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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan
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I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
Stamp on Majaaz Released  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Army Postal Service Issues  
China 2009 World Stamp Exhibition  
India Rarities at Auction  
Philatelic Slide Show  
Recent Periodical Publications  
New Pakistan Catalog  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
The Calendar of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions  
Readers Forum: Souvik Roy, Deepak Modi, Jeevan Jyoti, Pallab Bose, and  
Rajan Jayakar  
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Continuing from where we left at the previous issue, Eshkol Abraham from Israel wrote "I am Indian Jew and also keen collector of Indian stamps. Maybe you do not know that on March 21 also falls Jewish festival called Purim". Thanks for adding to our knowledge and now more than ever the March 21 looks a perfect subject for a full fledged philatelic exhibit.

The PhilSensex for April 2008 will appear in the next issue - #336 of April 10, 2008. The inconvenience caused is regretted.

We have created a web page entitled 'Instant Delivery' where we have posted two power point presentations on philately available for free downloads. We take this opportunity to invite your contributions for the same - may be you would like to turn your exhibit in to a power point presentation and share it with fellow philatelists!

We have updated the "Carried Covers" page after a very long time, please review the page and give your comments. Visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/carried/carried.htm>

This publication is mailed from [postmaster@stampsofindia.net](mailto:postmaster@stampsofindia.net) email address. Please add this address in your email program to ensure delivery.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Madhukar Deogawanka, Vinod Sabharwal, J G Ghuman, Jigar Desai, Ashok Tiwary, and Ajit Kumar Dash

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsfindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsfindia.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 21: Civil Services

Now days, issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice say couple of days! As you can see that the world is moving at very fast pace and we are still bringing out an issue only after 7 long days. Thus it is impossible to inform our readers thru this weekly publication about forthcoming stamp issues of India. We however do our best to publish this information on the home page of [www.stampsfindia.com](http://www.stampsfindia.com) as soon as it becomes available.

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/2008stamps.htm>

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STAMP ON MAJAAZ RELEASED

The Vice President of India, Mohammad Hamid Ansari released a commemorative postage stamp in honor of Asrar ul Haq 'Majaz', a romantic revolutionary poet, on March 28, 2008 at New Delhi.

Majaz Lucknawi was born in Rudauli, Bara Banki, Uttar Pradesh on October 19, 1909. His real name was Asrar ul Haq. His early education was at Ameenabaad High School, Lucknow. Later he joined Saint John's College, Agra where he was introduced to the world of Urdu poetry and met noted Urdu poets Muin Ehsan 'Jazbi' and Fani Badayuni. He began writing poetry and accepted Fani Badayuni as his Ustaad, who suggested him the pen name 'Majaz'. He graduated from Aligarh Muslim University, in 1936.

Same year he moved to Delhi as editor of Awaaz, a radio magazine for All India Radio. Then he fell in unrequited love for a married woman

and after a year returned to Lucknow brokenhearted. He started drinking heavily and had his first nervous breakdown. Prolonged treatment restored his sanity and he again took charge of his life.

For a short time he worked in Bombay Information and after returning back took admission to study law at Lucknow University. Along with Ali Sardar Jafri, started a magazine Naya Daur and finally joined Harding Library, Delhi as Assistant Librarian.

His folks fixed his marriage but the bride side backed out reportedly on his meager monthly earning of Rs 150, and this hurt him real hard. He again lost his balance and doctors one again nursed him back to mental health but he remained an alcoholic.

He became a wanderer and virtually drank himself to death. Some of his so-called friends at Delhi and Lucknow used to get him over once in a while for an evening session where he was plied with alcohol and asked to recite his poetry till wee hours of the morning or till he could physically carry on. It was after one such session at a roof top of a hotel in Lucknow in a cold winter night where Majaz was found dead in the morning in 1955.

He was one of the most powerful Urdu poet that the Progressive Writer's Movement, a rallying center of liberals and intellectuals in all Indian languages with an all India presence. He composed ghazals and nazms in Urdu. He is also famous for his composition of the anthem (tarana) of Aligarh Muslim University.

Majaz's life was short; he rose like a star but unfortunately collapsed soon.

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 in the sheets of 40 stamps.

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

Mar 25-26: Balangir, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers
Mar 26: Bhawanipatna, district philatelic exhibition, 1 cover

Mar 28: Imphal, Manipur division philatelic exhibition, 1 cover
Mar 28: Hazaribagh, district philatelic exhibition, 1 cover
Mar 29-30: Keonjhar, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers
Mar 30: Bokaro, district philatelic exhibition, 1 cover
Mar 30-31: Bhubaneswar, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2007pm.htm>

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Feb 01: 11 Gorkha Rifles, Diamond Jubilee  
Feb 01: 8th Battalion, The Dogra Regiment, Diamond Jubilee  
Feb 04: 6th Battalion, 8th Gorkha Rifles, Diamond Jubilee  
Feb 04: 6th Battalion, 5th Gorkha Rifles, Diamond Jubilee  
Feb 23: Induction of Hawk Mk132, 406 Air Force Station, Bidar

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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CHINA 2009 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

Dr Sita Bhateja, India's National Commissioner to China 2009 invites participation of qualified exhibits from Indian exhibitors. The exhibition is being held from April 10 to 16, 2009 at Luoyang City, China. This is General World Show with all classes as well as the One Frame Class. The last date for Entry forms to reach China is May 16, 2008. The frame fees are US\$ 50 per frame for all except One Frame where the Fee is US\$ 100. There are no fees for Youth exhibits. Please do not send exhibits with 100 year old items.

Please download the Regulations and Entry Form from the following link:
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/china2009.htm>

Please submit the completed form in duplicate by May 1, 2008 to:
Dr Sita Bhateja, India's National Commissioner to China 2009
#8 & 9, O'Shaughnessy Road, Langford Gardens, Bangalore 560 025

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INDIA RARITIES AT AUCTION

David Feldman is currently holding its 'exceptional spring auctions' from April 1 to 5, 2008 at Geneva, Switzerland. Rarities, extensive specialized sections from all over the world of philately, a very extensive section of important collections and a day-long offer of large lots and estates is being offered in six separate catalogs.

India area lots come up for auction on April 4 and 5, 2008 as part of British Commonwealth, Rarities of the World and Collections sales. The highlights include Scinde Dawk White mint pair with large margins, Scinde Dawk Blue mint, 1854 Unissued '9 1/2 Arches' Vermillion corner marginal block of 10, '9 1/2 Arches' Deep Vermillion unique block of 60, 1854 4 Annas First Printing 12 copies used on a cover, 4 Annas Fourth Printing Block 10 used, Queen Victoria Essay 1891 8 Annas 'Alternative Design', Queen Victoria Color Trials Rs 2 20 different, Queen Victoria Hand painted Essays of High Values, King George V Essay of Rs 25, King George V Color Trials 7 values in small gummed sheetlets of four, and Gandhi 1969 4 values 28 different Color Trials. There is also a specialized holding of Jammu & Kashmir unused, used, multiples, shades, complete sheets, covers many in combination with India stamps &

or stationery, 193 stamps, 51 cover/fronts & fragments, with many items ex Masson & Board.

It is possible to participate in their auction live on their web site <http://www.davidfeldman.com/>. Several Indian stamp dealers reportedly are attending this auction in person at Geneva.

PHILATELIC TRADE & PUBLICATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, BANGALORE announces their Auction No. 30, scheduled on April 13, 2008 at 9.45 AM. In all there are 313 items offered in the auction. For downloading full auction catalogue along with terms and conditions, please visit their website [www.ptppl.in](http://www.ptppl.in) Scan images of almost all the items have been uploaded on the website. The scan images of items which are not uploaded are available on request. For further details, and for any clarifications, please contact them by email to [ptppl@vsnl.net](mailto:ptppl@vsnl.net) or Phone 0091-80-23348324/23445329/23446210 or Fax 0091-80-23340952.

The important Items include: a) Worldwide GB odd value FDCs, New Zealand collection from 1882 to 1909, Pakistan Overprint on Indian Stationary and Stamps, Pakistan Collection, Somaliland Collection, b) Gandhi, c) Aviation - lot of flight covers including Tata Sons, d) Pre-stamp Covers from 1818, Kedgree Mark, Paquebot of 1842 mark, Calcutta Steam letter, Soldiers letter of 1848 etc, e) Lithos on cover, Queen Victoria period including 1903 coronation durbar cancellation on 9 values, Geo VI period, f) India States including collection of Patiala, Travancore imperf proof, Travancore Era, Stationary, Railway cancellations, Peon Mark, Telegrams and Fiscals, g) Post Independence stamp from 1948 to 2008 in sets, year sets, complete sheets, miniature sheets, first day covers, blocks, multiples, Traffic lights etc, h) Regional Booklets on Darjeeling Railway, Gandhi etc, IPKF Stationary.

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

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PHILATELIC SLIDE SHOW

Vipan Kumar Thakur's Power Point Slide Show titled 'Presentation on Stamp Collecting' for the beginners was awarded a Bronze Medal at Inpex 2008. Thakur had a desire to participate in philatelic exhibitions and win some prizes. But due to lack of philatelic material, he was not in a position to do so. So he found this innovative way to participate in Philatelic Exhibitions.

Thakur now wants to share the contents of this slide show with other philatelists. Those who are interested in this presentation may download this from the following link:

http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/instant_delivery.htm

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #4, April 2008, Monthly

Editor: Jeevan Jyoti [j.jyoti9@gmail.com](mailto:j.jyoti9@gmail.com)

Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla

Annual Subscription: Free

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

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NEW PAKISTAN CATALOG

M I Choudhary michoudhary11@hotmail.com of Lahore, Pakistan has published the 12th Edition of the Most Comprehensive Color Catalogue 2008-2009.

The catalog covers in detail the followings topics: British Indian stamps overprinted "Pakistan" on Water Mark Single Star and Multiple Stars on King Edward VII, King George V, King George VI and Victory 1946, Brief Political & Geographical History, Chronological order of events, Local Machine Overprints, How to distinguish the different 'Overprints'? Nasik Print, Lahore Print, Peshawar Print, Peshawar Print on King George V and opts. on margin, Karachi Print, Karachi Print in Blue, Squat Print, The Indian Hybrid Print, Battered Print, Worn out Print, Relative scarcity of ordinary stamps, Pre-Nasik hand stamps overprints from 15th August to October 1947, Machine overprints after Independence, Hand stamps on ordinary stamps, Typewritten overprints on ordinary stamps, Manuscripts on ordinary stamps, Used abroad ordinary stamps from Dubai, Muscat, Guadur and Bombay Foreign Paquebot, Pakistan Internal postal rates in 1947, The First Postmark "Pakistan Zindabad", King George VI high values sheet format, Independence Act 1947, 1947 to 2007 with full details of Size, Designer, Pinter, Process, Format, Gum, Perforation, Imprint, Plate Number, Quantity, FDC, Leaflet, Color, Errors and many more details of the Stamps. Also Pakistan Official Postage Stamps, Pre-Nasik overprints, Hand stamps overprints on KG VI, Typewritten overprints, Manuscript overprints, Relative Scarcity, Nasik Print, Karachi Print, Peshawar Print, With 'N' narrow, heavy grotesque bold, King G VI opts. in red, King G V overprinted in black, Opt. on margin, King G VI, Lahore Print Type I With 'N' broad is known in black on King G V & King G VI, Lahore Print Type II, Bahawalpur State Print opts. 'Pakistan', Hyderabad Sind Print, The Baluch Regiment 'Print', Service Type 2- 6 and many more. The Catalog also covers Bahawalpur including Service issues.

The Catalog contains 244 Pages on art paper, Size, 7.5 x 9.5 Inches, and is priced at Pakistan Rs 500 + inland postage Rs 50 within Pakistan and £15 + postage for all overseas countries through registered air mail.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March 17-19: Mumbai, MAHAFILMPEX  
India Post organized a three day philatelic exhibition on Cinema and Performing Arts at Mumbai. The show was non-competitive and participation was by invitation. There were 92 frames of exhibit from all over India.

Screening of old classical films, Posters, Costumes, photographs, Cultural show, on-spot painting competition and quiz were also organized as part of this event. The release function of the Madhubala stamp was also held during this show on the second day. And for this reason the print and electronic media gave wide coverage to this event. From the film world Shakti Samanta, Manoj Kumar, Nimmy, Ameen Sayani, Kiran Shantaram, Sonali Kulkarni, Madhur Bhushan(sister of Madhubala) attended the release function.

India Post issued 3 special covers, one on each day, on this occasion. India Post also released a special CD - Magic of the Films during the

show. However it never came to the post office booth for sale. There were 3 dealers' booths.

The exhibitors present at the event formed 'Pan India Philatelists' to act collectively to further the philatelic themes of Cinema and Performing Arts.

Unfortunately there was lukewarm response from local philatelists and visitors. March being the Exam time and all three being working days resulted in poor turnout of visitors to this event. At times there was more postal staff than the viewers.

India Post or philatelic organizations at Mumbai, one of which is over a century old do not have the data on philatelists and their exhibits. This resulted in a all kinds of exhibits on display, some very good and others not worthy of a national event.

The idea of a philatelic exhibition on Cinema came up during one of the events at National Philatelic Museum at New Delhi. India Post invited Dipok Dey, Kolkata who has a high quality exhibit of over 30 frames to display the same at the Museum as a one man show in August 2007. However the event wasn't held. Thus when India Post planned the stamp issue on legendary beauty and actress Madhubala, they once again contacted Dipok Dey for his display. Several Postal officers from New Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai as well as a senior philatelist from Mumbai and a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee from Patna participated in talks over phone with Dey. India Post deputed a senior postal officer from Kolkata to accompany Dey to Mumbai along with his exhibit. Then mysteriously a plan B was put in action and it was decided to take exhibits on not only on cinema but also on performing arts from all over India instead of Dey's exhibit, although it wasn't publicized properly. For the first time in the history of Indian Philately India Post in an unprecedented move provided air fare, accommodation and other facilities to the exhibitors. Some philatelists overnight prepared a one frame exhibit of special covers on cinema to avail an all expenses paid trip to Mumbai. It was also an opportunity for India Post to spend unutilized funds before financial year end.

Mar 18-20: Bhubaneswar, Philatelic Exhibition

A philatelic workshop and exhibition was held from March 18-20, 2008 at the Kathjodi Campus of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology Deemed University, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of its Annual function. The function was inaugurated by the Member of Parliament and Cine star Shatrughan Sinha. Several engineering students have shown their exhibits in 8 frames. The secretary of Eastern India Philatelists' Association Ajit Kumar Dash, senior philatelists of EIPA Anil Kumar Dhir and Kasinath Sahoo conducted the workshop. During the workshop Dash has explained various aspects of philately through power point presentation. The documentary film produced by Dhir was also shown to the students. A Philately Quiz contest was also conducted by Dhir and Sahoo in which 57 engineering students took part. The international award winning exhibit "Scouts and Guides" of Biswajit Dash an ex-student of KIIT was also seen by the students. The students took much interest in the exhibition and the work shop by putting several questions on philately. In spite of the best efforts of the students, the Department of Posts declined to spare the exhibition stands for the exhibition for which the students exhibited their exhibits on big

tables covered with similar size glass sheets, which shows the deep interest of students in philately.

#### Mar 25-26: Balangir, District Philatelic Exhibition

The 3rd District level philatelic exhibition of undivided Balangir district, BALNGIRPEX-2008 was held at the Head Post Office complex on March 25-26, 2008 organized by the Department Posts in active participation of the Balangir Philatelic Club. Exhibits of 13 philatelists along with the exhibit of the jury were displayed in 40 frames. The function was inaugurated by R S Gopalan, IAS, Collector of Balangir. Sadanand Agrawal, historian and chairman of Bhima Bhoi Trust was the guest of honor and. Ramesh Patri, Lecturer District Institute of Education & Training, Balangir was the speaker. Ajit Kumar Dash, Secretary of EIPA and editor of Fila Capsule was appointed as the chief Jury for the exhibition. A stamp design contest was organized amongst the school students in three groups. 2 Gold medals, 4 Silver medals, 4 Bronze Medals and 3 Diplomas were awarded by the Jury. Kamal Chakrabarty was awarded Gold medal plus Best Exhibit award for his exhibit "Angel of Peace" in the senior group and Chkarabarty was awarded Gold medal plus best exhibit award in the youth group for her exhibit "The Nature". In the closing ceremony A K Dash, IPS, Post Master General, Sambalpur Region was the Chief Guest who awarded medals and prizes to the winners of exhibition and stamp design contest, P K Mohapatra, ITS, Telecom District Manager was Guest of Honor and Dr Siba Prasad Nanda, Post Graduate Department of History, Rajendra College, Balangir was the Chief Speaker. The meeting was presided over by B B Mishra, Chairman, BALANGIRPEX-08 and Superintendent of Post Offices, Balangir. During the exhibition two special covers were released on Panchanath Temple and Terracotta work of Sonepur (Subarnapur).

#### March 26-27: Bhawanipatna, District Philatelic Exhibition

The first District level philatelic exhibition of Kalahandi District KALPEX-08 was held on March 26-27, 2008 at Bhawanipatna organized by the Department of Posts. Exhibits of 3 philatelists were displayed in 10 frames, besides several philatelists have shown their stamps mounted in the albums separately. P K Satpathy, Collector, Kalahandi inaugurated the exhibition. Bijoy Kumar Sinha, Senior Philatelist of Eastern India Philatelists' Association was appointed as the Jury. In view of the poor participation only three prizes were awarded in each Senior and Youth Group. During the exhibition stamp design contest was also organized between the school students. In the closing ceremony Lalitendu Pradhan, IPS, DPAS, Berhampur Region was the chief Guest and awarded prizes to the philatelists and students. DE D Reddy, Chairmen of KALPEX-08 and Superintendent of Posts, Kalahandi division presided over the function. During the exhibition one special cover on famous Manikeswari Temple, Bhawanipatna was released on March 26.

#### Mar 29-30: Keonjhar, District Philatelic Exhibition

The Second District Level Philatelic Exhibition, KENDUPEX-08 was held at Keonjhar on March 29-30, 2008 organized by the Department Posts in active participation of Keonjhar Philatelists' Association. Exhibits of 25 Philatelists were displayed in 40 frames. Due to shortage of frames 3 exhibits in 9 frames in competitive group and one exhibit in five frames of the jury in the invitee class could not be displayed. The function was inaugurated by B B Mohapatra, IAS, Collector of Keonjhar. Ajit Kumar Dash, Secretary of EIPA and editor of Fila Capsule was appointed as the Jury. After evaluation of the exhibits 6 Gold



medals, 11 Silver medals, 8 Bronze Medals were awarded by the Jury. Kalyani Baishak was awarded Gold medal plus Best Exhibit award for her exhibit "Health & Medicine" in the senior group and Abhijit Pattnaik was awarded Gold medal plus best exhibit award in the youth group for her exhibit "Indian Freedom Struggle through FDC". In the closing ceremony Ananta Nayak, the Member of Parliament, Keonjhar was the Chief Guest and A K Dash, IPS, Post Master General, Sambalpur Region was the guest of honor. Akshaya Kumar Nayak, President Keonjhar Philatelists' Association was the chief Speaker. The Chief Guest awarded medals to the winners of exhibition. The function was presided over by B C Sethi, Chairman, KENDUPEX-08 and Superintendent of Post Offices, Keonjhar. During the exhibition two special covers were released on Khandadhar water fall and Juang dance (tribal dance) of Keonjhar.

Mar 29-30: Patiala, District Philatelic Exhibition

Mar 30-31: Bhubaneswar, District Philatelic Exhibition

The 1st Bhubaneswar Philatelic Exhibition was held on March 30-31, 2008 at the 1st floor of the Orissa Association for the Blind, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar organized by the Department of posts with active participation of the Eastern India Philatelists' Association. The exhibition was organized at a short span of 3 days only for which the exhibits of senior philatelists were only exhibited by invitation in 40 frames. Exhibits of Ajit Kumar Dash, Daitary Mohapatra, Debasis Mitra, Meera Biswal, S B Mohapatra, S S Rath, Ranjit Dash, Anup Raut, B K Biswal, Anil Kumar Dhir and Rutupurna Mansingh were displayed. The exhibition was inaugurated by Aparajita Sarangi, IAS, Bhubaneswar Municipal Commissioner. The exhibition attracted a lot of visitors and media persons which was evident from wide coverage in almost all local and English papers. During the exhibition quiz and stamp design contests were also conducted between the school students by Anil Kumar Dhir. Two beautiful special covers were released during the exhibition on the famous Rajarani Temple of Bhubaneswar and the Appliqué work of Pipili.

Apr 11-13: Mumbai, Coins Show  
Todiwala Auction

Apr 18-20: Kolkata, Stamp Exhibition at Outram Club

In collaboration with Bharatiya Daktkit Sangstha, Kolkata as part of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Club  
2 Special covers on sports and cinema and a booklet is planned  
Dealers Booth - Rs 1000, Contact Arun Bhattacharya Mobile 0 98304 12286

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>

#### THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for April 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](http://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

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.>

SOUVIK ROY, Kolkata

THE GREAT SOUTH INDIA (NATIONAL) PHILATELIC SHOW: INPEX-2008

It's a great experience to be a part of the show: INPEX-2008. This is perhaps one of the most planned exhibitions ever to take place in Indian soil, congratulation to all. I once again repeat "most planned and calculative" in all respect, from the selection of philatelist to giving awards.

Step one. As it took place in Chennai, so 50% participants should come from south (Tamil Nadu). Accepted: for the sake of philatelic promotion, at least in Tamil Nadu. How it's being done: giving minimum time to outstation philatelists to fill up the form and to send their collection (so great planning) and taking recommendation from great (old and dying philatelists) about certain collections, specially from those who do not find time or need to get qualified from their respective state shows.

Step two: Rejecting outstanding collections (example: The Gandhi collection of Mr. Mrinal Kanti Ray) giving flimsy reasons, so to reserve the higher awards for someone special.

Step three: By introducing coalition government like quota system., 50% or more higher awards for Tamil Nadu, three higher medals for Kolkata,

three for Patna, two for Ahmedabad likewise, (depending upon the personal connections with particular jury).

So everything (from selection to awards) was decided long before the actual exhibition, a great work, I would like to convey my congratulations once more.

I am a product of National School of Philately, 1977. I have seen long 30 years of different developments in Indian philately. After a long gap of more than 10 years I was back in so called competitive philately at Dak Bharati 2004, at Ahmedabad, and to my surprise the juries gave me a gold medal for my collection on 'Hinduism, a way of life'. I am proud to prove the title of my theme at Inpex 2008, that Hinduism is not a religion but a way of life, there was no reserved seat for me, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism all won higher medals, I was left with a consolation: Silver-bronze. Thanks once more.

What I had done for the exhibition, got my collection checked and rechecked by leading philatelist, like Mr. Ashok Bayanwala, Mr. Dipok Dey, Mr. Sekhar Chakraborty, Mr. Basudev Ganguly, Mr. Manik Jain, Mr. Dilip Das (all are internally recognized) and many other, but none did put me below Large Silver. When I came to know about an eminent philatelist from Kolkata in the jury panel, I did rang one of my friend expressing frustration and worry about my award prospect at the national. As I had very bad experience with him at our state show, 2005, where he tried to scatter my five frames in five different places, at 1.30 in the night I had a bad fight with him.

Today, after more than three months I still cannot hold my frustration whenever I think about the show. Except Mr. Ashok Bayanwala, I still cannot hold my feeling, questioning the integrity of the so-called juries seating on the bench. I was the first person to directly question the same in the interaction session at Chennai. Later supported by Mr. Prasant Shah of GPA where I was told not to ask any general question, like can we use labels and black-listed country stamps more in nation shows (as the gold medalist used a number of it).

We not only participate in nationals to win awards but also to learn, so I have learnt a lot. In future shows it's my commitment I will be using lot of those materials, and expect better results, if not I will question the same at the Court of Law.

Two of the juries, Dr. R S Gandhi and Mr. Manohar Lal, at the Stamp Show 2005, observed in their jury's report: "...3. The jury notes that two entries. Viz. nos. 119 and 122 displayed on frame nos. 36 and 38 have not been evaluated owing to presence of bogus issues."

My interaction with two juries at the national:

On my asking about my faults one just practically fled: "...ask me tomorrow, I am still holding the official chair, ... sorry beta". The great one from Kolkata, was even more smarter, he started pointing my faults: "I have given you 11 out of 20 in rarely group, (I did shown number of rare to very rare items: Ganesh, an early issue from the state of Dutia, price and rarity?) When I showed him that piece, he remarked, "you failed to highlight it, I did not see it" he also pointed out that my materials are mostly from India and Nepal, (It's my promise Sir, I will use more items in the next show from the issues

from South Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Vatican City for my collection on Hinduism). I am not challenging your knowledge on Hinduism (thematic philately as a whole) it's my greatness, Sir.

What I really got at Chennai:

- Personal contacts with eminent philatelists from all over the country.

- Getting a practical advice from Mr. ILYAS A PATEL, on giving a little background for my collection on Hinduism, thank you Sir.

- I asked Mr. Madhukar Jhingan, three questions: Do you agree the points given to me, what are my weak points and what are my strong points. He did dodge the first two questions, but gave the answer for the third, "I am a collector of foreign stamps with an Indian connection for over 3 decades and Hinduism forms a part of my collection. I am regularly visiting exhibitions throughout India for number of years and have gone through number of collections on Hinduism, but yours is the most organized and best presented of all."

- I would like to thank Mr. Rajesh Varma, for mentioning my collection in your communication, proving that at least one is there, who had studied my collection in detail at the show, thank you Sir.

My re-commendation (sorry, I could not resist the temptation.)

- Forget the statement, "All dead Indians are Great Indians (while issuing stamps) and all dying stamp collectors are Great philatelists. I myself don't want to get A Gold-medal in my dying bed, (these had happened at Chennai.) Reserve one show for dying philatelists and honor them (even going to hospitals) with lifetime achievement awards. Follow the new philosophy of Indian cricket team the best and able must be rewarded, not to 'The President' of some society, who sometime happened to be a collector, getting award from different group just to get an award.

- Giving collection on Mahatma Gandhi, a different group.

- 50% of the jury should come from the department (against whom there is no CBI enquiry) and bringing in foreign observers. As a member of PCI, I honestly requesting to check and counter check the integrity, while selecting the jury members.

- As a member of SIPA, I would like to request the governing body to think of promotion of philately as a whole not only your members.

- A silver-bronze medal, which will inspire me to raise voice against so-called establishment.

Thanks for reading

DEEPAK MODI, Jalna

I also have my story related to INPEX 2008 and I was just waiting for the right time to share it with all the active readers of this newsletter. Since after the national exhibition I am tracking the feedback from various participants of the exhibition and also few others and decoding there reactions on the result for their exhibit and most of them have reported it as a very bad experience.

My feedback is very different and the readers will find it even funny. I had sent my application to the organizing committee for my literature class entry. My application was accepted and then I had paid Rs.300/- as fees for the same. After few days I have received a letter along with the receipt of the fees and it was informed to send the literature material to the exhibit committee and I did the same.

After few days I have received an envelope to send that literature but let me note here that the envelope was received just few days before the last date of entry submission and if I would have been waiting for this envelope then it was but natural that my entry would have reached to its destination after the due date.

I have also informed the organizing committee that I wish to present an award for the most innovative entry one month before the exhibition but there was no reply and on 28th Dec 2007 I got a call from Mr. Muthry and he asked do I wish to send the award to Chennai. In my answer I straightly answered I said sorry sir I have decided not to present it as there was no response from your side and even my MBA exams were going on at Aurangabad.

My exams were from 26th Dec. 2007 to 5th Jan. 2008 so I had booked my Air ticket from Mumbai to Chennai for the date 6th Jan. 2008 - the last day of the exhibition. As soon as my examination got over on 5th Jan, I came to my home town (Jalna) to collect some material for Inpex and I got a letter in my hand which was received on the same day informing that my entry could not be considered for evaluation because of 2 reasons. I was disappointed and decided not to fly for Chennai.

Now can you believe after one month I received my Bronze Medal for my entry. I neither happy nor unhappy to get the award and even can't say anything about the judging but yes I must say there was huge mismanagement and the entire loss in my case is of my own as I had desired to interact with various stamp collectors and philatelists, members of various stamp clubs etc and the stamp dealers from whom I had planned to make a huge purchasing for my various subjects.

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

Recently Tamil Nadu Circle of India Post has issued a four page wall calendar depicting the Miniature Sheets issued in 2007. The price of this calendar is Rs 100 and is available for sale at different Philatelic Bureaus. Besides the advertisements of India Post it has also two private advertisements of Reliance Mutual fund and UTI Mutual Fund for which the Department must have earned a good amount of money. Then what is the purpose of selling this calendar at such a high rate to the philatelists. If it has been issued for the promotion of philately it should have been distributed free of cost or at a nominal rate to the account holders of Philatelic Bureaus. It is not good on part of India Post to cheat the philatelists who themselves help the Department of Posts to earn money through Philatelic Exhibitions and purchase of philatelic items. There is nothing special in this calendar that should be sold for Rs 100. It should not have been more than Rs 30 if not free of cost for all. Many Government Departments and organizations bring out attractive calendars for promotion but they are free of cost and distributed to the customers as a part of promotion of their sector or organization.

On the other hand many district level philatelic exhibitions are being organized in March end just to spend their remaining budget to end on March 31. Is it actually serving the purpose of philatelic promotion? The same is the situation at higher level exhibitions. This is the reason philately is not flourishing in our country in spite of a big population. The Postal Department is doing its administrative job only. It needs to extend its publicity part of philately with the help of philatelists and local philatelic clubs or societies. As its employees are just doing their part of duty and they do not have genuine interest in philately and have nothing to do with the promotion. They do the particular work for which they receive order from higher authorities.

The main website of India post which gives information and details about new issues is also not updated. They take lot of time in uploading the image of new stamps and same is with the official website of Cochin Philatelic Bureau - Philakochi. Private website holders are smarter and quick in this respect. We all should thank 'Stamps of India' for keeping its website updated in the least possible time. It is necessary that publicity part of Postal Department must be well equipped and trained to convey their message for awareness of philately among all age groups of people.

PALLAB BOSE, New Delhi

There is a lot of hype about the recent release of the Madhubala stamp. I am pleased to announce to my other fellow collectors that my 5 frame collection on Cinema was on special display during the special launch of Madhubala's stamp function held recently at Mumbai.

But as a Cinema fan and collector, I am disappointed with the design quality of the stamp and related items.

1. The collectors only managed to get a few stamps and sheetlets of Madhubala, there is a dearth of sufficient stamps at various philatelic bureaus all over the country. why??? Does one smell some mischief? Where are the miniature sheets or booklet covers???

2. The stamp which is largely pink in colour is very tacky and the sheetlet's floral design is way below expectations. One would have imagined a B/W cinematic representation in the stamp, cancellation and sheetlet along with Madhubala's portrait. A black and white version of items would have suited the classic era of the actress. Even the yellow colour and design of the special booklet cover is very obsolete and sub standard. The FDC cancellation too does not match any standards of modern designing levels. India post has done total injustice to one of the most beautiful women of modern times.

3. It's high time the bosses and think tank at India Post pull-up their socks and hire better artists and illustrators to design their future releases.

4. One hopes to see some nice special covers and cancellations on this classic cine beauty, privately done by the philatelic clubs soon.

RAJAN JAYAKAR, Mumbai

I read your write up in your Issue # 332- March 13, 2008. While mentioning about Mr. Anil Suri being successful in taking the exhibits, which were more than 100 years old to BANGKOK 2007, you have presumed

that I was following some wrong procedure. You have not mentioned what is the correct procedure according to you which I had not followed and was followed by Mr. Anil Suri. In my case all the postal authority acted as modal agency but Department of Culture, till today has not informed me, why the permission from cultural angle was not granted to me. While making allegations of my following wrong procedure, in fairness to me and the Philatelic Community, please specify what is the right procedure and please let me also know, where you find that procedure laid down. Who has harmed India's Philatelic interest is well known to all the philatelists and in fact suitable action should action should be taken against those persons.

Please publish this explanation in your next bulletin, so philatelic community will know my reaction to the published news.

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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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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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