ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 363 - October 16, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

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India Post is getting more ambitious by the day. It now plans to issue 110 stamps in 2008. So the new maths looks like this- 38 stamps have already been issued in the first 9 months of the year while 72 stamps are scheduled for release during the remaining 3 months!

And now consider this. If you had purchased £1000 of Northern Rock shares one year ago it would now be worth £4.95, with HBOS, earlier this week your £1000 would have been worth £16.50, £1000 invested in XL Leisure would now be worth less than £5, but if you bought £1000 worth of Tennents Lager Beer one year ago, drank it all, then took the empty cans to an aluminum re-cycling plant, you would get £214. So based on the above statistics the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and re-cycle.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Gautam Rohatgi, Rishi Chandiok, N Kalyani,

We invite your inputs, please email to writeback@stampsofindia.com

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.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GURU GRANTH SAHIB STAMPS

Lieutenant General Muhammed Javeed, Chairman of the Evacuee Trust Property Board announced that Pakistan will be issuing a stamp dedicated to Guru Granth Sahib on October 20, 2008 as part of the program to commemorate the 300th Gurta-Gaddi event. He was speaking on October 9, 2008 at the $474^{\rm th}$ birth anniversary function of Guru Ram Das, the $4^{\rm th}$ Guru of Sikhs that was being celebrated at his birth place Gurdwara Chuna Mandi Sahib in Pakistan with great fervor by the Sikh Sangat from India and Pakistan jointly.

On the other hand India has developed cold feet and has decided not to issue stamps on 300th Gurta-Gaddi event. This proposal was considered at the meeting of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology held on July 31, 2008 at New Delhi.

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Oct 16: Food Safety Day

Oct 18: 19th Commonwealth Games New Delhi 2010

Oct 22: Infantry Day

Oct 25: National Police Academy, 2 Stamps + Miniature Sheet

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 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

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

3RD COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES PUNE

India Post issued a set of 4 stamps and a miniature sheet to mark the 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games being held Pune on October 12, 2008.

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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

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

PHILATELY DAY

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology released a stamp and a miniature sheet to mark the Philately Day on October 13, 2008 at New Delhi.

Sankha Samanta 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 stamp by wet offset in the quantities of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

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

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

AIDS, Gujarati

AIDS, Gujarati

AIDS, Gujarati

AIDS, Gujarati

----, Kannada

The grand total till date is now 682, with 151 added this year.

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

Inland Letter Card

1 more Inland Letter Card, in Kannada, carrying the Disaster Management advertisement was made available for sale this week bringing the total to 10 out of 12 as reported in issues #343, 344, 3xx, & 360 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

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Oct 6: Mumbai, Mehli Mehta Music Foundation

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

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

GPA NEWS, Whole # 134, Sep 2008, Monthly Editor: Ilyas Patel iap_ip@yahoo.co.in

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelist Association, Ahmedabad

Annual Subscription: Rs 200

PHILA POST, Inaugural Issue, Oct Dec 2008, Quarterly Executive Editor: Linda Brady-Hawke hawkelba@satyam.net.in Publisher: L B Associates Pvt Ltd for India Post

Annual Subscription: Not Indicated

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

POST OFFICES START SELLING GOLD COINS

With its launch by A Raja, Minister for Communications and Information Technology, the Post Offices have started selling 24 carat gold coins from October 15, 2008. The sale will be available in over 100 India Post outlets in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the pilot phase. The gold coins are in the popular denomination of half gram, one gram, 5 grams and 8 grams. The prices of these coins will be competitive based on the prevailing prices of gold.

India Post has launched this pioneering venture in association with World Gold Council and Reliance Money. World Gold Council will help market the Swiss Medallions supplied by Reliance Money, making it available to Indian consumers through Post offices in a convenient and cost effective manner. The gold coins will be packed in a sealed cover with the certification from Valcambi, Switzerland. It has the benefits like internationally recognized certification, low risk of duplication, quality packaging, product standardization, numbering and assayer certificate.

Gold is the latest addition to a range of retail activity that India Post has already taken up. India Post has been selling various products under Retail Post category and there is sustained growth in the revenue from these activities. Post Office sells UPSC applications and university applications, it retails Darjeeling Tea in West Bengal, it markets Aloe Vera products in Gujarat and it takes orders for distribution of Prasadams of various temples in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Apart from enhancing the revenue of the Department, this will enable India Post to usher in a new image of India Post as a modern and relevant organization to the public in all areas of life.

MONEY ORDER GOES ELECTRONIC

India Post has switched over to electronic transmission of Money Order from October 10, 2008 that will make remittance much faster. Electronic Money Order would also provide more efficient and improved quality of service to customers. These will come without any extra cost to the customer. To begin with, around 2500 Post Offices all over the country have switched over to electronic transmission of money orders.

Electronic Money Order would also reduce transmission of vouchers from one place to another and provide for centralized information system on the money order service. The initiative is part of the government's ongoing efforts to make a difference in the Post Office operations and make it a window to the world for the common man.

The booking facilities of electronic money order (eMO) will be available in a phased manner from post offices where Wide Area Connectivity or Broadband Connectivity is available. The connected Post Office will book Money Orders electronically for other connected Post Offices and for post offices in account with them, thereby doing away with physical movement of the Money Order forms. It will be done using a different form with pre-de fined message codes. The connected Head Post office or Sub Post Office will book Money Orders electronically for other connected Head Offices including Sub-Offices and Branch-Offices, under their account jurisdiction. Connected Head Post Office would receive money orders for its non-connected Sub Post Offices and Branch Offices. Similarly, the connected Sub Post Offices would receive money orders for self as well as for Branch Offices in account with it.

Electronic Money Order will have similar tariff and limits of remittance as in the case of ordinary money order. Once the process stabilizes, department may consider enhancing the maximum limit of remittance. In the initial phase, transmission would be between Connected Head Post Offices and sub Post Offices. Once the spread of connectivity is increased, all Head Post Offices, important sub Post Offices would be brought under the coverage. A trial on Money Order software was earlier taken up at New Delhi HO, Bangalore GPO, Mysore HO, Indore GPO and Tiruchirapalli HO.

EMOs can be paid at all offices including Branch Post Offices. At the connected post office, electronic money order would be printed. In case of electronically transmitted Money Orders meant to be paid at connected post office itself, the same would be transferred to the relevant branch for payment. The Money Order meant to be paid at non-connected offices would be sent through Account bag for payment, as done in the present system. After making the payment and on receipt of paid voucher, the date of payment would be uploaded in the central server by connected post office.

However, the present service of ordinary domestic Money Order would also remain available in the Post Offices, as at present.

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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.

Oct 31-Nov 2: Mysore, NUPHIL 08, Stamps and Coins

Organizer: Mysore Philatelics & Mysore Numismatics

Venue: Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, opposite Hotel Metropole

Philatelic issues: 1 Special cover - 'Somanathapur Temple', Special

postmark - 25 cash Mysore coin of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar 1799-1868

Contact: mysorephilatelics1@gmail.com

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: Pandy Samooha Madhom, Thrissur

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

Philatelic issues: 1 Special postmark Mahatma Gandhi theme

Contact: philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com

Dates to be announced: Coins, Numismatic Exhibition

Organizer: Delhi Coin Society

Venue: BEING RESCHEDULED AS THE ELECTIONS ARE BEING HELD ON THIS DATE

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

Mysore Philatelics meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 'Antaranga', Kalamandira Complex, 1st floor, Mysore Mercara Road, Mysore from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm. This venue is 1.5 kms from city railway station, and 2 kms from city bus stand.

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

VIEWS & OPINIONS

SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI - DISHONOURED IN PHILATELY
The discrimination practiced in the issue of commemorative postage
stamp relating to the Sikh Guru's and events of Sikh's historical
significance by the Department of Posts (DOP), Government of India had
been highlighted in the news media - The Tribune dated 3rd august 05,
the Times of India dated 8th august 05, Hindustan Times dated 3rd July
06, Sikh Review, Kolkatta, September 07 and July 08 and lastly in the
Chardikala (P) Patiala, May '08 Editions.

It is pertinent to mention herein, that the DOP had in fact and in principle approved the proposal for the issue of commemorative postage stamps on the 400th year of 1st Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Adi Granth) on 1-Sep-2004. It is, however, not clear as to how in August 05 an objectionable designed stamp got printed on the subject of Guru Granth Sahib Ji and some stamps and miniature sheets got available in the market without its official release by the DOP or the Prime Minister. These objectionable stamps had been withdrawn from post offices after the said episode.

Thereafter, Ms Kaveri Banerjee, the then Deputy Director General, DOP, (Times Of India 3-Aug-05) announced a new commemorative postage stamp on Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji would be issued after finalizing new design. Till date a period of 3 years (in fact four to the event) had gone past and still no news or positive anticipation towards the said release is heard from the DOP.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar (SGPC) passed two resolutions dated 18th Nov 1966 and in resolution no. 2, the SGPC advised the Government of India that while issuing postage stamps on the occasion of the tri-centenary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday, his picture should not be printed and instead a picture of his birth place, Gurdwara Patna Sahib be depicted - the said advised was heeded to by the DOP.

In the light of the above mentioned, the new design for the Guru Granth Sahib Ji's 1st Prakash, 400th Anniversary on 1-Sep-04 would have not taken much time to draw up- just take up a picture of Gurdwara Ramsar (where the Adi Granth was written and prepared) Amritsar, and print on the edges, border as "400th year 1st Prakash of Adi Granth" India with a value of Rs.5 OR 15—the said stamp is ready. I believe I am right?

Coming back to the chief topic of paramount importance — that is the coronation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji falls on 20th Oct 2008. To mark this historic event the DOP has been duly approached for the issue of a set of three stamps as per attachment, which is quiet clear in itself. The Chardikala(P), Patiala monthly magazine had reported in its May 08 issue that the DOP had approved the issue of a multi-colored commemorative postage stamp set on the occasion depicting all the 3 Gurdwara's associated with the history of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. It is now, learnt, that in the recently concluded, Philatelic Advisory Committee meeting held in the last week of August 08, the DOP has rejected the proposal. Interestingly, the members of the Philatelic Advisory Committee did not, repeat not, objected to the said proposal, but the Government of India officials rejected it.

This is a case of complete surrender by the Government before the said Government officials who is openly and freely playing the communal card whilst discharging their official duties. If the decision to or not to issue the commemorative postage stamp is to be carried out by the Government officials, then where is the need of a Philatelic Advisory Committee -the same be abolished with immediate effect. In this particular case, the Government officials had shown their total disrespect and in the process debased the Philatelic Advisory Committee. Apart from this the officials had shown in a way their complete disrespect to both the events surrounding the historical importance marking the 400th anniversary of first prakash utsav of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji(Adi Granth) and 300 years of coronation Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as Guru Eternal on 20th October 08.—letting go the said events without issuing any commemorative postage stamp in their honor. The DOP philatelic homage has turned into hate, a hard hit and undermining the sentiments of the entire Sikh sangat the world over.

I would love to appeal to the members of the Philatelic Advisory Committee to resign en bloc and lead a strong protest march to put pressure on the DOP to immediately change their attitude and decision towards Sikh religious events and as a consequence mark these events with special postage stamps and other philatelic material of significance which itself manifests the true secular and democratic traditions of our country.

With Fateh and Regards,
Your's faithfully,
Bhagwant Singh
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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.>

VIJAY VIJAYAKUMAR, Canada

I am fan of "Stamps of India" from Canada and read with enthusiasm. After reading the Stamps of India I have started collecting Indian stamps, as I am a collector of World postal stamps and fdc specialize on Canada. I have mostly open standing order for stamps and fdc from various countries. As such I have tried to open an standing order with India post and wasn't very successful.

S A BHASKAR

I eagerly await your monthly Philsensex news letter which is of great help to me in deciding what the realistic current prices are, since I have found that many times most dealers are simply not willing to accept even the latest Phila quide as the basis of sale/purchase of stamps. In some cases the deviation is unbelievable. It is here that your monthly letter informs the collectors and dealers as to what is the majority valuation of a specific item. Since there seems to be no fixed general formula to evaluate the value of stamps it becomes all the more necessary to painstakingly make a survey of market prices of each and every item every now and then. Further, whether we like it or not the hobby has already attracted investors and speculators who behave and act in such a manner as to influence this market to behave similarly to the stock market. This adds an element of risk and reward depending on whether or not one is abreast of the latest trends in the prices of stamps. Even Stanley Gibbons have legitimized and promote the business of Investing in stamps as the preferred investment/asset class of today. I believe that this being an inescapable fact of life, those who wish to continue to collect stamps would be well advised to keep them abreast of the current and ever changing market conditions. This is where your efforts in collecting the data and presenting it freely to the philatelic community, is a selfless and laudable service, and I wish you will continue the good work.

I have however a couple of suggestions to make your column more reader friendly. It would be better if you made a separate list of yearly collectors pack. It would also help in instant comparison if you added one more column in which the prices of the previous month are shown in a different color or in brackets.

RANJIT SINGH, New Delhi

To: business@indiapost.gov.in, directorphilately@indiapost.gov.in, cpmg-del@indiapost.gov.in

Dear Sir

Today is Philately day as per your advertisement in newspapers. Are you aware that stamps marked for release yesterday and today are not available at the Philatelic Bureau New Delhi? Much time, money and energy has been wasted to visit Parliament Street PO.

In case your philately division cannot manage issue of stamps then high-ups responsible should resign or shift to some other post. Why are you harassing innocent stamp collectors that has now become a routine affair. Every time I miss sending FDCs to my contacts worldwide.

If this is philately I suggest you please close the philatelic bureaus to save people from embarrassment, avoidable waste of time and money on transport.

This is clearly a case of Deficiency in Service, fit for consumer courts.

Philately Division is proposing to issue over 60 stamps in the remaining part of this year. If this is the state of affairs, then I wonder what will be the future of philately.

Changing of Logos means nothing. Efficiency is flying away.

My contacts worldwide are simply fed up by the working of India's Department Of Posts.

It is fast becoming a department of Pests. Only today I have lost over one thousand rupees just due to the inefficiency of Philatelic division. It will be in the interests of promotion of philately if such inefficient officers are shunted out and replaced by persons who know something about stamps.

I still doubt if anything concrete will be done. Let us see.

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

I have already complained earlier in this esteemed column about the website of India Post that it is not updated regularly by the staff. It always shows the images of old issues of stamps. A website of a Postal Administration is very important in publicizing its stamps and other philatelic items amongst people of its own country as well as of other countries. A poor website can never spread its information. The craze for stamp collection and to get the latest information has increased considerably in our country. But I am sorry to write that proper information is not available on the website of India Post. Those living in remote areas of the country have to depend upon personal links with philatelists or some updated Blogs or private websites. The website of India Post needs moderation and it should have a separate section for philatelists with update technical philatelic information about latest Indian stamps, postal stationery and other philatelic items issued by India Post. I must mention here that many of the Postal Administrations in the world like of Australia, Poland, Gibraltar, Austria etc. are well managed and provide very good and complete information on its website which are very useful for collectors living in different parts of the world. But it is really unfortunate that we get information from other countries of the world and don't get enough information from our own country. Therefore I make a humble request to the higher authorities of India Post to provide an attractive and daily updated website to the philatelists and popularise its stamps all over the world.

I am highly thankful to Stamps of India which is the only source in our country to provide complete information about Indian stamps and other philatelic items issued by India Post through its website and weekly digital newsletter to the philatelists.

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

NEWSSCAN

The Hindu, October 11, 2008 Going Wild

http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/mp/2008/10/11/stories/2008101152031600
.htm

The Hindu, October 11, 2008

Stamp by Stamp

 $\frac{\text{http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/mp/2008/10/11/stories/2008101152011600}}{\text{.htm}}$

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal
matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion
here>

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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PRINCELY STATES REPORT http://www.princelystates.com
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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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