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STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION

The First, Free & Only Email Newsletter on Philately, Postal History, & Postal Services of India

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

Published Every Thursday

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Awards: Silver Medal with Felicitations of the Jury at BELGICA 2001 World Stamp Exhibition

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## JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Marie-Louise Heiri, Secretary General, FIP pointed out to us at BELGICA 2001 that we have mixed up 'World Stamp Cup' and 'World Stamp Championship' in our editorial of Issue # 38. We now carry the clarification very kindly sent in by her at our request.

"Here the requested clarification: Nation's Cup: The NC is a tournament (like soccer) where teams (countries) compete against each other not individuals. It is a low budget kind of competition, which does not mean that the exhibits have to be "low budget" as well. It is planned that there will regional, continental and world competitions. During this year trial runs are being organized, the next in Finland where Italy, Sweden and Finland will compete against each other. The final round of judging is also being done in public. (The rules for this contest will be in the next issue of FLASH).

The World Stamp Championship will be organized more like an Olympiad. The competitors will run under their countries flag but they still compete individually. It will be a much more elaborate competition and it is planned that such competitions will take place every two year coinciding with the FIP Congress. (We will have information on these two projects in every issue of FLASH.)”

The Publication of our book is delayed further. We have to rescan all 2000 images and will announce the new dispatch date soon. Kindly bear with us.

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

- M&SJ

PS: Our Thanks to the contributors to this issue:

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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### HEAD OF PHILATELY DIVISION OF INDIA POST CHANGED

Vinod Dhamija replaced Rameshwari Handa as Deputy Director General, Philately, at India Post HQ on July 11, 2001 in an unexpected but not unprecedented move.

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##### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

President of India released a set of 4 commemorative stamps in Personalities Series on July 6, 2001 at New Delhi in the denomination of Rs.4, the inland letter rate. This issue's theme was 'The Spirit of Nationalism', and the personalities included were: Syama Prasad Mookerjee, C Sankaran Nair, U Klang Nongbah, and Krishna Nath Sarmah. The Minister of Communications, Ram Vilas Paswan presented an album to the President. B N Som, Director General of India Post, and Gautam Gupta, Member (Operations) of Postal Services Board was also present at the occasion.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee (1901-1953) inherited a rich tradition of nationalism and fearlessness from his illustrious father, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee. A brilliant academic, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University in 1934. He resigned as Finance Minister of Bengal in 1941 in protest against the British policies and continued to oppose the British colonial rule till India attained independence. In independent India, he was part of the first National Government of 1947. He argued strongly for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India and was arrested while on a campaign in Srinagar in 1953. He died while in custody. He was a nationalist to the core and "Country comes first" was his watchword.

C. Sankaran Nair (1857-1934) made a mark as an eminent lawyer early in his career and went on to become a Judge of the High Court of Madras, in which capacity he was considered one of the ablest. The British Government recognised his abilities and conferred many distinctions and honours upon him, culminating in his nomination to the Viceroy's Council in 1919. Despite his admiration for the British democratic institutions, Sankaran Nair was an ardent nationalist who had the courage to speak out for his country.

U. Kiang Nongbah was a great freedom fighter of the Jaintia hills of Meghalaya, who lived and fought his epic struggle against the British during the first War of Independence (1857) and after. As he grew up, he was consumed by a passion to drive out the foreign invaders from his

motherland. Opportunity came his way when he was elected leader of a group of headmen and he went on to lead the war of liberation of Jaintia against the British.

Krishna Nath Sarmah (1887-1947) was a renowned nationalist and social reformer from Assam. Heeding to the call of Mahatma Gandhi, he joined the freedom struggle, renouncing a flourishing legal practice and a promising career. As one among the founders of the Congress in Assam and with active presence in it at the national level, he concentrated on the constructive work and never aspired for any position. He played an active role in the promotion of Khadi and propagation of Hindi in Assam.

Alka Sharma designed the stamp and the pictorial first day of issue postmark. Suresh Kumar designed the First Day Cover. Eagle Press Private Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 400,000 each. The issued sheet contains 40 stamps.

The First Day Cover along with the information sheet for these issues, priced at Rs. 2 each, are also available on sale at all Philatelic Bureaus, Philatelic Counters, and at the Head Post Offices all over the country.

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#### NEW ISSUE UPDATE

Next Issue & Addition to the Program:

July 21, 2001: Chandragupta Maurya

July 22, 2001: Jhalkari Bai

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#### PREMATURE RELEASE

Our correspondent for Punjab, Rakesh Walia reports that the stamp on Sant Ravidas was released in Jalandhar, Punjab before the release of the actual date, June 24, 2001 and 3 postal employees are suspended for the same.

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#### QUALITY OF SERVICE FUND WORKSHOP

B N Som, Director General India Post & Trustee of UPU's Quality Of Service Fund inaugurated the Quality Of Service Fund Workshop organized at the HQ on July 9 & 10, 2001. P N Ranjit Kumar, Assistant Director General, Philately, at India Post HQ was one of the participants at this workshop.

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TELEGRAM FORMS WITH STAMPS

Recently in Kolkata, 10 to 40 ton of telegraph forms, with the charges paid through stamps and meter franking, from 1940's and 1950's were salvaged from being pulped. Many of these telegrams are very historic in nature being the official messages between India and Pakistan immediately after the partition.

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INDIA AND IRAQ SET UP JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

An Iraqi delegation led by the Minister of Transport and Communications, Dr. Ahmad Al Khalil called on the Minister of Communications, Ram Vilas Paswan here today. During the talks, Paswan referred to the historical and traditional ties between the two countries and expressed concern at the enormous human suffering and hardship caused by sanctions against Iraq. He reiterated India's support to Iraq for its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said that India has consistently advocated lifting of the UN sanctions against Iraq through articulations in UN and various other fora.

Indicating that India would like to further strengthen its ties with Iraq, Paswan suggested for cooperation in the Training, manufacturing, consultancy and R&D sectors. He said that India has an excellent network of 43 training centers spread across the country. He said the Advance Level Telecom Training Center (ALTTC) is a world-class training institution equipped with the most modern training facilities. He also said that with the large pool of technical experts available in the country, India can cater to the telecom equipment requirements of Iraq. Shri Paswan also mentioned about the telephone exchanges developed by C-DOT, which are rugged and operate in adverse environmental conditions. He said that India has been very successful in providing consultancy in setting up telecom network in a number of countries. R&D Development could also be taken up jointly, he said.

The Minister of State for Communications, Tapan Sikdar said that India has stood by Iraq all the time and will continue to do so in the future.

The Iraqi Minister expressed his happiness at the cooperation extended by India and said that his country would look forward to collaborations in the fields in which India has expertise. He specifically appreciated India's political support in the efforts to lift sanctions.

Later, both the sides held delegation level talks and decided to form a Joint Working Group on Communications under the overall framework of India-Iraq Joint Commission. The Joint Working Group will consist of representatives of Department of Telecom, Department of Posts and Ministry of External Affairs besides representatives from Telecom PSUs and CII and FICCI. Iraqi side will also nominate their representatives for the Working Group.

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INDIA POST AND SBI MUTUAL FUND ENTER INTO STRATEGIC TIE-UP

India Post and State Bank of India Mutual Fund (SBIMF) have entered into a strategic partnership to enable investors to make their investments in any of SBIMF's schemes through the post offices. The Chief Post Master General (CPMG) Delhi Shri S. Chadha launched the "Partnership between India Post and SBI, Mutual Fund" at a function here today. The Deputy General Manager, SBI Shri A.C. Verma and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

As per the tie-up, the SBIMF will be working closely with India Post to train their counter staff about various schemes, their objectives and their suitability to different investor profiles. Investors can seek the advice of the designated staff in the Post Offices to identify the scheme suitably for their needs and invest in the same across the counter.

This partnership will enable a large number of investors to conveniently invest with SBIMF, while India Post will now be able to increase the depth and range of its offerings to its customers. It will also benefit the customers in having a wide range of financial services being offered under a single roof at the post offices.

The facility will be initially available at designated India Post Offices in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Chandigarh. In Delhi, to start with, this facility will be available at the Parliament Street Head Office.

The India Post-SBI Mutual Fund alliance, coming in the wake of the partnership with IDBI-Principal to market mutual funds, is symbolic of the significant changes taking place within the Department of Posts to diversify into the Financial Services sector. India Post had, just a few months earlier, entered into a partnership with IDBI Principal for distribution of their mutual fund. Today IDBI Principal mutual funds are available through Post Offices on a countrywide basis. Now with the addition of SBI Mutual Funds, customers of the Post Office can pick and choose their investment portfolios.

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Join INDIA POST'S STANDING ORDER DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

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## EVENTS

### STATE LEVEL

Three state level shows are due this year, as per India Post's current norm of holding every four years. These are Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa. In the three newly created states, Jharkhand has already organized its first state level show earlier this year and Chhatisgarh and Uttranchal may also hold their first show later this year.

### NATIONAL

Mumbai may host a national in December this year. Bhubaneswar and Delhi may also host nationals in 2002 and 2003. The details are being worked out.

### WORLD

India may hold its next World level show in 2004 to mark the Sesquicentennial of Postage Stamps and establishment of the office of the Director General.

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## AUCTIONS

SA STAMP CO., PATIALA

Sanjay Dhawan of SA Stamp Company [sastamps@glide.net.in](mailto:sastamps@glide.net.in) informs that their 9<sup>th</sup> Postal auction catalog is ready for dispatch. The closing date of the Auction is 14th August, 2001.

INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY, LUDHIANA

Suraj Jaitly, of Indian Thematic Society [sjits@satyam.net.in](mailto:sjits@satyam.net.in) informs that 13<sup>th</sup> Postal Auction is being held with August 7, 2001 as the closing date. The catalog is available online at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/content/auctions/a706.htm>

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STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

This week the following segments have been updated on the site:  
News

This week the following has been added to the site:

Our website, the Gateway to Indian Philately, presents the information in following segments:

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMP ON AMITABH BACHCHAN

We have learned from reliable sources that Bhutan is soon going to issue a set on Indian Personalities, including a stamp on Amitabh Bachchan, the best Actor of the Millennium according to BBC web site survey.

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RESEARCH NOTES

Segment Coordinator: Manohar Lal [mlal@stampsofindia.net](mailto:mlal@stampsofindia.net)  
Mailing Address: 9-B/6654 Dev Nagar, Gali # 6, New Delhi 110005.

[Most of the writings here are the first time publication of Manohar Lal's painstaking research conducted over eight years, full time, at National Archives of India and other institutions since his retirement as Chief Engineer of Northern Railways. He has published two books and several articles. He won Gold medal with Felicitations of the Jury for his exhibit Postal History of Indian



Army 1914-1922 at London in 1990 as well as for his exhibit Postal stationery of India 1855-1947 at New Delhi in 1997.]

#### NOTES ON PAKISTAN – Part 26

Earlier parts were published in our issues # 18 to 43, except # 26. These as well as all back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

#### THIRTEEN KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

December 12, 1953, Bombay: Two passengers including top ranking Bharti Labour Leader Harihar Nath Shastri who was a member of the Bharti Parliament and three members of the crew were killed when a Madras bound plane from Nagpur crashed near Nagpur airport this morning. The sole survivor was Capt. Cartner, Commander of the aircraft. The plane crashed about two miles from the airport shortly after taking off for Madras.

#### CAUSE OF AIR CRASH NEAR NAGPUR

December 13, 1953, Nagpur: It is believed that the probable cause of the crash of the ill-fated plane yesterday night be failure of one of the engines of the Dakota Immediately after its "take off" from the airport and that in all probability the plane could not lift itself with only one engine functioning, Technical Observers said that possibly the pilot survived to "belly land".

#### BOAC REGRET COMET CRASH

##### PAKISTAN MAIL ON ILL-FATED COMET PRESUMED LOST

January 14, 1954: A Posts and Telegraphs Department Press Note issued yesterday (Jan 13, 1954) says: The ill-fated west bound BOAC Comet plane, which crashed in the Mediterranean on Sunday (Jan 10, 1954), was carrying mails from Pakistan for the UK, Central America, Canada, Portugal, Austria, Norway, Hungary, Spain, Yugoslavia, Poland, Malta, Finland, Argentina, Moscow and Denmark posted on Jan 9 up to 16.00 hrs at Karachi and on Jan 7 and 8 in West and East Pakistan.

Preliminary information available indicate that the mails may be presumed as lost. Future details will be given when received.

##### PAKISTANI MAIL ABROAD PAL PLANE LOST

The ill-fated west bound Philippine Airlines plane, which took off from Karachi for London on Jan 13 and crashed at Rome's Clampiano airport on Jan 14 was carrying mails from Pakistan for Germany posted on Jan 13 up to 19.30 hrs at Karachi and on Jan 11 and 12 in West Pakistan, according to a Press Note issued by the Pakistan Posts and Telegraph Department. The preliminary information available, the Press Note adds, indicates that the mails may be presumed lost.

#### STEADY PROGRESS IN AIRMAIL SERVICE

Pakistan has maintained steady progress in airmail services. According to statistics compiled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department the volume and value of letters carried by airmail services during the financial year ended March 31, 1953 was 4,83,000 lbs and about Rs. 53,00,000 as against 3,43,000 lbs and about Rs. 47,00,000 in the financial year 1951-52. The weight of airmails during the year 1950-51 was 3,05,000 lbs and its value about Rs. 41,00,000. An important development during the year 1952-53 was the introduction of the all up airmail service between East and West Pakistan in respect of letters, postcards and money orders with effect from April 1952.

This was followed by introduction of air parcel service between the two wings of Pakistan from August 15, 1952. And 87,000 lbs of air parcels were conveyed between East and West Pakistan during 1952-53.

#### PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

The first part of the scheme for the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will come into operation next month when the Technical Training Unit and the Traffic Handling Unit start functioning, it is reliably learnt.

Regular commercial service of the Airlines would start in April next year after it has received three Super Constellations. The planes would fly between Karachi and Dacca and Karachi and London, touching one of the Middle East Countries. APP

#### PAKISTAN POSTAL FACILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE

Official Survey of 1952-53 – extract: There has been a vast improvement in the sphere of airmail service due to an air crash, however, the frequency of the airmail service between East and West Pakistan which was daily had to be reduced to five times a week with effect from March 15, 1953. The frequency of Dacca-Jessore airmail service was increased from four to six times a week. The Orient Airways introduced once a week air service between Karachi and Multan. This service operated up to Lahore thus increasing the frequency of Karachi – Lahore airmail service from three to four times a week.

To be continued in the next issue.

The above is gleaned from the microfilms, available at the Nehru Memorial Library New Delhi, of the 'Civil & Military Gazette' and 'Dawn', published from Lahore and Karachi respectively.

#### ASK US

Please send your queries in detail (illustrations welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to provide an answer to you online. Submit here [askus@stampsfindia.com](mailto:askus@stampsfindia.com)

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#### READERS FORUM

<Send in your views for publication here>

Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap from Binningen, Switzerland writes

Thank you very much for sending me your Weekly Newsletter on Indian Philately regularly on my e-mail address. It is the only Newsletter on philately published and e-mailed anywhere in the world, I believe. So I thank you and the other contributors for this excellent work. I have been associated with philately since 1950 and have been taking keen interest in thematics as well as postal history of India, so in that respect I am very thankful to you for helping me to add knowledge about philately in India and in other countries also. So I welcome the association of India Post with other postal authorities, such as Chinese and French. I also remark that the design and printing of commemoratives from India has improved a lot. At the same time do not understand why the definitives have been neglected so much. Congratulations for winning award at Belgica 2001. Thank you once again. July 9, 2001

#### FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. We strive hard to bring you the comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please let us have your thoughts and suggestions. Also we would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send your comments, questions, news, reports, articles and other contributions to [edit@stampsfindia.com](mailto:edit@stampsfindia.com) We look forward to hearing from you!

#### CONTRIBUTERS INVITED

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THANK YOU.

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## ABOUT THE EDITORS

Madhukar and Savita Jhingan are active members of numerous philatelic organizations among others life members of the Indian Stamp Collectors Association, Philatelic Congress of India, the American Philatelic Society, and members of Olympic Philatelists of India, Indian Philatelic Press Club, Philatelic Web Masters Organization and International Association of Philatelic Journalists.

## ABOUT THE PUBLISHERS

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