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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 367 - November 13, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have been working on developing a five frame astro-philatelic exhibit titled 'India in Space'. We are particularly looking to add covers for Indian launches from the ISRO launch sites and shall appreciate all help in this regard. We would also like to exchange notes with other fellow collectors with similar interests.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abnash Singh, Rakesh Walia, C J Vincent, Jeevan Jyoti, Mainak Kathiara, and Pratisad Neurgaonkar

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

PHILSENSEX NOVEMBER 2008

By P R Krishnan [prkrish77@gmail.com](mailto:prkrish77@gmail.com)

I am pleased to provide the Philsensex data of India mint stamps and miniature sheets for the month of November 2008 for the benefit of collectors, dealers and investors. I have now included the price movements of Sheetlets of stamps on popular demand.

While I thank you for all the support, I take this opportunity to reiterate that this column is for you and as such your feedback goes a long way in shaping it. Do continue to write back your opinion and suggestions.

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/valueindex/200811.htm> for viewing the data.

TIGER BY TAIL By P R Krishnan

A Rs 5 stamp on a miniature sheet that has been priced for Rs 15 did cause commotion recently witnessed by most of the collectors in India. The explanation given is that the extra amount is to cover the cost of production! OK but now consider the following:

1. Our minimum postage is Rs 5 and this is staying at the same level for quite a long time. Already the department feels that this amount is too small to handle a letter.
2. One has to learn from experience. Any miniature sheet issued beyond 100,000 in quantity in India is still available in the philatelic bureaus.
3. Some of the recent issues including the above "extra" Priced miniature sheets are printed in substantial quantities.
4. Normally the excessively issued miniature sheets are sold through the general counter by tearing the stamps from the miniature sheets.
5. Now the question is how the department will encash the excess "extra" priced miniature sheets because nobody will pay Rs 15 for a regular Rs 5 postage and if the postal rates are soon revised upward then how this excess quantities will be sold. So in reality only on books the Department of Posts recovers the printing cost and can satisfy themselves.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Nov 14: Children's Day  
Nov 16: Saint Alphonsa  
Nov 16: Bommai Narasimha Reddi  
Nov 19: Gas Authority of India  
Nov 20: Joachim and Violet Alva

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:

Health & Family Welfare 8, Kannada  
Health & Family Welfare 9, Kannada  
Health & Family Welfare 10, Kannada  
Health & Family Welfare 11, Kannada  
Health & Family Welfare 12, Kannada

The grand total till date is now 694, with 163 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 Tamil, carrying the Disaster Management advertisement was made available for sale this week bringing the total to 11 out of 12 as first reported in issues #343 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>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Oct 03: Port Blair, 54<sup>th</sup> Wild Life Week  
Oct 18: Hyderabad, National Institute of Amateur Radio

Nov 03: Nanded, Guru Gobind Singh's Sachkhand Gaman Tercentenary  
Available from Paramjit Singh 0 98358 15722 for Rs 25 each

Nov 09: Shimla, Kalka Shimla Railway  
Nov 10: New Delhi, FICCI Ladies Organization Silver Jubilee  
Nov 11: New Delhi, National Education Day

A CORRECTION

Nov 01: Mysore, Stamp & Coin Show  
Available for Rs 100 for 5 covers including registered postage in India from R Ravindranath, Krishnalankar, 12<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Main, 4<sup>th</sup> Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore 570 009  
In the previous issue the date of the cover was erroneously reported as Oct 31.

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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RECENT PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS

NATURE THROUGH INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS

40 A5 size multicolored pages, Hardbound  
Publisher: Philately Division, India Post  
Price: Rs 175

Availability: was sold at Commonwealth Youth Games, Pune

NUPHIL 2008 SOUVENIR

36 quarter size pages including 12 multicolored pages of gold coins  
Publisher: Mysore Philatelics & Mysore Numismatics  
Price: Rs 100 including the cost of registered book post in India  
Available from R Ravindranath, Krishnalankar, 12<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Main, 4<sup>th</sup> Cross,  
Saraswathipuram, Mysore 570 009

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Nov 16: Ludhiana, Stamps Exhibition and Stamp Bazaar

Venue: Rajindera Model Senior Secondary School, Haibowal Kalan,

Timings: 10 AM to 5 PM

Organizers: Ludhiana Philatelic Club

Contact: Satish K Sondhi 98156 57647, Yashpal Bangia 98143 76478,

Rajesh Gupta 94631 32086, Mukesh Malhotra 94173 49803

Dealer Participation is Welcome

Visitors from outstations are advised to arrive on November 15 and  
witness the mammoth Bhagwan Jaganath Yatra (biggest in northern India),  
starting from 3 PM onwards.

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: Pandu 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)

2009

Jan 30-Feb 1: Ahmedabad, Festival of Stamps

Organizer: Gujarat Philatelists' Association

Venue: Srimati Sushilaben Ratilal Hall, opposite Choice Restaurant, C G  
Road, near Swastik Crossroads, Ahmedabad 380009

Dealers Booth: Ground Floor Rs 7000, First Floor Rs 4000, inclusive of  
lunch and tea for 2 persons for 3 days

Contact: Anil Choksi, Treasurer GPA, 0 99257 03513 or 079 2656 4923

Feb - dates to be announced: Coins, Numismatic Exhibition

Organizer: Delhi Coin Society

Venue:

Visit: [www.delhicoinsociety.com](http://www.delhicoinsociety.com)

Contact: [delhicoinsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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 Philatelic Club, Thrissur

Frequency: Monthly 1st Sunday at 2 Pm

Venue: Priya Tourist Home, Near City Centre, Thrissur, Kerala

Contact: C J Vincent, Vice President 098470 21886

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

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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

##### PHILATELY, A HOBBY OR A BUSINESS?

By Naresh Agrawal, Bilaspur

Stamp collection or philately is known as the King of hobbies and the hobby of Kings. I won't agree with the first part of the statement because lot many new hobbies have now cropped up and are followed by numerous people. But of course, I will admit that philately is certainly the hobby of kings because of the present trend that emerged after the revolution of ON LINE sale-purchase and race to get higher awards in exhibitions by the participants. Philatelic traders, professional philatelists, philatelists turning in to dealers/traders are not like older ones who used to care for the philatelists and look towards the non-king stamp collectors and help them in the process. Perhaps the buyers range for them earlier was only India but now whole the world is within their range. Particularly in India, the conditions are worst.

India post is also a party to it as it has sole motto to earn revenue and is not bothered about the deteriorating state of philately. Opening philatelic counters, bureau, regular issuance of stamps of higher denominations, issuance of variety of philatelic material in tune with

other stamp issuing countries, all are very well but for whom? Surely not for the philatelists but for the Department of Posts who indirectly is promoting the dealers lobby for international sale on internet.

Philatelists, upcoming stamp collectors for whom such things are being developed are made so helpless that the stamps and other material is sold prior to its official release to the dealers who are touts of the India Post.

Of late, the episode of sale of miniature sheets at premium of Rs 5 is a burning example of India Post's money making mission. Okay, India Post may say that they are not getting any premium out of it but as these things are being done for the philatelists, India Post should see to it that this (Indian) philatelic fraternity is properly served and not neither deprived off of their right nor exploited. If India Post refuses to check this, it should stop issuing new stamps and other variety of material as payment of postage does not require new, good, designer and colorful faces or pictures. It will work nicely even with one variety of definitive series of stamps. Of course, one can say then philately will die. Perhaps it may or may find some different ways for its survival. In all, the scenario which is prevailing today is absolutely detrimental to the survival of philately.

The sole motto of the India Post or the local postal/philatelic serving agencies is to earn money. 5 rupee stamp within few days of its issuance is being sold for about 50 rupees. Indian philatelists are getting it for this amount. Is it not the way to kill philately and to exploit the philatelists? India post must carefully see that the philatelic material being issued by them should go to Indian philatelists first and then to the other philatelists in the world. Of course, selling stamps abroad fetches good revenue to dealers BUT at the cost of exploitation of Indian philatelists.

What to do to check this problem? I have my views and suggestions:

1. Though it is difficult to have full check and full record of the sale of stamps, yet India Post should ensure that the members of the bureau get the material first and then it is open for sale to public.
2. Every philatelist who participates in any recognized exhibition should be member of at least one philatelic bureau.
3. Recognized dealers or their representatives should not be allowed to enter the bureau premises as their sole motto is to buy stamps in bulk by giving some premium to the dealing clerk.
4. Purchase of more than 5 pieces should be restricted or recorded.
5. There should be strict check on the person handling this by rotating of the dealing person on regular basis.
6. India Post should setup have customer care department and the higher officials too should directly ask the philatelists about the services of the bureau and see that their problems are redressed properly and immediately. (This currently is the most neglected area of India Post)
7. At least for two years India Post should stop issuing fresh stamps/material so that all the dumped/unsold material lying with post

offices is sold out and also there is a apply brakes to the existing unfair/undesirable practices.

8. India Post should encourage other ways to earn revenue such as personalized stamps, personalized meters, personalized lables, personalized adhesive tapes, personalized stationary, personalized acknowledgement cards, personalized money order receipts, personalized greeting cards, personalized parcel receipts etc. I mean there are several ideas to earn revenue apart from the stamp sale. This will also promote philately and will give new direction to the philatelic range of materials.

9. India Post may separately issue stamps and other philatelic material to be sold only abroad and not in India.

10. Like in Indian Railway system where a lot of amendments have been made in working practices, the postal system too should take some revolutionary steps but see that Indian philatelists are served properly. For example:

a) E-ticketing or stamp sale

b) Temporarily stoppage of issuance of Sheetlets/ Miniature sheets/ Souvenir Sheets etc.

c) Discounts to the registered and genuine user of philatelic materials and additional surcharge on buying bulk material to its non-registered buyers rather than giving discounts

d) Temporarily ban on usage of stamps issued prior to 2006. This will compel the usage of latest stamps and so their internet sale will decrease.

e) Reserve stamp sale quantities for philatelic societies, recognized bulk buyers and regular and genuine registered customers

f) Meter stamps to be encouraged

g) The sale of stamps/material through post man will also help in a great way to check the sale of stamps to stamp dealers.

Well, there are unlimited suggestions to make but to sum up the matter here, I will profess immediate change in the stamp sale system so that all the prevailing malpractices are checked and rectified. I would appreciate readers to come up with their suggestions because this is a platform from where the message can be sent strongly to the all concerned and we can hope some change/improvement with our regular hammering.

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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.>

JAYDEV NANSEY, Jamnagar

Surpex 2008 has only one special cover issued on the theme of Veer Narmad the famous Guajarati poet. There has been no other special cover or cancellation. On day one only the philately day stamp on post office was released. Please do not place the cover that has been cancelled with red seal of Surpex 2008 with official releases. Such items

unnecessarily pollute the philately in our country. Once again during Surpex 2008 there was one first day cover issued of the stamp - post office, one special cover on Veer Narmad and a stamp booklet.

you are also requested notify your readers on this fact separately in the newsletter so that no one considers the cover with a red Surpex seal on it as a part of Surpex 2008 release. This item is not a collectable item and should not be promoted from a platform like yours. Hope you will take cognizance of the matter and clarify the matter in your forthcoming issue.

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Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

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

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

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