

ISSN 0972-3587

----- 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 # 60 - April 11, 2002. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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To subscribe for free, or to unsubscribe email to mjhingan@yahoo.com

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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 stampsofindia.com with geocities.com/mjhingan in the links for them to work.

Meanwhile please use ONLY [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) in place of all email addresses at stampsofindia.com or stampsofindia.net, given either here or at our web site.

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I N T H I S I S S U E

More on P-Stamps in India
New Stamp Released
India at Argyll Etkin Auction
South Asia eGroup Launched
Nepal's Program for 2002
ATA Chapter in India
India Study Circle on the Web
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NewsScan -Email Heralds the Last Post for India's Flying Civil Servants
Research Notes - India Post In The Year 1873, Part 8

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Recommend this newsletter to friends

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Since 1997, when we started our first website and later when this newsletter was started, we have been fully committed to this task. We have already spent nearly half a million rupees (US \$ 10,000) from that time. At present we are financially constrained to carry on with similar infusion of funds that are required to continue with this work and that is why the site is currently running on geocities.

We therefore seek voluntary contributions to defray the costs of telephone bills, Internet access, and Web Sites Hosting that is coming to about US \$ 100 per month.

As the cost of transferring funds internationally is high, it will be a good idea if our friends abroad volunteer to collect it in their own country and remit in a consolidated manner.

We are still committed to carry on the work of Stamps of India, however your support will make our task easier.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Jag Mohan Kapur from New Delhi, Shyam P Nhuchhe Pradhan from Nepal, Ron Rice from USA, and Deccan Chronicle.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORE ON P-STAMPS IN INDIA

Madhukar Deogawanka from Kolkata informs that the P-stamps reported in our issue # 59 actually are photographic prints on photographic paper of the customer's photograph that is printed in the multiple of 6 or 8. The postage stamps taken from the normal sheets of stamps have then been individually pasted next to each photograph. Now anyone anywhere in the world can have personalized Indian stamps.

"Horrendous" is how he describes these and credits S B Bhattacharya the then Principal Chief Post Master General of West Bengal for their introduction. Bhattacharya has been the key postal official for two national philatelic exhibitions - INPEX 93 and MILLEPEX 2000 and currently has the additional charge of Member (Operations) of the Postal Services Board - the immediate superior to the head of the philatelic division.

India Post has had several officers visit the International Exhibitions regularly since the introduction of P-Stamps by other Postal Administrations and seen the excitement that has been generated among the philatelists and non-philatelists. We hope that this exciting promotional tool for philately would soon be adopted by India Post in the correct manner and utilized for the promotion of philately.

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##### NEW STAMP RELEASED - Sido Murmu, Kanhu Murmu

The Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee released a stamp to commemorate Sido Murmu and Kanhu Murmu at his residence at New Delhi on April 6, 2002. The Murmu brothers were the leaders of the famous Santhal Liberation Movement of 1855-1857.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4 that is the current inland letter rate. Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the first day postmark. Eagle Press Private Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo-offset in four colors on imported un-watermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 400,000. 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, all over India.

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INDIA AT ARGYLL ETKIN AUCTION

Over 200 lots of Stamps and Postal History items of India are being offered in the auction sale by Argyll Etkin on April 29, 2002 at London, UK.

The high lights of the sale are the Famous Inverted Head Error (estimated at £ 10000-15000), Scinde Dawk Red (£ 3000-4000) Blue and White, Lithograph ½ Anna Blue Die 1 and 3 in complete sheets, 4 Annas Fourth Printing pair, and several such gems.

For details please contact: argyll.etkin@btconnect.com

Argyll Etkin Limited, 1-9 Hills Place, Oxford Circus, London W1F 7SA, UK
Telephone: 0207 437 7800, Fax: 0207 434 1060, www.argyll-etkin.com

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SOUTH ASIA EGROUPE LAUNCHED

A new egroupe 'SAARC Philately' at Yahoo Groups was launched on April 9, 2002. The SAARC stands for South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation that was formed in 1985 and has India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives as the members. This group is open to collectors and Dealers of stamps, phone cards, bank notes, and coins, etc from these countries. Here you can exchange, trade, sell, buy, your collecting items. The Group Moderator Naveen Samuel says 'Please no politics, NO SPAMMING, No adult stuff here, Keep this group neat'.

To subscribe please click on [saarcphilately-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:saarcphilately-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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NEPAL'S PROGRAM FOR 2002

March - Nepal Scouts, 50th Anniversary - Rs. 5

April - World Cup Football - Rs. 15

June - King Gyanendra's Accession to the Throne - Rs. 5

June - Late King Birendra and Royal Family - Rs. 10

July - Painting Series, Set of 2 - Rs. 5 and 10

August - Insect Series, Set of 2 - Rs. 2 and 3

September - Visit Nepal Series, Set of 4 - Rs. 2, 5, 10, and 25

(Galeshor Mahadev at Myagdi, Temple of Pathivara at Taplejung, Ramgram at Nawalparasi, and Mount Nilgiri)

October - International Event - Rs. 20

November - Personalities series, Set of 2 - Rs. 2 and 25

(Dayabir Singh Kansakar and Ikai Kawa Guchi)

For more details please contact His Majesty's Government, Nepal Post, Philatelic Bureau, GPO Building Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal. Telephone 241895

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ATA CHAPTER IN INDIA

American Topical Association has accepted the Indian Thematic Society as its Chapter # 102 earlier this month. It publishes a quarterly journal 'ITS Stamps News'. Suraj Jaitly [sjits@satyam.net.in](mailto:sjits@satyam.net.in) is the General Secretary of the society and the editor of this journal.

Their contact information is:

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com)

MIG #3464 Phase 2, Dugri Road, Ludhiana-141002 Telephone: +91-161-521244

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INDIA STUDY CIRCLE ON THE WEB

The India Study Circle for Philately is now on the web at
<http://www.indiastudycircle.org/>.

The ISC was established in the United Kingdom in 1950 to study stamps and postal history of the Indian subcontinent. The society's interests include India (British and Modern), the Indian Convention and Feudatory States, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Bhutan, Nepal and Sikkim. The Society is also devoted to foreign possessions in India (Danish, French, Portuguese), and areas abroad that were administered by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (East Africa, Aden, Persian Gulf, etc.). The ISC is perhaps best known for its scholarly journal 'India Post' that is published 4 times a year.

The new ISC website contains a wealth of information about the Society's scope, history, officers, publications, and libraries. Member activities are described in detail, including auctions, exchange packets, competitions, and more. A fun feature of the website is the "Cover of the Month"—a display of attractive postal history that will change each month.

The Society has over 500 members worldwide and invites anyone with an interest in Indian philately to join and participate in activities. Those wishing to join the ISC will find the online membership application very easy to use. For more information, please visit the ISC website or email webmaster@indiastudycircle.org.

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PAKISTAN STUDY CIRCLE FORMED

The well-known, acknowledged and respected name in Pakistan Philately Ron Doubleday is the first president of the recently formed Pakistan Study Circle in UK. The introductory annual membership fee is £5 and the group has over 20 members worldwide. They publish a journal three times a year.

For more information please contact George Rab, Secretary and Editor [rabit1@breathemail.com](mailto:rabit1@breathemail.com) or Martin Robinson, Treasurer and Membership Secretary [m-robinson@district-audit.gov.uk](mailto:m-robinson@district-audit.gov.uk)

We have not got around to reporting it earlier that from the other side of Atlantic Jeff Siddiqui [jeffsiddiqui@msn.com](mailto:jeffsiddiqui@msn.com) edits 'PakPhil' the newsletter of The Pakistan Philatelic Study Circle.

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PERIODICALS

PHILATELY NEWSLETTER, Whole # 10, January-March 2002
Editor in Chief: S C Dutta, Managing Editor: Devika Kumar, Executive Editor: Tilak De, Associate Editor: P N Ranjit Kumar
Publisher: India Post
Mailing Address: Director GPO, Kolkata 700001
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

We would like to add the following to Pradip Jain's feedback for this publication that is published in this issue. This excellent and informative publication should be sent to all Standing Order Deposit Account Holders at the Philatelic Bureaus of India Post.

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#### POSTAL ASSISTANT SWINDLES MILLIONS

A Prabhakar Rao, Postal Assistant at Yosufguda post office at Hyderabad swindled Rs 3.8 million in a span of three years from 1999 to 2002. He would enter the right amount in the depositors' passbook, but would remove a couple of digits from the actual deposited amount in his official records to siphon off major chunk of the deposits. He forged 133 such postal accounts, mostly belonging to policemen from the Andhra Pradesh State Police (APSP) first battalion at Yosufguda. Rao was caught when an account holder went to claim her money. The account holder's passbook mentioned that she had Rs 200,000. However, the office records showed that there was only Rs 2,000 in her account. A complaint was lodged with Jubilee Hills police station.

Rao was absconding after police had registered a case. He surrendered before the court on March 20 and was remanded to judicial custody on April 3. He claimed he lost all the money in gambling at a popular corporate club in the city. Investigations revealed that Rao used to frequently visit the club where he played card games and lost heavy amount in betting high stakes. He was not a member of the club, police added. Police interrogated several businessmen who are members of the club and played card games with him. The accounts from which he swindled money include recurring deposits, monthly income saving certificates, postal life insurance, Kisan Vikas Patra and national savings certificates.

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#### VIEWS & OPINIONS

##### PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 3

We begin this edition's Views and Opinion with a short note from our end. We would like to state that what has been presented here is not just our views and opinions but facts that are documented and are on record. Also as editors we have always taken an objective view of what ever we have reported on, even though we have been part of Indian Philately for more than 25 years.

We are very glad to report that the earlier two columns have brought in very diverse responses and we produce below a selected few without any prejudice.

NAME WITHHELD AT SENDER'S REQUEST who also has been a victim  
"...You have compared his dealings and behaviour with that of Mr. Jal Cooper. I never had the opportunity to know Mr. Jal Cooper, but I believe you cannot ever compare these two personalities with each other!"

##### A FORMER OFFICER OF THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA

"I am not surprised that fame and ambition have led to the deterioration of services and the organization. Unfortunately prosperity has a way of destroying non-profit and service bodies..."

##### MALIK AHMED OMER FROM UAE

"You have maligned late Mr. D.N. Jatia and accused him of clandestine activities. You have taken advantage of the fact that he is not alive to repudite your accusations. I find your article in bad taste. It seems you have some hidden agenda!!!! We in Dubai have the highest regard for him. Please refrain from maligning the dead."

One could probably write reams of paper on the contributions and misdeeds of D N Jatia but we are sure that putting the past under the rug would not benefit anyone. Since the past is from where we build our future and cannot be ignored only because it is unpleasant.

We will be documenting in the forthcoming issues the contributions, the complaints and views of several philatelists and victims that are currently active on the Indian Philatelic scene and invite each one of these persons to contribute their response that we would be happy to carry in the newsletter.

#### 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>

#### STEPHEN STEERE, ENGLAND

Just to add a comment about mail sent to and from India. I have to register all mail I send to India even if it is just a cheque in payment of an order. Likewise the one dealer I use also has to use registered post to send my orders. I have to pay a minimum of £3.50 to send to India and pay the dealer £4.50 for his registered postage costs & packing. At £8 (560 Rupees) a time a very expensive way of buying stamps & covers.

I look elsewhere to find the material I want, that is in abundance in India but so expensive to get. The dealers must be losing a lot of trade as a result of India Post's inability to protect the mail. Even my Post Office tells me not to use special stamps on letters to India, as they are likely to get lost, in other words stolen.

#### SALEEM M KHAN

Concerning lost & pilfered mails in India; I too have the misfortune of losing stamps and sometimes complete mails altogether. The same complaints were lodged and similar replies were received but still the mails get lost, sometimes letters are delivered with stamps missing and surprisingly I even received mails with mint stamps intact and all the used ones missing from International posts!! Even local registered mails are lost. PCI is not to be blamed for killing philately in India; the mail sorters are doing a good job of it. Incoming international mails pass through two to four sorting offices depending on location and everybody is blaming everybody else. And if some keen philatelist (like me) protests strongly he/she stops getting mails at all. The problem lies with the laws; we don't have any strict rules regarding mail pilferage and the guilty gets bolder by every stolen letter. Whereas in Canada (as I learned from an exchange partner whose mail I lost - there were \$200 Scott catalog worth of stamps there) this is a criminal offence. If the big bosses of India Post are reading this could they do something about this menace to help secure this wonderful hobby, a rightly worded circular to all sorting offices will do for starters, then they have to make an example by catching and punishing a few offenders. And please do not blame the poor postman - it is very rare that postman pilfer mails.

SHIV GARG, BHATINDA

Stamp collectors worldwide are crazy people and love their stamps. But in India, the condition of stamp collectors is very pitiable. Ordinary collectors fail to get their stamps from the department, mail from fellow collectors is usually misplaced by vested interests within the department, and they usually receive damaged covers and many philatelic items stolen in transit.

I had a bitter experience; I sent my five-frame exhibit on Red Cross for an international philatelic exhibition held in Romania. The exhibit was dispatched through Speed Post - International Express Mail Service after getting cleared from custom authorities and custom clearance certificate obtained. Though it was sent well in advance with all the formalities completed but with the kind assistance of the efficient staff of the department of post, it reached its destination after the exhibition was concluded. The authorities concerned at HPO Ludhiana were the worst to deal with this case. Though the matter was reported to the highest authority in the country but there was no one to listen. I was debarred from participation in the said exhibition though my name was already published in the catalogue. Keeping in view my inability, the organizers of this international philatelic exhibition awarded me a special diploma and a medal and criticized Indian postal department for their failure to deliver the said exhibit in time. But our postal department punished no one responsible for this great lapse. I have the reasons, some documents clearly indicating lapse on the part of the department with sole apology from a single person. But I did not go for litigation just for sake of philately.

SURAJ JAITLEY, LUDHIANA

I observed that some more issues are missing in the Special Collector Pack and you mentioned only two issues of R K Shukla & Turtles. More over, in my view it is a wrong practice, as the department has not mentioned that which stamps are missing in the same but calling it "SPECIAL YEAR PACK".

Noted the comments made by Renu V & Onkar Singh Dhillon. In this regard I would further like to inform you all that not only letters but also some large packets from overseas for me have been misplaced, complaints were also lodged for such misplaced articles. At the moment even I have number of complaints in my hand. But till date the department never compensate or give any decision on any single case - inquiries are going again & again. So now I think there is no benefit to complaint even. Just giving thanks to the department for those articles, which arrive safely with me.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

Rahul Bedi from New Delhi reports on Pigeon Post of Orissa Police in The Telegraph, London, UK, April 7, 2002

EMAIL HERALDS THE LAST POST FOR INDIA'S FLYING CIVIL SERVANTS

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=%2Fnews%2F2002%2F04%2F07%2Fwpidg07.xml>

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RESEARCH NOTES

INDIA POST IN THE YEAR 1873, PART 8

NOTIFICATION (Continued from Issue # 58)

Distinction between parcels and packets.

11. The distinction between parcels and packets is (1) that packets must be packed in open covers, while parcels may, at the option of the sender, be packed in closed covers; (2) that parcels are transmitted under a system of registration, while packets are not; and (3) that for parcels prepayment of postage is optional, while for packets full prepayment is compulsory. Any article of this class, which is posted fully prepaid at parcel rates, or superscribed by the sender for transmission as a parcel, or presented at the post office for that purpose or which, owing to deficient prepayment or excess of size, or mode of packing, cannot be forwarded as a packet, is treated as a parcel, and all other articles of this class are treated as packets.

Unpaid and insufficiently paid parcels.

12. Unpaid parcels are charged on delivery at the same rates as would have been chargeable if the postage had been prepaid: insufficiently paid parcels are charged on delivery with the deficiency.

Receipts given for parcels when properly packed.

13. A person tendering a parcel at a post office within the prescribed hours is entitled to get 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.

Receipts to be signed by addressee on delivery of parcels.

14. The addressee of parcels are required to sign receipts for them on delivery.

Limit of weight of parcels.

15. No parcel exceeding 25 seers (2,000 tolas) in weight can be received at any post office for dispatch.

Parcels received by post from seaward, exceeding the above weight, are made over to the Collector of Customs for publication in his list of unclaimed packages.

Limit of size of packets.

16. No packet may exceed one foot and a half in length, or one foot in width or depth, and if any such packet be posted, it will be treated as a parcel and charged accordingly.

Parcels between places connected by railway.

17. Between places connected by railway, where the railway authorities may have intimated their readiness to undertake the conveyance and delivery of parcels, the post office does not convey parcels, except such as may be sent on the public service. Of course, if either the place of address or the place of dispatch be not on the line of railway, the above rules do not apply.

This concludes the Notification.



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.

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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Stamp Syndicate, 19, Chandni Chowk Street, Kolkata 700072,

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Published by Madhukar Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for 'Stamps of India'
Apartment 49-D, Block BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110 063 India
Phone: + 91-11-5281578 Mobiles: 98681 40089 (MJ), 98111 60884 (SJ)
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