



# SIPA

## Bulletin

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### SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

Speech by the President of India Shri K.R. Narayanan, while inaugurating World Philatelic Exhibition "INDEPEX'97" on 15.12.1997 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

I am happy to associate myself with this World Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Department of Posts to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. I would like to congratulate the Federation International de Philately, representatives of postal administration from several countries and the officers and staff of the Department of Posts for their effort in mounting this impressive exhibition.

It is said that postage stamps are "the windows of a nation through which the people overseas may behold its heritage and nature". In this way, philately fosters cultural understanding and strengthens universal brotherhood. We in India have always promoted philately as a means of building cultural bridges among nations and civilisations by sharing out great cultural heritage. In a sense, this exhibition which has participants from every continent reflects the role philately plays in promoting international understanding.

It is fitting that on this occasion, the Department of Posts has issued a souvenir stamp sheet in memory of Mother Teresa. She was a symbol of peace, mercy and compassion. Wherever there was suffering and despair, Mother Teresa and her Sisters

of Charity brought love, hope and dignity. Her work and her message of selfless service transcends national boundaries and has inspired all humanity. In a very real and meaningful sense, she knit the peoples of the world together, particularly the underprivileged and the downtrodden, with her care and compassion. The souvenir stamp sheet is a touching and evocative tribute to this "Angel of Mercy".

This World Philately Exhibition, the fifth in a series organised by the Department of Posts, with its collection of rare and precious stamps is a spectacular event which offers an opportunity to viewers to witness, enjoy and marvel at the philatelic treasures of the world. I would also like to congratulate the Department of Posts for the interesting vignette presented in the exclusive pavillion of "India Post" which depicts the postal history of India from the days of East India Company to contemporary times.

Philately is a hobby, which has immense educational value. Small stamps tell big stories about virtually every aspect of human life - art, science, culture, history and nature. It sharpens the curiosity and enhances the creativity, particularly among the youth. I am therefore delighted that this exhibition is

promoting philately as hobby through programmes such as quiz competitions and special workshops for the youth.

While it is true that this hobby is educative and informative, there is an interesting story of how it can also be very profitable and result in windfall gains for collectors. The famous one-cent British Guinea Stamp, insured for Stg. £ 200,000 Pounds was once brought for display at a Stamp Exhibition in London in 1965. Not only did it arouse tremendous media interest - the BBC even broadcast a special programme - it was finally sold for a staggering Stg. £ 280,000 (in Indian Rs.1.68 crores approx.). I am sure this story would enthuse our stamp collector of today. There is another very interesting anecdote perhaps apocryphal, about the origins of stamp collection. A poor old lady in London could not afford to cover her walls with wallpaper. She therefore covered the walls with a collage of used postage stamps. Not only did this look beautiful, but they inspired her to arrange this in an album. Thus started this great hobby which has fascinated generations of people throughout the world. Communication revolution with the introduction of Fax, Electronic Mail, etc., is today overtaking the postal mail which hitherto encircled the globe. But nothing could supercede the historical

#### SIPA MEETINGS :

Second Sunday of every month Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Head Post Office, Chennai - 600 002. (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)  
First and third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library Hall at 6 Nanian Street, Chennai - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)  
SIPA Library Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannain Street, Chennai - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)



significance, the educational and cultural value, and the beauty, artistry and the romance of the postage stamp.

In India, the Department of Posts through its projection of our glorious heritage, achievements in science and technology and agricultural and industrial development has played a notable role not merely in encouraging stamp collection as a hobby but in creating greater awareness of our nation throughout the world. I am very happy to learn that a composite mosaic of all stamps issued on the theme of our freedom struggle has been arranged at this exhibition. This will enable the younger generation to learn more about our freedom struggle and the great leaders, men and women who made glorious sacrifices for the cause of liberty, equality and human dignity.

I am very happy to learn that the Department of Posts is bringing out a set of four commemorative stamps on the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and that only today a stamp was issued in memory of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. I am sure that the Department will keep up its good work and also issue stamps, which would commemorate the spectacular achievements made by India and Indians in various fields after independence.

### **Indepex '97 - Jury Report**

The Jury wishes to express its thanks for participating in the celebrations to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. We wish to thank the organisers for providing the facilities and secretarial support, which eased the work of the Jury and the expert team.

The work of the Jury proceeded harmoniously and in a spirit of International co-operation and friendship. Jury decisions were taken unanimously.

As is usual, there were a number of exhibits that were transferred between classes by the Jury where it would be of benefit to the exhibitor. Three exhibits had to be judged as special studies as they could not be evaluated correctly in any class. The open class has proved interesting and demonstrates the many fascinating facets of our hobby.

The Jury would like to express its special thanks to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, along with the other Court of Honor Exhibitors for sharing their wonderful and interesting material for the

enjoyment of all visitors to the exhibition.

We would like to thank the commissioners for their work in not only providing excellent exhibits but also for assisting in mounting them in the frames. The Organizers made a particularly exceptional effort to replace the few exhibits that did not appear, so that practically every frame contained material that was judged.

Finally we would like to thank the Department of Post for providing the resources necessary to run a World Exhibition.

1. **D.N. Jatia, RDP**  
Hon. President
2. **P. Gupta**  
President
3. **Francis Kiddle**  
Secretary
4. **Tay Peng Hlan, RDP**  
Vice President
5. **Hugo Goeggel**  
Vice President
6. **M G Pittle**  
Joint Secretary

### **INDEPEX ' 97 -**

After 8 years, Philatelists in India had the pleasure of seeing a World Philatelic Exhibition INDEPEX-97 in our Country at New Delhi.

Indepex '97 was inaugurated by our beloved President of India, Shri. K.R. Narayanan on 15th December morning at 11.00 a.m. Hon'ble Communications Minister Sri Beni Prasad Varma, welcomed the guests from all over the World. Inauguration function was very well attended by V.I.Ps, Dignitaries, Philatelists, Jury Members, Commissioners and other guests.

After a gap of 8 years, this was a great opportunity, for Philatelists and especially for youth to see so many world class exhibits covering a wide range of subjects from Postal History, Traditional and Thematics to Revenues and Fiscals. For all enterprising Philatelists, this was in reality, a school and workshop to learn and improve their own collections.

Court of Honour class was a great surprise and perhaps once in life time opportunity for all to see the greatest rarity of Indian Classics "The Head Inverted", 1854 Four Annas. In numbers, there were ten on display including one from Her Majesty the Queen's exhibit. Never before, any Indian Philatelist had seen so many Head Inverted at an exhibition. Added glory to this exhibition was a "Head Inverted" in Dr. Sita Bhateja's exhibit of India Championship Class - a square copy on cover. And that makes Two Head Inverted from Karnataka, one belonging to Mr. Ray Saldhana and other Dr. Bhateja as above. Seeing so many "Head Inverted" was like a dream come true.

Court of Honour had the official contribution on display of Classics of India from National Philatelic Museum and two others, India Security Press and Army Postal Services, also Gandhi - Designs and Essays by Helio Courvoisier SA, Switzerland. It had well known collections of Postal stationery of India and Indian States, exhibit of Hyderabad and number of wellknown overseas exhibits, all containing gems of World Philately.

There were 29 exhibits in Court of Honour. Two very important exhibits of special interest were from Mr. G.B. Pai, a Hand written manuscript of the book on Indian classics by D.E. Wadia and History of Waghorn "Research Papers" collected by A. Karr Comyns, a grand nephew of Waghorn.

Some 22 countries participated in Official Class, which also was an added attraction for Philatelists.

FIP. Championship class was another great attraction and crowd puller. It had 14 exhibits of great gems, rarities and wonderful exhibits, and for Indian Philately, the best Indian Classic exhibit of Dr. Sita Bhateja was the one ever displayed containing most of the known rarities of India upto 1900.

While certainly one would have seen Indian Collections or special studies exhibits, never before a single collection was ever exhibited in Indian World Philatelic Exhibition having almost all well known gems.

In this class, one more noteworthy collection for Indian Philatelists was Bhopal exhibit of Mr. M.C. Sukhani. There



was one more for Indian Philately that of Portuguese India.

There were totally 594 exhibits in competitive class, as under.

Group	Total Exhibits for India	
Class 1-FIP Championship Class	14	2
Class 2-Traditional	126	24
Class 3-Postal History	111	17
Class 4-Postal Stationery	27	2
Class 5-Aero & Astro Philately	30	3
Class 6-Thematic Philately	70	12
Class 7-Maximaphily	5	1
Class 8-Revenues	26	7
Class 9-Youth Philately	57	13
Class 10-Mophila	11	6
Class 11-Philatelic Literature	117	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>102</b>

There was one more special class FIP Demonstration Class with 5 different exhibits.

By and large there were many good well written up, perfectly displayed exhibits and youth class entries were in general above average, well presented.

Awards in different classes were :

Large Gold	29
Gold	62
Large Vermiel	100
Vermiel	111
Large Silver	91
Silver	76
Silver Bronze	53
Bronze	46
Diploma	11

Overall impression of the exhibition, which was an International event, with many overseas stamp firms like Stanely Gibbons, Argyll Etkin from U.K., Light House, Lindner and Prinz from Germany and almost all well known stamp dealers of India was excellent. For an onlooker, there seemed to be good response to these dealer's booths.

Postal Department counters were over crowded all the time and gave the impression of overwhelming public response.

There were official selling booths of several countries, including one of our Indian Army Postal Service Corps.

**Y.R. Shah**  
Jury Member

## STAMP NEWS

### SANT KAVI SUNDERDAS

8.11.97 0.4 Million 200 P.



Sant Kavi Sunderdas was born at the old capital Dausa (Dyosa) of Jaipur. Stated on Chaitra Shukla Ramnavmi in Samvat 1653 Vikram (1596 AD). He had his early education in Varanasi. He spent many years in "Yogasadhana" and self-study. He travelled to many parts of India. His impressions later evolved through the medium of his poetry.

Revered as "The Sankaracharya" of Hindi literature, Sant Sunderdas led a vehement attack on the ills of society. He openly opposed casteism, communal parochialism, and indulgence in hypocrisy. He awakened self-respect towards one's mother tongue.

In his life span, Sant Sunderdas composed about 48 books, such as 'Gyan Samudra', 'Sarvangyoga Pradipika', 'Panchendriya Charitra', 'Sukh Samadhi', 'Guru Sampradaya', 'Bhram Vidhwans Ashtak', 'Pir Murid Ashtak', 'Barahmanan', 'Ayurbal Bhed Ashtak', 'Sakhi Granth', 'Padavali Granth', 'Savaia Granth' and 'Chitrabandh Rachnayan' etc. These works not only embodied the voice of conscience but kindled the light of self-independence also. In his simple language adorned with idioms, proverbs and quotes, Sant Sunderdas created firm faith in the values of life in the medieval Indian society. In his works, along with the form of Braj language in Hindi, a combination of Avdhee, eastern dialect, Gujarati, Punjabi, Sindhi, Khariboli, Marwari, Urdu and Sanskrit is found.

Rabindranath Tagore has rightly said, "Among philosophical poets, Sunderdas alone was a scholar well versed with the scriptures. He was not only a poet but a research scholar also."

On Kartik Shukla Ashtami (Gopashtami) Samvat 1746 Vikram (1689

AD), at the age of 93, Sant Sunderdas left for his heavenly abode. In his last couplet, he said that death is the union of spirit with god and, therefore, it is nothing but a festivity.

On the First Day Cover, "Kankanbandh" composed by the great poet Sunderdas, has been depicted which is a form of pictorial poetry. Every word is inlaid like a gem in a bracelet. This pictorial poetry is read in a special way.

### KOTAMARAJU RAMA RAO

9.11.97 0.4 Million 200 P.



Shri Kotamaraju Rama Rao was born in the coastal town of Chirala on 9 November 1897 and graduated in English from Madras University, before joining as a lecturer in Pachiappa College, Chennai. He started his career in Journalism in Karachi's nationalist English daily the Sind Observer in 1919. Later Rama Rao worked for the Times of India and the Free Press Journal in Bombay, the People of Lala Lajpat Rai in Lahore, the Eastern Economist in Calcutta, and the Hindustan Times in New Delhi. He was editor of the Searchlight in Patna and the daily Indian Republic in Chennai. The pinnacle of Rama Rao's Career was when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appointed him as the founder-Editor of Lucknow's National Herald in June 1938.

Rama Rao was jailed by the British Government in 1942 for his editorial Jail or Jungle in which he had exposed the police repression on the Satyagrahis in the Lucknow Central Jail. When the British Government closed down the National Herald in 1942, Gandhiji called Rama Rao to his Ashram in Sevagram from where Rama Rao syndicated his reports to over two dozen Indian and foreign journals. Rama Rao was a founder of the Indian Federation



of Working Journalists (IFWJ) and gave evidence before the first Press Commission on the status of newspaper industry in India.

An eminent freedom-fighter, parliamentarian and journalist, late Shri Kotamaraju Rama Rao was admired by many national leaders as a patriot of impeccable integrity and great courage. Mahatma Gandhi described Rama Rao as a "Fighting Editor", Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and C. Rajagopalachari also hailed him as an outstanding editor. Kotamaraju Rama Rao was elected to India's First Rajya Sabha (1952) from undivided Madras State and he was the First-ever Advisor on Plan Publicity to the Nehru Government in 1956. He also authored several books. Rama Rao died on 9th March 1961.

### CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.97 0.7 Million 200 P.



14th November the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru is celebrated every year as the universal children's day. Panditji love children and his birth anniversary is rightly dedicated to the children of the country to remind us of what he said: "The process of building men and women depends very considerable on what is done to its children. It is therefore of high importance that we pay attention to the well being and growth of children".

Panditji was not only our first Prime Minister but also the builder of modern India. His dream was "to build the house of India's future, strong and secure and beautiful....." (Discovery of India) ..... we have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell" (excerpt from speech delivered in the Constituent Assembly on 14th August, 1947). His vision of India was a country with scientific temper, a strong and vibrant economy with an advanced industrial infrastructure. To achieve this grand vision he introduced planning as an

instrument of national, economic and social development. A planned approach to child welfare began with formulation of first Five Year Plan and developed into the national policy for children in 1947 laying down the guiding principles for child welfare. The National Policy for Children (1974) described children as "primarily important asset" re-affirming our constitutional obligation to the children, assigning priorities to different needs of children and for responding to those needs in an holistic manner.

India is a signatory to the world declaration of the survival, protection and development of children. In order to implement the world summit goals, a national plan of action has been prepared by the Department of Women & Child Development, to address health and formal welfare related activities, removal of gender discrimination and special protection for economically, socially and physically disadvantaged groups. In the 50 years since India achieved independence, much has been done to redeem the pledge made to the future generations of India.

The observance of Children's Day helps us to renew our commitment to our social and moral responsibilities towards the need and right of the children.

The Department of Posts is happy to be associated with the observance of his special day by issuing a special postage stamp on this day every year. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence, the Department of Posts is also proud to pay homage to Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and his contribution to the building of modern India. The stamp this year depicts Nehru and child focussing on his image as 'Chacha Nehru' and underlining his love and deep commitment to the well-being of children.

The First Day Cover depicts a painting by Shaly Bhattacharya selected from a painting competition conducted among anganwadi children and supplied by the Department of Women and Child Development.

ENROL-NEW MEMBERS  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP - RS. 100/-  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP RS. 1000/-

### WORLD CONVENTION ON REVERENCE FOR ALL LIFE

23.11.97 0.7 Million 400 P.



The World Convention on "Reverence for all life", held at Pune, India from 22nd to 24th November, 1997, aims to commemorate and glorify the ancient Indian concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (all creation is one family). The Convention was decided to be held in the year India celebrates 50 years of independence, as a tribute to the nation.

There is a growing conviction today that the maladies and tragedies of the world we live in can be remedied through a sustained effort in creating an awareness of "UNITY OF LIFE". One eternal force alone manifests as the mineral, the plant, the bird/animal and the human. In developing due reverence for all life alone lies the secret of human joy and prosperity.

The objective of the Convention is to rekindle the flame of compassion towards mother earth, the plant and animal kingdom, to create an awareness for an urgent need to harmonise human life with Universal environment, to promote vegetarianism, to launch a programme for cessation of cruelty to animals/birds and to formulate a charter of animal rights and man's duties to the animal world.

During the convention the themes to be discussed will be based on the philosophical and spiritual aspects, vegetarianism and health, socio-economic aspects, vegetarianism and ecology, traditional myths and current beliefs and why Reverence for all Life.

The stamp design is based on the logo of the Convention. It depicts the globe with the continents in green symbolizing the fecundity of nature, and its enormous bounty. The concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is defined through images of various forms of life,



superimposed on the landscape. The design is very simple but extremely effective in the message it tries to convey.

**HAZARI PRASAD DWIVEDI**  
(1907 - 1979)

13.12.97 0.4 Million 200 P.



Hazari Prasad Dwivedi was born in District Balia (U.P.) and keeping with family tradition got his early education in Sanskrit. In 1930 he passed the Intermediate and Acharya Examination in Astrology from Banaras Hindu University. From 1940 to 1950 he was the Director of Hindi Bhavan in Vishvabharti (West Bengal). He came in close contact with Rabindranath Tagore during his stay in Shantiniketan. It is said that the deep faith in the human spirit which is developed and later manifested in his writings took roots under the influence of Tagore.

He was appointed a member of the first Official Language Commission in the year 1955 and was awarded Padma Bhushan' in 1957. In 1960, he was offered the post of Professor and head of the Department of Hindi by the Punjab University, Chandigarh, a post which he held almost till his retirement. However, a little before retirement he came back to the Banaras Hindu University as its Rector and ultimately chaired the U.P. Hindi Academy.

He made an effort to analyse Hindi literature in the context of Sanskrit, Pa'i, Prakrit and Apabhraṅsha literature and also as a natural development of composite Indian thought. He believed that the basic concern of great literature should be to uphold human values and this can only be achieved by keeping in mind the broad base of unified stream of humanity and not limit it to the elitist

sensibility. Therefore, in all his writings whether on a particular period or a poet, Dwivediji based his conclusion primarily on this concern for human values. He wrote an essay on the theme "Human being is the goal of all human activity including literature". 'Hindi sahitya ki bhumika' is his most significant work as his basic principles and approach to literature are manifested in this work.

In his four lectures compiled under the heading 'Hindi sahitya ka adikal', he has reinterpreted the new discoveries and researches in a manner that necessitated a fresh enquiry into the history of Hindi literature.

"Banabhatta ki Atmakatha" which was followed by punarṇava and others like 'Charuchandralekh' Ananddas ka Aotha also initiates a prose style, not commonly used even for historical themes. He offers lengthy descriptions in an ornate prose style, which evokes a historical panorama. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi annual prize for his collection of essays 'Alok Parva' in 1973.

**POST OFFICE THEME - INDEPEX '97**

15.12.97 0.7 Million each  
200,600,1000,1100 P.



The Department of Posts is organising Indepex '97 World Philatelic Exhibition coinciding with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of India's Independence. The exhibition is to be held from 15-22 December 1997 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

To commemorate this event, a series of stamps have been brought out. The first was on the logo of Indepex '97 followed by Centres of Culture, Beaches

of India and Rural Women.

The final series of stamps of Indepex '97 depict the post office theme which include a Mail ship, the Indian River Mail, the Cancellation with a portrait of Jal Cooper and Post Office Heritage Building.

**S.S. Hindostan**

The S.S. Hindostan, a wooden paddle steamer of 2017 tons and 240 feet in length made in a Liverpool dockyard, commenced its majestic journey from Southampton on the 24th September 1842 to start steam ship communication between India and England. It carried mail and passenger and its passage round the Cape of Good Hope to Calcutta was completed faster than the overland mail to Bombay via the Mediterranean and the Suez.

**The Indian River Mail**

An experimental River Mail was commenced in 1828 by Governor-General William Bentinck for carrying mail by river from Calcutta to Allahabad. By 1834 the Prinsep enterprise was well established with long boats of six sails and with steam power in front and rudder at the rear. These shallow crafts, could easily negotiate the river with hardly 2 1/2 ft of water at most places even at the height of monsoon. Though initially they were used only for carriage of parcels (bhangi), later their carriage was extended to goods and mail as well.

**Cancellation**

The stamp on Cancellation depicts 5 very rare cancellations used on postal mails in the nineteenth century and onwards and an inset of Mr. Jal Cooper who is internationally held as an authority on Indian stamps. The Bombay foreign mail cancellation and the Bombay urban offices cancellation (the later had numbers from "1" to "13"; number "1" being allotted to the Head Office) were seen with dates 1865 to 1873. A unique single obliterator cancellation framing a thick "1" among 5 heavy bars was seen on foreign mails from Calcutta dating to 1872 & 1873. The stamp also shows Madras City local cancellations with dates as 1864 and 1865. The fifth cancellation was used from 1871 & 1872 in Aden Cantonment which was annexed under British India in 1839 and had come under



the authority and management of Governor General of India since 1932.

### Shri Jal Cooper

Born in 1905 he started stamp collection at a very early age and he was to make his presence felt throughout the philatelic world. From years of study and the intimate knowledge gained by varied and wide correspondence and discussions with fellow philatelists and renowned authorities the world over he established his position as an authority on Indian stamps. His very intimate knowledge of Indian postal markings both in India and abroad was practically unrivalled.

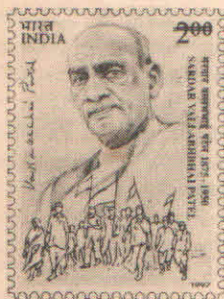
### Pune H.O. Heritage Building

Pune Head Post Office, popularly known as "Pune GPO" was built in 1913, on drawing inspiration from 16th Century Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, on a two acre sprawling campus in the centre of the City. The architecture is in the Palladian style, with characteristic features: Tuscan columns in the Varandha, arched windows, balusters for railings and parapets and high ceiling halls.

In the garden, there are two "Hatti dagad" used to tie up the elephants which carried the mail at one time.

### SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

15.12.97 0.4 Million 200 P.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known in history as the "Iron Man of India", was born on 31.10.1875 at Nadiad in Gujarat. He passed the District Pleader's Examination in 1900, joined the legal profession and practiced independently as a successful district pleader till 1910 when he left for England to qualify as a Barrister-at-Law. On return to India he built up a flourishing practice at Ahmedabad as a criminal lawyer. He

made his debut in politics by joining the Gujarat Sabha in 1915. Vallabhbhai Patel was the Secretary of the Godhra Session of Gujarat Sabha which was presided over by Gandhiji in 1917. This marked the beginning of a long and fruitful association between the two.

In 1918 Vallabhbhai Patel came to the rescue of people affected by a devastating famine and conducted, along with Gandhiji, the "no-tax" campaign in Kheda district for the suspension of the revenue assessment. In 1919, he organised demonstrations against the Rowlatt Bills, sold literature prohibited by the Government and published the "Satyagraha Patrika". When Mahatma Gandhi gave the call for Non-cooperation, Vallabhbhai Patel joined the movement by giving up his lucrative practice at the bar. In 1923, he, alongwith his brother Vithalbhai, became involved in the 'Flag Satyagraha' at Nagpur. The same year he resisted the Bombay Government's levy of punitive tax on the people of Borsad and ultimately forced its withdrawal.

He was elected President of the Ahmedabad Municipality in 1924 and he introduced Gujarati as the official language and Khadi as the uniform in the municipality. In 1928, he led the famous peasants' agitation against an increase in land revenue at Bardoli and won a signal victory. Acknowledging his able leadership, Gandhiji described him as the "Sardar". He later participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and suffered imprisonment. In 1931, at the Karachi Session, the Sardar was elected President of the Congress.

Declining the leadership of the Congress Ministry in Bombay, Sardar Patel became Chairman of the Congress Parliamentary Sub-Committee in 1936 and ably guided the functioning of the Congress ministries in various provinces. An active participant in the Individual Satyagraha in 1940, he joined the "Quit India" movement in 1942 and was detained in Ahmednagar Fort and Yeravada Jail. A very able negotiator, he played a vital role in the discussions with Cripps in 1942, in the Simla Conference in 1945 and during the Cabinet Mission talks in 1946.

Joining the Interim Government in September 1946, Vallabhbhai became the Minister in charge of Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting. In the

disturbed months that followed it was his firm hand, more than anything else, that maintained order in the country. In Independent India, he became the Deputy Prime Minister and looked after the Home and the States Departments.

The Sardar's finest hour was when he accomplished the integration of the Indian States with the Union. For him, integration meant not only accession by the rulers but also transfer of their power to the people. India has been unified as never before, and the saga of this achievement has passed into history.

A stern realist and a great organiser, the Sardar was a man of iron will who never allowed personal sentiments to interfere with his duties to the nation. His country was his first love and in the words of his daughter, 'To the last, he was thinking of the nation.'

The First Day Cover design depicts Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel alongwith Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the All India Congress Committee meeting held in Bombay in July 1946.

### INDIAN ARMED FORCES

16.12.97 7 Million 200 P.



The Indian Armed Forces have a long tradition of valour and courage. They have played a vital role, in safeguarding the frontiers, protecting the nation in times of war, and more recently in peace-keeping operations and disaster management.

After the country achieved independence, the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force displayed immaculate coordination, outstanding valour and exemplary gallantry while countering the hostilities across our borders and demonstrated the innate power and punch of the Indian's Armed Forces on every occasion.



The Indian Navy, along with the Indian Army helped establish effective control and achieved the integration of states like Goa, Daman & Diu and Junagarh. In the 1965 war the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force fought alongside supporting each other's efforts, notably in the Chamb Jhaurian Sector. Operations in 1971, again displayed close cooperation along the three services and the highest standards of political and military leadership. The heroic deeds of our officers and men, form a part of the history of India. As India celebrates 50 years of its independence, it is a time to pay homage to those who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

When India was not at war, the Armed Forces continued to protect our frontiers and help in fighting insurgency within the country. Their efforts at peace-keeping and disaster relief, over the years, cannot be over-emphasized. The Indian Armed Forces have also been contributing to the efforts of the UN Peace-keeping Forces, whenever they have been called upon.

A political, multi-religious and multi-ethnic, the Indian Armed Forces demonstrate the true character of the Indian fabric : integrated and united.

If the last 50 years have presented the Indian Armed Forces with challenges, the next 50 years may present new ones. India can expect them to perform acts of even greater courage, ingenuity and integrity to preserve her independence, democratic tradition and her booming economy.

The special commemorative stamp comprises of three bands from the left signifying the tricolour, blending into the service colours of deep red, navy blue and sky blue for the Army, Navy and Air Force respectively. Icons easily identifiable with the three services are depicted on the service colours : tank, battle ship and fighter aircraft. The first day cover has the joint services crest (Anchor for the Navy, swords for the Army and hawk for the Air Force).

ADVERTISE IN SIPA  
BULLETIN INCREASE  
YOUR SALES

## DR. BHOGARAJU PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA

17.12.97 4 Million 200 P.



Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya was born on November, 24th 1880 in Gundugolanu Village, West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh. Born in Poverty. Dr. Pattabhi came up in life through sheer perseverance. He completed his studies with the help of 'scholarship'.

Pattabhi passed BA degree in Madras Christian College and fulfilled his ambition to become a medical practitioner by securing M.B.C.M. Degree. He chose Machilipatnam, a coastal town in Andhra Pradesh to practice as a doctor. Later Dr. Pattabhi relinquished his lucrative practice to participate in the National movement. Dr. Pattabhi established Andhra Jateeya Kalasala in 1910. Dr. Pattabhi was the Editor of Krishna Patrika from 1908 to 1911. He had evolved and developed a style of his own in English and Telugu. In 1919, he started an English Journal 'Janmabhoomi' to propagate Gandhian ideology. Janmabhoomi brought the journalistic talents of Dr. Pattabhi into limelight all over the country and Pandit Motilal Nehru invited Dr. Pattabhi to edit his journal 'Independent' published from Allahabad. Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya established Andhra Bank on 28th November, 1923 with the ideal of leaving the farming community.

Dr. Pattabhi also established a number of other institutions in tune with national aspirations of self reliance such as Krishna Cooperative Central Bank in 1915, Andhra Insurance Company (first Insurance Company in Andhra) in 1925, Velalamannay Land Mortgage Bank in 1927, Bharat Laxmi Bank Ltd., in 1929 and Hinustan Ideal Insurance Company in 1935. Dr. Pattabhi suffered imprisonment for 7 years on various

occasions during National Movement such as Salt Satyagraha (1930), Civil Disobedience (1932). Individual Satyagraha and Quit India Movement (1942). He authored many books, the most noteworthy being, 'History of the Indian National Congress' Dr. Pattabhi worked as a member of Constituent Assembly, Rules Committee, Union Powers Committee, Provincial Constitution Committee etc. He was elected President of Congress in 1948. He served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 1952 to 1957. Settled at Hyderabad after relinquishing the Governorship, Dr. Pattabhi passed away on December 17, 1959.

In the words of our first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad "Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya is not merely a prominent freedom fighter but also a striking personality of sharp intellectual faculties. I had spent days with his reading the 'History of the Indian National Congress' which he had written in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Indian National Congress. It was then I had realised how strong his memory was. I realised then how knowledgeable he had been about men and affairs connected with the Congress for the past fifty years and the various incidents which helped bringing its activities into focus.

He had endeavoured heartily to organise the people's movements in the Princely States. He had evinced great interest in Gandhiji's constructive programme, particularly in Charkha and basic education. Dr. Pattabhi is one of the front rank leaders of the Nation. I am sure that his example will inspire the youth in the service of the Nation".

## JEROME D'SOUZA S.J.

18.12.97 0.4 Million 200 P.



J.D'Souza S.J. born on 6th August  
1897.

A professor of English Literature, he was very early in his teaching career called to an administrative responsibility



as Principal and Rector in two Jesuit Colleges St. Joseph's, Tiruchy and Loyola Madras, successively for fifteen years. He was deeply involved in the Madras University affairs as elected member of its Syndicate. His talent as a public speaker attracted the attention of C. Rajagopalachari who sponsored his election to the Constituent Assembly where he won the respect and regard of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who exploited, in the best sense of the term, his gifts as orator, master of several languages, as an educationist of repute and as a person of balanced judgement uncommitted to partisan politics. Four times he was selected to be member of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations. He served as Nehru's unofficial ambassador for delicate negotiations with the French Government for the transfer of French Indian territories to Independent India and with the Holy See on Indo Portuguese problems affecting ecclesiastical appointments in India. As founder of the Indian Social Institute, he was a pioneer in social education. Elected to be the Jesuit General's first Assistant in charge of Indian and Asian Affairs, he spent nearly eleven years in Rome during which he was also frequently a consultant of various Vatican administrative organs. He died just six days after completing his eightieth year on 12.8.1977.

**RAM PRASAD BISMIL & ASHFAQULLAH KHAN**

19.12.97 0.4 Million 200 P.



In the history of India's struggle for freedom, the revolutionary movement of the early part of the century, particularly the 1920s has a very special place. The bravery of young men and women who in their own way fought for the freedom of the country and cheerfully accepted imprisonment, even death in the cause of the freedom of the nation, awakened the sensibilities of the people

at large. The saga of their bravery was sung across the country and served to unite the people in the firm resolve to attain independence.

Among these revolutionaries, the names of Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan have a very special place.

From a very young age, 'Bismil' as he was popularly known was filled with the strong desire to free his country from the foreign yoke. Though actively involved in the 1919 Mainpuri Conspiracy, he escaped arrest and concentrated on building up the 'Hindustan Republic Association', which aimed to abolish all forms of oppression from the country, through armed revolution. Ashfaqullah Khan, along with 'Bismil', was in the forefront of the movement.

To raise funds for revolutionary activity 'Bismil' along with Ashfaqullah Khan and some others organized a train hold up, to loot government money near Kakori Station on Lucknow-Saharanpur line on August 1925. Though they had vowed to avoid any forms of violence, in the skirmish one person was killed. The police made widespread arrests. After brutal interrogation, information was collected, on the basis of which Bismil and his friends were arrested and tried in the Kakori conspiracy case. There were proceedings in court against 22 revolutionaries, which extended to one and a half years. The pronouncement of sentence was very harsh. While the others were deported to the dreaded jail in Andamans, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh were sentenced to death by hanging. On 19th December 1927, they suffered martyrdom in the name of the motherland. In the annals of the country's history, the sacrifices of these heroes, will forever be remembered and venerated.

After Bismil's death his work was continued by Chandrasekhar Azad along with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev who rebuilt this band of heroic and self-sacrificing youth who wanted to influence the national movement in a revolutionary direction. The revolutionaries gradually realized the futility of the terrorist method and later concentrated on building mass organisation of workers and peasants.

The Department of Post is privileged to issue a special

commemorative stamp to mark the martyrdom of Ram Prasad 'Bismil' and Ashfaqullah Khan, and pay homage to the sacrifices of those heroic men and women, who suffered imprisonment and martyrdom, during the country's struggle for freedom.

**CELLULAR JAIL**

30.12.97 0.7 Million 200 P.



Located at Port Blair in the Andamans, the Cellular Jail stands testimony to a poignant chapter in the history of India's struggle for freedom. It stands mute witness to the indescribable sufferings of the patriots who were incarcerated in its cells. Many perished, thus giving Andamans the notorious name of 'Kala Pani' or the black waters. Today, the Cellular Jail is a National Memorial, a tribute to those who dared and a place of pilgrimage for every Indian.

The name Cellular Jail is derived from its unique features as it had only cells and no dormitories. Each cell measured 13 1/2 feet by 7 feet and had a door with iron grating in the front. A 3 feet by 1 feet ventilator nearly 10 feet high from the door was provided to each cell. In order to minimise the chances of dialogue among the convicts and to isolate them from each other, the construction of the jail was so made that the front portion of each wing was to face the back side of the other wing.

It was here the British Government used to send those they considered as 'dangerous prisoners'. The food was not only inadequate but unfit for human consumption. Neither any writing nor reading materials were provided to the prisoners. Even the letters coming from mainland and newspapers subscribed by the prisoners were often censored before being given to them. While fighting against this tyranny political prisoners like 'Bhai Mahavir' and others had to lay down their lives. Many prisoners had gone insane in the jail and some had to find solace in putting an end



to their lives by committing suicide rather than subjecting themselves to the indignities heaped on them.

Freedom fighters incarcerated in the Cellular Jail included, Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Upendra Nath Banerjee, Hem Chandra Das, Indubhushan Roy, Ullaskar Datta, Bibhuti Bhushan Sarkar, and others sent there after 1910 on conviction for participation in the Manicktollah Conspiracy. Vir Savarkar was sent in 1910 with sentence of transportation for life. Other freedom fighters who were

incarcerated in the jail were Prithivi Singh Azad, Bhai Parmanand, Vaman Joshi, Shambu Nath Azad and a host of others. The freedom fighters who participated in the Chittagong Armoury Raid, Meerut Conspiracy Case, Labour Commissioner Case etc. were also brought to these islands.

In the Cellular Jail Museum are now exhibited available photographs of all freedom fighters, who were incarcerated in the jail. Reports about the atrocities, the jail authorities used to

commit published in national newspapers on the mainland, are also kept on display. Certain paintings on the barbarous treatment to the prisoners, utensils, vessels, uniforms, etc. of the prisoners, used in those days and the tools/machines which the prisoners were made to operate, at great personal risk, are all kept in the museum to remind us of the heroic battle our freedom fighters had to wage and the untold sufferings they had to undergo.

## HOBBIES

by Mr. G.B. Pai

Many of my good friends have been collecting stamps all their life and keeping their enthusiasms and spirits alive even as they are physically growing older day by day. But in their philatelic mind they are as young as they were when they started their collections. They argue and fight as children would, over their treasure troves of stamps trying to excel each other. They compare notes, they invest their spare cash in buying better and better stamps and material to preserve and display their collections. They subscribe to magazines and catalogues and then build up a beautiful library of books and philatelic literature and improve their knowledge of stamps and covers which they are collecting. They visit Stamp Exhibitions all over the world. With the all round knowledge they gain from all this they not only improve the quality of their collections but also slowly realise that their collections are appreciating in value because the knowledge they have accumulated over the years has also helped them to be discerning in the purchases they make. I am one of them. Like them I also collect stamps and covers accumulate books and material as also a large number of friends all over the world who are interested in the same class of collections that I am interested in. Two of the finest friends I thus acquired were, Jal Cooper and the other Robson Lowe. Both authored books and articles on stamps, edited journals on stamps, collected them with the same tenacity as a child would; and as dealers, they always sold their stamps at reasonable prices and thus aided many a collector to enhance the quality and value of his collections. In that process they earned the greatest treasure any man could earn. They earned the eternal affection, respect and

gratitude of an army of admirers the world over. In India Jal remains even to this day the best friend an Indian philatelist ever had. The colossal and friendly figure of Robbie shines like an eternal sun over the world philatelic firmament. It is difficult even to imagine they are no more with us for when they were alive one always assumed that they were carved of some rarest of rare substance of eternal durability, which would enable them to live for ever and ever.

The other day I was browsing over my collection of books on stamps and I came across Foster's Pre-Victorian Postage Stamps and Franks. In his introduction the author had extracted a few paragraphs from Echo on what is a Hobby? I cannot express the meaning of Hobbies any better. So also I am extracting the same paragraphs as Foster did.

"A hobby is in reality a restful recreation, no matter how hard the labour involved, since it is an employment of time which affords pleasure and satisfaction. It rests both body and brain from the necessitous work which money making demands.

I once knew a man who carpentered for dear life on every possible occasion, making huge articles, lugging and dragging away timber, so that it made one ache to watch him. But he loved the work. It amused him, kept him in good health and strength, and absorbed the worry and strife of mind that ordinary compulsory work extracted. By day he "drove a quill" and wore a frock.

Women's Hobbies---- I have heard so much condemnation of women's hobbies in particular, and certainly cutting criticism of the post-card craze, criticism both ignorant and unnecessary. There are many people who derive pleasure from harmless amusements of collecting

post-cards, old silver articles, bits of china fans, and the various bric-a-brac that appeals individually.

It is only the very unsympathetic the nature too narrow to appreciate another's interest thus derides. It must not be forgotten that there is the "Back of Behind" to the collecting craze, the imaginative sense that sees much beyond the mere card, the quaint button, or the china dish that appeals to, and satisfies, its happy owner.

The Values of Hobbies — A hobby is the safest possession for either man or woman, it keeps them actively or passively out of mischief. The hobbiess woman devotes her idle moments to her nerves, and to her various aches and pains, real or imaginary, for imagination enters all too largely into the ordering of one's life. One's mind must work on something, and if a proper interest is not provided, it falls back on that deceiving jade — imagination.

A man runs further amuck, probably without a hobby. Temptations are great, and possibilities many, to the uninterested idler — Wherefore the benefit of a hobby!

Nor is the meanest or the smallest of such pastime to be despised if it provides amusements and is sufficient to chain the interest. And for this reason, one realises the charm of stamp-collecting, and even the fascination of beetle and butterfly collecting, and this way fancy is led into useful channels, and imagination receives a wholesome foods."

ATTEND MONTHLY  
MEETINGS



# F.I.P. TODAY AND TOMORROW

The "Federation Internationale de Philatelie" (F.I.P.) has looked after stamp collectors and philatelists since 1926 - growing from a society of a handful European Philatelic Federations to the Federation with a network throughout the world with:

- ★ 79 Regular Members (National Philatelic Federations)
- ★ 3 Associated Members (Continental Federations)
- ★ Promotional Members (a new type of Membership for Postal Administrations)

## THE AIMS OF F.I.P. ARE :

- ★ to promote stamp collecting and philately.
- ★ to maintain friendly relations and friendship among all peoples.
- ★ to establish and maintain close relations with the philatelic trade and postal administrations.
- ★ to promote philatelic exhibitions by granting Patronage and Auspices.

The hobby of Stamp Collecting has occupied the first place among all hobbies for more than a century and it earned the distinction of being nicknamed "The King of the Hobbies and the Hobby of Kings". Today the Hobby has maintained its special attraction but more effort is needed to uphold the fascination. A survey revealed that three segments of interest in stamp collecting can be discerned, each needing a different

approach in promotional work:

- ★ Emerging interest in developing countries,
- ★ growing interest in Asia and
- ★ stagnating to declining interest in industrialised countries.

In 1990 first tentative steps were taken for a collaboration between the philatelic world and UPU. Two symposia on philately were carried through at the UPU Headquarters in Berne resulting in the establishment of the UPU Contact Committee for Philately which was renamed for publicity purposes to World Association for the Development of Philately (W.A.D.P.). The main objectives of W.A.D.P. are :

- ★ A world wide promotion campaign for stamp collecting starting with a "Guide" for Postal Administrations.
- ★ Strengthening of the Philatelic Code of Ethics of UPU a recommendation to Postal Administrations to maintain a sound and moderate stamp issuing policy.

Stamp shows are the best platform to promote philately and were introduced in the last century as Salons of Stamps and have grown to exhibitions with an area of more than 20,000 m2. At the beginning these shows were organised and financed by local stamp collector's clubs for their immediate public and developed to World affairs as joint ventures between the host country's Postal Administration and the National

growth of international mail.

The UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations on 1 July 1949. Its financing is independent of the larger United Nations system and expenses are financed jointly by the member countries, based on a contribution class system.

## Largest worldwide network

The UPU's mission provides for the promotion and development of communication between all the people of the world and plays an important leadership role in promoting the continued revitalization of postal services. With 189 member countries, it is the

Philatelic Federation. Next important philatelic events are planned in:

- MOSCOW - MOSCOW '97 17.10 - 26.10.1997
- NEW DELHI - INDEPEX '97, 15.12. - 22.12.1997
- TEL-AVIV - ISRAPHIL '98, 13.05 - 21.05.1998
- GRANADA - GRACIA LORCA '98, 02.06 - 07.06.1998
- LUXEMBOURG - JUVALUX '98, 18.06. - 21.06.1998
- LISBON - PORTUGAL '98, 04.09. - 13.09.1998
- MILAN - ITALIA '98, 23.10 - 01.11.1998

A pilot project to promote stamp collecting in African countries was initiated in 1996. In conjunction with Postal Administrations, F.I.P. has completed a survey in two countries with different background. The area of work to be done has been identified together with authorities concerned and the initiative for further promotional work has now to come from within the country.

F.I.P. is convinced that postage stamps will always maintain their status as "little ambassadors" of a nation and therefore also stamp collecting and philately, the more advance variety of stamp collecting, will weather any odds coming their way.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Universal Postal Union Promoting Communication between the people of the world

When Postal administrations combined forces to create the Universal Postal Union (UPU), they started the world's largest physical distribution network. The treaty signed by 22 countries in Berne, Switzerland on 9 October 1874 — a day now celebrated worldwide as World Post Day — succeeded in unifying a confusing international maze of postal services and regulations into a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter post items, allowing for the free flow and

primary vehicle for cooperation between postal services and for providing a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services. In this way, the organization fulfils an advisory, mediating and liaison role, rendering assistance wherever necessary. It is non-political and does not interfere in matters that fall within the domain of national postal services but rather makes recommendations to promote the free flow of international mail, stimulate and develop growth in mail volumes and improve the quality of services for customers.

The postal network remains the largest and densest in the world. More than six million postal employees collect, sort and deliver a total of 440 billion items



each year to addresses across the world. Postal customers can conduct their business in more than 700,000 post offices.

A variety of forces have, however, caused postal services to rethink their role in the communications market. The effects of direct and indirect competition, privatization, globalization, the separation of the operator and regulator functions, customer demands for better and more reliable products and the advent of a new communications technologies have convinced many postal services that they have to modify their operational and financial strategies in order to remain competitive. This is being supported by UPU's blueprint for change known as Seoul Postal Strategy (SPS), adopted by the Universal Postal Congress, the supreme authority of the Union, in the Republic of Korea in 1994. Postal services throughout the world are applying the SPS by providing higher quality postal services at reasonable rates and a wider range of products and services that meet their customers' growing expectations. At the same time, postal services continue to fulfil the public service obligations mandated by their governments. Their role in the development of communications is therefore vital, not only as a means of exchanging information, but also as a way of maintaining and promoting social cohesion.

Despite a decline in the postal services' share in the total communications market, an increase is predicted in mail volumes between now and the year 2005. The postal services of today are not only expected to keep track with developments in the technological field, but also with rapid economic and social changes. Postal customers are demanding much more from their national postal services today than in the past.

#### Technology - an opportunity<sup>1</sup>

Technological developments should, however, not be seen as a threat to core postal services but rather as a challenge, since they create new opportunities for the postal sector to increase its share in the communications market. The effective utilization of technology should result in an overall improvement in the quality of postal services and consequently increase global main volumes. Furthermore, in most countries the whole population has access to postal services, while this is not yet the case for telephone, fax and electronic mail. Many modern means of communication such as the fax or electronic mail actually generate physical mail which supports the prediction of an overall increase in postal volumes.

#### Responding to changes

The postal industry is also exploring new areas not traditionally regarded as its core business of delivering mail, offering customers more value-added services. Commercial electronic products and services hold great potential and many postal services have already positioned themselves well in their respective markets as well as internationally, enabling them to respond effectively to the changing needs of their customers.

The UPU is a modern institution with a proud history and tradition. It has an enviable record of accomplishment. Postal customers around the world can look forward to increasingly responsive and reliable postal services which will continue to be the most accessible and affordable means of communication and message delivery available.

#### Where to find us:

Communications Service  
Universal Postal Union  
International Bureau  
Case Postale, 3000 BERNE 15  
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3240

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Great Events in the Principality of Monaco

As part of the commemorations to mark seven centuries of the Grimaldi Dynasty of Monaco, the Principality's Stamp Issuing Office organised on 28th, 29th and 30th November 1997, an Exhibition of the 70 rarest stamps and philatelic documents in the world

Under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Rainier III, this event took place in the Hall of Rare Stamps of the Stamp and Coin Museum, which opened its doors nearly a year ago and has excellent exhibition facilities (frames, lighting, hygrometer) and surveillance systems (cameras, guards).

This unrivalled exhibition was held on the 28th, 29th and 30th November 1997, linked to an International Philatelic Exhibition. This double event celebrated the 60 year anniversary of the Office des Emissions de Timbres-Poste of Monaco and comes within the scope of commemorative celebrations for the seven centuries of the Grimaldi Dynasty of Monaco.

Those keen on philately or postal history as also laymen in this field were able to marvel at the rarest postage stamps and philatelic documents ever gathered before.

The participation in this amazing presentation of the 70 postage stamps or philatelic documents among the rarest in the world is exclusively focused on the winners of the Grand Prix of the international philatelic exhibition organised by the FIP, as well as on the owners of the worldwide known philatelic masterpieces.

Dear Members & Readers  
Wish you A Happy Prosperous New Year 1998



# TAMILNADU CIRCLE ROUNDUP

**Under the aegis of the Chief Postmaster General, Shri S.T. Bhaskaran, Tamilnadu Circle, the following functions took place :-**

1. A. Permanent Pictorial Cancellation with a Special cover on Thiruvannamalai Deepam was introduced at Thiruvannamalai H.O. on 12.12.1997 at a function held at Lord Arunachelleswar Temple. An album containing the Special Cover with the Pictorial Cancellation was handed over to Shri K. Pitchandhi, M.A., Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Govt. of Tamilnadu by Shri K.R. Rambhad, Postmaster General, Northern Circle in the presence of Shri A. Meikanda Devan, I.A.S., Commissioner H.R. & C.E. Chennai. Shri Siva Suriyan, IAS, Collector, Thiruvannamalai Dist. presided over the function.

2. Tamilnadu Circle of Posts organised a Philatelic exhibition on the Theme "Christmas". This Exhibition was declared open by the Most Rev. Fr. Aruldoss James, Arch Bishop of Chennai and Mylapore on 19.12.97 at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road HPO and was kept open for public viewing from 12.12.97 to 31.12.97. The stamps were the personnel collections of Mr. J. Rolands Nelson and Mrs. Thomas, Life Members, South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai.

3. A Release of a Commemorative Postage Stamp in honour of Father Jerome D'Souza, S.J. in the denomination of Rs.2/- at a function held at Betram Hall of Loyola College Chennai - 600 034 on 18.12.97 at 10 a.m. Shri S.T. Bhaskaran, Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle handed over the Stamp Album to Rev. Fr. D. Jeyraj, Jesuit Provincial. Shri M.M. Jacob, Governor of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest.

4. A Special Pictorial cancellation and Special Cover was

provided by the Tamilnadu Circle of Posts on 21.12.97 on the Occasion of Birth Centenary of Pioneer Kumaraswamy at Nagercoil. Smt. K. Noorjehan, I.P.S. Postmaster General, Southern Region Madurai and was received by Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Civil Aviation.

5. A strong team of more than 50 members of our Association visited the Indepex'97 World Philatelic Exhibition at New Delhi. Our Association made some arrangements for a few for their accommodation and food. Shri S.T. Bhaskaran, Chief Postmaster General made it a point to be present at the inauguration Function and declared open by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan and also attended the Dinner function hosted by the Dept. of Posts at New Delhi.

**During the Indepex '97 announcement regarding the opening of Philatelic Accounts at the various Philatelic Bureaus were made both in Hindi and English stating no Charges for the accounts will be made. But when we reached Chennai, LO a Circular from the Department of Posts has been received stating that service charges for despatch under philatelic Deposit Scheme has been raised from Rs.2/- to Rs.10/-.**

Again Fees for providing Special Cancellation & issue of Special Covers have been revised : (a) on Working days: Rs.1500/- per cachet per post office per day(II) Rs.3000/- per cachet per day if the cancellation is provided at the premises of the Sponser; (b) on Sundays & Holidays: Twice the charges mentioned above.

This the Department thinks this is for the promotion of Philately. The Philatelic Congress of India; the various Institutions of Philately must take it up and see that the Despatch Charges are completely withdrawn as no interest is

paid to the Deposit A/c. Holders and the Cancellation Charges for Special Occasions are restored to their Original status. Philatelists should write letters to the Dept. on the same.

Rameshwardas Binani  
(National Commissioner Italia'98)  
9, Ramsevak Mullick Lane  
(Off. 43, Strand Road)  
Calcutta - 700 007, India  
Tel. +91-33-2380230  
writes

Dear Philatelist,  
Re: "Italia-98" Int. Philatelic Exhibition.

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The exhibition authorities (italia '98) have also organised an "Open Class" exhibition. Any one can participate in the said exhibition if one is ready to prepare a collection between 24 to 60 pages which must consist at least 50% philatelic materials with any non philatelic materials but must be shown in a logical thread. There will not be any participation fee but you have to send the collection to Italy by 30.10.98 at your cost.

Every exhibiter will get Souvenir Medal with Diploma of participation. 3 best entries will get Special Awards.

If you are interested in participation in the above class, please send mint stamps for Rs.15/- to cover the cost of sending to you detailed regulations with entry form.

*THE FREEDOM of any  
society varies proportionately  
with the volume of  
its laughter.*

*- Zero Mostel*