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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 338 - April 24, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We believe that philately cannot survive on government dole outs alone and it is the duty of every stake holder in the philatelic industry to take responsibility of furthering philately.

It is high time that Indian philatelists realize this and neither expect nor ask India Post to do everything. Let us make a beginning towards being self dependent.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: S K Mishra, Pradip Mohanty, Ajit Dash, Ashok Tiwary, Kumar Biswas, Madhukar Deogawanka, Professor Dr Kazi Shariful Alam, and Ashish Talwar

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 26: Jasmine, 2 Stamps and 1 Miniature Sheet, Scented Stamps

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.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.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.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

CIVIL SERVICE

Dr Manmohan Singh, the Prime minister of India released a postage stamp in honor of the Civil Service on April 21, 2008 at New Delhi on the occasion of the 3rd Civil Service Day.

The Prime Minister while inaugurating the third Civil Service Day said that the Civil Services need a renewed commitment in placing them on the side of the disadvantaged in society. He said that considerable process reform can be undertaken by the civil service itself to address several perception issues. Further elucidating the subject, the Prime Minister said, the challenge now is, for effective public management of the resources besides creating open, transparent and accountable systems of delivery. The inauguration was attended among others by the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Prithviraj Chavan and Minister for Communications & Information Technology A Raja.

The Prime Minister gave away the 'PM Award for Excellence in Public Administration' for the year 2006-07 to the 13 awardees in three categories - individual, group and organization. Later, he released a book on Innovations in Administration titled "Splendour in the Grass" compiled by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The book covers various innovations successfully tried out by different Ministries / Departments, state / UT administrations, national and international organisations.

A Raja informed that the Department of Posts was the first Department to be awarded 'Sevottam' - a model for benchmarking excellence in public service delivery.

An exhibition on 'Innovations in Administration' and a Display of books written by civil servants was also organized on the occasion. A film, 'Making a Difference', a collage of innovations undertaken across the country was also screened.

Following the inaugural, the technical session commenced with a talk by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, on 'Decision Making in Government: Role of Audit'. This was followed by three parallel panel discussions on - 'Recruitment and Training in Civil Service'; 'Performance Appraisal of Civil Servants' and 'Readiness of Civil Service to meet current challenges'. Secretaries of Government of India, Chief Secretaries and Heads of the all India services and the Central Services were among those who participated in the day-long deliberations.

Shankha 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 0.8 million.

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

TATA STEEL CENTENARY

Dr Manmohan Singh, the Prime minister of India released a postage stamp in honor of Tata Steel on April 22, 2008 at Jamshedpur on the occasion of its centenary.

Established in 1907, Tata Steel is the world's 6th largest steel company with an existing annual crude steel capacity of 28 million tonnes. Asia's first integrated steel plant and India's largest integrated private sector steel company is now the world's second most geographically diversified steel producer, with operations in 24 countries and commercial presence in over 50 countries.

Tata Steel completed 100 glorious years of existence on August 26, 2007 following the ideals and philosophy laid down by its Founder, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. The first private sector steel plant which started with a production capacity of 1,00,000 tonnes has transformed into a global giant .

Tata Steel plans to grow and globalise through organic and inorganic routes. Its 5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) Jamshedpur Works plans to double its capacity by 2010. The Company also has three greenfield steel projects in the states of Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh and proposed steel making facilities in Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Through investments in Corus, Millennium Steel (renamed Tata Steel Thailand) and NatSteel Asia, Singapore, the Tata Steel has created a manufacturing and marketing network in Europe, South East Asia and the Pacific-rim countries. Corus, which manufactured 18.3 MT of steel in 2006, has operations in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Norway and Belgium. Tata Steel (Thailand) is the largest producer of long steel products in Thailand, with a manufacturing capacity of 1.7 MT. NatSteel Asia produces about 2 MT of steel products annually across its regional operations in seven countries.

Tata Steel, through its joint venture with Tata BlueScope Steel Limited, has also entered the steel building and construction applications market.

The iron ore mines and collieries in India give the Company a distinct advantage in raw material sourcing. Tata Steel is also striving towards raw materials security through joint ventures in Thailand, Australia, Mozambique, Ivory Coast (West Africa) and Oman.

Exploration of opportunities in titanium dioxide business in Tamil Nadu, high carbon ferro-chrome plant in South Africa and setting up of a deep-sea port in coastal Orissa are integral to the Growth and Globalisation objective of Tata Steel.

Tata Steel's vision is to be the global steel industry benchmark for Value Creation and Corporate Citizenship.

Tata Steel is one of the few steel companies in the world that is Economic Value Added (EVA) positive. It was ranked the "World's Best Steel Maker", for the third time by World Steel Dynamics in its annual listing in February, 2006. Tata Steel has been conferred the Prime Minister of India's Trophy for the Best Integrated Steel Plant five times.

Kamleshwar Singh 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 1.3 million.

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

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Stop AIDS, Telugu

The grand total till date is now 540, with 8 added this year.

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 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008ILC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Apr 07: Berhampur, AIDS Express

A special cancellation on AIDS awareness was released by the Department of Posts at Berhampur, Ganjam to commemorate the arrival of Red Ribbon Express at Berhampur railway station on April 7, 2008. A N Nanda, PMG

and L Pradhan, Director Postal Services, Berhampur Region released the cancellation to spread the message of self awareness on HIV and AIDS among the people. All the incoming and outgoing mails were cancelled with special cancellations at Berhampur Head Post Office. A special private cover was also released by the South Orissa Philatelists' Association, Berhampur. The covers are numbered and only 130 covers have been printed. To get the said cover Venkat Rao may be contacted at his mobile No 9437455356.

Apr 22: New Delhi, Bluebells School International Golden Jubilee

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

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

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STAMP PACKS

India Post issued a pack containing a miniature sheet and a first day cover for the Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands issue of January 2, 2008. The pack was priced at Rs 75.

India Post issued a pack containing a first day cover for the Civil Service issue of April 21, 2008. The pack is priced at Rs 50.

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

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MAX CARDS

Rajk Ramineni rajkramineni@gmail.com of Hyderabad created a max card for Madhubala issue in the quantity of 200. The duly serviced card is priced at Rs 25 plus postage.

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Apr 26-27: Ludhiana, district philatelic exhibition

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

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MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

Bangladesh 2008

Apr 07: World Health Day, Tk 10,  
Designer: Anowar Hossain, Printer: Security Printing Corporation  
(Bangladesh) Ltd, In sheets of 100 by Offset

Apr 18: World Heritage The Sundarbans, 4 Stamps Tk 10 each + 2  
Miniature Sheets, perforated and imperforated, Tk 50 each,

Designer: Anowar Hossain & K G Mustafa for stamps and A T M Anowarul Quadir for border of Souvenir Sheets, Printer: Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd, In sheets of 100 by Offset

[http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south\\_asia\\_new\\_issues.htm](http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south_asia_new_issues.htm)

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ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3rd 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 or indianthematicsociety@gmail.com

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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.>

JAYDEV NANSEY, Jamnagar

I am always pleased whenever a new special cover and cancellation is issued. But my heart sinks and at times I start wondering whether we really should be so liberal with permitting special covers and cancellations?

The recent example of special cover and cancellation (SCC) of Jamshedpur came as a shocking surprise to me. I am writing the following details which each proponent of a SCC should consider before preparing their designs:

1. Special Cover Photographs should have some relevance with the cancellation and place from where the SCC is being issued. Jamshedpur cover has a picture of Dimna Lake and Cancellation is that of Zoological Park.
2. If you use local building, animals, plants, flowers, dignitaries, etc please make sure that that are authentic. Please consult good experts on the subject. Jamshedpur cancellation has all the animal species that are from Africa, African elephant, African lion, African rhino, and African water buffalo. They are evident even in the line diagram. All these species have their cousins that are found in India.

3. We need to help the Postal Department as Philatelist. If they make mistake don't just criticize them, but also give them the alternative. Talk with them and discuss the issues.

Please make our philatelic materials more interesting and reliable for philately is also a source of education.

NARESH KUMAR AGARWAL, Bilaspur

Who Says There is Competition in Competition Class in Philatelic Exhibitions

I always hear from old veteran philatelists that in philatelic competitions one has to win and the other to loose. After recently concluded INPEX 2008 an unhealthy atmosphere of competitiveness amongst the philatelists has been created by making the jurors kingpin. Ist,2nd,3rd.....yes,if only these three prizes are to be awarded in an exhibition/class of philately, I would agree that some competition would be there but in philatelic exhibitions there is mark awarding system. As in Inpex 2008 it was a grading system on the basis of marks obtained.So there can be 20 GOLD Grade exhibits out of the 40 displayed or there can be only one.What I mean is one must not forget that :

1. Every exhibit is different and not same : unlikely in competitions normally every competitor has to solve the same/similar problem or perform the same/similar thing

2. It is judgement of the individual performance on independent basis and is not comparative ; jury do not compare the exhibit with the other; may be in the same class

3. It is not like a racing competition where Ist,2nd,3rd .. are awarded. Here in philately GRADES are given in the name of Gold,Silver,Bronze etc.....

4. Competition states that one has to win and other to loose. Here no one wins no one loses because every one gets some grade or the other. Yes may be lower or higher depending upon the marks obtained during evaluation of the exhibit.

5. Once again I repeat that exhibits are displayed (in whatever class) are for evaluation of the exhibit and for display for the public.There is no question of competitiveness.

6. Yes, there may be slight difference in opinion about evaluation of the exhibits unlike in other competitive examinations where no answer sheet is on general display e.g. painting competition. In fact exhibitions are not competitions. Exhibitions are exhibitions of philatelic collections with in set frame work of display system.

7. Yes, if philatelist are asked to bring all his philatelic material they have in particular class and then like in painting competition they are asked to prepare exhibit /part of exhibit ,then I would say a competition will be there.But here in the present system of exhibiting there is no competition but only and only GRADING and this should not be recognised as competition.

Discussion on this matter can be prolonged but to conclude what I feel and mean is that though COMPETITION CLASS is there but still it is not competitive. It should be renamed as GRADING CLASS to check all the disappointment emerging out of it. Even instead of Gold, Silver, Bronze.....gradation certificates should be given. This will help organisers a lot to check their budgetary problems to a big extent.

In nut shell, I personally that feel we should not compare our exhibit with the other but see that whether our evaluation has been done properly...Further to add to this I would profess a recognised and approved evaluating agency which will certainly check this so called competitiveness.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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



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