

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First, Free & Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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Issue # 68 - June 6, 2002. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Another Premature Release
New Date for P L Deshpande
World Cup Football Philatelic Exhibition
World Cup Site
Nepal World Cup issue
New President of India Study Circle
G P A Members Directory Published
Worldwide Philatelic Auction Calendar
G P A News, J P S Bulletin
Rare India Find
Philately in Transition in India, Part 11
Readers Forum - Prashant H. Pandya, Amar R G
Also in the News - Inverted & Missing Centers and the Millions
Army Postal Service Issues 2001
Research Notes - Indian Postal Orders, Part 2

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If you've found this newsletter useful recommend it to a friend.  
Better still forward this issue.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

In August 2002 we will complete two years of emailing this, the country's first registered electronic magazine. We have used most of the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that operate in India during this period. We thought we could keep up with the changes having been computer users since card punching days and email users for over 10 years. However we have had to change ISPs due to the service deficiencies and or unavailability of services to avail the most suitable service at a given time. The wonderful new technologies bring woeful new problems.

Without boring you with history we recount our experiences with some of the ISP's - 'Satyam' used to deliver bulk mail after several days and 'Mantra on Line' also used to do the same. It was the age-old business principal that 'bus will leave when it is full' applied to emails. The mail server was not always online but intermittently to send and receive emails. Recent experience shows that now 'Mantra on Line' simply does not deliver bulk mail. These companies, however, do not bother to inform the customer, in this age of wanting to exceed

customer expectation. What is perhaps even worse is the fact that there are no returned mails. This happens only in India!!

On the other hand we did several mailings thru 'NOW' that is a fairly large ISP without much problem. We also did not face problems with mailings thru government owned mega corporations 'VSNL' and 'MTNL' either. VSNL was basically the Overseas Communications Service that launched the Internet in India.

We had large number of returns of undelivered mail while using 'Bharat Connect'. Investigating the matter we learned that several networks were not accepting any mail at all from 'Bharat Connect' because this ISP allowed use of their mail server without being connected thru them. This is considered a poor security situation. When an email reaches an email server, it is usually checked to see if it is coming from an open relay email server. Usually the Open Relay Database compiled by <http://ordb.org/> is used for this purpose. If the email comes from an open relay, it is automatically bounced back to the sender. An Open Relay server is a mail server that accepts email from anyone including spammers, sending unsolicited e-mail and then sends it to its destination. Spammers like to use Open Relay servers since it hides their trail. ISPs who have Open Relay servers get included in the ORDB database i.e. they are blacklisted. The ISPs then need to put the proper fixes in place to be delisted.

This week we received an auto response from one of the subscribers " I regret that my email address now receives so much spam mail that I have decided to terminate this account. Those whose messages I respond to will have my new address and to the others - happy hunting!"

Earlier in April this year a subscriber informed us "that the same time as the newsletter arrived this morning I received a spam from someone using your mailing list. You may want to check into what appears to be a misuse of your facilities."

Unsolicited e-mails seem to be an international phenomenon, in fact most of our own addresses seem to have been compromised. After the change in services from free to a mostly paid one since April 24, 2002 the yahoo email account attracts 15 to 20 unsolicited e-mails a day. The situation was not that bad earlier. But it is our email id at Tatanova, our current ISP that is really worrying us. Other funny things with Tatanova are their connectivity with VSNL that they have recently purchased and their inability to deliver to ".int" addresses. There are unusually high returns from mailings to subscribers at VSNL network. And for some inexplicable reason all e-mails sent to ".int" addresses used by UN and other international organizations seem to come back to the sender.

Well, here is to technology, hoping that it will bring more joy than sorrow.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Shyam P Nhuchhe Pradhan from Kathmandu, and Neeraj Kumar.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANOTHER PREMATURE RELEASE

Another commemorative stamp is found used before the official release. The stamp in the denomination of Rs. 4 is on Anna Sathe with postmark of May 22, 2002. The date of issue of this stamp is yet to be fixed by India Post.

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NEW DATE FOR P L DESHPANDE

India Post's next stamp issue in the denomination of Rs. 4 on P L Deshpande is now rescheduled for June 16, 2002.

The stamp shall be produced in the quantity of 400,000 only. The stamp along with the First Day Covers and the information sheets, at Rs. 2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters.

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WORLD CUP FOOTBALL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Almost all five star and other hotels all over the world are busy doing World Cup promotions of various kinds. Le Meridien at New Delhi organized a philatelic exhibition on football in cooperation with Olympic Philatelists of India. The Ambassador of the France in India, Bernard de Montferrand inaugurated it on May 31, 2002.

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WORLD CUP SITE

Tapan Kumar Roy of Kolkata has launched a new philatelic website on World Cup Football <http://www.geocities.com/worldcupstamps>

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NEPAL WORLD CUP ISSUE

A postage stamp in the denomination of Rs. 15 was issued on May 31, 2002 to commemorate the first 17th World Cup football and depicts the logo, the golden trophy of the world cup, and a player playing football. Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria produced the stamp designed by K. K. Karmacharya, in four colors by offset lithography in the sheets of 50 stamps. The quantity printed is 0.5 million.

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NEW PRESIDENT OF INDIA STUDY CIRCLE

Max Smith was elected President for a two-year term during the Annual General Meeting of the India Study Circle for Philately in May 2002.

The new location for monthly meetings at London shall now be, Royal Philatelic Society, Devonshire Place, London W1 effective September 2002, with the exception of the October 2002 Grand Auction.

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G P A MEMBERS DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

On January 1, 2002 the Gujarat Philatelic Association (GPA) turned 30. This was celebrated in style by organizing a special function on February 3, 2002 at Ahmedabad. The Chief Postmaster General of Gujarat Circle, Asha Kulkarni was the chief Guest and released the 'Members Directory' on this occasion. The Directory lists all members, with their addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and philatelic interests. The price is not indicated. Enquiries may please be sent to gpa@indianstamps.com

GPA has 90 members including 57 life members. The majority, 68 members, is from Gujarat. Regular monthly meetings are held at Ahmedabad that has 25 plus members attending on an average. A monthly newsletter 'GPA News' is also brought out. The Annual subscription is Rs. 100 and the Life subscription is Rs. 1000. There is an Entrance fee of Rs. 100.

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WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTION CALENDAR

The Calendar Of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions for the month is updated in the beginning of every month with detailed information and announcements. The information for June 2002 is now available at <http://www.geocities.com/mjhingam/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

Spink is holding a comprehensive all-Asian auction of Banknotes (242 Lots), and Postage Stamps and Postal History (550 Lots) in Singapore on June 22, 2002. It will have Straits Settlements that includes India used in Malacca, Penang, and Singapore. For more information Contact Spink by E-Mail [RWatkins@SpinkAndSon.com](mailto:RWatkins@SpinkAndSon.com) or visit the online catalog at <http://www.spink-online.com>

On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Harmers of London is holding an auction sale of Over 1000 Lots of better Worldwide Postage Stamps, Postal History, and Postal Ephemera, and includes the comprehensive Joy Emery Collection of China. The British Commonwealth section features strong sections of India and the Indian States. For more information Contact Harmers by E-Mail [Auctions@Harmers.demon.co.uk](mailto:Auctions@Harmers.demon.co.uk) or visit the online catalog at <http://www.Harmers.com> or <http://www.StampAuctionNetwork.com>

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G P A NEWS, Whole # 58 - May 2002

Editor: H C Mehta

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association

Address: 1/M National Chamber, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad -380009

Annual Subscription including membership: Rs. 100, Entrance Fee Rs. 100

Mode of Remittance: By bank draft in favor of the publisher

OOPS. We missed out on reporting the April 2002, whole issue # 57, of G P A News received earlier.

J P S BULLETIN, Whole # 151 - January-April 2002

Editor: S S Basan

Publisher: Jamshedpur Philatelic Society

Address: P O Box86, Jamshedpur - 831001

Annual Subscription including membership: Rs. 75

Mode of Remittance: By bank draft in favor of the publisher

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RARE INDIA FIND

Jeff Siddiqui of USA has found the rare Queen Victoria Letter Sheet issued in 1857 with an oval printer's mark in colorless embossing - "Under ¼ Tola/ de La Rue & Co.". Derek Lang notes in his 'British India Postal Stationery' that "This is extremely rare and only one copy has been reliably recorded to date". The complete story is published in May 2002 issue of the American Philatelist.

The same issue of the American Philatelist also has the article 'Bangladesh Honors the Universal Postal Union' by Parvez Ali Anwar Khan that lists and illustrates several special postmarks in addition to stamps and miniature sheets.

To receive the American Philatelist every month please join the American Philatelic Society; visit <http://www.stamps.org>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 11

Anil Suri wrote "I must thank you for giving space for my correspondence with PCI President and Secretary General in your issue # 66. I wish to reiterate the fact that one is blacklisted if one questions their doings. Especially if the questions are inconvenient and their doings are not disclosed to the general membership or even to the governing council members. In my case non-acceptance of my exhibits at five exhibitions in a row was not coincidence. It was Dilip Shah who as Secretary General ordered the commissioners not to process or recommend my exhibits. The records of the concerned exhibitions could easily verify this. One of the commissioners apprised me of the fact and then only I started the correspondence quoted in your report. As you can see I failed to elicit any coherent or to the point answer from these Leaders of Philately in India. Merit does not seem to merit an entry in international philatelic exhibitions."

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>

PRASHANT H. PANDYA FROM VADODARA

Small Packet Rate for foreign countries was introduced in India in February 1999. Rates for which are available in Postal Information books published by Postal Training Centre and also it is available in the computer programme of post office. Unfortunately conditions for booking of Small Packet is not available with post office.

In foreign countries the system of Small Packet probably exists since long time. The small packet classification offers a convenient and economical way to mail certain items like gifts, photographs, audio/video tapes, trade samples, Merchandise items, coins, precious metals, jewellery, valuable stones etc. Personal correspondence is not allowed in Small Packets. They can be sent by Air or Surface, Registered or Unregistered.

Here in post office, postal clerks do not know the conditions for booking the small packet and hence either they are refusing such articles or ask to keep the packet open (like book post article)

I request you to publish this matter in your weekly newsletter "Stamps Of India Collectors' Companion", so readers can know about this service and can help me to find out requisite conditions for booking "Small Packet Rate Articles"

AMAR R G

The stamps released by East Timor can be viewed at:

http://www.2.auspost.com.au/stamps/stampshop_2.asp?pid=272742498&product_type=8&category_id=284

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES 2001

January 1, Silver Jubilee of 12 Bihar  
January 2, Silver Jubilee of 18 Kumaun  
January 10, 225<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of 3 Battalion Brigade of Guards  
January 20, Diamond Jubilee of Military Intelligence Corps  
February 15, 12<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Corps of the Signals  
February 24, 12<sup>th</sup> Post War Reunion of the Dogra Regimental Centre  
March 1, Silver Jubilee of 246 Med Regiment  
March 15, Diamond Jubilee of 4/8 Gorkha Rifles  
March 22, Centenary of 5<sup>th</sup> Bn The Sikh  
March 31, Golden Jubilee of 126<sup>th</sup> Lt. AD Regiment  
April 7, Golden Jubilee of 128 AD Regiment  
April 21, First Reunion of Judge Advocate General's Department  
April 30, Centenary of 2<sup>nd</sup> Garhwal Rifles  
September 1, Silver Jubilee of 14 Mechanical Infantry  
September 20, APPHILEX-2001 of APS Corps  
September 21, Silver Jubilee of 1889 Light Regiment  
October 1, Diamond Jubilee of The Mahar Regimental Centre  
October 1, Silver Jubilee of 85 Armoured Regiment  
October 12, Bicentenary of 5 Maratha LI  
October 12, 225<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of 16 Light Cavalry  
October 14, Platinum Jubilee of Army School Chail  
October 28, Golden Jubilee of 16 Dogra  
October 30, Silver Jubilee of 84 Armoured Regiment  
November 7, Diamond Jubilee of Corps of Pioneers  
November 9 Reunion of AMC, Lucknow

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

INVERTED & MISSING CENTERS AND THE MILLIONS

A collector's dream came true in December 2001 with the discovery of a rare error on a US stamp. The collector in Texas bought a sheet of 40 stamps, issued to commemorate the bicentennial of New York Stock Exchange, from the post office in 1992. Much later the owner discovered that the sheet contained 28 stamps with inverted centers and 12 with completely missing centers - two errors on one sheet. The U.S. Postal Service and other professional stamp experts have verified the authenticity of this error sheet.

Realizing the potential of his discovery, the owner contacted Greg Manning Auctions in New York, one of the top firms for auctioning stamps, coins, sports cards and other collectibles. The auction will take place June 16 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City where the estimate that we have published in the catalog is \$400,000-\$600,000. The stamps will be auctioned in singles, pairs and blocks. The entire sheet intact is an option should a bidder make an offer greater than the sum of its parts.

Manning says "This discovery is, without a doubt, the most important stamp-collecting event of the 21st century and is a wonderful opportunity for the thousands of new philatelists around the world to share its experience. A portion of the auction's proceeds will go to

charity with a directed share to a fund for the families of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks."

And this particular auction in addition to being a floor auction will be broadcast on eBay live simultaneously with the floor auction, and 42 million people, eBay-registered users, will see the action.

NEWSSCAN

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

RESEARCH NOTES

INDIAN POSTAL ORDERS, Part 2

The second set of 4 denominations was issue in 1937 and depicted King George VI. The denominations and the prefixes were same as the first set.

In the year 1938 the Design of Re. 1 postal order was revised. The prefix for this issue was changed to 'E' from the regular 'B' for this denomination.

On April 1, 1939 a set of 20 postal orders with 16 new denominations was issued. There was a denomination at every half Rupee or Annas 8. The denominations now were As 8, Re 1, Rs 1 & As 8, Rs 2, Rs 2 & As 8, Rs 3, Rs 3 & As 8, Rs 4, Rs 4 & As 8, Rs 5, Rs 5 & As 8, Rs 6, Rs 6 & As 8, Rs 7, Rs 7 & As 8, Rs 8, Rs 8 & As 8, Rs 9, Rs 9 & As 8, and Rs 10. The serial numbers were prefixed by 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'M', 'N', 'P', 'Q', 'R', 'S', 'T', 'V', and 'W' respectively. As you can see letters 'I', 'O', and 'U' were not used for prefixes. We can understand not using 'I' and 'O' as it could be confused with numerical one and zero respectively. But why leave 'U'? Perhaps to complete the expression I O U!!!

On December 15, 1944 many denominations were surcharged by overprinting as follows:

As. 8 on
Rs.5 & As 8, Rs.6 & As 8, Rs.7 & As 8, Rs.8 & As 8, and Rs.9 & As 8
Re. 1 on
Rs.6, and Rs.7
Rs. 5 on
Rs.8, and Rs.9

This issue was the last issue of Indian Postal Orders before independence.

To be continued

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.

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STAMPSOFINDIA WEB SITE UPDATES

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments - NEWS, ISSUES, EVENTS, AUCTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, DEALERS, and ARTICLES. In addition we provide question answers in ASK US. Also all Indian philatelic web sites as well as several useful philatelic sites are listed under LINKS.

Updated Segments This Week: News, Articles,  
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Published by Madhukar Jhingan 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)

Web Site: www.stampsofindia.com & www.geocities.com/mjhingan
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