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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 333 - March 20, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The financial year-end spending spree is in full force in all government departments now. Auditors regularly question the year-end expenditure. On the other hand the Planning Commission which allocates the funds also disapproves unutilized funds.

In their haste to utilize funds allotted for financial year ending on March 31, 2008, India Post is organizing several district philatelic exhibitions within next week or two.

We wonder whether the original purpose of holding an exhibition that is promoting philately at the grass roots will also be achieved.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jigar Desai, Binod Kaseera, Ashok Tiwary, Devender Kunar Jain, Mainak Kathiara, A R C Shah, Dipok Dey, and Madhukar Deogawanka

Oops

We are sorry that Pradip Jain's name was inadvertently left out from the credits for issue #332 of March 13, 2008.

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

Apr 03: Bismillah Khan, Rs 5

It is possible that some issues may come before this! 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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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

I M G Khan released a commemorative postage stamp on legendary cine actor Madhubala at a special function at Mumbai on March 18, 2008. The stamp is diamond shaped and is in the denomination of Rs 5. The stamp is printed in a sheetlet of 13 and also in a miniature sheet.

Mumtaz Begum Jahan Dehlavi, famously known as Madhubala, was born in Delhi on February 14, 1933. She was the fifth child of a conservative Afghan family of eleven children. In search of a better life for his impoverished family, her father, Ataulah Khan relocated to Bombay with his family. There they struggled for over a year and often frequented the Bombay film studios in search of work. Young Mumtaz entered films at the age of nine.

Her first film was the box-office success, Basant (1942) in which she played the daughter of the popular actress, Mumtaz Shanti. She then went on to act in several films as a child artist. It was the celebrated actress, Devika Rani, impressed by her performances and potential, who advised her to change her name to Madhubala.

Her first break came when filmmaker, Kidar Sharma cast her opposite Raj Kapoor in Neel Kamal (1947). Until that point, she had always been billed as Mumtaz but this was the first film to credit her as Madhubala. She was only fourteen years old, but Madhubala had finally arrived on the Indian screen in a lead role.

In the next two years she blossomed into a captivating beauty (film media and fans referred to her as the Venus of the Screen). However it wasn't until she starred in the coveted lead role of Bombay Talkies

production, Mahal in 1949, that Madhubala became a fully fledged star and a household name. Audiences enthused over Madhubala's enigmatic screen presence and beauty and critics widely acknowledged that her subtle and skillful performance upstaged her seasoned co-star, Ashok Kumar. The film became a popular success and the song Aayega Aanevala heralded the arrival of two new superstars both Madhubala and playback singer Lata Mangeshkar.

Madhubala had many successful films following Mahal. With pressure to secure herself and her family financially, she acted in as many as twenty-four films in the first four years of her adult career. Madhubala finally succumbed to her long time illness and died on February 23, 1969, within days of her 36th birthday. In her short life, Madhubala made over 70 films. She is often compared with Marilyn Monroe and has a similar position in Indian film history.

Sankha Samanta 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamps by photogravure in the quantity 0.4 million in the sheetlets of 13 stamps. The Miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

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

Dec 06: Hyderabad, Administrative Staff College of India Golden Jubilee
Jan 09: Kolkata, India International Potato Expo
Jan 12: Kolkata, National Youth Day, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya,
Jan 30: Gwalior, Gandhi Martyrs Day Exhibition
Feb 10: Kolkata, Shree Shwetambar Sthanakvasi Jain Sabha, 80 Years
Feb 12: Bangalore, 5th Asian Congress of Esperanto
Feb 16: Hyderabad, FAPCCI - HYPEX Philatelic Exhibition
Mar 07: Jamshedpur, Tata Steel Centenary
Mar 17-19: Mumbai, Mahafilmex Stamp Exhibition 3 covers

Special Covers

Nov 23: Gandhi Ashram Ahmedabad, Dandi Heritage Highway
Jan 30: Gandhi Ashram, Ahmadabad, Mahatma Gandhi's 60th Death
Anniversary & Leprosy Day

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, 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 STAMP BOOKLETS

Bharatiya Daktikit Sangstha, Kolkata has recently released following Stamp Booklets:

2007 Dec 31: Ritvik Ghatak

2008 March 18: Madhubala

For an illustrated list of all Stamp Booklet Issues, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb99.htm>

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PHILSENSEX

By P R Krishnan, Coimbatore

My e-mail id was published during the publication of Philsensex Data for March for the first time and I was in receipt of several e-mails from India and abroad both appreciating and criticizing the philsensex data and its workings. I appreciate the appreciation and criticism of the readers in the right spirit. I thought I would like to express the intention of this data publication once again.

We belong to the land where Hanuman was born, the strength of the Hanuman is always to be told to him for he never knew his own strength - likewise some outsider has to inform the strength of Indians to wake up and realize. I was referring a year back in one of my column - Quote "there is a likely hood that people of elite and rich classes will get into philately once they know that there is an investment opportunity available from Indian Philatelic material" Unquote. This has come true - In India now!!

The very basic idea of my publication of Philsensex data is to bring the actual happenings in the Indian Philatelic market and price movement of Indian stamps mainly of the modern period. I receive more and more negative information from USA & UK from my friends that the availability of Modern Indian stamps in the above markets is virtually nil and people have to literally hunt for it. The situation in India is no better either hardly few dealers are holding some stock of Indian modern items. But the prices for the Indian stamps are still catalogued at low levels. This is mainly because of us, as no philatelic trading information is brought to the lime light and no authentic information is published for the benefit of collectors / dealers community. We all must agree that the international cataloguing and pricing are purely based on the local market prices and the price realized out of auctions worldwide. None the modern issues are included in any of the international stamp auction houses and how can one expect upward prices for Indian stamps? Added to this agony and sorry state of affair, very handful of dealers abroad are dealing in Indian stamps since the demand is virtually nil from India.

To break the ice, I discussed with Mr Jhingan the idea of bringing the Philsensex data in this publication so as to establish and to bring out the hidden/realistic value of the Indian stamps to the Indian philatelists. This is the only intention of my spending money and time

and not to gain any financial incentives/gains out of the market vagaries or from the dealers directly or indirectly.

I ask a question to the readers as well as the stamp dealers! Assuming in India during the next 3 years 1000 new collectors start collecting Indian stamps from 1947 and all these collectors put their indent for a Block of Four un-mounted Gandhi Set of 1948 and the same in a single set. Do you think these collectors will succeed in their Endeavour? The answer is very difficult because nobody knows how many copies are available in the market and whether the price for Gandhi set presently ruling is right or wrong! The situation is not only for the Gandhi set but few hundred's sets that are in the queue in modern era. When you are sitting in such a fragile market supply situation, is it wrong to bring the needed information out of the basket and make it known to all, especially the collectors. As a true lover of philately, I would like to continue to do this job with a hope it will help benefit a section of the philatelic community.

On one side The Department of Posts and local philatelic associations are trying to promote philately, with a view to bring in collectors in to this hobby and these new collectors ought to go for building their Indian collection by buying the stamps from the market. With more and more people coming in, the stocks of Indian stamps will get depleted and demand further will increase and prices will go up for the Indian stamps! This is the result of economic onslaught due to Demand and Supply and not due to the Philsensex Data, the people crying that the Philsensex data is pushing the prices for Indian stamps is in reality not correct.

To conclude, I remember a phrase "For those who understand, no explanation is needed. For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible"

SPECIAL STAMP WATCH

The Department of Posts issued a special Commemorative stamp to honor the legendry Film actress Madhubala on 18th March 2008. The stamp has been issued in Sheetlet format of 13 stamps per sheetlet and a miniature sheet for Rs 5. The total quantity issued is 0.4 million stamps (30769 sheetlets) and 0.2 million miniature sheets. I could see from the sheetlet that only one block of four stamps is available and many sheetlets may be destroyed just for this. This sheetlet may become a scarce item for the future.

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#### POSTCARDS ON CINEMA THEME

Bharatiya Daktkit Sangstha, Kolkata has recently released following Pictorial Postcards,  
Dec 31: Ritvik Ghatak, 2 cards  
Mar 18: Madhubala, 6 cards

For an illustrated list of Pictorial Postcards Issues of 2007, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/icards-2007.htm>

For an illustrated list of Pictorial Postcards Issues of 2008, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/icards-2008.htm>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

AJAIMERU PHILA VISION, Whole #10, March 2008, Monthly
Editor: Anil Kumar Jain anil_art4u@yahoo.com
Publisher: Ajaimeru Philatelic Society, Ajmer
Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

Resumes publication, previous issue - February 2006. Welcome back.

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BUY FOREIGN EXCHANGE AT POST OFFICE

An agreement was signed between India Post and Centurion Bank of Punjab on March 17, 2008 at New Delhi to provide foreign exchange services to the public. Although India Post has full-fledged money changing licence this is the first time that it is entering the foreign exchange market.

To start with the foreign exchange services is to be run as a pilot project covering the 31 Post Offices spread across 23 large cities, towns and villages in 11 states. The project will facilitate both the encashment of foreign exchange and transfer of money in foreign currency. While the main foreign exchange business will be operated by the Centurion Bank of Punjab, India Post officials will operationalise the scheme after training imparted by the Bank.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mar 17-19: Mumbai, Film, Dance, Music, Film Personalities
Contact: Dhirubhai Mehta

Mar 25-26: Balangir, 3rd district philatelic exhibition

Mar 26-27: Jamshedpur, district philatelic exhibition

Mar 27-28: Hazaribagh, district philatelic exhibition

Mar 27-28: Jodhpur, district philatelic exhibition

Mar 28-29: Imphal, Division Level Philately Exhibition
All Philatelists of Manipur and the surrounding areas are requested to participate in the Exhibition. Seminar, workshop and quiz will also be organized for the school children and beginners.
Contact: Director of Postal Services, Imphal, Manipur Postal Division

Mar 29-30: Bokaro, district philatelic exhibition

Mar 29-30: Keonjhar, 2nd district philatelic exhibition

Mar ??: Bhubaneswar, 1st district philatelic exhibition

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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ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2008 Edited by Suraj Jaitly, 80 pages listing contact details of stamp collectors, dealers, clubs, magazines, websites, from India & overseas Plus lots of relevant information Price Rs 250 or US\$ 8 or Euro 6 OR £ 4 [Post paid]  
Contact at [surajjaitly@hotmail.com](mailto:surajjaitly@hotmail.com) or [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com)

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.>

RAJESH VARMA, Dehradun

On February 23, 2008, I received GPA News Vol.11 and after reading Page 1 "From the Desk of the Editor" I could not help could not stop myself from writing again.

First of all I want to congratulate the Department of posts for holding the national exhibition INPEX 2008 which I should have done in my earlier letter. And I could not do so being under the shock of the result of my exhibit.

Regarding the panel of jury members and their role, I feel sorry for the jury members from the Department of Posts while writing this letter. The philatelists jury members of the Philatelic Congress of India with age and experience of jury work on their side had their way in INPEX 2008. Here I would like to inform the Department of Posts that these jurors from Philatelic Congress of India are playing very dubious role. It seems these persons are still living under British rule even after 61 years of independence. At best they only know what they collect and are ignorant about other disciplines in philately. At worst some cannot even explain their own exhibits, believe it or not.

As Mr Patel wrote about the body language of INPEX Jury I will say they were behaving in a high handed manner and weren't responding to if one was wishing them. Being Jury in India means to ignore their colleagues as if they don't know them, they don't talk to them, they will turn away their faces as if they have arrived from another far advanced planet. It seems they are specimens of a superior race while the exhibitors are second or third class citizens. It is the height of feudalism where they are the lords and the exhibitors are the commoner.

Without any basis they will say you are showing banned items, you are wasting space by showing complete sheets, show only this or that, you are on border line. I would like the jurors to come out of their Flag and Map mentality. Try to understand what the exhibitors are trying to show. Just read page 1 at least. But they do not have the time for all this!

Most of the exhibitors were not happy by the results. Those who had godfathers in the jury were of course pleased with the results. The worst affected area was Thematic philately which had 498 out of 1298 frames displayed.

The exhibit on the "Hinduism" was downgraded by the same judge who had judged it before. Another case was "Indian Antarctica" where 2 exhibits which differ greatly from one another, were given same awards although one was an in-depth study and another a simplified display. This reaffirms that jury do not have the time to read and that is why they fail to understand what is what. Gandhi exhibits were also affected by same criteria.

One of the two exhibits on Olympics was awarded Gold medal with 93 marks, the highest in INPEX 2008. I think my court case against the Philatelic Congress of India regarding wayward treatment of my exhibit on Olympic philately in previous 3 nationals may also have contributed towards this achievement. In any case I am pleased to see Olympic philately achieving this landmark. However sticking to wayward traditions the Best Exhibit was awarded to an India Pre independence exhibit with 92 marks! This also reaffirms the jury's British India mentality as most of the jurors belong that era. Is this is not dubious? This also exposes their bias against thematic philately.

Another exhibit on Olympics was awarded Large Silver medal with 75 marks. This collection is the best example of having everything that the jury is not supposed to like. I have a photocopy of this collection and would like to describe some of the pages. Page 1 has utilized 12 out of 29.5 cm total space with 3 stamps and 15 lines text. Page 2 has utilized 18 cm with 3 stamps and Plan. These 2 pages could easily be accommodated in 1 page. Page 3 has 7 stamps out of which 5 are cheap CTOs and may not be genuine stamps. On page 6 the exhibitor incorrectly describes ShortPut under ancient games. Another stamp depicting Disc of Sacred Truce was wrongly described as Chief Judge reading the invitation! Page 18 and 19 show one picture post card each with a same size photocopy of the reverse while India post Philatelic Awards System regulation 3.8 states that the copy should be at least 25% different in size. On page 21 the exhibitor shows a US stamp issued to mark the World War I to cover 6th Olympics where as there is sufficient material in existence related to Berlin Olympics of 1916 which were cancelled due to World War I. On page 30 the exhibitor incorrectly describes the mail carried by Zeppelin Airship Hindenburg as carried by parachute! The page 32 is full inaccurate statements regarding cancelled London Olympics of 1944 and to cover these games the exhibitor shows a cover from Palau marking 50th anniversary of World War II. About 50 stamps in this exhibit are damaged. Now you can understand that these thematic jurors with little knowledge of other subjects and still get all the power to judge our valuable exhibits and find faults with them.

In my opinion we should boycott those exhibitions where these kinds of jurors are appointed. You may be surprised to know that certain countries do boycott those international exhibitions where certain Indian jurors are part of the jury. This is actually matter of national shame. We must remove such jurors. The need of the hour is infusion of fresh and young blood by having a new set of trained jurors.

Unlike jurors who have an all expenses paid extravaganza, the exhibitors spend a lot of money for traveling, accommodation, food and frame fees while participating in an exhibition. It is better that we spent on our family instead where we will find lots of happiness. Participating in exhibitions like INPEX 08 will beget an exhibitor anger, stress, fatigue, and high blood pressure. Now as always the choice is yours.

NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur

ANY RESULT BUT NO INSULT, Yes, this is the feeling of most of the disappointed philatelists who were not awarded the appropriate medal which as per them they deserved. No doubt about it that there were some deserving exhibits which were reportedly not given appropriate weightage and consideration and so were awarded lower medals which they really deserved. OK, one can accept the same too if he is given proper reply by the jury during individual discussions or during jury critic session. But the jury failed to give appropriate reply too. My friend Mr Ilyas Patel, a veteran, dedicated, experienced and hardcore philatelist have all the reasons to stand against the verdict of the jury and to revolt against the reply given by the jury to him. I personally stand by Sri Ilyas as for as fighting this issue is concerned. Not only me but so many other senior philatelists had seen and appreciated the exhibit of Sri Ilyas, a masterpiece of thematic exhibiting with high quality of thematic elements along with philatelic ones.

Mr Ilyas and so many other friends probably conclude a different meaning of my statements and opinion given in previous issue of this newsletter. They must understand that we are always with them because this is of common interest. But past is past, we must come out of this shock or the state of despair and think afresh to check such happenings in future. As at this stage nothing more can be done to review the exhibit and to re-award it. Yes, this scenario will now force the organisers and the jury of oncoming exhibitions to be very fair and clear in their judgments and the organisers will not impose upon the jury their limitations.

Certainly, a jury cannot say that the exhibit has been given lower award so that it performs better international exhibition as said by Mr. Ilyas. Jury should have accepted the mistakes, the omissions they made, the consideration they gave and of course methodology they adopted to conclude the results. Anyone can accept even wrong result but no insult at all.

The result of this so called partial / improper/ wrong judgment disqualifies a few of the deserving philatelists from participation in international exhibitions. Secondly in India National Exhibitions are not held so frequently so the deserving philatelists have to wait for long to reach the higher level. So, this in other way closes the doors

for International participation for them. Hence, it calls for strong reactions from such aspirants.

So, it is time that all the senior philatelists whether they participate in exhibitions or not (I know so many senior philatelists have stopped participating due to the above reasons) should think upon this issue and design some new methods and formulae to see that better results come out and overall satisfaction prevails. In the previous issue of this news letter, I have put forward some ideas which need to be discussed and debated so that some good and fruitful result comes out.

I further like to add more points to the previous suggestions given by me i.e. public participation in result should be officially encouraged. A group of senior philatelists visiting the exhibition should be selected and asked to give their opinion and marking on exhibit which will form a part of the result i.e. say 20% marks in the hands of the non-jury. Also there should be a forum panel of FIAP /FIP accredited jury) where the aggrieved participants should lodge their complaint and if possible, there should be system to review the exhibit and re-award it or at least the to resolve the grievance.

Once again, I would request my aggrieved friends to accept the facts that these things are bound to happen. But now we won't remain silent and would start our fight in this direction to bring about necessary changes in the existing system of judgment.

So, friends, join hands and move ahead firstly to evolve well thought over suggestions and methods for necessary changes to be brought and then to see that these are implemented.

I am looking forward for your valued reactions.

SEKHAR CHAKRABARTI, Kolkata

Postage stamps are considered as the most dynamic vehicles for publicity. They travel all over the world as eloquent ambassadors of the country of origin.

It was really very disturbing to note that our ministers from Tamil Nadu in their capacity as IT and telecommunication Department of the Central Government are playing provincial politics unabatedly during their stint in the ministry by releasing more & more stamps relating mainly to Tamil subjects, ignoring all norms supposed to be followed for propagating the all India national causes.

It may not be out of context to recall that in the recent past, Sri Dayanidhi Maran of DMK, when he held the ministry, made a history of playing Santa Claus to Tamil Nadu. I was disappointed and shocked to find that Sri Maran during his stint managed to release stamps of at least on 23 personalities (including, his father late Murasoli Maran) from Tamil Nadu alone while during the same period only seven other non-Tamil personalities found suitable for stamp illustrations.

I remain still anxious when I hear that in INPEX 2008, most of the proceedings went in Tamil language, without a flutter from all India delegates present there, thereby, hijacking the national event for the platform of glorifying Tamil causes.

Before I conclude, I also wish to invite the Jury members of INPEX 2008 to come out straight in order to douse the resentments of our exhibitors (both new and old) with their comments/observations, so that the hobby of philately so lovingly pursued, do not meet a sudden death for the aspiring philatelists.

Let all of us make the national events as most pleasurable experience and catalyst for promotion of philately and not a negative platform for.....!!!!!!!

I only hope members of the Philatelic Advisory Board of India Post are listening.

RAJPRIT SINGH SALUJA, Kanpur

At the outset let me congratulate you for bringing out such a useful e magazine, "Stamps of India Collectors Companion". Your magazine and web site have so much information in it that there is something useful for everyone be it a Senior Philatelist, a beginner, a collector or a dealer. It is really commendable that you have been able to bring out the issues of your magazine with so much regularity week after week. I salute you and Mrs. Savita Jhingan for your untiring effort, zeal and enthusiasm.

In fact I repent not having seen your magazine earlier. I first came across Stamp of India Collectors Companion from your Issue No. 326. Ever since I have become a huge fan of the magazine. In fact I am addicted to it and wait anxiously for the next Issues.

I started collecting stamps 5 years back .Since last three years I started working on my theme "SIKHISM". In November 2007 I put my collection together in the form of an Exhibit and sent it at UPHILEX 2008 .My exhibit was awarded a SILVER. This was a huge motivating factor for me to improve my exhibit and send it to IMPEX 2008. The Jury at UPHILEX was very cooperative and advised and guided me as to how to improve my exhibit.

Now that I had won a SILVER at the State level, I was eligible for participating at the IMPEX 2008, but the last date for sending the Participation Form for IMPEX 2008 was already over. I sent a request to the Organising Committee of IMPEX 2008, to allow collectors like me who won SILVER at the State level but could not participate as the STATE EXHIBITIONS were held late. To my utmost surprise the Organizing Committee promptly replied to my request and allowed all of us to send our forms. Apart from this, they were very cooperative in collecting me Exhibit from the Local Couriers office at Chennai. My exhibit was also sent back to me packed securely and intact. I think that the Staff of IMPEX 2008 deserve to be complimented for putting up a good show despite the scarcity of time and resources.

Although I did not go to Chennai, my Exhibit "Heritage & Glory of Sikhs" won a Silver. I also received the score sheet along with the Certificate and the medal. In fact the score sheet clearly indicates my areas of strength and areas of weakness. It will help me improve my exhibit further. I am satisfied with my score and am sure that the Judges must have given sufficient time to my exhibit.

Having said this, I still agree with most of the participants that Thematic Exhibits should be judged with utmost care. The suggestions offered by Mr Naresh Agrawal, Bilaspur, are worthwhile and useful.

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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

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037
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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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