

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 396 - Jun 4, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

~~~~~  
I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
Madras Regiment Stamp Released  
New Postal Stationery  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Legal Notice to PCI  
New Ministers of Communications & IT  
Recent Periodical Publications  
New Publications  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
The Calendar of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions  
Readers Forum: Correction, Niket Bubna, Naresh Agrawal  
NewsScan: Collected Works

~~~~~  
To SUBSCRIBE, please visit www.stampsofindia.com
To UNSUBSCRIBE, click on the second link at the end of this message.
BACK ISSUES <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

~~~~~  
JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) for some yet explained reason is holding a governing council meeting in Mumbai on June 7, 2009 after a gap of one and a half years while its constitutional requirement of holding such meeting is "at least thrice a year at intervals of not more than four months". Well this is not the first time this violation has been done and PCI is habitually violating laws of land, its constitution, and the resolutions of its AGM and governing council.

According to the sources, this meeting will not be attended by 2 of its members from the India Post as has been the case for 9 years. However PCI continues to misuse the names of 2 of its governing council members from the India Post to its benefit all along.

PCI has held only 1 Annual General Meeting in last 9 years and it is continuing with the governing council elected in 2000 while its constitutional requirement is of holding elections every 2 years.

Meanwhile most of very important decisions such as appointments of national commissioners, jurors, delegates to FIP/FIAP Congresses, entering in agreements with the Department of Posts regarding holding of national and international exhibitions as well as jointly publishing of a magazine, has been taken without approval of either the governing council or the general body.

The expenditure incurred by PCI in past 9 years is also without approval of either the general body or the governing council. The

auditing as well as approval of accounts is also not being carried out on yearly basis in a timely manner.

The persons illegally controlling the PCI who falsely claim to represent the philately in India are actually the roadblocks in the progress of the Indian philately.

While FIP/FIAP continues to patronize PCI to board the gravy train as over 50% of the budget of holding an international exhibition in India goes towards air tickets to jury, five-star hospitality & per day allowance to jury and national commissioners, sightseeing trips and lavish parties for jury and national commissioners and hefty amount as patronage fees to FIP and FIAP. India Post pays the entire cost of holding the exhibition, currently over US\$ 2 million, from the public funds. Let us not forget that there are corrupt officers in India Post as is the case with all government departments. These officers who pursue their own agenda need to be exposed and taken to task.

Compare this with the statement of the President of International Hockey Federation, Leandro Negre in March 2009 "my visit to India re-affirmed that they are capable hosts (for World Cup Hockey), with only one pressing matter which they must sort out. India must have a democratic election to replace the ad-hoc committee, if not, we have Malaysia on standby as Plan-B."

We sincerely hope that capable persons from the next generation will soon take charge and provide the octogenarians their much deserved rest and lead the philately in India to its true potential. We believe it's the job of all the stake holders of philately in India to be concerned about its well being and play a proactive role in this regard.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Anil Suri, Jaydev Nansey,

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsofindia.com)

~~~~~  
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.

~~~~~  
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jun 12: Reverend J J M Nichols Roy

Jun 19: Sacred Heart Church Pudducherry  
Jun 19: Raza Library Rampur, 4 Stamps + Miniature Sheet  
Aug 03: St Joseph College Bangalore

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 2009, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

~~~~~  
MADRAS REGIMENT STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 to mark 250 years of Madras Regiment, the oldest regiment in the Indian Army, on May 28, 2009.

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 0.4 million stamps by wet offset process.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2009, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

~~~~~  
NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

MEGHDOOT POST CARD With Advertisement  
Consumer Awareness, 7 designs, Malayalam  
The grand total till date is now 848, with 313 added in 2008!

The complete illustrated listing of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

POST CARD With Advertisement

Feb 02: Indira Gandhi National Old-Age Pension Scheme, Hindi, ISP  
Feb 02: Indira Gandhi National Old-Age Pension Scheme, Hindi, ISP  
Mar 13: Ayurvedic medicine for piles, Hindi, ISP  
May 27: AIDS, Marathi, ISP

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2009, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009PC.htm>

INLAND LETTER CARD With Advertisement

Feb 02: Indira Gandhi National Old-Age Pension Scheme, Hindi, ISP, M

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2009, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009ILC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2009, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009EN.htm>

~~~~~  
RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jun 5: Ahmedabad, World Environment Day

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2009, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2009pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2009aps.htm>

~~~~~  
LEGAL NOTICE TO PCI

Dr Kawaljit Singh, the second son of the Dr Ranjit Singh Gandhi, Vice President of the PCI, has recently sent a legal notice to all PCI governing council members except two, regarding his not being appointed an apprentice national commissioner. He learned about this decision through the draft minutes of PCI governing council meeting held at Chennai on January 4, 2008 which, believe it or not, was circulated in the second week of May 2009.

The legal notice also reveals for the first time that the PCI is currently using address of the first son of the Dr Ranjit Singh Gandhi in New Delhi as its official address.

According to the sources, the group of persons who control PCI, had now made-up their minds to appoint Dr Kawaljit Singh as the apprentice national commissioner to avoid the legal action.

~~~~~  
NEW MINISTERS OF COMMUNICATIONS & IT

The results of general election in India were announced on May 16, 2009 and the new government was formed on May 22, 2009. Pratibha Patil, the President of India allotted portfolios to ministers on May 28, 2009.

A Raja has retained his portfolio as Minister of Communications and Information Technology. Gurudas Kamat and Sachin Pilot are Ministers of State for Communications & Information Technology.

~~~~~  
RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #18, Jun 2009, Monthly  
Editor: Jeevan Jyoti [j.jyoti9@gmail.com](mailto:j.jyoti9@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla  
Annual Subscription: Free  
Also available online at <http://rainbowstampnews.blogspot.com/>

PHILANEWS, Whole #45, May Jun 2009, Bimonthly  
Editor: Rajesh Paharia [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com)  
Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur  
Annual Subscription: Rs 200

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

~~~~~  
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Manik Jain of Philatelia informs the availability of the supplements of their various stamp albums as follows:

India Post Independence Supplement for 2007 & 2008: Rs 350
Binder & Slip Case: Rs 250
Protective Covers for pages: Rs 200 for a pack of 50, Post Paid

Supplement for 2007 & 2008 with all stamps including se-tenants and miniature sheets mounted with imported transparent mounts, all pages with protective covers and Binder: Rs 5,000

Miniature Sheets Supplements: Rs 200 Including Protective Covers

Tete-Beche & Se-Tenant Supplement: Rs 200 Including Protective Covers

Panes & Sheetlets Supplement 2005-2008: Rs 1000 Incl. Protective Covers

Please contact Manik Jain, Philatelia, One Moti Sil Street, Kolkata 700013, Telephone +91 (33) 2228 8549 & 2228 7777 between 10 AM to 5 PM for your requirements.

~~~~~  
RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jun 26-28: Kakinada, Coins & Stamps Show

Aug 21-23: Bilaspur, Dak Ticket Milan 2009 (Stamp Fair)  
Organizer: Chhattisgarh Philatelic Association  
Venue: Hotel Centre Point  
Sales Booth: Rs 4,000 for a Table and 3 chairs, Includes 3 day's accommodation in Hotel Anand on the same premises with twin sharing basis, with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Plus a set of the special covers, maxim cards & stamp booklets expected to be issued during the show  
Contact: Atul Jain [jainaatul.65@gmail.com](mailto:jainaatul.65@gmail.com) mobile 09300311007

Oct 30-31 & Nov 1: Pune, Stamp Exhibition  
Contact: Pratisad Neurgaonkar, mobile 0 97663 10553

Dec 18-20: Vadodara, StampMania-2009 One Frame National Exhibition  
Organizer: Baroda Philatelic Society [www.vadophil.org](http://www.vadophil.org)  
Venue: Shree Saurashtra Leuva Patel Seva Samaj, Alembic Road  
Contact: Prashant H Pandya [info@vadophil.org](mailto:info@vadophil.org)  
Website: [www.stampmania2009.com](http://www.stampmania2009.com)

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2009.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

~~~~~  
THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for June 2009 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2auctions.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

~~~~~  
SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

[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

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

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.>

CORRECTION

An error, during the formatting process in the previous issue # 295 of May 28, 2009 resulted in splitting up the letter of Dr Satyendra Kumar Agrawal in this section. The last para of his letter got transposed and was prefixed to the letter of Dr Zulaiha Mohamed. Unfortunately it wasn't detected at the proof reading stage either. We regret the error and apologize to both the writers and all readers of this digital weekly.

NIKET BUBNA

I would like to draw your attention towards the 'calendar stamps', mentioned in detail in the first edition of the new newsletter, PhilaPost (October-December 2008). These stamps were designed, based on popular themes and were believed to be released as per fixed schedule. It is specifically mentioned that VIP availability and release function vagaries would not hamper the release of these calendar stamps. Following a stamp release schedule has never been the forte of India Post and I had no reason to believe that this venture would change that perception.

The irony of this whole fuss is that since this detail has been available to the public, not even one issue date has been adhered to! The only stamp release that followed a fixed date was the Festivals of India stamp set, released on Oct 8, 08; that too not without its own erroneous spelling of the word 'Deepavali' in the vernacular version. Since then, eight issues viz. Spices of India (scheduled in November 2008, rescheduled for January 2009, prematurely released, finally released on April 29, 09), Christmas Eve (scheduled for December 24, 08, and only to be released as 'Merry Christmas' on December 8, 08), Heritage Temples (scheduled for February 9, 09, not released yet),

Legendary heroines of Cinema (scheduled for March 8, 09, not released yet), Astronomy (scheduled for April 6, 09), Colonial Heritage of India (scheduled for May 4, 09, not released yet), and Children's Fables Series-I (scheduled for May 11, 09, not released yet). I gave all these details to drive home the point that 'none' of the planned issues made it to the pre-decided date. This definitely signifies the non-adherence to policies and self-made decisions by India Post.

As for the possible reasons for the delay or rescheduling, the general elections during March and April '09 could be one. But then, the government had rulings from the Election Commission regarding public functions and advertisements and the postponement of the issues during those two months is understandable. Even then, these stamps are popular themes and do not cater to a specific section of the society that may help attract votes or win brownie points. I pondered over other plausible factors that could have caused this mess, and unfortunately I cannot come up with more. Probably India Post could offer help with this.

In not following the stamp release dates, India Post has mastered the art of releasing unscheduled stamps at the earliest. Illustrating this, the stamp release on R. Sankar (April 30, 09) and St Joseph's College, Bangalore (scheduled for June 15, 09) were listed under the, 'dates to be decided' section of the stamp issue program but have found priority in release. Why could these not be included in the scheduled program, since they were going to be released before the other stamps which had fixed dates? Issues that feature nowhere in the Stamp Issue Program either of 2009 or as leftovers of the previous years are released without any notice and just out of the blue. Illustrating this are some of the issues this year viz., Baburao Puleshwar Shedmake (March 12, 09), Medial Council of India (March 1, 09) and the forthcoming stamp on Sacred Heart Church, Puducherry (June 16, 09). This leaved one to wonder if there is a real need of the official, Stamp Issue Program? Even if it is released well in advance, it is never publicised well and does not follow the release dates.

With this, I would also like to draw your attention towards the fact that India Post had released a postage stamp on St. Joseph's Boys High School, Bangalore (November 28, 09) and is scheduled to release a postage stamp on St. Joseph's College, Bangalore (June 15, 09). Both these institutions are run by the Bangalore Jesuits Education Society. I have no personal issue with the Jesuits Society and here they just fall under the purview of this particular fallacy. I would like the philatelic community and the respected members of the Philatelic Advisory Committee and officials of India Post to do a re-think on this issue, whether it is fair to release two stamps for a very similar cause, with proposals from the same society, and both within a year?

At this juncture, I want to pitch-in for revival of the much needed stamp series on the 'temple architecture' that was started in 2001. India has umpteen number of temples that are a matter of pride to the country and innumerable of them are centuries old. I feel that releasing stamps of temples should not be considered as a taboo, since it is a religious place of equal importance as other places of worship like churches. I do not see any reason to take the route of classifying the stamps as 'architecture' theme, rather than just as temples, places of worship. The series on Shakti Temples should be released, as planned

earlier and also the other Jyotirlinga temples that remain from the previous series should be completed. This new government holds a promise and I strongly believe in the 'inclusive' growth of India and no better way than to include temples in the stamp issues of India.

Another issue I want to raise is with the pending stamp proposals. I have access to annexure from two Lok Sabha questions (Unstarred Q #336 from 2002 and #3639 from 2007) that have details about the pending stamp proposals that have been accumulating with the department. It might be very helpful if some of us use the RTI to get details about the current status of the proposals and their details. The proposals mentioned in one of the answers are only for personalities, and has some worthwhile names there. Here, I believe, the mechanism of selecting stamp proposals needs to go a thorough review and needs to be made binding to the department and not remain tentative. It is just not acceptable to see stamps being released on the basis of regions and to please particular sections of the society and according to the fancies of the people at the helm of the ministry.

With the entry of Shri Sachin Pilot as the MoS in the Communications department one would expect his proactive role in implementing the policies and decisions of the department in letter and spirit. Shri Pilot, I hope will use the internet as a source of communication with the public to enable us, the philatelists to convey our concerns and grievances regarding India Post.

I plead the senior philatelists to take some concrete steps with the issues they find relevant from the above, and relating to the current affairs of the Philately Division of India Post. Possible interactions with the Ministers or the Postal Service Board members could be arranged and matters of concern raised there. I genuinely feel that the government needs to interact more with the philatelists and take their opinion in consideration. It would surely make the division more accountable and get the much needed transparency in the functioning of the daily affairs.

India Post, especially the philately division needs a through rejig, a reform of its work culture to be more professional, punctual and proactive. The stamp released by India Post are in all ways reflective of the government in power and one would expect a thorough redo with this stable and strong government in place.

NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur

We are lucky that Baroda Philatelic Society is organising One Frame Exhibition in December which will certainly promote this kind of exhibiting in India. But what exactly are the requirements, scope, prospects of one frame exhibit, we still are in dark. We don't know much about rules and regulations and judgment criteria. We hear different opinions about one frame exhibit. Different judges have different opinions about it. I have read the comments of the commissioner FIAP/FIP and many others. In my opinion one frame exhibiting as under:

1. Difficult Subjects:

One frame exhibiting is for those subjects/ titles/ themes which have limited scope of collection and difficult to procure materials. In case



of thematic exhibits, exhibits such as Butterflies, Milk, personalities, Elephants etc are absolutely undesirable because abundance of material is available. These topics can be easily extended to number of frames. But themes like Computer/ Web Designing, Exploring Mars, Anatomy of Human Hands etc are little difficult to build. In fact, one frame exhibits are specialised exhibits and not common/ general. In case of postal history exhibits story of a particular post office, operation, route can be chosen for one frame exhibit and not like postal history of Hyderabad. I mean difficult subjects, themes are to be chosen looking in to the fact that search of material and research on subject is difficult.

2. Up To Youth Class Only:

One frame exhibiting should be allowed only up to Youth Class and not above. The basic reason for this is that such exhibiting will promote philately from this level where it is required the most. Since, in the beginning the collectors/ exhibitors are new and have not so much of knowledge, have not done research and for them procurement of material is also difficult for them; such exhibiting will encourage and give them a scope to build their collection and expand and refine the exhibit.

3. Tough Scrutiny Before Acceptance:

In case, the opinion is formed that it should not be restricted up to youth class only then special jury should be consulted to judge the eligibility level of the exhibit ( Difficulty Level) before acceptance of the exhibit.

4. Some Set Standard:

I will even go up to stating that some pre-requisites of one frame exhibit should be that it should contain some exclusive items depending upon the nature of subject and availability of the material, failing which the exhibit will not be accepted. What I mean to say is that one frame exhibit has to be specialised one.

In fact, in my opinion we must organise one frame exhibitions at all levels but simultaneously we must propagate the need of "Tough Subjects" for one frame exhibiting and train/ guide our young stamp collectors accordingly. STAMPAMANIA 2009 will certainly promote this branch of philately in India but we need to see that we guide the philatelists properly in this direction so that they may perform better in FIP/FIAP exhibitions.

~~~~~  
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>
~~~~~

NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

COLLECTED WORKS

India Today, Jun 8, 2009

-----\*\*\*\*\*O\*\*\*\*\*-----

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  
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at 'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

'Stamps of India' does not rent, sell, or otherwise share your e-mail address with any third-party.

Our now famous Disclaimer!

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

STAMPS OF INDIA also publishes:

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>

=====

© Copyright 2009, Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved.  
For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications please ask the publisher for permission stating exactly what you would like to use, and for what purpose, before using the same.