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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 the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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Issue # 75 - July 25, 2002. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The latest issue of FIP's quarterly publication 'Flash' carries the following from the FIP President, Knud Mohr: "Some FIP members were erroneously informed that I do not want to stand for re-election - not at all - I would love to be your President for the next and final 4 years".

There are two contestants for this post, Knud Mohr from Denmark and Koh Seow Chuan from Singapore.

The latest issue of continental federation's 'FIAP News' carried the following: "It is therefore, understood that Mr. Raymond Todd's nomination as a FIP Vice-President will not be contested."

There are two contestants for this post, Raymond Todd from Australia and Michael Adler from Germany.

Reading between the lines, we think that it is time to announce our candidature for PCI Governing Council elections being held at Mumbai on August 25, 2002. We need your vote and support for accountability, openness, and resurgence of philately in India.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue:
Deepak Lokhande of ChaloMumbai.com.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SREE THAKUR SATYANANDA

The Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Dr. Sanjay Paswan released a commemorative stamp on philosopher, writer and poet Sree Thakur Satyananda, on July 23, 2002 at a function held at Kolkata.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate. Alka Sharma designed the stamp, the First Day Cover, and the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million each. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN PHILAKOREA 2002

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India Post will not be participating in PHILAKOREA 2002 world stamp exhibition being held from August 2 to 11, 2002 at Seoul. India Post had booked a Sales booth and planned a Special Postmark. Some of the senior postal officers would have also attended the show. However the Minister's office, it is reliably learned, turned down the proposal for undisclosed reasons.

It was important for India Post to have attended this show, as this is not only the sole FIP World General exhibition in 2002 but is also the venue for 67<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress where India's application for a world exhibition in 2004 will come up for discussion and decision. India Post will be celebrating 150 years of the first postage stamps as well as 150 years of the establishment of the Office of the Director General of Post. Both these were outcome of the enactment of the Indian Post Office Act of 1854.

The situation about the exhibits is still uncertain and it is not known if all exhibits from India will be participating.

##### ~~~~~ ABN AMRO BANK CUSTOMIZED PSE

India Post's third customized pre-stamped envelope (PSE) for ABN AMRO BANK was released on July 11, 2002 at New Delhi. The imprinted stamp depicts 'Live Without Fear' from their ad artwork for 'Freedom Credit Card' and inscribed 'postage pre-paid for Rs. 5'. The envelope is in the size of 220 x 110 mm. This is the first window envelope. This issue is NOT available to public or philatelists through the Post Office.

India Post has on offer 10 sizes of customized envelopes, in three varieties of the paper viz. 80, 90, and 100 GSM, for Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.30 each. In addition the client may choose the amount of postage prepaid - Rs. 5 for inland letter rate, Rs. 15 for overseas airmail letter rate, Rs. 22 for inland registered mail, as per their requirements. The sizes available are, in mm - 140 x 90, 152 x 90, 162 x 114, 180 x 135, 176 x 125, 220 x 110, 240 x 120, 229 x 162, 230 x 160, and A4. For more details please contact Radhika Doraiswamy, General Manager, Business Development Directorate, India Post, Malcha Marg Post Office Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021 or [radhika@indiapost.org](mailto:radhika@indiapost.org)

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MAXIM CARDS

The Deccan Philatelic Society (DPS) plans to issue a Maxim card on Sant Tukaram on August 10, 2002 and has previously issued maxim cards on Raj Kapoor on Decmber 14, 2001 and two maxim Cards on P L Deshpande on June 16, 2002. For the availability and price of these maxim cards, please contact: P J Lewis, Secretary DPS, A-12 Sacred Heart Town, 75/2 Wanowrie, Pune 411040.

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GANESH FESTIVAL AT PUNE

India Post issued the second customized greeting card with PSE for the 'Shreemant Dagadusheth Halwai Sarvajanic Ganpati Trust' of Pune on the occasion of the festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha. The stamp design on PSE is exact replica of the card design and appropriately depicts the idol of Lord Ganesha. The imprinted stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4.

While searching for the sponsors we have located some information at this link: <http://www.abwebplus.com/punefestival/track/082698.htm>. This issue is NOT available to public or philatelists through the Post Office.

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INDIA PHILATELIC GROUP IN GERMANY

The FG-Indien (Indian Stamp Collectors Society) is a German-based non-profit association dealing with all philatelic aspects of the Indian Subcontinent. They provide several services to their members - Indien Report published in German, Library (German and English books and publications), Auctions, and New Stamps (by subscription). Their annual Membership fee is Euro 20. Their web site is at <http://www.fg-indien.de>

The Board of FG-Indien consist of the Chairman - Wilfried Franke, the Deputy Chairman - Helmut P. Schmitz, Secretary - Volker Grossmann, and Treasurer - Werner Gras.

The Secretary of the group may be contacted for more information at the following address: Volker Grossmann, 06122 Halle-Neustadt, Lilienstr. 25a.

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ALLOCATION OF WORK BETWEEN MINISTERS

The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan, distributed work between his two Ministers of State for Communications & Information Technology, Sumitra Mahajan and Dr. Sanjay Paswan. Under overall superintendence and guidance of the Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Dr. Paswan will look after the Department of Posts and the Department of Information Technology and Sumitra Mahajan will look after the Department of Telecommunications.

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INDIA POST APPOINTMENTS

Padma B Subramanian, who joined Indian Postal Service in 1967, has been appointed as the Senior Deputy Director General - Corporate Planning at India Post HQ at New Delhi on July 18, 2002. She was earlier on deputation to the Ministry of Labor.

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VADOPHIL

Issue # 91 for July 2002 of this quarterly publication of the Baroda Philatelic Society arrived during this week. It is jointly edited by Prashant H Pandya and Timir R Shah. For more details please contact [vadophil@yahoo.com](mailto:vadophil@yahoo.com)

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TECHNOLOGY FROM ISRAEL TO FIGHT THE FAKES

To check the duplication of adhesive stamp papers, the Maharashtra government is considering the use of Latent Image Technology (LIT) from Israel. The state government has already communicated its desire to the Central government and India Security Press at Nashik for the use of the technology. The state protocol department is currently using this technology on special passes provided for VIP vehicles.

LIT is based on the radiation chemistry of polymers, in which chemical and radiation treatment create latent images in transparent polymer films. The images, though completely invisible to the naked eye, become visible when seen through a standard polariser.

According to Rajesh Awchat, of R L Awchat and Associates, an authorized distributor of LIT products in India, the high-resolution images are highly stable and impossible to imitate or falsify. "Though it is slightly more expensive than other measures, such as holograms, the technology is completely foolproof. It could be used to prevent duplication of mark sheets, degree certificates, excise labels and so on. It is currently being used in the US, Japan, Israel and several other countries," he said.

The Rs 2,200 crore fake stamp paper scam, exposed by the Pune police recently, shook the government and forced it to stop selling adhesive stamps.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 18

We had long ago identified a malady and named it "Dharamsala Syndrome". It related so well to the philatelic scenario that it had been subject matter of several of our philatelic talks but finds mentions in print here for the very first time.

'Dharamsala' is a charitable institution more often than not attached to a religious institution such as a temple. It provides no-frills boarding and lodging to pilgrims, and others either free or on nominal charges. Such institutions are common also in several Asian countries including Japan and Korea.

We have observed a strange phenomenon in India. The persons who are on board of management of such institutions take their duties towards these very lightly and at the lowest priority possible. They do not feel any responsibility towards any one and show an absence of any

professionalism whatsoever. However when it comes to their individual vocations in life they have plenty of time, are focused, prepared and thoroughly professional. The malady only surfaces towards their duties in non-profit institutions.

Most officers of philatelic organizations in India are suffering from Dharamsala Syndrome. Now that we do know the patients, can you suggest some remedies?

#### 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>

#### FEROZ SAIT FROM ALLEPPEY

I am a reader of your mail and I appreciate the excellent work your team is putting on in updating the collectors about Indian issues. I would like to know if you can provide any information regarding orchid cancellations by India and also any special cover was released apart from the issues of 1991. As northeast region of India is famous for orchids there is a chance of such a postmark. I would also like to know if there is a book or reference material on all the permanent pictorial cancellations of India till date.

#### PREMNATH KUDVA FROM MANGALORE

Firstly I wish to commend the two of you for coming out with your delightful and information filled newsletter on such a regular basis. Even though you were facing (it looked to me) immense web and e-mail problems you have persisted and that too for no monetary benefit.

I am writing to ask you the issue date of a couple of definitive issues. I have checked all the resources known to me, like the Phila Catalogue, SG catalogue, Post Office published book, stuff on the net and so on. But no release date seems to exist for the stamps I am asking the dates for.

The date I want to know is for the map of India series as mentioned below;

- 1959 Map of India ashoka wmk 50,75 both paise 1Re, 2Rs, 5Rs, 10Rs
- 1960 Map of India ashoka wmk 1,15,90 all paise
- 1963 Map of India ashoka wmk 6,13 both paise

Regarding the new VIII definitive series, I want to know if they encompass both the wild life and famous leaders being issued since 2000. Or if the famous leaders are part of a special definitive series.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

RESEARCH NOTES

PIN CODE

Germany was the first country in the world to introduce a numerical postal address code in 1961 to aid mechanized sorting. On August 15,

1972 India became the 19th country in the world to adopt a similar system with the introduction of PIN Code.

Postal Index Number (PIN) is a 6-digit code. There are 8 PIN regions in the country. The first digit indicates one of the regions. The first 2 digits together indicate the sub region or one of the postal circles. The first 3 digits together indicate a sorting / revenue district. The last 3 digits refer to the delivery Post Office.

First Digit - Region - States Covered

- 1 - Northern - Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
- 2 - Northern - Uttar Pradesh, and Uttaranchal
- 3 - Western - Rajasthan, and Gujarat
- 4 - Western - Chattisgarh, Maharastra, and Madhya Pradesh
- 5 - Southern - Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka
- 6 - Southern - Kerala, and Tamil Nadu
- 7 - Eastern - West Bengal, Orissa, and North Eastern States
- 8 - Eastern - Bihar, and Jharkand

This digital code eased the problem of sorting mail. Especially as there are several languages and scripts as well as several different towns having the same name in India.

India Post has been publishing All India Pin Code Directories periodically and these have been available at post offices for sale to the public. We note the following editions:

- 1973 - Print Line 1974 - Price Rs. 2.15
- 1973 (Reprint) - Print Line 1975 - Rs. 1.75
- 1981 - Price Rs. 3.50 (Corrected in manuscript from 0.50)
- 1982 - (1983) - Price not indicated
- 1985 - Rs. 7
- 2000 - Rs. 40 (hand stamped)

We request our readers to look at their holdings and report other editions of the All India Pin Code Directories.

Contrary to popular belief the PIN codes have been added, deleted, and changed during last 30 years. Armed with this information it will be quite a challenge to obtain postmarks showing different PIN Codes for the same post office.

India Post's web site <http://www.indiapost.org> provides a search engine for PIN Codes. By entering the name of a town it provides the PIN Code for the same. And more interestingly one can find out the name of the town by entering the PIN Code.

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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ALSO IN THE NEWS

LINN'S STAMP NEWS ONLINE

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We ourselves are excited and await the availability of Linn's online, as we have been its readers for over two decades. Believe it or not, during the years we could afford it we have paid US \$ 500 per year for its airmail subscription!!!

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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>

The Hindu, July 14, 2002

COURT FEE STAMPS BEING SMUGGLED INTO TIRUPATI

<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/2002/07/14/stories/2002071402930600.htm>

The Business Line, July 16, 2002

POSTAL DEPT LOGISTICS FORAY PLAN IN ADVANCED STAGE

<http://www.blonnet.com/2002/07/16/stories/2002071600970600.htm>

The Business Line, July 16, 2002

2.5 PC ANNUAL GROWTH SEEN IN GLOBAL POSTAL MAIL: STUDY

<http://www.blonnet.com/2002/07/16/stories/2002071602090200.htm>

The Business Line, July 19, 2002

POST GOING PRIVATE... IN LETTER AND SPIRIT

<http://www.blonnet.com/2002/07/19/stories/2002071902420300.htm>

The Business Line, July 24, 2002

AP Govt. Move to Amend Indian Stamp Act

<http://www.blonnet.com/2002/07/24/stories/2002072400371700.htm>

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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.

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STAMPSONINDIA 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,

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