

## STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS' COMPANION

The Weekly Newsletter from [stampsofIndia.com](http://stampsofIndia.com)

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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### JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

This is our first special issue on the current favorite topic that is – Olympics!

The Olympic games of modern era are not restricted to sports alone but many more related activities. OLYMPHILEX – Olympic Philatelic Exhibition is one such activity.

Realizing the bond between philately and Olympics Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and an Olympic philatelist himself, strengthened this bond in 1982 with the formation of International Federation of Olympic Philately or (FIPO). In 1984, he created the "Prix Olympia", which is awarded for the three finest stamps issued by postal administrations anywhere in the world on the occasion of the Olympic Games.

Since 1988 FIPO has organized Olympilex as an integral part of the Olympic games. International Olympic Committee supports this in several ways, one of them being, payment of the entry fee for Olympilex on behalf of all exhibitors.

Mr. Samaranch supported this cause by donating his collection of Olympic stamps to the Olympic Museum in 1989. He began his collection of Olympic stamps in 1945 inspired by his father, a philatelist of note, who gave him his first Olympic series: The Greek series from 1896. Through his stamp collection, he sought to achieve two objectives: firstly, to give it an exceptional philatelic value, and secondly, to create a coherent aesthetic whole. To meet these two conditions President Samaranch created a collection made up solely of blocks of four. Today, this collection is unique and as a result it has obtained the highest accolades at philatelic competitions.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Olympilex is being held at Sydney from September 15 to 28, 2000 for the first time as the "World Specialized Exhibition" under the patronage of International Philatelic Federation (FIP). There are 3 exhibits and 1 literature entry from India. In all there will be 230 exhibits in 1100 frames from all over the world.

The philatelists from India have been faring well. With due respect, we could say better than the sports persons. At the last Olympilex at Atlanta 2 philatelists from India bagged bronze medals – Mr. U V Shenoy of Bombay and Mr. K K Rastogi of Varanasi while Leander Paes was the only sports person to have won a bronze. Lets see how the philatelists and the sports persons fare this time? Our best wishes to them.

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

- M&SJ

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## IN THIS ISSUE

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India as a Topical - New Issue Report

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This site is devoted to foreign stamps and philatelic items on Indian themes.  
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### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OLYMPIC STAMPS EXHIBITION

Olympic Philatelists of India (OPI) in partnership with Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi set up an exhibition of stamps on Olympic games at the hotel's lobby that was opened by Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Mr. Rob Laurie on September 15, 2000. The exhibition is a part of Olympiad – International Food Festival being organized from September 15 to October 1, 2000. Samsung, PEPSI and HT City of The Hindustan Times are also participating in this festival.

OPI has also provided images of stamps and questions that feature as a quiz on placemats, and Posters of stamps on Olympics, issued since 1896, that adorn the walls of the coffee shop – La Brasserie. All participants of the quiz are being given the First Day Cover of the set of Indian stamps in a specially designed folder as prize; other exciting gifts are in store for them on October 1, 2000 – the closing ceremony day. The waiters are also wearing specially designed T-Shirts featuring an Olympic stamp. A caricature artist is there every evening to draw caricatures of the visitors and is a great success. There is also a display of views of Sydney Stadiums in the atrium lobby of the hotel. A well-designed mailer was sent to regular hotel visitors and distinguished persons in Delhi to invite them to visit the festival along with advertisements in newspapers.

## OLYMPIC STAMPS RELEASED

India Post marks the 27<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games - Sydney 2000 with a set of 4 stamps depicting discus throw, hockey, tennis, and weight lifting at Rs. 3, 6, 10, and 15 respectively. Since 1968, the 19<sup>th</sup> games at Mexico City, India Post have regularly issued a set of stamps to mark the Olympic games and the 27<sup>th</sup> Olympics are no exception.

The stamps were released by Mrs. Aparna Mohile - Chief General Manager, Business Development Directorate, in the presence of Mr. Brice Hutchesson - Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission and Mr. Gurbir Singh, Chairman – Affiliation and Disputes Committee of Indian Olympic Association. The chief guest of the function was Mr. G S Randhwa, former Olympian and the first Arjuna Awardee. In 1964 at Tokyo Olympics he reached the finals of 110 m hurdles, finishing fifth and was awarded Olympic Diploma, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian athlete to earn this distinction.

Olympic Philatelists of India (OPI) in association with Indian Olympic Association organized the well-attended release ceremony with the support of Le Meridien and Samsung.

OPI brought out two maxcards on the theme of hockey and Tennis on this occasion in addition to a folder for the First day Cover (FDC). The folder with the FDC is priced at Rs. 50 and the set of 2 maxcards duly postmarked with appropriate stamps are also priced at Rs. 50. Send your orders to [opi@stampsfindia.com](mailto:opi@stampsfindia.com)

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## ALSO IN THE NEWS

### INSTANT STAMPS

In the Stamp Bulletin #256 (Overseas Edition) August-September 2000 Mr. David Maiden, Manager, Philatelic Group, Australia Post writes, "We were inspired by the Olympic ideals of 'faster, higher, stronger' – when we designed Australia's Olympic stamp program. Our goal was to reach new heights in philatelic excellence and national symbolism. The result was instant Gold Medallists stamps.

Yes, a stamp will be issued each time an Australian individual or team wins a gold medal! By using state of the art technology we will be able to deliver stamps for sale to selected post offices around Australia, from 12 noon the day after the medal is won, and in post offices throughout Australia within three days of the medal being won."

Developing the Gold Medallists stamps presented many challenges. The design had to be flexible enough to suit individual participants as well as teams, the Australian Olympic Team logo, both male and female winners, differing backgrounds and event names, and incorporate an image taken during victory. A square stamp, produced in sheetlets of ten, provided the required flexibility and style.

The complex and integrated production and delivery process had to be developed next to enable meeting of the goal of next day availability. Allsport (the official Olympic photographers) will send electronic images to Australia Post's Sydney Design Studio

when an Australian team or individual wins a gold medal. The design team will select an image, create the stamp and sheetlet design, and then transmit the electronic file to print sites in six capital cities, for digital printing. The file will also be sent for offset printing.

An imprint at lower right-hand corner will identify the source (one each for the six print sites) of each sheetlet. All sheetlets will be printed on pre-perforated paper stock. The offset printing will be identified with a single imprint. One needs seven sheetlets for a specialized collection! The denomination of all stamps is 45 cents.

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#### JOIN PHILATELIC DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Philatelic Deposit Account holders have the facility of placing standing order on the philatelic bureau for supply of new stamps, First Day Covers, Brochures as well as new Postal Stationery with or without Advertisement. An Account may be opened with initial and subsequent deposits of Rs. 200. Application forms and more details about the Philatelic Deposit Account Scheme are available at all the Philatelic Bureaux in India.

Foreign customers can also avail the facility by opening an account with Director (Philately), Mumbai GPO - 400001 with initial and subsequent deposits in foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 1000.

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New Issues, Events, Auctions, Publications, Organizations, Dealers, Articles, Ask Us, and Links.

#### NEW ISSUES

##### STAMPS

September 17

XXVII Olympic Games, Set of 4, Rs. 34 (3, 6, 9, and 15)

Next issue: India in Space, September 29

##### POSTAL STATIONERY

September 13

Post Card, Advertisement – Birth Control Pills, in Hindi, India Security Press (ISP) -  
Release Delayed

September 10 - Available on September 16

Inland Letter Card, Advertisement – Census, in Kashmiri (Urdu Script), ISP

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#### EVENTS

OLYMPHILEX 2000, SEPTEMBER 15 - 28

Rajesh Varma, National commissioner, reports that following four exhibits are participating:

Competition Class:

Varma Rajesh, "The Olympics, First 50 Years 1894-1944", 5 frames,

Promotion Class:

Shenoi U V, "The Olympics, Origins to Centenary" 5 frames,

Rao T N P, "Soviet Sports" 5 frames

Literature Class:

Shenoi U V, "The Olympics, Origins to Centenary"

We wish all success to participants.

Significantly for the first time an entry in the Competitive Class as well as in the Literature Class have been accepted. Till now India's participation has been limited to Promotion Class where obtaining an entry was comparatively easier. As usual, there is no Indian member of Jury for OLYMPHILEX.

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## ORGANIZATIONS

### OLYMPIC PHILATELISTS OF INDIA

Olympic Philatelists of India was formed in February this year at the National Philatelic Exhibition, Bhubaneswar as the national association of Olympic Philately with dual aims of popularizing Olympic Philately and promoting the theme of sports stamps among the school children and upcoming collectors. OPI has been formed by a group of philatelists devoted to philately especially Olympic Philately.

OPI is working in close cooperation with the Indian Olympic Association and its member federations for suitable philatelic commemoration of important sports events.

OPI's future plans include a National Sports Stamps Exhibition in conjunction with the next National Games and an International Sports Stamps Exhibition at the time of the 1st Afro-Asian Games to be held in Delhi in November next year 2001. Many more philatelic promotions during National games, Asian games, Afro-Asian games, Commonwealth games and Olympic summer and winter games are also being planned.

OPI shall be proposing to India Post to issue stamps and stationery related to the theme of sports on a regular basis. To make a beginning there is a request to issue a stamp in support of India's bid to host 2006 Asian games. There is precedence to this as several Postal Administrations have supported their country's bid for Olympics, Asiad and other sporting events by issuing stamps in the past.

A site devoted to Olympic Philately at [www.olympphil.com](http://www.olympphil.com) is under development at present meanwhile you can contact OPI at [opi@stampsofindia.com](mailto:opi@stampsofindia.com)

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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 get the experts to get an answer.

Submit here [askus@stampsofindia.com](mailto:askus@stampsofindia.com)

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#### WANTED HELP

We want regular correspondents and contributors everywhere in India. We are presently in no position to pay market rates but shall reimburse the costs of photographs, covers, souvenirs, speed post and other communication charges. Your contribution shall appear with your byline. Regular correspondents name shall appear in every issue as a part of our team as well as at our web site(s). Occasional contributions are also welcome.

Please contact [webmaster@stampsofindia.com](mailto:webmaster@stampsofindia.com) today!

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#### ALSO FROM STAMPS OF INDIA - COVERAGE FROM GROUP SITES

#### INDIA AS A TOPICAL - NEW ISSUE REPORT

##### SATYAJIT RAY

Dominica. June 21, 2000, 50th anniversary of Berlin Film Festival

2 Stamps from a Sheetlet of six se-tenant \$1.65 stamps each

(1) Satyajit Ray, director of "Ashani Sanket" and

(2) "Mahanagar", 1964

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