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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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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Sorry for running behind schedule. We are still struggling with machine that helps us produce these issues.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.  
- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vinod Sabharwal, Jeevan Jyoti, and Nikhil

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsofindia.com)  
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If you've found this publication useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this publication 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

PHILSENSEX MAY 2008

By P R Krishnan

Indeed this column just completed its first year. I hope many collectors of Indian stamps would have been benefited with the data's provided. I am planning to improve the presentation of this column in the month's to come using bar graphics. I once again thank all readers of this column for their support and I place my sincere thanks to the hundreds of people who backed me by providing the information with regard to the movement of Indian stamps in their areas.

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/philsensex200805.htm> for viewing the data.

STAMP WATCH

Just imagine the price of Madhubala sheet goes beyond Rs 1000 like other sheet-lets issued in the past - where the collectors will go for single stamp for their collection? Do they tear the sheet-let for the sake of single stamp or prefer to use the single stamp available in the miniature sheet. Use the same logic for Medicinal Plant and Aero India (issues of 2003) since these set of sheet-lets prices have already crossed Rs 5000? It is easy for the collectors to collect their single stamps from the miniature sheets! However the perforation for MS and regular stamps are the same? For long term these miniature sheet will be worth possessing.

Proposed Turtle issue (set of 2) will be issued in sheet-let format - 13 stamps per sheet-let - the format will be in Hexagonal shape. Watch this issue!

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jun 11: Rajesh Pilot

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 almost 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 to us.

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

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 in honor of saint Sai Baba on May 20, 2008.

Sai Baba's early life was enshrouded in mystery. It is stated that he was born of Brahmin parents in the Nizam's State. In infancy he was supposed to have been deserted by his parents. Sai Baba first came to Shirdi, when he was a lad of 16, and lived there for four years. Then suddenly he disappeared and after many years returned to Shirdi in 1859. Sai Baba taught only through a medium of the spoken words in the pattern of our ancient sages. His teachings and life have captured the imagination of the people in India and abroad as well. On October 15, 1918 he passed away breaking forever the barriers of existence and left behind a rich heritage of enlightened followers.

C R Pakrashi 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 quantities of 0.4 million.

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

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AGA KHAN FOUNDATION MINIATURE SHEET

The miniature sheet of the Aga Khan Foundation issue of May 17, 2008 finally started to arrive for sale at the philatelic bureaus from May 26, 2008 onwards.

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:

- May 26: Human Rights, Kannada
- May 26: Anti Tobacco, Telugu
- - : Anti Tobacco, Telugu
- - : Arogya Parivar, Hindi
- - : Plant a tree, Hindi & English

The grand total till date is now 562, with 30 added this year.

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

Following Inland Letter Cards with advertisement were recently released:

- Feb 29: Disaster Management 1, Bengali
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 1, Marathi
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 1, Gujarati
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 1, Assamese
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 2, Bengali
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 2, Marathi
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 2, Gujarati
- Feb 29: Disaster Management 2, Assamese
- Feb 29: Disaster Management, Kannada
- Feb 29: Disaster Management, Tamil
- Feb 29: Disaster Management, Telugu

Feb 29: Disaster Management, Malayalam

So far only the first 3 and last 2, a total of 5 of the 12 Inland Letter Cards listed above have been made available for sale.

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter Cards 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>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2008, visit

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

May 11: Chennai, Palani M Subramania Pillai Birth Centenary

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

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2008pm.htm>

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Army Postal Service issued following 8 Special Covers in April 2008:

- Apr 01: 1 Squadron, Indian Air Force, Platinum Jubilee
- Apr 04: 2 Battalion, Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, Diamond Jubilee
- Apr 04: Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, Diamond Jubilee & 4th Reunion
- Apr 06: 14 Battalion, The Dogra Regiment, Diamond Jubilee
- Apr 07: Artillery Center, Nasik, Diamond Jubilee
- Apr 14: 1 Battalion, Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, Diamond Jubilee
- Apr 26: Garhwal Rifles Regimental Center, Lansdowne, 13th Reunion
- Apr 29: Army Welfare Education Society, Silver Jubilee

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit

<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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FDC PACK 2007

The Annual Pack of the First Day Covers issued in 2007 was put on sale at philatelic bureaus in India on May 1, 2008. The pack includes 34 FDC with brochures. The pack is priced at Rs 600.

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NEW STAMP BOOKLET

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Division of India Post recently issued a Stamp Booklet with Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands issue of January 2, 2008. It contains 4 stamps each of Rs 5 of the Butterflies issue.

For an illustrated list of Stamp Booklets issued by India Post, visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm>

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27TH INDIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

The 27th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica returns back on April 11, 2008 having left Antarctica in the early hours of March 10, 2008. The covers mailed from the branch post office operating at the Maitri, the Indian base at Antarctica were carried with the returning team.

The total team strength of this expedition under the overall coordination and supervision of the National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa was 66 members comprising scientists, engineers, doctors and logistic support personnel. The expedition members traveled in four batches by two different modes- by air and by ship- based on the operational requirements.

First three groups flew all the way to Antarctica via Mumbai, Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa from Dabolim Airport in Goa. Their passage from Goa to Mumbai was by Air India; Mumbai to Cape Town by South African Airways and from Cape Town to Maitri, Antarctica by a chartered flight operated under Dronning Maud Land Air Network (DROMLAN) agreement.

The first contingent of the XXVII Indian Scientific Expedition comprising 6 persons departed from Goa on October 30, 2007 and reached Maitri, Antarctica in the early hours of November 3, 2007. The second contingent of 4 personnel left Goa on Sunday, November 4, 2007 and reached Antarctica in the afternoon on November 8, 2007. The third contingent of 16 members left Goa on November 11, 2007 and reached Antarctica on November 15, 2007, early in the morning.

The fourth contingent, comprising 33 members led by Arun Chaturvedi, the leader of the Expedition was flagged off by Dr P S Goel, Secretary Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences, on December 5, 2007. The chartered vessel MV Emerald Sea sailed off from Mormugao port at 13:45 IST on December 6, 2007. The expedition team was joined by two members and three helicopters with their pilots at Cape Town, South Africa.

The team is composed of institutes represented by Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research, Geological Survey of India, National Geophysical Research Institute, National Physical Laboratory, Survey of India, Centre for Space Physics, Zoological Survey of India, India Meteorological Department, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment, Indian Navy, Naval Hydrographic Office, Border Road Organisation, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Defence Electronics Application Laboratory, Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Universities of Awadh, Barkatullah, Shanti Niketan etc.

This expedition undertook specific scientific tasks at Larsemann Hills region, the site of the proposed new Indian research base as well as in central Dronning Maud Land where India has its permanent research base "Maitri" at Schirmacher Oasis region. To facilitate real time data transfer an Earth Station at Maitri has been installed. This would give direct access to the data on real time basis as also the scientific community would be able to stay connected with the happenings back home in India.

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JAKARTA 2008

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Asian International Stamp Exhibition will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 23 to 28, 2008.

Indian national commissioner is R D Binani [pmbinani@yahoo.com](mailto:pmbinani@yahoo.com) of Kolkata. The entry fee is US\$ 25 per frame and the last date to submit entry form to him was May 20, 2008.

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SATISH MISHRA AUCTIONS

Satish Mishra is now selling through eBay India, and eBay.com and his seller ID is manali283. He is not holding postal auctions due to other preoccupations.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #6, June 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

May 30: Kolkata,

Rajesh Jhunjhunwala's National Gold Medal winning collection will be at display at Park Hotel, Kolkata on May 30, 2008. It is a part of a jugalbandi exhibition of painting, sculpture, currency notes and stamps, being organized by ABN-AMRO Bank.

May 31- Jun 2: Kolkata, CINEPEX-2008

Mrinal Sen, doyen of Indian Cinema will inaugurate the United Nations' Award winning Stamp Designer, Dipok Dey's Solo Philatelic Exhibition on World Cinema on May 31, 2008 at 5.30 pm at Ashutosh Birth Centenary Hall, Indian Museum, Kolkata. The Exhibition is being organized by Kolkata Utsav, a Bengali Cultural News Magazine in collaboration with Cine Central, Calcutta. The exhibition will continue till 2nd June 2, 2008. More than 450 sheets will be displayed in this exhibition in thirty unconventional frames.

The exhibition is being organized to celebrate the Birth Centenary of Legendary Bengali Actress and co-founder of The Bombay Talkies Ltd. DEVIKA RANI. On May 31 at 6.30 pm the film 'Achhut Kanya' starring Devika Rani and Ashok Kumar will be shown.

The organizers applied for bringing out a Special Cover on Devika Rani, but the 'competent authority' of the West Bengal Circle of India Post regretted it without assigning any reasons. However the organizers will bring out a Stamp Booklet.

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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WADP ROUND TABLE

Avi Hochman, President and the CEO of Israel Post and Louis Virgile, Chairman of the Round table of the World Association for the Development of Philately opened the Round Table on May 18, 2008 at Tel Aviv, Israel.

The focus of the Round Table was 'The Importance of the Innovation in Philately'. Te representative of the postal administrations of France, Switzerland, and Israel, and of security printers Cartor and Enschede gave interesting presentations on the subject.

Jean-Francois Logette, Philately & IRC Program Manager, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) presented a review of activities undertaken since 23<sup>rd</sup> UPU Congress, survey results of World Numbering System (WNS), and resolution drafts for consideration at 24<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress.

There are 225 stamp issuing authorities from 191 UPU members. 184 stamp issuing authorities have already joined WNS and 5 more are expected to join it shortly. The WNS lists 230 stamp printers worldwide.

There will be a competitive class for postal administrations at world philatelic exhibitions and International Philatelic Federation has agreed to introduce the same at next world show at Bucharest in June 2008. This class will be judged by 4 judges, 2 from UPU and 2 from FIP.

The resolution drafts for consideration at 24<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress at Geneva, Switzerland in July 2008 pertain to development of philately, philatelic code of ethics, and defining the status of stamp to keep pace with the developments. UPU is going to ask its members to provide legal framework for personalized stamps.

Dr Balzs Bodai who was instrumental in getting the law changed in the USA to enable the postal service to issue charity stamp for the breast cancer was a special invitee to the Round Table. Dr Bodai after the unprecedented success of the US stamp has taken his mission global and has successfully persuaded 8 postal administrations to issue stamp for this noble cause. He presented the case for issuing a stamp for breast cancer to enhance public awareness and to raise funds for research to fight the dreaded disease.

The Round Table was attended by the representatives of WADP partners, International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP), International Federation of Stamp Dealer Associations (IFSDA), International Association of Security Printers (InterGraf), UPU and about 20 postal administrations. The FIP and International Association of Philatelic Publishers (ASCAT) were not represented in this Round Table.

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IRC DESIGN COMPETITION

The International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is organizing a design competition for the next International Reply Coupon (IRC) due to go on sale in 2009. The IRC currently in circulation will expire on December 31, 2008 and need to be replaced. The theme chosen for this competition is "The Postage Stamp - A Vehicle for Exchange".

The last date to submit a design by the participating postal administrations is June 15, 2008. The heads of delegations of UPU members present at the 24th UPU Congress will form the international jury for selecting the design for the next IRC. The winning postal administration will receive free of charge 10,000 of the new IRC.

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SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

Bangladesh 2008

May 22: Imamat of Prince Karim Aga Khan Golden Jubilee, Set of 4 stamps, Tk 3, 3, 6, & 6

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

WANTED India Stamp Booklets of King Edward VII, King George V & VI, Unexploded, exploded, and in all conditions,
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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.>

Captain VIJAY WADHWA, Ahmedabad

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=230254721138&ssPageName=ADME:B:EF:US:1123> I saw this item on eBay and thought you might be interested in highlighting this blatant case of Immoral Trafficking, in your journal. Several Indian Dealers are seen indulging in getting personalized stamps in the name of Gandhi and selling at exorbitant prices. Why are we in for such doomed philately?

P R KRISHNAN, Coimbatore.

I am not writing something new about Pre mature issues of Indian Commemorative since this is there in our Postal Philatelic Division since ages. The editors of this news letter have several times mentioned on this and it seems the India Post is not bothered to take effective steps to prevent and failed to take action against the offenders. These premature issues on philatelic point of view may look good if happen once in blue moon but now a days every issue which reaches certain postal circles are released before the issue dates, some times 2 to 3 months before - example the issues of Jasmine, Coast Guard etc. Another interesting aspect is that the errors on these issues are also coming into the market comfortably. Why India Post is not taking effective steps to stop this unethical practices performed by their staff in spite of making them know the facts through this media? Are they hand in glove with the offenders? For the sake of promotion of Indian philately the philatelists and dealers should come



forward to discourage this practice not buying or selling these items and should inform the name of the person/s who handle these items to Department of Post for necessary action.

NARESH KUMAR AGARWAL, Bilaspur

Philatelic bureaus had been opened and are still being opened at places to serve the philatelic community at local level mainly and to promote Indian philately in general but again at local level. As many as 54 philatelic bureaus are opened so far along with philatelic counters all around in India.

The basic functioning of the bureau is to provide Indian philatelic material to the philatelists such as stamps, S/s, M/s, FDC's., cancellations etc. primarily to their members as well as to other local genuine philatelists. Department has its motto to promote philately at first and then the sale of stamps too to earn revenue also. But of late, it is seen that department has changed its motto i.e. to supply material to the Philatelic Dealers who then do a sought of BLACK MARKETING of the philatelic material as they either store it for some time or sell it to their overseas clients at premium. This temporary storage creates an atmosphere of desperation and then prepares Indian buyers to buy at much much higher price. Here the main thing to be noted is that even the members having account in bureau are deprived of the delivery of such material. Now this happens as dealers and the dealing clerk at bureau have their connivance/setting. I have seen dealers sending their persons to far off places to buy the material on the date of issue or just after that.

Several account holders are buying material at premium from outside as either the material is not sent, and if sent, it is sent quite late that too in damaged/bad condition.

A problem of premature issues is also a good setting by the department and the dealers which certainly deprive the genuine philatelist from its delivery and further cost much higher when bought from outside. Also sometimes the delivery is not made with a plea that relevant order not reaching them. All in all, so many excuses are there to help the dealers or to harass the philatelists.

Even the internal set ups of the bureau is not convincing, lack of sitting space and space for display. The bureau should have enough good sitting arrangements for the philatelists, should have sufficient material for display, information board for the recent development, good cheerful person available all the time not only to give material but to entertain/handle the visitors properly. But leaving aside a few, most of the bureaus lack all this.

In Bilaspur Chhatisgarh, the bureau person handles 3/4 job sitting there only on the same table where files are spread, the bureau is never found cleaned up as one can found thick dust spread all over even on the so called sofas kept there, one could see a temporary canteen too inside with heater, cups, plates etc. kept and most importantly the harsh look and the non co-operative behavior of the dealing clerk (Only with the genuine philatelists and not dealers). Further, may be the bureau has never sent material to the account holder and the initial money deposited is still with them.

Either the department should close this concept which does not promote philately at all or should look in to the matter seriously. Some people might say, this can be sorted out locally but no because the dealer network is so badly spread that a strong collective action at Directorate level will only help.

I call for comments and views from the reader's and look forward for a strong step from Mr. Jhingan

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>
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NEWSSCAN

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

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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The Hub Site of Indian Philately

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

Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

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

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

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

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

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