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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 344 - Jun 5, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Environment is an area of concern for everyone these days and June 5 is celebrated as the world environment day across the globe. The postal administrations of the world in their own way have been contributing to bring about awareness about environmental issues through different stamps. Each one of us must contribute in our own way to this cause.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vinod Sabharwal, Dr Satish K Sondhi, Manohar Lal, Akhilesh Arka, and Madhukar Deogawanka

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

TORTOISE SURPRISE

The sheetlets of India's first hexagonal stamps depicting Aldabra Giant Tortoise are available in the market for almost a month now. These stamps are yet to be officially released for sale by India Post.

For images of Indian premature issues, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/premature.htm>

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INDIA CHINA JOINT ISSUE

China will issue a set of 2 stamps on June 6, 2008 of China India Joint Issue. The issue first appeared on China's new issue program for 2006 and was postponed to 2007 and then to April 20, 2008 as reported in Issue # 320 of December 20, 2007 of this digital weekly. India Post has not yet announced a date of issue of its stamps.

The stamps in the denomination of 1.20 Yuan will feature China's White Horse Temple and India's Mahabodhi Temple. White Horse Temple was the first Buddhist temple in China, established under the patronage of Emperor Ming in the Eastern Han capital Luoyang in the year 68. It is believed that in the year 64 of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), Emperor Ming sent a delegation of his men to study Buddhism in the western world. After three years two eminent Indian monks, She Moteng and Zhu Falan came back with the delegation. They brought with them a white horse carrying Buddhist sutras and Buddhist figures on its back. It was the first time, Buddhism appeared in China. The emperor built a monastery as an act of thanks to the two monks.

The Mahabodhi Temple is a Buddhist temple in Bodh Gaya, the location where Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, attained enlightenment. Bodh Gaya is located about 96 km (60 miles) from Patna, Bihar state, India. Next to the temple, to its western side, is the holy Bodhi tree. In the Pali Canon, the site is called Bodhimanda, and the monastery there the Bodhimanda Vihara.

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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 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 POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

- - : Anti Tobacco, Telugu

The grand total till date is now 563, with 31 added this year.

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

2 more Inland Letter Cards, in Marathi and Gujarati, carrying the Disaster Management advertisement were made available for sale this week bringing the total to 7 out of 12 as reported in issue #343 of May 29, 2008 of this digital weekly.

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

Jan 11: Bangalore, International Conference in Autism  
Feb 16: Holalkere, Taralabalu Hunnime  
Mar 28-30: Belgaum, district philatelic exhibition 3 covers  
Mar 29: Agra, Rotary International - Polio Free World  
May 05: Bangalore, St John's Church, 150th Anniversary

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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DEVIKA RANI STAMP BOOKLET

Bharatiya Daktikit Sangstha, Kolkata released a Stamp Booklet on May 31, 2008 on the occasion of the CINEPEX - Dipok Dey's Solo Philatelic Exhibition on World Cinema. The booklet designed by Babul Dey commemorates the birth centenary of Devika Rani, the first ever dream girl of Indian Cinema. The booklet contains 10 definitive stamps of Rs 5 and is priced at Rs 100. The booklet is produced in the limited quantity of 200 only.

For an illustrated list of stamp booklets, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb99.htm>

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AUCTION ACTION

Stanley Gibbons <http://auctions.stanleygibbons.com/> are holding a public auction sale on June 26, 2008. There are xx lots of India & States.

Ulrich Felzmann <https://www.felzmann.de/en/> is hooding an auction sale #121 on June 12-14, 2008. There are about 10 lots of India.

H R Harmer [www.hrharmer.com](http://www.hrharmer.com) will be holding auctions on Jun 6 and 7, 2008 that have few worthwhile India lots.

Spink [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com) will auction Gerald Sattin's Soldiers Rates of the British Empire collection on June 4, 2008.

Harmers [www.harmers.com](http://www.harmers.com) held an All World Stamps and Postal History Auction Sale on May 28, 2008. There were several important and interesting lots of India (60), Indian Princely States (45), and Indian airmails (12).

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

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NEW SPEED POST AND INSURED POST ENVELOPES

India Post launched customized protective envelopes for Speed Post and Insured Post on May 30, 2008 at New Delhi. The envelopes are in 2 sizes each for Speed Post and Insured Post and costs Rs 5 & Rs 8 and Rs 8 and Rs 10 respectively. These envelopes offering enhanced security and protection to the contents enclosed will soon be available to the customers in various Post Offices and Speed Post Centers across the country.

These envelopes are made of an innovative material, DuPont's Tyvek, with product qualities like water, tear, and abrasion-resistance, soft and smooth texture for excellent printability, environment-friendly and light-weight. The new Insured Post envelope with customized tamper-evident features is a very good option for sending secured consignments.

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NEW FRANKING MACHINES

India Post introduced two models of Remotely Managed Franking System Machines, one each from Neopost and Piney Bowes on May 21, 2008 at New Delhi. Forbes, another manufacturer is also planning to introduce its franking machine very shortly. These machines have been fully tested as per the laid down specifications and cleared by the Electronic Testing Machinery under the Department of Information Technology. This new generation digitally operated franking system, on which these machines are based, has been appropriately named "Digi Frank Plus".

These new franking machines will use digitally controlled inkjet printing technology and will print a clear, clean, dynamically bar-coded secure frank that may even be used to offer track and trace by the India Post.

RMFS primarily means that the franking machines based on this system would not be required to be physically carried to the post office for crediting. The network that India Post is setting up with the help of the franking machine manufacturers, will enable the new technology

franking machine user to remotely credit his machine through dial up or any other network while sitting in his office.

The system involves setting up of Remote Resetting Centers by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). India Post will set up their own Center for electronically receiving fund deposit instructions from the State Bank of India, which is the designated bank for receiving payments for the franking machine credits. The franking machine users will deposit funds through cash, cheque, draft, internet banking in any branch of the State Bank of India across the country. The bank will pass on the details to the India Post Server which will authenticate the transactions and pass the necessary instructions to the OEM's Remote Servers. The users will simply connect their machines to the OEM's server through a telephone line and download the required funds from their accounts maintained at the Remote servers. The complete transaction will take between 60-90 seconds only. The entire transactions are managed electronically, involving no manual intervention. It is fast, it is convenient and it is absolutely secure.

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BUS, RAIL & AIR TICKETS AT POST OFFICES

Indira Krishnakumar, the Principal Chief Post Master General of Tamil Nadu Circle of India Post launched the sale of bus, rail, and air tickets at post offices on May 26, 2008. Tamil Nadu Circle has tied up with a private ticketing service, ARM i-Solutions, for this service being launched as a pilot project. The service will initially be available at 27 post offices in Chennai region and 10 post offices in Tiruchirapalli region before expanding it to Coimbatore and Madurai regions. Soon, hotel bookings and car rentals will also be provided by these post offices.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

STAMPS TODAY, Whole #17, Jan Feb 2008  
STAMP TODAY, Whole #8, Jul Aug 2006  
Editor: vijay h seth  
Publisher: vijay h seth, New Delhi  
Annual Subscription: 180

The last issue reported was the Whole #13 (May Jun 2007) in this digital weekly's Issue #303 of Aug 23, 2007, and Stamp Today's issues # 14, 15, & 16 have not been published yet!

Stamp Today's Whole #7 (May Jun 2006) was reported in this digital weekly's Issue #297 of July 12, 2007 and Stamp Today's issues # 9, 10, 11, & 12 have not been published yet!

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March 28-30: Belgaum district philatelic exhibition

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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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for June 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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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, Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA deogawanka@satyam.net.in

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.>

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

It has been more than five months to Inpex-2008. We had lot of opinions, reactions and sometimes over-reactions on judging of the exhibition. But as it is said that time is in itself the cure of all woes. We are able to forget our deepest disappointments, failures losses and frustrations as the time passes. It is good that many of us have forgotten their bitter experience. Now I am not going to provoke or repeat what has already been discussed in this esteemed column. But through this column I humbly request the members of Jury who read this column, to give their opinion too on the difficulties they face at the time of judging.

It's a fact what we assumed the basic cause of dissatisfaction among the participants on judging was due to insufficient time given to the judges to evaluate large number of exhibits and the number of judges was quite less than the required number of judges to evaluate several groups of exhibits. Now it is their turn to give their opinion if the existing system imposed by India Post with the kind advice of some senior philatelists, is correct or it needs to be moderated? What they think?

No member of Jury replied to either personal letters sent to them by participants nor did they ever try to express their views through any

of the philatelic publications. It's a healthy discussion not a rivalry fight between the exhibitor and a judge. The judges' opinion will certainly give a satisfactory answer to the exhibitors. The misunderstanding between the two will be solved to some extent.

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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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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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