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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are running late, being not able to devote the time required for  
personal reasons, and apologies to all our readers.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Kedar Pradhan,  
The Indian Express, The Times of India,

We invite your inputs, please email to [feedback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:feedback@stampsofindia.com)

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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this
newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We
shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, 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

NEW INDIA CATALOG FROM STANLEY GIBBONS

The just released 2004 edition of Stanley Gibbons India catalog includes issues up to mid-2003, as well as the stamps of the Indian Convention States and Feudatory States and there are notes on Indian stamps used abroad. The catalog is in color and is priced at £19.95

With content and prices revised since the 2002 edition of British Commonwealth stamp catalogue, the release of this title sees the accumulation of many months of research and innovation.

Stanley Gibbons first introduced India in its 'One Country Catalogue' series in 2002. However it didn't include Feudatory States at that time.

COLLECTORS PACK 2003

India Post has released for sale the Collectors Pack 2003 that contains all commemorative issues of 2003 at Rs. 480. The face value of included stamps is Rs. 447. The packs are available at all philatelic bureaus in the country.

MEGHDOOTS

Following Meghdoot post cards were recently released:

- Ad in Hindi - Bihar Public Health Engineering Department
- Ad in Hindi - Bihar Public Health Engineering Department
- Ad in Hindi - Bihar Public Health Engineering Department
- Ad in Hindi - Bihar Public Health Engineering Department
- Ad in Hindi - Bihar Public Health Engineering Department
- Ad in Hindi - Education for all
- Ad in Hindi - Education for all
- Ad in Hindi - Education for all
- Ad in Hindi - Education for all
- Ad in Hindi - Education for all
- Ad in Telugu - Education for all
- Ad in Hindi - Rural Development: sanitation
- Ad in Hindi - Rural Development: self Help group
- Ad in Hindi - Rural Development: drinking water
- Ad in Tamil -
- Ad in Marathi - Don't marry of girls before 18 years of age
- Ad in Telugu - Health & family welfare
- Ad in Telugu -

With these, there are now 75 different Meghdoot Cards!

The issue dates after decentralization (Meghdoot # 27 and onwards) are difficult as these are not being publicized. We are working on obtaining dates of issue for all these cards. In cases where no dates of issue are fixed, the date of dispatch from the printers shall be used. We are also setting up the mechanism for regular updates of these and other issues at the site in the ongoing restructuring.

POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals

July 5, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, Cataract, in Hindi, 0.5 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

July 5, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, Cataract, in Hindi, 1 million, Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

July 9, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, xxx, in Tamil, 1 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

July 9, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, Bio Gas, in Telugu, 0.5 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

July 9, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, AIDS, in Tamil, 1 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

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PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

Please read the date of next hearing as December 2, 2004 and not December 6, 2004 in the suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India in 2002 that came up for hearing on July 3, 2004 and was reported in issue # 176.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August 12-15, Kolkata, Stamp Fair  
Art Gallery, Charnock City, Salt Lake City

October 1-3, Ahmedabad, Dak Bharti

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Kishore alias Raju Purshottam Patel, accused in a fake stamp scam, has been remanded to CBI custody for 10 days by Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) M I Pathan on July 13, 2004. The CBI had brought Patel on a transfer warrant from Rajkot to Surat on July 12, 2004. The Rajkot police had arrested Patel on July 2, 2004.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a manhunt for two more persons from Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district in the fake stamp scam. According to police sources, the two brokered the pre-press work for agents of Abdul Karim Telgi, prime accused in the multi billion scam. On July 9, 2004, the CBI arrested Mahaboob John of Sarada Street at Sivakasi and took him to Bangalore for interrogation. Known for its sophisticated printing technology, Sivakasi has now come under CBI scrutiny. While there is no reliable information on whether the fake stamp papers were printed at Sivakasi, the alleged involvement of three locals, who worked in printing presses, has led to the suspicion that block-making, design and trial printing works might have taken place there.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUE

July 7, 2004: 58<sup>th</sup> Birthday of King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva

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PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN NEPAL

Nepal Philatelic Society organized its first ever thematic Philatelic Exhibition in Kathmandu from July 6 to 10, 2004 on the auspicious occasion of 58th Birthday of His Majesty the King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva. The objective of this exhibition was to popularize stamp collecting among school children. 31 different thematic collections were exhibited in 110 frames. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Information and Communication Dr. Mohamad Mohisin.

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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

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.>

SAJID DAYA

I have been collecting meghdoot postcards since its inception and its been a real experience focusing on this new branch of Indian philately.

However, this collecting interest is deeply affected by the vagaries of the Indian postal department..... I have noted that most meghdoot postcards are not made available at the philatelic bureau of the Bombay GPO as and when they are issued, but rather some issues are being sold months after the issue date. This makes it extremely difficult for us collectors to keep track of the proper sequence. And towards this, this is where your website comes into good use !! Your website is a great source of knowledge on Indian philately, but recently, I have noted that your new issue listings are not updated on a regular basis..... So its back to square 1 for us!!

Coming to the point of this email, the Indian posts recently issued 2 meghdoot postcards bearing the advertisement for Kinetic King scooty and SBI. However, the Bombay philatelic bureau has not been able to sell these issues simply because they do NOT know the date of issue !! They have received the letter from the issuing GPO stating that the date of issue for these cards is NIL!!

As a result of this confusion, most collectors are being deprived of getting these 2 issues.

I would appreciate if you could email me the date of these issues and oblige.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

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

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

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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

INDIAN PRINCELY STATES INDEX

"How many princely states existed? This is by far the most common question received here at the offices of PSR (Princely States Report). The question seems simple enough. Our response varies according to mood but always boils down to, "We don't know." There is no definitive volume, no one source that lists them all. The problem is compounded by the fact that historic references list "states" and other native administrations together, with no clear system or taxonomy. When is a state not a state, but rather an estate, thikana, jagir, or something else? By scholarly estimations, the number of princely states falls somewhere between 500 and 600. This may come as quite a surprise to collectors of Indian "feudatory" states postage stamps—the major catalogues list only about 40 states."

The above is quoted from Indian Princely States (IPS) Index, First Edition by Ron Rice, William F Spengler, and David Heppell published in Fall 2001 issue of Princely States Report at www.princelystates.com

'Indian Princely States Index' is perhaps most significant and required project ever taken to determine the exact number of States.

To collate information regarding Indian Princely States is a complicated matter of India's history, and is not limited to concerns of stamps or coin collectors.

The status of certain States changed from time to time depending on the British rulers' policy of the day.

The States were independent kingdoms in treaty with British Crown. However, in effect, slowly the British became the paramount power and took over the control of their administrations either directly or indirectly.

Indian Princely States were foreign land for British India. Therefore all Imperial post offices and postal routes were opened in their territories after an agreement as were telegraph and rail lines. British provided free service postage stamps for official use of the States.

The British in India were excellent record keepers that provide an unending source for research.

'Indian Princely States Index' must go on for all these reasons.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### AUSTRIA HONORS ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Austria Post will issue a commemorative stamp on Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Austrians Living Abroad series on July 30, 2004 in the denomination of Euro 1. The stamp designed by Hannes Margreiter is printed in photogravure in the quantity of 600,000.

Arnold Schwarzenegger was born on July 30, 1947 in Graz Thal, the son of a gendarme. He discovered bodybuilding while he was still at school and began to train regularly at the age of 15. In 1966, he was elected "Mr. Europe" and in 1967 he was elected the youngest "Mr. Universe" in London. By 1980, he had won the title "Mr. Universe" five times and "Mr. Olympia" seven times. These successes made him one of the most important individuals in the history of bodybuilding. Schwarzenegger emigrated to the USA in 1968. In 1973, he began to study business management and economics, graduating in 1980. He acquired American citizenship in 1983, and in 1986 he married the journalist Maria Shriver, a niece of John F. Kennedy. The couple has four children.

His well-trained body led him to the film industry. In his first role in 1970, in "Hercules in New York", his voice had to be synchronised because of his very strong accent. Schwarzenegger achieved an international reputation 12 years later with the film "Conan the Barbarian" (1982). Films such as "Terminator", "Total Recall", "Kindergarten Cop" and "True Lies" made him one of the highest-earning Hollywood actors. In his honour, the newly renovated Graz "Liebenau" stadium in his home country was renamed the "Arnold-Schwarzenegger Stadium".

Politically, this moderate Republican was for a long time relatively inactive (apart from his function as consultant for American sport). On October 7, 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger (nicknamed by many the "Governator") was elected governor, and on November 17, 2003 before 7,500 invited guests he was inaugurated as the 38th Governor of the US state of California

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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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WEB SITE 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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