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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 # 79 - August 22, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
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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

We could go on, for perhaps the next 100 issues of this newsletter, on highlighting what's plaguing Indian philately. It could be due to wrong policies set out not for promotion of philately but for promotion of a small number of individuals at the cost of others. These persons have become so emboldened over the years that they have thrown all caution to the winds. At this juncture, we stop and think and would like to know from you, if we have helped to focus on the problems? Which is the first step towards finding a solution. We would like to know your views because this newsletter is published for you, our subscribers.

This crusade has not been undertaken for any personal gains. The fact that we could continue with it so far itself is a proof of this. We have been questioned, threatened, cajoled in to focusing elsewhere. However, given a choice, we would also like to concentrate our energies on positive work, as has been the norm.

If this is not a common cause and everyone else has no problems with whatever has happened in past 30 years and the way things are today, then we must stop here and now. In case you see any merit in what we are doing, then this is the time for direct action, to show your support, to

stand up and be counted because this the time we need the nod of approval from you the most.

We have tabled the facts, highlighted the wrongdoing and yet not singled out a particular person or persons. The need of the hour is a change in the mindset, from person centric to organization centric. We worked in self-imposed limits although, sorry to say, for others it is a no holds barred.

We also wish to point out that the information we publish here was previously not available even at times to the Governing Council members and some office bearers including the presidents of PCI and the Philatelic Division of India Post. It was a major decision for us to decide on the degree of the exposure.

The law has just begun the long march on its own course. It will take time, lots of patience, and above all perseverance to be able to cleanse the rot. Be with us for the long term, greater, and widespread benign growth of philately in India. And tell us that you are there by writing back.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Shyam P Nhuchhe Pradhan from Nepal, the Tribune from Chandigarh, and the Associated Press.

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

##### INDIA POST CANCELS THE ALLOTMENT OF PCI OFFICE

India Post had allotted accommodation for the permanent office of the Philatelic Congress of India within its HQ premises at New Delhi in May 2001 after lot of efforts. It was inaugurated on November 5, 2001 by then Secretary (Posts) of the Ministry of Communications, B N Som.

This allotment was canceled on August 13, 2002 for undisclosed reasons.  
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##### NEW DEFINITIVE STAMP DEPICTS ROSE

A new denomination in the current definitive series was issued on August 16, 2002. The stamp in the denomination of Rs. 2 depicts rose, India's national flower. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the 8<sup>th</sup> definitive series since independence and is devoted to the Natural Heritage of India.

This series was launched with two stamps, Rs. 5 (Leopard Cat), and Rs. 10 (Tiger) on April 30, 2000. The second part of four stamps, 25 paise (Black Buck), 50 paise (Nilgiri Tahr), Re. 1 (Saras Crane), and Rs. 3 (Indian Otter) was issued on July 20, 2000. The third part consisting of one stamp of Rs. 50 (Paradise Flycatcher) was issued on October 30, 2000. The fourth part of two stamps, Rs. 15 (Butterfly) and Rs. 20 (Golden Showers) was issued on November 20, 2000.

The FDC issued at the launch of the series is being used for the whole series, priced at Rs. 2. Informative brochure was not issued. There was no release ceremony held for this or earlier definitive issues.

We suggest that India Post should issue a Collectors Pack of this definitive issue (the first of its type) and organize a release function in collaboration with World Wild Life Fund for Nature, Bombay Natural History Society or a similar organization with wide publicity.

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NEW ISSUE UPDATE

DADASAHEB GAEKWAD

India Post's next stamp issue in the denomination of Rs. 4 on Bhaurao Krishnarao(Dadasaheb) Gaekwad is scheduled for August 26, 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.

BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The issue on Bihar Chamber of Commerce earlier scheduled for August 17, 2002 is now rescheduled for August 31, 2002.

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FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

UPHILEX

Uttar Pradesh Circle of the India Post is organizing a State level philatelic exhibition from November 12 to 15, 2002 at Lucknow. More details may be had from the Office of the Chief Postmaster General, 4 Hazrat Ganj, Lucknow 226001

SCHOOLPEX

The Philatelic Society of Rajasthan will be organizing 7th Inter School Philatelic Exhibition on September 11 to 14, 2002 at Jaipur. More details may be had from Rajesh Paharia at [pahariarajesh@msn.com](mailto:pahariarajesh@msn.com)

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BOOK OF INFORMATION

India Post recently published the 'Book of Information 2000-2001'. This annual publication is a 'must have' for the postal historian. As it is unfortunately, not a priced publication it is not available to the philatelists easily.

Since its separation from the Department of Telecom in 1984, India Post continued to publish the 'Statistical Handbook' annually from 1985 to 1989. No issue was published in 1990 and in 1991 the name was changed to the 'Book of Information'.

This 68 A4 size page publication presents the data in the following categories: General Information, Postal Organization, Mail Traffic Analysis, financial Management, Technology, and Miscellaneous. It gives detailed information on personnel and pay scales, postal network, post offices - rural, urban, population served and area served, postal and Railway mail service functional units, registered and unregistered mail traffic, Airmail, speed post, Returned Letter Office, revenue and expenditure, Indian postal orders - numbers sold and the commission earned, conveyance of mails, post office savings bank, postal life

insurance, savings certificates, philately, postal rates, postal mechanical aids, mail motor service, postal buildings, complaints, and more.

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PERIODICALS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

G P A NEWS, Whole # 59 - June 2002  
G P A NEWS, Whole # 60 - July 2002  
Editor: H C Mehta  
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association  
Address: 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009  
Annual Subscription including membership: Rs. 100, Entrance Fee Rs. 100  
Mode of Remittance: By bank draft in favor of the publisher

SIGNET, Vol. 25 #1, April-June 2002, Quarterly  
Editor: S Sahoo [signetpci@yahoo.com](mailto:signetpci@yahoo.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Congress of India  
Address: Dak Bhawan Annexe, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 100 in India  
Mode of Remittance: By bank draft in favor of the publisher

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NEW PHONE CARDS

Tata Teleservices is one of the private operators in India. The company has recently issued phone cards for use in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). These smart cards with a microchip have been issued in the denominations of Rs. 200, 500, and 750. All three cards have the same design. Schlumberger in France has manufactured these.

We have reports that Tata Teleservices have issued these for Hyderabad and Mumbai also and will issue the same for Delhi in October 2002.

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2002 FIP WEB SITE AWARDS

International Philatelic Federation (FIP) Web Site Awards for 2002 were announced at PHILAKOREA 2002 world philatelic exhibition. There were 30 entries from 17 countries, a smaller number than in previous years. For the first time, there were exhibits in the Official Class - three web sites sponsored by Postal Administrations. Eight accredited literature judges - from five countries in Europe and North America, plus a consultant, under the leadership of Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the FIP Literature Commission, completed the evaluation. The judges were Cimon Morin and Charles Verge, Canada; Toke Norby, Denmark; Ron Negus, England; Odd Harald Johannessen, Norway; Robert de Violini, Michael Dixon, and Ken Lawrence; USA. The consultant was Charles J. Peterson, USA

'Exploring the World of Czeslaw Slania's Engravings' (Denmark) <http://slaniastamps.school.dk> was rated as the Overall Best Web Site. 'The Canadian Postal Archives' [http://www.archives.ca/08/080608\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/08/080608_e.html) was the Best Web Site in Official Class. '1935 Silver Jubilee of George V' (Canada) <http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/> and 'Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane' (Italy) <http://www.fsfi.it/> were the two sites in the "Top 5% sites".

14 sites were adjudged "3-Star sites" including one from Faroe in the Official class, [http://www.geocities.com/dakshina\\_kan\\_pa/](http://www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa/) the sole entry from India, 'Dakshina Kannada Philatelic and Numismatic Association' site that has participated every year since 2000. 8 sites were adjudged

"2-Star sites" including one from China in the Official class. India Study Circle for Philately (USA) <http://www.indiastudycircle.org/> was one of the 6 sites that received a Certificate of Participation.

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COUNTERFEIT STAMPS WORTH RS 21 MILLION SEIZED

Counterfeit stamps valued at over Rs 21 million were seized on July 28, 2002 in Chandigarh from members of an inter-state gang, which was operating from a Sector 35-based office, Quick Service. A team of the Chandigarh Police made the seizure after a tip-off that the gang members were escaping to Delhi after wounding operations in the city.

Three members of the gang, Gopi Nath Nayyar, Sahil and Sanjay, were arrested and other two members, who were accompanying them, escaped when the raiding parties reached Makhan Majra village to arrest them. They were putting up in a private hotel in Darua village near here.

The clients of the company, Quick Services, included insurance companies and other private institutions in Chandigarh other cities of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Karim Bahi, who had been arrested by the Pune police about 15 days back in a similar case, was running the entire operation of selling the stamps.

Sources in the Chandigarh Police said fake stamps, valued at least Rs 7000 million had been recovered from him by the Maharashtra Police. A contact man of Karim, Asif, used to be the liaison man while exchanging money in lieu of the stamps. The police was conducting more raids to arrest Rajesh and Sachin, both hailing from Maharashtra. Both of them used to go to Delhi to collect the stamps.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Parag Jain, said the gang was causing huge losses to the state exchequer by pumping fake stamps in the market. Insurance stamps up to denominations of Rs 1000 and postal and revenue stamps of denominations as low as Rs 5 had been recovered from them.

The modus operandi of the company was to show a fake vendor licence to their customers. The money was accepted in form of cheques and a local contact, Harmesh, a resident of Maloya, who had opened an account in Sector 8 branch of Corporation Bank, used to deposit the cheques and withdraw the money. The company was also running an office in Ludhiana.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police - East, Surjit Singh, said the most of the members were living in Delhi but had taken rented accommodation in the city. Police teams were conducting more raids at the residences of the youths to make more seizures. Fake stamps, valued at over Rs 100 million, reported to be still in possession of some gang members at Delhi. The Station House Officer of Industrial Area Police Station, Shiv Raj Sidhu, Inspector Jagbir and Inspector Satbir were carrying out the entire operations.

According to the information, the gang members had come from Delhi in a hired Tata Safari (DL 1Z 1308). When the raid was conducted, the fake stamps were being brought here in an auto-rickshaw. A case under Sections 258, 259, 260, 420, 467, 468, 474, 473 and 120 B of the Indian Penal Code has been registered.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

A set of two stamps on paintings was issued on July 29, 2002 in the denomination of Rs. 5 each.

Moti (the pearl) - depicts the painting of moti (the pearl) created by His Majesty King Birendra - 1945-2001 AD. This modern painting is one of his initial creations. Despite having no formal education on paintings, enriched with broad vision right from his childhood, His Late Majesty has secured a distinct position in modern painting of Nepal by depicting his originality in impressionism.

Aryabalokiteswor - Traditional Paubha painting is an indigenous art of Nepal. Among various kinds of paintings, Paubha has its own distinct significance. Aryabalokiteswor is the god of kindness. He is also known as Karunamaya. This postage stamp depicts the traditional Paubha painting of Aryabalokiteswor painted by late Siddhumuni Shakya - 1933-2001 ad.

The stamps are designed by K K Karmacharya and printed one million each in four colors with 50 stamps to a sheet in offset lithography by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 20

As we have mentioned in the previous issue we continue to focus on some more luminaries of Indian Philately who should have lead by example the new and upcoming philatelists, yet their focus seems to be personal and individualistic rather than for the betterment of the hobby or the collectors.

The current President of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) from 2000 till date Sahadeva Sahoo has also been the President-Elect for 1998-2000 and Vice President from 1996-1998 and yet he has been selling philatelic material including antiquities abroad for over two decades.

He has sold philatelic material worth several hundred thousands US dollars abroad. A large part of his sales abroad consisted of items over 100 years old that were antiquities as per the Indian Antiquities & Art Treasures Act 1972. Where from and how he had obtained these philatelic gems in the first place is another story. He has been reported in newspapers for corruption and irregularities since 1980 when he was an Officer of the Orissa State Government.

Sahoo as National commissioner along with B K Sinha as Assistant National Commissioner carried hundreds of antiquities for Bangkok 2000 World Stamp Exhibition without taking the requisite permissions from ASI. A list of participating exhibits, carried abroad without the mandatory ASI Permit, was proudly published with the awards in the January-March 2000 issue of PCI's official journal 'Signet' as follows:

- Kanungo J N - Early India Postmarks (1854 - 1899)- LS
- Sahoo Sahadeva - Postal History of Orissa (1803 - 1873)- LV
- Sinha Bijoy K - Universal Postal Union (1880 - 1824)- CP
- Ahmed Shakil - Archaeology - B
- Chaturvedi Naresh - Study of Birds through Stamps - CP
- Mothero Daniel - The Swan Family - B
- Sinha Bijoy K - Univ. Postal Union - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - B

Malaviya R A - South Stamps and Postal History- V  
Sarawagi Radha Krishna - Brahmini Dawk - History of Postal  
Communication in Mewar State - V+SP  
Iqbal Asif - Indian Aerophilately Flight Covers - V  
Jamal Arif - India Pre Independence 19<sup>th</sup> Century - LS  
Kumar Rajeev - Indian Aerophilately 1911 - 1946 - LS  
Salahudeen H - Great Britain up to Victoria - S  
Goyal Sachin -The Story and Study of Flowers - SB  
Raut Anshuman - Gwalior State of India - SB  
Dash Biswajit - Scouts and Guides - B  
Moomin Sinha - World Refugee Year - B

Should we proudly look only at the awards won, or should we follow the law of the land?

M G Pittie, who is the Immediate Past President of Philatelic Congress of India, was also the Secretary General from 1982-1987, Vice President from 1990-1998 and the President from 1998-2000. In spite of having an illustrious philatelic career, where he has enjoyed perks like free air tickets, five star accommodation for two, free local transport, and a per day allowance in cash for being an international jury, has indulged in activities that are unbecoming to his larger than life stature. In 2001 alone he traveled to Hong Kong, Nepal, UAE, Japan, Denmark, UAE again, and Taipei as a Jury. We wonder, is he the only qualified Jury from India?

In 1986 Pittie carried the exhibits belonging to Dhirubhai Mehta of Mumbai, S B Kothari and P Gupta (two exhibits) of Kolkata, and R Dangi of Indore, to AMERIPEX 86, USA without any clearances from the ASI. These exhibits contained hundreds of unique antiquities that were then valued at Rs. 15 million although their declared value to Reserve Bank of India and Customs was only 0.5 million. He was carrying the exhibits along with his wife, between Toronto (Canada) and Chicago (USA) when these were purportedly lost. The exhibits were not insured even though the exhibitors paid the amount of insurance premium to Pittie. The FBI registered the case at the request of Indian Consulate at Chicago. The January 15, 1987 issue of 'India Today' carried a story on this episode. The report of this loss in media alerted the officers of various departments to look out for philatelic items in the international travelers baggage.

When Dilip Shah was stopped in 1988 while going to Finland by the customs authorities in Mumbai, the ASI issued the first TEP for carrying the philatelic antiquities out of the country. Since then the commissioners have selectively approached the ASI for issuing of the TEP. A M Mollah took the ASI permit for the exhibits to be carried to the world philatelic exhibition at Korea in 1984 where Dilip Shah was awarded the Grand Prix de Honor and Pittie was a Jury. Yet Pittie has carried exhibits containing antiquities without ASI Permit for other exhibitions abroad on several occasions prior to 1988 as well as after and still continues to do so. He carried his exhibit of "Hyderabad Classics" as recently as 2001 to Hong Kong for display in the Court of Honor at 15<sup>th</sup> Asian International Stamp Exhibition without ASI Permit.

It seems taking the requisite permissions is just a matter of convenience for national commissioners and international jury members!

A R Singhee, as we all know is the Vice President of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) since 1994 till date. He has also been the Secretary of PCI for 1998-2000. He is one of the main functionaries of PCI.

Since early 1990's he has been traveling internationally to attend international exhibitions in various capacity including as member of the Jury. These travels have given Mr. Singhee the opportunity to interact with collectors / auctioneers from all over the world and he has been selling philatelic material including antiquities to collectors / dealers all over the world.

His main exhibit 'Postal Stationery of the Indian Feudatory States' that contains antiquities participated in BANGKOK 1993, PHILAKOREA 1994, and FINLANDIA 1995 with the mandatory ASI Permit. G Madan Mohan Das, A M Mollah and Y Kumar as national commissioners respectively carried it to Bangkok, Seoul and Helsinki.

Yet when in 1996 Singhee himself traveled as a Judge to the STAMPSHOW 1996 national philatelic exhibition at Melbourne, Australia he carried the above exhibit without the mandatory ASI Permit. He also displayed this exhibit on October 17, 1996 at a talk to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria that is reported in the December 1996 issue of 'Philately from Australia' as follows:

"The meeting on 17 October 1996 was held during the staging of Stampshow '96 in Melbourne and many interstate members and visitors were present. The display was provided by Mr. Ajeet Singhee from India, who was the A P F sponsored judge at the exhibition.

Mr. Singhee's subject was the Postal Stationery of the Indian Feudatory States, and comprised selections from eight States.

From Bamra, the 1888 6 pies black envelope was shown in two sizes, and the various settings of the 1890 ½a postcard were displayed. This card was shown used in combination with 1/2a and 2a British India.

The postcards of Barwani are a complex study, and the various printings were shown in depth. There was a 1934 proof block of 4 of the 1/2a clichés in black used for the cards.

The issue of Bhopal began with the 1903 1/2a postcard mint, and the 1/2a green postcard used with 1/2a British India added. The various settings of the 1903 1/2a green envelope were demonstrated and there was arrange of the 1908 1/4a Service postcards with views. In 1922 there was a 1/2a on 1/4a essay surcharge in red on the Service postcard.

The postal stationery of Duttia includes some of the rarest and most unusual material and there is still much to be learnt about the chronology of the early issues. The first issue is thought to consist of a 1/4a postcard and ½a envelope produced entirely in manuscript. Examples of each of these were shown. Subsequent postcards included the only recorded example of the 1893 1/4a brown-red with native heading, and the similar card with English heading. The issues of 1896 - 98 of the 1/2a black envelope was present mint and used, and there was one of the two recorded examples of the 1/2a black "Ganesh"



envelope used. The envelope issues of 1896 - 97 showed the various paper stocks and settings used, and there were mint and used examples of the 1900 1/2a green.

In Jammu and Kashmir there was a study of the settings of the 1883 - 91 1/4a red postcards, and the unissued 1894 Service postcard.

The 1899 1/2a blue and 1a green envelope of Kishengarh were shown in various shades, and there were examples of the 1a brown-lilac envelope of the same year. There was a mint example of the 1901 1/4a rose-carmine postcard with inverted stamp impression. The 1906 1/4a postcard (Perkins Bacon design) included a proof showing the heading inverted, and there were die proofs of the 1/2a carmine-red and 1a blue envelope stamps in the same design; the 1a was never used.

The used 1900 1/2a green envelope of Orchha was one of two recorded examples.

From Sirmoor came the interesting usage of remainders of the postcards as Court Fee stamps on documents. The original 1897 3pies card was shown mint and in die proof form."

Definitely a proud moment for Indian philately yet a sad moment for the law abiding citizens of India.

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READERS FORUM

RON RICE FROM USA

I'm writing in response to two items from the last newsletter.

First, regarding the news item "US DEEPAVALI STAMP PROPOSED", I for one believe a Diwali stamp is an excellent idea. I intend to write to the Stamp Advisory Committee to express my support. All US citizens who would like to see a commemorative stamp for Diwali may write to: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Management, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 4474E, Washington, D.C. 20260-2437. Almost all subjects chosen to appear on US stamps are suggested by the public, so support can make a difference!

Second, Gerald Sattin from UK wrote about the excessive fees for FIP Championship Class exhibits, and about poor promotion of philatelic literature sponsored by PCI. I'm responding to the latter. It is appalling that PCI-sponsored titles are unknown in the philatelic market. I try to stay informed about new literature on Indian philately, and yet I have never heard of the volume on China Expeditionary Force, authored by Hume, Lang, Virk and Sattin. Where can I find this title? What other important PCI-sponsored titles have I missed? Is there a stable source for PCI books?

<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>

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMPS CALL POPE'S NINTH VISIT HIS SEVENTH

Pope John Paul II has visited his homeland so many times that postal officials are having a hard time keeping track. The pope arrived on August 16, 2002 in Poland on his ninth visit – but commemorative stamps printed for this trip call it the pope's seventh pilgrimage.

The Rev. Marek Glownia, one of the trip organizers, said the post office's count was defensible. "It's something of a dispute whether in 1991 when the pope came on a pilgrimage in July and then in August for World Youth Days it was one trip in two stages or two separate trips," Glownia said. In addition, the pope popped over to say a Mass in the border village of Skoczowo in 1995 during a trip to neighboring Czech Republic – not even spending the night in Poland.

"Before printing, we consulted with the church officials," Marek Switalski of the post office marketing department told the PAP news agency. "It's the seventh official visit, organized at the invitation of the Polish authorities. This is where the number comes from."

The "mistake" has made the stamps popular with collectors, who are snatching them up. "I'm not an authority to say whether it's a mistake or not but those stamps definitely sell well," said Beata Wierzbicka, a postal employee in Krakow.

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.

NEWSSCAN

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

The Times of India, July 25, 2002

RARE STAMPS STAR IN SWINDLERS LIST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?artid=16972722&sType=1>

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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