

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 361 - October 2, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

For the first time in 9 years we have a guest in this space. We reproduce an interesting message from Veriori of Sweden that was originally contributed to the All-Nations Stamp Club on MSN <http://groups.msn.com/allnationsstampclub> on October 1, 2008.

#### THE WORLD CRISIS AND STAMP COLLECTING

Hello Friends - long since you heard from me, but today I have an important issue to discuss. Please note that what is written about politics and economy is not for a discussion of such issues we have decided not to deal with here, but it is the necessary background for the text about stamps during the present world crisis. You know, as a comparison, you can't discuss the behavior of a child without taking into consideration its home and its parents!

Economic crisis is the word spreading around the world like wildfire - only those who have power to do something about it seem to hide their heads in the sand like an ostrich.

And our Swedish minister of finance said yesterday: "Sheer and brutal greed and a careless risk taking, first of all in American banks, has got an influence on the whole world economy, and a stronger international mechanism of rules will be needed."

What has this to do with stamp collecting? We are not supposed to discuss political issues here. But this is much more than a political issue, it has to do with the very foundations of our economy. And here, stamp collecting comes in. The fact that the whole world - through the international market - is in the hands of people who have enormous

power is something we can hardly do anything about as individuals. But we are stamp collectors - what does it mean in the present situation?

Shares in the stock market, paper money and such like are very uncertain values, even real estate is at risk. What about stamps? I feel sure that stamps, like precious metals, is a more secure object of investment. We usually think about stamps because we love them for what they are, value is not always a priority with many of us. But now, people who have no experience from stamps will ask us about stamps for investment, because they are scared and insecure.

I think old stamps in general will remain valuable and probably prices will be on the rise. US stamps more than 50 years old are interesting, newer US stamps are not, due to the high numbers issued. Some thematic will be attractive, sports and animals and a few others, they are always in demand. And the stamps of India and China are getting more and more attractive due to the positive trends in the markets of those countries.

These are not my own ideas, I have taken them from experts who have published their recommendations in newspapers and magazines. I would like to see what you think about the matter!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sangeeta Deogawanka, Mrityunjay Mishra,

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

- Oct 07: Festivals of India, 3 Stamps
- Oct 12: 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Youth Games Pune, 4 Stamps
- Oct 13: Philately Day - 'Post Office' by Rabindranath Tagore
- Oct 16: Food Safety Day
- Oct 18: 19<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Games New Delhi 2010
- Oct 22: Infantry Day
- Oct 25: National Police Academy, 2 Stamps
- Oct ??: T V Ramasubba Iyer

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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COURSE ON PHILATELY

India Post's Postal Staff College conducted a Course on Philately on September 29 and 30, 2008. The faculty included V S Saksena, former Member (Operations) of Postal Services Board, R R P Singh, Deputy Director General (Philately), Kavery Banerjee, Director of the Postal Staff College & former Deputy Director General (Philately), and Madhukar Jhingan. The topics covered were 'Perspective on Philately & Philatelic Products in the Indian Context', 'Philatelic Market in India', 'Promotion of Philately - Approach in 11th Five Year Plan', 'Promotion of Philately - Role & management of Philatelic Bureau, - Role of the Divisional Head, - Role of Region / Circle', 'Organizing & Budgeting for a Philatelic Exhibition', and 'Promotion of Philately - A Customer's Perspective'.

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The complete illustrated listing 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>

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

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NEW BOOK ON RAILWAY PHILATELY

Justice Chandrashekar Dharmadhikari, former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court released 'Dak Tiketon Ka Safar - Railway per Vishesh Nazar' (The Journey of Postage Stamps - A Special Look on Railways) by Anoop Krishna Jhingron, General Manager of Western Railway on September 30, 2008 at Mumbai. M S Bali, the Chief Postmaster General of Maharashtra Circle of India Post presided over the release function. Shacheendra Tripathi, Editor of Navbharat Times and Dhirubhai Mehta, President of Philatelic Society of India were the distinguished guests at the

function. Senior railway officials from Central and Western Railway were also present on this occasion.

The book is in Hindi and is published by Public Relations Department of Western Railway. It is priced at Rs 400 and is available from the publishers at 20% discount. Please contact Ajay Solanki Telephone 022-22097656 from Monday to Friday between 9.30 am 6 pm for your orders.

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AUCTION ACTION

Philatelic Trade & Publications Pvt Ltd ptppl@vsnl.net of Bangalore is holding 31st Postal/Spot Auction on October 12, 2008. The auction catalog is available at www.ptppl.in.

Also available on their website is their Price List containing over 1100 stamps available for sale in single, pairs, blocks and in multiples, subject availability of stock.

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

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #10, October 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/>

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2-3: Chandigarh, ONE FRAME EXHIBIT STAMP EXHIBITION
Organizer: Chandigarh Philatelic Club
Venue: 4th floor, GPO, Chandigarh
Time: 9 am to 5 pm on all the days
Dealers Booth: Rs
Contact: Rakesh Walia rakeshwaliastamps@gmail.com

Oct 13-15: Surat, Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 14-15: New Delhi, Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 17-19: Bangalore, Philatelic Exhibition
Venue: Basava Bhavan, High Grounds, Near Chalukya Hotel Circle

Oct 23-25: Jaipur, Inter School Schoolpex-2008
Venue: St. Xavier's School
Contact: Rajesh Paharia shreeshell@hotmail.com

Oct 25-26: Bhubaneswar, Eastern India Philatelic Exhibition EIPEX-2008
Organizer: Eastern India Philatelists' Association, Bhubaneswar
Venue: Jayadev Bhawan, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar
Philatelic issues: 1 Special Cover on Oct 25
Details: The exhibition will be a non-competitive one and is limited to the members of EIPA only. All the participants will be given a

certificate of participation with a commemorative medal or memento. The details of prospectus, entry forms, and inventory forms are available in the website <http://eipadownload.blogspot.com>. The last date of submission of entry forms is October 15, 2008. A souvenir will also be released for the occasion.

Nov 7-9: Mumbai, Numismatic Exhibition
Venue: Sunderbai Hall, Near Income Tax Office, Churchgate

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: Pandya 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

Nov 28-30: Coins, Numismatic Exhibition
Organizer: Delhi Coin Society
Venue: Bapu Sewa Sadan, Panchkuian Road,
Timings: 10 am to 6 pm
Visit: www.delhicoinsociety.com
Contact: delhicoinsociety@gmail.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>

THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for October 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.

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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]
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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

WHO SAYS THERE IS COMPETITION IN COMPETITION CLASS?

By Naresh Agrawal, Bilaspur

I always hear from old veteran philatelists that in philatelic competitions one has to win and the other to lose. After recently concluded INPEX 2008 an unhealthy atmosphere of competitiveness amongst the philatelists has been created by making the jurors kingpin. 1st, 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup>, yes, if only these three prizes are to be awarded in an exhibition/class of philately, I would agree that some competition would be there but in philatelic exhibitions there is mark awarding system. As in INPEX 2008 it was a grading system on the basis of marks obtained. So there can be 20 Gold Grade exhibits out of the 40 displayed or there can be only one. What I mean is that one must not forget that:

1. Every exhibit is different and not same: unlikely in competitions normally every competitor has to solve the same/similar problem or perform the same/similar thing. And also the things are not to be performed instantly. In fact, this is evaluation of the work done by a participant
2. Independent judgment/evaluation and is not comparative: It is judgment of the individual performance on independent basis and is not comparative; jurors do not compare the exhibit with the other; may be in the same class
3. it's a grading/evaluation system: It is not like a racing competition where 1st, 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup> awarded. Here in philately Grades are given in the name of Gold, Silver, Bronze etc. that's all. No 1st, 2nd, 3rd.
4. No winner, No Loser: Competition means that one has to win and other has to lose. Here no one wins and no one loses because everyone gets some grade or the other. Yes, may be lower or higher depending upon the marks obtained during evaluation of the exhibit.
5. Evaluation of the exhibits only: Once again I repeat that exhibits are displayed (in whatever class) are for evaluation of the exhibit and for display for the public. There is no question of competitiveness.
6. No instant performance: As already stated above, there is no instant performance to be given by the participant. It's again evaluation of the work done, submitted beforehand and placed for public display.

Yes, there may be slight difference in opinion about evaluation of the exhibits unlike in other competitive examinations where no answer sheet is on general display e.g. painting competition. In fact exhibitions are not competitions. Exhibitions are exhibitions of philatelic collections within a set framework of display system.

7. Yes, if philatelists are asked to bring all their philatelic material they have in particular class and then like in painting

competition they are asked to prepare exhibit /part of exhibit on the spot, then I would say a competition will be there. But here in the present system of exhibiting there is no competition but only Grading and this should not be recognized as competition.

Discussion on this matter can be prolonged but to conclude what I feel and mean is that though Competition Class is there but still it is not competitive. It should be renamed as Grading Class to check all the disappointment emerging out of it. Even instead of Gold, Silver, Bronze, grade certificates should be given. This will help organizers a lot to check their budgetary problems to a big extent and also the jurors won't have any pressure upon them to fit the judgment with in the stipulated medal lot provided to them by the organizers.

In nutshell, I personally feel that we should not compare our exhibit with the other but see that whether our evaluation has been done properly. Further to add to this I would profess formation of a recognized and approved evaluating agency comprising of different people/philatelists which will check this so called unhealthy competitiveness.

I conclude this by quoting that there can be 90 Gold medals for 90 participants depending upon their valuation.

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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.>

HEMANT V KULKARNI, Milwaukee, USA

I've been saving stamps from various envelopes, sleeves, wrapper envelopes received from India. Since I live in the US often these typically possess a relatively high face value with nice designs and décor on a larger size than the typical Rs. 5.00 denomination stamps. When I tried to unglue these by simple cold water immersion technique, often the colour of the envelope bleeds into the loose stamp making it unworthy of my granddaughter's hobby collection. Your reader base seems elite and well read on the subject of professional stamp collecting and related literature. I wonder if anyone can suggest a method by which the above problem can be circumvented? Just clipping that portion of the glued stamp from an envelope isn't good enough of an alternative for a child's mind.

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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>

STAMPS ON MAHATMA GANDHI IN 150 COUNTRIES

http://in.news.yahoo.com/20/20081001/1416/tnl-stamps-on-mahatma-gandhi-in-150-coun_1.html

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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

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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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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