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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 364 - October 23, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We wish all readers a very happy and prosperous Deepavali - the  
Festival of Lights.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Shrikant  
Parikh, Jaydev Nansey, Sharad Mohan,

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

#### MAHATMA GANDHI SPECIMENS SCALE NEW HEIGHTS

A set of India Mahatma Gandhi commemorative stamps of 1948 overprinted Specimen and mounted in official presentation folder sold for a record Rs 1.11 million (US\$ 22,200) on October 17, 2008 on eBay.com. This was bought by an Indian philatelist and speaks volumes about the health of philatelic industry in India especially in these days of global financial crisis.

To view this item please click on the following link

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&rd=1&item=270285813074&ssPageName=STRK:MEWA:IT&ih=017>

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#### INDIA POST INVENTS!

Since long Government of India owned India Security Press Nasik charges exorbitant prices to India Post for printing postage stamps. While private security printers employed during 1992 - 2004 charged reasonable prices as is the case with these printers worldwide. Security Printing Press Hyderabad began printing stamps since 2006 and being Government of India owned follows India Security Press Nasik in regard of prices.

In September 2008 India Post took cognizance of the fact that India Security Press Nasik and Security Printing Press Hyderabad, both charge about Rs 12/13 for printing each miniature sheet and decided to price the miniature sheets accordingly.

This could have been achieved in many ways particularly in cases where Rs 5 denomination stamps were involved. One way was to print a block of 4 of Rs 5 stamp. Another way was to provide the same design, with or without changes, in higher denomination in the miniature sheet. The miniature sheet could contain altogether another design in higher denomination as was done in case of Mother Teresa miniature sheet of 1997.

However, India post found a new innovative way in issuing the miniature sheet on Philately Day on October 13, 2008. This miniature sheet contains a stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 and on the miniature sheet Rs 15/- is printed as the price. The same price, Rs 15 is also mentioned in the Brochure accompanying this issue.

This miniature sheet was printed by the Security Printing Press Hyderabad where label on the packet of miniature sheets didn't carry any details regarding price however the invoice accompanying the supply to philatelic bureaus mentions the price of miniature sheet at Rs 20. Thus the philatelic bureaus across country are selling the same not for Rs 15 but for Rs 20.

Our sources informed that official instructions are being issued to sell the miniature sheet at Rs 15 each. However no instructions have so far been issued even after 10 days of the issue.

Postal Administrations' job is to sell the stamps at face value and not at 300% or 400% of the face value. International Philatelic Federation (FIP) calls those issues as "Abusive Issues" where the surcharge or the premium charged by the postal administration exceeds 50% of the face value. Such issues are black listed and are debarred from exhibitions under FIP rules. This is also against the norms of Good Philatelic

Practice by Universal Postal Union (UPU) and World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP). This looks particularly awful as India was President of FIP for 8 years and Chairman of WADP for 5 years.

India Post's innovation continued unabated and another miniature sheet on 19<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Games 2010 New Delhi was issued on October 18, 2008. The Brochure accompanying this issue mentions the price of the miniature sheet as Rs 15. This miniature sheet was printed by India Security Press Nasik and the label on the packet records that the miniature sheet actually contains a set of 2 stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 and Rs 15 and the price of the miniature sheets is calculated at Rs 20 each.

Thus India Post invented and issued the world's first Invisible stamp in the denomination of Rs 15. India Post should also get full marks for its honesty and efficiency as the post offices are accepting this miniature sheet for Rs 20 postage value even though the stamp of Rs 15 denomination remains invisible.

Please visit the following link for relevant images:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/364plus.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

The following issues earlier scheduled for release in October have all been rescheduled and the new dates of release will be announced later:

Oct 22: Infantry Day

Oct 25: National Police Academy, 2 Stamps + Miniature Sheet

Oct ??: T V Ramasubba Iyer

The confirmed forthcoming new issue is:

Nov 14: Children's Day

Now days, issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice say couple of days! As you can see that the world is moving at very fast pace and we are still bringing out an issue only after 7 long days. Thus it is impossible to inform our readers thru this weekly publication about forthcoming stamp issues of India. We however do our best to publish this information on the home page of [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com) as soon as it becomes available.

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 2008, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY YEAR

India Post issued a stamp to mark the Food Safety & Quality Year in the denomination of Rs 5 on World Food Day October 16, 2008.

Suresh Kumar designed the Stamp 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 stamp by wet offset in the quantities of 0.8 million each.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

19TH COMMONWEALTH GAMES NEW DELHI 2010  
India Post issued the first stamp and miniature sheet on 19th Commonwealth Games New Delhi 2010 on October 18, 2008 at the closing ceremony of 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Games at Pune.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamp 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 3 million. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 0.5 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008ILC.htm>

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

- Feb 23: Darbe, St Philomena College Golden Jubilee
- May 31: Mysore, Nada Mantapa
- May 31: Mysore, Permanent Pictorial Postmark at SGS Ashram PO
- Jul 11: Nagercoil, Philatelic Exhibition
- Aug 22: Chennai, 369th Madras Day Celebrations
- Sep 23: Thiruvananthapuram, New Logo of India Post
- Oct 1: Chennai, Travancore Sisters Cinema Actors
- Oct 2: Ahmedabad, Smoking Banned at Public Places
- Oct 5: Nanded, Guru Granth Sahib 300 Years of Guruship
- Oct 14-15: Bangalore, Philatelic Exhibition
- Oct 14-15: Chennai, National Postal Week
- Oct 15: Mumbai, New Logo of India Post
- Oct 15: Hyderabad, India Aviation 2008 International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation
- Oct 17: Bangalore, Philatelic Exhibition
- Oct 17: Pune, Lodge Burnett Centenary
- Oct 23& 25: Jaipur, Philatelic Exhibition

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2008pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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#### COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES STAMPS IN TWO SIZES

India Post issued III Commonwealth Youth Games 2008 on October 12, 2008 in Sheets of 40 Stamps - 10 strips of 4 stamps and in the Miniature Sheet. The size of all 4 stamps from the Miniature Sheet is 40 mm in height, whereas the stamps from Sheet measures 39 mm in height. Size difference is apparent and constant. This variety should be cataloged separately.

Please visit the following link for images:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/364plus1.htm>

#### STAMP BOOK ON TURTLE

The Stamp Book on Turtle is the first product of its kind in India. It contains complete set of 4 different sheetlets of the Aldabra Giant Tortoise issue and a se-tenant pair of Oliver Ridley Turtle stamps of 2000. The book produced by Padmini Ambadi, Calicut in the quantity of 50 individually numbered copies is priced at Rs 2000.

Please visit the following link for images:

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

#### PIN + POSTMAN BEAT CODE

India Post has been introducing improved post code in phased manner since early 2008. PIN Plus appends two digits representing the Postman Beat Code to the existing six digit PIN code.

India Post has created some interesting looking publicity material and a post card is shown at the following link

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/364plus2.htm>

#### AUCTION ACTION

Nov 08: Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com) is holding an Instant Auction Sale closing on November 8, 2008. The scans of some lots are available at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/its\\_offers](http://www.flickr.com/photos/its_offers)

Nov 10: Baroda Philatelic Society Auction #6,  
[vadophil@indianphilately.net](mailto:vadophil@indianphilately.net)

For a list of auctions in India, please visit

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

#### SURPEX 2008

The fourth Surat District Level Philatelic Exhibition was organized by Department of Posts, Gujarat Circle, Vadodara Region from 13-15 October 2008 at Surat. Exhibition was inaugurated by R M S Brar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Surat in the presence of Vijayalaxmi Sheth, Chief Postmaster General, Gujarat. A Stamp and miniature sheet on "Post Office" was released by the Chief Postmaster General and the first album was presented to Dr Bhavanikumar Sharma, an eminent literary person from Surat. The drama "Post Office" was performed by professional theatre troupe at Gandhi Smarak Hall to mark the release of the stamp "Post Office", which is a commemorative stamp on the same work of Rabindranath Tagore. It was an excellent show in Gujarati enjoyed by a big audience.

The Exhibition was organized at Jeevan Bharati School. A total of about sixty frames were on display of which twenty eight frames were of invitee category. Gold, silver and bronze medals in senior and junior category were awarded along with a Special prize for the best collection by the Department. Three awards were also given by Surat Philatelic Association in junior category to promote philately in the younger generation. Senior philatelist Prashant Pandya of Vadodara Philatelic Society judged the exhibition.

A special cover and postmark was released on Poet Veer Narmad by the Chief Postmaster General on the second day of the exhibition. A booklet bearing Dandi March pictures was also released on the occasion. An essay competition and workshop on philately was organized for school students during the exhibition. A souvenir was also released on the occasion. Hiren Jhaveri of Surat Philatelic Association and H V Patel, SSPOs, Surat took special interest and made the event a success.

This district level exhibition was a unique achievement for Surat city. Members of Surat Philatelic Society, literary personalities, eminent citizens and school students attended various programs held as part of SURPEX 2008.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oct 23-25: Jaipur, Inter School SCHOOLPEX-2008  
Venue: St. Xavier's School  
Contact: Rajesh Paharia [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com)

Oct 25-26: Bhubaneswar, Eastern India Philatelic Exhibition EIPEX-2008  
Organizer: Eastern India Philatelists' Association, Bhubaneswar  
Venue: Jayadev Bhawan, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar  
Philatelic issues: 1 Special Cover on Oct 25  
Details: The exhibition will be a non-competitive one and is limited to the members of EIPA only. All the participants will be given a certificate of participation with a commemorative medal or memento. The details of prospectus, entry forms, and inventory forms are available in the website <http://eipadownload.blogspot.com>. The last date of submission of entry forms is October 15, 2008. A souvenir will also be released for the occasion.

Oct 31-Nov 2: Mysore, NUPHIL 08, Stamps and Coins  
Organizer: Mysore Philatelics & Mysore Numismatics  
Venue: Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, opposite Hotel Metropole  
Philatelic issues: 1 Special cover - 'Somanathapur Temple', Special postmark - 25 cash Mysore coin of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar 1799-1868  
Contact: [mysorephilatelics1@gmail.com](mailto:mysorephilatelics1@gmail.com)

Nov 7-9: Mumbai, Numismatic Exhibition  
Venue: Sunderbai Hall, Near Income Tax Office, Churchgate

Nov 21-23: Thrissur, Philatelic Exhibition, THRISSURPEX-2008  
Participation: Open to Kerala State, 100 Frames  
Organizer: Philatelic Club Thrissur, part of their 30 year celebrations  
Venue: Pandya Samootha Madhom, Thrissur  
Dealers Booth: Rs 3,000 (limited to 15 dealers only)  
Philatelic issues: 1 Special postmark Mahatma Gandhi theme  
Contact: [philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com](mailto:philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com)

Dates to be announced: Coins, Numismatic Exhibition  
Organizer: Delhi Coin Society  
Venue: BEING RESCHEDULED AS THE ELECTIONS ARE BEING HELD ON THIS DATE  
Visit: [www.delhicoinsociety.com](http://www.delhicoinsociety.com)  
Contact: [delhicoinsociety@gmail.com](mailto:delhicoinsociety@gmail.com)

2009

Jan 30-Feb 1: Ahmedabad, Festival of Stamps

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2008.htm>

#### MEETINGS

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

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/xl6.htm> for tariff and terms

ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2008 Edited by Suraj Jaitly, 80 pages listing contact details of stamp collectors, dealers, clubs, magazines, websites, from India & overseas. Plus lots of relevant information. Price Rs.250 or US \$8 or Euro 6 OR £4 [Post paid]  
Contact at [surajjaitly@hotmail.com](mailto:surajjaitly@hotmail.com) or [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com)

WANTED India Stamp Booklets of King Edward VII, King George V & VI, Unexploded, exploded, and in all conditions,  
Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA [deogawanka@satyam.net.in](mailto:deogawanka@satyam.net.in)

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](mailto:anildhir2k5@hotmail.com)

#### 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.>

RANJIT SINGH, New Delhi

I happened to visit the so-called stamp exhibition in Vivek Vihar at Delhi. I observe these stamp exhibitions in Delhi are a farce. Don't know when this exhibition was announced, when entries were invited and was there any prospectus? Your newsletter was also silent about the location of this exhibition where I did not find more than 3-4 visitors.

At India Post's Counter several stamps were not available. What I found very objectionable was the cost of Philately Day Miniature Sheet. Though it contains a postage stamp of only Rs 5 and is clearly marked Rs 15 as the value of the Miniature Sheet yet I was charged Rs 20 for each in spite of my protests. What is this? Profiteering or "black

marketing" by India post? Ways the Philately department works are strange and despicable.

Its management is simply worthless. What is the use of issuing new stamps when India post cannot provide them for sale? In your newsletter you also mention that the new issues are available at all Philatelic Bureaus in India it is totally wrong.

What I cannot understand is the SILENCE of numerous philatelic clubs in India on these matters including Delhi Philatelists. I presume the secretaries or presidents of so called philatelic clubs have an axe to grind or they want to please the inefficient high ups in the philately department and remain mute spectators to all that is happening. I have never heard or read any comment from Philatelic clubs about various omissions or inaccuracies.

Why has India post stopped giving details about perforations, number of stamps per sheet, quality of paper, and printing size in Technical Details page of Brochures accompanying new issues? Only a few years back all these details were mentioned in brochures

In case you want to save and promote philately please 'wake up' and do something and do not simply go on extolling the working of high ups who I presume know little about philately.

TIMIR SHAH, Vadodara

India Post has issued stamp on Philately Day on 7-10-08. Cost of stamp is Rs. 5/- but the cost of MS is Rs. 15/- . If you use MS than the postal value will be Rs. 15/- not Rs.5/-. Please clarify the matter with Department of Posts on behalf of fellow philatelists.

ABNASH S LUTHRA, Chandigarh

I am much disturbed at the way the Department of Posts is selling the Philately Day Miniature Sheet at Rs.20/- instead of Rs.15/- which is very clearly mentioned on the sheet itself.

On enquiry I was informed that they have checked it up from the Deputy Director General (Philately) as also from the Security Printing Press. As per their information this Miniature Sheet is to be sold for Rs.15 + Rs.5 = Rs.20 only.

I am sure this matter had been deliberated in the meetings of Philatelic Advisory Committee of the DOP when cost of printing of a Miniature Sheet was discussed.

The purpose of charging Rs.15/- instead of Rs.5/-, as was being done in the past, was to recover the cost of printing from the philatelists alone. Why the philatelists, who are already investing their money on purchase and stocking up the Miniature Sheet, be penalized thus?

Could you kindly use your good offices, consult members of the Philatelic Advisory Committee to bring about some clarity and throw some light on this anomaly?

ILYAS PATEL, Ahmedabad

I have learnt about this nasty business of additional pricing of Miniature Sheet the day on which it was issued. This issue has cropped



up again and philatelists are again on the receiving end. Instead of developing healthy relationship with the philatelists, this is another bolt from blue from DOP forgetting about the unresolved issues. I personally believe that instead of investing in such differential priced Miniature Sheet all the philatelists must unite and boycott it at once. Let it remain in the stock of the Department of Posts. Or otherwise, the Department of Posts must come out with a clarification that when affixed it will counted for Rs 20/- only. But this is the rarest of the rare event looking to the rude behavior of the Department of Posts so far. Looking to the proceedings, it seems that there is an organised gang working in the Department of Posts to take very adventurous decisions to hurt the sentiments of philatelists as well as to destroy the philatelic business of the Department of Posts. The truth is only known to the God alone. I hope and believe that it's time to unite and work together to lodge out protest.

R PURUSHOTHAMAN, Chennai

I find the functioning of our Department of Posts especially the Philately wing is becoming more and more curious.

The stamps officially released are not even printed. Whereas the stamps not officially released are freely available in the market at fantastic prices. Even the stamps officially printed and released are either not available on the day of release or later due to short supply. Really strange are the ways of the Philately wing. I wonder whether all these affairs are going openly with the blessings of the higher ups in the department.

Take the cases of Tortoise and the latest Festivals. The stamps were released and the miniatures were also released as per the brochure. But Miniatures are not available in any of the philatelic bureaus. No reason is given for the release or non-release.

In case of Madhu Bala and Shirdi Sai Baba, they were not available in time and later not available due to short supply. This is the reply I got when I went to Chennai Philatelic Bureau. Again the Sheetlets of Coast Guard were also not available after release. The reason stated in the Bureau was short supply. I don't know the reason behind the short supply for a particular Bureau. In Tamil Nadu itself, there was no such short supply in the Coimbatore Philatelic Bureau. Will the authorities look into the matter and ensure proper supply of philatelic materials to Chennai Philatelic Bureau. As the short supply was reported in the particular Bureau regularly, the matter needs serious attention and the supply should be made appropriately. Due to such short supply they are not able to supply sufficient materials to account holders especially in case of Miniatures and Sheetlets.

I suggest the department of posts to publish the number of stamps/sheets, Miniature sheets, FDCs. Brochures, Maxim Cards etc sent to each Bureau in their site. Similarly the Bureaus should also display the stock received and available on every day basis. Data on the number of active accounts should also be displayed.

Will the authorities look into the matter and do the needful in the interest of the philatelists. I hope your magazine will take up the matter seriously and do something for the philatelists who are taking the same as hobby. There may be a number of people to support the cause

of the traders and I write this to your journal hoping that you would give your earnest support to philately for philatelists.

SWAPAN CHAKRAVORTY,

As I am getting engrossed to philately day by day, a dismal feeling about the appearance of average stamps of India starts inflicting in me. I have observed that the used stamps of India become lack-luster, faded and unattractive with the passage of time. Whereas, even, stamps of other not-so-rich countries e.g. Bhutan, Malta, Bangladesh, Nicaragua, etc. remain exchange-worthy for quite a significant length of time.

I tried to explore the reasons. The mention-worthy reasons are  
1) Quality of base paper 2) Pigment 3) Glossy, waterproof lacquer-like top coat 4) Smudged-up hand stamping instead of thin lined machine cancelling 5) Rigorous handling treatment on transit.

How to proceed further for corrective action in this regard?

JIGAR DESAI, Mumbai

This is with reference to the new postage stamp released by India Post of Post office (In Hindi DAK GHAR ) where the printed price on miniature sheet is Rs.15/- but it is sold by philatelic bureau at Rs.20/-. When I asked them why it is sold at Rs.20/- then they say we got order to sell this miniature sheet at Rs.20/- only. When I asked to higher authority about this they say 'Do not complain to us, go and write letter to the ministry. We do not take decision, it comes from Delhi. You can complain to Delhi'.

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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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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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Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

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

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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