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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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I N T H I S I S S U E

Santidev Ghose  
Meghdoot Postcard III  
Postal Stationery Issues in December  
Special Postmarks 2002  
Newly Formed Dealers Body Announces Fair  
Forthcoming State Level Exhibitions  
Postal Auction by Indian Thematic Society  
Electronic Franking Machines  
Transfers & Postings Of Senior Postal Officers  
Postal Employees Threaten Strike  
Productivity Linked Promotion Scheme for Postal Staff  
India Annual Mint Pack Sets  
Philately in Transition in India, Part 34  
Also in the News - Electronic Postmarks

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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

As promised last week, we attempted and have succeeded in sending you  
the issue on time. It will be our endeavor in the future also to mail  
the issue on time.

We, as always thank you for your constant support and words of  
encouragement.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Ashok Kumar  
Bayanwala from Ahmedabad, The Hindu Business Line, The Telegraph, and  
United News India (UNI).

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANTIDEV GHOSE

India Post's next commemorative stamp issue on Santidev Ghose in the denomination of Rs. 5 is scheduled for release on December 1, 2002.

The stamp along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs. 2 and Rs. 1.50 respectively, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters in the country.

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD III

The 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of Meghdoot Postcard for the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Games was released on November 21, 2002. The games will be held from December 13 to 22, 2002 at Hyderabad. The ad depicts the mascot of the games, Veera the bull holding the torch. The Security Printing Press at Hyderabad printed 100,000 cards in sheets of 8.

POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUES IN DECEMBER

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

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity, Remarks.

POSTCARD - Panch Mahal, 50 Paise, Brown  
10, SPP, Gujarati, Anti-Malaria, 1 million  
16, SPP, Kannada, Anti AIDS, 1 million,  
21, SPP, English/Hindi, Handicrafts Resurgence, 1 million, Multicolor  
21, SPP, Oriya, x x, 1 million  
22, SPP, Tamil, x x, 1 million  
22, SPP, Telugu, x x, 1 million  
21, SPP, Hindi, Employees Provident Fund, 1 million  
30, SPP, Hindi, Women's Empowerment Year 2001, 3 million  
30, SPP, English, Bagpiper, 4 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - Panch Mahal, Rupees 2.50, Blue, Vertical Format

16, SPP, Kannada, Anti AIDS, 1 million  
21, SPP, Hindi, Employees Provident Fund, 1 million  
30, ISP, English, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., 0.5 million, Multicolor  
30, SPP, English, Bagpiper, 4 million

For a complete list of issues this year visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/Stationery/a202.htm>

SPECIAL POSTMARKS 2002

In our hunt for special postmarks we gathered following additions to the special postmarks provided by India Post in 2002:

January 5, Palakkad, Philatelic Display  
January 18, Hyderabad, Lakshminarayanan Global Music Festival  
January 31, Tirupattur, Sacred Heart College, Golden Jubilee  
February 14, Mumbai, Victoria Memorial School for the Blind, 100 years  
March 30, Vimanapura, Handing over of Advanced Light Helicopter  
April 21, Pune, Numismatic Society of Maharashtra's Coin Exhibition  
May 4, Pune, Universal Temple of Sri Ramakrishna, Consecration Ceremony

June 16, Mysore, Sachchidananda Swami, 60<sup>th</sup> birthday  
June 21, Mysore, Jayalakshmi Mata Annapurna Trust  
August 14, Gandhigram, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Silver Jubilee

For a complete list of issues this year visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/Postmarks/a203.htm>

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NEWLY FORMED DEALERS BODY ANNOUNCES FAIR

A new national association of stamps dealers, Indian Philatelic Traders' Association (IPTA), was recently formed at Kolkata. The International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Association (IFSDA) has unanimously accepted IPTA as an affiliate at their last General Meeting held during early October 2002.

The well-known auctioneer P C Jaiswal is the President, Kalyan Negal is General Secretary, and Arun Bhattacharya is the Treasurer of the IPTA. The office of the IPTA is at 106/1A S N Banerjee Road, Kolkata 700 014 and their Email address is [ipta@vsnl.net](mailto:ipta@vsnl.net)

We wish IPTA a long eventful life and sincerely hope that it not only will represent the interests of the philatelic trade in India but work towards restoring the prestige of dealers that were given a second class citizen treatment in last three decades.

IPTA has announced the first Annual Stamp Fair on December 21 and 22 at Kolkata from 10 in the morning to 8 in the evening. The event will be held at 2000 square feet spacious Art Gallery of Charnock City at Salt Lake City, which is a very popular Super Market itself in Kolkata. A spot auction is also planned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. The table space at the Fair is available at Rs. 1500 for two days.

The monthly Stamp Fair, being organized regularly for quite some time, will also be held on December 7, 2002 from 2pm to 6pm at Rotary Sadan. The table space at this Fair is available at Rs. 600 and combined rate for tables at both the fairs is Rs. 2000.

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FORTHCOMING STATE LEVEL EXHIBITIONS

India Post will organize the next state level exhibition:

RAJPEX - February 17 to 22, 2003 at Jaipur.

GUJPEX - February 2003 at Rajkot.

UPHILEX - February 2003 at Lucknow.

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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POSTAL AUCTION BY INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY

Indian Thematic Society of Ludhiana is holding its 19<sup>th</sup> postal auction. The 123-lot auction closes on January 15, 2003. For further details please contact [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com)

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ELECTRONIC FRANKING MACHINES

India Post is inviting bids from those who have been in the business of Electronic Franking Machines with an annual turnover of Rs. 50 million

for providing 2500-3000 at designated post offices in the country the Electronic Franking Machines on revenue sharing basis. The bidder will supply, install, and maintain the machines and bear all capital and running costs.

The last date for submission of bids is December 13, 2002. More information may be had from Assistant Director (Technology), Dak Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001. Tel: 011-3036825.

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

Meera Dutta, Postmaster General of South Karnataka Region, Karnataka Circle was promoted and posted as Chief Postmaster General of Gujarat Circle with effect from November 20, 2002.

G Mohankumar, Chief Postmaster General of Jammu & Kashmir Circle was transferred as the Chief Postmaster General of Rajasthan Circle with effect from November 20, 2002

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POSTAL EMPLOYEES THREATEN STRIKE

Postal employees have decided to intensify their campaign against the government's move to amend the Indian Post Office Act to "facilitate" privatization of postal services and threatened to go on strike if the amended bill is passed.

Leaders of the Postal Joint Action of Council, which represents 0.6 million postal workers in the country, told reporters here today that during their two-month old campaign they had collected signatures of 20 million people against the amendment in the bill.

The Council, comprising National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE) and Federation of National Postal Organisations (FNPO), would take out a 'March to Parliament' with more than 20,000 employees on November 29, 2002 to express their protest against the move.

NFPE general secretary C C Pillai and FNPO general secretary G K Padmanabhan said after the march, they would submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee along with 20 million signatures to press on their demand to drop the bill.

"We have made our presentation before the parliamentary standing committee that is currently examining the Indian Post Office Act Amendment 1898 to allow courier service to work on par with the postal department. But we feel that if a Bill is introduced to this effect, then the postal department and its employees will suffer," said Pillai. "The move was opposed by us when the government had tried to corporatise the postal department. If that had been allowed, many employees would have lost their jobs. The government's decision to introduce the Bill will not help the department in any way," he added.

Courier industry organizations, however, say that instead of a Bill to further amend the Indian Post Office Act of 1898, it should have been a Bill to replace the Act. While recognizing the existence and operation of the courier industry, which has grown without government help or regulation, the Bill seeks to bring the courier companies at par with the postal department. "The grant, denial, suspension and revocation of such registration being at the sole direction of the incumbent operator

that is the postal department makes the need for an independent postal regulator more critical," an industry observer said.

The issue is likely to hot up in the next few days with industry chambers and postal unions also preparing a list of issues that will determine their existence and their future prospects.

Earlier this year, the Cabinet had decided to impose a licence fee on the Rs 29 billion courier industry. The fee is yet to be spelt out but is said to have the potential to trigger a massive shake-up in the industry, which has about 2,300 players who have to survive on sliver-thin margins. Industry forecasts a 20 per cent growth in the sector this year, but the fee could upset all calculations

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PRODUCTIVITY LINKED PROMOTION SCHEME FOR POSTAL STAFF

India Post will soon implement a performance and productivity-linked, fast track promotion scheme for its clerical and supervisory staff. An order to this effect has already been issued. Since the 1980s, postal staff at the clerical and supervisory levels have been getting time-bound promotions except in cases where the assessing authority has conclusively established that the person in question was unfit for promotion.

The initiative will go a long way in overcoming problems and hindrances that arise at the operational level on account of multiplicity of trade unions and trade union rivalry. There are two recognized apex staff trade union bodies - the National Federation of Postal Employees Union and the Federation of National Postal Organisations. The third apex trade union, the Bharatiya Postal Employees Union, is yet to get recognition since its membership comprises less than 15 per cent of the staff.

The sources said that while the trade union leaders had realized the changes that had happened in the overall economic environment and were seriously concerned about the future of the organization and the competition that lies ahead of it, the attitude of the clerical staff at the operational level was a hindrance to the more efficient functioning of the nation's postal system. The sources, however, admitted that part of the blame for the malaise must be borne by the India Post itself for lapses with regard to effective and efficient human resources management. As a consequence, authority at the supervisory and floor manager levels has been eroded. "Till now, supervisors and floor managers hesitated to assert their authority and pull up staff on account of non-performance for fear of a backlash from trade unions. The staff is not bothered as they are assured of time-bound promotions. We hope the fast track promotion scheme will enthuse them to become more productive and accountable," the sources said, adding that about 40 per cent of the time at the level of divisional heads went towards addressing and resolving "issues and even non-issues" taken up by the various apex unions. It will, however, take some more years for the positive impact of the new fast-track promotion scheme to be discernible.

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INDIA ANNUAL MINT PACK SETS

Nelson Lewis [nishanolan@yahoo.co.in](mailto:nishanolan@yahoo.co.in) wants to know the prices and availability for India annual mint pack sets from 1947 onwards. He

would like to order packs for those years that he does not have in his collection.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 34

Mafatlal Sheth of Mumbai was the Secretary of the Trade Committee of the INPEX EMIREPEX 2001 national philatelic exhibition held at Nashik from December 22 to 26, 2001. This exhibition was held under the patronage of Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) and with the support of India Post, which also spent nearly one million rupees.

He sent the following email message to a number of philatelists, both amateurs and professionals, on January 1, 2002:

Nashik exhibition was a total flop show and will go in the history of philately as black chapter. Everything was mess. Neither dealers nor collectors were happy. I would like to know your opinion about the exhibition.

Following are the relevant excerpts from some of the responses he received:

A S Mittal from Jaipur

Nashik was not the appropriate place- the hall was not known even to auto rickshaw pullers. Mr. Dastur is not fit for organising such exhibitions.

C R Andhare from Bilaspur

Yes, I agree with you. The arrangements for dealers and exhibitor were not up to mark.

S D Bhatia from New Delhi

I agree with your views as Nasik exhibition was total flop I hope in future no such exhibition are organized any way when you become the president of society you would definitely look all matters before conducting such exhibitions.

A S Banga from New Delhi

Thanks for your letter and comments about Nasik exhibition. You are right about the exhibition but we are part and parcel of the same, as due to our narrow interest we cannot raise our voice for better treatment. WHAT A JOKE IT WAS? EVEN AFTER SECOND DAY EXHIBIT WAS NOT DISPLAYED AND NO BODY KNOWS WHOM TO ASK FOR DEALERS FACILITIES. WE ARE THANKFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND AFFECTION THAT YOU HAVE EXTENDED OVER THERE.

Prashant Pandya from Vadodara

Layout and frame arrangement was quite poor.

Sudhir Jain from Satna

Regarding Nasik, when they are not capable then why they take responsibility? PCI should do something for future. I will talk to Shri Dilip Shah. Do you remember, my exhibits of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL and JAINISM were exhibited or not?

Sheth forwarded these messages along with a message from P C Jaiswal from Kolkata (the message was corrupted on the computer hence is not

reproduced) to PCI through its Joint Treasurer, Suketu Jhaveri with his cover note.

He received a belated response from PCI Secretary, B K Sinha dated April 10, 2002, being reproduced below in full:

"Your comments that the Nashik exhibition was a *flop show* is entirely your opinion - depending on which aspect you view it. The enclosed copies of emails (7) also represents the opinion of five dealers and two exhibitors. Must I presume that your comments represents the collective opinion of philatelic dealers?"

At the outset, we must appreciate the effort in terms of time and money which has gone in to organize an exhibition of this magnitude. You must also appreciate the fact that without exhibitions the philatelic dealer fraternity would be in doldrums. Given the constraints of raising funds and organizing frames for an exhibition, there would be shortcoming at every exhibition, which we have to take it with a pinch of salt. Let us try to appreciate the better side of the show, rather than harping on deficiencies.

Every exhibition is organized with a budget which rarely meets its expenses. Exhibitions are not held with a motive of profit. Dealers however MAY make a profit from attending and participating at the exhibition - I see no reason why they should complain. If facilities are lacking, it is because it is expensive to those facilities demanded.

During the previous nationals - Millepex 2000, the show was held despite the preceding super cyclone, damage to the original venue, backing out of all major sponsors and its attending problems - the show was held on schedule just because we had the commitment. The eight dealers stall we had, never earned organizers any money. All but two dealers returned the chains and locks we had provided them. I shall not name them - but these are the people whose endorsements you have provided.

Let us try to see and appreciate the brighter things of any event, it would lead to much more meaningful attitude and harmony, which in turn would help the common cause of promoting philately. What can the PCI do if there is no harmony amongst its own members."

Sheth responded with a letter to Sinha on May 17, 2002 and excerpts from the same are given below:

"Your comment that "Let us try to appreciate the better side of the show", yes I agree and willing to appreciate better side but there is no better side at all, every side is bad and dull so where is the scope for appreciation? Leaving aside few people like you no one either dealers or collectors are happy with the show. This show will go in the history of philately as black day.

Yes you can presume that my comments about the show represent collective opinion of philatelic dealers. Also note that 7 emails copies enclosed are from highly reputed people in philatelic field and their words carry more weight than yours.

Re. your comments that dealers will be in doldrums without exhibition, I may remove your ignorance on this point, none of the dealer is dependent on your exhibitions, they sell material even when there are no exhibitions, ... All dealers are well to do and they do not need anybody's mercy.

And dealers are paying you stall money so you must know they have every right to complain whenever called for....

I had attended several International Exhibitions and seen their wonderful arrangements so I am able to comment up on the deficiencies.... a Intelligent person instead of giving excuses will try to improve upon his deficiencies.

You must know that there was a handful of surplus amount at this show so your argument about shortage of funds hold no good, the show was a failure only because it was managed by in capable persons like Vispi Dastur, he is fully responsible for the failure, if he has no capacity to handle such national level exhibition he should keep a way from such adventure, it was rightly commented by one dealer "Dastur is unfit to organize exhibition of such level".

Collectively exhibitors and dealers are beginning to not only notice, but voice their opinions when they encounter a bad exhibition due to judging or organizational difficulty, which is a sign of maturity.

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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

ELECTRONIC POSTMARKS

Big screens, small gadgets and fast wireless connections are getting much attention at the Comdex technology trade show this week, but a mundane product quietly unveiled at Microsoft's booth might have more of an impact on the average computer user.

On display was an electronic stamp the U S Postal Service plans to sell to certify authenticity and delivery time of e-mail.

The technology, called "electronic postmarks," will not necessarily end the era of free e-mail. But it does create a "first-class" version with a small delivery charge.



The postmarks are likely to be used to transmit sensitive documents, for instance, to authenticate the sender and reassure the recipient.

The plan is to have e-mail-postage software available in the next 30 to 45 days. At first, it would be an add-on to Microsoft's popular Outlook e-mail-management software.

Later, it would be bundled into the new version of Microsoft's Office suite due next summer. When loaded, it would appear as several buttons on the Outlook control panel.

Users would pay the Postal Service from a penny to \$2, depending on the volume of use, to add an official stamp of authenticity, said Michael Wolf, who developed the product for AuthentiDate of New York.

After two years of working with the Postal Service, AuthentiDate was awarded a contract in July to run the service and use its network to issue, verify and store the certificates of authenticity.

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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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