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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 351 - Jul 24, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have the privilege of publishing in this issue, Dipok Dey's request under Right to Information Act regarding INPEX 08, the national philatelic exhibition organized by India Post, and the response of the Principal Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai.

We invite your comments on this correspondence.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vinod Sabharwal, Rajesh Paharia,

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

Jul 31: Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi  
Aug 02: Aldabra Giant Tortoise, set of 2 stamps + miniature sheet  
Aug 21: Ustad Bismillah Khan

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

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Jul 21, 2008 to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 14 Battalion of Punjab Regiment of the Indian Army.

This battalion was formed out of irregular forces maintained by the ruler of Nabha. These forces fought against Mughal armies at Muktsar and Sirhind in 1708 to help Guru Gobind Singh, the 10<sup>th</sup> Guru of Sikhs. Hamir Singh, the then ruler, formed a regular brigade group out of these forces in 1757. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions were named 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nabha Akal Infantry.

Maharaja Hira Singh reorganized the Nabha Brigade and in 1878 and Nabha Akal Infantry was named Hira Bera. It was once again renamed 1<sup>st</sup> Nabha Akal Infantry in 1889. The Nabha Contingent was reorganized as Imperial Service Troops. The 1<sup>st</sup> Nabha Akal Infantry saw action in Basra in April 1918 during World War 1. The battalion was called upon to proceed on active service for the British Crown against General Nadir Khan of East Persia in 1919. The battalion took active part in operations during World War 2 and came out as victors of Italian campaign.

After the independence of India the unit was integrated with Indian Army in 1951. It was designated as 14 Battalion (Nabha Akal) of Punjab Regiment on January 26, 1954.

The battalion took part in action in Fazilka sector in 1965 war and in Garibpur (Bangladesh) in 1971 war. The battalion carried out counter insurgency operations in North East Frontier Area in 1974-1976 and in Manipur in 1998-2000. The battalion was part of United Nations Peace

Keeping Force UNAVEM III in 1995-1996. It has recently returned victorious from a hazardous high altitude area of Jammu & Kashmir where it was deployed.

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 quantities of 0.8 million each.

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:

National Tobacco Control Program 1, Marathi  
National Tobacco Control Program 2, Marathi  
National Tobacco Control Program 3, Marathi  
National Tobacco Control Program 1, Punjabi  
National Tobacco Control Program 2, Punjabi  
National Tobacco Control Program 3, Punjabi

The grand total till date is now 636, with 105 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

Jinwani, a religious monthly magazine in Hindi published from Jaipur introduced a commemorative meter frank on June 15, 2008. A limited number of covers were created for philatelists with 00 in the stamp imprint and hand-stamped 'specimen'. These covers are available with Rajesh Paharia

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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PRIVATE FIRST DAY COVERS

Sunil Joseph of Kottayam, [sunilstamp@gmail.com](mailto:sunilstamp@gmail.com) brought out 2 different first day covers for Madhubala issue of March 18, 2008 in the limited quantity of 50 each.

Jigar Desai of Bombay, [jigarjdesai1977@gmail.com](mailto:jigarjdesai1977@gmail.com) created a first day cover for the miniature sheet for India China Joint Issue of July 11, 2008.

For illustrations of all FDC issues of 2008, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/fdc/fday2008.htm>

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NEW STAMP BOOKLET

Sunil Joseph of Kottayam, [sunilstamp@gmail.com](mailto:sunilstamp@gmail.com) brought out a stamp booklet for Madhubala issue of March 18, 2008 in the limited quantity of 50 each.

For images of all stamp booklets issued by philatelic organizations and individuals please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb99.htm>

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PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology will meet on July 30, 2008 at New Delhi.

Originally the Committee always had at least 4 philatelists from four corners of the country as members and on several occasions 5 and 6 philatelists have been inducted. The philatelic Trade also has been represented by 1 or 2 members on most occasions.

However in the current committee of 44 persons, the number of philatelists has come down to 2 - Dr Sita Bhateja and Sahadeva Sahoo - after the demise of 2 other members - N K Jain and G B Pai while there is no representative of philatelic trade.

India Post should have a clear policy for the selection of philatelic stake holders for the Philatelic Advisory Committee.

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NEW DIRECTOR AT PHILATELY DIVISION

Manju Kumar joined as the Director of the Philately Division at India Post HQ on June 25 2008 in place of Neeraj Kumar. She is an officer of Indian Postal Service from 1989 batch.

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INDIAN PARTICIPATION ABROAD

India is participating in OLYMPEX 2008 at Beijing with following 10 exhibits in 35 frames including 2 in Youth class and 2 in Philatelic Literature class.

- Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Summer Olympic Games
- Shalini Sharma's The Olympic Spirit-100 Years of the Games
- T N Prahlada Rao's Summer Olympics
- T N Prahlada Rao's Summer Olympics-Game's Wise
- M Jagannath's Images of Summer Olympics
- Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Sports in the Modern World
- Gautham K Achar's Cycling
- Varun Balakrishnan's The Olympic Games
- Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Sports
- Dinesh Chandra Sharma's The History of Olympic Games through Philately

Dinesh Chandra Sharma is national commissioner for India.

For details of Indian Participation in international exhibitions please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2%20shows%20calendar.htm>

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NEW PRICE LISTS

P C Jaiswal doing business as Philatelic Centre, Kolkata  
[philcent@rediffmail.com](mailto:philcent@rediffmail.com) has announced the availability of following  
price lists at nominal prices (deductible from purchases over Rs250).  
The numbers of pages are listed within brackets, followed by price in  
Rupees.

List of collections India/Indian states & worldwide Rs10

British India (2) Rs10

India post stamps (10) Rs25

British India Postal Stationery (envelope) (3) Rs10

Post cards (4) Rs12

Indian Convention States Stamps (3) Rs 10

Indian Feudatory states (3) Rs 10

Cochin (3) Rs 10

Travancore (4) Rs 12

Travancore Cochin (2) Rs 10

Indian State Postal stationery post card (4) Rs 12

/Envelope (4) 12/-,

Indian states Fiscals (11) Rs 25

Bangladesh stamps (4) Rs 12

Burma (2) 10

Ceylon-Sri Lanka (7) Rs 20

Nepal (4) 12/-;

Pakistan to 1971 (4) Rs 12

Bahrain (4) Rs 12

Kuwait (6) Rs 15

Singapore (3) 10

Lighthouse (German Stamp & Coin Accessories, Stock books etc, Free

For a list of auctions in India, please visit

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

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE FILA CAPSULE, Vol 3 #3, May Jun 2008, BiMonthly

Editor: Ajit Kumar Dash [akdash2000@yahoo.com](mailto:akdash2000@yahoo.com)

Publisher: Eastern India Philatelists' Association, Bhubaneswar

Life Subscription (including membership): Rs 1,000

VADOPHIL, Whole #114, Apr 2008, Quarterly

Editors: Prashant H Pandya [vadophil@indianphilately.net](mailto:vadophil@indianphilately.net) and

Timir R Shah [trs\\_shah@rediffmail.net](mailto:trs_shah@rediffmail.net)

Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society, Vadodara

Annual Subscription (including membership): Rs 100

STAMPS TODAY, Whole #18, Mar Apr 2008, Bimonthly

Editor: Vijay H Seth

Publisher: Vijay H Seth

Annual Subscription: Rs 180

The issues, # 9, 10 (all of 2006), 11, 12, 14, 15, & 16 (all of 2007)  
have not been published yet!

For a list currently published Indian philatelic periodicals, please  
visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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#### FROM PIN CODE TO PAL CODE

India Post is considering a proposal involving a new concept of postal code for the country to improve sorting and delivery of mails. The new code is tentatively named Personal Address Locator Code or PAL Code.

Currently six-digit Postal Index Number or PIN Code is used in India that was introduced 36 years ago in 1972. The PIN Code is a static code and has been found to be inadequate in meeting the challenges of today's mail movement and for future growth.

India Post has made available a 50 page presentation as pdf file on its website <http://www.indiapost.gov.in> for download and invite your views on this proposal. Please mail your views to Brigadier Y P S Mohan, VSM, Deputy Director General (P O, I & MM) [deputydgpoi@gmail.com](mailto:deputydgpoi@gmail.com) by August 4, 2008.

The final decision in this regard will be taken by the competent authority only after examining the views of stake holders and weighing various pros and cons.

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#### RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 1-3: Coimbatore, Coin & Stamps Show

Aug 8-10: Puduchery, Coin & Stamps Show

Aug 15-17: Bangalore, Coin & Stamps Show

Sep 12-14: Mysore, Coin & Stamps Show

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

#### MEETINGS

A numismatic exhibition titled 'Money through Ages' was held at Mangalore Head Post Office in Pandeshwar recently as part of the monthly meeting of Dakshina Kannada Philatelic and Numismatic Association (DKPNA) on July 13, 2008. The exhibition featured coins of ancient India, that is, of various Janapadas. M Jayaprakash Rao showcased very rare coins of various Janapadas like Saurashtra, Gandhara, Magadha, Chola, Chera, Rajaputana, Kadamba and so on. There were punch mark coins in copper of Magadha during the Maurya era, rare punches with human and serpent figures, Yadava gold coins, silver coins of Negiri chiefs, the Banavasi coins supposed to be of Pre-Kadamba period and many other rare items. M K Krishnayya showcased coins of the Wodayars of Mysore and Vijayanagara empire. Prabhakar Kamath had a fine collection of the 17th century Chera coins.

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

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#### 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)

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

INPEX 2008

To,  
Ms. Kalpana Tiwari  
Deputy Director General (Grievance Cell)  
India Post, Govt. of India  
Dak Bhawan,  
Parliament Street  
New Delhi 110 001

Sub: Application under R.T.I. Act

Dear Madam,

India Post organized a National Philatelic Exhibition from 2nd to 7th January 2008 at Chennai. Organizing such exhibition to promote Philately is always welcome and is appreciated. However some irregularities and mismanagements were noticed.

You are requested to clarify the following points with supporting documents.

- 1) Please provide me the detailed Income and Expenditure account of the exhibition.
- 2) Detailed Expenditure made on Postal Staff engaged in Mounting and Dismounting.
- 3) Detailed Expenditure incurred on regular and apprentice Jury
- 4) Specification (metal contents & weight) of each category of medals and amount incurred.
- 5) Amount Spent on Grand Prize of Championship Class & other special prizes. Para: 7.11 on Page 13 of "Hand Book on Philatelic Exhibitions" of India Post states "The art object selected for Grand Prizes,----- -- shall be of quality and style appropriate to a philatelic exhibition organized or recognized by India Post" Do you think that the Grand Prize of Championship Class of Inpex - 2008 was up to the requisite standard? Why proper attention was not paid? After a lifetime of efforts, research, time & money very few is able to achieve Grand Prize of Championship Class.

During Indipex - 73 the Grand Prize's cost was some Rs. 25,000, it was a Ivory Tusk carved in the shape of a boat. The last Inpex - 2001 at

asik, the Grand Prize Trophy was more than 1½ Kilogram of silver and what a shabby Grand Prize of Inpex - 2008.

Enclosed herewith please find a Postal Order No. 64E 242587 dated 09.06.08 for Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten) towards the prescribed fee. Any Charges for photocopying will be paid by me on receiving the intimation as per the guidelines of R.T.I. Act.

You are requested to send the reply at earliest.

Thanking You.

Yours Sincerely

Dipok Dey

Editor  
Stamp World  
107/2 Raja Rammohan Sarani  
Kolkata 700 009

In response the Office of Principal Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai furnished the following details vide their letter of July 14, 2008.

To  
Shri Dipok Dey  
Editor  
Stamp World  
107/2 Raja Rammohan Sarani  
Kolkata 700 009

No. PHIL/11-15/02/08-09 dated at Chennai 600002 the 14-07-08

Sub: Information under RTI on INPEX-08-reg.  
Ref: Your Application dated 13.6.2008

The information called for in your letter cited under RTI Act is furnished below:

1. The Income and Expenditure Account of Inpex 2008

Income

Allotment received from the Directorate: Rs 4,600,000  
Amount collected through Entry Fees, Fee for Dealer Booths,  
Advertisements for Souvenir, Sponsorships, and Donations: Rs 1,962,357  
Total: Rs 6,562,357

Expenditure

INPEX Secretariat: 1,885,862  
Hall & Security Committee: Rs 947,297.40  
Reception Committee: Rs 993,391  
Publication Committee: Rs 432,161  
Allotment Committee: Rs 74,114  
Exhibit Committee: Rs 253,038.75  
Souvenir Committee: Rs 38,600  
Trade Committee: Rs 166,413



Publicity Committee: Rs 585,113  
Award Committee: Rs 279,977  
Jury Committee: Rs 446,255  
Youth Promotion: Rs 377,849  
Anna Road Philatelic Bureau: Rs 61,293  
Total: Rs 6,541,364.15

(Apart from the above, certain bills which are under correspondence are yet to be settled.)

2. Expenditure made on Postal Staff engaged in Mounting and Dismounting  
Number of Volunteers for mounting and dismounting: 165  
Expenditure incurred on postal staff engaged in mounting and dismounting: Rs 124,348.75

3. Expenditure of Incurred on Regular and Apprentice Jury  
Boarding and Lodging for Jurors at Chennai for 7 days: Rs 206,877  
Travel & other expenses for Jurors: Rs 26,316  
Reimbursement of Travel Charges from jurors' place of residence to Chennai and vice versa (for Regular Jurors only): Rs 102,953

4. Specification (Metal Content and Weight) of each Category of Medals and Amount Incurred  
Weight of Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver Bronze, and Silver: 35 grams  
Weight of Large Vermeil, and Large Silver: 135 grams  
Amount Incurred: Ra 229,025

5. Amount spent on Grand Prize of Championship Class and other Special Prizes  
Amount spent on two Grand Prizes: Rs 2,500  
Other Special Prizes (1 Trophy & 1 Cup): Rs 1,378  
Other Special Prizes: Rs 11,100

Appeal, if any, may be made within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter to Director of Postal Services, (HQ), Office of Principal Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai 600002.

R P Chitra Devi  
Assistant Director (Phil) & CPIO  
For Principal Chief Postmaster General,  
Tamilnadu Circle,  
Chennai 600002

#### READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

RAJESH PAHARIA, Jaipur

I am happy to note one more collector on India's National Flag. The number noted in Limca Book of Records is from 3 year old proposal although as on date there are 137 items of foreign origin in my collection. I am sure that Mr Chakraborty being senior to me has new information and issues to add and hence would request him to provide a list so that we can mutually add to each other's information. As originally planned, the items image would be linked to 'Stamps of India' and our both contribution and also many other India Flag theme collectors' help will make the list comprehensive.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN INDIA

By Sangeeta Deogawanka

A new version of Part 1 of this ongoing series has been uploaded. The new version is revised and enlarged with additional information recently acquired in course of continuing research. Future updates scheduled envisage adding visuals to the series.

All 10 parts published so far are available at  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/readroom/SDHPC.htm>

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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>

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

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037  
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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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