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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

With this issue we enter the 3rd year of publication as our issue # 1 was dated August 28, 2000. The years have been memorable and full of ups and downs. We have added a lot of new readers from the time that we began and look forward to continuously adding more readers. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us as well as those who have criticized us and have been with us during these two years.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: R K Sultania, Rishi Chandio, Vijay Seth, all from New Delhi, & the Associated Press.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

13TH PCI CONVENTION & ELECTIONS

The 13th Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) convention was held in Mumbai on August 25, 2002 where the elections for the Governing Council of the PCI took place, however the results could not be declared. Advocate Mr. Munish Gupta was appointed as the Court Observer by the order of Justice Praveen Kumar, Civil Judge, Delhi to see that the elections are held in a fair and impartial manner. PCI was ordered not to declare the results of the elections till next date of hearing. The Court Observer sealed the ballot boxes as per the orders of the Court. Till the time of going into print the results are still awaited.

DADASAHEB GAIKWAD

The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan released a commemorative stamp on Bhaurao Krishnarao Gaikwad, the fearless leader who fought for the rights of the down-trodden sections of society, on August 26, 2002 at a function held at Nashik.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4, the former inland letter rate. The stamp is designed by Sankha Samanta and the First Day Cover is designed by Bharti Mirchandani. Alka Sharma designed 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.

NEW ISSUE UPDATE

BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The commemorative stamp scheduled for release on August 31, 2002 is now postponed. The new date of release shall be announced in due course.

NEXT ISSUE

A set of three stamps in the denomination of Rs. 5 each on the Social Reformers is scheduled for release on September 12, 2002. The personalities in the set are - Chandraprabha Saikaiani, Ayyanin Kali, and Gora.

MORE ON ROSE DEFINITIVE

Readers have pointed out an error in the previous issue "rose is India's national flower". We regret the error it was meant to read as popular and not national, but are glad to note that we have such attentive readers. The correct position is that the rose is the national flower of UK while lotus is the national flower of India.

This stamp has also been seen with date stamps, going as far back as, two months before its official date of release.

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD

The first Meghdoot Postcard will be issued on September 2, 2002 by the Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan.

This is a new product introduced by India Post. The postcard is in the denomination of 25 paise that is half of the price of a regular postcard. It will have advertisements on the address side in the space that on a regular postcard is available for writing.

The first issue of Meghdoot Postcard promotes Tamil Superstar Rajnikant's new movie. The card is printed by Security Printing Press at Hyderabad in the quantity of 0.5 million.

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POSTAL STATIONERY IN SEPTEMBER 2002

The postal stationery with following advertisements is scheduled for release in September 2002.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:  
Date, Printer, Language, Message

POSTCARD - Panch Mahal, 50 Paise, Brown

16, SPP, Tamil

25, SPP, Tamil

INLAND LETTER CARD - Panch Mahal, Rupees 2.50, Blue

02, SPP, English, The Chennai Silks

02, SPP, Tamil,

03, SPP, Tamil, Anti AIDS

05, SPP, Hindi, Life Insurance Corporation of India

05, SPP, Punjabi, Life Insurance Corporation of India

05, SPP, Hindi, Life Insurance Corporation of India same as # 90

15, SPP, Telugu,

25, SPP, Tamil, SPIC Fertilizers

25, SPP, English, Balmerol Greases, Oils, Specialties

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WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTION CALENDAR

The Calendar Of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions for the month is updated in the beginning of every month with detailed information and announcements. The information for September 2002 is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

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SPECIAL POSTMARKS

Following Special postmarks with Special Covers were issued in Tamil Nadu postal circle this year:

January 16, Centenary of Muslim Education Association of Southern India and Golden Jubilee of the New College

January 25, Jaigopal Garodia National Higher Secondary School, Tambaram East, Chennai, Diamond Jubilee

June 22, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya (Deemed University) Enathur, Kanchipuram, Decennial Celebrations

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

PHILANEWS, #3, May-June 2002, Bi-monthly

Editor: Rajesh Paharia, 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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MADHUKAR JHAVERI PASSED AWAY

Madhukar Jhaveri died in August 2002. He won National Grand Prize in the 4<sup>th</sup> National held at Delhi in 1982. RIP

NEW COMMEMORATIVE COIN SET

India announced a Commemorative set of two coins, Rs. 5 and Rs. 100 on 'Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir'.

The price is Rs. 850 for a Proof Set and Rs. 420 for Uncirculated Set. The 13% Sales Tax will be added to the cost. Postal, Packing, Insurance charges are Rs. 130 for 1 set, Rs. 190 for two sets, Rs. 250 for three sets, Rs. 330 for four sets, and Rs. 400 for five sets.

Individuals can order a maximum 5 sets of each variety to The General Manager, India Government Mint, Fort, Mumbai-400 023. The last date of booking is August 30, 2002. The delivery will be made within 18 months.

The remittances by bank drafts should be in favor of "Reserve Bank Of India A/C-India Government Mint, Mumbai" of any nationalized bank payable at "Mumbai".

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11TH MADRAS COIN SHOW

The 11th Madras Coin Show was held in Chennai from 15th to 18th August 2002 at the D.G.Vaishnav College Campus, Arumbakkum, Chennai, this coin show was attended by stamp and coin dealers from all over India like Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Bikaner etc there were 32 dealers stalls and over 35 collections on display. The hall was always full of collectors and buyers and the stalls did good business selling rare and common coins, stamps and currency notes.

The Madras Coin Society has over 380 life members and meets every 4th Saturday at the same venue. The life membership is Rs. 2000. The society was founded in 1991. A special coin cover and cancellation was issued on the 10th anniversary in 2001

A special bulletin is issued every year with a lot of information and good articles on modern and ancient coins of India including banknotes, in Tamil and English 130pp, this year the special bulletin # 8 was issued nominally priced at Rs.60.

The email address of the society is madrascoinex@apolloquest.com

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 21

This time we present the views of readers who have commented on this ongoing column:

R HOWARD COURTNEY from USA

I would like to let you know that I certainly support your efforts in detailing the deeds, and misdeeds, of those involved in the world of stamp exhibitions. I find it unbelievable and a black blot on our hobby.

GERALD SATTIN FRPSL from UK

You are doing a great job at exposing some of the failures within Indian philately and in particular the shortcomings of the PCI. There is much to be disclosed about the failings of Indian philately and who has been responsible for neglecting to guide the Indian philatelists in the right direction and for what purpose.

It seems to me that the PCI has been offering the so-called leading lights of Indian philately an ego trip for many years. I have felt for a long time that young and keen Indian philatelists have been let down by some of their leaders who, instead of giving them guidance, have exploited them for personal gain and self aggrandizement. But more about that at another time.

Just so that you should know my credentials, I have collected Indian stamps and postal history for more than fifty years. I am at present 75 years old and have a reasonably good memory. I have in my time been awarded medals on subjects of India in international competition:- silver, silver-gilt (INDIPEX 73), gold (London 1980), and finally Large Gold INDIA 80, PHILEXFRANCE 82, BANGKOK 83, PHILAKOREA 84, AMERIPEX 86, and STOCKHOLMIA 86. I have also exhibited in Championship Class with my Indian collections and Court of Honour in Australia.

I was invited by the PCI, together with my great friend, the late Brigadier Diljit Virk, to write a series of books on Indian military campaigns. I assembled a 'whoso who' array of specialist collectors to help us including my friend DR WOLFGANG HELLRIGL, who had deep knowledge on Tibet.

Diljit came across the Post Office records, the weekly diaries of the Chief Postal Officer of the Tibet Mission Force. This was the famous YOUNGHUSBAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE to Tibet. In consequence, we decided this was the first book to embark upon in the military campaign series and its was titled "SIKKIM TIBET 1903-1908". It was published by the PCI in 1989.

Until then, the only serious study of Younghusband's Expedition to Tibet was that of Mr. A. C. Waterfall who wrote in 1966 "The postal history of Tibet" and which was now missing much new information Diljit had uncovered.

Brigadier Virk wrote the book, which I edited, and Dr Hellrigl provided us with the drawings of the various offices employed. The book was the definitive work on the Expedition yet virtually no-one knows of its existence. The PCI failed us on the first count! Whenever there are references at auction to any of the field post offices employed during the expedition, it is always A.C.Waterfall who is mentioned! Why? Because the PCI failed to promote the very book they had sponsored and over which they had complete control of its distribution. Perhaps it was not worth the effort!!

I feel one should be examining the conduct of some of the leaders of the PCI at that time, and since. Especially the one who wrote the Foreword to SIKKIM-TIBET 1903-1908, and who eventually took upon himself the copyright of the recent book "Diaries of W. T. Van Sommeren and A. B. Thompson" about the China Expeditionary Force, which was the 'word for word' printing of the very diaries Diljit Virk had found in the Delhi Archives. But more about this on another occasion

AVINASH B. JAGTAP from Switzerland

Since I have been away from India for forty years and have never exhibited on behalf of India, I have no idea about the rules and regulations as per Indian Antiquities & Art Treasures Act 1972, by which

the Indian commissioners have to abide themselves. I believe that such regulation is not there in any other country and the exhibitors can show such rare pieces in their displays. Naturally it has to go through custom channels (of both countries). Some countries also demand photocopies of the displays. One believes in goodwill of the exhibitor and it is taken for granted that none of the materials will be sold when taken out of that country. I do not know how long it takes to obtain a tentative export certificate for some items in a display, where one has to apply and how much one has to pay for such certificate. It is expected that the Indian commissioner nominated for a certain foreign exhibition must know the rules and regulations as regards export of such displays from India. If he obtains such requisite permissions from ASI for a few participating displays and does not bother to obtain similar permissions for other exhibits (because they were submitted in the last minute?). Then it is certainly objectionable and the fault lies with the commissioner. As he should deny carrying any exhibit that is not properly insured, he should also reject to carry any exhibit without proper export permit as laid down by the Indian law. We should be proud for the medals and merits secured at International Exhibitions; but we must also observe the laws laid down by our Government.

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READERS FORUM

ABDULLA KHOORY, President of the Emirates Philatelic Association, UAE
First I would like to thank you for sending me your stamps news. Frankly I was deleting the messages after having a fast look, but now I discover the amount of information it contains, especially about Indian philately and a lot more, after I was advised by a friend to read it carefully.

AVINASH B. JAGTAP from Switzerland

Frame Fees for Exhibiting in Champion Class:

Even when I observe and study interesting displays on Postal History of India at international exhibitions and especially those exhibits of Mr. Gerald Sattin (Which I had an opportunity to see more than twenty years ago here in Basel, Switzerland and then again at New Delhi and London), I never thought of the fees the exhibitor has to pay for exhibiting it. The amount of GBP 240.- and again supplementary fees of GBP 350.- making a total of GBP 590.- per frame is an astronomical figure and disgraceful if these exhibitions are really meant for propagating philately and educating philatelists in the field of postal history, whatever may be the reason put forward by FIP for the increase in the fees. I hope that FIP will think over the matter and make participation in the Champion Class bearable to the wallet of the exhibitor.

How will you define the Term "Used Abroad"?

I received the 17th Postal Auction Catalogue of M/S Mittal Stamp Co. Jaipur. The auction will be held at Jaipur on 2nd September 2002. The catalogue is nicely printed and description adequately supported by photographs. But I was much surprised to read some material classified as "used in Pakistan", "used in Bangladesh" under the heading "INDIA USED ABROAD". The compiler of the catalogue includes stamps on covers cancelled at Moolatan, Lahore, Kurachee etc. and all material belongs to pre-partition time. This type of material cannot be and should never be offered to the philatelists under the misnomer "India Used Abroad" (as against material used in Bushire or Aden, which were never under British India). At the most this material could be offered under the caption: "used in towns or cities which are now in Pakistan or Bangladesh".

Similar classification of material I found also in auction catalogues from Calcutta a few years ago. When I complained I received a reply from the Calcutta auction house that there are people who are keen buyers of such materials!

UMESH KAKKERI from Mumbai

Kindly publish my horrifying experience in your magazine so that the entire philatelic world should know, "how the president of a national organization answers the questions asked to him in an open general body meeting"!

"On Sunday, the 25th of August 2002, during the biennial convention of the Philatelic Congress of India held at Mumbai; I asked Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo, the president of PCI, why no response has been received regarding the grievances mentioned in my letter sent to him on 28th of December 2001 by registered Acknowledgement Due post. (Which has already been published in one of the issues of stampsofindia). I asked Mr. Sahoo to answer what action he desires to take about this letter written eight months ago? The reply, which he gave in front of more than hundred philatelists present there, not only surprised me but also was unbelievable for almost everyone.

Mr Sahoo said "I did not find time in last eight months to write to you as I have other work to do, and since my tenure is getting over with this meeting all unanswered mail is being handed over to the incoming president who will respond to you.

Mr. Sahoo further added that if I was so keenly interested in getting the answer from him I should have come to Orissa in April to attend the PCI meeting there. When I pursued the matter further and asked him why he cannot send me the reply by post? Mr. Sahoo said he does not have five rupees to post the letter.

When I mentioned to him that the letter he would be sending to me, PCI and not Mr. Sahoo as individual would pay the postage. He said why PCI should pay for it? It was an amazing reply from a man who quoted these words in his last editorial as president "... it is necessary to ensure that all members' rights are respected".

When I asked him to provide me with the postal address for "PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA" where I may correspond. The answer, which I got, was horrible; he said, "You can write to the president at his residential address or at his office address, PCI does not have its own address". I was quite amazed to hear that, an organization which registered under the societies registration act and which is more than 25 years old should not have its own postal address. Quite surprising isn't it?"

Dear readers I will be glad, if you can write your views about my letter and contents, so that I can pursue the matter.

The links to my letter that I had written to PCI president and also the copy of the letters that I had received from Mr. Vispi Dastur and Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta are as follows:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Features/kakkeriu.htm>

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Features/mehtad.htm>

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Features/dasturv.htm>

<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

THREE HOLIDAY STAMPS TO BE REISSUED

Stamps honoring Muslim, Jewish and African-American holidays will be reissued this fall, the United States Postal Service (USPS) said on August 12, 2002.

The stamps commemorating Eid, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa will be reissued at the new 37-cent rate on October 10, 2002.

The Eid stamp commemorates the two most important festivals – or eids – in the Islamic calendar: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Fitr signifies the feast of breaking the fast, marking the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. Eid al-Adha comes at the end of the hajj – the annual period of pilgrimage to Mecca. This year, Eid al-Adha was celebrated on February 23 and Eid al-Fitr will be celebrated on December 6.

The Hanukkah stamp recalls the Jewish festival of lights, which this year begins on November 30.

Kwanzaa is the African-American historical and cultural holiday first celebrated in 1966. Traditionally it begins December 26.

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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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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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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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,

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