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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 will be in Singapore to cover World Stamp Championship 2004 and 68<sup>th</sup>  
Congress of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

We will be at the venue most of the time and will be staying at the  
official hotel - Marina Mandarin.

We eagerly look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Arun Kumar  
Agarwal, Pulak Gupta, The Press Trust of India, the Hindu, The Hindustan  
Times, 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

AWARDS AT OLYMPHILEX 2004

Indian exhibitors have following awards at the OLYMPHILEX 2004 held at Athens in conjunction with the 28<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games:

Vermeil Medal  
Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Summer Olympic Games

Silver-Bronze Medal  
Umesh Shenoy's The Olympics, From the Origin to Sydney  
T N Prahlada Rao's Summer Olympic Games

Bronze Medal - Literature Class  
Umesh Shenoy's Winter Olympics  
Umesh Shenoy's Football

There was no national commissioner appointed from India.

OLYMPHILEX was held for the first time in 1985 in Lausanne and the first OLYMPHILEX to be held during the Olympic Games was in Seoul in 1988. Since then it has been an integral part of Olympic Games. International Olympic Committee's Honorary President for Life, Juan Antonio Samaranch is a philatelist and is also the Chairman of the IOC Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia Commission.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

August 26 - S S Vasan, Rs5
August 30 - Panini, 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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RAJIV GANDHI STAMP RELEASED

Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh released a stamp in the denomination of Rs5 on August 20, 2004 at New Delhi to commemorate the 61<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that is also being observed as Renewable Energy Day.

Rajiv Gandhi, envisioned a modern India and initiated several policy initiatives for modernization of Indian Economy, applications of science and technology for serving the poor and devolution of authority and responsibility to local government. An important step was rural electrification, for which he laid emphasis on alternate sources of energy. To fulfill Rajiv Gandhi's dream to illuminate all houses in the country, Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has set out to meet the energy demand of people, particularly of those living in remote

villages. Renewable energy is derived from natural resources that are replenished constantly and are eco-friendly. India is endowed with a vast potential of renewable energy resources, which can solve the problems of power shortages. Solar Energy, Bio-mass energy, Hydropower, wind power and Ocean energy are different sources of renewable energy. Already about 5000 MW capacity renewable power projects have been installed in the country so far.

The stamps and the First Day Cover is designed by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, Government of India. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs2 each. Calcutta Security Printers Limited printed the stamps by Photo Offset in the quantity of 0.8 million in the Sheets of 40 stamps.

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POSTAL STATIONERY NEW ISSUES

The following postal stationery with advertisement is scheduled for release in September 2004.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

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

30, ISP, Tamil, xxxxx, 1, M

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PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India in 2004 came up for hearing on August 16, 2004 the next date of hearing was fixed for September 14, 2004.

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India came up for hearing on August 21, 2004 and August 25, 2004. On PCI is application and with consent of Madhukar Jhingan, the Hon'ble Court allowed Vispi Dastur, Madhukar Jhingan, Anil Suri, and Ashok Bayanwala to attend the 68<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress at Singapore on September 2, 2004. These persons were appointed at the PCI AGM on August 8, 2004 as PCI Delegates and Observers to the FIP Congress. The next date of hearing was fixed for September 9, 2004.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

Following Meghdoot post cards were recently released:
Ad in Tamil - Leprosy is curable, Pondicherry

With these, there are now 80 different Meghdoot post cards!

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MORE RAKHI SPECIAL ENVELOPES

Issued by following circles:  
Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh

Not issued by following circles:  
Kerala, Uttaranchal,

Issue sold out and Reprinted by following circles:  
Rajasthan, Gujarat (With logo added)

Status unknown as yet:

Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Andhra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Assam, North East

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MAXIM CARDS FOR OLYMPICS STAMPS

The Philatelic Bureaus at Calicut and Ernakulam have separately brought out maxim cards for the set of 4 stamps on Olympic Games. The price of a set of 4 maxim cards duly serviced with appropriate stamps is Rs 60 and Rs 70 respectively.

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WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP 2004 SINGAPORE

World Stamp Championship 2004 is being held at Singapore from August 28 to September 1, 2004. Following exhibits are participating from India:

Rajan Jayakar's Dead Letter Office  
Dr. Satyendra Kumar Agrawal's Roses  
Anil Suri's Fiscals of Cochin  
Umesh Kakkeri's Portuguese India  
S C Sukhani's The Third Printing India 4 Annas of 1854  
Pragya Kothari's Man Measures His Environment

Philatelic Literature Class

Pradip Jain's Indian Airmails Development & Operations 1911-1942  
Umesh KaKkeri's Postal History of Portuguese India  
Padmini Balan's Quiz on Philately  
Vijay Seth's Indian Airmails 1947-2003

Anil Suri is the national commissioner for India.

Director (Philately), Neeraj Kumar will be attending the show and be available at the sales booth of India Post. India Post will provide a special postmark at their booth.

Director General of India Post, Vijay Bhushan will also be visiting the show and chair the general assembly of World Association for Development of Philately (WADP).

68<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) will also be held at Singapore on September 2, 2004.

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SA STAMP COMPANY SALE

SA Stamp Comopany, Patiala sastamps@glide.net.in is holding its 11th Postal Bid Sale that is closing on September 4, 2004. the sale is available online at their website www.sastamps.net.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 3-5, Mumbai, Coin exhibition by Mumbai Coin Society  
Tajpal Gallery, Gwalia hall

October 1-4, Jalpaiguri, Regional for North Bengal and Sikkim  
Contact: Philately Bureau, Siliguri, West Bengal  
The stamp booklets, maxim cards, picture post cards and special covers shall be released

October 1-3, Ahmedabad, Dak Bharti  
Contact: Ashok Kumar Bayanwala, "Vrinda Niket", 96 Swastik Society, Navrangpura, Ahemdabad 380009, Reliance Mobile 079-3101 2533

October 9-15, New Delhi, Autograph Exhibition, National Level

AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg

Autographs may be displayed in various ways such as on Stamps/Covers, on Photograph, Rare Autographs, Autographed Letters, on Sketch etc. Those who are interested to participate in the exhibition are requested to contact the club immediately. Santosh Kumar Lahoti, Secretary, Autograph Collectors Club of India (Regd.), "Shree Sadan", 26, P K Tagore Street, Calcutta-700006, Phones:(033)25305293/25436471 - Resi. Reliance Mobile 033-3101 2533, Fax: 91-33-24746899, Email: [sklahoti@vsnl.net](mailto:sklahoti@vsnl.net)

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OLYMPIC STAMPS EXHIBITION

An exhibition of Olympic Stamps from Paris 1924 to Athens 2004 by Vijay Seth is being held as a part of the Olympic Festival 2004 at Hotel Le Meridian New Delhi from August 13 to 29, 2004. The exhibition was inaugurated by former Olympian and Captain of the gold medal winning Indian Hockey team Zafar Iqbal. Iqbal also inaugurated the Olympic Festival at hotel's La Brasserie Coffee Shop that offers dishes from the countries which have hosted the Olympic Games in the past along with a live screening of the ongoing mega sports event. Also available as takeaways are the tablemats and coasters with images of the Olympic Stamps. The menu and the Coffee shop have been decorated with the Olympic Stamps as well.

Earlier, the set of 4 stamps on Olympic Games were released in the Director General of India Post, Vijay Bhushan at Hotel Le Meridian. Secretary Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Menaxi Annand Choudhary was also present on this occasion.

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MADRAS COIN SOCIETY SHOW

Madras Coin Society organizes the biggest exhibition of Coins and bank notes at national level every year. This year's show was recently concluded at Chennai. 8 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals awarded. Surprisingly, this year no gold medals were awarded. The design of the certificates of participation is fabulous, they are round shaped and look like a coin.

Pallab Bose from Delhi won two silver medals (with merit certificates) for his entries in the Paper money category on 'Americas' and 'Europe'.

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

Delhi Circle of India Post organized a philatelic workshop on August 12, 19, and 20, 2004 at Central Reserve Police Force School, Sadhu Vaswani School for Girls, and Naval Public School respectively. Senior philatelist Pulak Gupta conducted these workshops.

CRPF School organizes its Annual Exhibition on the eve of Independence Day every year. This year the Principal who himself is a coin and stamp collector requested to have a philatelic exhibition August 14-15, 2004. A special workshop was conducted wherein all the students who had earlier participated in the earlier introductory workshop on philately brought in their stamps and were individually taught to prepare their own exhibits. Children having fewer stamps were advised to form in groups and then share an exhibit page. Many children were advised to make their own individual pages. Every such child was provided with a big page and stamp hinges to stick the stamps. Finally 36 pages of exhibits in all were made by them and displayed in three frames as 12 pages each and the rest of the frames displayed the exhibits from the Philatelic Museum. All the exhibitors were provided with certificates by India Post.

The workshop in Sadhu Vaswani School was attended by the students of classes VI to VIII as a group of 40 students. In the workshop the undersigned gave a brief on introduction of stamps, types of stamps, how to arrange them in the album with a different treatment for the mint and the used stamps. It was followed by a practical demonstration on how to remove the stamps from the paper. A brief was also given to the students as to how to build their collections and make exhibits to participate in the exhibitions. After the workshop an interactive session with the students was organized where the students asked questions. Later the students were asked the questions regarding the subject taught in the workshop and the four students who gave correct answers were awarded the Stamp collectors kit. Surprisingly all the girls were stamp collectors. It was interesting to note that the former chairman of the school was also a stamp collector.

The workshop in Naval Public School was attended by the students of class V to XI in a group of 120 students. The workshop was consequently held in the school auditorium. Many of the students were stamp collectors with a majority of them girls. Looking at the size of the gathering the program was switched to as an orientation with more of practical training. After the presentation an interactive between the students was organized where the three correct answers were given the stamp collectors kits.

A special stall selling the commemorative stamps and the Greeting Cards was setup by India Post on all the occasions.

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US URGED TO ISSUE STAMP ON DALIP SINGH SAUND

The Indian American Foundation has urged the US Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp in honor of the first Asian-origin Congressman Dalip Singh Saund. The Foundation has begun an "active campaign" to seek support of Asian-American organizations and individuals for the release of a postage stamp on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of India-born Saund's victory in the 1956 elections on November 6, 2006.

Congressman Joe Wilson, Co-Chair of India Caucus, has thrown his full weight behind the campaign and has already written to the Stamp Advisory Committee on the issue. Wilson would like Saund to be recognized in another way also. He has introduced a resolution in the US Congress for a portrait of the late Saund to be placed in the US Capitol Building or inside a House office building.

President of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Inder Singh, who is among the community leaders spearheading the campaign, said "Dalip Singh Saund was the pioneer in the field of politics. As the very first person of Asian origin elected to the US Congress against many odds, he is still a source of inspiration and worthy role model for over 10 millions Americans of Asian origin."

Saund's first campaign was to get citizenship of US. He joined a group of Indians in California and New York to begin struggle to attain citizenship for people of Indian origin. The group convinced Congresswoman Clare Booth and Congressman Emanuel Celler to introduce a bill in the House of Representatives allowing citizenship for natives of India in US. After a long battle, the bill was approved by the Congress and signed by President Harry Truman on July 3, 1946. After becoming a naturalized US citizen, Saund started to take more interest in mainstream politics of his new homeland. In 1950, he won the election to the Imperial County Democratic Central Committee and went on to become an elected judge in Westmoreland. But the judgeship was denied to him on

the basis that he was not a citizen for one full year prior to his election. He contested the election to judgeship again in 1952 and won it against an incumbent. After serving 4 years as a judge, he ran for Congress in 1956 and won against a highly celebrated Republican from the 29th Congressional district, becoming the first person of Asian-origin elected to the Congress. Saund served three terms in the House of Representatives before he was stricken with stroke.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

On August 11, Justice Dilip Bhosale of the Bombay high court withdrew midway through the hearing of a bail plea filed by former deputy police commissioner Pradeep Sawant, an accused in the scam. The withdrawal was allegedly triggered by a person approaching the judge on behalf of the accused. Judges usually refrain from hearing matters in which they are either remotely connected with one or other party in the case or have family ties with either litigant. After Sawant's matter was heard on August 5-6 for four hours, the judge adjourned the matter to August 12 for the hearing to continue. But on August 11, he called the lawyers appearing on both sides to his chamber and said he could not go on with the matter. In Sawant's case, the hearing has to start afresh and the matter now stands shifted to Justice D G Deshpande.

Telgi, former Mumbai Police commissioner R S Sharma, former Assistant Commissioner of Police M C Mulani, Samajwadi Janata Party MLA Anil Gote and other accused were produced before special judge of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court S M Shembole at Pune on August 21, 2004. The court extended till September 15, 2004 the judicial custody of the 64 accused. Meanwhile, Abdul Rehman from Bangalore filed his vakalatnama in the court as Telgi's advocate. Abdul Rehman and Harsha Nimbalkar, another counsel of Telgi, moved an application seeking certified copies of medical tests conducted on the scamster, including the ones at the National Aids Research Institute. The court directed the Yerwada jail superintendent to hand over the copies of the medical reports of Telgi to his lawyers. M C Mulani also moved an application seeking production of the visitor register maintained at the SIT office in Mumbai and Pune. Former Inspector General of Police Sridhar Vagal could not be produced before the court as he undergoing treatment at a Mumbai hospital.

The special CBI judge S B Verma at Indore on August 20, 2004 on CBI request issued production warrant against the main accused Telgi and his two associates Shabbeer Ahmed Sheikh and Mansoor for their alleged involvement in the case registered in Indore and Dhar about fake stamps, asking the jail authorities in Pune and Delhi, to produce them in the court within a week. The CBI had questioned the State Bank of India's Chief General Manager, A P Bhatnagar in connection with the case.

The suspended CB-CID DIG Mohammed Ali, arrested in connection with fake stamp paper scam, on August 19, 2004 pleaded to grant him bail and said he was ready to accept it on any condition. The additional sessions judge P Devadas adjourned hearing on the bail petition to August 20, 2004. Opposing the bail application, CBI, which is investigating the case, on August 20, 2004 told the court that according to a statement by Telgi after his arrest, Nizamuddin's wife had said a senior police officer of the CB-CID had asked for Rs 2.5 million to settle the case involving the arrest of Nizamuddin. The agency said a couple of months after Balaji's release, he and Nizamuddin, an associate of main accused Telgi, had disposed of the fake stamp paper, valued at about Rs 20 million, to Life Insurance Corporation. The agency said if Balaji had

been placed under arrest, the sale would not have taken place. The court will deliver on August 23, its orders on the bail plea filed by Mohammad Ali, who was arrested July 1, 2004.

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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.>

SANJAY KANSAL

I fully agree with Mr. Ranjit Singh's views. I also went to Philatelic Bureau on 19th Aug 2004. But the Olympics Stamps were nowhere in sight even five days after release. If this is the situation in the Capital of India, one can very well imagine what could happen in other places. It is high time postal authorities shrug off their lethargy and blossom into a professional organisation.

MANSOOR BOLAR

Congratulations on celebrating 4th Birthday of your Newsletter. In 4 years your newsletter has been providing valuable service in promoting Philately, free!

I wish the team all the best, that it keeps providing the service and helps in promoting philately among the young.

PALLAB BOSE

Kudos for the great job you're doing.

There was a lot of hype about the Olympic stamps sets issued by India post. but it was a little disappointing to see the huge size stamps like the CIS countries that have less value and lack the classy visual appeal. one definitely expected a Minisheet with it.

The Indo-Iran issue in a sheetlet format on saints and poets was fantastic.

October shall herald a lot of activity for collectors. first there is Dak Bharati at Ahmedabad for philatelists. Then mid Oct'04 sees the 7 days autographs exhibition at Delhi. This exhibition shall witness lot of celebrities attending as Guests to give an autograph opportunity to collectors.

There should be some philatelic activity at Delhi too in Oct, Nov and Dec.

I have one suggestion - as your website is such a popular hunt for collectors, why don't you form a service agency to network with collectors and different societies and exhibitors nationally. your agency can co-ordinate collections under one roof and help take the collections for different exhibitions, related to philately, coins, bank notes or autographs. if your agency provides this service, i'm sure none of the collectors would mind paying a service fee for the same. it is such a convenience and major support for collectors, as many of us can't be physically present to participate in different cities.

SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

(Guinness Record Holder for Most Letters to Editors)

It refers to the justified objections raised by the Opposition on issue of a commemorative postage stamp on former Union Minister late Murasoli Maran who was the father of present Union Communications Dayanidhi Maran. Issue of postage stamp on Murasoli Maran violates all the stipulated guidelines of rule 72(4) as published in recently released 'Handbook on Philately' by Indian Post Department which reads as under:

"The personalities on whom commemorative stamp may be issued should be of national or international importance. The occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/ 25th/ 50th/ 100th death anniversary. To ensure objective assessment of the proposal no stamp will be issued sooner than ten years after the individual's death; only exceptions made will be in the case of deceased heads of State."

Proposal also violates Rule 72(2) which mentions that proposal should be taken up well in advance upto two years before the proposed date of issue. To eliminate chances of violation of rules, committee to decide on commemorative postage stamps should have nominees from the government and the opposition in equal numbers.

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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

INLAND POSTCARD RATES

1879 April 1: 3 pies ($\frac{1}{4}$ anna)
1922 April 24: 6 pies ($\frac{1}{2}$ anna)
1931 December 15: 9 pies ($\frac{3}{4}$ anna)
1946 April 1: 6 pies ($\frac{1}{2}$ anna)
1949 April 1: 9 pies ($\frac{3}{4}$ anna)
1957 April 1: 5 Naye Paise
1963 May 1: 6 Paise
1968 May 15: 10 Paise
1974 May 15: 15 Paise
1997 June 1: 25 Paise
2001 June 1: 50 Paise

Postcard was introduced in India, 125 years ago; with effect from April 1, 1879 at 3 pies ($\frac{1}{4}$ anna) that was half of the then inland letter rate. Today it has come down to 10% of the present inland letter rate.

The Meghdoot Post cards introduced on September 2, 2002 are priced at 5% of the present inland letter rate!!!

It may be the lowest cost of communication in whole world. And that price the sender gets a postal stationery that is prepaid to travel thousands of kilometers and delivered at the door of the addressee.

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

MICHEL ONLINE CATALOGS

For every collector, the Michel Online Catalog at <http://www.michel.de/> is an ideal supplement to the usual printed catalogs. It offers a high search comfort to search for year of issue, Michel number, collecting area and theme and also a full text search. For every data record found, nearly all the information from the printed Michel catalogs: collecting area, Michel number, date of issue, occasion for issue, printing process, sheet size, perforation variants and other special information like airmail and surtax stamps, etc can be retrieved. The stamp illustrations, which are in color for European stamps, are shown together with illustration code letters and illustration legends. Also available is the face value, the currency, color designations and, of course, the stamp prices for hinged, mint, cancelled, etc. items.

At the moment, data from the Europe Catalogs volumes 1 to 4, from the Overseas Catalogs (volume 1: America, volumes 4 to 6: Africa, volume 7: Australia, volumes 8 to 10: Asia) and most data from the Germany Catalog since 1945 are available online.

Missing data, for example from the Overseas Catalogs vols. 2-3, is being added step by step. Data from the Germany Catalog before 1945 is planned to be added in autumn.

At the moment, the database contains about 460,000 stamps, more than 1,100,000 price quotations and approximately 250,000 illustrations.

The price is €3 per month for at least one year period.

To get convinced of the high quality performance of the Michel database and the Michel Online Catalog, visit the demo database that has 25 randomly chosen data records, on which one can test the various database inquiries.

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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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