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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 # 81 - September 5, 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

With the advancement of technology people on both sides of the law have to deal with it. We are carrying a documented report of fraud over Internet involving India and philately elsewhere in this newsletter. For every incident reported there are many that go unreported. We have therefore decided to setup an area on the site for 'Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud' that will list resources for information and help on the subject.

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Contents/Guide/Misc/cybercrime>

The complaints of this nature can directly be lodged with the Cyber Crime Investigation Cell (CCIC) of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by Email to [cbiccic@bol.net.in](mailto:cbiccic@bol.net.in). The web site of the CBI <http://cbi.nic.in/> has a lot of useful information.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Sudhir Jain from Satana, A S Mittal from Jaipur, The Times of India, The Associated Press, and Press Information Bureau of Government of India at New Delhi.

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

##### MEGHDOOT POSTCARD LAUNCHED

Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT unveiled the 'Meghdoot Post Card ' at a well-attended function on September 2, 2002 at New Delhi. The first Meghdoot Post Card with multicolor advertisement of the movie "Baba" is on sale in all Post Offices in Tamil Nadu and in the Philatelic Bureaus of the following cities: Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai. This card is printed by Security Printing Press at Hyderabad in sheets of 8 cards in the quantity of 0.5 million.

Launching the new postal product, Mahajan said that Meghdoot Post Card was priced at half the cost of the existing post card. Currently, the normal post cards cost 50 paise. 50 % of the space available on the address side of the card is made available for advertising in 4 colors. The rate of the advertisement would be Rs. 2 per card and the minimum order for print is 100,000 cards.

##### NEXT ISSUE: SOCIAL REFORMERS

India Post's next stamp issue, a set of 3 on Social Reformers - Ayyan Kali, Chandraprabha Saikiani, and Gora, in the denomination of Rs. 5 each is scheduled for September 12, 2002.

The stamps shall be produced in the quantity of 400,000 each 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.

##### POSTAL SERVICES BOARD

Aparna Mohile, the first ever lady member of the Postal Services Board demitted the office of Member - Infrastructure & Financial Services on her superannuating on August 31, 2002. Farewell and best wishes to her.

##### ELEPHANT MAIL

India Post shall be utilizing elephants for carrying mail in Jaipur for four days during the 7th Inter School Stamp Exhibition from September 13 to 16, 2002 at St. Xavier's School being organized by the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan in collaboration with St. Xavier's School' Philatelic Club and with the cooperation of the Jaipur Division of India Post.

About 200 entries are expected from 35 prominent schools of Jaipur City. There will be a minimum of 57 prizes - I, II, III and consolations, including 5 trophies. In view of the large number of entries, the exhibition this time is being organized at a bigger venue. Several programs such as slide show, Viewers Choice Draw etc. will also be conducted during the exhibition. The Department is also organizing a Stamp Design Competition for School children on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

India Post will issue a special picture card with elephant and a special postmark of Elephant Mail. The elephants will carry all the mail posted at the venue to Jaipur G P O and it will then be postmarked by the special ELEPHANT MAIL cachet for all 4 days of the exhibition.

For further details please contact A S Mittal [asmittal@rediffmail.com](mailto:asmittal@rediffmail.com)

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NEW SPECIAL COVER

India Post provided a special pictorial postmark at Moodbidri (Karnataka), on August 29, 2002 on the occasion of third year Pattabhisheka Vardhanthyutsava of His Holiness Swastishri Bhattarak Charukirti Panditacharyavarya Swamiji of Sri Jain Math, Moodbidri.

The special cover released on the occasion depicts photographs of famous Tribhuvan Tilak Chudamani Temple (Thousand Pillars Temple) and Bhattarak Swamiji. Special postmark bears the image of Tirthankar with cow & lion drinking water together in the same pot.

For further details please contact Sudhir Jain mrsudhirjain@hotmail.com

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PCI CASE UPDATE

On August 27, 2002 4 courts, including the Court of Civil Judge Praveen Kumar who was hearing the Philatelic Congress of India's case, were abolished and their work was distributed in 14 newly established courts.

The PCI case came up for hearing in one of the newly established Court of Civil Judge Ajay Goyal on August 31, 2002 and the next date of hearing was fixed for September 11, 2002 at the request of the PCI counsel.

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STAMPS ON INDIA

After being off air for nearly a year, our other web site Stamps on India is back at a new location <http://www.stampsonindia.netfirms.com>

This site is devoted to philatelic items issued by countries other than India honoring and featuring personalities, monuments, and heritage of India and many other Indian topics.

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NEW WEB SITES

Vijay Shah from Ahmedabad has launched a site

<http://www.philatellycollection.com>

This is a fine example of a collector's site. Professionally designed.

Abhai Misra from Dehradun has a web site on covers from 22<sup>nd</sup> Indian Expedition to Antarctica in which he participated as a scientist.

<http://www.geocities.com/xxiiae>

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CYBER CRIME & INTERNET FRAUD

Søren Hauge, a philatelist from Denmark wrote on August 21, 2002 in http://groups.yahoo.com/group/indianphilately_disc_group/ warning regarding a philatelic impostor from India. We quote:

"I have experienced serious philatelic fraud from a certain T. Nagaraju from India (T. NAGARAJU, 27-3-34/1-2, Sree Rampuram, Bhimavaram - 534202, India, phone: 0881626581, email: nagatraju@rediffmail.com) and thanks to a friend, I now know that I am not the only one. I feel obliged to inform you that this Indian person is perpetrating serious philatelic fraud with the persons that contact him. Mr. Nagaraju is

visible on a number of philatelic websites - usually stamp exchange sites - where he daringly offers "each and every Indian issue since 1854" to all collectors that send him a mixture of old stamps (either from before 1900 or 1930) from their country.

Here is my story: I was one of the persons that sent him stamps (I sent him Danish and Swedish stamps to the Scott value of 112 USD), in the naive hope to receive similar Indian Pre-Independence stamps from my want-list. To me he wrote (13 June 2002): "I am a senior and serious philatelist. I have each and everything of India to offer. So please write what you want from India.... I offer all stamps of India from 1854 to 2002 (including used, mint, British India, Indian states and bob. I wait for your first pack. Yours sincerely, T. Nagaraju." He thanked me for my shipment 9 days after it was sent and promised to send for the similar value. Weeks went by and I didn't hear anything, - not even after 5 email-reminders with friendly (but increasingly worried) appeals to respond. I then persuaded two philatelic friends of mine to try contacting him as if they wanted to exchange. He immediately took the bait and responded just like he did to me. Now we knew that he had received all my mails, but not responded. After a few days of supposedly exchanging details my friends reminded him of me and asked why he didn't send the promised stamps. He then produced the story that the registered letter from me was opened and empty when he received it, and he had complained to the local Post Office in Bhimavaram. So for 47 days he had not responded to me (!!), but he willingly told my friend this tale. May I recall that he thanked me 9 days after I sent the stamps, and he did it with these words: "Dear Soren Hauge, today I have got your pack. Thank you very much for the same. Mine will be follows. Yours sincerely, Nagaraju." (28 June 2002) We then warned him (10 August) that if he didn't return the stamps we would act accordingly. He has not responded for a week now, and he knows that I will contact you and many others.

One of my good Indian philatelic friends, M. S. Narayanan from Chennai, has now found crucial information from ITS STAMPS NEWS (Indian Thematic Society), Vol 5 No. 1 - March 2002. In this issue on page number 4 there is a comment from Mr. Saleem Khan who has clearly exposed Mr. T Nagaraju of Bhimavaram. Here I reproduce the comment in full:

"I received ITS collectors directory today. It's piece of art for philatelists. The ITS directory is already helping me in getting some serious partners. Thanks for the same. There is one person listed Mr. T. Nagaraju of Bhimavaram who is a fraud in all respects. I reported the matter to A. P. Police but his address is a letter drop only and he didn't show up there for days after that. The matter is with police now as a formal complaint of mail fraud is filed. Please remove him from your list as he may cheat others. Regards, Saleem M. Khan, Bhopal"

Judging from my investigation into the websites that hold his name, he has been doing this from at least 1999. I am currently writing to "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA -STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY" at: <http://www.junior-philatelists.com> where he has a text, WWW.PHILATEX.COM where he is listed just like I am, and JUNIOR PHILATELISTS ON THE INTERNET at: <http://www.junior-philatelists.com> where he is also at a list. I will also inform all my other contacts, including all you here at this discussion group, hosted by Mehul Shah. I have also written to Suraj Jaitly, the editor for Indian Thematic Society, describing for him what I have experienced. Finally I would like to know how to inform the

local police in Bhimavaram in Southern India, so they are updated with the fraud.

I am well aware that it is a drastic step to take, and I also feel a heavy responsibility by doing this, but the facts count for themselves, and for the sake of sound philately and right human relations based on honesty and friendship, I have decided to act as described."

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FAKE STAMPS SCAM UPDATE

The Pune police filed a charge sheet against 20 accused in the Rs 22 billion fake stamp paper racket case in the court of judicial magistrate first class C M Bagal on September 3, 2002. The accused include three stamp vendors from the city. Police inspector Prakash Deshmukh said charge sheets would be filed against two other accused, which were arrested last week. Twenty-two others are absconding in the case. The 32-page charge sheet mentions that 386 witnesses would need to be examined during the course of the trial. The police commissioner Ranjit Singh Sharma said that the accused could be booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA).

A team of Pune police, headed by additional commissioner S M Mushrif, left for Bangalore on September 3, 2002 to secure custody of Abdul Karim Telgi, the kingpin in the fake stamp paper racket. Telgi was in judicial custody in Karnataka since September last year; it was only recently that a court there granted police custody for Telgi, to enable his interrogation.

How the case unfolded:

- June 7: Pune police seize fake stamps worth Rs 5.6 million from a car.
- June 8: Stamps worth Rs 7,000 million seized in raids at Anjirwadi, Mumbai.
- June 11: Printing unit of the gang seized in another raid in Mumbai.
- June 16: Fake stamps worth Rs 10,000 million and some machinery confiscated from a godown in Bhiwandi, Mumbai.
- June 19: Stamps worth around Rs 70 million seized from a Kondhwa flat.
- June 26: Police announce Telgi's empire was spread across the country.
- June 27: Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Chhagan Bhujbal calls a meeting to review the scam's probe, temporarily suspends sale of stamps. Accused Uday Sawant and Ramesh Chavan arrested.
- July 9: Police Commissioner Sharma makes an unsuccessful trip to Bangalore, Karnataka to secure Telgi's custody.
- July 25: Sharma makes another trip to Bangalore, but returns only with an assurance for transfer of Telgi's custody to Maharashtra.
- August 20: A local court rejects the bail application of 10 accused in the case.
- September 3: The charge sheet is filed in the Pune court.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 22

As part of its agenda to promote philately the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) has published the following books to date, yet they seem to have a hidden agenda behind the publication of these books:

- Hyderabad Philatelic History by Dr. M A Nayeem
- Diary of Stephen Smith by D N Jatia
- Postal Censorship in India 1939-1945 by Brigadier D S Virk
- Bibliography - Indian Philately

Sikkim-Tibet 1903-1908 by Brigadier D S Virk
The China Expeditionary Force 1900-1923 by Brig. D S Virk et al
The Classics of India by G B Pai
A Collection of the Catalogs, Statutes, & Notices. . .by G B Pai
India Bicolored Four Anna Stamps by D N Jatia
Diaries of W T Van Sommeren & A B Thompson by D N Jatia

Each of these books has a story of its own. But they have one thing in common. Till date, except a few, most of the members of the PCI do not know the number of copies that were actually printed. Hence the sale proceeds of substantial part of several of these books have been pocketed by a privileged few, especially in case of sales abroad.

In January 1980 the PCI published its first two books - Philatelic History of Hyderabad, and Diary of Stephen Smith these were printed at Indraprastha Press, New Delhi that is a division of the Children's Book Trust (CBT). The then Secretary General of PCI, S P Chatterjea was the General Manager of the CBT and attempted to print these for free, was caught, made to pay, and eventually lost his job on this issue. Chatterjea, a former Chief of philately at India Post was later appointed as the President of PCI.

'Hyderabad' was awarded a Gold medal at 'India-80' the first FIP show in India although it didn't even have an index! It was a rehash of the author's earlier books on the subject. D N Jatia assumed the authorship of the excerpts from the diary of the rocket-mail pioneer Stephen Smith. The original diary was owned by P Gupta of Kolkata. It is said that Jatia desperately needed a book to his credit in order to fulfill the criterion to obtain the Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

'Postal Censorship in India' was again printed for free. The book was serialized in the PCI quarterly Signet, and at the time of printing the magazine the extra quantity of the serialized parts was printed and eventually made up as a book.

'Bibliography' was being worked on by Chatterjea for Jatia for nearly 10 years and was literally abandoned and published in its unfinished form anonymously. It is not a bibliography at all but is an index of articles on Indian philately and thus should not have been titled as a bibliography in the first place.

The books on Indian Military Campaigns, Sikkim-Tibet, China Expeditionary Force (CEF), and CEF Diaries have been best sellers because Jatia used his position as FIP President to force sell these books published in English to even non-English speaking nations in quantity. Philatelic leaders of these countries mistakenly thought that he is pushing hard for raising funds for his country's philatelic organization. They never suspected that all this was for personal financial gains. All hardbound copies of the CEF book were under absolute control of Jatia who personally sold them abroad at cover price for foreign market that used to be several times the cover price for India.

Mahohar Lal who lent items for illustration purposes from his Gold winning exhibit for the CEF book was shocked to find the same returned to him mutilated. Jatia has been to pick-up information and items on the

pretext of using them for research and publication, and not returning these at all or in mutilated condition.

Gerald Sattin, an acknowledged expert, co-author and co-editor wrote in the 'Letters to Editor' in May 2002 issue of India Post on CEF diaries. <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Contents/Features/sattin-02.htm>

Sattin had written, a year ago in August 2001, to Damyanti Pittie, PCI Vice President & Treasurer on the same subject. This, such a serious matter, has not even been put up on the agenda of any of the PCI meetings held since then.

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Contents/Features/sattin-01.htm>

The letter serves as errata amongst other things.

Manik Jain, a PCI Governing Council member was given the job of coordinating the printing of CEF diaries. We can say from personal knowledge that Jatia on our insistence had come around to printing a facsimile where proof reading wouldn't have been required. However Jain was hell bent on producing it by recomposing and after the death of Jatia there was no one to stop him.

It is still not known who approved the exorbitant production costs and absurdly low sale price of this book. A deep throat informed that the low price was fixed to facilitate cornering of the entire stock and then reselling at whatever the market could bear. In fact no one seems to know, once again, the number of copies that have been printed, as is the norm with all PCI publications.

The copyright of these diaries remains with India Post that appears not to have been consulted or taken in to confidence and certainly have never granted the permission for reprint.

In the year 1997, the senior most philatelist G B Pai authored and produced two books at his own cost and gifted 500 copies each to PCI for free. These books published in the name of PCI have never been properly marketed, never even listed in Signet. One of the reasons sited was that these books overshadow Jatia's book on 4 Annas.

In addition, the books published by the Army Postal Service at their expense were obtained by the PCI on credit. Whether, when, and how-much Army Postal Service received from PCI shall certainly be interesting to find out.

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READERS FORUM

AVINASH B. JAGTAP FROM SWITZERLAND

In the last issue of Stamps of India (No.80/30th August 2002) I had brought to the notice how it is misleading to classify material originating from places which were in India prior to the partition under "used in Pakistan" or "used in Bangladesh).

Similar complaint I had submitted to M/S Mittal, the auctioneers of philatelic materials. Mr. Anand Mittal replies in his e-mail to me as follows: "Thank you for your suggestions. You also gave this suggestion sometime back. We could not find a suitable word for this heading. Now you suggested an appropriate heading (i.e. "used in places which are now in Pakistan or Bangladesh"). You will have no complaint in future."

I am thankful to Mr. Anand Mittal to have considered my suggestion. It is a healthy sign of Indian philately that suggestions and complaints are taken into consideration.

Gerald Sattin FRPSL

I see you already have some mutterings about the PCI and the attention I have drawn to the FIP Special Fee for being in Championship Class. This is good as it shows people are reading your STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION and are thinking about it.

Firstly let me put the record straight for Mr Avinash B. Jagtap of Switzerland who referred to my comments about the extra fees charged by FIP for being in Championship Class. I fear I did not make my statement completely clear.

When you enter for an FIP sponsored Exhibition you have to pay, and everyone does, a fee for the exhibition frame in which you can display approximately 16 sheets. In the case of BELGICA 2001 the frame fee was 1000 Belgian Francs per frame whether in open competition or Championship Class, so in my case I exhibited the maximum allowed of 8 frames which cost me 8,000 Belgian Francs and this together with the fee to my U. K. Commissioner for taking over, putting up, taking down, and bringing back my display from Belgium cost me altogether £240.00 after converting from Belgian Francs to GB Pounds.

I can do no better than to quote from the SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR BELGICA 2001 (IREX). Article 7 on ENTRY FEES states "For FIP Championship Class (Class 1), the fee will be BEF (Belgian Francs) 1000 per frame of 16 sheets, plus a fee of SF (Swiss Francs) 100 per frame of 16 sheets. The SF 100 per frame is a special fee imposed by the FIP, which is effective for all FIP world exhibitions granted patronage at the Seoul FIP Congress and later. The Organizing Committee (of BELGICA 2001) is required to forward the special fee to the FIP and derives no benefit from the imposition of the mandatory fee." This mandatory fee cost me £330.00 (the fee varies according to the exchange rate available at the time). I have the distinct impression that the Organizing Committee of BELGICA 2001 were embarrassed to make this obscene charge, but in order for them to obtain their FIP patronage they were forced to do so.

Who introduced this gross iniquity by FIP? None other than Mr. D. N. Jatia whilst he was President of FIP!

I knew DN very well. Not only was he President of FIP but also President of the PCI and additionally quite a wealthy gentleman. I saw him before I made my decision to no longer exhibit in an FIP Exhibition. I asked him why he had applied this financial penalty on all those who exhibit in Championship Class? His response was "Gerald, if you can afford to build a collection which wins three large gold medals (the requisite for Championship Class) and compete in Championship Class, you can afford to pay the FIP Supplement." This is tantamount to saying only the rich can achieve the higher awards in philately!! What a comment to make but unfortunately it appears to be true. Just examine those who have won Grand Prix and Prix d'Honneurs over the past few years. They are in the main very wealthy people.



Sadly Mr Jatia is no longer alive to answer for his statements and sadly he would never answer my criticisms in writing. But these are the facts.

Is our hobby reserved for only the rich to be recognized for their collections? Is this what our hobby is all about, for someone to pour money into a collection purely for either financial gain or self-aggrandizement, and often knowing very little about the collection? To allow others, often with very limited means, to do the research so that you can buy the choicest pieces, because you have the money to do so, and write-up your pages on someone else's knowledge and win the high awards. In fact, often these people do not even write-up their own pages but pay someone else to do it for them. It is said that our hobby needs wealthy people to invest in stamps and postal history, for without them there would be no rise in the value of our collections. But where does one put the value into personal study? What is the basis on which we are 'enriched' by our hobby? Is it purely for a monetary return? I do not think so but others may have different views.

I shall be interested to learn how others feel about what I have touched upon.

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<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

GERMAN POST TO DELIVER BRITISH MAIL  
By BRUCE STANLEY, AP Business Writer

Germany's Deutsche Post on August 28, 2002 became the first foreign postal service to win a license to deliver mail in Britain, in a warm-up to stiffer competition for this nation's beleaguered mail operator.

Postcomm, the postal regulatory agency, said it awarded the one-year license as a small step toward opening the British market to overseas competitors. The license lets Deutsche Post handle up to 40 million pieces of mail a year, just half the amount delivered each day by Britain's national carrier, Consignia. More competitors are on the way. Postcomm is reviewing a license application from Dutch postal service TPG, and it has already awarded temporary licenses to 10 British companies, including Hays Commercial Services Limited, Securicor Omega Express Limited and TNT UK.

The government plans in January 2003 to begin awarding longer, seven-year licenses to overseas firms, and by April 2007, Britain is to have a fully competitive market for mail.

Deutsche Post Global Mail (UK) Ltd. will be limited to handling mail in bulk units of 4,000 items. Around 90 percent of this mail will be passed on to Consignia for delivery, with Deutsche Post allowed to deliver the remaining 10 percent itself. But the German firm's parent company, Deutsche Post World Net, sees Britain as one of Europe's most attractive markets, and it plans to apply for a long-term license to deliver mail here as soon as one becomes available, said Deutsche Post spokeswoman Ina Quilling, speaking from her office in Bonn, Germany. Deutsche Post World Net already owns a majority stake in the international mail service DHL International and has a postal joint venture in the Netherlands. Deutsche Post issued its first shares to the public in 2000, and is owned 69 percent by the German government.

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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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