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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 303 - Aug 23, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The first issue of this digital weekly was published in the last millennium on August 28, 2000. With the publication of the current issue we have completed 8 years and with the next issue will enter the 9<sup>th</sup> year of publication.

Anniversaries are not only the time for celebrations but also for thanksgiving and introspection. When we look back there is joy in all that we have achieved and happiness at the cooperation we have received from all spheres.

We take this opportunity to thank all our readers and contributors to the newsletter and look forward to your continuous support.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vinod Sabharwal,

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

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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Sep 05: J P Nayak,

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, are put on sale on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

SAINT VALLALAR (RAMALINGA ADIGLAR), MARAIMALAI ADIGAL, and V G SURYANARAYANA SASTRIAR (PARTIMAR KALAI GNAR)
K Anbazhagan, Finance Minister Tamil Nadu State Government released commemorative postage stamps on 3 distinguished personalities who contributed to the enrichment of the Tamil language and culture, on August 17, 2007 at Chennai. A Raja, Minister for Communications and Information Technology Government of India, Parithi Ilamvazhuthi, Minister for Information and Urban Development Tamil Nadu, were also present on this occasion.

These personalities, on the stamps in the denomination of Rs 5, are Saint Vallalar (Ramalinga Adigal), who lived in the northern parts of the State during the 19th century and professed spiritual purity and non-killing, Parithimar Kalaignar (V G Suryanarayana Sastri) who demanded, as early as 1902, classical language status for Tamil and Maraimalai Adigal, who spearheaded the "pure Tamil movement" in the early half of the 20th century. All the three had laid the foundation for the modernity of the language.

At a time when certain sections of society considered Tamil an inferior language, Vallalar's 'Arutpa' highlighted the greatness of Tamil. When Madras University proposed to exclude Tamil from its syllabus about 100 years ago, it was the strong case presented by Parithimar Kalaignar [who had become the Head of Tamil Department in the Madras Christian College in 1895] that forced the authorities to drop the move. Maraiamalai Adigal, despite being a staunch theist, associated himself with the anti-Hindi agitations organised by non-believers. This showed his commitment to the cause of Tamil, the Minister added.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps and the First Day Covers. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmarks. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. Security Printing Press,

Hyderabad printed the stamps by wet offset in the quantity of 0.4 million each.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

LANDMARK BRIDGES OF INDIA

India Post released a set of 4 stamps and a miniature sheet on Landmark Bridges of India - Howrah Bridge, Mahatma Gandhi Setu, Pamban Bridge, and Vidyasagar setu on August 17, 2007.

Howrah Bridge is the gateway to Kolkata. The bridge is 705 meters long, 97 feet wide and was opened to traffic in February 1943. Built on the Hooghly River, it is technically a cantilever truss bridge, constructed entirely by riveting, without nuts or bolts. It was originally named the New Howrah Bridge and links the city of Howrah to its twin city Kolkata (Calcutta). On 14th June 1965 it was renamed Rabindra Setu (named after Rabindranath Tagore a great poet and the first Indian Nobel laureate). However, it still is popularly known as the Howrah Bridge.

The Ganga bridge in Patna - now renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Setu - spans over 5.575 km from Hajipur at the north end to Patna at the south end, and is the world's longest river bridge. It was formally opened in March 1982.

The Pamban Bridge on the Palk Strait connects Rameswaram island to mainland India. It is the longest sea bridge in India at a length of nearly 2.3 km. Bridge was opened for traffic in 1914. It refers to both the road bridge and the cantilever railway bridge, though primarily it means the latter.

The Vidya Sagar Setu in Kolkata, the second bridge built over river Hooghly, is the longest cable-stayed bridge in India, with a length of 172 meters and a main span of 130 meters.

The stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 each are produced in the sheetlets of 16 in 6 different formats. There are 4 sheetlets, 1 for each stamp, and 2 mixed sheetlets, 1 consisting of strips of 4 and 1 of blocks of 4.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps and the First Day Covers. Nenu Gupta designed the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamps by photogravure in the quantity of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 0.4 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

India Post is issuing the stamped envelope in the denomination of Rs 5 with a new motif of Mahatma Gandhi in two different single colors, Dark Brown and Dark Blue replacing the existing motif of '150 Years of India Post'. This will be released on October 2, 2007 at all the philatelic bureaus.

The new motif of Mahatma Gandhi had already appeared on Single Post Cards, Reply Post Cards, Inland Letter Cards, Registered Envelope, and Aerogramme on March 1, 2007. The stamped envelope was excluded from the design change at that time.

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2007, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2007, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007ILC.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jun 14: Shankarapura (Bangalore), Sri Sringeri Shankar Math Centenary  
Aug 14: Lucknow, St Francis College

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2007, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2007pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2007, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2007aps.htm>

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AIR INDIA MUMBAI TO NEW YORK NONSTOP

India's national carrier Air India commenced its first nonstop flight from Mumbai to New York on August 1, 2007. The 15 hour long service was operated by a brand new Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft, named 'Andhra Pradesh'.

India Post provided a special postmark and Air India brought out a First Flight Cover on the occasion.

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RAKHI MAIL

The Delhi Circle of India Post has made special arrangements for handling of Rakhi Mails from August 16 to September 3, 2007. Special posting counters are being set up in 34 important Post Offices in Delhi and at Delhi Railway Station and New Delhi Railway Station during this period.

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AUCTION ACTION

Christoph Gärtner of Germany <http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de> will be holding autumn auction on 4 days from September 11 to 14, 2007. There are several lots of India interest in this auction of nearly 15000 lots.

One of the lots, Lot #10369 scheduled for September 12, 2007 is a fantastic collection very strong in India postal history in, believe it or not, over 200 volumes and 40 boxes housed in 7 shelves! Starting with 1685, good part early and stampless covers, various first issues including lithographs on cover, perhaps world's best collection of Indian postmarks and cancellations, and by far world's best holding of

field post in 36 volumes - i.e. 5 volumes Egypt, 4 vols. North West Frontier (Pakistan), 1 vol. Turkey, 2 vols. Afghan war, 2 vols. East Africa, 5 vols. Iraq, 3 vols. Palestine included may registered ones - some unique, 1 vol. Aden, 3 vols. France, 1 vol. Persia from 1856, 7 vols. Mesopotamia, 2 vols. Ships/Hospitals, very specialized instructional markings, routes and rates, and tens of thousands other interesting items. The starting price at Euro 550,000 is a new record for an India lot.

Auctioneers go on to add that compared to other Asian countries India is far below in the price development and this will change in the next five to ten years. Thus this collection, which is over 50 years in making and a unique study in the postal history of India, offers great investment opportunity as well.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

Stamp Today, Whole # 13, May Jun 2007  
Editor: Vijay H Seth  
Publisher: Vijay H Seth  
Annual Subscription: Rs 180

Whole #7 was reported in Issue #297 of July 12, 2007 and # 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 not published yet!

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 3-4: Chennai

Indian Bank organized an exhibition of stamps and coins to commemorate its centenary year.

Aug 10-12: Thanjavur, COINEXPO

Aug 14-15: Lucknow, District Philatelic Exhibition

Aug 24-26: Cochin, Coins & Stamps Exhibition

Aug 31-Sep 2: Mumbai, Coins & Banknotes

Sep 29-Oct 3: Surat, Mahatma Gandhi Stamps and Memorabilia Exhibition
Contact: Ramavtar Jain 0 93777 66365

Sep 30-Oct 2: Gwalior, Coins & Stamps Exhibition

Oct 6-8: Ahmedabad, Gujarat State Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 31-Nov 2: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh State Philatelic Exhibition

Nov 30-Dec 2: New Delhi, Coins & Banknotes

For a list of exhibitions in 2007, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2007.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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#### VIEWS & OPINIONS

##### INDIAN MINIATURE SHEETS

By P R Krishnan, Coimbatore

We Indians are always slow starters. When most of the countries in the globe started issuing miniature sheets in 50's and 60's our post office woke up in 1973 and issued the first miniature sheet imperforated to mark the occasion of India international philatelic exhibition held at New Delhi from 14th to 23rd November 1973. I was there during the exhibition and on the first day a small quantity of miniature sheets were sold over the counter and no sale took place throughout the exhibition days informing that the quantity printed were sold out. I was one among the unlucky collectors for not getting the miniature sheets for several months.

This followed in 1974 the issue of miniature sheet for the Indian Mask Series and to mark the centenary of Universal Postal Union. I am trying to find the quantities issued for the first 3 miniature sheets and still it is a guarded secret. I sincerely appreciate if someone can give details of quantities issued for the first 3 miniature sheets of India.

After, a gap of 13 years in 1987 India Post issued 2 miniature sheets for the World Philatelic Exhibition. The first one was issued in June in the denomination of Rs 8 (premium of Rs 2.50) Quantity Printed 0.15 million or 150,000 and the second one was issued in October 1987 in the denomination of Rs 15. (Premium Rs 1.40) and the printed quantity is unknown.

Then in 1995 a miniature sheet was issued portraying Gandhi to mark the India - South Africa co-operation. This miniature sheet was priced at Rs 8 each with a premium of Rs 5. For this issue also the quantity printed is kept secret. In 1996 and 1997 miniature sheet were issued for Himalayan Ecology with a premium of Rs 10 and Mother Theresa. The Year 2000 saw issue of 3 miniature sheets.

The record number of 9 miniature sheets was issued in 2003 and this followed by 6 in 2004. The printed quantities of miniature sheets issued during this period were ranging from 50000 to 100000 each issue.

End 2004 the Department of Post started experimenting the issue of miniature sheet in increased quantities i.e. 0.2 million. The first such is Aga Khan Award for Architecture (Agra Fort) followed by pillar-

box issue. The department of Post doubled the printing quantity of miniature sheets i.e. 0.4 million from Rose issue.

Now the analysis - what will be the fate of these miniature sheets with 0.2 and 0.4 million printed quantities issue? Since the major portion of the printed quantities are lying in the Philatelic Bureaus unsold even today.

(a) If any investor wants to corner these issue of 0.2 or 0.4 million he can do so with ease in the next 3 to 4 years since most of the stock unsold will be kept in the stock of philatelic bureau. The philatelic bureau seldom sells miniature sheets across the normal stamp vending counters after the expiry of usual 6 months period and there will not be any takers for this item.

Or

(b) If the Department of Post take a stand to withdraw these miniature sheets from the philatelic bureau and ordered them to be sold thru general counters then these miniature sheets are going to be as scarce as the first three miniature sheets issued in 1973/74 as most of the investors or collectors are not holding sizeable quantities with them compare to the earlier issues with lesser printed quantities.

The situation now is "Devil or Deep Sea" - Let us wait and watch what the department of post is going to do?

#### READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

NIKHIL ROHAN, Chennai

I would like to bring to your notice a peculiar situation faced by collectors in Chennai.

The Philatelic Bureau officials in Chennai believe in following the rule book to a greater extent than perhaps anywhere else. For example, on the day of the 4v Roses issue, when I reached the HPO at 4 pm, I was promptly told that the issue would be on sale the next day only. This was because the official release function (in Mumbai) was taking place only at 6 pm in the evening.

Therefore, I could not get the issue to be First Day commercially Used to my penpal's name, as I had promised him earlier.

The Roses issue is not an isolated case. Even the Buddha issue had a similar story, and several others before it. And what adds salt to injury is when I come back home, I see dealers from North India having placed all items (MNH set, FDC, MS, IB) on auction sites like eBay at about 10 am in the morning ! Did the Minister make a personal release of the stamps for them?

Using stamps before the date of release is a crime, but does the government care about the time of release also? If so, why is the system not uniform everywhere in India?

Why is Chennai singled out? Why should we in Chennai suffer?

ASHWIN KANDOI

I am impressed with the idea of Philasensex. The idea is novel and a very good way of depicting a collector's investments. Unfortunately in India still the concept of planned stamp investments has not raised as compared to developed countries but as the economy grows, history beckons that Stamps give better returns than stock markets though lower than real estate.

The data which you have put on the philasensex site is good but honestly very badly presented. I have attached a word document to present the same data along with a chart. Also I have tried to put the values in USD also so that international investors are excited and can easily relate to. I will be pleased to help you with this if required.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>
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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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