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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & 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 # 144 - November 27, 2003. Published Every Thursday

Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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of this issue for details.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi,

More exhibitions, more travel but great fun and very enriching.

At the cost of often repeating ourselves we would like to say that the  
burst of exhibitions all across the country is creating a keen interest  
in the hobby. This is the right way to bring in fresh collectors to the  
hobby by creating awareness among the youth and school children.

Another audience that can be targeted through these exhibitions are the  
persons who have taken retirement and can now find the time to pursue  
the hobby.

To all the organizers, keep up the good work and we are there to pitch  
in and help in any manner possible.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: The Hindu, Press Trust of India,

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We invite your inputs, please email to feedback@stampsfindia.com

Please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still, forward a copy of this issue.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on photos, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED

The Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Ministry of Communications, Government of India was reconstituted for a term of two years from November 12, 2003. The functions of the PAC are to advise the Government on matters pertaining to postage stamps and philately, and such other matters as may be referred to it from time to time. Its recommendations are advisory in character and will not in any way be binding on the Government.

Chairman - Arun Shourie, Minister of Communications;  
Co-Chairman - S Thirunavukarsar, Minister of State for Communications;  
Vice Chairman - Padma Balasubramanian, Director General, India Post;  
Official Members - Vijay Bhushan, Member (Operations), Postal Services Board; Rekha Gupta, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, India Post; U K Sinha, Joint Secretary (Coins & Currency) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of finance; Prakash Narayan, General Manager, India Security Press, Nashik; Brigadier Y S Mohan, Officiating Additional Director General of Army Postal Service.  
Non-Official Members - Professor Shankar Singh Vaghela, Member of Paliament (Lok Sabha); Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey, Member of Paliament (Lok Sabha); Balbir K Punj, Member of Paliament (Rajya Sabha); T Balakrishna Pillai, Member of Paliament (Rajya Sabha); G B Pai, Philatelist; Dr. Sita Bhateja, Philatelist; Mafatlal Sheth, Philatelist; Sahadeva Sahoo, Philatelist; P C Jaiswal, Professional Philatelist; Professor K Satchidanandan, Secretary, Sahitya Academy; Jayant Kastuar, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Academy; Sudhakar Sharma, Secretary, Lalit Kala Academy; Dr. R D Chourdury, Director General, National Museum; Rajiv Lochan, Director, National Gallery of Modern Art; Dr. O P Kejriwal, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; Professor M G S Narayanan, Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research; Dr. P P Bhojvaid, Director,

Forest Research Institute; Dr. Darlie O Koshy, Executive Director, National Institute of Design; Professor M Vijaymohan, Principal, College of Arts; Raghu Rai, B Sivanthi Adityan, Latha Sebapathy, V K Sundaram, and Dr. H V Hande.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

November 29

India France Joint Issue, Set of 2, Rs22 each, in Sheetlet of 16, and Miniature Sheet, Rs44

December 10

India Korea Joint Issue, Set of 2, Rs15, in Sheetlet of 16,

December 18

Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava, Rs5

December 31

Major Somnath Sharma PVC, Rs5

These issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, 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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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

India Post released a special stamp in the denomination of Rs5 on 225 years of 2 Guards (1 Grenadiers) on November 22, 2003.

The Battalion was raised on November 22, 1778 and follows the same principles of the Indian Army - unflinching gallantry, tactical astuteness and complete commitment to the defence of the nation that has won laurels after laurel and enabled the Battalion to render meritorious service to the country.

With major campaigns in the pre-independence era, the post-independence era saw the Battalion exhibit consummate skill and valour in diverse situations. During the partition of India their troops evacuated thousands of refugees to safety as part of the Punjab Boundary Force. Another feather in their cap is counter insurgency operations carried out in different regions of India.

Rohini designed the stamp. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs 2.

India Security Press of Nashik Road printed the stamps by photogravure in three colors on imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.8 million in the sheetlets of 16 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisements is scheduled for release in December 2003.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity in million, Remarks
'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Post Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 50 Paise, Brown
01, SPP, Hindi, Blood Donation, 5.5

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue
01, SPP, English, Donating Blood is a beautiful gift, 5

ADDENDA to the Issues of November 2003 (Issue # 140 of October 30, 2003)

Inland Letter Card - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue
15, ISP, English, Andhra Bank, x, M

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PCI CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against PCI and others came up for hearing on November 25, 2003. The next date for hearing is now fixed for March 13, 2004.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post will provide a special postmark on November 30, 2003 at New Delhi to mark the Asia Pacific Conference on Breastfeeding. Special cover is also being issued on the occasion. Please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Sansad Marg Head Post Office, New Delhi 100 001 for availability and charges.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PHILATELIC DISPLAYS

Renowned Artist, philatelist, Philatelic journalist, Dipok Dey of Kolkata's exhibit on Cinema was displayed at the venue of the International Film Festival inaugurated on November 21, 2003 at Siliguri.

UNESCO organized a workshop on Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a world heritage, from November 21 to 23, 2003 at Darjeeling. Well-known philatelist and philatelic author, Madhukar Deogawanka's collections of Mail Transportation, Railways, and Traveling (Railway) Post Offices (TPO) of Jaipur were on display.

The following list of events scheduled for next few months is subject to change. We update it in every issue with the information received during the week. The organizers may be contacted for further details.

November

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December

19-21, Kolkata, National Stamp Fair

26-29, Dharwad, KARNAPEX, State Level

January 2004

9-11, Tirupur, Coin-Stampex

9-12, Nagpur, MAHAPEX, State Level

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

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WORKSHOP ON PHILATELY

The apex training institute of India Post organized a Workshop on Philately for its officers November 24 and 25, 2003. Yours truly was invited to speak on Customer Perspectives.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

PHILANEWS, #10, July-August 2003, Bi-monthly  
Editor: Rajesh Paharia, [pahariarajesh@msn.com](mailto:pahariarajesh@msn.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan  
Address: A S Mittal, President, Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur -3  
Annual Subscription: Rs. 50 in India

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PATIALA PHILATELIC BUREAU: A CORRECTION

Suraj Jaitly from Ludhiana points out that the Philatelic Bureau at Patiala was inaugurated on November 10, 2003 and not on November 11, 2003 as stated in the news in issue # 143 of November 20, 2003.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner, Ranjit Singh Sharma, indicted by Special Investigating Team (SIT) for his alleged role in shielding prime accused Telgi was unceremoniously removed from the Police Commissioner's post on November 18, 2003 following SIT report submitted to Chief Minister. Sharma was posted as Additional Director General of Police (Administration) in state Police Headquarters. Maharashtra Government transferred him again on November 24, 2003 as the Chief Security Officer of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) and also denied him a promotion. Sharma is due to retire on November 30, 2003.

Government of India said on November 23, 2003 that all concluded transactions using fake stamps and papers would be considered valid in a bid to prevent a major financial crisis after unearthing of fake stamp scam. The assurance was given by India's Finance Minister Jaswant Singh when asked about the plight of those who unknowingly had used fake stamp papers in various transactions. 'Don't worry. The fake stamp papers already used will not become invalid' Singh said. There are reports that government is considering an ordinance to validate transactions carried out through fake stamp papers between 1998 and 2002. Singh also said the government was considering moving over from stamp to non-stamp system. This implied that the Finance Ministry was working towards a demat system as it was prevalent for securities transactions.

2

K Nagaiah Shetty, the second fast-track session court Judge at Bangalore, declined to pass an order on November 22, 2003 on Telgi's petitions of parole for a week to visit his ailing mother and wife, saying that a Special Court has already been constituted to conduct trial in the case. The Judge adjourned further hearing in the case to

November 29, 2003. Counsel for Telgi submitted that till the official communication on setting up of the special court came, this court can pass appropriate order, an argument rejected by the Judge, who pointed out that dailies have carried news pertaining to establishment of the special court. Karnataka High Court had on November 21, 2003 - in pursuant to a request made by the state government to set up a special court - appointed A T Manoli, Mysore district sessions judge, as the special judge to conduct the trial of the case.

3

M B Ali Iliyas Burhan, a prominent henchman of Telgi, the kingpin in the multi-billion rupees fake stamp racket, has been arrested and incriminating documents have been seized from him by Stamp-IT, Karnataka State's special investigating team probing the case, in Bangalore on November 20, 2003. He was produced before the First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on November 21, 2003 and has been remanded to judicial custody.

According to a press release by Stamp-IT, the accused was Telgi's main agent. He ran the business of fake stamps taking instructions from Telgi, who is lodged at the Bangalore Central Prison, by visiting the prison and on the mobile phone. He provided shelter to the other associates of who came from different parts of the country and took them to the Bangalore Central Prison for meetings with Telgi with whom he remained in constant contact.

Burhan tried to dispose of the movable and immovable properties including six buildings Telgi owns in Bangalore. He had also assisted Jeetendra Toppanna Madar, the front man for Telgi, to get an excise license in Khanapur. While obtaining license, Madar had named Telgi as nominee in the bank guarantee. Burhan is the 54th person to be arrested in connection with four cases in which 10 charge sheets have been filed by Stamp-IT.

4

Telgi moved the Karnataka High Court on November 21, 2003 seeking bail stating that he is ill and would like to get better treatment. In his petition, Telgi has argued that his ailment was not brought under control even after repeated medication given by the jail authorities as the food provided to him and environment in the prison were not congenial to respond to the medication. Telgi also argued that uncomfortable environment in the prison might cause cardiac arrest if he was not allowed to get better treatment outside the prison. He said that he would like to get himself admitted to a hospital of his choice. He informed the Court that doctors have certified in August this year that he is suffering from cardiac ailment. Justice Huluvadi G Ramesh, who heard submissions of Telgi's advocate, has ordered issue of notice to the prosecution.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS
The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>
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VIEWS & OPINIONS

SINGAPORE WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP 2004  
By Peter J McBride, UK

During BANGKOK2003 we were invited to attend an excellent dinner in one of the most luxurious and expensive hotels in Bangkok to assist in the promotion of Singapore World Stamp Championship Exhibition 2004, a totally new concept in stamp collecting, organized by The Association of Singapore Philatelists and assisted by many worthy Singaporean Institutions including Singapore Post Limited. Over 380 guests sat down to a wonderful buffet dinner and listened to rousing speeches from senior FIP/FIAP luminaries and Singapore Tourist Board and Post Office.

They all actively encouraged the dealers to 'sign up' on the spot and make the exhibition a success as they have said that they expect to have 200,000 visitors during the 5 day Philatelic Bonanza. They all said that the main purpose of the dinner was to get dealers to sign up so that most of the estimated 200 booths could be allocated. At the end of the dinner and before the rush for souvenirs, I counted the dealers present. There were 6 dealers out of 380+ guests.

Who were the other guests? Yes, you can guess, judges, commissioners, experts et alia, Rumors direct from Singapore have suggested that \$50,000 had been allocated to this junket including transport and accommodation and has brought to light a serious conflict of interest. Two of the senior executives of WSC04 are also top office bearers in FIP/FIAP which will be paid a substantial sum of money for patronage and auspices.

The costs of booths are excessive at about a minimum of S\$4500 for 5 days. In some of the literature the organizers have stated that they expect attendance in the region of 200,000, similar to that of SINGPEX'95. Are they prepared to include that figure in any contract with a dealer who rents a booth? Will they refund rental on a pro-rata basis when compared to actual attendance? Paris in 2004 estimates 70,000 attendance and Sydney in 2005 estimates 50,000 that are much more realistic estimates.

The costs to attend WSC04 are such that if a dealer travels from overseas and stays for 7 days in Singapore, to break even for the show he would need to sell Sin\$40,000 and pay the new GST of 5%. The last national SINGPEX in August 2003 attracted 1000 people and had 10 dealers and all the major Singaporean collectors attended.

This must be the turning point for International Stamp Exhibitions. The costs are getting out of control, too much is being demanded from the trade. The organized junkets must stop or at least be self financing by the attendees.

The trade must, for once, stand together and say, enough is enough. We want to have stamp exhibitions but at a fair price and well organized and well advertised. Maybe it is time for the trade component to be self financing and the exhibition component to be self financing.

Is it necessary for the stamp exhibitions to be FIP or FIAP affiliated?  
Why do dealers have to pay Sin\$500 per square meter and collectors pay  
Sin\$50 per square meter.

It is now apparent to the writer that most stamp collectors are much  
wealthier than most stamp dealers. They must be if they can afford to  
buy our stamps. We only trade in them. They own them.

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the
newsletter. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

PRAKASH MODY has forwarded the following mail from Mahesh Nihalani:
Subject: Issuance of US postal Stamp on Diwali
Dear Friends, Please take a moment to read and sign the enclosed
petition regarding issuance of US postal Stamp on Diwali which is now on
line at: <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/diwali03/petition.html> Also
circulate it to as many of your friends and acquaintances worldwide to
muster momentum and support.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS: THE WAY AHEAD  
By Dr Meeta Shukla

The Post and Telegraph Deptt has been issuing various  
stamps at frequent intervals to commemorate and honour  
the stellar contribution made by the United Nations and  
its various agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO. Lets  
take a look at the relevance of United nations for India  
and the way ahead.

Established in 1945, the United Nations (UN) has been a  
major entity in the post World War II global environment.  
As a founder member of the UN, India has always played a  
leading role in its activities. India's unreserved  
participation in UN and regional peacekeeping operations  
has been both spontaneous and enthusiastic. Thousands of  
Indian personnel have served in tens of such missions  
including operations undertaken in Africa, besides  
sending Military Observers and Staff Observers. The fact  
that, close to 100 Indian peacekeepers have given their  
lives in UN peacekeeping operations alone, underlines  
more than anything else the Indian commitment to the  
objectives set out in the UN Charter. This contribution  
has been widely acknowledged by the international  
community and the UN.

India has steadfastly held that any peacekeeping  
intervention has to be the last resort, after all other  
means have failed. It has maintained that peacekeeping  
should be at the behest of member states involved and  
should be under the command and control of UN. India's  
participation has to be based in the ultimate analysis on  
the assessment of national interests and advantages  
accrued in a given situation, while being mindful of the  
principles.



There is no gain saying that member nations seek to eke out certain core benefits as they participate in various activities of the UN. Their citizens stand to benefit from the many major programs or agencies of the UN involved in humanitarian, cultural and environmental fields. However, it is with regard to participation in peacekeeping activities of the UN, that the contribution expected from the member states begins to be scrutinized in terms of cost-benefit analysis. Certain benefits that are expected when dealing with the UN are: -

- (a) Furtherance of National Interests.
- (b) Enhance Country's Standing in the World Community.
- (c) Scope for Improved Leverage.
- (d) International Exposure and Operational Experience.
- (e) Financial Benefits.

Many of India's area of strategic interest are the hot beds of regional conflict with UN playing a role there. India has a fundamental stake in many such troubled regions of the world like Africa, both geo-strategically and economically. India has not adequately exploited the good-will generated through years of dedicated involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts in these regions to secure vital political and economic clout. Countries like China are moving in swiftly and increasingly spreading their influence in these regions.

By virtue of its geo-political importance and with its professional and impartial credentials as a nation that has regularly favoured peaceful co-existence, parties involved in a conflict consider India a safe bet. However, we frequently lose our bargaining vantage point at the UN due to inadequate support from other countries. We need to exploit the vagaries of the new world order to eke out new links through a diplomacy, economic means and military robustness.

Barring the period in the sixties, India has not played its cards well to gain the level of influence it deserves. Our confidence in the country's sway at the international level got its first rude shock when we had taken the Kashmir issue to the UN; the way the events unfolded still rankle in our mind-set. However, with the rapid strides we are taking as a global player with an economic clout, it should be our focus to leverage an increased say to shape the discourse at the UN, in sync with the nation's aspirations. A case in point is India's claim to permanent membership at the Security Council. Some military observers are of the opinion that it is inconceivable that a country like India would be kept excluded from this. We must forcefully espouse our cause, taking other nations along to toe our line.

The vast experience of operating over varied geographical conditions in India and regular operational exposure in the entire spectrum of conflict has stood our troops deployed in UN missions abroad in good stead. Our personnel get an excellent opportunity to interact with professional military forces and UN staffers and enhance

their understanding of military practices and different cultures. Dealing with an international organisation such as the UN has enabled our contingents to also soak in vital contemporary management procedures and 'best practices'.

The contributions from participation in peacekeeping have benefitted the country financially in terms of payments to personnel and for equipment deployed. For instance, it was estimated that in case of the brigade group deployed at Somalia in 1994-95, the contribution to national economy in foreign exchange was around US \$ 5 million per month.

Demilitarisation of the western world has led to a limited ability to deploy ready-reaction forces, a problem further compounded by a series of bad peacekeeping experiences for them. The UN has to go around with its begging bowl to try to put together a coalition force. For the reasons of all the gains discussed earlier, India must not only continue to, but further enhance its participation in peacekeeping missions. The UN is already calling on India to conduct training courses on their behalf and we should readily respond to such requests without reservations.

India's contribution and competence in the very visible arena of UN peacekeeping are being recognised even by the US that is trying hard to come to terms with this form of military and police utilisation. We should exploit this to our advantage.

Not too many countries take us seriously at the global arena because we have engaged in rhetorical talk rather than action in the past. If we are to play any significant role in regional affairs, our diplomacy will need to move into high gear, taking into account the fact that in pursuing international relations national interests are the sole criteria. We have a large standing military and police force. Ability to provide troops for a UN standing force for ready availability on a Security Council decision would be of considerable advantage to India.

Recent attempts at bringing in organisational reforms in the UN Security Council have not been successful. The US feels it is justified in not releasing the large sums of money it owes to the UN. Except for humanitarian agencies, the UN is seen as wasteful and inefficient. India must work to achieve major overhaul of work culture at the UN. The monopoly of the US and Developed World must be broken.

A US government document titled 'The National Security Strategy of the United States' published in Sep 2002, declared that "no nation can build a safer, better world alone". It is becoming abundantly clear that after decades of strong-arming its way through, the US finds itself stretched as the self appointed global police and

is looking at regional powers. Strapped of funds and lacking clout and consensus, the UN too is looking at regional power blocks to provide military support, thus making this the perfect opportunity for India to pitch in forcefully.

50 years ago, when the UN was being criticised, the then UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold put it perfectly when he said the UN was not created to take mankind to paradise, but to save humanity from hell. He went on to add, "It's rather like the Santa Maria sailing off across uncharted waters to new lands, beset by stormy weather. There are people onshore blaming the problems on the ship rather than on the weather". The UN is a mirror of the world. It reflects our disagreements, the frailty of our political will, as well as our hopes and aspirations.

In conclusion, has India been able to adequately secure the advantages resulting from its involvement with the UN? The verdict has been a mixed one; on a scale of 10, a score of 5 would be reasonable. India's improving geo-strategic significance, economic prowess, large pool of able professional military personnel and diplomats, and aspirations of being a major global player should see us taking centre-stage in shaping the UN to be an effective world body. There is good opportunity for India to pitch in forcefully for multilateralism as the lead member in multinational forces in strife torn areas of specific interest to us, but only under the UN umbrella. For this, India has to act pro-actively to make up some lost ground to secure the desired benefits from its unflinching commitment to UN.

References:

Saudi Gazette; India contributes to peacekeeping efforts; [www.saudigazette.com.sa](http://www.saudigazette.com.sa).

Ramcharan, Bertrand G; 'Preventive Diplomacy at the UN'; Indiana University Press; pp145.

Wedgwood, Ruth; Carnegie Council Debate, 12 June 2006.

The National Security Strategy of the United States of America; September 2002; White House, Washington Publication, signed President George W. Bush; pp 5.

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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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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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WEBSITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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.

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

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

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Published by Madhu Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for 'Stamps of India',
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India
Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089

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Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500

Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs.950

Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250

Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs.650

Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)

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Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on the Web Site

Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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