

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS' COMPANION
The Weekly Newsletter from the stampsOfIndia.com

Published Every Monday
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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY DEEPAVALI
– THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, OCTOBER 26

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"India as a Topical" becomes stampsonindia.com

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We must thank all of you for the overwhelming response. We would like to put it on record that it was much more than our expectations. After running web sites for four years we thought we could predict the response to this e-zine, but we were pleasantly surprised. The "Stamps of India Collectors Companion" now goes to philatelists in 50 countries and 80% of our subscribers are from India. A large number of people have sent in words of appreciation and we take this opportunity to thank them all.

However we are far from content. We know there is still much more to be accomplished. We believe there is a possibility of presenting 50 news stories per week. For this we seek your support. We need advance information on events, and on postmarks, their price, availability and contact address. We also request for reports and schedule of meetings of societies and other events. If you edit or publish a philatelic journal, auction catalog, price list, or a book, please send a copy for reporting. Please do spread the word about availability of "Stamps of India Collectors Companion" and ask your friends to subscribe. We will also appreciate if you will include a brief note about this publication in your writings. Email addresses of your friends interested in philately are most welcome. We are very much interested in knowing all about your philatelic activities. Please do take time out for feedback to help us to serve you better.

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

- M&SJ

----- advertisement -----

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILATELIC QUIZ COMPETITION

Delhi Circle of India Post will organize a philatelic quiz competition on October 24, 2000 at National Science Center, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 2 pm. New Delhi will host the

North Zone finals on November 10, 2000. The north zone includes 7 circles of India Post - Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar besides Delhi. The All India finals will be held on December 9 at Calcutta during the INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000.

AEROPHILA 2000 OPENS TODAY

Dr. C G Krishnadas Nair, Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will inaugurate Aerophila 2000 on October 23, 2000 at HAL Sports Club Hall, Vimanapura, Bangalore at 9 am. The two-day show is organized by Karnataka Rural Philatelic Association (KRPA). The first Indian in Space – Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, Chief Test Pilot of HAL is the Guest of Honor along with H T Krishna Reddy, President of HAL Disabled Employees Association as the Chief Guest. World Philatelic Grand Prix nominee – Dr. Sita Bhateja shall preside over the function.

At this point of time, we regret that we don't have the information about the Special Cover, postmark or Souvenir of the exhibition. The contact details of KRPA are – M R Prabhakara, Organizing Secretary, 24, B. Narayanapura, Udayanagar, Bangalore 560 016

----- advertisement -----

Join INDIAN STAMP COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION, for details isca@stampsofindia.com

NEW DEFINITIVE

Paradise Fly Catcher will feature on the new Rs. 50 stamp in the 3rd part of the 8th Definitive Series: The Natural Heritage of India. This issue is scheduled for October 30, 2000. The stamp is bicolor and will be available in a pane of 50. India Security Press, Nashik Road, is printing it in photogravure. The same First Day Cover that was used for earlier issues of the 8th Definitive Series on April 30 and July 20 shall be used for this issue too. This issue is in addition to the Issue Program as reported in our issue #7.

This is the second stamp in this denomination. The first Rs. 50, also a definitive, was issued on November 15, 1986. Looking at current postal rates, especially international express mail service, India Post may issue stamps in the denomination of Rs. 100 to 500.

VOTE AT THE POPULARITY POLL

Only 3 days left to register your vote at the Stamp Popularity Poll 2000 to select the three best stamps of 1999 contest closes on October 25, 2000.

Click to http://www.indiapost.org/stamp_list_99.html, It will open the page with images of all issues of 1999. The code number of the stamp, that needs to be given on the entry form, is placed below the image. Choose three stamps you like best, click on the [Entry Form](#) link, also provided at the top of the image page, fill completely and hit submit button.

100 participants will win a Collectors Pack containing India Postage Stamps, if their choice matches that of the majority. In case more than 100 participants select the three most popular stamps correctly, the 100 entries will be selected by draw of lots. Three special prizes will be selected from the 100 prize-winning entries by draw of lots. The special prizes are: 1st Prize Rs. 5000, 2nd Prize Rs. 3000, and 3rd Prize Rs. 2000.

----- advertisement -----

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GREETINGS POSTMARK ONCE MORE

Every year India Post makes special arrangements to handle the sizeable increase in mail volume during festival seasons. Apart from hiring temporary sorters, special counters are set up at major post offices to accept the mail from the public for the duration of the festival. On October 20, 2000 special counters were setup for Deepavali season. The postmark used at these counters carries the word "GREETINGS".

STAMP COLLECTING TRAINING COURSE

Savita Jhingan, President of Indian Stamp Collectors Association (ISCA), conducted Stamp Collecting Training Courses on October 19, 2000 at Bloom Public School, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi for classes VI and VII as part of The Hindustan Times PACE (Partnerships For Action In Education) Program. About 150 students participated.

PACE brings together resources from leading institutions and organizations in terms of material, personnel, technical know-how and makes them easily available to the schools, to help them enhance day-to-day classroom teaching. The Hindustan Times is the leading national daily of the capital city.

ISCA is a partner in the PACE Program and conducts Stamp Collecting Training Courses, workshops, quizzes, and film shows on philately. It organizes stamp collector clubs, exhibitions in the schools, and guides students on how to collect and preserve stamps. ISCA is affiliated to the national federation – Philatelic Congress of India since 1979. ISCA also conducts Stamp Collecting Training Courses for India Post.

----- advertisement -----

Join REVENUE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, for details rpa@worldrevenuestamps.com

GREETING CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

Greetings Cards launched by India Post on September 6, 2000 are now available on sale. India Post has appointed different private sector businesses as area-wise distributors. India Post has also provided space to set up sales counters at major post offices to these distributors. However all the reports we have from different places say that usually less than complete sets are available.

NEW INDIAN STAMPS RELEASED

Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Communications released the set of stamps on Madhubani Paintings at Madhubani and on Raj Kumar Shukla at Motihari, both in Bihar, on October 15 and 16 respectively.

The beautiful set of Madhubani or Mithila paintings has 3 singles and a se-tenant pair. The singles are in the denomination of Rs.3, the inland letter post rate, and the pair contains stamps of Rs. 5 and 10 to makeup to Rs. 15, the foreign letter post rate. The stamps depict paintings, all done by the ladies, "Flower Girls" by Nirmala Devi, "Bali and

Sugriva” by Sanjula Devi, and “Krishna with Gopis”. The se-tenant pair depicts the details from the mural “Kohbar-Ghar” painted by Ganga Devi on the central wall of Crafts Museum, New Delhi. The FDC depicts Lakshmishwar Singh, 1858-1898, Maharaja of Darbhanga and a patron of art, particularly this art form.

The stamp on Raj Kumar Shukla is in the denomination of Rs.3. The design of the stamp and the FDC has been taken from the book “Raj Kumar Shukla” by Rai Prabhakar Prasad.

K R Narayanan, President of India, released the stamp on Dr. S D Sharma on October 17, at Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and the FDC.

An informative brochure containing write-up and technical data, priced at Rs. 2, was also released for all the above issues. Alka Sharma has designed all the pictorial first day of issue postmarks. Calcutta Security Printers Limited printed all the stamps by photo-offset in panes of 40 stamps each. The quantity printed is 3 million for Madhubani Paintings, 100,000 for Raj Kumar Shukla, and 400,000 for Dr. S D Sharma issue. The FDC is priced Rs. 2 for each issue.

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Join OLYMPIC PHILATELISTS OF INDIA, for details opi@olympil.com

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Sahadeva Sahoo, President of Philatelic Congress of India was in New Delhi on October 16, 2000 for official business. Later in the day he visited India Post HQ and also met local philatelists and exchanged views.

Sahoo is a senior officer with the Government of India and is currently the Chairman of Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited. Earlier to this he was the Chief Secretary of Orissa State Government.

AN INDIAN PHILATELIC WEBSITE IN FIP TOP 5%

Congratulations to Dakshina Kannada Philatelic Association. Their website, http://www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa/ maintained by Y V Jeppu, has been evaluated as TOP 5% among 49 entries in the FIP Web Site Competition 2000. The sites were evaluated by a team of seven FIP accredited jurors from six countries in Europe and North America. This is the second year of this competition and it is the first time an Indian web site participated in the completion. This year's awards were announced at ESPANA 2000 World Philatelic Exhibition at Madrid.

The next year's award shall be announced at HAFNIA'01 World Philatelic Exhibition being held from October 16-21, 2001 at Copenhagen, Denmark.

NEW PRICE FOR OLD GREETING ENVELOPES

India Post issued two multicolor pre-stamped envelopes with Greetings and Congratulations motif on November 5, 1993. The envelopes in the denomination of Re.1 were priced at Rs. 2.50 each that is Rs. 1.50 was imposed as stationery charge or cost of

envelope, in addition to the postage. In a welcome move India Post has now removed the stationery charge and these are available at the face value of Re.1 only till stocks last.

----- advertisement -----

INDIA AND COUNTRIES OF SUB-CONTINENT

Mainly Postal history material, Postal Auction - Ask for your free copy

A K AGARWAL, P O Box 266, 93/170 Anwar Ganj, Phool Wali Gali, Kanpur 208001, India
agarwalak@hotmail.com

ALSO IN THE NEWS

STAMP QUIZ EVERY SATURDAY

Stamp quiz is a permanent feature of the magazine section titled windows of The Tribune, a daily newspaper published from Chandigarh. The windows section appears every Saturday. It is also available online, we provide the link for the current issue.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/20001021/windows/stamp.htm>

Linn's Stamp News, October 16 2000, Page 10

INDIA POST ISSUES GREETING CARDS by Madhukar Jhingan

Thanks to Ed Deschl of USA for forwarding a copy. The story was carried in issue #3 of "Stamps of India Collectors Companion".

NEWSPAPER SCAN

Click on the link for complete story. Use your browser's "back" button to get back.

The Times of India, Bangalore Edition, October 15, 2000

[POSTAL DEPT INTRODUCES `GREETINGS POST`](#)

The Hindu, Delhi Edition, October 16, 2000,

[STAMPS ON MADHUBANI PAINTINGS](#) by Anita Joshua

The Times of India, Patna Edition, October 16, 2000

[PASWAN RELEASES STAMPS ON MITHILA PAINTINGS](#)

The Times of India, Delhi Edition, October 20, 2000, Page 9

POSTAL STAFF AGITATE

New Delhi: Employee unions of the department of posts have decided on a national strike from December 5, saying there's been no favorable action by the governments on many issues. On May 1, they said, they were promised that their demands would be settled in four months. On this assurance they froze a strike plan. Their hopes have been belied, they said.

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STAMPSOFINDIA.COM UPDATES

Check here for the Latest in the following categories: Issues, Events, Auctions, Publications, Organizations, Dealers, Articles, etc.

ISSUES

STAMPS

October 17

Dr. S D Sharma, Former President of India, Single stamp, Rs. 3

Next Issue: October 30, Paradise Fly Catcher, Definitive, Rs. 50

POSTAL STATIONERY

October 16

Postcard with Advertisement

- Census of India, Group Photo of the Nation, in Gujarati, ISP
- Census of India, Developments Milestone, in Gujarati, ISP
- Census of India, Mirror of the nation, in Urdu, ISP
- Census of India, Mirror of the nation, in Oriya, SPP
- Census of India, ?, in Malayalam, SPP

Reply Postcard with Advertisement

- Census of India, Developments Milestone, in Punjabi, ISP

Note: This is the first ever reply post card with an advertisement.

October 10 – Available on October 16

Inland Letter Card with Advertisement

- Census of India, Mirror of the nation, in Urdu, ISP
- Census of India, Mirror of the nation, in Konkani, ISP

Note: The items listed as in Konkani in the Issue #8 are in Nepalese! We regret the error.

----- advertisement -----

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.

EVENTS

DISTRICT LEVEL EXHIBITIONS

Ashok K Bayanwala, President of Gujarat Philatelic Association, Ahmedabad informs about the district level shows in Gujarat, as follows:

BANASPEX-1, Palanpur – September 14-16, 2000

The exhibition was sponsored by Palanpur Shishu Shala Bal Mandir Education Trust and Banas Dairy. Vijay Navlakha, S B Patel, and Anurag Priyadarshee – Director Postal Services (HQ) Gujarat Circle, served on the Jury, the latter as the Chairman. A Special Cover and Postmark were provided each day. The set of 3 Special Covers duly postmarked is available at the Philatelic Bureau, GPO, Ahmedabad 380 001.

Patan, October 18-19, 2000

KHEDAPEX 2000, Nadiad, October 31-November 1, 2000

Venue: Mai Mandir Complex, Mai Nagar, Nadiad 387002

LUPEX 2000

Suraj Jaitly, our correspondent for Punjab, reports that Ludhiana Philatelic Club is going to organize its next biennial exhibition along with Children's Day celebrations on November 14, 2000 at Sagar House, Ludhiana.

INDEPEX-ASIANA 2000 December 7 -12

The participants who have not yet sent their letter of confirmation along with entry fee are requested to do so without any further delay.

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Forward "Stamps Of India Collectors Companion" to friends and colleagues with a copy to us to enable us to include them in the mailing list.

PUBLICATIONS

INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE THROUGH INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS by V S Saksena
We are pleased to confirm that the price of this full color, hardbound volume published by India Post is fixed at Rs. 500. It will be available at all philatelic bureaus across the country shortly.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

GPA News, Whole #39, Vol.4 No.3, October 2000, Edited by H C Mehta

Gujarat Philatelic Association

C/O Desai & Co., 1-M National Chambers, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009

ORGANIZATIONS

DELHI INTERNATIONAL STAMP CLUB

DISC is now holding regular meetings since January 2000 on the third Saturday of the month at Maria Bhavan, New Delhi Church, Behind Gole Post Office, New Delhi. DISC held its October meeting on 21st. 12 members and guests attended.

PHILATELIC CLUB OF INDIA

Pulak Gupta, Secretary, Philatelic Club of India, New Delhi has prepared maximum cards for Madhubani Paintings issue. For details please contact him at ratlaco@nde.vsnl.net.in

----- advertisement -----

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 part of our team as well as at our web site(s). Occasional contributions are also welcome.

Please contact webmaster@stampsofindia.com today!

READERS FORUM

Martin Blatt, Librarian of India Study Circle for Philately, UK wrote:

"I intend to save and use your "publication" as a resource for collectors within the India Study Circle.... this will be the first internet resource..."

Dr. Ritvik from New Delhi, in a Letter to Editors, wrote: "Regarding the ladles full of praise you have bestowed on India Post, I think it is too premature .The first day stamps are not available at the regular philatelic bureaus (my personal experience in Jammu, Shimla and Guwahati) and they are talking about making them available in 800 post offices across the country, it is tall talk indeed. As of today, New Delhi philatelic bureau did not have the intimation of the release of stamps scheduled for Oct 15. I agree it is a great idea to hold exhibitions all over the country to promote philately, but it alone is not enough. Unless the issues brought out have interesting and meaningful themes and good color schemes, exhibitions would be futile (and a waste of tax payers money) exercise. The plan should be implemented in phases beginning with strengthening of the existing bureaus."

Ranjit Singh from New Delhi writes: "I am not happy about the information system provided by philatelic bureau. They always seem to be ignorant about new issues. Is it not possible for them to display on notice board information about coming issues of stationery or other items. Where are those so-called greetings cards and envelopes available in Delhi? Nobody seems to know except to some persons close to philately department. I have another complaint. Department of posts never replies to letters. Please say where are those greetings available?"

S D Bhatia from New Delhi writes: "Kindly do write some thing about the difficulties of philatelists in Delhi which they have experienced in Philatelic Bureau not selling new stamps and FDC in the morning."

ALSO FROM STAMPS OF INDIA - COVERAGE FROM GROUP SITES

"INDIA AS A TOPICAL" BECOMES STAMPSONINDIA.COM

The new site www.stampsonindia.com was launched on October 14 and is now operational. The data transfer has been completed successfully, log on and enjoy!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You are free to join or leave the weekly newsletter from stampsofindia.com at any time. Simply email to weeklynews@stampsofindia.com and put either subscribe or unsubscribe in the subject line. Of course we would like to know your reasons for leaving, if you would like to share them with us.

FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve "Stamps Of India Collectors Companion". We strive hard to bring you the comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please let us have your thoughts and suggestions for the same.

Also we would like to learn how our ezine impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send your comments, questions, news, reports, articles and other contributions to admin@stampsofindia.com We look forward to hearing from you!

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. Submit here askus@stampsofindia.com

VISIT LINKS PAGE AT STAMPSOFINDIA.COM

Every site on Indian philately is listed here. If you find a broken link or a site not listed here please inform the webmaster@stampsofindia.com

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DISCLAIMER

While every attempt has been made to ensure that the information presented here is accurate, let's face it, accidents and typos happen. Be aware that should you come to grievous bodily harm as a result of the information presented here, or worse yet, you get a philatelic question wrong on "Kaun Banega Crorepati" (Who Will Be A Millionaire's Indian version), just remember you were warned so we won't be held accountable.

THANK YOU.

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[Madhukar](#) and [Savita](#) Jhingan are Life Members of numerous philatelic organizations among others of the Philatelic Congress of India, Indian Stamp Collectors Association, and American Philatelic Society.

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