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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 372 - December 18, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Issue # 372 - December 18, 2008

Hi

India Post has set up a new record. For last 4 issues beginning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issue of December 10, 2008 the First Day Cover and Brochure are still not available for sale.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Ajit Dash,

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

#### MORE PREMATURE ISSUES

The commemorative postage stamp on Rani Velu Nachchiyar which is yet to be released by India Post is being reported by collectors who are finding these used on commercial mails.

There are a record 15 stamps of 2008 that have been in circulation without being officially issued by India Post. 9 have since been issued, at times 3 months after being available prematurely, and for 6 no dates of issue are announced as yet.

For images of Indian premature issues, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/premature.htm>

#### FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Dec 21: T V Ramasubba Iyer

Dec 22: BrahMos Missile, Set of 2 stamps, Rs 5 & 20 + miniature sheet

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>

#### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

##### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

M Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India released a set of 2 postage stamps to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore on December 14, 2008 at Bangalore.

The stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 & 20 are accompanied with a miniature sheet.

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

##### SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA

India Post released a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Swami Ranganathananda, the 13th president of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission on December 15, 2008 at Kolkata.

Alka Sharma designed the Stamp, the First Day Cover and 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 0.5 million.

FIELD MARSHAL S H F J MANEKSHAW

Pratibha Patil, the President of India, released a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on the legendary Field Marshal S H F J Manekshaw on December 16, 2008 at New Delhi. The function was attended by A K Antony, Defence Minister and General Deepak Kapoor, Indian Army Chief.

On this day 37 years ago, Field Marshal Manekshaw scripted India's decisive win in 1971 war with Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh. This day is since celebrated as Vijay Divas (Victory Day) in India.

Born on April 3, 1914, at Amritsar Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Mankeshaw belonged to the first batch of officers to be commissioned from the Indian Military Academy in 1934. He was the Indian Army Chief from 1969 to 1973 and was the first officer to be elevated to the highest rank of Field Marshal in 1973.

He served in Myanmar, then called Burma, during World War II and was awarded the Military Cross for valor on the battlefield.

Manekshaw died at the Military Hospital in Wellington in Tamil Nadu on June 27, 2008 at the age of 94.

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 0.5 million.

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

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NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

The following stamps are now available on sale for the first time at the philatelic bureau at New Delhi. The quantity available is still small and Saint Alphonsa stamp that arrived last week has already been sold out.

Nov 27: Rs 20, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy

Dec 4: Rs 5, Indian Navy - Reaching Out to Maritime Neighbors

The following stamps are still awaited:

Aug 02: Aldabra Giant Tortoise Miniature Sheet

Nov 14: Children's Day Miniature Sheet

Nov 16: B N Reddi

Nov 17: Standard Chartered Bank

Nov 27: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy MiniatureSheet

Dec 14: Indian Institute of Science, Rs 5 & 20

The First Day Covers and Brochures for these issues are still awaited:

Dec 10: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Dec 14: Indian Institute of Science
Dec 15: Swami Ranganathananda
Dec 16: Field Marshal Manekshaw

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FIRST DAY POSTMARK FOR DEFINITIVES

India Post has belatedly ordered the provision of the special First Day of Issue pictorial postmark at all philatelic bureaus for the first 3 stamps of the 10<sup>th</sup> Definitive Series - The Builders of Modern India that were released on December 1, 2008.

For an illustrated list of FDC in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/fdc/fday2008.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Consumer Awareness, English, 7 designs
Consumer Awareness, Urdu, 7 designs
Consumer Awareness, Bengali, 7 designs
Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, Hindi
Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, Bengali
Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, Telugu
Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, Gujarati
Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, Assamese

The grand total till date is now 724, with 189 added this year.

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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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Dec 8: Mumbai, Indian Life & Landscapes by Western Artists - An Exhibition of Paintings & Drawings from 17<sup>th</sup> to the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly Prince of Wales Museum of Western, India hosted the exhibition to celebrate its cultural ties with Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

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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NEW STAMP BOOKLET

A stamp booklet is recently issued:

2008 Dec 1: World AIDS Day, Rs 100  
Uttarakhand Circle, India Post  
Quantity: 250

To view images of Stamp Booklets issued by India Post, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb99.htm>

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JADUNATH KANUNGO IS NO MORE

Jadunath Kanungo, the veteran philatelist from Orissa and the first EIPA Life Time achievement Award Winner for Philately passed away December 9, 2008 at midnight due to heart attack. He was 79. He was the President of Orissa Philatelic Association and honorary member of Eastern India Philatelists' Association. He was directly or indirectly associated not only in almost all philatelic activities but also in other social works. The members of EIPA Deeply condole for his sudden demise. Let his soul live in peace.

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PHILATELIC NEWS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE

Deepak N Modi from Jalana has launched 'Mobile Philately' on December 8, 2008. Mobile Philately is mobile technology based philatelic community with SMS service that allows the community members to get latest updates related to Indian Philately directly into mobile message box. Philatelic enthusiasts who wish to subscribe for this service are requested to send their mobile number to 09890373344 or at email the details at [modi.philatelist@gmail.com](mailto:modi.philatelist@gmail.com)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Dec 1-31: Madurai

Jagannath M's exhibit 'The Images of Summer Olympics' is on display at the Madurai Philatelic Bureau and it will remain on display till the end of December 2008. Madurai Philatelist Club has published this news in the Madurai Phila News volume IV issue 12 in the December 2008 issue.

Dec 24-26: Kolkata, Coin Exhibition

Venue: City Centre

Organizers: Numismatic Society of Calcutta

Contact: Sandip Jain 0 98300 09533

2009

Jan 10-12: Pune, National level Numismatic Competitive Exhibition

Organizers: International Collector's Society of Rare Items, Pune

Venue: Sonal Hall, Karve Road, next to MES Garware College, Pune

Entry Forms: Available from Nov 20, 2008, Last date of acceptance of duly filled entry forms is Dec 15, 2008.

Dealers Booth: Rs 5000, 2 tables & 2 chairs + Breakfast & Lunch for 2

Last date for Booth confirmation is Jan 5, 2009

Contact: President - S R Bhat 020-25655960, 09326897201, Chairman -

Basti Solanki 09823088865, Secretary - Rajendra Shah 020-24477660,

09890117252

Jan 24-26: Nagpur, Coins exhibition

Organizers: Numismatic Research Institute

Dealers Booth: Rs 5000 2 tables 3 chairs + tea & lunch for 2

Contact: Avinash T Ramteke 0 98230 22662, Piyush Agrawal 0 93255 68570

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: New Delhi, Coins, Numismatic Exhibition
Organizer: Delhi Coin Society

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

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.>

ABHAY TIKU, New Delhi

I have been a reader of your newsletter for almost 2 months now and have also sifted through the archives to read a lot of your back issues. This is an invaluable service rendered to the small but active community of Philatelists in India (especially Delhi) by both you and I would like to express my gratitude being one of them.

I started collecting stamps and related postal material again after a long pause, my first philatelic account was opened by my father in 1997 and continued till 1999 after which I joined engineering college and unfortunately stopped the pursuit of being a Philatelist.

For past 3 months now there has been resurgence as I can scrape some time away from my work and also discovered that Philately was a passion lying dormant inside me, not dead.

The first consequence and chain of events led me to the Parliament street philatelic bureau and enquiries about setting up a Philatelic Deposit account.

It is really unbelievable what kind of incompetent people are manning the chair of such a prestigious and constantly evolving department. I have seen postal officials from Estonia having more pride and enthusiasm than our respected babus in their high and mighty places.

The counter itself is marred by blatant nepotism and favoritism. I leave my work an hour and a half earlier at least thrice a month to reach the counter on time to collect sheets (I am trying to collect those) and most of the times I have to stand there like a stone sculpture staring blankly into the vast and lifeless Indian Postal system and its flag bearers.

Presentation packs ready with contents yet to be printed (Budhadev Bose), Collector pack from last year pending delivery because of one missing/less printed stamp, Expensive reference books with stamps and other material missing (India Post Booth, India International Trade Fair, Pragati Maidan).....where has one even heard this?

I order material from Denmark Post (an economy hit by recent recession) and they deliver within 4 days of placing an order, the 4th day material is at your doorsteps. This is what is called commitment and meeting deadlines.

The agonizing ordeal through hallowed portals of India Post never seems to end.

Thanks again for making the voice of common philatelists heard through the iron curtain of Postal Department.

RANJT SINGH, New Delhi

As per the list of stamps 2008 in your website, some new stamps are said to be issued but not made available at Philatelic bureau New Delhi. I wonder why and how collectors bear this nonsensical working of department's philately division? It has proved itself totally incompetent and worthless. Is the ministry sleeping? Why can't such inefficiency be stopped and irresponsible officials shunted out? The department's philately division needs complete overhauling.

NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur

With all said and done, I simply ask our philatelist friends as to what we can do for our country who is facing a fierce situation of terrorist attacks. Situation is alarming. We, the philatelists have now developed as community of so called matured and responsible persons but we have to show that we are responsible citizens too.

We can spend thousands of rupees to get an old piece of paper (stamp) to fulfill our desires BUT this is time that we share something to the cause of this alarming situation. Though ministers and politicians are our selected and elected leaders but they lead from where I don't know.

I want someone from us (any society or association) to come forward and if not direct collection of funds then funding through postally approved labels condemning terrorist activities giving our tribute to the soldiers who died in these attacks and the innocent people died in these attacks. A small contribution from us can prove to be a big help for this cause. This is my sincere appeal.

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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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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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