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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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I N T H I S I S S U E

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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

In today's world of convergence, Frauds and Viruses are also related to spam that is unsolicited mail that you didn't ask for, didn't want and would rather not have cluttering your inbox.

Spam is flooding the Internet with many copies of the same message, in an attempt to force the message on people who would not otherwise choose to receive it. Most spam is commercial advertising, often for dubious products, get-rich-quick schemes, or quasi-legal services. Spam costs the sender very little to send -- most of the costs are paid for by the recipient or the carriers rather than by the sender.

Email spam targets individual users with direct mail messages. Scanning Usenet postings, stealing Internet mailing lists, or searching the Web for addresses often creates email spam lists. Email spams typically cost users money out-of-pocket to receive. Many people - anyone with

measured phone service - read or receive their mail while the meter is running, so to speak. Spam costs them additional money. On top of that, it costs money for ISPs and online services to transmit spam, and these costs are transmitted directly to subscribers.

We are pleased to include the following two valuable tips contributed by our readers

1. Some spam software now spoofs your email address so that the email is addressed both to and from you. You should check the full header of the email address to find its true origin. Please set to display all headers in the email program. This will show the complete detail of the sender.

2. When you receive spam mail with suggestions that you may request to be removed from the list, DO NOT RESPOND. Instead of removing you from the list, the action validates your address and the frequency of messages will actually increase!

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 Nepal, Vijay Seth from New Delhi, The Hindu, and the Press Information Bureau of Government of India.

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

##### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

###### ANANDA NILAYAM VIMANAM

Pramod Mahajan, the Minister of Communications & Information Technology and Parliamentary Affairs, released a commemorative stamp on Ananda Nilayam Vimanam, the golden canopy over the sanctum sanctorum of the Lord Venkateswara temple at Tirumala On October 11, 2002.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said "It is the first stamp released by me on a non-mortal subject, the first one related to God and the first one released with my shoes off as a mark of reverence". Lauding the strides made by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on the IT front under the guidance of the IT-savvy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N Chandrababu Naidu, he said that with schemes like e-seva, e-hundi, e-puja and the like being launched, Lord Venkateswara had become the first "e-God".

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 15, the current overseas air letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Madras Security Printers Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo Offset in six colors on imported unwatermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 3 million. The issued sheets contain 40 stamps.

#### KANIKA BANDYOPADHYAY

Pramod Mahajan, the Minister of Communications & Information Technology and Parliamentary Affairs, released a commemorative stamp on Kanika Bandyopadhyay On October 12, 2002 at a special function held at Kolkata.

Bandyopadhyay, 1924-2000, was a great exponent of Rabindra Sangeet, a genre of music created by India's first Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the current inland letter rate. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. India Security Press of Nashik printed the stamps by photogravure in multicolor on Imported un-watermarked adhesive gravure coated stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million. The issued sheets contain 35 stamps.

#### ARYA VAIDYA SALA

Dr. Sanjay Paswan, the Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative stamp on Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal, on October 12, 2002 at a special function held at New Delhi.

Established by P S Varier in 1902 the Vaidya Sala is an institution of excellence that has contributed immensely to the development of the Aurvedic medical practices in modern times. The ancient Indian system of medicine, Ayurveda is perhaps the longest unbroken health tradition in the world with theory and practice that is several centuries old.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the current inland letter rate. Suresh Kumar designed the stamp and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs. 2 were issued on the occasion. Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by photo Offset in five colors on matt chromo paper in the quantity of 0.8 million each. The issued sheets contain 16 stamps.

#### BHAGWAN BABA

Pramod Mahajan, the Minister of Communications & Information Technology and Parliamentary Affairs, released a commemorative stamp on Bhagwan Baba On October 15, 2002 at a special function held at Ahmednagar.

Hailing from the Beed district, Bhagwan Baba (1896-1965) was an ascetic who belonged to the long tradition of mystics and saint poets of Maharashtra. In many ways, he was a spiritual successor to Jnyaneshwar, Tukaram and Ramdas.

The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 5, the current inland letter rate. Alka Sharma designed the stamp and the pictorial first day postmark. Brahm Prakash designed the First Day Cover, priced at Rs. 2. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and 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.

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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SHEETLET ONCE MORE

The Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal is the second commemorative that was issued in a sheetlet of 16 with an illustrated margin all around depicting various herbs, in place of the regular sheets of 40 or 35. There are, believe it or not, only 50,000 sheetlets printed and we do not foresee these lasting long enough. If you have not yet bought this new addition to India Post's line of philatelic products, hurry before it is too late.

There were 200,000 sheetlets printed for the first issue released in sheetlet format, '50 years of Diplomatic relations between India and Japan' on April 26, 2002. These are still available at philatelic bureaus though not for long again as the bureaus stock and sell the stamps only for six months from the date of issue.

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NEW SET OF GREETING CARDS

India Post released 66 new Greeting Cards on October 5, 2002 with pre-paid postage envelopes where the imprinted postage stamp is an exact replica of the greeting card inside. The Greeting Cards included in this set are 11 for Deepavali, 5 for Christmas, 16 for New Year, and 24 for other occasions. This is the eleventh set issued and the first with new postal rate of Rs. 5 in the imprinted stamp.

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DESIGN A STAMP CONTEST RESULTS

Jyotsana Diesh (Chairperson of the Judging Panel and the Chief Postmaster General of Delhi Postal Circle), Vishnu Saksena (Former Member of Postal Services Board), Surinder Suman of Shankar's Academy of Arts, and India Post's resident artist, Alka Sharma judged this year's Design A Stamp Contest held on October 11, 2002 at New Delhi.

Sunayana Coelho of Modern School, Vasant Vihar, won the first prize of Rs. 1000. Tara Khilani of G D Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj and Anish Goel of Ryan International School, Vasant Kunj won the 2nd and 3rd prizes of Rs. 750 and Rs. 500 respectively. Parampreet K Chadha of Springdales, Dhaula Kuan and Parvinder Singh of Mata Gujari Public School received the consolation prizes of Rs. 250 each.

Ravi Pahwa, Assitant Superintendent of Post Offices (Philately) coordinated the program with Manisha Mishra, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices (South West).

The prize-winning entries at the national level are likely to be chosen for the stamp and the first day cover to be released on Children's Day 2003.

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GUARANTEED DELIVERY SERVICE

India Post recently launched the 'Guaranteed Delivery Service' targeted to those who regularly send large volume of mail. The service is being provided on a minimum of 10,000 articles per posting at a service charge of Rs. 2 per article in addition to the normal postal tariff. India Post

provides the recipients' acknowledgement as the proof of delivery. The Service at present is available only in Chennai on an experimental basis and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and RPG Cellular Services have availed the service.

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INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR SPEED POST

The central postal region in Kerala has developed new software for interactive voice response system (IVRS) for tracking the Express Mail Service (EMS) Speedpost articles handled by India Post. The value-added service comes with no additional charge and is currently available only at the Kochi Speedpost Centre, being expanded soon to all Speedpost centres in Kerala and would be launched later, all over India.

The software provides a bar code and track number for the Speedpost article, which can be traced at any time on its route at the national level by logging on to the websites www.speedpost.org or www.Indiapost.org. The customer, who books the article, has just to dial a given telephone number to know the location of the article through the IVRS. The IVRS is being incorporated into the tracking system in existence at present. There are three language options – English, Hindi or Malayalam. The new software also provides for short message service (SMS) on the cellular phone for a return message on delivery.

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EMPLOYEES DEVELOP SOFTWARE FOR POSTAL OPERATIONS

The work by a team of postal assistants has brought national and international recognition to the informal in-house computer center at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and the software developed by them is already in demand in South Asian countries.

On coming across postal assistants who held formal qualifications in computer applications like MCA, MS and BCA, K V Sundara Rajan, Post Master General of Kurnool Postal Region secured permission from the HQ to set up a computer laboratory. The team did not find it difficult to develop the software suitable for its applications being well versed with the functioning of the Postal Department and developed 'Head Record Software' to handle the core work of the department within two years. The software is in application at 23 centres across the country now. Enthused by the success, the team has now begun working on developing "circle bag accounting", another crucial area of the postal service.

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FAKE STAMPS SEIZED AT HYDERABAD

The officers of StampIT (Stamp Investigation Team of Karnataka Police) have seized a huge cache of fake stamps worth Rs. 94 million stored in a godown on the outskirts of Hyderabad with the assistance of other agencies, including the Hyderabad City Police. They have also arrested seven persons in this connection.

In a nightlong operation on October 6, the officers raided four places in various parts of Hyderabad. The arrested have been identified as Sadashiva, alias Shiva, Abdul Wahid, Sadiq Kudli, Sarfarz Nawaz, Abdul Khuddus, Illiyas, and Sachin Kalgeen, a release from StampIT said.

The Madiwala Police had arrested Badruddin, Rafi, and Byroji Rao in Bangalore prior to the Hyderabad raid. It followed registration of fresh cases against Karim Lala and others for running the multibillion

stamp paper racket even when Lala was lodged in judicial custody at the Central Jail in Parappana Agrahara, Bangalore.

StampIT stated that all the arrested were the associates of Abdul Karim Ladsab Telagi, alias Karim Lala, the kingpin of the racket. They were acting on the instructions of Lala to circulate fake stamps in various parts of the country. The Delhi Police seized fake stamps and stamp papers worth Rs. 2.4 billion (and not Rs. 21.6 million as reported erroneously in previous issue) on October 4, 2002. The Chandigarh Police had also seized fake stamp papers and stamps worth Rs. 40 million recently.

All those arrested in Hyderabad were wanted by police in different states. Sadashiva was wanted by the Hyderabad Police, Abdul Wahid by the Chennai Police, Sarfarz Nawaz and Sachin Kalgeen by the Chandigarh Police, and Sadiq Kudli and Illyas by the Pune and Bangalore Police.

With the arrest of seven persons, the allegations that Lala was organising the sale, circulation, and distribution of fake stamps and stamp papers throughout the country even in custody are said to have been substantiated.

Those arrested by the Madiwala Police have been remanded in police custody by the VII Additional Metropolitan Magistrate till October 21.

Those arrested in Hyderabad operation were remanded to police custody by a Hyderabad court for being taken to Bangalore for production before the court before October 9. StampIT is conducting further investigation.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court rejected the bail application of Lala on October 8, 2002. This was the second time Lala had approached the court for bail. Lala had preferred the present petition on health grounds.

The case is being investigated by StampIT, specially formed by the Karnataka Government in January 2002 under the Additional Director-General of Police, R. Sri Kumar. Lala, who was in the custody of the Pune Police, was brought to Bangalore to be produced before the Magistrate on October 7, 2002, and taken back to Pune.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUES

Nepal Post issued a new Rs. 5 stamp to mark the International Year Of Mountains on October 9, 2002. The stamp was printed in four colors by offset lithography at Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, in the quantity of 1 million in 50 stamps to each sheet. The stamp designed by Mohan Narsingh Rana is in vertical format and the size of the stamp is 30x40 mm.

Nepal Post also issued a set of 4, Rs. 5, stamps on Visit Nepal Series on October 9, 2002. The stamps depict Pathibhara Devasthan of Taplejung, Galeswor Mahadevsthan of Myagdi, Ramgram Stupa of Nawalparasi, and Mount Nilgiri Of Mustang. The stamps were printed in four colors by offset lithography at Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, in the quantity of 1 million in 50 stamps to each sheet. The stamps designed by K K Karmacharya are in horizontal format and the size of the stamps is 30x40 mm.

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PLASTIC MONEY

Nepal became 21st country to issue a polymer bank note with the release of a Rupees 10 note on September 30, 2002. The Note Printing Australia (NPA), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of Australia, produced 50 million polymer banknotes for Nepal at the cost of \$A3 million. The polymer note has been issued following the Nepal Rastra Bank's policy to replace the paper notes of Re 1, Rs 2 and Rs 5 with coins and Rs 10 with polymer notes. These are the notes most widely used in the country.

Polymer bank notes, currently used in over 20 countries, offer superior security, machine processability, cost effectiveness and recyclability. The Reserve Bank of Australia first issued polymer bank notes in 1988, setting a new world standard in banknote technology. NPA developed polymer technology in partnership with CSIRO and has been supplying polymer banknotes to 15 countries

Bangladesh was the first country in South Asia to issue a polymer note on December 14, 2000, a 10 Taka note depicting Mujibar Rahman. This was also produced by NPA in the quantity of 50 million.

It is learned that India is currently testing polymer banknotes.

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 28

India is a country of 1 billion people. It is true that 35 percent are poor and have difficulty in making the two ends meet or even one square meal a day. This definitely is something to worry about, as 350 million poor people are lots of poor people. The majority, 60 percent or 600 million of population is middle class and provides perhaps the largest market for consumer goods in terms of numbers anywhere in the world. And the remaining 5 percent, that is 50 million people are rich and that is really a large number of rich people in any one country. India is at the same time both rich and poor. Yes, India is a country of paradoxes.

Philately in India is also full of paradoxes; it started as a hobby, well spread amongst educated middle class. Almost all, who were in school till the 1970s, were exposed to the charms of philately. It then gradually started its downhill trend and the number of stamp collectors in schools today, is miniscule.

This happened because Philately in India was hijacked by the rich people for reasons other than their love for philately. Stamps as alternative investments became a convenient place to employ 'black' money from the parallel economy. Those who had that kind of money invested in stamps, acquired control of philatelic organizations and events for security and safety of their investments and for speculations in the market.

The promotion of philately in the masses was neglected during the past three decades with the result that today it is not a hobby of the millions it once was. The philatelic crop was reaped for years without sowing seeds and taking care of the fields. Today the yields are naturally poor.

During this period there were no encouragement for the beginners and they were fast dwindling in numbers while intermediate collectors were virtually extinct. Yet India was still winning Golds at world philatelic exhibitions. India with all its poverty is still the largest consumer of gold and Indian's love for gold is well known. A newcomer who could invest money in million was assured a gold medal even in the first attempt by powers that be. It did not matter whether he merited the same.

The newbie need not learn anything about philately in the process since an expert can select and source the material and another can authenticate and provide the write up. If one has money one could buy not only stamps but also the awards of choice. It is part of the social fabric of India that one can openly bid for posts in organizations and events. This is normally done in the name of raising funds for a good cause but in the case of philately it was simply a matter of personal gains.

Yet the free spirit of enterprise is equally strong in India and collectors have strived and risen on their merit and gained international acclaim. The need of the hour is to encourage philately at the grass root level to build a strong foundation for the budding philatelists and provide them space to grow.

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READERS FORUM

NAVEEN K SAMUEL

Recently there was a report that the government asked Archies to stop selling postage stamps in their outlets. I think instead of banning such sales they should be encouraged. Especially in selling commemorative stamps, FDC's, etc. This will not only give postal dept more revenue but also help in promotion of philately. Commemorative stamps are available at the HPO or GPO and if one is living far away from such POs, then outlets like Archies will be of great help to philatelists and others. Here service also will be pleasant. Most of the postal dept people are very rude and for them philatelists are annoying people. I request the government to allow outlets like Archies to sell Indian philatelic products brought out by the postal dept. The dept could sell these products to such outlets at a discount to the face value so such outlets can retail them at face value. Recently in "The Hindu" there was a report that postal dept was going to provide facilities for philatelists to open depository A/c online at their "India Post" website and stamps, FDC's, etc could be ordered online. I urge the dept to start this facility at the earliest. I am sure this will help in the promotion of Indian philatelic products worldwide and philatelists worldwide can order Stamps, FDC's, etc online.

In the long run Indian philately will be the ultimate winner.

<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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## RESEARCH NOTES

### PIN CODE UPDATE

We requested our readers to look at their holdings and report editions of the All India Pin Code Directories in issue # 75 of July 25, 2002.

We have been able to add one 'all India' edition of 1992 since. We have also received information on several regional Pin Code Directories that are however outside the scope of this documentation.

The updated list now stands as follows:

1973 - Print Line 1974 - Price Rs. 2.15

1973 (Reprint) - Print Line 1975 - Rs. 1.75

1981 - Price Rs. 3.50 (Corrected in manuscript from Rs. 0.50)

1982 - (1983) - Price not indicated (Sold for?)

1985 - Rs. 7

1992 - (1993) - Rs. 15 (in manuscript)

2000 - Rs. 40 (hand stamped)

We once again appeal to our readers for cooperation in preparing a list of All India Pin Code Directories. We need the missing information on the above editions as well as on the editions not listed here. We are also interested in buying a copy of the editions not listed here for our reference library.

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## ALSO IN THE NEWS

### INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

The Internet Philatelic Dealers Association (IPDA) was inaugurated on Feb 23, 2002.

With the introduction of the Internet its only natural to assume that the stamp industry is changing. Already, there are numerous electronically operated stamp auctions sites and hundreds of web-based stamp dealing sites. Many stamp collecting societies and clubs also have an active presence on the Internet.

With this new media a new world has opened for all philatelists and communication between them has been revolutionized. The IPDA believes there will be more changes as new and or changed technology comes on stream and quicker and more efficient means of communication between dealers and collectors becomes the norm.

As a result, the IPDA believes it has an important role to play in making these changes acceptable to and understood by all the online philatelic fraternity.

In this context, IPDA's first and prime objective is "to promote stamp collecting - as a hobby and as a commercial activity". IPDA e see this objective as central to the long-term benefit of our industry.

IPDA cordially invite all Internet based stamp dealers, and others engaged in the business of stamp trading, to join the IPDA and become part of this exciting and very important venture.

Benefits to the individual will be use of the IPDA logo on adverts & web sites, discounts for IPDA member private buyers, a list of current vetted members with contact e-mail addresses, free advice, and arbitration, a monthly newsletter and much much more.

For the collector, when dealing with a vetted member, a feeling of safety in the knowledge that the trader is honest & trustworthy.

The membership fees have been waived until April 1, 2003. The first year's membership fee of US\$15.00 will be due on that date. You may get more information at <http://ipdaonline.com>

All your individual enquiries are also welcome.

The Chairperson of IPDA is Helen Fowler, CompuChet Cachets, Four Flags Stamps & Covers, P O Box 392, Niles, MI 49120-0392, USA

The Secretary of IPDA is Larry Matthews, Box 354, Bracebridge, Ontario Canada, P1L 1T7

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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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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPSOFINDIA

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,

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://stampsonindia.netfirms.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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