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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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I N T H I S I S S U E

More of Meghdoot Postcards  
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NewsScan -The Postcard Turns Brand Ambassador, Restore Metal Post Boxes

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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

We want to thank everyone who has emailed us with feedback about this newsletter. As you are aware, we do this as a service to philately, so it's very gratifying to hear how useful you're finding this newsletter. In fact, your feedback shows us it is worthwhile for us to continue to research, write and send this newsletter to you. Unfortunately, we do not have the manpower to individually answer the hundreds of emails that we receive. Please remember we appreciate your response but we can't answer all emails personally. Thanks.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and sources to this issue: Johnson Mathew from UAE, Gulf News from Dubai, Khaleej Times from Dubai, The Hindu Business Line, and the Press Trust of India.

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Mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORE OF MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meghdoot Postcard shall be issued on October 15, 2002 carrying the advertisement of TVS MAX Mobike. The ad is in Hindi and it shall be distributed in Madhya Pradesh postal circle. The Security Printing Press at Hyderabad printed the card in the quantity of 200,000 only.

The Meghdoot postcard was introduced by India Post on September 2, 2002 in the denomination of 25 paise that is half of the price of a regular postcard. It has multicolor advertisement in the left half of the address side that on a regular postcard is available for writing. The first issue of Meghdoot Postcard promoted Tamil Superstar Rajnikant's new movie 'Baba'.

We would like to reconfirm to our readers that the total quantity printed for the first Meghdoot Postcard was 500,000 for distribution in Tamilnadu postal circle and there is NO order for reprinting as mentioned in some sections of mainline newspapers. The reports have mentioned the quantity printed as 1 million and the reprint ordered in the quantity of 2 million.

Government of India through Notification # GSR612(E) dated September 2, 2002 amended the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 to insert the following after the 'Competition Post Cards' category. "A post card shall be deemed to be a Meghdoot post card if it is so marked and provides in the space on the left hand portion of the address side, a space for single colour or multi-colour printed advertisement subject to the following conditions: Advertisement shall bear pictorial depictions or messages or both; no advertisement shall be printed anywhere else except the space provided therefore on such post card; on the address portion of such post card the words 'Meghdoot post card' shall be printed in Hindi and English; the obverse side of such post card shall be used for communication only; such post card shall be a single post card; and it shall conform to specified dimensions."

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NEW CUSTOMIZED ENVELOPE

The Chennai-based 'V Can Network' ordered the fourth customized envelope that was released on September 23, 2002. This is the first registered envelope with a postage value of Rs. 22.

The imprinted stamp depicts magnetic bed and inscribed 'postage pre-paid for Rs. 22'. The envelope is in the size of 220 x 110 mm. This is the second window envelope.

This issue, like other customized stationery, is NOT available to public or philatelists through the Post Office.

India Post has on offer 10 sizes of customized envelopes, in three quality of the paper viz. 80, 90, and 100 GSM, for Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.30 each. In addition the client may choose the amount of postage prepaid as per their requirements. For more details please contact Radhika Doraiswamy, General Manager, Business Development Directorate, India Post, Malcha Marg Post Office Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021 or radhika@indiapost.org

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INDIA BOUND EXPRESS PARCEL SERVICE IN CRISIS

Emirates Post's India Parcel Express Service is a classic case of being a victim of its own success. The parcel movement from the UAE to India was always good due to large number of Indian expatriates. In 1999,

Emirates Post delivered over 530,000 parcels to India. The volume increased by some 200,000 parcels in the year 2000 and following the launch of this new service, volume to India is expected to cross over a million parcels in 2002. However, the sudden increase in inward postal shipments threw up new challenges. If a post office is set up to handle 200 parcels a day, there is pressure if it suddenly receives 3,000 of them. Not to forget other issues like customs, the trade unions and labor, which also play an important role in India.

India Parcel Express was one of the services launched by Emirates Post on January 28, 2002 at a Press conference attended by Indian Consul General in Dubai, Dr George Joseph and Director General of Emirates Post, Abdullah Al Daboos. The service enables Indian expatriates residing in the UAE to send parcels of medicines, clothes, food items, sports goods, etc. to their families in Mumbai (Bombay), Delhi, Chennai (Madras) and Kochi (Cochin) at special rates - a parcel weighing maximum of 35kg for Dh 180.75, while a 2kg parcel, the minimum charge, will be delivered for Dh 48.50.

Emirates Post supported the launch of the service with two promotions, one offering 21 air tickets to India to consumers using the service before March 31, 2002 and another giving away four kilos of gold to customers from May 15 to September 15, 2002.

The delivery to the three cities proceeded smoothly, but consignments to Kochi ran into problems due to very high demand. The largest number of parcels, as much as 62 per cent, were booked for Kochi, a demand that could not be met by the regular flights. While the total demand for Parcel service was 7.5 tonnes per day, the direct air cargo capacity to Kochi was just 8 tonnes per week. This led to a huge backlog in the UAE. Emirates Post came up with a suggestion to send the parcels by sea, with a delivery time of seven days. This was accepted by India Post.

Of the 63 containers with 25,000 parcels that were sent to Kochi port, only 35 were cleared, but Emirates Post has not been able to ascertain if they were delivered to the addressees. The remaining 28 containers with 11,000 parcels are still languishing at Cochin port since April 6, despite many reminders to India Post authorities by Emirates Post.

According to a press release issued on September 21, 2002 by the Emirates Post, it has been holding talks and corresponding with India Post over the pile-up of parcels at the Kochi port but these have so far not yielded any results due to the inaction of India Post. A delegation from Emirates Post recently visited India to discuss the matter. They also reviewed the situation at Kochi port and met shipping agents who have blamed India Post for the delay.

The Emirates Post disclosed that India Post had so far failed to cooperate and even refused to hold official level talks. "Despite efforts to persuade India Post to arrange for early delivery of the parcels, Emirates Post has not received any satisfactory response. As a result, many unsatisfied customers are approaching Emirates Post to know the fate of their parcels," the official said.

India Post asked Emirates Post to stop sending the parcels by sea to Kochi, and Emirates Post replied that there was no other alternative

since the direct air cargo capacity to Kochi was too limited to meet the heavy demand. Emirates Post then suggested that the Kochi-bound parcels could be first sent to Bombay, for onward transportation by land, but the suggestion was unacceptable to India. All efforts to find alternative solutions were met with lack of response from India Post.

Kochi Port authorities said that the port was only custodian of the cargo and effects delivery on completion of the customs formalities, submission of delivery order issued by the steamer agents and collection of port dues, if any. So far, none has approached the port for delivery of the cargo, they said. India Post, which is the consignee, has to take care of the cargo, get it examined and see if any duty is payable on them and then hand it over to the individual addressee, port sources say.

The Post Master General, Central Postal Region Kochi, P C Baburaj, said that only when the shipping agent had handed over the parcels to the post office, did it become an article of the post. He has taken up the matter with the India Post HQ at New Delhi and is awaiting their orders. He said he had no information about new express parcel scheme of the Emirates Post under which these parcels were sent.

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PERIODICALS RECEIVED

G P A NEWS, Whole # 61 - August 2002, Monthly
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

Deccan Philatelist, Vol. 1 # 4
Editors: P J Lewis & Dr. Anjali Dutta
Publisher: Deccan Philatelic Society, Pune
Address: A-12, Sacred Heart Town, 75/2 Wanowrie, Pune 411040
Annual Subscription including membership:
Mode of Remittance: By bank draft in favor of the publisher

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E-POST UPDATE

A pre-bid meeting with prospective bidders for developing application software for 'e-Post' service and/or to host the package in the bidders facility shall be held on September 30, 2002 at India Post HQ at New Delhi.

The last date for submission of the documents is now extended by one week, to October 7, 2002 from September 30, 2002.

More details about 'e-post service' are available at the <http://www.indiapost.org/IndiaPost-E-Post.html> and about the tender are available at the <http://www.indiapost.org/Tenders.html>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 25

The President of Philatelic Congress of India, Sahadeva Sahoo wrote in the current issue of "Stamps & Stamps", edited and published by him, that EIPA (Eastern India Philatelic Association) has, because of their

internal troubles, requested PCI to find any other society to organize this national. Any takers?

Our source points out that Sahoo and B K Sinha, who work closely together on all philatelic ventures, themselves are responsible for the troubles at EIPA. Sahoo and Sinha had consistently misled its President who happens to be the Minister of Tourism of the Orissa State Government, and other Executives about PCI, INPEX 2002, and the related procedures. These two persons did not even inform EIPA or the Organizing Committee members about the meetings of the Allotment Committee held at Bhubaneswar where EIPA regularly meets.

It seems that Sinha has already spent Rs. 150,000 on account of exhibition without approval from either EIPA Executive Committee or INPEX 2002 Organizing Committee. The designing and printing of prospectus and mailing envelope; Letterhead and mailing envelope; entry form, Invitation cards, special covers, souvenir and palmers cover; certificates, publicity stickers - 2 sizes, posters, the designing of commemorative stamps and miniature sheet and medals; the official hotel and other contracts were awarded, allotment and other subcommittees finalized before the first meeting of the Organizing Committees in April 2002.

What is perhaps worse is that the money was spent not only on designing and printing and other activities as mentioned above but also on daily wining and dining of the INPEX 2002 team led by Sinha at the official hotel since early 2002. They want to feast on INPEX 2002 account for the whole year it seems.

Sahoo & Sinha, who were also at the helm of affairs, for MILLEPEX in January 2000 the earlier national held at Bhubaneswar, have neither rendered nor had the accounts for the exhibition audited despite being reminded on several occasions by the concerned team.

We have since learned that Orissa Philatelic Association is now expected to organize INPEX 2002 that means nothing has changed, same dates, same venue, same personnel (Sahoo & Sinha as President & Secretary) and same problems.

The exhibition has a proposed budget of Rs. 1.6 million without taking into account the rental Rs. 0.6 million for the venue. Chief Minster of Orissa State was apprised of the activities of the Sahoo, Sinha duo and requested to ensure that no public funds were allowed to be misused in view of the position of accounts of the previous national as well as misappropriation already on for the current exhibition.

The Chancellor of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) who is also the Governor of Orissa State, reportedly has told the organizers that the use of the OUAT Convention Center as the venue for INPEX 2002 shall be made available only on payment of the normal prescribed charges for the same, about Rs. 600,000, and not free of cost as was presumed by the organizers.

Sinha has filed Caveats against Shakil Ahmed, J N Kanungo, and, believe it or not, against all members of the PCI at courts, fearing what, only he knows! The fate of the exhibition now hangs on the ability of this duo to raise the required funds.

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READERS FORUM

MAFATLAL SHETH from Mumbai

Nelson Collamer also tried to cheat me way back in 1995; he sent me a cheque for US \$ 800 for a collection of Indian States. I was careful and decided to wait till the cheque cleared. The cheque bounced and I was saved, as I did not send him the collection. I did report the matter to APS and I got similar reply like the one you have already published.

<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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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Contents/Guide/Misc/laws>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Contents/Guide/Misc/cybercrime>
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ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMPS ON THE ROCKS

Gibraltar's 'Views of the Rock' set of five stamps issued on June 6, 2002 contains actual rock by using a printing technology never used before in Stamp printing.

Hong Kong's issue 'Rocks of Hong Kong' set of four stamps issued on September 15, 2002 has also used similar technology to feature the nature of underlying rocks, illustrating the characteristic weathering feature and landform of each rock type.

The Cartor Security Printing of France has applied thermography technology in producing these two sets of stamps for Hong Kong and Gibraltar that depict rocks. The thermography process involves putting a layer of transparent thermographic powder to the stamp sheets before the ink dries. The stamp sheets are then passed through heating and cooling chambers where the grains of powder rapidly melt, fuse together, and cool; thus forming a distinctive thick transparent coating and producing a bolder definition of the graphic image on the stamps. The coating greatly enhances the tactile and visual appeals of the stamps in depicting the structure of the rocks.

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

The Times of India, September 20, 2002
THE POSTCARD TURNS BRAND AMBASSADOR! By Arun Kumar Das
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow.asp?artid=22697955&sType=1>

Mid Day, September 21, 2002
RESTORE THE METAL POST BOXES, SAY LOCALS By K P Babu
<http://www.mid-day.com/metro/bandra/2002/september/31913.htm>

<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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