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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 310 - October 11, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

G B Pai is No More  
Gandhi Service Beats Head Inverted  
India's First Philatelic Hologram  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
Indian Air Force Stamps Released  
New Postal Stationery  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Army Postal Service Issues  
First War of Independence Pack  
New Maxim Cards  
India Miniature Sheet Album  
Speed Post Across Kerala  
Indian Air Force Commemorative Coins  
Recent Periodical Publications  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Readers Forum: Nawal Kishore Tatiwala, Ajay Agrawal, Hemant V Kulkarni,  
Nikhil Rohan, and S A Bhaskar  
History of Postal Communications in India, Part 5

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are required to maintain our computing equipment in a mission critical state to allow uninterrupted weekly mailings and almost daily updates to websites. This demands several layers of comprehensive security, regular backups, and timely upgrades in hardware and software.

We also have been using software legally licensed to us (and are perhaps only philatelic organization to do so in India).

Thus we were amazed to discover that one of the email accounts was incorrectly configured in the new machine that we changed over to and wasn't downloading emails for most of August and September 2007. We fixed this and about couple of weeks later found out that the same account is bouncing emails back to sender stating 'mailbox being full'. We have now fixed this too. Fortunately there was no loss of mails, only delay in our accessing them and we are now coping up with replying these. Kindly bear with us in case one of your messages has not been replied during this period. And if one of your messages has bounced back, please send again.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sanjay Kansal  
We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@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

G B PAI IS NO MORE

India lost an avid philatelist, G B Pai on October 6, 2007. Born on  
November 25, 1918 Pai was a Senior Advocate and founding Partner of  
Menon & Pai, Ernakulum. Pai served as the President of Supreme Court  
Bar Association. He was the acknowledged authority on Labor Law in  
India and authored the definitive book on the subject.

He was currently a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee, Fellow  
of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a Judge accredited by the  
International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

He co-founded the Philatelic Congress of India and was its 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary  
General and 2<sup>nd</sup> President. He played a key role in all international  
philatelic exhibitions held in India.

He won Gold medals for his Cochin postal history collection. He had  
several specialized collections including India Maritime Mails and  
India Fiscals. He wrote several articles and books on Indian philately  
and postal history.

He was a very positive person and will be missed by all who knew him.  
May god give strength to his family and friends to bear the loss.

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GANDHI SERVICE BEATS HEAD INVERTED

The results of David Feldman Rarities of the World auction sale of
October 5, 2007 at Geneva surprised many. A set of 1948 Mahatma Gandhi
Service stamps was sold for Euro 38,000 + 19.5% about Rs 2.5 million,
while a 1854 4 Annas Inverted Head error sold only for Euro 32,000 +
19.5% about Rs 2.1 million.

This goes on to underline the fact that the modern stamps of India
hitherto have been very much underpriced. This also reiterates that
India's classics are still inexpensive compared to other countries.

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INDIA'S FIRST PHILATELIC HOLOGRAM

The entry ticket to the philatelic auction conducted on Sailing Ship on  
August 23, 2007 at Ernakulum carried a hologram. Although this is  
neither a stamp nor a cover this is the first hologram on a philatelic

item from India. Similarly the World's first philatelic hologram was on the cover page of Ameripex'86 Catalog in 1986.

For the image, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/310-plus.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Oct 14: 4th Military World Games, Hyderabad - Mumbai,
Oct 15: Maharashtra Police Academy Centenary
Oct 24: Punjab Regiment

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, are put on sale on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

The President of India Pratibha Patil released a set of four commemorative stamps and miniature sheet on the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Air Force on October 8, 2007 at New Delhi. The Vice President of India Hamid Ansari, the Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister P Chidambaram, Minister of Communications and Information Technology A Raja, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major, and United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, were among the dignitaries who attended the function.

The set of four stamps depicts the Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv, Westland Wapiti, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), and IL-78. The first three stamps are in the denominations of Rs 5 and the fourth in the denominations of Rs 15. The miniature sheet containing one of each is priced at Rs 30.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamps and the First Day Cover. 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 Rs 2 each. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed the stamps by Wet Offset in the quantity of 0.8 million each. The Miniature Sheet is printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot postcards with advertisement were recently released:

Bihar: Right to Information Call Center, Hindi
Bihar: Old Age Pension Scheme, Hindi
Bihar: New Land Acquisition Policy, Hindi
Rajasthan: Education for All, Hindi
Xxx, Tamil
Ankur Salt, Hindi & English
Rainwater Harvesting, English
Rainwater Harvesting, English

Rainwater Harvesting, English
Gagan / Ginni, Hindi

The grand total till date is now 462, with 186 added in 2007 alone.

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

Following post card with message was recently released:

Philately: King of Hobbies, English, ISP

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007ILC.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jun 16: Gulbarga, Nutan Vidyalaya Society Centenary  
Jul 29: Bangalore, Lions District 324 D6 Cabinet Presentation 2007-2008  
Aug 24-26: Ernakulum, Coin Expo, 2 covers  
Aug 31-Sep 01: Calicut, Philafest, 2 covers  
Sep 01: Mattupetty, Speed Post Across Kerala  
Oct 02: Ahmadabad, International Day of Non Violence  
Oct 02: Lucknow, International Day of Non Violence  
Oct 06-8: Ahmadabad, Gujarat State Philatelic Exhibition, 3 covers  
Girl Child Campaign, Cricket Champions, Space applications in India

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2007, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2007pm.htm>

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Feb 15: 37 Squadron Air Force, Presentation of Standards

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2007aps.htm>

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FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE PACK

A pack containing a miniature sheet of the First War of Independence issued on Aug 9, 2007 was released on September 1, 2007 on the occasion of the launch of 'Speed Post Across Kerala' at Mattupetty branch post office. The pack also carries the special postmark provided on this occasion hand-stamped on an Rs 5 stamp.

For the image, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/misc-packs2007.htm>

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NEW MAXIM CARDS

Orissa Philatelic Association released four maxim cards on October 2, 2007. The cost of four cards duly serviced is Rs 100 plus postage. Please contact Pradip Mohanty, Honorary Secretary, Orissa Philatelic

Association, Keonjhar Colony, Kanikachhak, Cuttack 753008, Mobile 0 98610 32965

Another postcard has been created by a collector for the first International Day for Nonviolence. This is also used as maxim card with recently issued Satyagraha Centenary stamps.

Gujarat Circle of India Post released 3 picture cards, one for each day of the State Philatelic Exhibition at Ahmedabad. Initially the postmark was not provided on the picture side but later it was allowed.

For an illustrated list of Maxim Cards of 2007, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2007mc.htm>

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INDIA MINIATURE SHEET ALBUM

Gujarat Philatelists Association (GPA) has published an album for Indian Miniature Sheets. This album has been created by Shrikant Parikh who was also responsible for the album for Indian Se-tenant stamps also published by GPA. The album includes transparent protective covers for all album pages and is priced at Rs 150.

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SPEED POST ACROSS KERALA

Kerala Postal Circle launched a very special initiative to provide Speed Post facilities through all the Post Offices located in the State. The inauguration of the scheme was held at Indo-Swiss project branch Post Office, Mattupatty, Munnar on September 1, 2007. Dr Ani S Das, Managing Director, Kerala Livestock Development Board handed over the first speed post article to Dr Uday Balakrishnan, Chief Post Master General, Kerala Circle.

With the launch of this service, Kerala Postal Circle has expanded the speed post services from 300 outlets to 4814 outlets with a total coverage of 95 percent. Kerala Postal circle is having 5070 Post Offices. Out of this, 4201 offices are in rural areas. The Post Office has a presence in every village in the State.

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INDIAN AIR FORCE COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Dr Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India released a set of commemorative coins on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee of Indian Air Force in New Delhi on October 8, 2007.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

VADOPHIL, Whole # 110-111, Apr & Jul 2007, Quarterly
Editor: Prashant H Pandya & Timir R Shah vadophil@indiaphilately.net
Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society
Annual Subscription: Rs 100

GPA NEWSLETTER, Sep-Oct 2007, Monthly
Editor: Ilyas Patel
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association
Annual Subscription: Rs 200

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2: Thiruvananthapuram, Mahatma Gandhi

Dr Asha Balagangadharan, Principal of the University Collage inaugurated an Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2007 at Philatelic Bureau Thiruvananthapuram General Post Office. A philatelic Quiz and a Workshop on Philately were also conduted.

Oct 2: Lucknow, Mahatma Gandhi

Oct 2: New Delhi, Mahatma Gandhi

Oct 13-15: Gwalior, Coins & Stamps Exhibition

Issues: 2 special covers,

Sales Stalls: Rs 2000/ Rs 2500

Contact: Neel Kamal Maheshwari, 0 94257 45455, 0 94444 50420

Oct 26-29: Jaipur, 12th Inter School Philatelic Exhibition Schoolpex

Venue: St Xavier's School

Issues: 2 special covers including 1 scented cover,

Sales Stalls: Rs 600, Also accommodation assistance

Contact: Rajesh Paharia, Mobile 9351716969

Oct 31-Nov 2: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh State Philatelic Exhibition

Nov 30-Dec 2: New Delhi, Coins & Banknotes

Contact: Goga Jain, Mobile 93123 18401

Dec 5-8: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Philatelic Exhibition

Venue: Kanakakunnu Palace

For a list of exhibitions in 2007, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2007.htm>

#### MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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STAMP QUIZZES by Anil Dhir, 224 pages, 2007 edition, contains over 1500 questions and answers. Comprehensive & detailed with quizzes on General Philately, India, Indian States, USA, Britain, Australia & New Zealand Must for all Philatelists & stamp clubs, Rs 300 post free in India. US\$20+ actual postage elsewhere, ANIL DHIR anildhir2k5@hotmail.com

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

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

NAWAL KISHORE TATIWALA, Jaipur

We from Jaipur had written to the postal authorities to issue stamps on Diamond industry. They declined saying India does not issue stamps on commerce.

Out of 11 diamonds 10 are cut and polished in India. Indian diamond industry employs one million persons. The exports are about Rs 60,000 crore per year.

AJAY AGRAWAL

I support views of Mr Subhash Agrawal & Atish Jain. A series of Commemorative Stamps must be released on 20/20 world cup. If India Post can also remember "Kalpana Chawla", nothing like it. Let us be positive.

HEMANT V KULKARNI, Milwaukee, USA

I noted with interest two letters (Subhash Agrawal and Atish Jain) in # 309 issue expressing a desire that commemorative stamps be issued (in adequate numbers) to honor India's 'twenty-20' cup victory in its maiden mega event. Cricket has been a 'team sport' and it would be unwise to print a series of stamps for individual participants. Perhaps a single but very attractive stamp be issued with the picture of the team -however inappropriate considering the relatively small size of a typical stamp -which can be compensated with a beautiful FDC to go along. I, however agree that Cricket being the heart and soul of every Indian, such a release would create a huge number of stamp collectors out of the younger generation. I must note that a stamp issued earlier to honour 'Tamil Nadu Cricket Association' (Archives # 1842, January 26, 07) is so poorly crafted, a special effort will be needed (if any) to avoid a humiliating reaction from the lovers of commemorative stamps.

Now that Vishwanath Anand has won the 2007 world chess championship (for the second time in his distinguished career), wouldn't he deserve a special honor from the Indian PS? Switzerland did it for its tennis reigning wizard Roger Federer. Accomplished individuals in the sporting arena deserve to be honored at the right time and while they are young and alive at peak performances. It puts a permanent 'stamp' of honour - if done in style, for the entire world to admire. Postal service makes an ultimate medium to accomplish this!

NIKHIL ROHAN, Chennai

"The recent Gandhi 4v Satyagraha issue is very nice, both in design and colour, especially when compared to the 2005 Dandi March issue.

The MS is also compact in size and very attractive.

I feel that this issue should have been a Joint Issue with South Africa (SA), the simple reason being that the event had taken place there. All the stamps also depict scenes from SA, including the paper "Indian

Opinion", which was published by the Mahatma in SA. The MS also features a small map of SA, showing many cities and towns.

Though we already have a Joint issue with SA (1995 - also a Gandhi 2v set), the common factor of the Mahatma has made a strong bond between the 2 countries, and another Joint issue would have been welcome.

Also, the design of the FDC was such that (i) either the cachet would be hidden if the entire strip was placed as such, or (ii) there would be no space to write the "To" address if 2 pairs of the stamps were placed one below the other.

I request India Post to take care of such matters when designing the FDC.

S A BHASKAR

I take this opportunity to commend you on the unique service you are attempting to provide thru PhilSensex to this dying hobby cum investment. I wish you all success in generating a practical and commercially sound basis, and for reviving the incentives for collecting stamps of India, especially the Post Independence stamps, recent issues of which are already very scarce or unavailable, and have not received their fair valuations vis-a-vis similarly scarce stamps of U K, and other philatelically conscious countries. In this regard I would invite your particular attention to the Mother Theresa souvenir sheet containing one Rs. 45 stamp. The quantity issued as stated in the Phila Guide 2005, is just 50,000 and no separate stamps were issued!! This means it is quantitatively twice as scarce as the Raj Kumar Shukla stamp, yet its pricing in the market is at a puzzling valuation of just 2 or 3 times the face value, as compared to the Shukla stamps which seems to be commanding a whopping 150 to 200 times the face value. Can you throw some light on this mystery?

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN INDIA, PART 5

By Sangeeta Deogawanka

Part 5 - MEDIEVAL INDIA 1030 - 1757 AD (Continued)

Structure of the land postal systems in Pre-Mughal period

Under Allauddin Khilji (1292 - 1318)

A horse and foot-posts runner service was established in 1296 primarily for latest military news and prices of commodities. The military and civil mail of the soldiers was also served. Horses were stationed at every 'manzil' and 'dhawahs' appointed every half a kos or one-fourth of a kos (2 miles). A new feature was the News writer or 'Munshi' posted at every town. He was to report every day or by every third day to the central administration, for which special horse couriers and runners were kept ready at every kos.

A postal department called 'Mahakama-i-Barid' under the supervision of two postal officers 'Maalik Barid-i-Mamalik' (Minister of State News Agency) and his deputy 'Naib Barid-i-Mamalik' fulfilled the dual needs of barid (post) and espionage. All this was under personal supervision with rigid laws laid down for the network. The fresh concept of a two-way news transmission was adopted, wherein the people were also kept

informed about the well being of the ruler. This served as a deterrent for any insurgency.

The role of a Barid took on new dimensions during this regime. He was the confidential agent of the administration, whose work included intelligence gathering, classification and regular despatch, to the departments or direct to the sovereign at his discretion. Stationed at the headquarters of every administrative sub-division, a high level of integrity and prudence was demanded of these Barids, for which they were well paid

Another significant contribution was the first recorded Dak - chawkis and Thanas of this period. The latter were established between Delhi and Warrangal in South to receive daily military updates.

The precedent of despatching news-letters was made with the taking over of Devagiri in the Deccan. Thereafter, a regular postal communication became fully operational throughout the Deccan by 1318. This system of news-letters and news-writers became the hallmark of the communication system of this regime.

Under Mohammad Bin Tughlaq (1325-1351)

An improved courier system was established, much along the lines of the Roman post, but with more closely stationed post-houses. A network of paved roads was laid out connecting the capital with Devnagri (renamed Daulatabad) in the South. For improved efficiency, the postal routes were dotted throughout with rest houses, markets, wells and mosques. Provision of guides along these routes, further facilitated speedy operations.

The postal system has been referred as 'Barid' by Ibn Batuta. The two types of postal communications were clearly demarcated as the 'Barid-i-Khail' or horse-post that operated the Ulagh service and the 'Barid-i-Rajalah' or foot-post functioning as the Dhawah. The ulagh or the horse-post was run by royal horses stationed at a distance of every 4 kroh or 8 miles, the horsemen who carried letters being called 'wulaq'. Villages at each third of a kroh served as postal stations or dhawas. Couriers ready with girded loins and a 2-cubit long rod with brass bells were found on the village outskirts seated on chabutras (culverts), taking the letter and running at a high speed, jingling the bells till he reached the next station. These couriers operated on a relay system. Often quicker than the horse-post, they were in use for transport of fruits from upper Sind or Afghanistan and water of the Ganga to Daulatabad for palace use. A horse courier took 15 days Delhi-Sind while foot-courier took 5 days! Dak chawkis were constructed at every two furlongs. Each had a mosque and was well-provided, with ten robust speedy runners posted at any given time. Later, Sarais or rest-houses were also built at convenient points between every two villages.

Throughout the territory, the use of drums at every post-house kept the sovereign informed about the happenings. Another noteworthy feature was the involvement of the postal official in the administration. Lands were allotted, and additional money paid towards maintenance of the dak chawkis. In return they were expected to report on the appearance and activities of strangers passing through. Milestones and signposts were erected as in the Roman communication network. The foot-couriers and horse-couriers were given lands, income of which was fixed as salary.

The use of camel post is to be noted. In particular it was in use for conveying news from Jaj Nagar (Orissa) to Delhi, and also between Sind and Gujarat. This also refutes the age-old supposition that Akbar was the first to employ camel post in India.

Under Sultan Sikander Lodhi (1489-1517) Dak chawkis throughout the territory served an efficient communication system. Official letters were conveyed by runners and horse-couriers. Two firmaans were despatched wherever the Sultan sent his army. One firmaan in the early morning bore instructions and the time of halt, and the second firmaan reaching in the afternoon or evening contained detailed military instructions. The communication system was so speedy and efficient that chroniclers accorded some jin or spirit to be in his employ.

A novel method of news transmission requires mention. After reaching Bayana (Rajasthan), Sikander Lodhi had despatched an army towards Thatha (near Karachi) and ordered the general to send news of victory the same day. Heaps of grass were laid alongside the road. Soon after victory, the grass was lit and the fire travelled fast, conveying the news of victory.

Although we find the continuance of the horse-courier and foot-relay postal system through eight dynasties of rule, from 1001 to 1526 when the Lodhi dynasty fell through, only the above-mentioned rulers made contribution to the communication system. It was under the Turks that a somewhat concrete communication network was laid with the construction of paved roads, bridges, milestones, dak-chawkis and rest-houses called sarais. Also news-couriers were introduced. There also developed a more uniform system of remuneration for the postal couriers.

Notes:

"Dak" is a Hindi word meaning post.

"Chawki" means intermediary station.

"Dak Chawki" refers to a post house or postal station where mail runners or mounted mail couriers and horses are kept ready for use.

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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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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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ADMINISTRIVIA

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

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm>

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