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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 356 - Aug 28, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The issue # 1 of this digital weekly was dated August 28, 2000 and thus with this issue we begin the 9<sup>th</sup> year of publication.

We sincerely hope that during these 8 years this digital weekly has been able to serve in some small way the philately in India and Indian philately worldwide.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: M Jagannath, Akhilesh Arka, Dinesh Chandra Sharma

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

STEEP HIKE IN FOREIGN POSTAL RATES

The charges for foreign post will go up with effect from September 1, 2008. The basic (20 grams) airmail letter overseas will now cost Rs 25 up from Rs 15 that is an increase of 67%. Aerogramme will now cost Rs 15 up from Rs 8.50, an increase of 77%. Airmail Postcard will now cost Rs 12 from existing Rs 8, an increase of 50%.

#### REVISION OF FOREIGN POSTAGE RATES

##### 1. Revised Foreign Surface Postage Rates Applicable To All Foreign Countries

###### (I) Letters

Up to 20 grams: Rs 20.00

For every additional 20 grams or part thereof up to 500 grams: Rs 8.00

For every additional 100 grams or part thereof up to 2 KG: Rs 30.00

###### (II) Small Packets

Up to 100 grams: Rs 40.00

For every additional 100 grams or part thereof up to 2 KG: Rs 30.00

###### (III) Printed Papers

Up to 20 grams: Rs 10.00

For every additional 20 grams or part thereof up to 500 grams: Rs 5.00

For every additional 100 grams or part thereof up to 2 KG: Rs 20.00

###### (IV) Blind Literature Packets: Exempted from postage

###### (V) Post Card (Single)

(i) Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan: Rs 4.00

(ii) APPU Countries except those referred to in (i) above: Rs 6.00

(iii) All other Countries: Rs 7.00

\*Note: Details of Asian Pacific Postal Union Countries - Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China (People Republic), Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Republic), Laos (Republic), Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Island, Srilanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia and Vanuatu

##### 2. SAL (Surface Air Lifted)

For the Postal articles to be sent by Surface Airlifted (SAL) mail, the surcharge of Rs 4 for 20 grams or part thereof for all countries other than SAARC countries shall be charged in addition to normal surface mail rates

##### 3. Bulk Bag Applicable To All Foreign Countries

Not exceeding 5 kg: Rs 350.00

Per kg exceeding 5 kg: Rs 100.00

##### 4. Air Mail

The rates of postage and air mail fees specified below shall be chargeable on postal articles posted in an Indian Post Office for transmission by air routes, to the countries and places mentioned below and to which such mode of transmission is available

###### Airmail Postcard

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan: Rs 8.00

All countries except Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan: Rs 12.00

Aerogramme: Rs 15.00

Air Surcharge on Letters for every 20 grams or part thereof

SAARC countries: Rs 3.00

All countries except SAARC countries: Rs 5.00

Note: Details of SAARC countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

The Service "Registered Newspaper" has been discontinued.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

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 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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BISMILLAH KHAN STAMP RELEASED

The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs five on the celebrated musician Shehnai Maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan on his death anniversary on August 21, 2008 at New Delhi.

Bismillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916 at Bhirung Raut Ki Gali, in Dumraon, Bihar as the second son of Paigambar Khan and Mitthan. His ancestors were court musicians and used to play in Naqqar khana in the princely states of Bhojpur, now in Bihar. His father was a shehnai player in the court of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh of Dumraon Estate. He received his training under his uncle, the late Ali Baksh 'Vilayatu' a shehnai player attached to Varanasi's Vishwanath Temple.

Khan was perhaps single handedly responsible for making the shehnai a famous classical instrument. He brought the shehnai to the center stage of Indian music with his concert in the Calcutta All India Music Conference in 1937. He was credited with having almost monopoly over the instrument as he and the shehnai are almost synonyms.

Khan had the rare honor of performing at Delhi's Red Fort on the eve of India's Independence in 1947. He also performed Raga Kafi from the Red Fort on the eve of India's first Republic Day ceremony, on January 26, 1950. His recital had become a cultural part of India's Independence Day Celebrations, telecast on Doordarshan every year on August 15th. After the Prime Minister's speech from Lal Qila (the Red Fort,) in Old

Delhi, Doordarshan would broadcast a live performance by the shehnai maestro. This tradition dated from the days of Pandit Nehru.

Bismillah Khan was conferred with the highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' in 2001. He was earlier awarded Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi (1994), Talar Mausiquee from Republic of Iran (1992), Padma Vibhushan (1980), Padma Bhushan (1968), Padma Shri (1961), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1956), Tansen Award by Government of Madhya Pradesh, Three medals in All India Music Conference, Calcutta (1937), and "Best Performer" in All India Music Conference, Allahabad (1930).

Bismillah Khan had honorary doctorates from Banaras Hindu University, Visva Bharati University, and Santiniketan.

He played in almost every capital city across the world. He also participated in World Exposition in Montreal, Cannes Art Festival, and Osaka Trade Fair. His 80th birthday was celebrated by World Music Institute in New York.

Khan had a brief association with movies. He played the shehnai for Dr Rajkumar's role of Appanna in the movie Sanaadi Appanna. He acted in Jalsaghar, a movie by Satyajit Ray and provided sound of shehnai in Goonj Uthi Shehnai.

Khan is one of the finest musicians in post-independent Indian Classical music and one of the best examples of hindu-muslim unity in India. Though a pious Shi'ite Muslim, he was also, like many Indian musicians, regardless of religion, a devotee of Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and the arts, and often played at temples, including the famous Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, on the banks of the river Ganga.

He passed away on August 21, 2006 at the age of ninety. The Government of India declared one day of national mourning on his death. His body was buried at Fatemain burial ground of old Varanasi under a neem tree with 21-gun salute from Indian Army.

Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, instituted the 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' in 2007, in his honor, for young artistes in the field of music, theatre and dance.

C R Pakrashi 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 0.4 million each.

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

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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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For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2008pm.htm>

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For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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INDIA WINS 10 MORE MEDALS AT OLYMPICS

The OLYMPHILEX is a world class Olympic and sports philatelic exhibition. The first OLYMPHILEX was held at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The first was the only noncompetitive show and with 2nd exhibition onwards all have been held on competitive basis. The 2nd was held in 1985 at Lausanne, Switzerland. The 3rd edition of OLYMPHILEX was held at Rome in 1987. Since holding of the fourth OLYMPHILEX during the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988 it has been an integral part of the Olympic Games. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> OLYMPHILEX were held at Barcelona, Atlanta, Sidney, and Athens respectively.

International Philatelic Federation (FIP) and International Federation of Olympic Philately (FIPO) have cooperated for some editions of OLYMPHILEX. However FIP had registered OLYMPHILEX in 2001 as a trademark and is not a part of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition which is now named OLYMPEX.

OLYMPEX the Olympic Expo Beijing 2008 was held under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), China Olympic Committee, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, and China Post Group. It was held in coordination with the International Federation of Olympic Philately (FIPO) and the IOC Commission for Philately, Numismatic and Memorabilia.

IOC president, Jacques Rogge inaugurated OLYMPEX, the Olympic Expo Beijing 2008 on August, 8 2008 in the morning. IOC Honorary President Juan Antonio Samaranch was the Chief Guest at closing & prize giving ceremony. There were 3 Championship medals - Gold, Silver, and Bronze were awarded to three gold medalists after a secret voting.

Organizing Committee of OLYMPEX 2008 appointed Dinesh Chandra Sharma of Lucknow as national commissioner for India. For the first time, ten exhibits from India, 5 from Lucknow and 5 from Bangalore, participated in an exhibition held during the Olympics. India won 1 Vermeil, 5 Silver including 1 each in Youth, and Open, and 2 in Literature class; and 4 Bronze medals including 1 in Youth class.

Vermeil Medal

Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Summer Olympic Games

Silver Medal

Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Sports in the Modern World

Dinesh Chandra Sharma's Sports (Literature Class)

Dinesh Chandra Sharma's The History of Olympic Games through Philately (Literature Class)

Shalini Sharma's The Olympic Spirit-100 Years of the Games (Open Class)

Gautham K Achar's Cycling (Youth Class)

Bronze Medal

T N Prahlada Rao's Summer Olympics

T N Prahlada Rao's Summer Olympics-Game's Wise

M Jagannath's Images of Summer Olympics

Varun Balakrishnan's The Olympic Games (Youth Class)

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

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POST OFFICES DELIVER BANK LOANS

India Post and the State Bank of India (SBI) have launched a unique joint project in Punjab to provide banking facilities in the unbanked areas. The rural masses in the state can now access the loan and deposit schemes of the State Bank through post offices. The facility has already been set up in 43 post offices. The target is to extend the arrangement to 600 more post offices. Post Masters of rural postal branches have been specially trained for this purpose.

The joint venture mainly focuses on rural customers who are in need of loans but unable to reach banks. The post offices will carry out all the front office jobs for the State Bank relating to loans and deposits, including disbursement of loans. The loans will, however, be sanctioned by the SBI.

Post Offices are already handling the SBI Mutual Funds. There are over 3,900 post offices in Punjab.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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: Pandy Samoocha 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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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.>

ASHOK BOSE, Mississauga, Canada

After many years the Indian athletes and sportsmen have brought laurels to the country by winning medals in the Olympics held at Beijing. India post can celebrate this achievement by overprinting the four stamps on the Miniature Souvenir sheet as under:

1. The Olympics torch stamp can be overprinted with the number of medals won like ONE GOLD followed by TWO BRONZE on the next line.
2. The wrestling achievement can be mentioned on the archery stamp with the name of the winner followed by WRESTLING and if necessary the category & medal type.
3. The boxing and shooting achievement can be overprinted on the respective stamps with the name of the winner, category and medal type.

India Post has printed one million of the miniature sheets. Surely they have several thousand left in their stock which they can overprint.

If they intend to overprint, they should ensure the following:

1. Overprinting in one place and not like REFUGEE RELIEF where we have several versions of the same overprint.
2. Adequate logistics for equal distribution of the overprinted stamps in all the philatelic Bureaus so as to avoid half a dozen dealers in conjunction with corrupt postal employees buying up the complete lot and then selling them at a premium on EBay.

This will not only adequately encourage future Olympians but also create an innovation by India Post.

GOVIND SHARMA, UK

It was interesting to read about India Today. I appreciate the action taken by Mihir Srivastava. This thing happens in India only. I have not heard of any other country pre-issue selling on the market before date.

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

It refers to your editorial published in Issue No. 355 of this digital weekly. It is very good that you explained the facts very clearly to

the readers. I have also gone through the article published in India Today "Stamp of a Scam" about the leakage of stamps before they are officially issued. I felt very bad to read the article and found that it was totally unfair on the part of a philatelist, the way he tried to defame the name of a another philatelist. The philatelic community of India must protest against it.

We are all aware of the fact that it has become a common practice these days of availability of Indian stamps in the philatelic market. These stamps are sold at high prices and many philatelists love to collect them for their own pleasure. No dealer compels them to purchase them. It is their own choice whether to purchase them or not.

The article states that such issues are mostly leaked from Delhi Philatelic Bureau popularly known as Dak Bhawan which is not true. Such issues are leaked in all parts of the country at different places. This fact is known to all philatelists. The writer has not investigated the fact properly. Before giving the article in such a reputed magazine, the writer must have investigated properly.

The leakage of these confidential items is due to the negligence of higher authority and connivance of Postal Staff. If they do not offer these items how a person can purchase them. So it is important that the high officials of India Post make rigorous rules for new issues. There are some Postal Administrations of certain countries which do not even disclose the image of the stamp on their websites before the official date of issue. If these stamps are sent to the bureau just a day before the issue date or India Post takes a decision to issue new release at a single specific place, this can be easily checked. After the issue of the stamps at a specific place, these stamps should be distributed to different philatelic bureaus of the country.

In my opinion any philatelist or dealer should not be blamed for this. It starts from their end only when they get them in their hands. Who is primarily involved in providing them these items? - It is the employees of Postal Department itself. The dealers are not going to steal them from the Treasury of the Post Office. Like stamps many other items like coins, antiques, paintings, and celebrities' personal items are sold at very high prices in open market and auctions. People purchase them just because of their passion. No one compels them to purchase such items. If one rationally thinks of these items with a cool mind, he/she definitely would feel that it is of no use paying such high price for them. The same is with the stamps, its value is only for a philatelist who has a passion to acquire them. For a common man he would never like to pay high amount for small bits of paper.

It is more important to check this irregularity in different philatelic Bureaus of the country. I think if strong steps are taken, it could be checked to a great extent. However, India Post is doing very well by issuing all pre-decided stamps which were in the queue for immediate release but were being postponed for unknown reasons. It is also the responsibility of every philatelist to avoid such illegal and pre-released issues and help India Post in providing best service to the philatelists.

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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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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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