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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 355 - Aug 21, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

India Today the popular weekly news magazine in its issue dated August 18, 2008 did a two page story 'Stamp of a scam' by Mihir Srivastava. It is also available online at the following link [http://indiatoday.digitaltoday.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&Itemid=1&task=view&id=12729&sectionid=36&issueid=66&page=archieve](http://indiatoday.digitaltoday.in/index.php?option=com_content&Itemid=1&task=view&id=12729&sectionid=36&issueid=66&page=archieve). It is about stamps being available in the market months before they are officially released by India Post.

We have regularly been reporting events of this nature for years and have reported the premature stamps mentioned in India Today about six months ago in February 2008.

However we do wish that a magazine of India Today's stature to have balanced coverage which this story unfortunately does not have. It is possible that 10 persons are selling premature issues online and possibly 90 more are selling them offline; then why signal out only one person? Why not do some more investigation? Why not list more names of persons who are selling these stamps?

We also believe it is a good journalistic practice to talk to those you write about. In this case Mihir Srivastava didn't even speak to Vinod Sabharwal to get his version or explanation. We find this strange. The slant of the story appears to be as if Sabharwal is the only person distributing stamps months before their release and it seems as if he is the only one who has managed a steady supply from the philatelic bureau New Delhi.

We consider premature sale of stamps a serious offense. The stamps which come out of postal treasuries before the issue date are sold by mistake sometimes by some post office usually due to the rescheduling of the issue information not reaching on time and this use to happen once in a while. However the regular availability of almost all issues in quantity in recent times indicates the involvement of postal employees. It is a clear case of embezzlement in the postal treasury. What steps, if any, have been taken by India Post to stop this ongoing pilferage is not known?

We firmly believe that inaction of the postal officers on the large scale premature supply of Guru Granth Sahib in 2005 emboldened the postal employees, stamp dealers, philatelists, and investors. Even a catalog publisher in India has listed this premature issue with full catalog status as any other regular issue. India Post did issue orders that this particular issue is not valid for postage, cannot be exhibited in philatelic exhibitions, and will be seized by India Post, however this was a mere formality. Strangely these orders were confidential and were not communicated to philatelic community!

First of all to deal with the problem of premature stamps it is required that the officers responsible in India Post should relearn to accept responsibility for their actions or inactions and any orders issued to deal with the premature issues should be given maximum possible publicity as well as strictly adhered to.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jaydev Nansey, O K Prakash, Robin Aggarwal, and Ajay Agrawal

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

- Aug 21: Bismillah Khan, Rs 5
- Sep 15: Sardar Patel National Police Academy

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, Oriya  
Small Savings, Oriya  
AIDS, Oriya

The grand total till date is now 649, with 118 added this year.

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

Following Inland Letter Card with advertisement were recently released:

AIDS, Oriya

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

Jun 05: Itanagar, World Environment Day 2008

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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ITS INSTANT AUCTION SALE

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com) is holding an Instant Auction Sale closing on September 6, 2008. The auction features modern India and foreign thematic issues.

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

PHILATELIC HANDBOOK ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

Just published is 'Philatelic Handbook on Indian Railways' by Vikas Singh [vikas.singh@reckittbenckiser.com](mailto:vikas.singh@reckittbenckiser.com). The 32 page all color art paper publication is very well produced. The handbook showcases development of railways in India as featured on stamps. The book is available for Rs 200 postpaid (in India) from the author.

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POST OFFICES NAMED AFTER SAI BABA

Robin Aggarwal has compiled a list of Indian post offices named after Sai Baba. There are 19 post offices almost all are in Maharashtra, with 16 in Mumbai. Outside Maharashtra there is 1 in Karnataka, and 1 in Tamil Nadu. The additions are welcome.

The information is provided in the following format:

Name of post office, Pincode, City, State, Remark if any

- 01 Shirdi, 423109 Ahmednagar, Maharashtra,
- 02 Sai Baba Mandir Road, 560028, Bangalore, Karnataka
- 03 Sai Baba Tekadi, 400051, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 04 Sai Baba Lane, 400054, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 05 Sai Baba Nagar (Borivali), 400092, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 06 Sai Baba Road, 400051, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 07 Saibag, 400067, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 08 Sai Dham Marg, 400009, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 09 Sai Dham Wadi, 400004, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 10 Sai Dham Wadi, 400064, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 11 Sai Hills 400078, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 12 Sai Road, 400050, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 13 Sai Nagar, 400067, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 14 Sai Nath Chowk, 400070, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 15 Sai Nath Road, 400064, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 16 Sai Nath Wadi, 400084, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 17 Shree Sai Dham Wadi (Bapti Road Cross Lane), 400004, Mumbai, Maha
- 18 Shri Sai Dham Wadi (Duarts Quarters), 400004, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 19 Sai Baba Mission, 641011, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

The following post offices are not related to Sai Baba but to SAI - Sports Authority of India:

- 01 SAI Complex, 700098, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
- 02 SAI, 342034, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- 03 SAI Camp, 262403, Nainital, Uttrakhand

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PROJECT ARROW BY INDIA POST

India Post has launched a series of fully upgraded and completely new look Post Offices in the services of the rural people. Called "Project Arrow", the launch aims to re-vitalize the post office network and enable it to play a larger role in socio-economic transformation of the country. These new age Post Offices are meant to serve as a window to the world for the common man by focusing on their needs. The Minister of Communications & Information Technology, A Raja inaugurated Project Arrow in Post Offices at Perambalur and Geetha Mahal, Kallankurichi Road, Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu. The Minister of State for Communications & IT, Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated the Project at Murar Head Post Office (Gwalior), Morena, Shivpuri, Guna and Ashok Nagar in Madhya Pradesh.

Under the project, India Post has identified 50 post offices in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, North East, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand covering 10 Postal Circles. By the end of the current year, 500 such Post Offices will get operational in the country. Strict adherence to the timelines is part of the strategy.

These post offices are being given a thorough make over both in terms of "physical look and feel" and upgrading service delivery through IT enabled procedures. Identity branding including a new logo and a new slogan, designing of exteriors and interiors, upgradation of computer hardware and software, improvement in delivery of services and upgradation in connectivity are the main features of the Project Arrow. The post office in rural areas will henceforth be a single window facility for banking, money remittance, transmission and delivery of information. Besides providing traditional services in a modern, more efficient and technology based mode, the post offices will also form an indispensable part of all social and civic initiatives such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Old Age Pension Scheme. The stress is on creating a conducive and friendly work environment for both staff and customers.

Project Arrow has twin objectives: to transform India Posts into a vibrant and responsive organization and to make a visible and positive difference in postal operations to benefit the customers. Nearly 89% of the network of India Post is in rural areas. Project Arrow is expected to bring the rural populace in direct communication with the outside world and bring benefits of development to their doorsteps. The Project is being seen as a significant step towards realization of India Post's motto - "Dak Seva-Jan Seva" (postal service - people's service).

Project Arrow will provide the necessary impetus to other post offices to ensure that the formidable network of the Department of Posts becomes a seamless technology driven India-wide network. A Steering Committee and a Core Team have been put in place in the Ministry of Communications and IT to monitor implementation of the Project at all stages.

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PIN CODE DIRECTORY 2008

The India Post PIN Code Directory 2008 CD was released on July 25, 2008. The Directory maps over 150,000 post offices in India to PIN Codes and provides useful information about the post offices.

The Features of this product include, PIN Code database downloadable in Excel (csv) format. It would be possible to integrate the database with mailing lists of organizations, so that PIN codes can be added or corrected in the addresses; Search, View and Print options for PIN Codes of states and districts including individual PIN Codes; Printing of selected range of PIN Code information; and Free PDF version of the book, 'The India Post Ready Reckoner'.

The package can be installed in Desktop (Single System) or Server Client mode. All prerequisites for installation are provided in the CD.

Free updates and upgrades will be provided for a period of 3 years for registered customers. Customers need to register at:

[www.ptcinfo.org/pincodedirectory](http://www.ptcinfo.org/pincodedirectory), after purchase of CD. Free support through email for a period of one year will also be provided.

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GUNTUR NUMISMATIC & PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Guntur Numismatic & Philatelic Society now meets at Kanna Concept School, 3/2, Arundelpet, Guntur 522002 every month on 2nd Sunday at 6 pm. For more information please contact M V S Prasad, Secretary, Phone 09866710379 [prasad\\_mandali@yahoo.com](mailto:prasad_mandali@yahoo.com)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 15: Akola, India's Freedom Struggle

Ajay Agrawal celebrated India's Independence Day by exhibiting 80 pages of his award winning exhibit "India's Freedom Struggle" in Kothari Convent, Akola. It was viewed by nearly 1500 students, teachers, and parents, comprising of 7 schools. They were indeed surprised to see freedom fighters many of whom they have not even heard of before. Agrawal says the joy he got was somewhat more than winning a Medal. The photographs of the event are on show at

<http://www.orkut.co.in/AlbumList.aspx?uid=15355327103229432314>

Sep 12-14: Mysore, Coin & Stamps Show

Nov 21-23: Thrissur, Philatelic Exhibition, THRISSURPEX-2008

Participation: Open to Kerala State, 100 Frames

Organizer: Philatelic Club Thrissur, part of their 30 year celebrations

Venue: Pandi Samootha Madhom, Thrissur

Dealers Booth: Rs 3,000 (limited to 15 dealers only)

Philatelic issues: 1 Special postmark Mahatma Gandhi theme

Contact: [philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com](mailto:philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com)

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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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

INDIA POST & RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Subhash Chandra Agrawal of Delhi is the Guinness Record Holder for most letters in newspapers. He has written score of letters on postal and philatelic matters as well. Here we reproduce his recent submission regarding his petition to the Information Commissioner under Right To Information Act documenting his experience seeking information from the Philately Division of India Post.

Honourable Shri M M Ansari ji  
Information Commissioner  
Central Information Commission  
Club Building, Old JNU Complex  
NEW DELHI-110067

Re Petition Number CIC/MA/C/2008/00276; Submissions in response to first hearing held on 06.08.2008

Respected Sir

Kindly refer to reply number 43-1/2008-Phil dated 05.08.2008 filed by Deputy Director General (Philately) while seeking adjournment on behalf of Department of Posts on my petition Number CIC/MA/C/2008/00276 earlier fixed for hearing on 06.08.2008 (12.10 pm).

1. It is wrong to suggest that a reply dated 04.02.2008 from Department of Posts was in response to any of my RTI petitions dated 17.12.2007 and 28.02.2008 now before the Honourable Commission under section 18 of RTI Act. In fact, reply dated 04.02.2008 was in response to my other petition also of 17.12.2007. Though even this reply was also late, yet the petitioner did not cover that very petition also dated 17.12.2007 for which a late reply dated 04.02.2008 has been mentioned by the Respondent.

2. Respondents have for first time in their letter dated 06.06.2008 responded to my query raised in my RTI petition dated 17.12.2007 about multi-denomination stamp-sheets requiring reasons for having stamps of more than one denomination in one stamp-sheet when users of different denominations are different, and about proportion of such stamp-sheets lying unsold. Reply though inconclusive was late by more than five months. Respondents have failed to give reasons for issuing multi-denomination stamp-sheets when users of different denominations were different, and it was admitted that such multi-denomination stamp-sheets were lying unsold with the Department. Directions may kindly be given to respondents to provide reasons for a practice which is contrary to interest of the Department and users of postal services.

3. Respondents replied to my RTI petition dated 28.02.2008 about violation of rule number 72(4) at chapter VIII 'Miscellaneous' of Handbook on Philately issued by Department of Posts, in issuing of commemorative stamp in honour of late Shri Murasoli Maran in regime of his son Shri Dayanidhi Maran as Union Communication Minister when the rule was not to issue any such stamp before ten years after death of a personality exception being heads of state. It is shocking to note that the learned Appellate Authority at Department of Posts in its order

dated 06.06.2008 did not take it as violation of rule! It is of significance that list of 96 such cases of commemorative stamps issued before ten years of death of a personality, as provided by the CPIO, mentions the word 'exception' on such issuance of commemorative stamps for heads of nation and also heads of government and father of nation even though rules allowed such exemption only for heads of state. A copy of TOI report 13.06.2008 on the matter is enclosed for kind ready reference. It may be mentioned that India is a democratic republic rather than a monarchy-ruled state, and a Union Minister cannot have discretionary power to violate rules framed for the Department concerning his Ministry. I appeal that information regarding violation of rules by Department of Posts should be admitted and made public.

It is prayed accordingly.

Regards

SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL  
(Guinness Record Holder for most letters in newspapers)  
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Web www.subhashmadhu.com

08.08.2008

c.c. Shri RRP Singh, Deputy Director General (Philately)

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READERS FORUM

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

M V S PRASAD, Guntur

At the outset, I on behalf of the members of our society and Philatelists in general, express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the service your organisation has been doing for the development of the wonderful hobby through the website. Through this altruistic website, we were able to keep ourselves up dated of the information on philately which the Postal department has been unable to do. It is an established fact, the due to the latest pastimes generated by the computer and internet, young school children and the present day youth are not even aware of the wonderful and educative hobby of philately. We hope and wish you will continue to put all efforts to keep the waning hobby of Philately alive and kicking for the benefit of future generations.

We at Guntur, are trying our best to create interest among the school kids on Hobbies in general and Philately in particular through various activities of the society. Recently i.e. on the 8th of June, a Philately and Hobbies Club was started at the Kanna English Medium School, Guntur (An institution with over 1600 students up to class X). The club, affiliated to our Society was inaugurated by the Mayor of our city and over 200 students interested in various hobbies including Philately, Numismatics, drawing etc. came forward to actively take up their hobbies. A one-day exhibition and Workshop was well received by the budding kids. The Society is planning taking initiatives to start



more such clubs at some more schools in Guntur and hope we will be able to succeed in bringing more children into the fold.

CAPTAIN RAKESH BAIS, Pune

It is interesting to note that despite the article in India today and assurance by Minister of State (Jyotiraditya Scindia) Pune GPO was not even aware of release of Coast Guard Stamps on August 12 and I had to return back empty handed. I went from Lonavala 70 Km away).

To add to injury was the fact that Olympic stamps were not available as late as on August 12. I think people are right when they say they are going to give up collecting Indian stamps.

JIGAR J DESAI, Mumbai

I would like to point out a mistake in newly issued postage stamps of Indian Coast Guard. In Hindi it says that Indian Coast Guard Organization was formed in 1st February 1977 but in English it says that Indian Coast Guard Organization was formed in 1st February 1877. It has a gap of 100 years in Hindi and English versions. Why India Post does not check final write up before sending it to print?

NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

I endorse the comments of Mrs. Jeevan Jyoti that the declaration of NATIONAL in 2009 is alarming. Certainly the approach towards appointment of jury, number of jury, class of jury, the standard of jury and of coarse approach of the jury is the matter which needs to be carefully rectified and so an n important issue. I would suggest that India Post should invite senior, unbiased, broadminded and seriously concerned philatelists to be consulted before appointment of jury because these philatelists represents the philatelic community which is actually seriously concerned with the matter.

Secondly I would like the readers and all concerned to seriously go through all previous articles published n this newsletter after INPEX 2008 and put before the India Post some of the ideas to bring in some most desirable changes in INPEX 2009 to benefit the philatelists and participants in general especially the aggrieved ones.

Detailed views in this regard will follow in next newsletter.

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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>

The Times of India, Aug 17, 2008

HIS HOBBY SPREADS MESSAGE OF ROAD SAFETY

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Chennai/His\\_hobby\\_spreads\\_message\\_of\\_road\\_safety\\_/articleshow/3372444.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Chennai/His_hobby_spreads_message_of_road_safety_/articleshow/3372444.cms)

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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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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