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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Stamp Poll 2008  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Stamps Released  
New Issues Availability Status  
FDC for Definitive Series  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Mahatma Gandhi 1948 Specimens  
India at Auctions  
Louis Braille Commemorative Coins  
Bishvanath Kheria is No More  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
South Asia New Issues  
Readers Forum: Hemant V Kulkarni, Kasinath R, Sanjay Awate

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

India Post issued 79 stamps in 2008 for a total face value of Rs 525. 16 miniature sheets and 18 sheetlets were also released during the year. Aldabra Giant Tortoise miniature sheet's status is not yet known, even after five months, whether it will be issued or not. India Post maintains that they will either issue the miniature sheet or a corrigendum. If issued, it will take the total of miniature sheets in the year to 17.

Wishing you a very happy new year 2009!

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Markand Dave, Sandip Jain,

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

STAMP POPULARITY POLL

Stamps of India now present the Stamp Poll 2008 to select the best stamp of 2008, best miniature sheet of 2008, and best sheetlet of 2008. The results shall be announced based on the most number of votes polled. You can send as many ballots as you wish.

Please select from the issues of 2008 as shown at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm> and vote for the best stamp, miniature sheet, and sheetlet of 2008 in your opinion. Also write your name, City, email id, and philatelic interests on the ballot and email your ballots to: [stamppoll@stampsofindia.com](mailto:stamppoll@stampsofindia.com)

The last date to receive the ballots at Stamps of India is January 28, 2009. Incomplete ballots shall not be considered. The results will be announced in the Issue #378 of January 29, 2009.

Several attractive philatelic prizes will be given away. The winners will be decided by draw of lots. We welcome the sponsors for prizes, please contact [admin@stampsofindia.com](mailto:admin@stampsofindia.com) in this regard.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jan 04: Louis Braille
Jan 21: Vaiko Muhammad Basheer
Jan 23: K K Birla
Jan 25: Saint Paul's Church
Jan 27: INTACH Heritage Centre, Set Of 4
Jan 31: Vishnu Prasad Raha

Mar 01: 10th Definitive Series - Builders of Modern India, 9 stamps,
Re 0.50 -
Re 1 - Mahatma Gandhi,
Rs 2 - B R Ambedkar,
Rs 3 - Satyajit Ray,
Rs 4 - Homi Bhabha,
Rs 10 -
Rs 15 - J R D Tata, and
Rs 20 - Mother Teresa
Rs 50 -

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

M BHAKTHAVATSALAM

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on M Bhakthavatsalam on December 31, 2008.

The stamp design is provided by the proponent. Alka Sharma designed 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 0.4 million respectively.

RANI VELU NACHCHIYAR

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Rani Velu Nachchiyar on December 31, 2008.

THILAIYADI VALLIAMMAI

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Thilaiyadi Valliammai on December 31, 2008.

India Security Press Nasik designed the stamps. Alka Sharma designed 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 0.4 million respectively.

SHEIK THAMBI PAVLAR

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Sheik Thambi Pavlar on December 31, 2008.

India Security Press Nasik designed the stamp. Alka Sharma designed 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 0.4 million respectively.

A T PANEERSELVAM

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on A T Paneerselvam on December 31, 2008.

India Security Press Nasik designed the stamp. Nenu Gupta designed 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 0.4 million respectively.

UDUMALAI NARAYANA KAVI

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Udumalai Narayana Kavi on December 31, 2008.

India Security Press Nasik designed the stamp. Nenu Gupta designed 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 0.4 million respectively.

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

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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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NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

The following stamps are now available on sale at the philatelic bureau at New Delhi for the first time:

Nov 17: Standard Chartered Bank in sheets of 40 stamps

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 in Sheetlet of 16 stamps

Nov 27: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Miniature Sheet

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

The First Day Covers for these issues are still awaited:

Dec 16: Field Marshal Manekshaw

Dec 21: T V Ramasubbaiyer

The Brochures for these issues are still awaited:

Dec 15: Swami Ranganathananda

Dec 16: Field Marshal Manekshaw

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FDC FOR DEFINITIVE SERIES

India post has issued the first three stamps of new definitive series- "Builders of Modern India" the 10th Definitive series. Three stamps are on Nehru in the denomination of 25P, Indira Gandhi in the denomination 500P and Rajiv Gandhi in the denomination of 500P. All three personalities are political leaders. These stamps were released on December 1, 2008, but no First Day Cover and First Day postmark was provided by India Post on the first day of issue. Very few philatelists obtained date stamp cancellation from New Delhi & Mumbai GPO. A private Cover is prepared by Hemant K Jain [hemantkumar.jn@gmail.com](mailto:hemantkumar.jn@gmail.com) of Mandla, Madhya Pradesh and may be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/fdc/fday2008.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Dec 01: Dehradun, World AIDS Day

Dec 23: Dehradun, Defence Research & Development Organization Golden Jubilee

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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MAHATMA GANDHI 1948 SPECIMENS

A set of India Mahatma Gandhi commemorative stamps of 1948 overprinted Specimen and mounted in official presentation folder sold for a record Rs 1.11 million (US\$ 22,200) on October 17, 2008 on eBay.com. This was reported in Issue #364 of October 23, 2008.

A similar folder sold for Rs 344,000 (Euros 5050) on eBay on December 28, 2008. To view this item please click on the following link  
<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&rd=1&item=350141931861&ssPageName=STRK:MEDW:IT&ih=022>

When the Specimens sold for Rs 1.11 million not many philatelists agreed with such a valuation. The new price reflects the correct market price.

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

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INDIA AT AUCTIONS

Cherrystone Auctions <http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com> in their auction sale of January 7 & 8, 2009 features 16 lots of India and States. Apart from lithographs, East India Imperfs, King Edward VII Rs 25 it has 5 lots of seldom offered Electrical Telegraph Stamps.

Oswal Antiques <http://www.indiacoingallery.com> is holding their first auction on January 11, 2009 at Pune in conjunction with Coin Exhibition organized by the International Collector's Society of Rare Items. The auction offers 235 lots of coins, medals, tokens, and paper money.

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LOUIS BRAILLE COMMEMORATIVE COINS

India Government Mint Alipore Kolkata will release a set of 2 coins in the denominations of Rs 5 and Rs 100 during 2009 to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Louis Braille. These coins for the first time ever will contain inscription in Braille script as well.

India Government Mint Alipore Kolkata <http://www.igmint.org> is offering the following coins for sale:

Indian Air Force Platinum Jubilee, Set of 2 Coins, Rs 2 & 100  
Proof Set, Rs 1378  
Uncirculated Set, Rs 1089

Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Set of 2 Coins, Rs 5 & 100

Proof Set, Rs 502  
Uncirculated Set, Rs 920

India Government Mint Mumbai [www.mumbaimimnt.org](http://www.mumbaimimnt.org) is offering the following coins for sale:

Mahatma Basaveshwara, Rs 100  
Proof Set, Rs 1459

Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Rs 50  
Proof Set, Rs 1038  
Uncirculated Coins Set, Rs 566

First War of Independence, Rs 100  
Proof Sets, Rs 1459  
Uncirculated Sets, Rs 777

Tercentenary of Gur-Ta Gaddi, Set of 2 Coins, Rs 10 & 100  
Proof Coins Set, Rs 1677  
Uncirculated Coins, Rs 1145

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BISHVANATH KHERIA IS NO MORE

Bishvanath Kheria died on December 24, 2008 at Kolkata. He was a founder member and former Vice President of the numismatic Society of Calcutta.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 27-28: New Delhi, Coins, Numismatic Exhibition  
Organizer: Delhi Coin Society  
Venue: Bapu Samaj Seva Kendra, Panchkunjian Road,  
Contact: Goga Jain 0 93123 18401

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>

#### SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

##### PAKISTAN 2008 - Complete List

Apr 04: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto 29th Martyrdom Anniversary, Rs 4  
Jun 21: Benazir Bhutto 55<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary, 2 Stamps, Rs 4 & Rs 5  
Oct 08: Earthquake 3rd Anniversary, Rs 4  
Dec 10: United Nations Human Rights Award 2008 for Benazir Bhutto  
Dec 27: Benazir Bhutto 1st Martyrdom Anniversary, Rs 4

[http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south\\_asia\\_new\\_issues.htm](http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south_asia_new_issues.htm)

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/x16.htm> for tariff and terms

WANTED autographed First Day Covers, autographed Special Covers, Autographs, Signed Photographs, letters of famous persons:  
Contact: Santosh Kumar Lahoti [sklahoti@vsnl.net](mailto:sklahoti@vsnl.net), Mobile: 093310 12533,  
Website: [www.autographindia.com](http://www.autographindia.com)

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)

#### 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.>

HEMANT V KULKARNI, Milwaukee, USA

In your # 373 campaign newsletter Mr. Mohammad I. Khan writes that the postal authorities of India should pre-announce the date of release of stamps to be issued with a bit of press coverage so that philatelists can plan ahead of time and not miss on an opportunity to purchase.

This is precisely the objective here in the USA. In fact most of our post offices display a large colorful poster in its lobby depicting

huge replicas of such forthcoming stamps with the exact 'month' of their release -probably every six months apart in advance. What it means is that the postal service requires a meticulous planning with a view that it is serving the public which is its indirect employer and at the same time gives an importance to how well a newly issued stamp can be promoted to make a profit.

Unless and until Indian postal service functions as a business too (which demands courtesy), things won't improve in India.

I must confess though that the press coverage is given just a few days ahead of a stamp's release but then a novice stamp collector like me is already geared up -thanks to those wonderful colored posters we get to see months ahead of time. Also, thanks to the internet one can monitor the exact date of an issue and can even opt for a home delivery of a new release without even stepping in the post office -albeit for a small fee.

KASINATH R, Madurai

This is to bring to your notice that the pricing of Year Pack 2007. I bought it for Rs 500 (without SD Burman stamp) at GPO but recently they started selling in GPO at Rs 485 due to non-availability of S D Burman stamp of face value Rs 15. But the staff at Philatelic Bureau said there is no instruction yet of refund of Rs 15 for those who bought it for Rs 500!

SANJAY AWATE,

I wish to attract attention of Senior Postmaster Varanasi. I sent money order to get special cancelled first day covers & folders i.e. Information sheet/ brochures for Bismillah Khan issue. But it was returned saying that no information I received till now. After issue of stamp I again sent money order and I got message that we do not have folders. I again sent letter saying folder means information brochure, then I did receive one registered letter having Folders as per my letter and only one FDC. The accompanying letter stated that the balance money is being returned by money order. I then sent a letter asking why FDC demanded were not sent, what is difficulty please let me know, you can send me letter or call me on my Mobile or give a miss call. I obtained phone number of Varanasi Head Post Office which I found always engaged. Can I get reply for my enquiry?

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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

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037  
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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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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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