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----- 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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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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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

Any person who takes up a crusade does so at his own personal costs and if one looks through the pages of history this statement has proven right time and time again. When we took up the crusade to write about the condition of Indian philately, as we have mentioned earlier we knew we were not in a popularity contest, but we did not know that it would be turned into a personal vendetta against us.

An attempt was made to hold yours truly from traveling to Korea by making a false complaint to the customs authorities in India. And when that naturally failed to hold us back, a letter was sent to FIP after our departure from India by the PCI president Sahoo withdrawing the nomination for being an observer at the 67<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress. However this did not deter a committed newshound and the report on the Congress is being carried in this issue.

We believe that we are being attacked for the very principles that we are upholding. By clever manipulation by vested interests across various platforms, the actions taken by us are being subverted to make us appear as if we have something to hide.

We have been told that our fault is that we have dared to ask the PCI officers to be accountable and to have transparency in the working of the PCI. We would like to clearly state that our focus has been and will continue to be their illegal activities within philately. If they were to have nothing to hide, we would have nothing to expose.

Well this unsavory episode has reinforced another thought in our minds that justice always prevails in the end and those who do wrong would sooner or later be brought to book.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Prashant H Pandya from Vadodara, The Hindu, The Business Line, The Times of India and Capitalmarket.com.

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

##### INDIAN COMMISSIONER FOR PHILAKOREA DETAINED

G Madan Mohan Das, the national commissioner to PHILAKOREA 2002 world stamp exhibition was detained while returning from Seoul at 10 pm on August 13, 2002 by the Customs at the Chennai Airport for violations under Antiquities & Art Treasures Act.

In all 14 exhibits, excluding 2 in philatelic literature class, were accepted by PHILAKOREA 2002. Das had carried 12 exhibits, 7 exhibits were with permit obtained from ASI and an additional 3 exhibits that included antiquities but without the requisite permit from ASI and 2 exhibits did not require any clearance from ASI. Anil Suri carried his exhibit personally and B K Sinha decided not to send his exhibit, as the same had not been included for clearance from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The 3 exhibitors whose exhibits had antiquities yet were not part of the permit from ASI are: D C Sharma, Ravi Bhansali, and Daniel Monterio. A crude attempt was made in Sharma's exhibit to camouflage the antiquities by pasting small white slips on the dates in the write-up. Several persons including the Indians at PHILAKOREA openly discussed this matter.

Why Das decided to carry 7 exhibits with ASI Permit and 3 WITHOUT ASI Permit is not known. He did know the law if he obtained permit for some of the exhibits.

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##### KOH IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF FIP

Koh Seow Chuan of Singapore is the 11<sup>th</sup> President of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). He defeated Kund Mohr by 3 votes (38 and 35) at the elections at the 67<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress held at Seoul on August 10, 2002. Tay Peng Hian also of Singapore was elected as a Director to FIP Board. Raymond Todd of Australia became the Vice President after the other candidate, Michael Adler of Germany withdrew from the contest. This also implemented the decision of 66<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress at Madrid in 2000 of having three Vice Presidents from three different continental

federations. The downsizing of FIP Board, from 9 to 7 members, shall be implemented in Singapore in September 2004 at the 68<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress.

During the debate on the British motion - that at any one time only one person from any one FIP Member Federation may be elected to, or hold office within the FIP Board - one of the delegates wanted to know which came first, the two nominations from Singapore or the British motion? Mohr consulted others and gave a technically correct yet unsatisfying answer that both were received within due time. Another delegate who expressed his surprise that the secret ballots were not secret at all, was curtly told that this has been like this for 70 years!

Some of the other important decisions taken at the Congress included the patronage to hold a world exhibition in India in 2004; increase in membership fees by 12.5% and increase in the fees for patronage, auspices, & recognition by 10%. Qatar and Tunisia were admitted as new members while the membership of Sudan was terminated.

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

#### ANNA BHAU SATHE

The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan released a commemorative stamp on one of the foremost creative writers of Marathi literature and active revolutionary, Anna Bhau Sathe on August 1, 2002 at a function held at Mumbai.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4, the former inland letter rate. The stamp and the First Day Cover designs are based on the material furnished by the sponsors. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in one color on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million each. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

#### ANAND RISHIJI MAHARAJ

The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan released a commemorative stamp on Jain monk, Anand Rishiji Maharaj on August 9, 2002 at a function held at his birthplace Ahmadnagar.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4, the former inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp, and Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. The First Day Cover design is based on the material furnished by the sponsors - Sadri Mahila Mandal Trust, Pune. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million each. The issued sheets contain 48 stamps.

#### VITHALRAO VIKHE PATIL

The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan released a commemorative stamp on Vithalrao Vikhe Patil the prominent leader of the co-operative movement in Maharashtra on August 10, 2002 at a function held at Pravaranagar.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4, the former inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million each. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

#### SANT TUKARAM

The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan released a commemorative stamp on Sant Tukaram on August 10, 2002 at a function held at Dehugaon in District Pune. Sant Tukaram was among the great mystic poets of Maharashtra and was instrumental in taking religion and poetry to the masses.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 4, the former inland letter rate. The stamp design is based on the material furnished by the sponsors. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover, and the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data, and the First Day Cover, each priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.4 million each. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

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#### EXHIBITIONS IN GUJARAT

#### WANAKBORI THERMAL POWER STATION

Anand Division of India Post under Vadodara Region in the Gujarat Circle has organized a non-competitive philatelic exhibition at Vidhyut Board Vidyalaya, Wanakbori Thermal Power Station (TPS) on August 9, 2002. Manju Kumar, Director Postal Service at Vadodara inaugurated the exhibition. D S Joshipura, the Chief Engineer of Wanakbori TPS was the Chief Guest of the function and released a special cover on the occasion. No special cancellation was provided and special covers were cancelled using Circular Date Stamp only. The cover depicts Map of Gujarat, Mahatma Gandhi and Unit No. 7 of Wanakbori TPS.

School children and local philatelists had exhibited their collection in the exhibition. Members of Baroda Philatelic Society were also invited to display their collection. R P Shah and Prashant Pandya, President and Vice President of Baroda Philatelic Society conducted Philatelic Work Shop for school children.

#### RAJKOT

India Post is organizing a zonal philatelic exhibition at Rajkot on December 26 - 28, 2002. Further details may be had from the Postmaster General, Rajkot Region, Rajkot 360001

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#### INPEX 2002 UPDATE

INPEX 2002 allotment committee accepted 218 entries for 909 frames as reported on their website however their newsletter mentions the number of frames to be 800. This included the 74 (21% as per the newsletter) new entries for 194 frames. The total number of entries in the youth class is 42 for 141 frames. 6 applications have been received from schools.

We would have liked to report the exact dates on which the committee met at Bhubaneswar and the names of the members who attended the meetings to finalize the allotment. However, this was not available, the allotment may have been done in the last week of July as some out station members of the Allotment Committee were present in Bhubaneswar during that time. We tried our best to get the detailed information but have been denied access.

We were surprised to find in the Newsletter # 1 of INPEX 2002 certain allegations against us. We have reported only the facts and have consciously refrained from any interpretation, commentary, or opinion while reporting on INPEX 2002 till date.

The Department of Posts is an independent entity that makes its own decisions. The 'support' and 'recognition' dilemma comes from the insecurities and incapability of INPEX 2002 Secretariat.

We wish the PCI and all societies/clubs that support them to come forward and hold recognized national level exhibitions every year so that more collectors would have an opportunity to participate in exhibitions at the international level. It would also give an opportunity to PCI to fulfill their obligation of promoting philately.

We would also like to request that INPEX 2002 website may be updated and incorrect claims and information corrected. It still lists score of postal officers, some with their earlier designations, on its committees.

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MITTAL STAMP COMPANY'S POSTAL AUCTION

Mittal Stamp Company has mailed out the catalog of their 17<sup>th</sup> postal auction closing on September 2, 2002. The sale features over 2000 lots of India, Indian States, Cinderella, Fiscals, and foreign illustrated in 64 black & white and 4 color plates. For a free copy of the catalog please contact Mittal Stamp Company, P O Box 253, Jaipur 302003  
[miitalstamps@yahoo.com](mailto:miitalstamps@yahoo.com)

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OLD STAMPS & STATIONERY SOLD AT DELHI BUREAU

New Delhi philatelic bureau recently exhausted a small stock of the old stamps and stationery lying since long by selling them at the counter. It included some stamps of the map definitive series overprinted for the use of Indian Forces on UN mission in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Some creative collectors were seen using these issues on mail and creating freaks. Would the concerned officials look into the matter and ensure that these stamps that were not meant for use in India are not allowed to be used.

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The 'MOBILE' POSTMAN

Rural folk need not go in for the expensive mobile phone, but yet they can avail of the facility. Contact the postman nearby and use the phone he is carrying to make your calls, also receive them, and make the payment direct to him. And on the fee collected, the postman will get a commission.

This is a proposal actively under consideration by the Ministry of Communications. Postmen in the rural and semi-urban regions of the country will carry wireless in local loop (WLL) phones during their

rounds, which the general public can use for both outgoing calls and incoming calls on the number. And pay the charge to the Postman. He will no doubt popularize it since he will be entitled to a commission on the revenue accruing from all such calls.

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PINCODE DIRECTORY ON CD

S B Bhattacharya, Member (Operations) of Postal Services Board released All-India PIN Code directory on CD at Hyderabad on August 10, 2002. The CD, brought out by the Chief Postmaster-General, Andhra Pradesh, is priced at Rs. 250, and will be on sale from August 12 at the Hyderabad General Post Office and Secunderabad Head Post Office.

The CD contains the PIN Codes of all the delivery post offices in the country. The user has the option to search by entering the name of the post office through the all-India search (through search option) and State-wise (by clicking on a State). When the office is selected the package will display the status of the office, the district and the State in which it is located.

This CD would be useful for organizations and individuals across the nation, may we suggest that it should be put on sale across all Head Post Offices in the country.

For the information of our readers the online search facility for PIN Codes is available at <http://www.indiapost.org>.

Bhattacharya, along with D Kailash Prasad, Chief Postmaster-General of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. K B H Nayar, Chief Postmaster-General of Karnataka, Indira Krishna Kumar, Chief Postmaster-General of Kerala, and V. Sadasivam, Deputy Director-General (Technology), Department of Posts, later attended a meeting of the Technical Review Committee of the department of the Southern States. A Annamalai, Postmaster-General of Vijayawada region, and Postmaster-General of Visakhapatnam region were also present.

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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. This time however it has been delayed by two weeks and the information for August 2002 is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 19

August 25, 2002 will be the day that Dilip Shah, who is currently president elect of Philatelic Congress of India (PCI), would take over as the President. Do all members of PCI want a President who is currently being investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for violations of the provisions of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 (AAT Act). At the behest of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the CBI had registered a case against Shah in December 2001.

Shah has been the Vice President from 1994 to 2000 and President-Elect from 2000 till date. Shah is also the longest serving Secretary General of the PCI since 1987 till date. He was brought in as the replacement

of the then Secretary General, M G Pittie who had to resign in the middle of his two-year term because as National Commissioner for AMERIPEX 86 world philatelic exhibition, he purportedly lost five exhibits worth several crores belonging to Dhirubhai Mehta of Mumbai, S B Kothari and P Gupta (two exhibits) of Kolkata, and R Dangi (Junior) of Indore.

The report of the above loss in media alerted the officers of various departments and in May 1988 vigilant Customs Officers at Bombay International Airport apprehended Shah while he was taking nine exhibits, including his "Indian Classics" to Helsinki for participation in FINLANDIA 88 world philatelic exhibition. However no penal action was taken against him. He reportedly was forced to come to New Delhi for obtaining ASI Permit and was allowed to go on to Finland. This was the first-ever Temporary Export Permit (TEP) issued for stamps by the ASI.

Between 1976 and 1988, Indian exhibitors participated in about 30 international exhibitions abroad with hundreds of exhibits. The PCI through their appointed National Commissioners organized the participation without the mandatory TEP from ASI. Many of the exhibits did contain items that were 100 or more years old.

In 1994 Dilip Shah received the Grand Prix d'Honneur at PHILAKOREA 94 World Philatelic Exhibition at Seoul for his exhibit 'Indian Classics'. All the items of this exhibit were antiquities. This exhibit has participated abroad several times with TEP granted by the ASI and the copies of the entire exhibit are part of the ASI records. Yet Shah took the highlight the '4 Annas Inverted-head' stamp from his exhibit 'Indian Classics' to Monaco without ASI Permit in November 1997. This item has been later valued between £ 80,000 - 100,000 at the Spink's auction of October 18, 2001.

This collection was also displayed in the Court of Honor class at INDEPEX 97 world philatelic exhibition organized by the Department of Posts at New Delhi in December 1997.

Not only has Shah carried his own exhibits without the mandatory permissions but also has carried in July 2001 an exhibit belonging to A M Mollah of Mumbai to Tokyo for PHILANIPPON World exhibition without ASI Permit. This exhibit, 'Fiscal Stamps of Indore and Jaora' contained antiquities. In this same exhibition, as a member of the Expert Team, Shah was instrumental in opening of the frames of a fellow Indian collector, who has been asking them uncomfortable questions on record, was it to settle scores by having the exhibit downgraded? Only Shah knows!

Shah once again carried the highlight of his collection, the '4 Annas Inverted-head' stamp without ASI Permit from India on October 10, 2001 to Switzerland for participation in the private exhibition of great stamp rarities organized from October 12 to 14 by the auctioneer David Feldman in conjunction with the launch of their new publication, 'The Grand Prix Book'.

Shah's entire exhibit 'Indian Classics' was offered at auction sale by SPINK at London on October 18, 2001. The exhibit was broken down in to 166 lots (Lot # 1 to 166) and almost all lots were illustrated in the

auction catalog of this sale. Several items offered in this sale were 'only known specimens' and one of a kind. It is clear that this collection was clandestinely taken out of country to UK for sale.

The leading daily of the national capital, The Hindustan Times carried on their front page the news of this auction on October 11, 2001. On being alerted, same day the ASI handed over the case to CBI for investigation and at ASI's initiative SPINK withdrew these lots from the sale.

Shah engaged Zaiwalla & Co. of London to defend him in this case. Zaiwallas have a very impressive list of clients with many imminent Indian and international personalities amongst them. Shah stayed out of the country since his trip to Switzerland in October and came back to India in early December 2001 just before the CBI registered a case against him. Another leading daily, Indian Express covered this news on page 2 in January 24, 2002 issue.

Dhiraj Shah, resident of USA and brother of Dilip Shah, filed an affidavit with ASI and CBI that he owns the collection that was being sold at Spink and all those items were purchased by his money. As per Article 16.1 of General Regulations of the FIP for Exhibitions (GREX) 'every exhibitor must have owned his exhibit for a minimum of two years before being eligible to exhibit at a FIP exhibition' this is the first basic requirement for applicants to exhibit. Therefore Shah's Grand Prix d'Honneur at PHILAKOREA 94 should now be presented to the runner up and his Grand Prix National in 1989 in India be awarded to the runner up Dr. Sita Bhateja of Bangalore. All his other medals and Special prizes at FIP Exhibitions on this exhibit may also be canceled and the FIP Award List be adjusted accordingly.

No further action was taken by ASI for the next several months, however constant pursuit of justice prevailed and the ASI sent several other serious violations of AAT Act by Shah to CBI for investigation in July 2002.

With such an illustrious track record Shah still continues to be on the Philatelic Advisory Committee of Ministry Communications & Information Technology. The question now is does Shah deserve to be in these positions?

Many other office bearers of PCI have been involved with similar kind of violations of the AAT Act; more details would follow in the forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

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READERS FORUM

GERALD SATTIN FRPSL from UK

I have enjoyed receiving your 'Collectors Companion' as I have rather lost touch with Indian philately since I stopped exhibiting at FIP exhibitions.

I have exhibited in the past in FIP Championship Class with my CAMPAIGN MAILS OF INDIA TO 1908 and was nominated for the Prix d'Honneur twice but failed to win. Some say politics robbed me of the award. This certainly applied in one instance.



I have also been involved in philatelic literature with the late Brigadier Diljit Virk, a very dear friend of mine. He wrote the book on YONGHUSBAND'S EXPEDITION TO TIBET, which I edited, and I was one of four authors to the book CHINA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE in which the late Dr John Hume, Derek Lang, Diljit Virk and myself co-operated in its authorship. This IS the definitive work on the CEF yet few people know about it because of its almost non-existent promotion by the P.C.I who were its sponsor.

I write mainly to make the observation that there was no one from the UK who participated in PHILAKOREA with Indian material! I suspect the reason is the inflated charges made by FIP for frame fees. I myself will no longer exhibit in FIP exhibitions so long as they impose a 'Supplementary Charge' to the frame fees for purely exhibiting in Championship Class. Frame fees for exhibiting is £240.00 and to this is added approximately a further £350 as the 'FIP Supplement'. To me this is an obscene abuse of power. The supplement is made to support the FIP Judges and hangers-on to free board and lodging in fairly luxurious accommodation, meals, and expensive jaunts.

Whilst FIP continue to extract this charge from Championship Class exhibitors, I for one will not exhibit and I am not alone feeling this way. If the 'supplement' was spread over all exhibitors I would not complain. It is sad for it removes some very fine collections from display where others not so knowledgeable could learn from the material and write-up. I am currently exhibiting SOLDIERS PRIVILEGE RATES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE TO 1898 in which there is the full story of the soldiers rates that apply to India.

I would be interested to learn of other people's reaction to FIP charges.

<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>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

#### US DEEPAVALI STAMP PROPOSED

Possibly more than two million Hindus in America including native born and from India, Africa, Caribbean, Fiji, now celebrate Deepavali (Diwali), the festival of lights, each year at the end of October or the beginning of November. Backed by these numbers from a 2000 census, Gary Ackerman, top Democrat on the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, is advocating that the U.S. create a postage stamp to honor Deepavali. In a letter to Dr. Virginia Noelke, chairperson of the U.S. Citizens Stamp Advisory Commission, Ackerman said, "For Hindus, the holiday of Diwali is comparable in magnitude to Christmas for Christians," Congressman Ackerman was prompted to introduce the idea of a Diwali stamp by the New York-based Federation of Indian Associations. Amitabh Sharma, president of the India-American Cultural Association in Atlanta says, "A Diwali stamp is a symbol that 2.5 million Hindus in the U.S. would be happy about. It should be

welcoming -- an open namaste (hands in welcome) with the diya (deepa, lamp)."

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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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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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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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