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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 # 92 - November 21, 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,

Please don't think that we are wanting to make it a habit to send out  
the issues late, but the work on our systems have delayed a couple of  
issues and we hope to be back on track by next week.

We take this opportunity to thank you for bearing with us.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Press Trust  
of India from New Delhi, Manthan Mehta of Mid Day from Mumbai, Dipok  
Dey from Kolkata, Rajesh Paharia from Jaipur.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

CHILDREN'S DAY

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, released a commemorative stamp on Children's Day on November 14, 2002 at a special function held at New Delhi.

India Post issues a special stamp every year on November 14, observed as national Children's Day, underlining the country's responsibility and commitment to meeting the needs and fulfilling the rights of children. This year, the stamp was based on a painting by Akash Anand, which captures the spirit of Holi, the festival of colors. Anand is a student of Good Shepherd School, Udthagamandalam and won the first prize of Rs 5,000 at the national-level in 'Design a Stamp' contest 2001, conducted by the India Post. Through the image of dance, music and festivities the artist has created a model of vibrant joy.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate. Akash Anand's first award winning entry is the design of the stamp and Debahuti Hazarika's entry, that also won an award, is the design of 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. 1.50 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 1.5 million in sheetlets of 12 stamps, that is 125,000 sheetlets. All sheetlets are individually numbered.

HANDICRAFTS

A P J Abdul Kalam, the President of India, released a set of four special stamps and a miniature sheet on Handicrafts of India on November 15, 2002 at a special function held at New Delhi.

The stamps are in the denomination of Rs. 5, the inland letter rate. The Miniature Sheet is priced is Rs. 20. Kamleshwar Singh 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. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 3 million. The issued sheets contain 48 stamps that are 12 sets of stamps. The Miniature Sheet is printed in the quantity of 100,000 only.  
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INDIA POST 2010

"Policy Imperatives and Business Strategies for Optimally Harnessing Postal Outreach Infrastructure and Capabilities" conference was jointly sponsored by India Post, the World Bank, and Invest India Economic Foundation and was held on November 12 and 13, 2002 at Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi.

The objective of the conference was to provide a platform to policy makers from central and state government and departments as well as practitioners and independent experts to discuss the potential uses of the Indian Postal network. This would be a first step in the

implementation of the postal reforms that will contribute to widespread access to financial and information services in India.

The Indian postal network represents India's largest and most widespread public infrastructure with 154,000 offices (75% in rural areas) and over 1 million employees. India Post handles over 16 billion mail articles and 110 million money orders every year and maintains 114 million saving bank accounts.

With this vast experience it is possible to conceive of many new roles that can be performed by the credible infrastructure of the post offices in the new economic scenario. Over 1000 post offices are currently connected electronically and have the ability to move funds in real time across all 550 districts and the capacity is set to grow, this capability can be used for funds transfers on the securities market.

The e-governance functions can be utilized as a front-end interface between the customers and the state to access information on land records, insurance and payment of various kinds of bills etc.

India Post can also play a key role in rural penetration and expansion of financial markets while providing easy access to modern savings instruments and micro-credit to the population in semi-urban and rural India.

Information dissemination would be another key role for the post offices where diverse information can be shared in the rural and semi-urban areas. This could be pertaining to agricultural commodities, health and hygiene.

The trusted environment of the post offices can extend services like authentication in financial transactions that may not be trusted to the private sector specially through e-commerce. Through these applications India Post can make a huge contribution to the economic development of the country.

Once the role for India Post is defined by all concerned the services can be re-engineered to perform the new functions without having to invest in fresh infrastructure. The better utilization of the postal network would benefit the economy and a much wider population in the decades to come.

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450TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER  
India Post will provide a special postmark on 450th Anniversary of Saint Francis Xavier's on December 3, 2003 at Jaipur. Saint Xavier's School will issue a Special Cover on the occasion. Philatelic Society of Rajasthan is coordinating with India Post on behalf of the School.

For availability and price, 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)

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JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY  
Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension at Jadavpur University, Kolkata in collaboration with India Post has introduced a Certificate Course in Philately.

Director Kolkata GPO on behalf of India Post and the Registrar on behalf of the University signed the agreement on 11th November 2002 in the presence of Member (Operations) of Postal Service Board, Principal Chief Post Master General of West Bengal Circle, Vice Chancellor and other higher officials of Jadavpur University, Post Masters General of Kolkata and South Bengal Region, Post Master General of Mail Motor Service, of the University and Dipok Dey who has been working towards this since last four / five years.

The course will commence from December 20, 2002 and continue for next 12 weeks. The classes will be held in the evening from 5.20 to 7.30 on weekdays. The application forms are available with the information section of the University for Rs. 10 and shall be accepted till December 3, 2002. The minimum eligibility is High School or equivalent and the selected candidates shall be required to pay Rs. 2700 as course fees.

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PCI CASE UPDATE

The Defendants, Philatelic Congress of India, moved an application on November 14, 2002 for early hearing/preponement of the date in the Court of Ajay Goel, Civil Judge, Delhi. This application was heard on November 18, 2002 and the next date of hearing is now fixed for November 29, 2002.

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EXHIBITION AT GANGTOK

India Post organized a philatelic exhibition at Gangtok, Sikkim from October 29 to 31, 2002. There were 29 participants and more than 20 aspirants could not be accommodated due to shortage of display frames. All the local newspapers published from Gangtok and Siliguri as well as the TV and Radio stations covered the exhibition.

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SPECIAL PACKS FOR IITF

India Post has produced two new packs for sale at India International Trade Fair, National Philatelic Museum, and other selected outlets. The packs, priced at Rs. 75 each, contain a set of 4 stamps of Baudha Mahotasva or Temple Architecture issues of 2001. These packs are issued in limited numbers and are unprecedented in quality.

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PHILATELY WORKSHOPS AT AJMER

Office of Post Master General - South Eastern Region of Rajasthan Circle at Ajmer, Philatelic Society of Rajasthan and Ajaimeru Philatelic Society jointly conducted the two-day Philately Workshops on November 12 and 13, 2002. Two workshops in Hindi Medium Schools specially Government Schools and two workshops in Premier English Medium School were planned.

Rajesh Paharia, General Secretary, Yogesh Bhatnagar, Executive Member, of the Philatelic Society of Rajasthan along with Ambesh Upmanyu Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Jaipur City Division conducted the workshops. Staff members of India Post handling Philately at Ajmer, Bhilwara, Kota and Udaipur etc were also called to attend a special presentation on Philately.

First workshop was conducted on November 12 at 10 AM at St. Pauls School and was attended by nearly 60-70 students interested in Philately. Paharia explained to the students the importance of the Hobby of Stamp collecting and how to start this hobby. Bhatnagar explained the history

and origin of Stamps with the help of Slides on overhead projector. Upmanyu explained about facilities provided by India Post to promote this hobby among students. Later, group of philatelists and postal officials met the principal and explained about the scope of Philatelic activities in their school.

Second Workshop was conducted at Ajmer's most reputed School, Mayur chool( Non-Boarding School of Mayo College)which was very well attended by nearly 200 students in their auditorium hall. This workshop was well understood which was evident by special quiz programme that included questions from same presentation shown to students and students replied very confidently. S Sahoo, General Secretary, Ajaimeru Philatelic Society handled this quiz and distributed packets of Stamps to students giving right answer. In the end, Vice- Principal of School gave thanks to the Philatelists and Department of Posts for conducting excellent educative and entertaining workshop and immediately appointed a special staff member who shall take care of forming the School Philately Club and promote Philately in the School.

Third workshop on same day was conducted in the evening at Ajmer Head Post Office for DOP staff handling Philately. They were addressed by Rajesh Paharia who emphasized on expectations of Philatelists from DOP staff who in turn need to understand the need of Philately for revenue generation. In the beginning, Ambesh Upmanyu took introduction of all members attending presentation and showed them a CD presentation on Philately "What & Why?" Yogesh Bhatnagar shared with them the details of Philatelic material handled by them.

On 13th Nov. 2002, first workshop was conducted at Rameshwaram Vidyapeeth and was attended by nearly 300 students as well as many staff members. Students were amazed to see colorful slides of beautiful stamps and took full interest in the presentation. The Second workshop was conducted at Oswal Senior Hr. Sec. School where School Authorities converted their assembly hall for presentation and whole school from class 9th to 12<sup>th</sup> comprising 350 students saw the presentation on Philately. Ajaimeru Philatelic Society also gave mementos to the three invitees from Jaipur for conducting these workshops. Later, High Tea was arranged at the Principal's office and everybody discussed the prospect of Philately in Govt. Schools since Philately is considered as costly Hobby. Paharia told everybody about new international trends like Mophila, Frugal and One Frame Exhibits in Philately, which provide scope for everybody. He gave example of one of his collection on 5ps Stationery Surcharge, which got him Large Silver Medal although the material was less than 200 Rs at that time.

In evening, a special meeting was called at Philatelic Bureau, Ajmer by Ajaimeru Philatelic Society where General Secretary, PSR was invited to address problems in exhibiting by members and future plans of PSR for Philately Promotion in Ajmer. Paharia suggested members to arrange for similar kind of Projector and slides so that they can independently handle such kind of workshops and further the promotion of Philately. He also suggested arranging for participation of Students of Schools of Ajmer in forthcoming Rajpex2003 and Schoolpex2003. In the end, Paharia praised the efforts done by Ajaimeru Philatelic Society for Promotion of Philately in Schools and assured of every help by Philatelic Society of Rajasthan.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RAJASTHAN

Monthly Meeting of Philatelic Society of Rajasthan (PSR) for November 2002 was conducted as a Family Get-together for the Diwali festival at Greenwood Resorts, Sanganer near Jaipur on November 10, 2002 from 4 o'clock onwards. Sarvesh Patni hosted this get-together and nearly 100 members including spouses and children attended it.

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RANES C CHAKRAVARTY

Well-known topical philatelist, Dr. R C Chakravorty will be in Delhi, Kolkata and probably Mumbai in December 2002 and January - February 2003. He will naturally be glad to meet philatelists in these cities. His major interest is in topical philately, especially medical and history of medicine and science. He includes postal stationery in the above. He also has a large number of duplicates of used stamps of Germany (recent), Great Britain, France etc., and a number of medically related cancels of the USA that he would like to exchange with similar Indian material on a Scott catalog basis. He is a life member of the APS, ATA and UPSS.

Indian Stamp Collectors Association plans to organize a get together during his visit to Delhi.

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GREETINGS MAIL VOLUME REDUCED BY HALF

The Internet and the increasing number of courier services available today have reduced the amount of holiday mail that usually arrives at most local post offices. In Ghatkopar, officials claim the numbers are down by almost 50 percent this Diwali.

Rekha Thakrul, an official attached to Ghatkopar post office, says, "This year, we've received 10,000 mails per day during Diwali. The load has definitely come down over the past few years." Thakrul feels that several factors have contributed to this decline. "Apart from the penetration of the Internet and cell phone technology, the increase in Book Post charges has also impacted business."

(The SMS traffic this Diwali season jammed the networks of all the mobile phone service providers across the country)

Post offices classify Diwali mail as 'sensitive mail' and make special arrangements to collect and deliver the cards. "This kind of arrangement is done for all festive seasons, including the New Year," says Thakrul. After arriving at Ghatkopar post office, it takes less than two days for these 'sensitive mails' to reach the person's residence, she says, adding that Diwali mail normally starts coming in a fortnight before the festive day. "This year, only companies have sent their greetings through the postal department," she claims.

However, postmen feel that though there has been a reduction in the amount of mail, their legwork remains the same. "To us, it does not matter whether the mail has reduced or increased in number," says postman V S Bapat. "We still have to cover the same area per day, even if it means delivering only five to 10 letters to a particular lane."

A residential area like Rajawadi only received 2,000 mails per day this Diwali. "Totally, there are 17 beats in this post office. Two postmen are deputed per beat. In Ghatkopar (W), there are 56 postman catering to 28 beats," says D G Ambekar, postal assistant.

This year, postmen are also unhappy with the baksheesh (tips) amount they've collected. "People do not want to pay any baksheesh," says another employee. "They no longer depend on the post office as much as they used to. We were barely able to collect Rs 1,400 from a beat, which had to be divided between the two of us."

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FOUR ARRESTED FOR PRINTING FAKE STAMPS

The City police of Varanasi on November 15, 2002 claimed to have unearthed a printing factory making fake stamp papers and recovered counterfeit stamp papers valued at Rs 1 million and arrested four persons in this connection in the Diesel Locomotive Workshop colony here.

Senior Superintendent of Police Daljit Singh Chaudhary told PTI that besides the fake stamp papers, some semi-printed stamp papers, negatives and government stamps were also recovered from their possession.

The police also recovered negatives of fake mark sheets of CPMT, intermediate, High school, Post Graduate and Degree level courses, mostly of Bihar-based universities and schools, he said. A case has been registered against the arrested, he said.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 33

Dipok Dey of Kolkata, one of the Jury at the exhibition recently held at Gangtok, Sikkim says that the number of participants or quality of exhibits are not important here, what charmed me much is the inquisitiveness of the participants and the visitors. The visitors who visited on first day came again on the next day with new friends or relatives to make them acquainted with the world of Philately. I have never before seen such enthusiastic visitors in any exhibition. I also realized that India Post should also arrange to make the philatelic accessories available to collectors through its post offices.

I think that the 50 million plus Rupees India Post will spend on holding an international exhibition in 2004 shall yield much better return if the same is employed in organizing small exhibitions, workshops & seminars and to strengthen philatelic organizations in all districts. I fail to understand the logic of organizing an international without doing any basic work to promote philately. What is the fun of holding such a purposeless show?

We have also in several of our issues highlighted the importance of promoting philately at the grass root level.

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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

STAMPSWINDLERS

Alexander Ivanov from Russia has set up a web page to list swindlers in the philatelic world at <http://www.stampswindlers.narod.ru>

This page contains a list of bad stamp dealers and traders. If you know the name of any unfair stamp dealer or trader who cheated you in some way and caused you a financial and other damages and you want to warn the philatelic community about possible danger of trading with him or her - please submit the information by clicking "Add new record" button. It is the responsibility of the complainant for providing reliable info about the swindler.

We note that Mafatlal Sheth from India has reported Nelson W. Collamer of USA.

The latest entry is from Chuch Smead from USA who reports that he sent \$292 catalog value of British Commonwealth stamps to Rohan Khurana in India [rohankhurana@rediffmail.com](mailto:rohankhurana@rediffmail.com) and Khurana agreed to send even trade. Khurana claimed to have sent even trade plus another one to Smead and asked him to send another \$700 plus, claiming that he sent 2 shipments. Smead would not send the second selection until he received the first. When Khurana was informed of that he got real abusive. Needless to say Smead never received the stamps back or any stamps from him.

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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

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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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