore the attitude of our philatelic publishers who are not sincere in their work.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMP FOUND TO VIOLATE HALACHA

By JUDY SIEGEL in the Jerusalem Post, May. 1, 2002

The Postal Authority's Philatelic Services did not expect a man with a magnifying glass to catch it - Sherlock Holmes-like - with its pants down. But Alan Silver, a South African immigrant and owner of the hardware store in Telz Stone outside Jerusalem, did just that. Silver noticed that the Elul stamp in the series of 12 marking the Hebrew months has God's name in Hebrew several times, and that instead of having text from the pre-Rosh Hashana Slihot prayers (as promised in the first line), it offers much of the text of the Grace After Meals.

He showed it to the leading rabbi of Telz Stone, Arye Shulman, who ruled that it is forbidden under Jewish law to use the Elul stamp. One also may not buy it, he said, and if you have any, you have to put them in the collection of holy texts that are taken for burial, instead of being thrown in the garbage can.

Silver said the series of colorful NIS 1.20 stamps is beautiful. But when he saw the title Slihot, he recalled an incident in South Africa about 15 years ago when the postal service issued a stamp with the word for God in many languages. When the local Jewish religious court found out, it asked the authorities to stop selling the stamp - and they did. Using a magnifying glass, Silver saw the Elul stamp had several instances of God's name, which by Jewish law cannot be used except for holy purposes. He brought it to his rabbi, who examined it with the magnifying glass he uses for examining the etrog for imperfections each Succot. When he saw what was there, he made his ruling.

Postal Authority spokesman Yitzhak Rabihiya said it was news to him and to Philatelic Services director Yinon Beilin, but declined to comment until the matter is investigated.

Religious personalities and issues on stamps can sometimes be a headache. When the Philatelic Services suggested a stamp memorializing the Lubavitcher Rebbe, messianic hassidim opposed the idea because they maintained that Rabbi Menahem Mendel Schneerson had "not died." The majority group, who accept the fact of his death 10 years ago, said it was improper for the back of a stamp showing their rebbe to be licked or the front to be canceled. Although a design had been prepared, it was never issued.

#### NEWSSCAN

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

The Hindustan Times, May 14, 2002

THACKERAY'S FATHER GETS GOVERNMENT'S STAMP OF APPROVAL

by Swati Chaturvedi

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/nonfram/140502/detFRO02.asp>

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 13

#### MAIL STEAMER CALENDAR FOR BOMBAY

Continued from the previous issue

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January... B. I. Steamer for Kurrachee.

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January... B. I. Steamer for Calcutta and intermediate ports on the West and East Coast, including Ceylon.

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January... P. & O. Steamer for Aden, Suez, EUROPE and places beyond.

Tuesday, 28<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, 31<sup>st</sup> January... B. I. Steamer for Kurrachee and the Persian Gulf, also for Bagdad.

[We have abridged the notice by deciding not to publish the further dates till June. We do plan to publish an unabridged version on the web site, soon.]

Besides the information given above, the following particulars may be useful:-

Dates on which the fortnightly Steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company are timed to leave the Sandheads (Calcutta).

Friday, The 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1873; Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1873; Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1873; Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1873; Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1873; Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1873; Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1873; Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1873; Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1873; Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1873; Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1873; Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1873.

Mails for the above mentioned Steamers are made up in Calcutta on days notified locally from time to time (ordinarily in the evening, two days prior to the date of starting from the Sandheads) for Ceylon.

The French Mail Steamers starting from Calcutta once every for weeks commencing with 21<sup>st</sup> January (during the monsoon season, 2 days earlier, commencing with 11<sup>th</sup> May) proceed to Madras, Pondicherry, Galle, Singapore, Batavia, Saigon, Hong-Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama, Aden, Suez, Europe, Mahe (Seychelles), Reunion and Mauritius. The British India Steam Navigation Company have also contract lines from Calcutta fortnightly to Chittagong and Akyab, fortnightly to Akyab, Rangoon and Moulmein, fortnightly to Rangoon and Moulmein (with a continuation once every four weeks to the Straits), once in every four weeks to Port Blair and fortnightly to Bombay and ports on the East and West Coasts. The same Company have a line once every for weeks between Madras and Rangoon, and a weekly line of Steamers from Bombay to Kurrachee, with a continuation once a fortnight to the Persian Gulf.

The Opium Steamers, which leave Calcutta monthly for Penang, Singapore and Hong-Kong, have not been included, as the dates of starting are not fixed. They leave ordinarily about 12 days after each Government opium sale, and these sales have been advertised for the current year as about 6<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November, and 4<sup>th</sup> December. These Steamers proceed direct to the Straits and China, thus avoiding the circuit via Galle, and reaching Hong-Kong in about 15 days from Calcutta. Correspondence for the United States of America, when marked via Hong-Kong can be sent by these Steamers.

Letter Mails forwarded via Bombay for transmission by Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamers are closed in Calcutta 3 days earlier than in Bombay. Those forwarded via Bombay for transmission by British India Steam Navigation Company's vessels to the Persian Gulf, &c., are closed in Calcutta 4 days earlier as in these cases the Steamers leave Bombay earlier in the day.

- A M Monteath, Director General of the Post Office of India. Calcutta;  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1873



[The Mail Steamer Calendar was published twice a year in January and July. The above is the first Postal Notice regarding the Mail Steamer Calendar for 1873.]

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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