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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First, Free & Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India
AWARDS: Silver Medal with 'Felicitations of the Jury' at BELGICA 2001

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Issue # 57 - March 21, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan  
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our main web site, the 'Stamps of India' is, at present, available ONLY at its alternate location - <http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan> and all our other web sites are off air for the time being. This is a temporary arrangement and we therefore have not changed the links either here or at site. This necessitates that you substitute stampsfindia.com with geocities.com/mjhingan in the links for them to work.

Meanwhile please use ONLY mjhingan@yahoo.com in place of all email addresses at stampsfindia.com or stampsfindia.net, given either here or at our web site.

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I N T H I S I S S U E

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Recommend this newsletter to friends
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have finalized plans to publish a Journal of about 24 A4 size pages, once in every two months, devoted to the history of postal communications in India including princely states and post offices abroad.

We have decided to keep it free for the time being and plan to publish the first issue soon for March and April 2002.

We will also continue with our column 'Research Notes' in every issue of this newsletter.

We invite your suggestions and contributions for the same.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors to this issue: Dr. Satish K Sondhi of Ludhiana

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists
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#### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### NEW STAMP RELEASED - Indian Ordnance Factories

George Fernandes, Union Minister for Defense released a stamp to commemorate bicentennial of Indian Ordnance Factories during the Bicentenary Closing Ceremony held at Kolkata on March 18, 2002. Tapan Sikdar, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology was also present on the occasion.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4 that is the current inland letter rate. Suresh Kumar designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 800,000. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps. An informative brochure containing write-up and technical data, priced at Rs. 2, was also brought out.

The stamps, First Day Covers along with the information sheets are available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters.

##### NEW ISSUE UPDATE

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The Program of issues for 2002 is yet to be announced by India Post. The next Issue is scheduled for April 6 on Murmu Brothers of Santhal Rebellion fame.
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##### EXHIBITIONS AT LUDHIANA AND KRISHNA NAGAR

India Post is organizing a Regional philatelic exhibition KRISHNAPHILEX 2002 on March 22 to 24, 2002 at Krishna Nagar in West Bengal. For more information please contact the Post Master, Krishna Nagar Head Post Office - 741101.

India Post is organizing a District level stamp exhibition LUPHILA 2002 on April 13 and 14, 2002 at Ludhiana Head Post Office. On this occasion Ludhiana Philatelic club is organizing a Stamp Bazar. In addition, Quiz competition, and on the spot Painting competition are also planned. For further information contact the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Ludhiana , Telephone 0161-426003, e-mail:[mlsuman@indiapost.org](mailto:mlsuman@indiapost.org) Or Yash Pal Bangia, Officer In Charge of the Philatelic Bureau, Ludhiana - 141001, Telephone 0161-400571 Or Dr. S K Sondhi, 20-A, Sarabah Nagar, Ludhiana-141001 e-mail. [sksondhil@sify.com](mailto:sksondhil@sify.com)  
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PROPOSED POSTAL TARIFF INCREASE UPDATE

The members of parliament from the ruling Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) have asked Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha for withdrawal of the hike in postal tariffs.

The party members of parliament would meet Sinha before the passage of the Finance Bill in May to discuss these issues, BJP spokesman V K

Malhotra said on March 19, 2002, after a BJP parliamentary party meeting at New Delhi.

The members have also conveyed their displeasure over the hike in postal tariffs to the Communications Minister Pramod Mahajan, he said.

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G MADAN MOHAN DAS VISITING DELHI

The National Commissioner for PHILAKOREA 2002 World Philatelic Exhibition, G Madan Mohan Das is arriving from Chennai on March 21, 2002 for pursuing various official clearances required for Indian participation. The exhibition shall be held in August this year. Das is expected to be in Delhi for a few days and shall naturally be meeting local philatelists.

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MORE EGROUPS

In the previous issue we erroneously reported about there being only two eGroups at Yahoo on Indian Philately. Well for one thing this goes on to confirm, what many suspected all along, that we are only humans. We report here with apologies to group moderators of the egroups that we missed out on, in the issue # 56.

Indian Philately Discussion Group moderated by Mehul Shah at Yahoo Groups has nearly 100 members. This group was started in August 2001. Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/indianphilately_disc_group

All three eGroups, two reported in previous issue as well as the one reported now, are being promoted through our web site that prominently provides direct link for joining these on the home page itself.

For the record, there are two more eGroups, both moderated by Ravinder Agarwal that were started in February 2001 and have about half a dozen members. These are "Indiainstamps · stamps of india - exchange group" and "stamps_india · stamps of india - exchange group".

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LOGISTICS POST

India Post plans launching by year end a new service "Logistics Post", to transport bulk goods from consumer durables to fast-moving consumer goods. As of now the department handles only parcels up to 35 kg. The project details are still being worked out, but the department has commenced talks with the Railways and the Transportation Corporation of India. The project is targeted at the corporate sector and through it; India Post is eyeing additional revenue of over Rs 10 billion.

The project requires the support of a strong distribution network, better equipment and warehouse facilities. A sizeable number of employees will undergo training to handle the operations for Logistics Post. The service would require significant investment.

"India Post will act like a C & F agent," said O S Veerwal, Additional General Manager, Business Development Directorate of India Post.

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INDIA STUDY CIRCLE ON THE WEB

The Secretary of the India Study Circle, Chris Haines reports that very soon an official and comprehensive site of the Circle shall be available at <http://www.indiastudycircle.org>. Ron Rice, the editor of princelystates.com, is entrusted with the development work.

FAKE STAMP PAPERS RACKET BUSTED IN JAMMU

With the arrest of three persons on March 19, State Police today has busted an inter-state gang involved in printing and sale of fake stamp papers. One of the members of the gang was arrested from Jammu City while two others from Delhi. The kingpin of the gang is still at large but police hopes to arrest him within days. From the arrested persons fake stamp papers of Rs 1000 and Rs 500 denominations were recovered.

Talking to media-persons, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) - Jammu, Farooq Khan informed that the gang had been operating from Delhi for the past two years but it spread its tentacles in this State about six months back. From the preliminary investigation it has been established that all the nabbed persons were involved in printing of fake stamp papers. "We had been receiving information about the circulation of fake stamp-papers for the past some time and acting on that information we alerted our sources", SSP said, adding "on March 10 our sources informed us that a person has come to Jammu to deliver the consignment of fake stamp papers".

Immediately after receiving information, a police team swung into action and succeeded in apprehending one Vijay Kumar, son of Gian Chand of Shastri Park, Brahmpura, Shadhra Delhi. He was one of the members of the gang that used to print the fake stamp papers and this was his first attempt to deliver the consignment of 30 stamp papers of Rs 1000 denomination. "Unfortunately, we could not nab the person who had to receive the consignment from Vijay Kumar", the SSP said, adding, "Vijay Kumar on his interrogation disclosed few areas in Delhi where the other members used to stay".

On the disclosures of Vijay Kumar, a special police team rushed to Delhi and that team with the active cooperation of Delhi Police succeeded in apprehending two more members of the gang on March 11 and 12 and they have been identified as Samir Ahmed, son of Hanif Ahmed of Brahm Nagar, Loni in Gaziabad and Sartaj Ahmed, son of Sadeer Ahmed of Delhi. From them, 23 fake stamp-papers were recovered.

However, the police could not apprehend the kingpin of the gang Mohd. Arif, son of Sultan Ahmed of Bulbul Khana area in Delhi. "All the three arrested persons were on one occasion or the other involved in printing of fake stamp papers and from the quality of the papers it seems that the gang had been working on the theory since long", Khan said, adding "screen as well as block printing has been used to prepare such finest quality of fake stamp-papers which cannot be easily differentiated from original ones".

When asked, he could not rule out the possibility of such forged stamp-papers having been circulated in the market and even used in number of deals in courts. "We are also working on this and trying to establish the facts", he said, adding "police is also working on certain leads to trace out the main conduits in the State who are obviously the stamp-paper vendors".

"The detection of fake currency chances are more as compared to fake stamp-papers as currency at one point of time reaches in the banks where its forgery can be established", the SSP said, adding "the fake stamp-papers once used in judiciary work can not be traced out thus affecting loss to Government revenue". In reply to another query, SSP

said that the block being used for printing fake stamp-papers is in the possession of kingpin.

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CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

We require regular correspondents everywhere in India to cover the philatelic activities in their area. We shall reimburse the costs of photos, covers, publications, courier and other charges. All contributions shall be acknowledged. Please Contact [admin@stampsofindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsofindia.com) today!

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STAMPSONINDIA.COM UPDATES

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments:

NEWS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/a100.htm>

ISSUES <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Issues/a200.htm>

EVENTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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ARTICLES <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Features/a500.htm>

ASK US <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Questions/f00.htm>

LINKS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Links/z00.htm>

THIS WEEK

Updated Segments: News

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

OSAMA BIN LADEN ON STAMPS FROM AFGHANISTAN?

Maritim Agency from Belarus is hawking a sheetlet of 9 stamps purportedly issued by Afghanistan with the mug shot of Osama Bin Laden and inscription 'Wanted for \$ 10 million'. It is one of the many illegal issues that this agency is offering.

The Afghan Government is on record that their postal administration has issued no new stamps since 1989.

Kindly cooperate with the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) by informing the fellow collectors, in particular those collecting popular themes, about illegal stamps.

Please feel free to contact the WADP Secretariat directly at the following address with any queries that you may have regarding stamps on the market and their authenticity.

More information about the WADP and philatelic activities of the Universal Postal Union and their publications can be obtained by contacting the official in charge:

Maria Libera, Program Manager, Marketing Development Responsible for Philately, Assistant Secretary of the WADP, WADP Secretariat, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Case Postale, 3000 BERNE 15, Switzerland. Tel: +41 31 350 32 15 Fax: +41 31 350 31 10 and 351 02 66 email: [maria.libera@upu.int](mailto:maria.libera@upu.int)

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 5

NOTIFICATION

Under the provisions of Sections 13, 19, 20 and 63 of "The Indian Post Office Act 1866," the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following orders in respect of articles which may be posted, on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1873, at any Indian Post Office for transmission to any place in India.

2. Covers open at the ends and not exceeding 10 tolas in weight shall be forwarded by letter post at the same postage rate (one anna) as provided for unregistered newspapers; but no such cover may contain any letter or communication of the nature of a letter unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed.

3. The scale of postage chargeable on parcels and packets sent by banghy post shall commence with the rate chargeable on a parcel or packet not exceeding 20 tolas in weight, and shall progress by limits of 10 tolas each according to the following table, viz: -  
For a cover not exceeding 20 tolas in weight - 4 annas for Parcels and 2 annas for Packets;  
For a cover exceeding 20 tolas and not exceeding 30 tolas in weight - 6 annas for Parcels and 3 annas for Packets;  
For every additional 10 tolas or fraction thereof - 2 annas for Parcels and 1 anna for Packets.

4. The full prepayment of postage chargeable on packets shall be compulsory, and every unpaid or insufficiently paid packet shall be treated and charged as a parcel.

5. There shall be no separate registration of packets, but any packet may be transmitted by the sender as a parcel under the system of registration applicable to parcels.

6. Any person tendering a parcel at a post office within the prescribed hours shall be entitled to receive a receipt for it, provided that the parcel so tendered is securely packed in cloth, wax-cloth or tin; and if it is packed in cloth or wax-cloth, provided further that it bears seals with distinct impressions of some device (not that of a current coin) at intervals not exceeding five inches along the lines of sewing.

7. Cash shall not be received at any post office in prepayment of parcel postage.

8. Annexed is a summary of the postage chargeable on, and the principal conditions appertaining to the several classes of correspondence as modified by the above orders.

SUMMARY OF POSTAGE RATES AND CONDITIONS FOR INLAND CORRESPONDENCE  
Prepaid Postage Rates

LETTER POST

Not exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$  tola in weight -  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna

Exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$  tola and not exceeding 1 tola in weight - 1 anna

Exceeding 1 tola and not exceeding 2 tolas in weight - 2 annas  
For every additional tola - 1 anna

To be continued in the next issue.

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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.

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. We strive hard to bring you comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions. We also would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send in your comments, views, reports, articles and other features for publication>

MANSOOR BOLAR

I have written to this column a few times and think that this is a very good medium to discuss about Philately and express our views. I hope that more subscribers air their views through this column. I would like to thank the publishers for the same.

Recently when I receive foreign mail I have noted that the envelope or FDC's are being torn a little (It is evident that it is torn by hand) I do not understand the intention behind the same. But the authorities who do so have to note that it does not harm much when it is just a letter, but the same is not so when we Philatelists want to preserve the cover or FDC's. Sometimes, the stamps or miniature sheet enclosed are also damaged by this act. I would like to know if others who receive overseas mail are experiencing the same.

ZULAIHA

Am I wrong in saying that the Indian definitives are produced in a haphazard manner, except for the 1st 4 issues? Where can one get detailed information about the definitives? Is the latest series the 7th or the 8th and does it have a title? Please help

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Rajesh K Agarwala, CAPITAL STAMP CENTER, 2215 Hardhiyan Singh Road, 2nd
Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005 Phone: [Office]
5728110, 5816045 [Residence] 5260163, 5271349 [Mobile]: 9810226692
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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Publications/a600.htm>  
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Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110 063 India  
Phone: + 91-11-5281578 Mobiles: 98681 40089 (MJ), 98111 60884 (SJ)  
Web Site: [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com) OR [www.geocities.com/mjhingan](http://www.geocities.com/mjhingan)  
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