

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 307 - September 20, 2007. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have always been looking for philatelic humor and had enjoyed couple of philatelic spoofs at thespooof.com in the recent past. Last month they did an India specific philatelic spoof "Aishwarya Rai to be honored with 100 rupee postage stamp" and you can read it online at this link <http://www.thespooof.com/news/spoof.cfm?headline=s4i23708>. Please do also contribute philatelic humor which somehow seems to be in short supply.

The answer to the previous issue's question will be carried in the next issue and not in this one as the previous issue was mailed late and we would like more readers to have a go at it. The first and almost immediate answer after the issue was mailed came all the way from Canada! Thank you, Ivo Rodrigues.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Ajit Dash

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 23: 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Plenary Conference, New Delhi

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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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 all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.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

Aug 15: Cuttack, Permanent Pictorial Postmark at Philatelic Bureau

RATH YATRA FESTIVAL SLOGAN POSTMARKS

India Post's Postal Divisions of Puri and Bhubaneswar provided special slogan postmarks on world famous Rath Yatra for all the nine days of the festival on July 16 to 24, 2007. Cuttack Postal Division's slogan postmark was provided from July 14 to 24, 2007.

Once a year Lord Jaganatha, along with his brother Baladeva, and sister Subhadra, are taken out of the temple and pulled on huge chariots through the streets of Puri. It is from these huge chariots that the English word 'juggernaut' comes. Millions of devotees attend this festival every year, including the King of Puri, who sweeps the path in front of Lord Jaganatha cart.

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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30 MILLION RUPEES FOR AN INDIA LOT

The lot #10369 at the Christoph Gärtner auction of September 12, 2007 made history when it was knocked down for 526,500 Euros plus VAT, the

highest amount for an India lot in auction. This is about 30 million Indian Rupees. The details of this massive lot were covered in issue # 303.

For a list of auctions in India, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/auction.htm>

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WINDOW TO PHILATELY

Padmini Balan has recently brought out a revised and expanded edition of her second book "Window to Philately". The book is a basic book that not only introduces the newcomers to the hobby but also provides lots of useful information in question answer format.

This work was first published in 2005 and has already won Silver Bronze Medal at Saint Petersburg world philatelic exhibition and 20<sup>th</sup> Asian International philatelic exhibition at Bangkok in 2007.

Padmini works for India Post where her longstanding contribution to the promotion of philately is well known and acknowledged. She has attended international philatelic exhibitions not only in India but abroad as well. She had earlier co-authored 'Quiz on Philately' in 2003

The soft cover book has 136 pages including 11 in color and is priced at Rs 70 and is available online from the publishers' website  
<http://www.surabooks.com/ProductDisplay.asp?RefID=1765> at a special price of Rs 63 only.

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INDIA POST - STATE BANK OF INDIA ALLIANCE

Deepak Kumar Budki, Chief Postmaster General Jammu & Kashmir Circle of India Post and S P Singh, Deputy General Manager of State Bank of India, Jammu & Kashmir signed an agreement on September 12, 2007 to launch sale of SBI Loan Assets, Smart Cards and Non Smart Cards etc by extending reach of banking services to the masses through their Post Offices. Initially the facility will be provided by some selected Post offices of the state that included R S Pura, Bishnah, Dayala Chak, Ramnagar, Pulwama, Varmulh and Sopur.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE FILA CAPSULE, Vol 2 # 13, Jul Aug 2007, Bimonthly  
Editor: Ajit Kumar Dash [akdash2000@yahoo.com](mailto:akdash2000@yahoo.com)  
Publisher: Eastern India Philatelists Association, Bhubaneswar  
Annual Subscription including Membership: Rs 200

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 26-27: Kolkata, Mother Teresa  
Sister Nirmala inaugurated a mini stamp show on Mother Teresa at Mother House in Kolkata to celebrate her 97th birth anniversary. Kamal Chakraborty, a Philatelist from Bolangir displayed his award winning philatelic collection on Mother Teresa titled 'Apostle of Love'.

Sep 29-Oct 3: Surat, Mahatma Gandhi Stamps and Memorabilia Exhibition  
Venue: Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium, Surat  
Sales Stalls: Rs 11,000 Including accommodation & meals for two  
Contact: Ramavtar Jain 0 93777 66365

Oct 2: Lucknow, Gandhi Stamps Exhibition  
Venue: Lucknow GPO  
Issues: 1 special cover  
Contact: Pankaj Tyagi, Mobile 0 93352 41900

Oct 6-8: Ahmedabad, Gujarat State Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 13-15: Gwalior, Coins & Stamps Exhibition  
Issues: 2 special covers,  
Sales Stalls: Rs 2000/ Rs 2500  
Contact: Neel Kamal Maheshwari, 0 94257 45455, 0 94444 50420

Oct 26-29: Jaipur, 12th Inter School Philatelic Exhibition Schoolpex  
Venue: St Xavier's School  
Issues: 2 special covers including 1 scented cover,  
Sales Stalls: Rs 600, Also accommodation assistance  
Contact: Rajesh Paharia, Mobile 9351716969

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

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

Dec 5-8: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Kanakakunnu Palace

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>

#### CELEBRATION OF PEACE

Celebration of Peace is a philatelic exhibit by Revati Natesan honoring the life and legacy of Gandhi. The 50 panel exhibit displaying stamps, first-day covers, postcards and newspaper articles will be on display at the Naperville, Illinois, USA from September 7 to October 5, 2007.

The exhibit was first displayed in Washington DC in 2005 for five weeks and was later shown for a few weeks in Pittsburgh.

The month-long event Celebration of Peace Thorough Arts will include a stamp contest for elementary and high school students to create artwork reflecting the theme "Celebration of Peace in our Everyday Lives." 10 winning designs will be available on 2 sheets of US personalized postage stamps sheets for \$45 for 2 Sheets (40 stamps).

Other activities include holding a contest for students in grades 6-8 to design posters with the theme "Peace Around the World.", cartoon and the Peace Poster exhibits, Film shows, Talks, Panel discussions, and cultural performances.

For more information, visit [www.thinkglobalarts.org](http://www.thinkglobalarts.org)

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/x16.htm> for tariff and terms

WANTED India Stamp Booklets of King Edward VII, King George V & VI, Unexploded, exploded, in all conditions, Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA [deogawanka@satyam.net.in](mailto:deogawanka@satyam.net.in)

BUYING at 100 times of the Face Value: UPU & Masks Miniature Sheets, Begum Akhtar, 1948 Mahatma Gandhi 1½ annas, 3½ annas, & 12 annas Please send your offers to RAMAWTAR B JAIN, Mobile: 093777 66365

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

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

R PURUSHOTHAMAN, Rourkela

I have been following the philsensex since its introduction about four months ago. I do appreciate the effort taken by the gentleman. I wish it should grow to the level of sensex for the stock market. In order to go to that level it should have more transparency and be objective and impersonal. Some of my suggestions are::

1. The data provided should have verifiable backing. He states about the increase in the prices of the stamps. But where from he collects the price? The source of price information is essential and should be specific. If he decides to base his price movement from say e-bay actual selling and buying the same can be noted. Or if he bases the price movement on some other data the same should be available for reference and verification. This will increase the credibility for the philsensex. Otherwise the price movement will be only vague
2. Any guess work and speculation should be totally avoided. It will only undermine the credibility and there is scope for vested interest as in the case of stock markets. If it is felt that prices of certain stamps are likely to appreciate or depreciate that statement should be based on some valid reasons and not just speculations. For increase in the price so many factors like thematic importance, number printed etc may be the reason.
3. All data should be backed by figures. For instance in one of the issues it was stated that the least number of sheetlets printed was for the Children's Film Festival issued in the year 2005. But it is not correct. It may be one of the lowest number printed sheetlets, but not the lowest. Number of sheetlets printed for Children's Film festival was 40,000 as per the brochure issued whereas for Kolkata Police (17.11.05) it was 37,500 as per the brochure.

I hope it will not be taken as a negative criticism. As he has undertaken a task individually which should have been taken by an institute, I have full regards for the gentleman. As he must have put up a lot of effort to bring his idea into reality, I only wish such a great effort should not be wasted. I hope he will look into the suggestion and do the needful.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON  
By Madhukar Jhingan

When one writes to a stranger and requests a reply, it is considered polite to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. This works well when both persons live in the same country; however, if they are from different countries, the enclosed postage stamp will not be valid.

This technical problem was solved in 1906 when the Universal Postal Union, during its Congress in Rome, introduced the International Reply Coupon service. As the service began before the days of airmail, the earliest coupons could only be redeemed for a single-rate ordinary postage stamp to a foreign country. In terms of today's UPU Convention, International reply coupons (IRC) are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered airmail letter sent to a foreign country.

UPU member postal services are obliged to exchange an IRC for postage, but are not obliged to sell them.

IRCs issued from 1906 to 1974 (in blue color) do not have any value for exchange, but they do have an historical value. The IRCs issued from 1975 to 2001 (in yellow color) were exchangeable indefinitely. This is different from the rule where it has to be redeemed within six months after its sale by the post office. These were made to expire on June 30, 2006 which means that these have to be redeemed before that date even if these are still with the post office! These IRC are approximately 2.5 inches by 4 inches.

On January 1, 2002 a new design IRC (Beijing model 1) was introduced for the first time with an expiry date that is December 31, 2006. These are approximately 3.75 inches by 6 inches (10.2 cm x 14.9 cm) and have a barcode on the back.

A new design IRC (Beijing model 2) has been issued on July 1, 2006. This design was selected out of a global design contest. These IRC are exchangeable till December 31, 2009. This is the first IRC with a hologram added as a security measure.

UPU has issued this year a new design that is a modified version of Beijing model 2 and commemorates 100 years of IRC 1907-2007. This also is exchangeable till December 31, 2009.

India did not sell the new designs (Beijing model 1 and 2) and continued to sell old design (in yellow color) up till June 30, 2006. India has not sold any IRC since that date at its post offices although it is expected to resume the sale in near future.

For images please visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pss/ircx.htm>

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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

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037  
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at 'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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The Hub Site of Indian Philately

PRINCELY STATES REPORT <http://www.princelystates.com>  
Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>  
The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750 post paid worldwide. Credit cards accepted <http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>

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