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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 326 - January 31, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We thank you profusely for the overwhelming and unprecedented response to Stamp Poll 2007. Together with your support, we have made a new record for the numbers of votes polled this year - almost 7000 and counting. All the ballots received till midnight today - January 31, 2008 will be counted. The results of the Stamp Poll 2007 will be announced in the next issue - #327 of February 7, 2008. The best stamp of 2007 shall be announced based on the most number of votes polled.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Bretislav Janik,

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

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.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

2007
Eye Care, Kannada
Eye Care, Tamil
Eye Care, Gujarati
Eye Care, Marathi
Eye Care, Hindi
Eye Care, Hindi

The grand total till date is now 521, with 244 added in 2007 alone.

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

Following inland letter card with advertisement was recently released:

2007
Dec 20: Gagan Vanaspati Rice Salt & Ginni Refined Oils, Hindi, ISP

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

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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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NEW INDIA EXHIBIT ONLINE

On the International Virtual Philatelic Exhibition EXPONET there is a new 5 frame exhibit from Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Jamshedpur, India:

FASCINATING WORLD OF MAPS
<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0343/index0343a.htm>

With this there are now 3 exhibits from India and all of them are thematic. The earlier 2 exhibits, both from Bangalore, are Akshay

Borad's DREAMS OF FLIGHT and Saket Bajaj' THING (A) OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER.

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ANIL DHIR'S EMAIL CORRECTION

Anil Dhir's email address was reported incorrectly in the review of his film - the Last Post, published in the Issue #325 of January 24, 2008. His correct email address is [anildhir2k5@hotmail.com](mailto:anildhir2k5@hotmail.com).

Interestingly on Friday morning when Dhir noticed this error, 6 smart readers had already sent him messages to his correct email address probably sourcing from the advertisement section.

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ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY

The 3rd edition of the ITS Collectors Directory is out now. Edited by Suraj Jaitly, the Directory is published by the Indian Thematic Society, Ludhiana indianthematicsociety@gmail.com.

It is a very useful publication listing contact details of stamp collectors and dealers, philatelic clubs, magazines, and websites, not only from India but also from overseas. In addition it carries lots of relevant information such as on capital and currencies of the world, and postal authorities worldwide. It also has a listing coin and currencies collectors.

This 78 page highly recommended publication is priced at Rs 250 including delivery by registered post.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

We welcome another Indian electronic newsletter on philately.

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #1, Monthly  
Editor: Jeevan Jyoti [j.jyoti9@gmail.com](mailto:j.jyoti9@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla  
Annual Subscription: Free

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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
Contact: A S Dahiya 99683 64888

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2008.htm>

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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

BUYING India AIDS Stamp issued in 2006 in sheets in quantity. We are paying top price of Rs 20 per stamp!!! Contact The Advertiser, Box #101, Stamps of India Collectors Companion, ad@stampsofindia.net

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

BUYING fancy numbers in Bank notes of Re 1, Rs 2, and Rs 5 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

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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.>

ILYAS PATEL, Ahmedabad  
(Editor, GPA News, Gujarat Philatelists Association)

You have opened a very healthy debate on Inpex 2008 awards and I personally feel that it is very important for the benefit of future generations.

Regarding the awards I have also written a strong editorial in GPA News letter which is expected to be in circulation shortly. It was a very nasty affair and I personally feel that all awards above Large Silver were pre-conceived and prefixed. This was confirmed in the open critic session the way the members of the jury hiding their face to reply on stage. Their body language was also confirming their guilty conscious.

The only answer that gave was "come tomorrow and we will reply you at your frames". If this was the answer what is the meaning of open critic session, a joke tossed on participants or a false play they were playing on the dais?

It was a misfortune on my part that on that D-day by coincidence I was sitting just few feet (hardly 6-7ft) from my frames and I saw a jury member come to my frames and started judging. To my great surprise he finished judging my entire eight frames in only one minute. I immediately concluded that it's all over.

I informed this incident to you when I requested you provide the guidance there only. It is hard to believe that the member of jury is so intelligent that he can judge a highly technical subject covering as many as 49 topics associated with my theme BRIDGES.

The next day when I contacted the jury member he personally came with me and started giving me his opinion. The first explanation he gave to me was "Patel, I have downgraded you so that you can work still hard and obtain higher medal at international". So the jury member himself confessed that he has downgraded me intentionally.

First who gave him the right to downgrade a person instead of honestly judging and giving fair markings? Subsequent all the arguments which he

gave me was very difficult to digest. From his arguments I immediately traced out the brain behind it. If this is the fate of my exhibits to be judged in one minute how one can expect a medal? Same is the case with others. There are so many superb collection worth for higher medals met the same fate like me.

The only lesson I learnt from this exhibition is that if you want a decent award go to International because the members of the jury here are biased minded, partial as well as influenced by unknown people who decides whom to award. Rest is only a false play. I equate this judging with the Sydney Cricket Test in which the entire match was prefixed with empires and match referee and to divert this nasty prefixing find a scapegoat in form of Harbhajan Singh to open a new unwarranted debate and change the track. The members of the jury took every clue from it and played their role accordingly. God bless Steve Buckner and INPEX 2008 jury members!

RAJESH VARMA, Dehradun

I participated in Inpex 08 with a specialized exhibit of Definitive stamps of 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and special definitive series in five frames. I was shocked to see that it was awarded Silver Bronze medal. I approached a Jury member for his guidance on the shortcomings of my exhibit. In his view I had wasted space by showing Labels used by the Security Printers on the packet of 200 sheets of stamps. I explained that as only for a few months between 2005 and 2006 the definitive stamps were printed on ungummed paper and this fact is stated on the Label that's the reason for showing these while showing varieties printed on ungummed paper. The Juror caught unaware, countered this reasoning by saying that Jury can open the frame and examine the ungummed varieties physically if required.

I then approached another member of the Jury who opined that not only I have wasted space by showing Labels in 8 out of 80 pages of my exhibit, but also by showing complete sheets of stamps. I explained that these sheets were partly imperforated and I aimed at showing part imperfs in different printings. He then said that I should have used arrows to point out part imperfs. I didn't point out to him that by using dark matting the perf and imperf parts of the sheets were clearly visible. He also told that the Labels are not issued to public which I explained to him that it is not so. Finally after a long discussion he conceded that the exhibit should have been awarded at least a Vermeil medal.

Nobody was happy with Jury decision except a few. Several exhibits were downgraded by one, two, or three medal levels by the same Jury from the earlier national exhibitions.

I think we shouldn't exhibit where judging is not just and our exhibits will not get appropriate medals. Jury must update themselves with the times and be well conversant with current trends. They must spend sufficient time by reading the write-up and also comprehending it to adjudge an exhibit which is exhibitor's labor of love of several years. They must not discriminate on the basis of their ignorance or lack of knowledge against any exhibit. The Department of Posts must ensure that Jury on its panel is qualified by testing them annually. Removing unqualified jurors will go a long way in promoting philately in India.

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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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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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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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

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