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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 # 88 - October 24, 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 a copy of this issue.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

In past two issues we have been talking about viruss, spam and scams.  
The Bugbear virus was mentioned in issue # 86 of October 10, 2002. This  
did infect one of our subscribers in Rajasthan and sent e-mail on  
October 21, 2002 to several addresses from his computer. The message  
appeared from 'Stamps of India' with '#-86 Stamps of India Collectors  
Companion' as the subject, exactly as you receive this newsletter every  
week.

Fortunately very few of our subscribers received this mail and no  
damage was caused as the virus was detected by either the Internet

Service Providers or by web sites providing email. It had three tell tale signs that it is not a genuine mail from us. The mail was sent from 'stampsofindia@sandafayre.com' that was also the return address and is invalid. The issue # 86 was already received by our subscribers on October 12,2002. And mail was large at 69 KB while the issues of this newsletter hovers around 30 KB and usually is less.

The above emphasizes our concerns for the health of the computers of our subscribers. Please protect your computer by installing an anti-virus and firewall and keeping them regularly updated.

We apologize for the delay in mailing previous issue # 87.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources for this issue: Satish Misra from Bareilly, Dr. R S Gandhi from Patna, Rajesh Pahariya from Jaipur, Suraj Jaitly from Ludhiana, Rakesh Walia from Chandigarh, Rajkumar Sultania from New Delhi, ChennaiOnline.com, Zee News Television Channel, The Hindu, and The Associated Press.

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

##### PHILATELIC CLASSES AT BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

For the first time in India, fifty students of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi are now attending classes in Philately at the University's Hobby Center.

The classes conducted by Dr. Bhupendra Pal Singh of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology began from October 16, 2002. The forms were available from September 9, 2002 and the last date for submission was September 30, 2002. The admission fee is Rs. 200 and Certificates will be given to those who attend a minimum of 35 classes during one academic year.

##### NEW ISSUE UPDATE

India Post's next stamp issue on The Bihar Chamber of Commerce in the denomination of Rs. 4 is scheduled for October 28, 2002. The stamp is produced in the quantity of 800,000 only.

Mangroves of India series of 4 stamps scheduled for October 30, 2002 will also be accompanied with a Miniature Sheet containing all four stamps. The denomination of three stamps is Rs. 5 each and one is Rs. 15. The stamps are produced in the quantity of 3 million each with 100,000 Miniature Sheets.

A commemorative stamp on Swami Pranavananda in the denomination of Rs. 5 is scheduled for November 3, 2002. The stamp is produced in the quantity of 0.5 million only.

These stamps 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 in the country.

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MORE CUSTOMIZED ENVELOPES

The 5th and 6th issue of the customized envelopes were released on October 16 and September 25, 2002 respectively.

Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashrama of Mysore sponsored the fifth issue of two customized envelopes for inland and overseas airmail usage and the imprinted stamps are accordingly inscribed 'postage pre-paid for Rs. 5' and 'postage pre-paid for Rs. 15'. The later is the first customized overseas airmail envelope.

The envelopes are in the size of 220 x 110 mm and feature 'Dharma Dhawaja" a sixty feet octagonal monolith depicting the tenets of the religions of the world.

Gandhigram Rural Institute of Gandhigram sponsored the sixth issue on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

The envelope is in the size of 220 x 110 mm and depicts the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi in the imprinted stamps along with the inscription 'postage pre-paid for Rs. 5'

All issues of the customized envelopes released so far have been printed in the quantity of 10,000. India Post is now insisting on a minimum quantity of 50,000 nowadays but has accepted orders for 25,000 as a special case.

These issues, like other customized stationery, is NOT available to public or philatelists through the Post Office.

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POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUES IN NOVEMBER

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

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

POSTCARD - Panch Mahal, 50 Paise, Brown  
04, ISP, English, Priya Butter Bite Biscuits, 1 million  
09, ISP, Hindi, Cataract is Curable, 3 million  
11, SPP, Oriya, Anti-Malaria, 2 million  
16, SPP, Ennglish, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, 0.5 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - Panch Mahal, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format  
09, SPP, Hindi, Cataract is Curable, 3 million  
23, SPP, Tamil, Savings, 2 million

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CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GREETING CARDS

The new set of 66 Greeting Cards was released in two parts. Printers dispatched the first part of 13 cards, 2 on Durga Puja and 11 on Diwali, on October 4, 2002 and the second part of 33 cards, 5 for Christmas, 16 for New Year, and 12 for other occasions, on October 18, 2002.

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PHILATELIC BUREAU AT MYSORE OPENS

A Philatelic Bureau, the fourth in the Karnataka State, was inaugurated at Mysore on October 11, 2002. A Special Cover with Special Postmark was issued on the occasion. Interested philatelists may contact the Philatelic Bureau, Mysore 570001.

We had reported earlier in issue # 73 of July 11, 2002 that Philatelic Bureau at Mysore was opened on March 1, 2001 (should have been 2002). We have since learned that it was earlier planned for that date but was postponed.

In our issue # 74 of July 18, 2002 we have again reported the date of Philatelic Bureau at Ajmer again as 2001 instead of 2002.

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SHEETLETS - A NEW COLLECTIBLE?

We have learned that contrary to our report in the previous issue the sheetlets of 'India Japan' issue are not available at all philatelic bureaus. It has been sold out at most places and the few places where it still is on sale the stocks are limited.

This is the first sheetlet issued by India Post and was followed by another for Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal issue. The next sheetlet will be for the Children's Day issue scheduled for release on November 14, 2002.

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ROHINI ANDHARE'S POSTAL AUCTION

The first postal auction by Rohini Andhare has been announced. About half of over 1250 lots are of topicals arranged alphabetically. Also India pre and post, covers, literature and foreign countries are represented. The auction closes on November 19, 2002. The catalogs may be requested at postal address P O Box 21, Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur 495001 or by email [crandhare@yahoo.com](mailto:crandhare@yahoo.com)

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BANGKOK 2003

26 provisional entry forms were sent on September 20, 2002 from India for participation in this world philatelic exhibition that will be the only FIP patronized world event in 2003.

The Organizing Committee has later added 'One Frame Exhibit Class' on experimental basis and 200 frames are earmarked in the following One Frame Exhibit competitive class: 1. Traditional Philately, 2. Thematic Philately, 3. Postal History, 4. Postal Stationery, 5. Revenues, 6. Aerophilately, 7. Astrophilately, & 8. Maximaphily.

Those desirous of participation in One Frame exhibit class may contact the Dr. R S Gandhi, the National Commissioner for India, at gandhi@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in for further details. The last date for duly filled entry form to reach him is November 15, 2002.

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EXHIBITIONS AT CHANDIGARH AND SALEM

India Post organized a philatelic exhibition on October 16 and 17 at Chandigarh. Design a Stamp and Quiz competitions were also held during the exhibition.

India Post is organizing a district level philatelic exhibition on November 6 to 8, 2002 at Salem in Tamilnadu State.

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NEW EDITION OF INDIA CATALOG

The 12th edition of Manik Jain's India Catalog in color covering the period up to June 2002 is now available. This 224 A5 size page publication is priced at Rs. 450.

The catalog also covers and prices Telegraphs stamps, Postal Service and India Postal Notes overprints, Lady Minto Fete, Azad Hind, Chalo Delhi, booklets, Rocket Mail, Pigeonogramme, Traffic Lights & Marginal and Instructional Inscriptions, FDC and Folders, and Greeting Cards in addition to stamps.

It is being distributed in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan by J L Mahajan of Pooja Philatelists, 115 Mehar Chand Market, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003; in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, and Pondicherry by Kesava Rao # 46, First Floor, Unity House, Abid Road, Hyderabad 500 001; in west Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Gujarat, Maharshttra, and Goa by the publisher, Philatelia, One Motisil Street, Kolkata 700 013.

Binod Kaseera, Distributor for Rajasthan got it ceremoniously released in Jaipur Philatelic Bureau by Ambesh Upmanyu, Senior Suprintendent of Post Offices, Jaipur City Divison. This function was combined with monthly meeting of Philatelic Society of Rajasthan held every second Saturday of month at the same venue.

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MYPHIL, # 1, July-September 2002, Quarterly  
Editor: R Ravindranath [stampravi@sify.net](mailto:stampravi@sify.net)  
Publisher: Mysore Philatelics  
Address: 12, I Main Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore 570009  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

Welcome and all the best!

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FAKES STAMPS SEIZED

StampIT, the Karnataka State police team investigating the multi-billion fake stamp paper racket of the criminal mastermind, Abdul Karim Telagi also known as Karim Lala, has seized more stamp papers in a raid on a godown in Chennai on October 20, 2002. Initial reports said the catch was worth Rs. 70 million, but reliable sources say it was much more than that. Three alleged associates of Lala are said to have been arrested in this connection.

The racket came to light in 2000, and Lala was arrested in 2001. Police have so far found fake stamp papers worth billions of rupees in Chennai, Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam, Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, and Pune.

Lala is now being interrogated by police in Pune, where fake stamp papers worth Rs. 2 billion were seized a few months ago.

Meanwhile, a police team from Hubli had arrived in Bangalore after arresting two more alleged associates of Lala and recovering Rs. 5.8 million in cash from them, sources said.

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**POSTMASTER ARRESTED**

The postmaster of the Therku Valliyur post office in the Tirunelveli district was arrested on October 17, 2002 for swindling money deposited by three persons in their savings bank accounts without making entry in the official records. Police said that the postmaster did not make

entries in the office records for the money deposited by these account holders, though the deposit had been credited in their respective pass books.

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MAILBOMB IN PAKISTAN

A series of parcel bombs exploded in quick succession in Karachi, injuring nine people, including police and postal officials, at two police stations and a government office on October 16, 2002.

Police questioned eight post office employees about the descriptions of the people who posted the packages. One of the postal employees questioned was injured when the parcel went off in a senior police official's office. The seven other postal employees questioned were working behind the counter at post offices when the parcel bombs were mailed from Karachi's southern Saddar and central Azizabad districts. At least one of the packages had "From Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal," written on it, a reference to the United Action Front, a coalition of anti-American religious parties that made unprecedented gains in national elections held earlier in the month. Authorities said, however, that they had no reason to believe the coalition was actually behind the attacks, and the group denied responsibility.

E-mails claiming responsibility on behalf of a militant Muslim group called Lashkar-e-Jhangvi were later received by a Pakistani daily newspaper and a local news agency. The e-mails said 35 packages containing 5 ounces of explosives each had been mailed from three different post offices. Four went off and six others were defused. It was not clear what happened to the others, or if they were ever sent.

The e-mail said the bombs were "a warning to those police officers involved in operations against 'Mujahedeen' (holy warriors) at the behest of the Americans." It said guerrilla operations would soon start against "anti-Islam police officers and other infidels." Other Muslims are planning a mass attack on the United States, it said. Police said the e-mails claiming responsibility for the parcel bombs appeared authentic.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 29

The essays, proofs, color trials, progressives, imprimaturs and other such material holds much greater fascination for most philatelists. The journey of such material from printers and the post office to collectors is full of mystery. In case of India the story goes back to 1890 and is a subject suitable for an interesting book.

The printers of the first issues of India in 1854, the Survey of India reprinted these on demand from the original stones in 1890 in addition to giving away such material to T K Tapling during his visit to India. The Survey of India also gave the only complete sheet of half anna in black to King George V who had asked for it in 1915.

This sprit of giving lasted for 100 years till in 1990 India Post decided to ban the display of proofs, color trials, progressives, and other such restricted material as such items are usually stolen and smuggled from the government custody.

This action annoyed a section of philatelists controlling Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) and was first discussed in its meeting of February 24, 1991 at Bombay. An 'urgent' meeting of the Governing Council was held on July 17, 1991 at New Delhi to decide on the stand to be taken. Next day a ten-member delegation met the Chief of India Post. The PCI delegation consisted of D N Jatia, Dhirubhai Mehta, Brigadier D S Virk, V S Dastur, M G Pittie, Damayanti Pittie, Dr. D J Bannerjea, Y Kumar, Pradip Jain and B Mehta and the postal side was represented with Kailash Prakash - Chairman of Postal Services Board with members of the Philately Branch: V S Saksena - Deputy Director General, Vinod Dhamija - Director, and Rakesh Misra - Assistant Director General.

The points raised at that meeting were that De La Rue, the printer of India's stamps since 1855 to 1925, had sold its archives in 1970s, and as there is no theft reported to the police by post office collectors should be allowed to display material. PCI wanted that India Post should fix responsibility and the guilty should be punished including postal officers instead of taking action only against owners and exhibitors of such material.

It was decided to hold another meeting between India Post and PCI in October 1991 that did not take place. The matter was again discussed in PCI meeting of January 26, 1992 at Bombay and it was decided to send a memorandum on the subject to the Minister.

India Post in the letter of March 5, 1992 to PCI stated, "The meeting proposed for October 1991 could not be convened due to unavoidable circumstances. However, the Department has already prescribed the procedure for receipt and accounting of security items at the National Philatelic Museum. The General Manager, India Security Press, Nashik Road has also been requested to take suitable action in the matter. It has been decided that the ban will be applicable to display of all security material like color proofs, color trials, progressives etc. in respect of postage stamps printed in India after independence. Presently the ban is being applied to state level exhibitions organized by the Department, but it is proposed to extend it to the national exhibitions also. The guidelines for the exhibitions are being modified accordingly."

Another PCI delegation consisting of Colonel L G Sheno, Dhirubhai Mehta, V S Dastur, Dr. D J Banerjea, and A R Singhee met the then Chairman of Postal Services Board, S K Parthasarathi in his office on January 18, 1993 in this connection. The matter was discussed next at the PCI meeting at Bombay on March 6, 1993. Since then members have raised this matter from time to time but nothing has been done by PCI.

India Post limited the ban, applicable only to post independence issues, made it effective for a fixed time and expanded it to cover exhibitions at all levels. The ban has been extended from time to time and PCI's role has been reduced to informing the same to its members. Now even this practice by the PCI has been dispensed with. Last communication in 1997 from PCI informed the extension of the ban to December 31, 2000. Since then the ban has been extended twice first till June 30, 2001 and then for a period of 5 years from July 1, 2001. This was communicated to PCI in October last year, however it has neither been discussed nor communicated to the members.

The ban however has been rendered useless and has not stopped the archival material from being displayed and the material continues to be displayed unabatedly. The ban has also not affected the market prices of such material adversely as was expected of it. It is understandable that philatelists themselves will not voluntarily bring the violations of this ban to the notice of postal authorities but it is amazing that postal officers themselves have no desire to implement this effectively. This ban has been violated time and again with impunity at hundreds of exhibitions held in 12 plus years since it was introduced.

Although it is incorporated in the Bulletins of the national INPEX 93, world INDEPEX 97, and continental INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000 organized by India Post it surprisingly has been conspicuous by its absence in nationals CENTIPEX 97, MILLEPEX 2000, INPEX-EMPIREPEX 01, and INPEX 02 patronized by the PCI.

Manik Jain is one person we know who has been upfront about it and had been warning collectors through his catalogs before the ban was even introduced in 1990. According to him "Such purchases shall put anybody, anytime in trouble and the mere possession shall be proved as crime". Majority of the imperforates available in the market are also actually imprimaturs and one needs to be careful in buying these.

The archival material must be preserved as India's postal and philatelic heritage. The thefts had destroyed a large number of important files from the official record and many a question from collectors may remain unanswered in future. We hope that collecting community would realize that thefts are to be condemned and will refrain from dealing in material whose status is uncertain. By all means buy archival material only after ensuring that it has been sourced in a legit manner.

Many postal administrations realizing the attraction of the collectors to such material have adopted the practice of legally putting such material on sale and we hope that India Post would also favorably look at similar methods not only to raise funds for promotion of philately but also to prevent thefts and corruption.

There is still a need for finding a solution to this problem. The onus is on both the post office and the collectors to come clean and to work together. Announcement of an amnesty may perhaps be a good idea.

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READERS FORUM

DR AVINASH B JAGTAP FROM SWITZERLAND

Thank you for you recent Newsletter No. 87, in which you have recently reported that Nepal has issued plastic currency notes and it is the second country, after Bangladesh, in the neighborhood of India.

A few years back a Swiss tourist returned after his visit to India. I asked him what was the dirtiest thing he came across during his tour to India. Switzerland being the most clean European country, my question was rather very direct. He was very much shocked and surprised to hear my question! Perhaps he might have thought, I would ask about the most beautiful thing he had seen or visited in India or a memorable event or the like. I was expecting he would mention the streets full of garbage or the beggars in front of a railway station or the absence or lack of

public WCs; but I was astonished to hear his answer. "THE MOST SHABBIEST AND DIRTIEST THING IN INDIA IS THE INDIAN CURRENCY NOTES!"

During my visit to India I also come across such dirty currency notes and collect them to exchange them at a bank counter. They are not only dirty but they can be a dangerous source of disease! It is a pity that Indian Government does not follow the example of its (still) poorer neighbouring nations like Bangladesh and Nepal and substitute at least ten and twenty Rupee paper notes (taking for granted that currency notes of lower denominations have almost vanished and are no more in circulation!) by plastic ones, which will be more safe and in case they become dirty, they could also be washed!

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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

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

PRINCE WILLIAMS 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY OMNIBUS?

Royal Mail announced that it had reached an agreement with Buckingham Palace for the commemorative stamps to go on sale next year in time for William's 21st birthday on June 21.

"This will be the first time Royal Mail has issued a stamp to commemorate a royal 'coming of age' and we are confident there will be enormous worldwide interest from the public and collectors alike," said Gavin Macrae, managing director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles.

"This royal issue follows a long tradition of commemorative stamps produced to celebrate special events in the life of the queen and immediate members of the royal family."

Details of the stamps, which will cost 28 pence (US\$ 0.44), have yet to be finalized. Like all royal commemorative stamps, they will have to be approved by Queen Elizabeth II, William's grandmother.

The prince, who is currently studying history of art at St. Andrews University in Scotland, appeared in a special miniature stamp with his great-grandmother Queen Mother Elizabeth, printed to celebrate the centenary of her birth on Aug. 4, 2000.

This is expected to trigger an omnibus of issues from several postal administrations that will need no persuasion to follow the lead provided by UK.

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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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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPSOFINDIA

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,

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://stampsonindia.netfirms.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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