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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 325 - January 24, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Thanks to response to our appeal in the previous issue. We got multiple responses from Gurgaon and NOIDA but from the national capital the response was poor. We urgently need to put together a team in place to manage the philatelic activities on a regular basis. It entails few hours on few days a month. So please do step forward and be counted. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Akhilesh Arka, and N Kalyani

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

PHILSENSEX JANUARY 2008

By P R Krishnan, Coimbatore

I am attaching the data's collected on market prices on Post Independence issues of India which I hope you may find useful. The year opened with two important events (1) the National Philatelic Exhibition (Inpex 2008) at Chennai and (2) the release of PHILA 2008 catalogue by Philatelia, Kolkata. Price revision has seen in larger perspective for issues of Post Independence in Phila 2008 compare to Phila 2005 catalogue. I could notice during the exhibition the modern India stamps are being bought by the dealers more aggressively at decent prices also noticed the keen interest of collectors enlarging their collection of Indian stamps in sheet-lets, miniature sheets and se-tenants. The shift to collect Indian stamps seems to be more apparent among the collectors in general.

You may find that the basis points between January 2007 and 2008 has almost doubled in the index.

The next month Philsensex (February 2008) will carry the price trends of Indian stamps collected during the Inpex 2008.

I wish to have your comments on this column to improve for the benefit of collectors, dealers and investors.

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/philsensex200801.htm> for viewing the data.

STAMP WATCH

The price gain achieved by R K Shukla, will it continue? Will it touch a new peak!!!

Modern India Definitive issues Water Mark varieties collect!!

Silent killers CISM Military games and Children's Day 2007 Miniature sheets - bulk buying noticed

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STAMP POLL 2007

Thank you for the overwhelming and unprecedented response to Stamp Poll 2007. Kindly continue to do so and let us make a new record for the numbers of votes polled this year. Please do spread the word about Stamp Poll 2007.

The best stamp of 2007 shall be announced based on the most number of votes polled. You can send as many ballots as you wish. Several attractive philatelic prizes will be given away. The winners will be decided by draw of lots.

Please select one from the commemorative stamps issued in 2007 displayed at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/2007stampoll.htm>

Vote for the best stamp of 2007 in your opinion. Vote by the number only. (My Favorite 2007 Stamp is: #)

Also write your name, City, email id, and philatelic interests on the ballot and email your ballots to: stamppoll@stampsfindia.com

The last date to receive the ballots at Stamps of India is January 31, 2008. Incomplete ballots shall not be considered.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Feb 08: D R Gadgil  
Feb 14: Damodaram Sanjeevaiah

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 2008, please visit <http://www.stampsfindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stams.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

2007
Eye Care, Bengali
Eye Care, Tamil
Eye Care, Telugu

2008
Reliance Mutual Fund, Marathi

The grand total till date is now 515, with 238 added in 2007 alone.

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

Following post card with advertisement was recently released:

Jan 20, AIDS, Gujarati

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

Following Inland Letter Card with advertisement was recently released:

Jan 14, AIDS, Gujarati

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

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Oct 11: Bangalore, World Sight Day  
Oct 20: Bangalore, World Scout Jamboree on the Air

Dec 05: Bangalore, International Leo Day

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2008pm.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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NEW STAMP BOOKLETS

Following stamp booklets have recently been issued:

Andaman Mormon (Papilio Mayo) Butterflies
Andaman Club Tail (Pachliopta Rhodifer) Butterflies
Use Me

For an illustrated list of all Stamp Booklet Issues, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm>

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THE LAST POST - A REVIEW

This short film of 20 minutes is based on the real life story of Nila Nayak, a mail carrier for India Post. He carries mail in his horse cart from post office to bus terminal in Jeypore in Koraput district in Orissa. It is a piece of the postal history of India.

Carrying mail has been a family tradition and before him, Nila's father and Grandfather had carried mail for 50 years. Nila's take on his inherited profession is that it is his destiny, his Karma, and his duty to continue doing this. He believes that the mail must move at all costs in all weathers. He has convinced his young son to follow in his footsteps.

For this work he gets paid Rs 90 a day only on the days he carries mail. He has to spend Rs 50 to feed his two horses. On holidays he and his horses go hungry. Very often, the cart is overloaded resulting in frequent breakdowns and the repairs are very expensive. The day his cart is broken and he can't carry mail he has to compensate the post office by paying Rs 200! Imagine in which conditions he would be living? He has to pay for food, and other necessities too for his family.

It is a very informative kind of film which effectively tells the unknown story of a silent worker, unsung and forgotten hero. Unfortunately he is living in such misery and really doesn't have any way of getting out of it. As collectors of stamps and everything postal we all would love to see the continuity of the Tonga (Horse Cart) post. However if he can be paid according to the times we live in it will worthwhile for him, his horses, and his family.

Anil Dhir [nildhir2k5@hotmail.com](mailto:nildhir2k5@hotmail.com) the producer director, informs that he shall be happy to send copies of the CD free of cost to philatelists all over if they send him the postal expenses. His only request is that if the message reaches them after viewing the film, they should contribute something to the poor man who is running the Tonga for the post office. For this purpose Dhir plans to open an account in a bank where money can be remitted. Even small contributions of say Rs 100 (US\$ 2.5) are welcome.

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KARNATAKA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Annual General Body of The Karnataka Philatelic Society was held on January 20, 2008 at KSCA Stadium, Bangalore. The elections were also held for the term up to 2008-09 and the results are as follows:

President - Dr R G Sangoram
Vice President - C N Narasimha Murthy
General Secretary - Manish A Jain
Treasurer - S S Swamy
Committee Members - V Krishnamurthy, Vaman Rao, Mani M Krishnan

The members meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday at Bangalore GPO

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PHILATELISTS' DIRECTORY

Bhartiya Sangraha Vikas Parishad publishes a monthly philatelic magazine in Hindi - Sangraha Vikas. The Parishad is going to publish a Philatelist Directory with collectors' name, addresses, and interests and other details. Send your details for inclusion in the Directory to Bhartiya Sangraha Vikas Parishad, Ambadevi Mandir Parisar, Sati Bazar, Raipur 492001.

Parishad also welcomes inquiries regarding membership and advertisement tariff. Shailendra Sharma, Chief Editor can also be contacted over telephone and his mobile number is 0 93295 31851.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 7-9: New Delhi, Delhi State Philatelic Exhibition
Venue: National Science Centre, Near Pragati Maidan Gate 1, Bhairo Marg
Dealers Booth: Rs 3000, Closing Date Jan 30
Info & Entry Form: www.delhipost.gov.in
Contact: A S Dahiya 99683 64888

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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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, and in all conditions,  
Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA [deogawanka@satyam.net.in](mailto:deogawanka@satyam.net.in)

SELLING Miniature Sheets of India Complete Mint 51 Different, Rs 6500  
Contact RAMAWTAR B JAIN, Mobile: 093777 66365

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)

## 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.>

ANONYMOUS, (Name withheld on request)

I am a Maximum card enthusiast and was present at Inpex 2008 held at Chennai from 2nd to 6th Jan 08. I saw 2 exhibits of Maximaphily, one was "Maximaphily- Mammals in Wild" and the second was "The World of Birds". I saw these carefully and was surprised that the second exhibit, "The World of Birds" was awarded Vermail and the first "Mammals in Wild" was awarded large silver only.

In maximaphily exhibit the picture postcards with mere reproduction of the stamp is FORBIDDEN. The postmark and pictorial design of the cancellation and the place of cancellation should have a close and direct connection with the subject of the stamp and of the picture postcard.

I noticed 2 Maximum cards in the Birds exhibit which fall in FORBIDDEN category and several cards with Panda pictorial cancellation which has no direct connection with the subject of the stamp i.e. birds. A few cards had cancellation of some other bird while the cards were of other bird. There were no cards of cancellation of 1950s .Majority were after 2000. I did not notice any card of FORBIDDEN category in "Mammals" exhibit. Quite a no of cards were of 1950s cancellation. I also noticed a few maximum cards with stamps with error.

I feel sorry for the exhibitor of "Mammals in wild".

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

I thank Mr Umesh Kekkari of Belagaum to share his past experience of the Inpex-Empirepex 2001 exhibition with the readers. I also thank the editor for publishing bold views of the readers and showing the other side of the exhibitions in India. It is not the first time but it is the part of each and every exhibition.

There is no doubt that some judges favour the participants of their states and to those whom they know personally. The exhibits of those participants are also judged to some extent fairly who are present at the exhibition and take the jury members to their exhibits personally and point out their philatelic material.

It is not possible in my view for a person to judge a large number of exhibits in a short time standing at the frames as it causes lot of strain to eyes. In Inpex 2008 about 1300 frames were displayed which means the judges had to go through near about 20800 exhibit pages. Is it possible to judge these exhibits carefully and patiently by 8 members of Jury and 5 apprentice jurors. In fact if one page requires the minimum of one minute the whole exhibits on display need about 350 hours. If there were 8 members of Jury they need about 44 hours per member with the assistance of 5 apprentice jurors. Did they give sufficient time to the exhibits as the results were declared on 5th January in the afternoon? If we deduct half day for inaugural ceremony and rest of the functions they devoted less than 3 days to the judging. In this time I don't think that they had given more than 6 hours per

day standing at the frames and reading the write ups. It is not possible at all.

There were about 94 exhibits in the Thematic Section which needed more time as without understanding the subject one cannot judge the exhibit properly. It is a topic of debate for the philatelists if the judges go through the details of thematic exhibits in which the exhibitors put hours of time consulting various books and linking the other related subject to the theme. They even don't get sufficient time to understand the theme. They only judge on the basis of certain dominantly visible philatelic material present or absent in the exhibit with a flying view. They should be provided a xerox copy of the each exhibit for analyzing and examining the exhibit carefully. It can also work as a third umpire at the jury's table at the time of final decision and doubts among the jury members.

In my opinion the philatelists must come out from their shell and speak out boldly without a fear to be neglected and downgraded in next exhibitions about their dissatisfaction, doubts and unfair results. It is really a matter of great disappointment for present status of philately in India that many philatelists of repute have withdrawn themselves from participating in philatelic exhibitions just because of chaos and doubtful results. To withdraw oneself from the exhibitions is not a solution to bring change in the present set up of the philatelic activities but to let know everyone about it so that some of the serious and responsible persons make attempt to check these short comings in future exhibitions. If certain changes are made in the pattern of judging there will certainly be transparency to some extent.

In my opinion the suggestion given by honourale editor in issue no 323 that exhibition of limited classes should be organized at different times will be one of the possible solutions of this problem because such type of exhibitions will be more manageable and proper evaluation of the exhibits could be ensured.

EDITORS' COMMENTS: We can't resist adding what one thematic exhibitor told us that a philatelist member of jury spent 1 minute to judge his 8 frames exhibit!

SURAJ JAITLEY, Ludhiana

I am reading all comments on INPEX-2008, carefully in your weekly newsletter and would like to share with you my own experience with all of you. I have sent an application for the entry of "ITS Stamp News", quarterly magazine of Indian Thematic Society that I edit, well in time. This is the only magazine published regularly and in time during last ten years. But sorry to say organizers of the show refused to accept this application and give excuse that application was received late by a day. While having long talk with the officials, they assured me on telephone that you may send your entry and will try to accommodate. Accordingly required copies of exhibits along with participation fee were sent by Speed Post on 23.12.2007 and delivered at the office on 26th of December 2007. But it is very much clear now that the organizers intentionally not allowed the same. Earlier the same entry won the following Medals in exhibitions held in India: Silver Medal in INPEX - 2002 held in 2003 [National Exhibition]. Silver Bronze Medal at Inpex-Empirepex 2001 [National Exhibition] Silver Bronze Medal at INDEPEX ASIANA - 2000 [World Exhibition]

Bronze Medal at Millepex - 2000 [National Exhibition]  
Silver Bronze Medal with Running Trophy for best Literature Entry at  
PUNPEX-99 [Circle Level Exhibition]

So everyone can see what was the problem with this entry - which could not find any space or frame in this show? And till date I have received back neither the exhibit nor the entry fee.

RAKESH WALIA, Chandigarh

I had applied for an entry of my book "Stamp Collection for Beginners" in the Philatelic Publications Class in the INPEX 2008 which was duly accepted. It is exhibit no. 194 on page 27 of the Bulletin 2. Significantly this is the first exhibit listed in the Philatelic Publications Class.

I was asked to send the entry fee and 2 copies of the book vide INPEX 2008's letter of December 8, 2007. In response to that I sent the payment and books by Speed Post on December 12, 2007. The Speed Post was delivered at Chennai on December 13, 2007 as is evident from the receipt of the draft issued from Chennai of December 13, 2007.

However when I reached Chennai on January 2, 2008 I did not find my book on display in the exhibition. The officers in the Bin Room assured me that the mounting and display is still in progress and it will soon be on display. I also offered additional 2 copies of my book for ready display which they did not accept. Every day the same story was repeated and my book was not put on display. On January 5, 2008 when the Award List was published I was shocked to find my exhibit marked as 'Absent'.

I want justice. The matter should be investigated, responsibility for this misdeed be fixed, and the guilty be awarded exemplary punishment. I also want that the Jurors who were entrusted with judging entries in the Philatelic Publications Class be asked to judge and suitably award my book and award list and jury report be amended.

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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>

The Hindu, January 11, 2008,

PONGAL-O-PONGAL BY POST

<http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/01/11/stories/2008011150060600.htm>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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

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