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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 330 - February 28, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

This is a Leap Year and a year when the Olympic Games will be held.  
India Post is expected to issue stamps on the occasion as it has been  
doing so since 1968.

We have a suggestion that issue stamps on Olympic Games or for that  
matter on any event or festival at least couple of months before the  
date of the event. This way the stamps get used for the purpose they  
are issued in the first place that is to be used for postage. The  
organizers or their associates in India will buy and use lots of these  
stamps on their mailings. The event derives publicity and in case of  
mega events such as Olympics, India Post get to bask in the reflective  
glory by association. India Post can promote the sale and reap the  
benefit of gradually building up of media focus on the event.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Madhukar  
Deogawanka, and Vinod Sabharwal

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

Mar ??: ??

No issue is scheduled for release in next few days. As soon as India post announces one the same will immediately be listed on the home page of [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com).

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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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

Jan 12: Vrindaban, Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama Centenary  
Feb 21: Chennai, Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools,

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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SCINDE DAWK BLUE AT AUCTION

Cherrystone Auctions <http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/> are holding a 3708 lot auction sale on March 12 and 13, 2008 at New York, USA. There are 9 lots of India and States including a blue Scinde Dawk on piece that will come up for auction of the first day.

Spink <http://www.spink.com> are holding their 1,454 lot public auction sale #8005 'British Empire Stamps and Covers' on March 13 and 14, 2008 at London. The sale has 63 lots of India including Used Abroad and Princely States that will come up for auction of the first day. There are several collections of India, and States both Convention and Feudatory. Notable individual items are 6 As bill, King Edward VII Set

to Rs 25, Fiscal stamps overprinted Service Postage, and 14 cover lots of India Used Abroad - in Bahrain, Dubai, Gwadur, Kuwait, and Sharjah,

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

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #2, February 2008, Monthly  
Editor: Jeevan Jyoti [j.jyoti9@gmail.com](mailto:j.jyoti9@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla  
Annual Subscription: Free

Now also available online at <http://rainbowstampnews.blogspot.com/>

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RAY SALDANHA IS NO MORE

Ray Saldanha passed away on February 2, 2008 at Mangalore due to a brain stroke. He was 66 years of age. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and mother.

Raymond Saldanha, son of Minna and the late Richard Saldanha, was born on March 8, 1941. Having completed his bachelor's degree in Botany and Zoology from Aloysius College, he entered his family business of managing coffee estate in Balehole and Niduvale in Chikmagalur district.

He lost his father at a tender age and had to shoulder the responsibility of getting his three sisters married. He married Joyce Sreshta in 1967 and was blessed with three daughters.

He was a born artist endowed with innumerable artistic skills. During his early school days, he would stand in his balcony and draw trains and aero planes, drawing the attention of curious neighbors who would admire the art of this budding artist.

He was a keen sky gazer who loved to watch stars, planets and constellations through his telescope.

He had a keen interest in Indian and Western Classical Music. He collected antique gramophones. He played violin meticulously. He also knew to play piano.

Besides his collection of hundreds of violins which had antique value, he collected many antiques like wall clocks, Grandfather clocks, tables, sewing machines, radios, lamps, walking sticks, and crucifix. A large part of this collection was donated by him (very recently) to his alma mater, St Aloysius College Museum.

He also had innumerable vintage cars which was also one of his collecting hobbies.

Stamp Collection also formed a large part of his collecting hobbies. He took to Stamp Collecting during his early school days and pursued his philatelic zeal seriously since 1975 and never looked back. Collecting Stamps was not a mere investment for him. He loved stamps, studied them and framed an insight story of everything he collected. He would do write-up of his collections himself.

His early association with D N Jatia brought him into close contact with me. We shared a great personnel relationship. I admired his philatelic curiosity and enjoyed his queries which I always tried to resolve with perfection.

He was meticulous in everything he did. Although blessed with a bounty of knowledge in so many spheres, he was a humble man, simple and straight with moral values and principles.

May his soul rest in peace

- S C Sukhani, Kolkata

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for March 2008 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2auctions.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

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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)

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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.>

SURAJ JAITLEY, Ludhiana

While going through your recent weekly newsletter no.329, I have noticed that in the column of FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES you have written as Mar ??: ?? Instead of this it will be better if you write there "Search on the homepage of eBay".

Really thematic collectors particularly confused to see new varieties of modern Indian stamps, especially after having separate listing of every issue of sets in three different categories in recent Indian Phila Catalogue, viz. Block of four, horizontal strip and vertical strip etc. Whereas we all know that standard of Indian thematic collections is already not so good at the International level and o top of that such confusedly described listings gave more negative impact on their respective collections.

MICHAEL FONSECA, Ottawa, Canada

I have recently started collecting Indian stamps and find your newsletter is comprehensive and informative. I have yet to find a similar site other than the blogs and chat rooms on the net, these of course one takes with a pinch of salt. Congratulations on the good job that you are doing.

The Philsensex is an extremely useful guide, given the erratic and jumbled world of Indian stamp prices these days. I refer to EBay as well as individual sellers, I cannot understand the values, given that dealers worldwide will probably be able to fill most orders at Scott's or Gibbons prices. Congratulations to Mr P R Krishnan.

One last observation; I find that Indian sellers (dealers, EBayers and organisations) take their own sweet time in replying to communications. I believe in time sensitivity given that the internet is now a stage for philatelists from all over. One very good example is that I filled in a form and cut a cheque for the Philatelic Bureau at the Mumbai GPO months ago, I have not heard from them since. Besides they do not have details of their available stock on line. More to the point, their contact e-mail address is wrong. This is not a very good reflection and indicator of the progress and success of the country.

DINESH CHANDRA SHARMA, Lucknow

I had been reading the 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' for quite some time as and when I found time for my pleasure and information. This is the first time I am writing my feedback and there is reason behind it. Since INPEX-08, I have read many opinions regarding the bitter experience of judging the exhibits at INPEX-08. Philately is a hobby of intellectuals and civilized people as I feel, but unfortunately exhibitors who are disappointed with the results for their exhibits are using very harsh words (sometimes inappropriate language). I am not at all writing this to advocate for the jury and their judgment at INPEX-08.

Yes, we live in a democratic country and we are free to express our views, but we (philatelists at least) must do it with grace and dignity. "Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better".

Why all the comments regarding the jury and their judgment are given after the exhibitions only. Every dissatisfied exhibitor announces the jury system rubbish and calls the jurors by one or the other beautiful name/s. Did any exhibitor ever put forward his opinion or advice regarding the proper judging system prior to an exhibition? Even if someone does so, do you think the administrators (particularly Department of Posts) would give any consideration to it?

The write up of Mr Ramkisoorn has really impressed me and tempted me to express my views regarding the exhibitors' disappointment.

Once you decide to exhibit be prepared to accept the award, the jury give you at any level. I agree with Mr Ramkisoorn's statement that exhibiting is not for faint-hearted.

May I quote the views of Mr V R Raghvan about the exhibit on bridges. First of all I would like to say that even the best engineer with bridges background would not be able to judge the thematic exhibit technically. The idea theoretically looks very impressive but can it be possible to have such recommended experts for 50 or more subjects displayed in the exhibition.

My friend thematic exhibiting is just like a book logically illustrated with philatelic components. The thematic exhibitor needs to explain the subject with most appropriate philatelic item with sufficient concise thematic & philatelic information even to a layman.

Unfortunately the concept regarding the thematic exhibiting is not clear to many philatelists. Even the advanced philatelists never want to upgrade their knowledge regarding exhibiting. It is always recommended that the philatelic items must be distributed throughout the exhibit, but even the experienced exhibitors (even after being advised) repeatedly do the mistake of accumulating the covers, postal stationeries, stamps etc. on a few pages particularly in the last frame, which shows the exhibitor's inability of using these materials on suitable pages or lack of imagination or lack of philatelic knowledge. In such cases the advance exhibitor is severely penalized at FIP Philatelic Exhibitions.

I would like to say based on my experience of over 25 years in thematic philately, that thematic exhibiting demands a lot of patience, time, knowledge and of course big money. The thematic exhibit is a philatelic exhibit and the judges (not only in India but all over the world) would like to see high-class materials. We all know that high-class philatelic materials particularly rare ones are mostly very expensive. But don't worry about the expensive philatelic items, but learn to derive pleasure out of what you have or you can afford. While exhibiting do your best (best means best) and I am sure one day will come when you would be able to impress the judges with your impressive thematic exhibit and who knows you win the highest award.

To make your exhibit impressive, you need to do the following:

- 1). Stop criticizing the jury or the results of an exhibition beyond a certain point. It doesn't mean you accept all wrong things.
- 2). Upgrade your knowledge including the latest FIP rules, thematic knowledge and philatelic knowledge. Don't rely on one or few philatelic friends' or one or a few jury members' advice. Try to interact with as

many philatelists as possible. Seek their opinion about your exhibit and follow the best suitable to you.

3). Prepare a systematic plan for developing your exhibit, which must include your financial budget also.

Finally, I would like to request all the disappointed exhibitors to design a foolproof judging system for philatelic exhibitions, as I would like to see more and more satisfied exhibitors in forthcoming exhibitions. Waiting for a well-designed better judging system. Sorry, no Jury will be there to judge it; otherwise we would need another system.

Please be positive and optimistic for enjoying your wonderful collection/exhibit.

PALLAB BOSE, New Delhi

Kudos for three issues in a week's time. You guys are rocking!

I appreciate the platform for free and critical views of collectors/philatelists from around the country/globe on various issues..that's democracy.

Even though I am one of the overjoyed exhibitors for winning a gold medal and a few bronze medals for my family's youth exhibits, but as a philatelist, I am critical on a few issues and herewith would like to share a few thought processes on DAKIANA'2008.

1. Dakina'08 after 11 years. When next? What about the next district levels? It's been 3 1/2 years since the south zone happened???

2. At Dakina 2008, even though the exhibition was well organised, but a few potholes -

a) Only a silver and no gold medal for Mr Bansal's exquisite WWF maxcards collection??? What does one do to get gold??? I was lucky, so also a few others. Isn't modern philately to be promoted???

b) How can a simple miniature sheet collection in youth class get a Gold medal at state level and best exhibit trophy? True the exhibit is well presented but it has excessive write up and the material was not difficult to get.

c) It was strange to note that the authorities ignored the invitation class exhibitors at the prize function...at least a certificate and memento were not too much to expect?

d) None of the philatelist, nor the prize winners got access to the souvenir released at the function. Surely, it's not a mirage....I feel.

One hopes that the big guns at India Post Philately do not ignore such issues in future exhibitions.

NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur

Zindgi ke safar,yoon hi chalte jayenge

Kuchh hamain hasayenge,kuchh hamain rulayenge

I have been carefully reading the views of different aggrieved philatelists who participated in INPEX 2008. I could only find a single mail from one of the happy participants who were awarded Vermeil on his

exhibit on MAPS who appreciated the judgment. Certainly that was a deserving one also as far as my experience and knowledge goes.

The problem mainly is in thematic section because there is always a big participation in this class of philately and also there are different topics and different level of thematic research involved. I feel jury totally neglect the thematic aspect of the exhibit because judging that part certainly is not only difficult but not possible too for them due to lack of subjective knowledge and time constraints.

As I have been writing earlier in other magazines that thematic was considered to be the most neglected class of philately as for as giving away of HIGHER AWARDS (mainly Gold) is concerned. But to my pleasant surprise, this time as many as three GOLDS were awarded in this section. Too much to cheer upon.

Friends, Gold is Gold and it cost much. Further, it can spoil the budgets and affects a few pockets also. As number of higher awards to be given are pre-decided looking in to budget (No doubt about it). So, some of the deserving exhibits suffers. Contrary to this sometimes non-deserving too get favored by the jury.

Aashayen hamain bhi thi, ki hum ek Gold layenge
Par pata na tha ki hum vahan tak pahoonch hi na payenge
Aap ko to khushi hogi ki aap ko kuchh to hasil huya
Par hum apna gum kis kis ko sunayenge

Friends, for last three National Level Exhibitions, I am stuck-up at Vermeil and this time I was expecting a better result. But unfortunately my entry was not accepted because the entry form reached them after 15.11.07 whereas the same had been dispatched through speed post on 12.11.07 well within the delivery period assured by the Department Itself. I took up the matter at CPMG level and was followed strongly too but nothing was heard. Friends, we the philatelists are in philately because we enjoy the world of stamps and the company of philatelists. So, don't get disheartened and keep the philatelic enjoyment business ON. Have an Indian philosophical and optimistic view in mind that "Samay se pahle or kismat se zyada kabhi naheen milta".

I thank the organizers mainly for the opportunity given to us to witness the efforts of my philatelist friends, chance to meet them and of course to procure material for my collection. Don't think about awards but think about the regards. We all appreciate the work done by one and all. Yet, I pray to the god to fulfill all your philatelic desires and aspirations.

So, friends, don't harp but laugh.....cheer-up.

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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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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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