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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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Issue # 119 - June 5, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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address, and philatelic interests and "subscribe" in the subject line.  
To unsubscribe send email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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Back issues of this newsletter are available for free download at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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We invite your inputs, please email to [stampsofindia@tatanova.com](mailto:stampsofindia@tatanova.com)

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I N T H I S I S S U E

New Philatelic Bureau at Thrissur

New Stamps Released

Advertisements on Envelopes

Postal Stationery with Advertisements - New Issues

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History of Postal Communications in Mewar

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Oops!

New Commemorative Coins

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The Calendar of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions

Philately in Transition in India, Part 60

Readers Forum - Dr. Avinash B. Jagtap, Binningen (Switzerland)

Also in the News - The End of the Story, Or Is It?

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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

All of us who have been interested in Indian Postal History have grown up on the staple diet of 'India Post' the award winning journal of the India Study Circle for Philately in UK (ISC) that started publication in 1967 with 6 issues a year. Since 1972 till 2002 it was published quarterly in February, May, August, and November, 4 issues a year.

Earlier this year it was decided to publish 'India Post', three times a year, in March, July and November. The auctions were however to continue four times a year and the latest auction lists arrived on its quarterly

schedule recently. This time the issue of 'India Post' was missed. The first issue this year was in March instead of February as per the new publication schedule, only a month later than the earlier schedule but now the members who by habit expect it to arrive in May have to wait till July.

This new schedule of printing was also discussed at the ISC AGM and it is hoped this reduction is only temporary and normal service will resume. We also look forward to resumption of regular publication as we eagerly await the well researched articles and information published in 'India Post'.

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,

Please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

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The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is now available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>  
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PHILATELIC BUREAU AT THRISSUR

Padma Balasubramanian, Director General of India Post, Chairperson of Postal Services Board, and the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, inaugurated the Philatelic Bureau at Thrissur Head Post Office on June 4, 2003. K N K Karthiayani, the Chief Postmaster General of Kerala Circle presided over the function.

A special postmark was provided and a special cover released on the occasion.

~~~~~ NEW STAMPS RELEASED

ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST

The Minister of Communications, IT & Disinvestment, Arun Shourie released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the golden jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Everest on May 29, 2003 at New Delhi.

The ascent of Mount Everest created a worldwide sensation when Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary reached the highest spot on the earth on May 29, 1953.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the stamps in the denomination of Rs.15, the overseas airmail letter rate, 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 was 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 1.2 million in the sheetlets of 12 stamps. The Miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 100,000.

MUKTABAI

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp on Muktabai on May 30, 2003.

Muktabai (1279 - 1299) was the sister of Sant Dnyaneshwar and a leading poet saint of Maharashtra who freed religion from the elitist monopoly of professional priests and took it to the masses, her message was one of universal love and compassion.

The stamps in the denomination of Rs.5, the inland letter rate and the First Day Cover, priced at Rs.2 were designed by Kamleshwar Singh. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion.

Eagle Press Private Limited of Chennai printed the stamps by photo Offset in four colors on imported un-watermarked stamp paper in the quantity of 0.4 million in the sheets of 50 stamps. The Miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 100,000.

ADVERTISEMENTS ON EVELOPES

India Post will be issuing stamped envelopes with advertisements for the first time. Post cards, inland letter cards, and aerogramme with advertisements have been issued since 1975. In the year 2000 the first and only Reply post card with advertisement was issued.

There are three multicolor ads on envelopes scheduled for release on July 20, 2003: Golden Jubilee Celebration of Handicrafts Resurgence in India, Live life with renewable energy (English), and Live life with renewable energy (Hindi).

POSTAL STATIONERY WITH ADVERTISEMENTS - NEW ISSUES

The postal stationery with following advertisements is scheduled for release in June 2003.

The information in the listing is presented in following format:

Date, Printer, Language, Message, Quantity, Remarks.

'M' denotes multicolor printing.

Continued from the previous issue:

MEGHDOOT POSTCARD - Mahabalipuram, 25 Paise, Red, Multicolor
5, SPP, Hindi, Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation Limited, 0.1 million
9, SPP, Telugu, AIDS, 0.1 million

POSTCARD - Mahabalipuram, 50 Paise, Brown
23, ISP, Hindi, Small Family Secret of Health, 1 million

INLAND LETTER CARD - MAHABALIPURAM, 250 Paise, Blue,

23, SPP, Hindi, Easy methods of Family Planning, 1 million
23, ISP, English, Indian Bank Home Loan, 1 million, M

AEROGRAMME - Mahabalipuram, 850 Paise, Brown
23, ISP, English, Coir Door Mats, 1 million, M

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SATISH MISRA POSTAL AUCTION

Satish Misra, [satishmisra@indiatimes.com](mailto:satishmisra@indiatimes.com) or [satishmisra2@rediffmail.com](mailto:satishmisra2@rediffmail.com), 13 Raja Vihar, Rajendra Nagar, Bareilly 243122 is holding a postal auction closing on July 8, 2003. There are 1185 lots in this auction. The lots are India, postmarks - early, railway, and others, postal stationery, censor markings on covers, airmail covers, special postmarks, slogans, meter franking, Indian princely states, GB, British Commonwealth, foreign, fiscals, Cinderella, telegrams, and philatelic literature.

The auction catalogue for this sale is available free; ask for a copy through email providing your postal address.

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HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN MEWAR

R K Sarawagi, co-author of 'History of Postal Communications in Mewar' is now compiling the 2nd edition of this work and solicits any documents, details of services, covers, acknowledgement, and postal markings. The contributors will be suitably acknowledged in the book and shall also be paid for philatelic material supplied. Please contact, R K Sarawagi, 10/3 Alipore Park Place, Kolkata 700027.

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INDIAN STAMP COMPANY PRICE LIST

Indian Stamp Company, [indianstamp2003@yahoo.com](mailto:indianstamp2003@yahoo.com) has published their latest wholesale price list. The 8 page A4 size list has country and thematic compositions, foreign stamps on Indian themes, India Mint & Used, India Year Units, etc and is available for free. Please write to: Chhippi Tank, Dr. Tyagi Building, Near Maruti Showroom, Meerut 250001.

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TRANSFERS & POSTINGS OF SENIOR POSTAL OFFICERS

On June 3, 2003, work was redistributed amongst Senior Deputy Director General and Deputy Director General at the India Post Directorate at New Delhi.

A K Bhatnagar, the Senior Deputy Director General looking after Postal Operations & Inspections, was given additional charge of Official Languages Implementation.

R K Singh, the Deputy Director General will continue to look after Material Management & TS and was relieved of his earlier additional charge as the Secretary of the Postal Services Board.

P Gopinath, the Deputy Director General looking after Estates was given additional charge as the Secretary of the Postal Services Board and was relieved of her earlier additional charge Liaison Officer Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes.

A K Sharma, the Deputy Director General looking after the Establishment was given additional charge of Liaison Officer Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes.

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OOPS!

In the report on new stamps released on May 15, 2003 on legendary playback singers Mukesh, Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, and Hemant Kumar in issue #117 of May 22, 2003 the sheet format of stamps is incorrectly described as sheetlets of 12. The stamps were actually issued in the sheets of 40. We regret the error.

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NEW COMMEMORATIVE COINS

The Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, released a set of commemorative coins on the great patriot Maharana Pratap, 1540-1597, on June 4, 2003 at a function held at New Delhi. The Vice President of India, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, presided over the function.

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NEW STAMP ISSUES OF NEPAL

Nepal issued a stamp and in the denomination of Rs.25 on May 29, 2003 to commemorate the golden jubilee of the first ascent of Mount Everest. The stamp depicts the south face of Mount Everest.

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for June 2003 with detailed information and announcements is being updated and soon shall be available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

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FOR ALL YOUR STAMP COLLECTING REQUIREMENTS, BUYING & SELLING

India & Indian Princely States, Classics to Modern Issues & Errors, Postal Stationary, First Day Covers, Special Post Marks, Air Mail with very rare First Flight Covers, Postal History & Philatelic Literature, Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru & other Thematics Worldwide, Coins & Bank Notes for Collection, Indian & Imported philatelic & numismatic Accessories Visit or send your want list, RAJESH K AGARWALA, CAPITAL STAMP COMPANY 2214-15, Hardhiyan Singh Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chanana Complex, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005. Telephone: Office (091-11) 2572 8110, Residence (091-11)2526 0163, Mobile (091) 98102 26692. Email [rkstamps@bol.net.in](mailto:rkstamps@bol.net.in)

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is the most effective way to reach the highest targeted readerships for Indian Philately worldwide. The advertising is FREE for the subscribers. The ads are published online in an Advertising Supplement. Send in your ad, today. Click here to view the ads and for the Terms for submitting your ad <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 60

We have a vision for the future of philately in India and are committed to realize it.

The vision is about creating the basic infrastructure for the development of philately in India. It includes an annual plan of philatelic activities, a philatelic exhibition on national level, a professionally edited and produced monthly philatelic magazine with a circulation in five digits, a national federation of philatelic organizations facilitating their growth, and a national philatelic policy to promote philately at the grass root level.

We believe that it is possible to have 100,000 stamp collectors organized in 1000 or more philatelic clubs across the nation in the first year itself. However the ground reality in India today is as far removed from this as possible. We need to disassociate with our recent past that is also an example of how not to do things.

India, in the current scenario, presents perhaps the biggest opportunity in the world for large scale philatelic activities and a huge market for philatelic industry.

A dedicated team is needed as also the requisite funds to help achieve the goals with a focused approach once the short term and long term plans are finalized.

The philatelists in India have been successfully participating in the International exhibitions since pre-independence days. Yet the numbers are miniscule keeping in view the potential of large number of persons who could be encouraged to join the hobby. China took twenty years to achieve 20 million stamp collectors and we must learn and improve upon this.

We now await your feedback and suggestions to proceed further on this vision and turn it into reality.

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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>

DR. AVINASH B. JAGTAP, BINNINGEN (SWITZERLAND)

India issued its first definitive stamp series after independence in the year 1949. This set comprised of 16 stamps and depicted cultural heritage of India, temples and monuments of all faiths and religions. The series was well executed by M/S T I Archer and I M Das. It was printed by typographic and lithographic processes.

All the subsequent series of definitive stamps show gradual degradation of aesthetic and artistic look, which are normally exhibited from a definitive series. Take for example the definitive series issued in

1955, propagating the first five year plan of India, all stamps are so monotonous and lack the artistic beauty and a message.

Then there is another definitive series of 1957-63 depicting the map of India. Each stamp with the same design but in a different colour. The denomination of Naye Paise was then changed to Paise and the new series was issued in 1965-75, showing export articles of India, ancient sculptures and scenic beauty spots like Dal Lake, Atomic Reactor of Trombay and Animals & Fruits. All different motives without any relation to each other were chosen to decorate the stamps.

This clearly shows that India Post has no previous planning when a new definitive series is announced. No information as regards the theme of the forthcoming definitive stamps, their design, size or colours and all details as regards the graphic and technical data are given proper publication well in advance. It seems that the new issues are just added to the existing series.

This will be clear when the readers take trouble to see the poor and shabby designs of the present high value definitive which depict various sources of energy and energy conservation (Solar energy, Gas, Petrol and Wind-energy). The ugliness of the stamp is in proportion to its denomination! Even a student of an art school in India might have more fantasy and artistic view in designing an Indian stamp than those "artists" employed by India Post.

Have a glimpse at the definitive issued by foreign countries. Germany had issued an entire definitive series showing the celebrated German women, who have made their country great. Why India should not make an effort to issue an entire definitive series introducing the most famous Indian personalities (no more Gandhis or Nehrus please!), which are not only known to Indians but are also world famous? Our Post Department can do away with so many personality stamps - personalities who are almost unknown even in the neighboring states of India!

Recently Switzerland has issued for the first time beautiful definitive with insects and flowers as themes. We do not demand that India also print multicolored definitive stamps, India may not afford to do it. But we should expect that they are aesthetic and artistic in their presentation.

Apart from the get-up of the stamp, they also lack in technical aspects, such as paper on which the stamps are printed, the adhesive which does not stick to the paper when moistened (The instruction "New adhesive, moisten and press well" does not work at all!). Not to speak about the perforations! A definitive Mint stamp with all perforations intact is a rarity. Not to think of nicely used copies of higher denomination definitive with all dentate intact!

The tumbler full of blue colored glue is there at the post office counter. The Post Office can not guarantee; but you must ensure that the costly stamp affixed to the envelope is there in its place till it is obliterated, perhaps mercilessly by the postman!

What other readers and philatelists collecting Indian stamps think about Indian definitive stamps? It will be interesting to know their views and remarks.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

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

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

THE END OF THE STORY - OR IS IT?

By Peter Pan ©

On June 3, 2002 in the upper right corner of page 25, Linn's ran a story regarding the arrest by Postal Inspector Dennis McMannaman of a postal employee for theft of Registered Mail at JFK International Mail Facility. But let us go back a few years and Linn's contained several stories or letters on the non-receipt of international and perhaps domestic registered mail, those stories caught my attention as I often use registered international mail.

First let us look at the USPS Postal Inspectors, they are some times called the grey ghosts due to their almost complete desire and physical non-contact with the American postal public. You can not visit them, you may write to them, or you may telephone them, but other contact is almost unheard of.

Second let us look at Registered Mail - in international practice we can expand this to include any accountable mail, such as Recorded Delivery, et al. This mail is supposed to be traced and tracked at all times. In days gone by each person that handled it signed for it, now it goes in special sacks or pouches and is supposed to have the highest security that any postal service can provide. In the international field these sacks or pouches are usually red in color for ease in identification by authorized postal employees to speed it on its way.

Now back to the Linn's story, most readers may simply have glanced over it, but one paid more attention to it than I did. Why, because a registered letter from the United Kingdom airmailed on 13 November 2001 to me had gone missing and reported to the USPS in early December. Royal Mail in London advised that it had been sent to JFK. Several contacts were made to postal inspectors in NY and NJ, including JFK, while they accepted the complaint, not one of these inspectors ever acknowledged receipt of my advice that a registered letter had gone missing. This is known in the trade as "Stonewalling" often done by government officials when they desire to avoid the true issue, others may call it the "Ostrich Syndrome", where the ostrich buries its head in the sand when an enemy approaches and then feels safe since it cannot see him.

In the mean time I had traced the missing letter to Royal Mail's Reading facility in the United Kingdom, who dispatched it via American Airlines on 14 November arriving at JFK on the 15 of November in a 6.7 Kg (14 pounds) red sack #145 - and from that point it and the sack (with 14 pounds of registered mail) seems to have vanished.

Having had many years experience in government service and private business, I elevated my enquiries to the NY Area Manager, and then eventually To PMG Jack Potter and then went to the Freedom of Information Act (FOAI) route. This resulted in the receipt of a letter from Washington that was meant to appease a dissatisfied patron, however it had the opposite effect of insulting ones intelligence. This reply also contained two enclosures, one was an incomplete (CN 31 one side of a two sided form) dated November 15, 2001 and the other appeared to be made as an after thought (or a CYA product) (C14 unsigned, typed date Feb 06) as it was dated several months after the action, but according to UPU Rules and Regulations which govern USPS procedures form C14 should have been made and sent by the "quickest means available" or months earlier, in November 2001, not in February of the next year.

Then I received an express letter from a Washington D.C. elevated Postal Inspector, the letter was a bit more down to earth and included a telephone number. I called and explained that I had enjoyed her letter, but it did not address my concerns, specifically that of improvement of the postal service. I advised her of my background and requested that she contact me in say 90 days, she advised me that would require her supervisors' approval which never appears to have been granted.

I then went the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) route again, and several weeks went by without a word, then in about the sixth week the USPS legal counsel's office in Washington D.C. contacted me and said it would take a few more weeks to reply, by law it should have been replied to within 10 days. In due course, I finally received a letter with 21 pages about the case enclosed, of course all the identification parts completely covered by a broad black felt marker. This made use of the "information" difficult, while the USPS Counsel had planned to make it impossible.

But with due effort I was able to locate a legal file on the "case" and its contents, which to put it mildly, amazed me. The gentleman, who committed the crime, was a 35 year postal employee, who had no authority to even handle mail of any type - he was an illustrator and/or sign painter that worked in the basement. Yet he seems to have fooled the USPS for years - readily admitted on March 23, 2002 that he had been rifling registered for "over a year". He lived in Queens and appears to have had a drinking problem. He also stated that this stealing provided him with "about \$500.00 a week". Now using his own statements \$500.00 times 52 weeks comes to \$26,000.00 tax free - that he had admitted to. How did thousands of inbound registered letters and mail get into the hands of someone not authorized to handle ANY mail? How could this have gone on for years without any attention given to it by management? I am not aware of any changes made to prevent this or any other theft from happening again at JFK/AMF/SMC.

Now how was this "crime wave" broken? Was it brilliant investigative work on the part of the Postal Inspector? Not really, a Postal Inspector (PI) was given a tip that someone who should not be handling mail had been observed with registered mail in his desk area. The PI inspected the subject's area and saw several registered letters on his desk. The PI then had a CCTV camera installed and observed the subject for a period of time. At one point he saw the subject open an envelope, extract currency and put it in his shirt pocket, this turned out to be \$115.00. The PI then placed the subject under arrest. The true number of stolen pieces of registered mail will never be known, but according to the postal inspectors, they found 52 pieces on the subject's desk, 80 pieces in a desk drawer, and then an additional 1469 pieces searching the desk area, with 621 pieces having been opened and rifled. This makes over 1,600 pieces of stolen International Registered Mail that the USPS permitted to go unaccounted for, for months and even years. USPS apparently simply ignored all patrons complaints AS A STANDARD PRACTICE.

Now what happened to the thief? On Wednesday, March 20, 2002 the Postal Inspector received a tip, and he then confirmed it. On Thursday he assisted in putting in closed circuit camera (CCTV), on Friday he observed the subject and this continued on Monday, the day the subject was arrested at 8:56 AM for "theft of inbound international registered mail at ISC/JFK Jamaica, NY." The Postal Inspector in his "Complaint" that day charged the subject with the following; "did embezzle, steal, abstract and remove any letter, post card, package, bag and mail and any article or thing contained therein, entrusted to him and which came into his possession and which was intended to be conveyed by mail, or carried or delivered from any Post Office Station. (Title 18, United States Code, Section 1709)". Subject was given an "emergency suspension" with a "removal" effective April 1, 2002. On May 9, 2002 the subject accepted a plea bargain deal and pled guilty to one count of "obstruction of mail, a violation of 18 U.S.C. para 1701" (a Class B Misdemeanor). On July 23, 2002 Robert M Levy, United States Magistrate Judge accepted his plea, ordering restitution to known victims of \$16.018 and two years probation. The subject appears to have been retired effective April 1, 2002, with the blessings of the USPS management and the postal employees union, and most possibly he is receiving his pension.

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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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About STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -- ADMINISTRIVIA

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