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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are amazed that the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independent India's first postage stamp on November 21, 2007 went without being celebrated either by India Post or by philatelic organizations in India. What can be more important than remembering the birthday of this mother of all stamps? Our recommendation is that this day every year should be celebrated as National Stamp Day.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Madhukar Deogawanka, Pradip Jain,

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

INPEX 08 UPDATE

In the previous issue # 215 of November 15, 2007 we had exposed the 'apex' status of PCI. Here is an example of its affect -

Govindarajan A, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices Tambaram Division & on the Allotment Committee of INPEX 08, wrote in an email of November 20, 2007:

"I acknowledge that there was an error in Clause 5.3.4 of the Bulletin 1 released by the Organising Committee of INPEX 2008 (which sounded the 'essentiality of PCI affiliation' of the philately bodies a must..). Now I hereby clarify that the recommendation of any philatelic association/club/society (with or without affiliated to PCI) is necessary for those entries /collection from any Postal Circle where no exhibition has been held for the last 4 years and for those collections which have not participated in any exhibition /not secured any award. Applicants of such entries should also send photo copies of the introductory page and fifteen other important pages from the collection duly signed by the exhibitor".

The last date to submit entries was November 15, 2007 and INPEX 08 has found this blunder five days after!

Still, it is nice to note that they do carry out, although belatedly, the corrections when the wrongs are conveyed to them.

It would be appropriate to say to the organizers of INPEX 08 that there are a lot of corrections still needed to be carried out and they should get prepared to implement them for the promotion of philately in India.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Nov 22: Renewable Energy, Set of 4 + Miniature Sheet + 5 Sheetlets  
Nov 27: 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Punjab Regiment, Formerly Nabha Akal Infantry

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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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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MAHATMA GANDHI MS PACK

A special pack was recently brought out to commemorate International Non-Violence Day. The pack contains the miniature sheet issued to mark the centenary of Satyagraha and was produced in the quantity of 200.

For all the packs issued in 2007, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/misc-packs2007.htm>

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NATIONAL PHILATELIC MUSEUM

The National Philatelic Museum has been closed for indefinite period from October 16, 2007 as it is being relocated to another site in the same compound.

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GANDHI ASHRAM'S SPECIAL POSTMARK

Gujarat Philatelists' Association, Ahmedabad (GPA) decided to commemorate the first International Non Violence Day on October 2, 2007 by creating 350 individually numbered covers mailed and delivered from Gandhi Ashram Post Office in Ahmedabad. The Gujarat Circle of India Post responded enthusiastically and the Gandhi Ashram Post Office was suitably instructed to open on a postal holiday for this purpose. A special pictorial postmark was used on these covers. The computerized receipt for booking an article also carried 'International Day-Non Violence' in place of usual 'have a nice day'. The chief postmaster Ahmedabad GPO was also instructed to arrange the supply of new Gandhi stamps which were being issued that day for use on these covers. All the charges regarding the cover, stamps, postmark, and mailing through Speed Post were borne by GPA.

The official confirmation letter by the Gujarat Circle of India Post to GPA clearly stated that no other covers except GPA covers should be entertained for booking or servicing with the special postmark. Accordingly Gandhi Ashram Post Office after booking and duly servicing with special and delivery postmarks handed these 350 covers over to the GPA. Many members of GPA were present on this occasion along with philatelists from other parts of India including Arun Bhattacharya and C R Andhare.

However, the GPA has learnt that items with the special postmark of Gandhi Ashram Post Office of October 2, 2007 other than 350 Speed Post covers are in circulation. GPA questions the authenticity of these items. Are these items fake, reprints, or some 'philatelists' have obtained these by misleading India Post?

GPA requests the philatelic community to be vigilant of all items of dubious origins.

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AUCTION ACTION

Philatelic Trade & Publications Pvt. Ltd is holding their next Spot Cum Postal Auction on December 9, 2007 at 9.45 am at their offices at Bangalore. The postal bids must reach them by 5pm on December 8, 2007.

For further details, please write to [ptppl@vsnl.net](mailto:ptppl@vsnl.net). The catalog of the auction is available online at <http://www.ptppl.in/download/catab.html>.

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

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POST OFFICES TO DISTRIBUTE COINS

Delhi Circle of India Post has entered into an arrangement with Reserve Bank of India for distribution of coins and exchange of soiled notes through selected Post Offices located in New Delhi HO (Gol Dak Khana, New Delhi 110001), Delhi GPO (Kashmere Gate, Delhi 110006), Lodi Road HO (Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003), Ramesh Nagar HO (Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi 110015) and Krishna Nagar HO (Krishna Nagar, Delhi 110051).

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BUY TRADE FAIR TICKETS AT POST OFFICES

35 selected post offices in Delhi are selling entry tickets for 27<sup>th</sup> India International Trade Fair being held from November 14 to 27, 2007. The tickets are also being sold at Bus Depots, Metro Stations, and Milk Booths of Mother Dairy. The tickets are priced at Rs 20 and 10 for adult and child respectively for weekdays; and Rs 50 and 20 on weekends and holidays. These prices are Rs 5 cheaper than those sold at the venue - Pragati Maidan.

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STAMPS ON INDIA: CANADA'S WORLD RELIGION DAY - A STAMP THAT WASN'T  
Issue #312 of October 25, 2007 covered the details of the stamp to mark the World Religion Day by Congo issued on January 20, 2007. Sometime after the issue of the stamp by Congo, there was news about issue of a stamp on the World Religion Day by Canada. The news was accompanied by a picture of the stamp as well. Soon thereafter it was realized that it wasn't true and the story was pulled out of circulation.

The story however has resurfaced recently in India and this is to put the facts on record that the stamp was not issued. However the design of the purported stamp was so beautiful that it is a shame that it isn't real. See it for yourself at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/316-plus.htm>

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BRIDGES ON STAMPS THEMATIC EXHIBITION

All thematic collectors of stamps on Bridges are invited to participate in the Bridges on Stamps Thematic Exhibition to be held in the mid of December 2007. Please contact Jaydev Nansey [joydave99@yahoo.com](mailto:joydave99@yahoo.com) at the earliest.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Nov 23-26: Patna, Bihar State Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Wheeler Senate Hall, Patna University

Nov 30-Dec 2: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh State Philatelic Exhibition  
Sales Stalls: Rs 2500  
Contact: Pankaj Tyagi, Mobile 0 93352 41900

Nov 30-Dec 2: New Delhi, Coins & Banknotes  
Contact: Goga Jain, Mobile 93123 18401

Nov 30-Dec 2: Palakkad, PHILA COINEX  
Venue: Town Hall Annex

Contact: K A Radharishnan, Tel 0492-2284701, 2284480

Dec 5-8: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Kanakakunnu Palace  
Sales Stalls: Rs 3000  
Contact: The Secretary [kerapex2007@gmail.com](mailto:kerapex2007@gmail.com) Mobile 0 94955 49431

Dec 7-9: Pune, STAMPEX  
Venue: Sonal Hall, 19 Karve Road, Next to Rasa Shala,  
Sales Stalls: Rs 4000, Two tables & two chairs. Breakfast & Lunch for two persons included. Last date booking: November 30, 2007.  
Contact: Rajendra Shah, Secretary ICSRI, (020) 24477660, 09890117252

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>

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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STAMP QUIZZES by Anil Dhir, 224 pages, 2007 edition, contains over 1500 questions and answers. Comprehensive & detailed with quizzes on General Philately, India, Indian States, USA, Britain, Australia & New Zealand Must for all Philatelists & stamp clubs, Rs 300 post free in India. US\$20+ actual postage elsewhere, ANIL DHIR [anildhir2k5@hotmail.com](mailto:anildhir2k5@hotmail.com)

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Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA [deogawanka@satyam.net.in](mailto:deogawanka@satyam.net.in)

#### 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.>

ANIL DHIR, Bhubaneswar

I have noticed a very morbid aspect of the miniature sheet of the Children's Day issue of 2007.

The miniature sheet is bordered in black, which is traditionally an attribute prescribed for mourning. Postal history is replete with many instances of issues of mourning covers and stamps, all being black bordered.

In fact I have a collection of mourning covers and stamps from across the world from pre Victorian times to the present day. Mourning covers can be briefly defined as black edged posted letters used in many countries especially during the 19th and early 20th centuries. These covers brought only bad news- relating to the death of a family member, friend or associate. During the heyday of these mourning covers, people generally used them in four situations: to announce a death, as a notification of the time and place of a funeral, to send or acknowledge messages of condolence and as a general correspondence for a reasonable time (usually one year) after a family member's death.

Mourning Stamps were issued as a commemoration of the death anniversary of statesmen, royalty and public figures. There are many cases where the regular stamps portraying the personality were overprinted with a black border after his death.

Why has India Post issued a black bordered Miniature sheet on the occasion of Pandit Nehru's birthday, more so when the day is celebrated as Children's Day? Maybe this error is intentional, or some divine intervention, through which the miniature sheet is mourning the state of the millions of poor and deprived children of our nation for whom Children's Day holds no meaning. Irony cannot get more ironic. If this is it, then kudos to India Post for a correct and appropriate presentation of the state of the nation's young.

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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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STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>  
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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, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm>

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