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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 375 - January 8, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

This year the first Indian philatelic website [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com) will enter its 13<sup>th</sup> year of service while this digital weekly will enter its 10<sup>th</sup> year of publication. This was made possible with support of several hundred people who have contributed at all times over all these years. We take this opportunity to thank all of you once again and look forward to your continued support.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abhai Mishra

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

#### FIRST BOOKLET IN BRAILLE SCRIPT

Uttarakhand Circle of India Post released a stamp booklet to commemorate bicentenary of birth of Louis Braille on January 4, 2009. This is the only booklet in the world with Hindi inscription in Braille script. The booklet produced in the quantity of 500 is priced at Rs 50.

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

#### 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.

#### FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jan 21: Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, Rs 5

Jan 21: K K Birla, Rs 5

Jan 24: Spices of India, Set of 5 Stamps + Miniature Sheet, Black Pepper Rs 5, Cinnamon Rs 5, Clove Rs 5, Cardamom Rs 5, Turmeric Coriander & Chilly Rs 20

Jan 25: Saint Paul's Church, Rs 5

Jan 27: INTACH Heritage Centers, Set of 4 Stamps + Miniature Sheet, Jaisalmer Fort Rs 5, Qila Mubarak Patiala Rs 5, Manyu Monasteries Ladakh Rs 5, Saint Anne's Church Rs 5

Jan 31: Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Rs 5

Mar 01: 10th Definitive Series - Builders of Modern India, 9 stamps, Re 0.50 - K Kamraj

Rs 1 - Mahatma Gandhi,

Rs 2 - B R Ambedkar,

Rs 3 - Satyajit Ray,

Rs 4 - Homi Bhabha,

Rs 10 - Periyar E V Ramaswamy Naicker

Rs 15 - J R D Tata

Rs 20 - Mother Teresa

Rs 50 - Rukmini Devi Arundale

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

RANI VELU NACHCHIYAR

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

Security Printing Press, Hyderabad designed the Stamp. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and pictorial the 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.

LOUIS BRAILLE

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 to mark the birth bicentenary of Louis Braille on January 4, 2009.

This is the 2nd stamp of India to have the Braille characters. The first one was issued on 2007.

Louis Braille (January 4, 1809 - January 6, 1852) was the inventor of braille, a world-wide system used by blind and visually impaired people for reading and writing. Braille is read by passing the fingers over characters made up of an arrangement of one to six embossed points. It has been adapted to almost every known language.

Sankha Samanta 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 3 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 at the philatelic bureau at New Delhi:

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

The First Day Covers for these issues are now available:

Dec 16: Field Marshal Manekshaw

Dec 21: T V Ramasubbaiyer

The following stamps are still awaited:  
Nov 14: Children's Day 1 of 3 stamps  
Nov 16: B N Reddi

The following Miniature Sheets are still awaited:  
Aug 02: Aldabra Giant Tortoise  
Nov 14: Children's Day  
Nov 27: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy

The First Day Covers for these issues are still awaited:  
Dec 31: Rani Velu Nachchiyar

The Brochures for these issues are still awaited:  
Dec 15: Swami Ranganathananda  
Dec 16: Field Marshal Manekshaw  
Dec 31: Rani Velu Nachchiyar

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

On January 1, 2009 following 4 items of postal stationery of the new series with motifs from the recently launched 10th definitive Series 'Builders of Modern India'

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 22.50 - Registered Envelope - Jawaharlal Nehru

The Aerogramme in the denomination of Rs 15 with Mother Teresa motif as well as Reply Postcard will be released later.

All the above were printed by India Security Press Nasik. The Postcard, Inland letter Card, Envelope along with Meghdoot Postcard with Homi Bhabha motif printed by Security Printing Press Hyderabad will also be issued on later date.

A special first day of issue postmark was provided at all philatelic bureaus.

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

Sep 19: Lucknow, Bankers Institute of Rural Development Silver 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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GREETING CARDS

Uttarakhand Circle of India Post recently issued 3 greeting cards depicting miniature sheets Endangered Birds, Roses, and Butterflies. The cards along with a plain white envelope are priced at Rs 10 each.

To view images of Greeting Cards issued by India Post, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/greetingcards.htm>

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PHILATELIC GET-TOGETHER AT KANPUR

Arjun Ghosh well known veteran stamp dealer organized get-together for philatelists at Kanpur on January 4, 2009. Arun Agarwal, R C Agarwal, Rajprit Singh Saluja, Shafiq Khan, and Madhukar Jhingan were some of the philatelists who attended this get-together. The get-together will regular be held on first Sunday of every month.

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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: Babu Samaj Seva Kendra, Panchkunan Road,
Contact: Goga Jain 0 93123 18401

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2008.htm>

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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

WANTED Hundis of Indian Princely States, preferably printed hundis. I also am interested in exchanging information on Hundis. I shall be attending the Festival of Stamps at Ahmedabad from Jan 30 - Feb 1. ANIL SURI, E-70 Kalkaji, New Delhi 110019, Mobile-09811176908

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

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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.>

KASINATH R, Madurai

This was an experience happened to me this week. I went to the GPO here at Madurai to send a speed post. The clerk at the counter said if I affix stamps, they would not take the cover as they got instructions from higher officials to not accept such covers. They want to fix only barcode stickers and printed slips to reduce manpower in selling stamps at the counter.

The Department of Posts is supposed to promote philately and not to discourage. In my opinion, only philatelists are those who are affixing stamps on the covers. If they too not allowed to fix stamps, then who is going to promote philately?

If this will be the case, then why they are printing and issuing so much stamps per year? Is that just to squeeze out money from us philatelists? Then it is not called philately bureau, it is just looting from us. I guess many of us throughout India, if not, at least at major GPOs experience like this and not many of us come out with this problem. Something must be done to accept speed post covers with stamps at all speed post counters across the country. Already the hobby is dying, and if they start doing like this, we won't be getting any cancelled stamps or used stamps any more.

JEEVAN JYOTI, Kullu

I recently came across an article by a noted philatelist of India who has been the commissioner in International Philatelic Exhibitions. It reflects his resentment and vows on the result of his own collection

displayed in an International Philatelic Exhibition. When I went through the whole article I found he felt very bad when his own collection was downgraded by one medal. He put his views in the critique session as to why was he downgraded. In response he got the explanation which was unsatisfactory and baseless according to him. He was fired for the poor choice of the subject. Then he explained his subject and its importance. Similarly we face such humiliating situations in India at national level. When a participant is downgraded, obviously he feels disappointed. Now it is to be noticed that the same persons when acting as the members of Jury in India don't realise the disappointment faced by participants. He agrees with the statement that "judging is different when the candidate is known". But I just want to express that the similar disappointments are faced by the philatelists in India in Thematic category in which the number of participants is quite big and the panel of jury members appointed to judge the exhibits is not sufficient. This is the only reason that the collections are judged with a flying look. There is nothing to comment on the fact that "judging is different when candidate is known as everyone agrees with the statement and the several exhibits can be observed after the results are declared". The subject matter of the exhibits is not properly read by the jury members which is visible from the fact when the subject of the exhibits is discussed with them they give a very vague explanation as they have not understood the subject. I have faced such situation in last National Philatelic exhibition and many others might have faced too. As we are all aware of the post exhibition reactions of the participants published in this digital weekly. The next National Exhibition is proposed to be held in Bangalore. Hope this time the judging will be fair and flawless.

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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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