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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 329 - February 21, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The year 2008 is designated as International Year of Languages,  
International Year of Planet Earth, International Year of the Potato,  
and International Year of Sanitation.

UNESCO is officially launching the International Year of Languages on  
International Mother Language Day today, the February 21, 2008. India  
has Hindi, English and 21 other official languages. According to Census  
of India of 2001, 29 languages are spoken by more than a million native  
speakers, 122 by more than 10,000.

I think it will be a good idea if philatelic organizations in the  
country aim to get one special cover and postmark in honor of the  
language of their area this year. What do you think?

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: S S Rath,  
Rakesh Bais, Ajit Dash, Shyaam Nhuchhe Pradhan, and A V Jeyachandran

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

PREMATURE ISSUE OF JASMINE

India Post does it again. The third scented issue on Jasmine that was originally scheduled to be released in June 2007 and for which no date of issue has been announced so far, has appeared on market recently. The Miniature Sheet of 2 stamps, Rs 5 and Rs 15, and Sheet of 35 stamps of Rs 5 denomination are being sold currently on internet at the following links:

[http://cgi.ebay.in/Jasmine-Flowers-Aromatic-Scented-STAMP-MS-unissued-RARE\\_W0QQitemZ350026682785QQihZ022QQcategoryZ156984QQssPageNameZWDVWQQRdZ1QQcmdZViewItem](http://cgi.ebay.in/Jasmine-Flowers-Aromatic-Scented-STAMP-MS-unissued-RARE_W0QQitemZ350026682785QQihZ022QQcategoryZ156984QQssPageNameZWDVWQQRdZ1QQcmdZViewItem)

[http://cgi.ebay.com/Jasmine-Flowers-Aromatic-Scented-STAMP-MS-unissued-RARE\\_W0QQitemZ350026680617QQihZ022QQcategoryZ4755QQssPageNameZWDVWQQRdZ1QQcmdZViewItem](http://cgi.ebay.com/Jasmine-Flowers-Aromatic-Scented-STAMP-MS-unissued-RARE_W0QQitemZ350026680617QQihZ022QQcategoryZ4755QQssPageNameZWDVWQQRdZ1QQcmdZViewItem)

<http://www.delcampe.net/page/item/language,E,id,33646453,var,Complete-Sheet-of-35-Stamps-Jasmine-3rd-Scented-from-India.html>

A nexus of stamp dealers and postal officials is operating and is emboldened by past successes in similar endeavors.

India Post must take strict action against all postal officials responsible for this sorry state of affairs to prevent reoccurrence of similar episodes in future.

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp on 87th birth anniversary of Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, a parliamentarian and a leader of masses, on February 14, 2008 in the denomination of Rs 5.

Sanjeevaiah was born in a poor family in pedapadu village in Kurnool district in present day Andhra Pradesh. He graduated from Anantpur and obtained a degree in law from Madras.

He was elected as a member of parliament in 1950. In 1952 General Elections he was elected to Madras Legislative Assembly and was appointed Minister for Housing & Cooperation. The State of Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1953 and Sanjeevaiah was made a Minister in the first State Government. Continuing in various ministries he succeeded Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy on January 11, 1960 as the fourth Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. In 1964 he became a Labor Minister in the Government of India. At the time of his death on May 8, 1972, Sanjeevaiah was the President of All India Congress Committee.

Brahm Prakash designed the stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma 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. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed the stamps by wet offset in the quantity 0.4 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Mar ??: ??

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:

- Child Help Line, Hindi
- Total Sanitation Campaign 1, Hindi
- Total Sanitation Campaign 2, Hindi

The grand total till date is now 527, with 250 added in 2007 alone.

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

Feb 16: Berhampur, Azadi Express  
T Ramesh, Chief of 'Azadi Express', released a special cover at Berhampur Railway Station on February 16, 2008 to mark the occasion of the arrival of the Azadi Express at the Brhamapur, Ganjam. Postal officials and philatelists were present at the release function. The cover depicts Saheed Laxman Nayak, a tribal leader who was hanged at the Berhampur Jail during the freedom struggle, flanked by Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The special pictorial postmark depicts a line drawing of Mahatma Gandhi on the background of an Electrical Train (presumed as Azadi Express).

Venkat Rao, senior Philatelist of Eastern India Philatelists' Association and South Orissa Philatelists' Association, Berhampur(Gm)

provided the concept of the special cover and designed the special postmark.

'Azadi Express', a special train of 12 inter-connected bogies with more than 500 photographs of the pre and post-Independence era events and multimedia facilities, started its journey from New Delhi on September 28, 2007. These photographs give an opportunity to the people to peep into the first war of independence of 1857, freedom movement, Gandhian era and progress of the country since Independence. The train has already covered 22 states with halt at 75 railway stations and is scheduled to reach New Delhi on May 15, 2007.

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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PROPOSAL FOR THE BUDGET

It is proposed that recommendations be forwarded to Ministry of Finance through India Post to allow Income Tax rebate on the amount spent for philatelic material. A cap of Rs 5,000 may be imposed to prevent commercial misuse. The amount should be deductible from the taxable Income and restricted to actual amount spent. As this money spent by philatelist not only get locked for 3 or 5 years but throughout life.

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NEPAL NEW ISSUE PROGRAM

2008

- Mar: Guru Mangaldas, Rs 2
- Apr: Nepal Germany Diplomatic Relations, Rs 25
- Apr: Coat of Arms, Re 1
- May: Lord Buddha, 1 stamp and 1 miniature sheet Rs 2, Rs 100
- May: Olympic Games, Rs 10
- Sep: Visit Nepal Series, Set of 6, Rs 5 Each
- Oct: Mountain, Rs 5
- Nov: Biodiversity, Rs 10
- Dec: International Institution, Re 1

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INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS 2008-2010

We have now set up a page for World and Asian International shows where philatelists from India can participate. The page provides details on dates of exhibition, closing date for participation, show's web site, national commissioner with contact details, exhibitors, jury from India, and awards for Indian exhibits,

We hope this will facilitate participation of exhibitors, dealers, and visitors from India.

http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2_shows_calendar.htm

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

GPA NEWS, Vol 11 #5&6, Dec 2007 & Jan 2008, Monthly  
Editor: Ilyas Patel [iap\\_ip@yahoo.co.in](mailto:iap_ip@yahoo.co.in)  
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists' Association, Ahemedabad  
Annual Subscription: Rs 200 (Including membership)

Contents: Editorial entitled 'Inpex 2008 and Sydney Test Match' and a report by the editor entitled 'Inpex 2008 and Aftermath' continue the constructive criticism on Inpex 2008. A six page illustrated 'Unpaid Postage Due Internal Mail of India 1854-1947 - A Review' by Dr P S Dixit is the highlight of the issue.

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NEW WEB SITE

Here is a review of the new website reported in the previous issue.

Aries Stamps is easily the most extensive philatelic webstore with more than 4,000 listings. It is also the only one that is selling stamps of India individually and in sets instead of year packs. FDCs, Folders, VIP Folders etc. are all on sale. Prices are in Rupees and unlike other sites, the numbering system is unique and not 'borrowed' from foreign catalogues. There are more than 100 categories and user-friendly search features - search by Category and advance search. www.ariestamps.com

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 16-18: Hyderabad, FAPCCI HYPEX Philatelic Exhibition

Mar 14-16: Ahmedabad, Coins Show  
50 Stalls already booked, Todiwala Auction

Apr 11-13: Mumbai, Coins Show  
Todiwala Auction

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

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

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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.>

ABDUL AZIZ, Varanasi

On January 29, 2008 I bought 25 Collector's Packs (17 of 2003, 7 of 1999 and one of 2002) from Varanasi Head Post Office. I was shocked to see the packing style of stamps. I opened 3-4 Packets and I found 7-10 stamps damaged, folded, torn in each and every packet. 1999 packet did not contain Personality Series stamps and missing about half of the stamps issued, and they have charged for those stamps as well. Can you do something which may improve the quality and reliability of Collector's Packs? I understand Collector's Packs are supplied from Delhi.

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

I have read the story of Nila Nayak, the mail carrier of Orissa with great interest in the review of The Last Post.

Here I want to share some of my experiences of the Post Offices of Himachal Pradesh which are located in remote areas where roads are still not available. There are some places with small population of few hundred people which are cut from the main cities and they have to travel 20-30 kilometers on foot sometimes uphill and sometimes very steep on uneven rocky path. Small post offices are located in these places with one or two workers. These areas are blocked with heavy snow during the winter season. It's very difficult to move in these places when snow becomes ice sheet which makes the path very slippery. Sometimes it is very dangerous as on one side there is always a very deep gorge. But there are mail carriers who carry mails to the nearest sub post offices in snow and rain going on foot sometimes more than 30 kilometers. The path is never straight or even. It is very difficult and sometimes on first sight it can frighten a stranger. In high winters the temperature is mostly in minus. The people living in the plain areas cannot believe this but I have seen it and experienced at these places. When my important mail is on its way I am always doubtful whether it will reach me or not. But my doubt always fails and I get my mail travelling through these places in the hands of the brave mail carriers. A thought of appreciation always comes in my mind for these stout and hard working postmen. Through this column I want to give a philatelic salute to all those mail carriers who are working in toughest hill areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarnchal, Jammu Kashmir and North East and helping us to receive our mail timely.

V R RAGHAVAN,

I am an amateur thematic collector with a focus on war& warfare. I took time to visit the Chennai INPEX. I also saw with some admiration the Bridges thematic exhibit. The exhibitor had been given ample space and frames. It was an impressive exhibit. I cannot say if it merited a prize or not, since I am not an expert on bridges. I did however wonder about how a philatelic judge might assess the subject of Bridges of which he may not know much. He will apply his knowledge of Philatelic Exhibiting to a subject he knows little. I recommend that in such cases a neutral expert should be co-opted to assess the exhibit from the subject specialty point of view. The expert can be chosen locally. In the Bridges case a senior engineer with bridges background, eg from a company like Larsen & Toubro based in Chennai, would have been appropriate. Such an arrangement would have combined subject expertise with philatelic merit and would have led to an objective result.

As for the exhibition, masses of frames and exhibits were packed in a hall leaving only a two person wide lane between the frames. It was a struggle to find space to stand and admire or learn from the displays.

The postal department stalls were an absolute confusion of ill informed sales persons and insufficient supplies. To add to the confusion, hordes of school children were let loose in the exhibits area without a guide or any semblance of control. It would be better to regulate this by fixing hours exclusively for school trips.

To me and my grand children, INPEX was a learning experience despite the chaos, noise and disorganized management.

SUBHASH C AGRAWAL, New Delhi

(Guinness Record Holder for most letters in newspapers)

It refers to proposal from Union Minister of State for Communications Shakeel Ahmed to amend the rules for issuing postal stamps on living personalities like Shah Rukh Khan, Sachin Tendulkar, Sania Mirza and others. Though the idea is good yet it is likely to be misused for issuing such stamps for favorites of political rulers. Even presently the projected list does not include name of most popular young film-actress Aishwarya Roy only because of bitter relations between the ruling party and Bachchan family. Otherwise a series of stamps in three most popular living legends of film-industry namely Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan and Aishwarya Roy may perhaps break all records of demand of such stamps not only in India but even globally especially in neighboring Pakistan!

It may be recalled that the erstwhile Union Minister of Communications Dayanidhi Maran violated rules by issuing a commemorative stamp in memory of his father late Murasoli Maran when rule is that no such stamp may be issued before ten years of death of a person exceptions being heads of state.

BEN RAMKISSOON, USA

After many stamp exhibitions in India, your STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION carry letters of complaints from exhibitors relative to the level of awards rendered. Results are often compared to the level achieved at a prior exhibition. I also note that the jury not uncommonly include only postal officials, who I surmise are not necessarily philatelists, nor have they gone through the learning period jury apprenticeships?

Many complaints come from exhibitors in the Thematic Class. I am an exhibitor of nearly 40 years, earning Large Golds and Championship Class entries, showing in traditional, postal history, thematic postal stationery, aerophilately, astrophilately, and 1-frame exhibits. From this scope and level of exhibiting experience, let me say that exhibiting is not for the faint-hearted.

In my judgment, a thematic exhibit poses the most difficult to do well of all exhibiting Classes, for not only maintaining balance, but the degree of relevance of each presented item. A successful thematic exhibit must not only develop a theme, but do so through the choice of the philatelic materials drawn from as many different elements as possible. Techniques to show only relevant items must be carefully followed to avoid non-relevant diversion.

I do not claim to know the process on jury training in India, and the extent to which jury philatelic accreditation in the various Classes is followed. Show organizers can 'fix' this if it is a problem as expressed. A 1-on-1 critique at the frame will go a long way to educate both exhibitor and jury.

And when it is all said and done, the subjective component to judging is not overcome by numerical expression. One hopes that such variation is minimized by the judging team approach.

My hope is that these important issues will be responsibly carried forward, so that exhibitor participation at philatelic exhibitions will be encouraged.

ATISH KUMAR JAIN, Kottayam

I also agree with views of Mr. Abhai Mishra regarding his views of having written test for JURORS.

He is right in the way that Jurors should have at least 25% of knowledge of the theme which he is judging.

I had also complaints regarding hopeless way of judging done at INPEX 2008.

I would rather call these Jurors "BUNCH of JOKERS" as once Mohinder Amarnath had call to the cricket selectors.

Many times I had also thought of expressing my anger thru your esteemed website but every time I thought "what is the use of whistling in front of these deaf Jurors"

Mine was ERRORS collection which they had judged within five minutes. They had not seen the rarity errors, they had not seen my classification of errors which I had done, they just did their work because they had to finish their work.

Also, the critic session was not held for criticizing but it was in fact for praising the jurors' work.

Because to major questions put up by exhibitors including me, reply was a constant "meet separately after the critic session".

When I met my Juror after the session, I was given the reason for my low performance that I had displayed some "BANNED ITEMS". On verification of my frames by two "LEARNED JURORS" there was no banned item in my collection.

I had noticed that some of the collection had displayed Gandhi stamps which are declared by UPU as illegal issues from KRYGSTAN, TCHAD, etc. One of Gandhi collection had been awarded Vermilion for displaying such items.

My question is that in a democratic country like ours-is the rule of game different for different people?

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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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PRINCELY STATES REPORT <http://www.princelystates.com>  
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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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