

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 339 - May 1, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

India Post supported the recently held Stamp Show at the Outram Club, Kolkata by providing display frames, and a philatelic sales counter but very strangely did not accede the request to provide the special postmarks. The special covers were eventually postmarked with permanent pictorial postmark of Kolkata General Post Office.

Today in one part of the country it is possible to get special postmark sponsored on virtually any subject while in other parts India Post asks the sponsors to demonstrate sufficient connection to the event or item being commemorated. And even furnishing all documents and complying with all provisions of the rules in some parts of India the special postmarks may still not be approved. In some parts detailed design credits are allowed on the front of the cover, in some parts on the reverse of the cover, and in some it is not allowed at all. The list of such anomalies will fill volumes.

These rules at present can be interpreted in many different ways and in worst case scenario on whims and fancies of the person interpreting it.

India needs a national philatelic policy document along with a manual of rules and procedures and its uniform implementation all over the country.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: A R C Shah, Vinod Sabharwal, Jack Harwood, Anil Suri, Ilyas Patel, Gopal Biswas, Manik Jain, S K Mishra, N K Jareth, and Jeevan Jyoti

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsofindia.com)

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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREMATURE ISSUES ALERT

In the Issue # 329 of February 21, 2008 we reported the availability in the market before the official release of Jasmine issue which has been issued on April 26, 2008.

We also exhorted India Post to take strict action against all postal officials responsible for this sorry state of affairs to prevent reoccurrence of similar episodes in future. But it seems no action has been taken so far.

The result is that now two issues, Bismillah Khan stamp postponed from April 3, and Indian Coast Guard miniature sheet for which no date of issue is announced, are openly available for sale and purchase on internet.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

There is no issue/s expected to be released during the Week.

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 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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JASMINE SCENTED STAMPS RELEASED

Minister for Communications & Information Technology A Raja released a set of 2 postage stamps and a miniature sheet on April 26, 2008 at Chennai.

This the third issue of scented stamps after Sandalwood in 2006 and roses in 2007.

Jasmine or Jessamine (Jasminum) (from Persian yasmin, i.e. "gift from God", via Arabic) is a genus of shrubs and vines in the olive family (Oleaceae), with about 200 species, native to tropical and warm temperate regions of the Old World. The majority of species grow as climbers on other plants or on structures. The leaves can be either evergreen or deciduous, and are opposite in most species; leaf shape is simple, trifoliate or pinnate with up to nine leaflets.

In Sanskrit it is called "Mallika". In north India it is known as Juhi, Chameli, Mogra, and in South India it is called Kundumalligai and Mallepoovu. In India Jasmine is also called the 'Moonshine in the garden'.

Jasmine flowers are generally white, although some species have yellow flowers. Unlike most genera in the Oleaceae which have four corolla lobes ("petals"), jasmines often have five or six lobes. They are often strongly and sweetly scented. Flowering is in spring or summer in most species.

Its flowers are used to flavor Jasmine tea and other herbal or black tea. Its oil is also used in creams, shampoos and soaps. In India Jasmine flowers are strung together to make garlands. Women in India wear this flower in their hair. Many species also yield an absolute which is used in the production of perfumes and incense.

Suresh Kumar designed the Stamps 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 following quantities:  
Rs 5 - 1 million, Rs 15 - 3 million, and miniature sheet - 0.5 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:

Eyes, Khasi Langauge (Megahlaya)

The grand total till date is now 541, with 9 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

Mar 25-26: Kota, district philatelic exhibition, 2 covers  
For special covers, contact N K Jareth, Mobile 0 94138 26500

Apr 26: Ludhiana, district philatelic exhibition, 1 cover  
The special cover and special postmark depicting Gandhi Theme has been designed by noted philatelist of Jalandhar Nareh Kumar Pahwa. The cover is available from Mukesh Malhotra [mukeshlibra@yahoo.co.in](mailto:mukeshlibra@yahoo.co.in)

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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ARMY POSTAL ORDERS

The Army Postal Service launched a new product 'Field Postal Order' on March 2, 2007 that was its 35th anniversary. These are available in 6 denominations, Rs 2,000, Rs 3,000, Rs 5,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000. This was reported in Issue # 287 of May 3, 2007 and Issue #284 of March 22, 2007.

Recently the design of these postal orders was changed. We will be able to report the exact date of issue later. The first design, it appears, has been in use for less than a year. Naturally very few examples will be in collector hands, due both to their brief period of existence and to their very high cost

For images, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pss/postalorders1.htm>

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NEW STAMP BOOKLET

A new stamp booklet has recently been issued privately:

Cine Couple - Madhubala & Kishore Kumar  
Contents 1 Miniature Sheet and 1 Stamp  
Quantity 100, individually numbered

For an illustrated list of Stamp Booklets issued by philatelic organizations and individuals, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb99.htm>

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INDIAN EXHIBITS FOR ISRAEL 2008

In the Issue # 332 of March 13, 2008 we reported that national commissioner for TAIPEI 2008 the 21st Asian International Stamp Exhibition, held from March 7-11, Taipei, Taiwan did not follow the Department of Culture's Guidelines of June 18, 1999 regarding exhibits

going in and out of the country and consequently the Department of Culture did not issue a no objection certificate.

Apparently the case of ISRAEL 2008 World Stamp Championship being held from May 14 to 21, 2008 at Tel Aviv, Israel was also processed along with TAIPEI 2008 and met the same fate.

Thereafter the national commissioner for ISRAEL 2008 filed a writ petition in the Delhi High COURT against Union of India and others. Hon'ble Justice Rekha Sharma on April 30, 2008 passed an order wherein the respondents submitted that pending the disposal of the writ petition, they agree to allow the petitioner to visit Israel to participate in the World Stamp Championship subject to certain conditions. The petitioner agreed to abide by the conditions and was instructed to give an undertaking to this court in form of an affidavit.

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NEW MAXIM CARD

Orissa Philatelic Association and Utkal Philatelists & Numismatists Association released a set of 4 max cards for 100 Years of Satyagraha issue of October 2, 2007.

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

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INDIA STUDY CIRCLE

India Study Circle for Philately is known to all philatelists interested in Indian philately worldwide. The Circle is particularly well known for publishing original research in its periodical publication "India Post". From Peter Roake (its first editor) to Peter Leever indiapost@mac.com (the current editor) the journal has maintained high quality of contents.

With the first issue in 2008 of the India Post the Circle has delivered to its membership a compact disk entitled The India Post archive. This archive includes images of every copy of India Post and its predecessors, together with the indexes that have been published over the years. It thus gives access to the vast range of study of its members over more than fifty years.

The disk is also available from the Circle at GBP 30.

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INDIA SE-TENANT STAMPS ALBUM

Philatelia, the philatelic publishers of Kolkata, has recently published an album for housing se-tenant stamp issues of India. The album is similar to their series of India albums and is priced at Rs 800 postpaid in India including transparent protective covers for all pages. Their address is Phiatelia, One Moti Sil Street, Kolkata 700 001.

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MICHEL HONORS SHRIKANT PARIKH

Editors of Michel worldwide stamp catalogs from Germany, has presented a Certificate of Appreciation dated January 23, 2008 to Shrikant Parikh of Ahmedabad, their Correspondent in India for his contributions over thirty years.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #5, May 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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#### RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mar 28-30: Bhopal, district philatelic exhibition

Mar 25-26: Kota, district philatelic exhibition  
Arun Saxena, Divisional Manager - Western Central Railway inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> district philatelic exhibition on March 25, 2008 at Kota. Kota Postal Division organized the 2 day show at the Community Hall, P & T Colony. The jury members, senior philatelists N K Jareth of Kota along with A K Gupta of Jaipur, judged the exhibits displayed in 84 frames. M L Kalra, Vice Chancellor of Kota University awarded First Prize in Senior Group to Kalilur-rahman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize to Shubham Lodha, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize to P K Patni. In the Junior Group Akshita Dandona, Archit Gupta, Anshul maurya won the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes respectively. The show was visited by hundreds of visitors and India Post's Philatelic counter sold stamps worth Rs 22,000. Two special covers, one on each day, were released on this occasion.

Apr 18-20: Kolkata, Stamp Exhibition at Outram Club  
Outram Club launched its yearlong Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on April 17, 2008. The first activity taken up by the Club was Stamp Show organized in collaboration with Bharatiya Daktkit Sangstha. The Club closed one of its Bars to provide space for the show.

The show featured a part of the famed philatelic collection of Dipok Dey on World Cinema, along with cinema exhibits of Souvik Roy, and Subhasis Sarkar, Fabulous Calcutta Memorabilia Collection of Gopal Biswas, and Vasundhara Deogawanka's Stamps of Amazing Shapes and Materials.

Son of the legendary film maker Satyajit Ray and director, Sandip Ray inaugurated the show on April 18, 2008. He released special cover and a stamp booklet featuring Satyajit Ray and legendary Actor Uttam Kumar. He confirmed that Satyajit Ray collected stamps and he grew up with Stanley Gibbons Catalogs and Strand Stamp Albums.

Deputy Consul General of Russia, Igor Karvaev released a special cover and a stamp booklet featuring Devika Rani on April 19, 2008.

A stamp booklet featuring Hollywood Actor Charlton Heston was released on April 20, 2008.

The Special covers on sports and cinema theme were released in the quantity of 150 only and at Rs 50 a piece were sold out in no time. The booklets containing stamps worth Rs 50 were priced at Rs 100 each and released in the quantity of 500 individually numbered units. All covers and booklets were designed by Dipok Dey.

The show concluded with felicitation of Madhukar Deogawanka for winning the Grand Prize of the Championship Class and Vishwanath Jhunjunwala

for winning gold medal, both at INPEX 2008 India National Philatelic Exhibition.

There were 11 Dealers Booth doing brisk business. The club hosted daily lunch for collector and dealer participants as well as for the visitors and Bharatiya Daktikit Sangstha hosted a Cocktail Dinner at conclusion of the show.

The management of Outram Club went all out to make participation and visiting the stamp show a pleasant and memorable experience and deserve the applause of philatelic community.

Apr 25-27: Hyderabad, Coins Show

Apr 26-27: Ludhiana, philatelic exhibition

Prison and Tourism Minister of Punjab, Hira Singh Gabaria inaugurated the show organized by Ludhiana Philatelic Club in collaboration with India Post on April 26, 2008 at Bharat Nagar Head Post Office Ludhiana. The collections of distinguished philatelists from Ludhiana were displayed in non - competitive class and exhibits of youth class were displayed on different themes in competitive class. The minister sanctioned a grant of Rs 50,000 for Ludhiana Philatelic Club. The exhibition was attended by large number of philatelists and dealers from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. A special cover was issued on this occasion.

May 1-3: Pune, Coins Show

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 May 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).

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/x16.htm> for tariff and terms

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.>

SANTANU PANIGRAHI, Modipara, Sambalpur, Orissa

It has become a fashion everywhere to release a Special cover for any occasion. (Thank God, Special Covers are not allowed to be released for marriage Anniversary celebrations). The basic aim of release of any special cover is to commemorate certain events. In this regard Department of Post has prescribed rules and procedure to follow before release of Special covers, but it is seen in many occasion that no such rules or regulations are followed by the organizers. The covers and cancellation used are not related in many cases. The issue of Special Covers and cancellation are decided at the last moment and preparation is made in haste, making the cover as well as cancellation ugly. The cancellation are illegible, the printing of covers are made in thin papers with poor quality of printing. Also the sizes of the envelopes are not uniform, either long or wide making it a headache for the exhibitor, how to mount in the exhibition sheet. The basic question is that if the theme and cancellation of release is not under stood by the buyer / exhibitor, than the whole idea of issuing a special cover is defeated making it a seer waste of money and time. In some cases the cancellation cachets are lying with the organizer for their future use (Reasons better known to them). More over the local organizer's interference in preparation of special cover and cachet through local printer and seal makers are the main reason for such disappointing features. At least the cancellation should be legible showing the motif and date of cancellation. Any way the final sufferer is the philatelist who is paying the price for the covers. Ajit Kumar Dash, Editor of "THE FILA CAPSULE" has written in January- February'2008 issue about the official rules to be followed by the organizations who are intending to issue special covers. But in many cases non compliance of guidelines of INDIA POST are making the whole concern. Beside this more such write up is requiring to guide the future organizers.

We as philatelist can teach lesson to these organizers. All philatelists with unity make it a principle, that we will not buy such special covers which are of no use for the philately theme, so that future special covers will be released after much care and with compliance of proper rules and regulations. More over thematic issue of Special covers will benefit the philatelist and purpose of philately can be served.

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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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Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at 'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

The Hub Site of Indian Philately

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

Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm>

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