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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 a copy of this issue.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We regret the delay in mailing of this issue due to maintenance of our  
machines.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Business  
Standard from New Delhi.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SWAMI PRANAVANANDA  
Pramod Mahajan, the Minister of Communications & Information Technology  
and Parliamentary Affairs, released a commemorative stamp on Swami

Pranavananda on November 3, 2002 at a special function held at New Delhi.

Swami Pranavananda, 1896-1941, was a great spiritual leader of modern India, revered for his message of universal love, nationalist zeal, and zest for social reform.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. India Security Press of Nashik printed the stamps by photogravure in multicolor on Imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.5 million. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

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NEW ISSUE UPDATE

India Post's next two stamp issues on Nagpur Tercentenary on November 11 and Children's Day on November 14 shall be issued in Sheetlets of 12 stamps. The issues are in the denomination of Rs. 5 and the quantity printed is 100,000 and 125,000 sheetlets respectively.

The Handicrafts issue is being released in mixed sheets of 48 stamps, consisting of 12 units of the set of 4 stamps. All the four stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 5 and the quantity printed is 3 million each for stamps and 100,000 for Miniature Sheet.

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 in the country.

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50 YEARS OF ALL INDIA RADIO

India Post is commemorating the 50 Years of All India Radio by providing a Special Postmark on November 12, 2002 at New Delhi. A Special Cover will also be issued on the occasion. Availability and the price may be had from the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street Head Post Office, New Delhi 110001.

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EXHIBITIONS AT LUCKNOW AND LUDHIANA

The state level philatelic exhibition UPHILEX at Lucknow scheduled for November 2002 is postponed to February 2003 due to non-availability of display frames.

The exhibition at Ludhiana scheduled for November 14-15 2002 is also postponed and the new dates shall be announced later.

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PCI CASE UPDATE

The case against PCI in the Court of Hon'ble Civil Judge Ajay Goel at the Delhi District Courts is now fixed for December 22, 2002.

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INFORMATION BROCHURE

The Information Brochure, also known as Information Sheet or Folder that is issued by India Post with every commemorative and special stamp issue has changed on October 30, 2002 with the Mangroves issue.

It is now closer to A4 size that is an increase of nearly 33% in the space. The price remains same usually Rs. 2 and occasionally Rs. 1.50.

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THEMATIC STAMP COLLECTING

Mysore Philatelics announced the second revised edition of their 1979 bestseller "Thematic Stamp Collecting". The book is priced at Rs. 50 only inclusive of postal charges. The remittance may be sent in favor of Mysore Philatelics and payable at Mysore city by bank drafts only. The publishers will not accept postal orders and money orders and may be contacted at 12, I Main Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore 570009.

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SIMPUTER

The Bangalore-based Simputer Trust is discussing with India Post to supply its low cost handheld devices, which are yet to be commercially released.

The three-year-old trust, set up by Indian Institute of Sciences and Encore Software, has developed a handheld computer with an objective to reach the benefits of IT to the masses.

"India Post is talking to us to provide Simputers to the postmen who deliver the money orders (MO). There are two risk factors in the present day MO transactions - the first being a chance of postmen getting robbed and the second one being defacement of acknowledgement paper that accompanies the MO. Simputers will eliminate these risks by using smart card technology," Vinay Deshpande, a trustee and chairman of Encore Software, said.

"We are awaiting RBI approval for use of smart cards to launch the facility," he added.

The South African government is also negotiating with the trust to supply the devices for low cost, portable, ultrasound foetal monitoring programme to be carried out on pregnant women in the rural areas.

"We are now conducting pilot trials on mobile banking in northern Karnataka, to take banking to the individuals' door steps. Trials are also being carried out in the land records department which facilitate printing of maps and certify on the spot, collecting real-time crop cultivation data," Deshpande said.

Simputer is not a personal digital assistant but a community digital assistant, he added.

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EMAIL DIRECTORY OF PHILATELIC AUCTIONEERS

The "Public Philatelic Auctioneer E-Mail Address Directory" that was last updated in November 2001 has been updated to reflect new, corrected, and/or deleted entries. The Directory is presented in two versions: (1) Alphabetical by Auctioneer Name; (2) Alphabetical by E-Mail Address.

The directory now includes 200+ entries, and should prove of use for your philatelic collecting and auction bidding efforts. It will be noted that some auctioneers have more than one E-Mail address. The great majority of these duplicated addresses represent different personnel at the auctioneer's office.

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WANTED DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY MATERIAL

Collector seeks VOC, documents and revenues, revenue stamped paper etc., relating to the Dutch East India Company, = VOC. Anything from any country, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Dutch East Indies, Cape of Good Hope, Malaka. Also the British Occupation of Dutch East Indies. Contact HPHAGER@aol.com

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 31

Gerald Sattin FRPSL from UK is a well-respected name in the philatelic world and we are proud and consider it a privilege to have contributions from him in this newsletter.

Sattin has been a collector of Indian postal history for over fifty years and has won Silver, Vermeil at INDIPEX 73, Gold at LONDON 1980, and finally Large Gold at INDIA 80, PHILEX FRANCE 82, BANGKOK 83, PHILAKOREA 84, AMERIPEX 86, and STOCKHOLMIA 86. He also has exhibited in FIP Championship Class with 'Campaign Mails Of India To 1908' and was twice nominated for the Grand Prix d'Honneur. He was invited to display this exhibit in the Court of Honour in Australia.

His current collection is "The Soldiers Privilege Rates of the British Empire to 1898" which is again in international competitions but not in an FIP exhibition, by choice. The collection includes the whole story of the soldiers postal history of India to 1898. 'Soldiers' by the way, does not include officers or sailors.

Sattin edited and contributed with Brigadier Virk and others on a series of books on Indian Campaigns published by the PCI. He is always willing to share his knowledge about the Indian military postal history upto 1908.

"I was so pleased to read in your 'views & opinions' of Dipok Dey's reaction to an FIP sponsored exhibition.

There is certainly no justification for FIP to charge India \$500,000 for the so-called benefit of having their sponsorship. This, of course, is a legacy of Mr. D. N. Jatia when he was the 'leading light' in Indian philately.

When DN first came to prominence in 1973, he had attained his FIP Grand Prix National award with the help of his 'guru' who I believe was a Mr. Gupta. It was said at the time that Jatia would buy nothing without first seeking Mr Gupta's approval. This became particularly evident when DN was invited to talk to the India Study Circle in London while he was on a trip to England. His specialty was the four-anna lithographed stamps. He read from notes and came over well. I was in the audience at that time as I collected the stamps of India as well as India used abroad on cover. What Jatia did not realise was, that after his talk he would be invited to answer questions and at this he fell apart. Mr. Gupta was nowhere in sight to provide the answers!!

[This guru was J N Sengupta and Jatia dedicated his 4 annas book to him. Jatia never got any FIP Grand Prix and the 1973 show in New Delhi was not FIP patronized. Mary Ann Owens from USA who visited this show as an exhibitor says that the Jury combined Jatia's several exhibits in the various classes to give him Grand Prix National!!! - Editors]

It was then that I began to realise that our friendly Mr Jatia was no expert and in fact his knowledge was very limited. Nonetheless, because he had just won the Grand Prix for his exhibit, he was considered in India to be a great collector and an expert on the subject of Indian stamps.

Jatia told me at the time that he was disappointed there were so few Indian exhibitors at International Exhibitions. It was not long before many Indian collectors were exhibiting internationally. I wondered where had these collectors been hiding themselves. I was then told that Jatia had arranged for a reduction in the level of marking at national level competitions in order that more Indian collectors could win their large vermeil medals in order to compete internationally. I had heard that Jatia had told many of these collectors they would win good awards at the FIP competitions. Sadly, few did and most received a bronze medal or just simply a certificate of participation. Competing in Internationals is a serious business and many jurors saw the poor quality of the Indian exhibits, which were marked down accordingly. In this way India lost many rising collectors whose aspirations had been dashed and who became disillusioned with the hobby.

It is sad but few if any of the more serious Indian collectors have helped those at the bottom of the ladder to learn and improve their knowledge. For some, who have a deep pocket, it is just a question of buying material in order to win the higher medals without the knowledge to go with. For the majority, they are usually exploited by many Indian dealers because they do not have the knowledge or experience to know what to buy and what is a reasonable price to pay. I know of one person who had been sold a cover by a well-known collector, which was an obvious fake when you looked at it closely. That person won a large vermeil at an International competition where the jurors were mainly Indian.

[We are reminded of a scene we witnessed at INDEPEX 97 at New Delhi. An international Jury was in great demand by Indian exhibitors for critique as he is very knowledgeable on India and Princely States. He pointed out a fake cover in an exhibit to the exhibitor. The exhibitor wanted the opinion on another similar cover in the same exhibit and the Juror declared that also a forgery. The Juror went on to explain how to identify the forged ones from the genuine. However the exasperated exhibitor exclaimed how it could be as **these were** bought from an Indian expert who also was a Juror at INDEPEX 97 and has been President of PCI!!! - Editor]

In my opinion there are very few jurors provided from India that have more than a superficial knowledge about Indian stamps and postal history and should never have been made jurors in the first place. To me it has always looked like 'jobs for the boys' and no-one prepared to answer back to Mr. Jatia.!!

India now has a golden opportunity to sweep away all this corrupt patronage now that DN has passed away. It is time that those who DO know about Indian philately and postal history, even if they live outside India, are invited to take part as representatives of Indian philately, to act as jurors with knowledge, and to help in building a nucleus of good Indian collectors to develop the hobby in India to a more serious

level so that knowledge can be put on a firmer base to be passed on to future collectors.

[A friend once told us a clerihew about Robert Clive which, seems equally suited to Jatia:

The best thing about Lord Clive  
Is that he's no longer alive.  
There's a great deal to be said  
For being dead.]

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READERS FORUM

<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

STAMP COLLECTOR MEETS QUEEN

Kristen Ollies, the 14-year-old girl from Milverton was one of thousands of guests welcoming the Queen and one of the lucky few who got to meet her at Festival of Ontario at the National Trade Centre in Toronto October 9, 2002. "I was shaking," the excited teen said, as the Queen left the Tucked in among displays heralding the province's sporting triumphs and technological marvels, Ollies' modest booth displayed her most prized possession -- a biography of the Queen's life, illustrated through stamps. It's an award-winning work in progress, one that's already taken four years to bring together, featuring hundreds of stamps from countries throughout the Commonwealth, dating back to 1841 and the reign of Queen Victoria.

Her family's fondness for the royals predates her birth; her father, Clive, was born in England and he and his wife Patty gave their daughter the middle name of Elizabeth, in honour of the monarch. Kristen's passion for philately came later, after a family friend, who works as a postmaster, introduced her to the hobby. She's even passed the bug along to her younger brother Michael, who had his own collection of space-themed stamps on display.

And the Queen, an avid stamp-collector herself, took notice, spending about a minute and a half admiring the collection. "I don't know if she said 'marvelous' or 'splendid,' " said Kristen's equally excited mother. "She brought a sparkle," Kristen recalled. "Her smile was perfect." Ollies' booth was one of dozens set along a meandering red carpet in the cavernous exhibit hall. Her booth was among those of universities, government ministries and cultural institutions. Kristen, a Grade 9

student at Stratford's Northwestern Secondary School, was the only individual lucky enough to have been invited to set up a display.

The industrious teen wrote to Governor General Adrienne Clarkson when she first learned of the Queen's visit, asking if she could show off her collection. She received a pair of polite rejection letters in return. So you can imagine the family's surprise when they opened a letter from the provincial government inviting Ollies to bring her stamps to the Festival of Ontario. 'It was pretty hard to keep (the invitation) quiet at first,' Kristen admitted. From fire trucks and police dogs to costumed historical interpreters, champion livestock and even a midway, the festival presented the royal couple with as wide a cross-section of the province as could be stuffed under one roof. If the Queen couldn't visit all of Ontario during her whirlwind Golden Jubilee tour, organizers reasoned, they'd bring Ontario to her.

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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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