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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

On behalf of Rajesh Varma, we thank all those who have sent goodwill messages. The printouts of all messages were forwarded to him. He was moved from Ghaziabad to a hospital in his hometown Dehradun on September 18. At present he continues to be in the Intensive Care Unit. However we are sure that with friends praying for him, he will get well soon.

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

- M&SJ

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

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

23RD UPU CONGRESS OPENS AT BUCHAREST

The 23rd Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was declared officially open by Romanian President Ion Iliescu on September 15, 2004 at the Palace of Parliament in Bucharest, Romania. It was on this very day exactly 130 years ago that UPU was created, when 22 countries, including Romania, met in Berne, Switzerland, to found the organization. The Congress will take place over 14 working days and last until 5 October 2004.

The Congress will make a number of important decisions affecting the postal industry, including a revised system for compensating countries for the reciprocal exchange of international mail, legally defining the Electronic Postmark as a new optional postal service, and adopting a worldwide international service-quality standard and service measurement. A proposal will seek to hold Congress every four years instead of five.

India is represented by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran who is leading a high level delegation comprising Vijay Bhushan, Secretary in the Department of Posts and senior officers of India Post.

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

The stamp and the Miniature Sheet on Taj Mahal that was tentatively scheduled for release on September 27, 2004 are now postponed. The revised date of issue is yet to be announced.

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

September 16: New Delhi, 10th Int. Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 29-October 3, 2004, Port Blair, Philately Festival
Andaman Club and Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya College
Contact: Ambesh Upmanyu, Director of Postal Services A & N Islands, Port Blair 744101

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
Sardar Patel Seva Samaj, Opp Navrangpura Telephone Exchange, Off CG Road
Contact: Ashok Kumar Bayanwala, 'Vrinda Niket', 96 Swastik Society, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380009, Mobile (Reliance) 079-31030758 (CORRECTED)

October 9-15, New Delhi, Autograph Exhibition, National Level
AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg
Contact: 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

PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Madhukar Jhingan against Philatelic Congress of India came up for hearing on September 21, 2004. The next date of hearing was fixed for October 12, 2004.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

For availability, price, and postal charges regarding philatelic literature on India please contact [books@stampsofindia.com](mailto:books@stampsofindia.com)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE CORPS

Author: Brigadier S K Sen, AVSM

Publisher: Army Postal Service Association, New Delhi  
398 Pages, Hardbound

AN APPROACH TO HISTORY OF POST OFFICE IN INDIA AND OTHER ESSAYS

Author: Shivnath

Publisher: Army Postal Service Association, New Delhi  
228 Pages, Hardbound

THAT GLORIOUS DAWN: AN APS OFFICER'S JOURNEY THROUGH BANGLADESH WAR

Author: S P Ghulati

Publisher: Army Postal Service Association, New Delhi  
184 Pages, Hardbound

PHILATELY INDIA: A COLLECTION OF RESEARCH ARTICLES ON PHILATELY

Author: G S Farid

Publisher: Mahmood Imran, Kolkata  
388 Pages, Softbound

(5<sup>TH</sup>) SUPPLEMENT TO SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF MODERN INDIAN STAMPS

Author: Dr S P Gupta

Publisher: P L Gupta & Company, Meerut  
xxx Pages, Softbound, Profusely Illustrated

INDIAN AIRMAILS 1947 - 2003

Author: Vijay Seth

Publisher: Seth Communications, New Delhi

64 Pages, Softbound, All Color, Rs 500 US\$15 €15 postage extra

Available from: Vijay Seth, Seth Communications, [vijay\\_hseth@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vijay_hseth@yahoo.co.in)  
S-331 Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi 110048

A JINGLE OF BELLS A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE KOLKATA

Author: Basudeb Chattopadhyay

Publisher:

118 Pages, Hardbound

COLLECTORS GUIDE TO INDIAN CANTEEN TOKENS

Author: Praful Thakkar

Publisher: Thakkar Numismatic & Art Foundation, Cary, NC, USA

88 Pages, Softbound, All Color, Rs 225 or US\$13 including postage

Available from: Rajneesh Jain, COIN EXCHANGE, [coinex@indiatimes.com](mailto:coinex@indiatimes.com)  
16A/19, W E A, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

PHILA PRE INDEPENDENCE INDIAN PAPER MONEY GUIDE BOOK '05

Author: Manik Jain

Publisher: Philatelia, Kolkata

xx Pages, Softbound, All Color, Rs 350 including registered postage

Available from: Philatelia, one Motisil Street, Kolkata 700013

PHILA POST INDEPENDENCE INDIAN PAPER MONEY GUIDE BOOK '04

Author: Manik Jain

Publisher: Philatelia, Kolkata  
xx Pages, Softbound, All Color, Rs 300 including registered postage  
Available from: Philatelia, one Motisil Street, Kolkata 700013  
Special Offer on the twin publications - both Pre & Post Independence  
Rs 550 including registered postage  
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PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

South Division in the Delhi Circle of India Post organized a philatelic workshop at Army Public School, Delhi Cantonment on September 21, 2004. The workshop was conducted by senior philatelist Pulak Gupta and attended by the students from class VI to VIII in a group of 50.

In the workshop the students were told about the hobby of collecting stamps, types of stamps, how to arrange, different treatments for the mint and the used stamps, followed by a practical demonstration on how to remove the stamps from the paper. The students were also told on how to make exhibits for display in the exhibitions. After the workshop an interactive session with the students was organized where the students and teachers asked the questions. Some of the students had brought along their stamp collections, however many had collected the bogus stamps etc. and when told about their status were shocked. The Stamp Collectors Kit was awarded as prizes, one for the stamp collection and two for asking the questions on the hobby. A special stall was setup for selling commemorative stamps on the occasion.
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#### BANGLADESH NEW ISSUE

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally released a commemorative postal stamp of Taka four denomination on September 16, 2004 at Dhaka to mark the thirty years of partnership between Bangladesh and the United Nations.  
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INDIA POST TIES UP WITH UTI MUTUAL FUND

India Post joined hands with the Unit Trust of India (UTI) in distributing various Mutual Fund Schemes of UTI through its 50 post offices located across the country. To begin with, India Post has launched five schemes of UTI namely UTI Mastershare Unit Scheme, UTI Unit Linked Insurance Plan, UIT Children's career Plan, UTI Mahila Unit Scheme and UTI Variable Investment Scheme.

A Memorandum of Agreement to this effect was signed between India Post and UTI Mutual Fund by Vijay Bhushan, Secretary, Department of Posts and M Damodaran, CMD UTI, in the presence of Union Minister of Finance, P Chidambaram and Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Dayanidhi Maran at a function held at New Delhi on September 14, 2004.
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#### FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Four persons of a gang with guns, a jeep and fake stamps worth Rs 31,000 were arrested on September 21, 2004 from Jaithera, Etah district. The quartet, who had sold fake stamps worth Rs 200,000 in the district, confessed to their crime. They were active for a long time in several districts of Agra range. The police are also looking out for a person of Karnal in Mainpuri district who is selling fake stamp papers there.

The Special MCOCA court at Pune on September 21, 2004 deferred order to September 28, 2004 on a discharge application filed by incarcerated former Andhra Pradesh Minister C B Krishna Yadav. The court was also likely to pronounce on the same day its order on the bail and discharge applications filed by three other accused in the case -- Vishwanath Jakul, Kishore Parab and Jitendra Topno, who were in judicial custody at present. The Special Judge S M Shembale had reserved his order on their

application on September 8, 2004. Two of the accused were government stamp vendors while one was an employee of the printing press of Telgi.

Security has been beefed up for special MCOCA court judge S M Shembole, who is hearing the fake stamp case. Prime accused Telgi's lawyer Abdul Rehman had created a sensation in Pune last week with his statement that a conspiracy was being hatched to kill Shembole at the behest of former Mumbai Police Commissioner R S Sharma, one of the accused in the case and now lodged at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune. Demanding security for the Special MCOCA court judge, Rehman had also written a letter to the Bombay High Court. Subsequent to last week's developments, a large posse of policemen and women has been posted outside Shembole's court. A metal detector has been installed at the entrance of the special judge's court from September 21, 2004. In addition, two policemen have been posted at the residence of Shembole, who already has been provided with an armed bodyguard.

Two police officers, Gautam Sawang, an IPS officer of the 1986 batch, was questioned along with assistant commissioner of police Bhupinder Reddy, by the CBI on September 21, 2004 in Hyderabad about their alleged role in helping the kingpin in the fake stamp scam Telgi in spreading his network in Andhra Pradesh.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/ad/ads.htm>

SOUTH AFRICA GANDHI ESSAYS

Greg Jorgensen gjorgens@bigpond.net.au has just listed on eBay three South Africa essay items showing Gandhi at very reasonable start prices. South Africa artist essay items hardly ever come on the market - these essays have come from the collection of one of the members of the South Africa Philatelic Committee whose job it was to assign out the design of new issues to the artist. To find them on eBay, search on the words ESSAY or GANDHI and eBay item numbers are - 5522089500, 5522090280, and 5522093019.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, PART 78

Most of the philatelists from the world over that we had met during World Stamp Championship and FIP Congress at Singapore recently asked us what is the way out from the present mess that PCI finds itself in.

We had a ready answer to that; we showed them the draft of a joint application to the Hon'ble court on which we have endlessly been awaiting the response from PCI.

Although we were always open to talk and resolve the matters, the PCI was not. And it was only on the orders of Jitendra Mishra, Civil Judge, Delhi that a meet for talks was possible after two years and accordingly we met on March 12 & 13, April 16, 17, & 18, 2004 at New Delhi. The talks were later continued over telephone and also at meetings in Ahmedabad after the Annual General Meeting of the PCI on August 8, 2004.

We have been asking for an immediate freeze on hostile activities. We have also been emphasizing on Confidence Building Measures. While PCI did not concede on these, they utilized this opportunity by merrily spreading the word around that the talks are on and the resolution is imminent.

All along we have found that we are up against persons who have no respect for democratic norms, laws of land, and decency in human interaction. For them the end justifies the means. We feel that at no point of time they were serious in resolving anything. They want to maintain status quo at all costs. They have been carrying on their activities in an unauthorized, invalid and illegal manner for far too long and are still unwilling and resisting the change all around them. The message that came across was that in case the petty personal interests of these persons are not protected they have no interest in Indian philately and philatelists. Philately for most of these persons is not a hobby but a carrier and a source of livelihood.

Following is the draft of the joint application that was proposed by us.

1. The elections for the PCI Governing Council held on August 25, 2002 at Mumbai stand cancelled.
2. The fresh elections shall be held at a suitable venue within the National Capital Territory of Delhi in a transparent manner only after suitably amending the Memorandum of Association and the Rules & Regulations as well as after establishing necessary new regulations and procedures required for efficient working.
3. All the issues raised by the plaintiff shall be discussed and appropriate action shall be taken in a time bound manner.
4. The records of the Defendant Society shall immediately be made freely accessible to the membership.
5. The management of the affairs of the Defendant Society for the interim period till the newly elected Governing Council takes charge shall be under an Adhoc Committee having equal representatives of the Plaintiff and the Defendant. The representative of India Post or nominees of the Government of India may also be appointed by the approval of the Hon'ble Court to the Adhoc Committee.
6. A Court Observer shall supervise all the meetings during the interim period.
7. The permanent Registered Office shall immediately be restored within the National Capital Territory of Delhi and shall house all the records of the PCI.
8. A white paper on the unlawful and or undemocratic activities of the few officers of the PCI will be brought out, responsibility shall be fixed, and appropriate actions will be taken. To motivate persons to come clean and to put an end to wrong practices, a general amnesty may be considered.
9. The Defendant Society shall reimburse the legal costs to the Plaintiff.
10. Hon'ble Court shall be requested to suspend the proceedings in this suit for one year to implement the above.

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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.>

IVAN PETROVICH, Pointe Claire, Canada

Mansoor Bolar, Mangalore, wrote agreeing that personalities on stamps were a bad choice for a stamp design. I disagree with that opinion. I have traveled to India many times and collect Indian stamps (many other countries too). I am always eager to learn about various Indian personalities no matter how obscure. Gandhi is one of the greatest people to have ever lived but I do not need another Gandhi stamp. I collect Canada, Iran and Japan, you would not believe the countless personalities that the world has not heard of but I'm sure their family, friends, historians et al know of these people and are glad of their contributions to mankind. Do we need more flora & fauna, Red Cross, Europa, cars, boats, airplanes, etc? He claims foreign collectors are avoiding these stamps, that is good as now they are rarer and their value will increase, no?

I am sorry to pick on poor Mr Bolar, but self-adhesive stamps are an abomination. They should not be exhibited as that will only encourage the stamp bureaus of the world to keep issuing them. I refuse to buy them or to use them. If we all did them same and we are a large group of the stamp buying public, maybe the bureaus will stop issuing them!

SHYAM PRASAD PRADHAN, Kathmandu, Nepal

It was a great message you forwarded to the readers in regard to the formation of philatelic unit of SAARC. I would like to inform you that Nepal Philatelic Society had tried to sell the idea of formation of SAARC Philatelic Federation when First South Asian International Philatelic Exhibition was held in Katmandu in the year 2001. National commissioners of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan along with Nepal had verbally agreed to the formation. And since then this matter is rolling but without any concrete result. Hope that this Federation will come into existence soon.

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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

PRIVILEGED POSTAL RATES FOR SOLDIERS AND SEAMEN

From the 1st October 1883 soldiers' and seamen's letters for the United Kingdom (including British Possessions served through the United Kingdom), if prepaid at the 9 pie rate and fulfilling the conditions prescribed, will be sent by the ordinary train service through Italy and France, instead of traveling by sea via Gibraltar.

Two routes will still be available for soldiers' and seamen's letters:

Via Italy - 9 pies

Via Brindisi - 1 anna 9 pies

The prepayment is compulsory.

Letters sent by the 'Via Brindisi' route will travel as heretofore by the special train service through Italy and France and will reach England about a day earlier than those sent by the 'Via Italy' route will travel by ordinary train through the continent of Europe.

From October 1883 all soldiers' and seamen's letters from United Kingdom will likewise travel to India through France and Italy, instead of being sent via Gibraltar by sea.

- Postal Notice of September 15, 1883

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

SINGAPORE WSC FALLS SHORT

Peter McBride says Singapore had nearly everything. All that was missing were the collectors and dealers.

AND so, on August 28, the gravy train came steaming into Singapore Suntec for the 'World Stamp Championship 2004' with whistles blowing, klaxons blaring, and bells ringing! Never before in the field of human philately have so many commissioners and judges done so little for so few at such a high cost to so many.

With their plethora of unearned perks and privileges and the free welcome feeding frenzies they just about had time to congratulate each other on another five-day extravaganza between the lunchtime session and the evening session. In this modern age of FedEx, DHL, and Lloyds of London, is it really necessary for these Masters of the Philatelic World to actually demean themselves to be messenger boys?

Advertising lamentable

By the middle of day two, the organisers' emissaries had advised us that the attendance for the opening day had exceeded 10,000, and on Sunday the numbers seemed to be about 8000. I remember well that the initial promotional material had said that 200,000 visitors were expected and that the stand rentals had been priced accordingly.

When we arrived in Suntec City, the trade brochure had mysteriously reduced the expectations to 100,000. No wonder, there was hardly a visible advertisement outside the building and the newspaper advertising was lamentable. Apparently there had been a full page advertisement in a local paper prior to the show but nothing seemed to be happening during the show. Few television stations appeared to record this major event and reporting in the media was slight. The real 'buzz' that had been evident in previous Singapore events was totally absent.

Having spoken to many 'locals' including some 'ex-pats', the general consensus is that the advertising was very limited and very restricted. There was television advertising but no-one to whom I spoke had seen it and the attendance did not indicate a substantial exposure. It obviously did not appeal to the right people. Did they understand what a World Stamp Championship was?

Why was it not called a 'stamp exhibition' when it was a stamp exhibition?

Dealers outnumbered by admins

The philatelic traders were well outnumbered by postal administrations, and some dealers who rarely appear, or had not been allowed to appear at recognised FIP internationals, were manning their stands with stocks of weird and wonderful material. Due to the very high costs of participation many dealers, especially from UK, doubled or tripled up to help reduce costs which gave the impression of a smaller than normal British representation.

Over the last six months the expectations of dealer participation had been dramatically reduced by the organisers and yet still they refused to reduce the stand rentals. I was delighted to see that FIP was



requiring that each standholder gave, in writing, an undertaking not to sell, distribute, or promote fraudulent emissions from countries, real or imaginary.

The New Zealand Post Office booth, manned by the eternally active and optimist pair from New Zealand, was doing very well with The Lord of The Rings material and the 'moving' Olympic material, but little else. After two days, the Gibraltar Post Office stand, exceptionally well located, had only serviced 400 passports, a sad commentary on the number of interested visitors.

How some fared

John Auld of Alliance Auctions commented that he was disappointed by the severe lack of overseas visitors from Europe, and virtually no representation from Japan, neither collectors nor dealers. He also mentioned that the only material that he had been offered with a view to purchase was of a very low quality and in limited quantity.

Agnes Luk, a major dealer from Hong Kong, said that she was very happy with the business that she had done.

Michael Hudson, a visiting dealer from Sydney, said that he found the prices of some material was considerably less expensive than expected and was very pleased with purchases made from various Post Offices, especially that of North Korea.

Mike Pugh and David Wrigley, trading together as London Philatelists, both said that they were very happy with business and that while the numbers were considerably less than the organisers predicted, the right people had arrived.

Peter Singer had yet another marvellous and highly profitable show at his large booth with his immaculately presented and systematically ordered material. With great assistance from his hardworking assistant Jack Loh, he proved that if you have the right stock competitively priced you will do well anywhere.

Business was good at the top end of the markets and those who travelled distances should have been well pleased as the 'core' collectors of Singapore did appear and did purchase, but they had done this three weeks before at the annual Singpex exhibition held in the Postal Museum.

Opportunity missed

The attendances on the last three days were abysmal with non-spending schoolchildren cluttering up the booths with neither the intention nor the ability to spend. Surely the organisers should have organised lectures and displays specifically for these potential collectors, with dealers being asked in advance to provide low cost quality material for these important philatelic assets. The interested children of today hopefully will be the collectors and exhibitors of tomorrow and will maintain the industry for decades to come.

Without doubt the displays were of an outstanding quality, both in content and presentation, and the numerous prizes were well deserved. I was delighted to see that most of the commissioners and some of the judges made a serious effort to support the trade and sought help and assistance in their specific fields.

The facilities in Suntec City were most definitely of world class standard and the air-conditioning was at all times superbly controlled - a masterful success on its own.

Attendance well short of targets

The final analysis of this exhibition is that it was excellently organised but either it was not properly advertised in quantity or quality of advertising, or that people are no longer interested in stamps and stamp collecting in Singapore. The final attendance figure was probably in the region of 30,000 to 35,000, a far cry from the promised or anticipated figure of 200,000 but as the organisers did not count the admissions, no absolute figure is available.

Advertise, and shunt the gravy train

Let me finish this report with a worldwide appeal to those who are organising major stamp exhibitions. A stamp exhibition should be called a stamp exhibition so that everyone knows what it is.

The overheads should be reduced so that the stand rentals can be reduced to encourage more dealers and post offices to attend. The 'gravy train' must be shunted into a siding. Copious and professional advertising must be employed for months before the event. Accurate forecasts of visitors must be calculated and they must be targeted. Let the organisers remember that dealers can exist without exhibitions but exhibitions cannot exist without dealers.

And finally, to all you potential organisers of major exhibitions, how many of the people who attend major exhibitions actually look at any of the wonderful exhibits?

Singapore, you fell into the same trap as Bangkok, you thought that just because you were having an exhibition, people would beat a path to your door. They did not. You have to advertise. You must advertise, and forget the gravy train!

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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.stampsfindia.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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ADMINISTRIVIA

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