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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 373 - December 25, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

India Post presented the plan for stamp issues in 2008-2009 to the Philatelic Advisory Committee in a meeting on July 30, 2008. 31 issues have been released since. 13 were new additions to the Plan and 24 of the planned issues did not appear. Only 1 issue was released on its original scheduled date, Children's Day on Nov 14! That its supply hasn't reached post offices yet is another matter.

Premature releases, blunders & errors in design, non availability of stamps, miniature sheets, FDC, and brochures, and when available, available in very small quantity only, and miniature sheets selling at unauthorized bloated rates. Is all this a part of a grand design?

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Deepak Modi, Pradip Mohanty, and S K Biswas

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

Jan 01: 10th Definitive Series - Builders of Modern India, 6 stamps,  
Re 1 - Mahatma Gandhi,  
Rs 2 - B R Ambedkar,  
Rs 3 - Satyajit Ray,  
Rs 4 - Homi Bhabha,  
Rs 15 - J R D Tata, and  
Rs 20 - Mother Teresa

Jan 04: Louis Braille

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 STAMPS RELEASED

T V RAMASUBBAIYER

A Raja the Minister of Communications and information Technology released a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 to commemorate the birth centenary of T V Ramasubbaiyer, the founder of Tamil daily 'Dinamalar' on December 21, 2008 at Chennai.

Suresh Kumar 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 0.5 million.

BRAHMOS

India Post released a set of 2 postage stamps to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile on December 22, 2008.

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

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 1 and 2 million respectively of Rs 5 and Rs 20 denomination. 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>

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NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

The following First Day Covers and Brochures are now available on sale at the philatelic bureau at New Delhi for the first time.

Dec 10: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Dec 14: Indian Institute of Science

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 Miniature Sheet

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

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

Dec 15: Swami Ranganathananda

Dec 16: Field Marshal Manekshaw

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COLLECTORS PACK 2007

India Post has released the annual pack of commemorative postage stamps issued in 2007. In an unprecedented move the pack is made available in four different designs. The pack is priced at Rs 500.

It is reported that 1 stamp that is of S D Burman in the denomination of Rs 15 is not included in the pack and it is being sold for Rs 485 only.

For an illustrated list of annual collectors pack, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/yearpacks.htm>

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CHRISTMAS CARDS

India Post issued 2 cards depicting Christmas issue. The cards are priced at Rs 10 each without stamp.

For an illustrated list of stamp cards issued in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/icards-2008.htm>

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CHRISTMAS PACK

India Post issued a pack for Christmas issue as follows:

Content: Block of 4 se-tenant stamps (2 sets of 2), FDC,

India Post, Rs 125

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

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Discontinuing with Uni-motif for postal stationery, a new series with motifs from the recently launched 10<sup>th</sup> definitive Series 'Builders of Modern India' is expected to be released on January 1, 2009.

Re 0.25 - Meghdoot Postcard - Homi Bhabha  
Re 0.50 - Postcard - Mahatma Gandhi (Existing Design, No Change)  
Ra 2.50 - Inland letter Card - Indira Gandhi  
Rs 5.00 - Envelope - Sardar Patel  
Rs 15.00 - Aerogramme - Mother Teresa  
Rs 22.50 - Registered Envelope - Jawaharlal Nehru

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 20: Cuttack, 8th National Festival of Dance and Music  
The special cover depicts the Padma awardees on dances from Orissa such as Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sonal Mansingh, Kumkum Mohanty and others such as Mamata Shankar. The postmark conceptualized by Pradip Mohanty and designed by renowned artist Pranab Akhand depicts the logo of festival. The cover priced at Rs 30 + postage is available from Pradip Mohanty, Honorary Secretary of Orissa Philatelic Association, [oripphil@gmail.com](mailto:oripphil@gmail.com) or [mohantypradip@hotmail.com](mailto:mohantypradip@hotmail.com) Mobile 09861032965

An advertising postmark publicizing the 8th National Festival of Dance and Music was also used at Bhubaneswar GPO and Cuttack GPO from December 20 to 26, 2008 on all inbound and outbound mails.

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

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Army Postal Service issued following Special Covers during September, October and November 2008:

Sep 16: 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Garhwal Rifles Diamond Jubilee  
Oct 04: 45 Air Defence Regiment Diamond Jubilee  
Oct 17: 46 Armored Regiment, Presentation of Standard  
Nov 01: 325 Light Air Defence Regiment Silver Jubilee  
Nov 06: The Sikh Regiment 12<sup>th</sup> Postwar Reunion  
Nov 07: Brigade of the Guards 9th Reunion & 21st Biennial Conference

Nov 07: 146 Light Air Defence Regiment Silver Jubilee  
Nov 12: 59 Squadron, Presentation of Standard  
Nov 12: Air Force Technical College, Presentation of Standard  
Nov 18: 13 Battalion Kumaon Regiment Diamond Jubilee  
Nov 25: The Rajputana Rifles 14<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Nov 30: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Gorkha Rifles 7<sup>th</sup> Reunion

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 PERMANENT PICTORIAL POSTMARK

Sanjiv Ranjan, Director of Postal Services of North Bengal and Sikkim Region, West Bengal Circle of India Post inaugurated the first permanent pictorial postmark of North Bengal at the Head Post Office in Cooch Behar on November 29, 2008. This is the 3rd such postmark in this circle after Port Blair and Kolkata GPO.

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

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YEAR BOOK 2007

Narendra Kumar [kumarnarendra1960@yahoo.co.in](mailto:kumarnarendra1960@yahoo.co.in) the creator of Year book 2007 now offers the book in two additional packages (A) with all 72 stamps and 11 miniature sheets issued in 2007 at the Special Price of Rs 2300, **and** (B) with all 72 stamps and 11 miniature sheets issued in 2007 + First Day Covers of all stamps and miniature sheets issued in 2007 housed in a specially crafted album at the Special Price of Rs 4400.

The hardbound book with slip case illustrates in full color on art paper all the stamps, miniature sheets, first day covers, first day of issue postmark, max cards, and stamp packs issued by India Post in 2007. It adds a write-up, specifications, and several relevant illustrations. It also has place to mount the stamps and miniature sheet. Priced at Rs 750 post paid anywhere in India the Year book is now distributed by Stamps of India as well.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

ARMYPOST PHILATELY NEWSLETTER, Whole #2, Oct 2008, Quarterly

Editor:

Publisher:

Annual Subscription:

MADURA PHILA NEWS, Vol.4-#10, Oct 2008

Editorial Chairman: R Murali, Editor: D Ranjith Kumar

Publisher: Madurai Philatelists Club

Annual Subscription: Rs 150

GPA NEWS, Vol.12-#1, Whole #135, Oct 2008, Monthly

Editor: Ilyas Patel [iap\\_ip@yahoo.co.in](mailto:iap_ip@yahoo.co.in)

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelist Association, Ahmedabad

Annual Subscription: Rs 200

SIPA BULLETIN, Vol.28-#1, Jan Feb 2008, Bimonthly

SIPA BULLETIN, Vol.28-#2, Mar Apr 2008, Bimonthly

SIPA BULLETIN, Vol.28-#3, May Jun 2008, Bimonthly

Editor: G Madan Mohan Das  
Publisher: South India Philatelists Association, Chennai  
Annual Subscription: Not indicated

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

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Dec 1-31: Madurai, Jagannath M's 'The Images of Summer Olympics'

Dec 20: Binaguri Cantonment, Stamp Exhibition by Army Postal Service

Dec 20-26: Cuttack, UNICULTUREPEX-2008 exhibition on dance and music

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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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

READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

NIKET BUBNA,

I am writing about a mistake in the Brahmos Cruise Missile postage stamp and some issues concerning India Post.

It is the nth time that an amateur philatelist like me is raising this issue. It is no doubt that the India Post is trying its best to cater to the philatelists, though in their own slow manner it is high time that a mechanism to identify and rectify mistakes, if any, before the stamp is printed, be put in place. The latest mistake is in the Brahmos missile postage stamps released on December 22, 08. It is beyond doubt that this postage stamp was well thought out and aesthetically laid out but has mistakes that cannot be overlooked.

The FDC carries the spelling of the Moskva river, in English as MOSKAVA whereas it is correctly mentioned at MOSKVA on the miniature sheet. The version in the vernacular language, on the FDC reads as MASKOVA and on the miniature sheet as MOSKOVA. So, these are four different ways to the original MOSKVA river, after which the BrahMOS cruise missile is partly named.

It is my humble request to the artists to be more careful to these minute details, since postage stamps are themselves a small medium to convey a message and thus needs attention to perfection. I request that a proof-check of the materials be done, before being sent out to the printing authorities. These postage stamps are the message-carriers of our nation and this postage stamp in particular, will have significance in the Russian context also. It is our responsibility to portray the treasures of other nations in good light, if we are to be a world leader in the near future, and especially with Russia, it being amongst our closest ally.

At this juncture, I want to thank Stampsofindia.com for this yeomen service to the philatelic community, by giving us this platform to voice our concerns and raise matters of importance. I hope that these opinions are taken note of by the Department, and if not a mechanism should be set up where a copy of this and other authentic newsletters reaches the Hon'ble Minister C&IT and the MoS C&IT through proper channels. I am not sure how far this would be effective but, I believe a rejig is needed at the highest level and it will have its trickling effect.

I would also like to request, the India Post through you, to release the postage stamps that are printed with the year 2008 on them, and are lying unreleased. I can instantaneously recall that the postage stamps honoring Thillaiyadi Valliammai, AT Panneerselvam, M Bakthavatsalam, Udumalai Narayana Kavi and Rani Velu Nachchiyar have been printed already and had arrived at the post offices many months ago. It is advisable that if they are to be released in 2009, which seems to be the case, some solution be found for the problem of 2008 appearing on them. It is very tough and confusing for a philatelist, especially foreign philatelists, to keep that change of year in record and proceed without mistakes. These postage stamps have already had premature release and are much better to release them this year itself, to prevent more chaos.

At this note, I would like to wish all the readers of the newsletter a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year! Hope we are treated well through some amazing stuff by India Post in 2009.

ZULAIHA MOHAMED,

This is once again about the same topic. I read the angry letters written to you by your readers, besides what you yourself have been writing about the subject. Why is it not reaching anyone in the postal department? Isn't there anyone in charge of this Department? I was given the address of the Director of Philately, Manju Kumar in New Delhi and wrote a letter to him with no response. Same that happened with my previous letters to the Chief Post Master General in Bombay.

It is shameful to note that so many premature stamps are in circulation & no one is bothering about it, except a handful of philatelists who form the minority! Should we present this case through the Minority Commission?

While premature stamps are issued elsewhere, here in Kerala, the post offices have no intimation even of those stamps and when I mention the stamps that were released elsewhere from the list of forthcoming stamps, they looked surprised, since they have not even heard of some of them!

At this juncture, let me add a note in reply to Mr. Abhay Tiku's letter about his experience in Parliament Street Post office. I must say that my experience is very different in both Trivandrum and Ernakulam Philatelic bureaus, which are both understaffed. The officers are polite and obliging even when they were dealing with the spate of late issue of stamps of the previous months.



By the way, I wonder what is happening to the miniature sheets which were in the list of forthcoming stamps! There is no mention of some of them in the list of released stamps!

KRISHNAN VEERARAGHAVAN,

I fully back the comments of Abhay Tiku of Delhi. I am also experiencing such difficulties in the post offices, though I work for the India Post.

MOHAMMED IBRAHIM KHAN,

In late seventies and early eighties our post office used to issue press releases regarding the date of issue of commemorative stamps for the information of philatelist. Now it is not done so which causes us lot of hardship for buying stamps. I request you to take up the matter with the postal authorities for issuing of press releases of new arrival of stamps.

AJAY AGRAWAL, Akola

I salute the appeal of Shri Naresh Ji Agrawal, & join him in the same.

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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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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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