

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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 # 85 - October 3, 2002. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

New Stamps in October  
Philatelic Advisory Committee Meeting  
Design A Stamp Contest  
Indian Lighthouse Service  
100 Years Of Gandhi's Visit To Jaipur  
Oops: Corrections  
Stamp Popularity Poll  
Philately Newsletter  
New Publications: Postage Stamps of Hyderabad State  
Worldwide Philatelic Auction Calendar  
India Post Introduces 'Meghdoot 98' Software In Mauritius  
Market Survey on Segmentation of Mails in Metros  
Philately in Transition in India, Part 26  
Readers Forum - Graham D. Bernhardt from New Zealand  
Also in the News - De La Rue Acquires the House of Questa  
NewsScan - Courier Cos Worried Over Changes In Post Office Bill

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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,

"Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an  
exact man" - Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Dear readers we know you read, and many of you may also be discussing  
the philatelic matters with others in a conference or meeting, write  
back and let us have your views.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: I C R Prasad, Rajesh Paharia, Charles E. Cwiakala, Philately Newsletter, and Government of India Press Information Bureau,

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

##### NEW STAMPS IN OCTOBER

India Post has scheduled following stamps for release in the month of August 2002:

- 11 - Ananda Nilya Vimanam, Tirupati
- 12 - Kanika Bandyopadhyay
- 12 - Arya Vaidyasala
- 15 - Bhagwan Baba
- 28 - Bihar Chamber of Commerce
- 30 - Mangroves of India, Set of 4

##### PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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The Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology shall now be meeting on October 8, 2002 at New Delhi instead of October 4, 2002 as reported earlier in Issue # 82 of September 12, 2002.
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##### DESIGN A STAMP CONTEST

'Design A Stamp Contest' is an important feature of the National Postal Week organized by India Post every year from October 9 to 15, 2002 to promote and popularize the hobby of stamp collecting. The prize-winning entries at the national level are likely to be chosen for the stamp and the first day cover to be released on Children's Day 2003.

This year's contest in Delhi Postal Circle will be held on October 11, 2002 at National Science Center; Pragati Maidan at 10.30 a.m. and is open to children between 8 and 17 years. The theme of the contest is "Let Us Go To School" The contestants will be given suitable prizes in cash and gifts of philatelic items.  
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INDIAN LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

India Post released a special postmark and special cover on September 21, 2002 to mark the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Indian Lighthouse Service and Samiyani Lighthouse at a special ceremony held at Okha Lighthouse premises in Gujarat. The Post Master General of Rajkot presented an Album with the Special Cover to the Minister for Shipping.
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##### 100 YEARS OF GANDHI'S VISIT TO JAIPUR

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot released on October 2, 2002 a special cover with special postmark commemorating 100 years of Gandhi's visit to Jaipur. The cover brought out by Jaipur City Division of India Post depicts the statue of Mahatma Gandhi opposite Jaipur Railway Station.

Jayant Pandya, the former president of the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan (PSR) and its General Secretary Rajesh Paharia represented the philatelists while Director Postal Services Sarita Singh and Senior Superintendent of Post offices Ambesh Upmanyu represented India Post.

The duly serviced cover priced at Rs. 10 is available from the Philately Cell, Office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Jaipur City Division, Station Road, Jaipur 302006 with remittance in favor of "Senior Postmaster, Jaipur GPO" by money order.

PSR brought to light the fact that Gandhi not only came to Jaipur but also stayed for a night and that he traveled by train in third class; this was fascinating for the press persons.

Sarita Singh released a Picture Card brought out by PSR depicting Gandhi in 1902 and his experience of Jaipur taken from his autobiography on this occasion. This card, issued in limited quantity of 500 only, is available with Gandhi stamp and Special Gandhi postmark for Rs 10 each. Please contact, Rajesh Paharia, General Secretary, Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, 46 Geejgarh House, Hawa Sarak, Jaipur 302019, Telephone: +91 141 46 6969, Email [pahariarajesh@msn.com](mailto:pahariarajesh@msn.com)

Also, still available with PSR are a few sets, with all 4-days postmarks, for Rs 100 per set of the World's First Mobile Elephant Mail Service Picture Card issued by India Post.

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OOPS: CORRECTIONS

The Views of the Rock Stamps of the Gibraltar were issued September 15, 2002, it is now confirmed, and not on June 6, 2002 as reported in previous issue.

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STAMP POPULARITY POLL

The results have finally been made public for the "Stamp Popularity Poll 2001" organized by India Post during October 2001 to select the three most popular stamps issued in the year 2000. Nearly 100,000 people participated in the poll.

The se-tenant strip of 5 stamps issued on the January 28 to honor the Gallantry Award Winners was voted the most popular issue of 2000 and received 11,000 votes. Mahatma Gandhi: Father of the Nation issued to mark 50 years of the Republic on January 27 was voted to the second place with about 5,000 votes. The third place went to First Sunrise of the Millennium, issued on January 1, with 4,500 votes.

While we await the launch of this year's Poll for the stamps issued in 2001, we are wondering why the first month of the year is the best month for the stamps?

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PHILATELY NEWSLETTER

The 11th issue of quarterly Philately Newsletter for April-June 2002 is late but its totally new look will make readers happily forget the delay. With this issue the number of pages have been expanded to 8. The print run for every issue is about 35,000 copies, including the Hindi edition that makes it the largest circulating periodical ever in India.

Editor in Chief: S C Dutta, Managing Editor: Devika Kumar, Executive Editor: Tilak De, Associate Editor: P N Ranjit Kumar
Publisher: India Post (Department of Posts, Government of India)
Mailing Address: Director GPO, Kolkata 700001
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

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NEW PUBLICATIONS: POSTAGE STAMPS OF HYDERABAD STATE

A new publication providing basic information on the postage stamps of the erstwhile Princely State of Hyderabad by Mohammed Badruddin Khan has been recently brought out in a handbook format. The book is priced at Rs. 100 and is available from the publishers - Bright & Company, Hyderabad.

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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 October 2002 is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

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INDIA POST INTRODUCES 'MEGHDOOT 98' SOFTWARE IN MAURITIUS

In a major move to give new impetus to E-initiatives in bilateral relations, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan was on a five-day official visit to Mauritius from September 27, 2002. The Minister led a high-level delegation for harnessing cooperation between the two countries in the field of Telecommunications, Information Technology and Postal Sectors.

India and Mauritius have identified key deliverables in the field of Telecom and Postal Sectors by institutionalizing a framework for cooperation. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed in Port Louis, Mauritius on September 28, 2002 between Mahajan and Deelchand Jeeha, Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Government of Mauritius for a period of five years to be extended automatically for another period of five years.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahajan gave an insight to the recent initiatives of India Post specially the 'Gramin Sanchar Sewaks' and also the 'Meghdoot Post Card'. He said that the effort of the Government would be to make the Post Office the 'Hub' for providing the tools that would facilitate the working of the community specially in the field of IT, Telecom, Banking and Insurance services. Jeeha said that this MoU was extremely important for the future transformation of Mauritius as the Cyber Island. He said that Mauritius was keen to learn from the Indian Postal Services in the areas of life insurance, computerization and the availability of software for multi-purpose value added products and services. He said that this MoU would help by paving the way for convergence to actually happen within Mauritius.

A key feature of the MoU is that India Post would work together with the Mauritius Post for the introduction of the 'Meghdoot 98' in Mauritius, modalities for which would be worked out. Mauritius had expressed its keen interest in the software package "Meghdoot 98", developed by India Post, to computerize their postal services. The Mauritius side also expressed its desire to introduce postal life insurance in Mauritius in cooperation with India Post. It was decided that India would facilitate introduction of postal life insurance in Mauritius, for which there would be an exchange of officials between the two postal administrations.

During his visit, Mahajan had wide ranging discussions with business leaders and the key principals of the Government of Mauritius. A key feature of his visit was the inauguration of the School of Advance Computing in Mauritius with the help of India's C-DAC. The Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Cybercity Project in

Mauritius. Mahajan also called on Karl Auguste Offman, President of the Republic of Mauritius.

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MARKET SURVEY ON SEGMENTATION OF MAILS IN METROS

India Post is inviting bids from reputed Research and Consultancy Agencies to conduct Market Survey On Segmentation Of Mails In Metros. The bids will be opened on October 25, 2002. More information may be had from T Q Mohammed, Deputy General Manager (Marketing), Business Development Directorate, Malcha Marg Post Office Complex, Chankya Puri, New Delhi 110 021. Tel: 011-4103305

The bids for "e-Post" Services Through Internet will now be opened on October 28, 2002 instead of October 7, 2002.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 26

Whenever a group of persons come together for a singular cause and decide to work together as an organization, they begin with setting some basic frame work of activities, aims and objectives. If the group decides to formalize this activity and register a society then Rules and Regulations are also formed. 26 years ago PCI was also founded by a group of like-minded persons to popularize and promote the hobby of stamp collecting in India. However after 26 years of its existence many milestones may have been crossed yet PCI still has a long way to go in achieving what it set out to do.

The goals that the founders set for themselves appear to be of no importance to the current set of persons at the helm of affairs. We share with you some interesting facts about the PCI.

1.

22 Aims and Objects were enshrined in the Memorandum of Association of the Philatelic Congress of India - the last 7 relate to the management of funds. Being of non-philatelic nature are not being reproduced here.

In respect of following 10 no effort has been made by the PCI in last 26 years:

(i) To promote the art and science of philately in all its facets and in particular to foster and encourage the study of stamp collecting, postal history and postal stationery and any other philatelic material literature,

(ii) To hold seminars and other activities for the promotion of the art and science of philately,

(iii) To build up libraries of philatelic literature and reference collection and to encourage research in philately and to disseminate all useful knowledge about philately,

(iv) To establish schools and training centres to advance the study of philately and in particular for young collectors,

(v) To promote philatelic friendship and exchange philatelic knowledge in and amongst philatelists and philatelic societies.

(vi) To exchange information relating to stamps and other philatelic material issued in India and elsewhere and keep liaison with issuing authorities

(vii) To strengthen contacts with all postal administrations and national organizations all over the world in philatelic matters for the promotion of philately

(x) To organize, establish or support philatelic museums

(xiii) To exchange philatelic material amongst members, societies and institutions with similar objects in and outside India

(xiv) To constitute expert bodies to give opinions and certificates in respect of postage stamps and philatelic material submitted to them

And the remaining 5 given below have been adhered to in part, for the benefit of a select few to promote themselves rather than philately:

(viii) To support exhibitions of postage stamps and philatelic material organized by postal administrations and member societies

(ix) To establish prizes and trophies for the encouragement of the art and science of philately

(xi) To organize national and international philatelic exhibitions and to participate in national and international philatelic exhibitions

(xii) To issue philatelic bulletin and other publications

(xv) To affiliate with and become members of national and international societies or institutions with similar objects and accept affiliation from such societies and institutions

2.

In last 26 years 11 of the 15 founder members have become President one by one. The exceptions, P M Mehora who declined and allowed another founder member to become President, G S Beed moved out in disgust due to constant disagreement by the rest, S N Poddar died long before his chance could come, and G Madan Mohan Das doesn't have the clout / backing / wealth for him to be considered.

3.

Life members have increased from 15 to 300 plus but interest of only a handful has been served and they have hogged all the benefits and posts.

4.

The minutes of the Governing Council are not available for inspection to general members. When Government of India's files can be inspected and photocopies can be obtained what is so secret about PCI an organization meant only for promotion of Philately.

5.

Over 100 out of the 300 plus life members have neither attended a single meeting in the 26 years of the existence of the society nor participated in a district, state, national, or world exhibition organized in India by the Department of Posts or by a philatelic

organization. The membership of the PCI carries on its rolls persons who have no interest in philately including the wives of many philatelists. Representation of women is dismal, there are only 16 women life members and apart from 6 who actually are philatelists the rest are there in name only.

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READERS FORUM

GRAHAM D. BERNHARDT from New Zealand

It is especially good news to see the report of the success of the efforts to ban "illegals" from PHILAKOREA. Your readers may be interested to read an online report on the illegal stamp problem, on the website of the 'Tannu Tuva Collectors' Society Inc.',

<http://www.tuva.tk> or go direct to the articles themselves:

<http://geocities.com/ttcsinc/roughtrade1.htm>

[This well researched article by J M Chute in two parts is a recommended 'must read'.]

<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

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

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

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

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

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ALSO IN THE NEWS: DE LA RUE ACQUIRES THE HOUSE OF QUESTA

De La Rue announced on September 23, 2002 the acquisition of the entire share capital of House of Questa Ltd, a UK based high security gravure printer for a total consideration of £3.2 million. House of Questa employs 75 people and has a single site gravure printing facility based in Byfleet, UK, manufacturing postage stamps, fiscal stamps and motor vehicle tax discs.

Subject to employee consultation, De La Rue proposes to consolidate existing gravure printing operations based at High Wycombe to the single purpose House of Questa facility. The site will become a centre of excellence for postage stamp production and other high security gravure web printing. De La Rue believes that in consolidating these operations, there is scope for incremental sales and considerable cost savings.

Earlier it had acquired other postage stamp printers, Waterlow & Sons in 1961, Bradbury Wilkinson in 1986, and Harrison & Sons in 1997.

The name of De La Rue as a printer of stamps is familiar to all stamp collectors worldwide. Today the company is the world's leading cash to cards group involved in the production of over 150 national currencies and a wide range of security documents including passports, cheques, certificates and bonds.

Thomas de la Rue's began his carrier by publishing the first edition of Le Miroir Politique newspaper in Guernsey in 1813 and later moved to London in 1821 to set up shop as printer, stationer and fancy goods manufacturer. He began printing British postage stamps, and obtained the contract for all Indian postal requirements in 1855 that continued till 1925.

The de la Rue family left the business in 1921 and the company converted to public ownership. The company changed name from Thomas De La Rue to the De La Rue Company Limited in 1958 and in 1991 the De La Rue Company plc becomes De La Rue plc.

De la Rue is also not new to the currency printing, having printed its first paper money - Mauritius £5, £1 and 10/- notes in 1860 and was commissioned by British Treasury in 1914 to print £1 and 10/- notes. In 1930 Chinese government's first order for banknotes was obtained in 1930 and China remained a vital customer for the next 18 years.

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

The Hindu Business Line, October 2, 2002  
COURIER COS WORRIED OVER CHANGES IN POST OFFICE BILL  
<http://www.blonnet.com/2002/10/02/stories/2002100202290200.htm>

<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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Published by Madhukar Jhingan for 'Stamps of India',  
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