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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 404 - Jul 30, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Jayadeva and Geettagovinda; with 11 stamps this is the largest rather the longest commemorative set of stamps ever issued by India Post.

India Post needs a lot to learn for issuing long sets. The ideal situation would have been if it was produced in a set of 12 sheetlets of 11 stamps individually and mixed. 11 miniature sheets containing one stamp only and a First Day Cover large enough to accommodate 11 stamps should have also been issued. These measures would not only have earned appreciation from philatelists but also would have multiplied the revenue from the sales manifold. Another case of lost opportunity.

In several recent issues India Post released the images on Brochure have been carrying different years than the actual stamps, ie the brochure carried 2008 while the actual stamps carried 2009. In Jayadeva issue India Post reversed this perhaps to add a variety to spice up our philatelic life. In this issue the brochure carried 2009 while the actual stamps carried 2008!

India Post's printing of 11 stamps in larger than the normal commemorative size all se-tenant in one row did not deter the determined philatelists in preparing their own two-foot long FDC for the issue. See the creative work of Srikant Parikh of Ahmedabad and Jigar Desai of Mumabi at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/404plus.htm>

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

- M&SJ

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

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

Aug 1: St Joseph College Bangalore  
Aug 4: Maharishi Patanjali  
Aug 12: Pingali Venkaiah

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>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

RAMCHARAN AGARWAL

Meira Kumar, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of Indian Parliament, released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Ramcharan Agarwal, a fighter for India's freedom, on his 33rd death anniversary at New Delhi.

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 0.4 million stamps by wet offset process.

JAYADEVA AND GEETAGOVINDA

Yasodhara Menon, Chief Post Master General, Orissa Circle of India Post released a set of 11 stamps on Jayadev & Gita Govind at a state level function held at Jayadev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar on July 27, 2009. The album containing these stamps was presented to the chief guest, Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa. Prafulla Samal, Minister for Panchayati Raj, Information and Public Relation, Orissa, Prasanna Patsani, Member of Parliament, Aravind Dhali, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Tarunkanti Mishra, IAS, Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary,

Government of Orissa were present on the occasion. A spectacular and colorful Orissi dance performance on Dasavtar followed the stamp release function. The Chief Minister also inaugurated a photographic exhibition on the paintings on Jayadev. A Philatelic counter was opened during the function. In spite of heavy rain philatelists from different parts of Orissa as well as local people turned up in large numbers.

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 1 million stamps by photogravure process. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of million.

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

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

ENVELOPES with Advertisement

May 30: Consumer Awareness, Hindi, ISP, M

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

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 2009, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009PC.htm>

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

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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>

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INDIA STUDY CIRCLE FOR PHILATELY

The information we provided in the previous issue regarding "Those joining now should pay for one and a half years membership dues of Rs 1,050 for membership till December 2010" is incorrect as only complete year's subscription will be accepted.

The members can now pay their membership dues in Indian Rupees directly into the State Bank of India account# 20031542846. Please don't deposit cash as it incurs bank charges. The account is in the name of Pratisad Neurgaonkar of Pune, its new Regional Secretary for India. Neurgaonkar may be contacted on his mobile 09766310553 or over email [pratisad@hotmail.com](mailto:pratisad@hotmail.com).

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COIMABTORE COIN SOCIETY

A new numismatic society in the name and style of 'Coimabtoire Coin Society' has been formed on July 12, 2009 at Coimbatore. Office bearers are yet to be

elected and every month 4th Sunday they meet at The Suburban High School, Sathyamorthy Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641 009 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

They have already conducted a one day Coin Show at Geetha Hall on the inauguration day.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jul 30 - Aug 1: Coimbatore, Coin Show

Organizer: Coimbatore Coin Society

Venue: Kongunadu Arts & Science College, GN Mills Post, Coimbatore 641 029

Contact: T M Ravichandran 09443325960

Aug 14-16: Ahmedabad, Coin & Currency Fair

Organizer: Twin Stamps & Coins

Venue: Hotel comfort Inn President

Sales Booth: Rs 8,000

Contact: Shatrughan Jain [sjain1@rediffmail.com](mailto:sjain1@rediffmail.com)

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, Stampex - National Stamps Fair

Organizer: International Collectors Society of Rare Items

Venue: Sonal Hall, Karve Road,

Sales Booth: Rs 6,000

Contact: Pratisad Neurgaonkar [pratisad@hotmail.com](mailto:pratisad@hotmail.com) mobile 09766310553

Nov 20-22: Palakkad, Annual Stamp & Coin Exhibition

Venue: Town Hall Annex

Contact: 9847660217, 9446791629 for Dealers Stall

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)

Updates: 1. The last date for submission of Entry Forms extended to Aug 15;

2. List of titles of participating exhibits now listed at website

3. StampMania-2009 will be inaugurated on December 17, 2009

4. 'Heritage Walk through Stamps' in Vadodara on December 17, 2009

5. Printed Prospectus and Entry form are now available

6. One Participant can submit maximum three entries but all of them should be in different classes. This is also applicable to Youth Class

7. Make use of exhibits available online for guidance at "Link to One Frame Exhibits"

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>

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SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south_asia_new_issues.htm

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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](mailto:surajjaitly@hotmail.com) or [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.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.>

Commodore VIJAY KAPRE, Indian Navy (Retired)

India's own homemade nuclear submarine is commissioned and goes to sea on July 26, 2009, but India Post appears to be blissfully unaware of an event that has so many far reaching ramifications not only in the Indian Ocean region, but, possibly in the whole world.

LEO D'SOUZA, Nagpur

I agree totally with reference to Dr Amitava Sens letter regarding poor functioning of Kolkatha Philatelic Bureau. Here in Nagpur GPO we have a similar situation. Dispatches are made once every three months and the account holder miss out if by chance his/her account is short. Sometimes the missed issues are not available later.

Philatelic Bureaus should adopt a uniform policy of dispatching every month and provision should be made to keep copies of all issues as ordered. If the account runs short a reminder to the person stipulating by when to make a fresh deposit after which, the items can be disposed off if no remittance received till then.

At Nagpur GPO, the staff change so often, that by the time the incumbent has taken stock of things he/she too is transferred. After November 2008 the first dispatch we got was in June 2009. The reason given was that the stock was not received.

If the Nagpur GPO Post Master is willing, I am prepared to offer my services (FREE) to the Philatelic bureau 2 days in the week, to bring things up-to-date and ensure timely monthly dispatches.

SANTANU PANIGRAHI, Sambalpur, Orissa.

I think Dr. Sen is 100% correct. On 27th July I had been to the GPO to make deposit into my account and enquired about the M/S and Meghdoot Post card and the reply was that it will be send very soon. I saw only three persons i.e. one male and two female assistants in charge of the Philatelic Bureau philatelic deposit account section. The so called Badababu was on leave. His

seat is a junk yard with files and other bundles of papers piled up. I have also not received a single Meghdoot Post card or miniature sheet. I don't know what they are doing with all these Meghdoot Post cards and miniature sheets. If the materials are not sent to the philatelic deposit account holders as per the requisition, then where are they sending is a matter of enquiry. I think the Director, Philatelic Bureau of Calcutta G.P.O. should look after the matter personally otherwise the philatelic deposit account will be a farce. So, early action in the matter will retrieve the glory of the G.P.O. or else God save the G.P.O.

DR SATYENDRA KUMAR AGRAWAL, Varanasi

It is my humble request to my very learned philatelic friend Dr. Sebastian Jose to please re-read my letter published in issue #395 patient ally-sincerely- thoroughly with unbiased thoughts to get all his questions answered , aroused in his letter in issue #400 which are only an outcome of the misinterpretation of the facts I discussed in it.

If he wishes to know more about the "4 components of Booklet" may read my articles published in "Rainbow Stamps News" entitled "Stamps Booklets as a Thematic Element" issue #June 2009 and "Printed to Private Order Postal Stationeries" in issue # July 2009. If he feels them not authentic may consult "Handbook of Thematic Philately" by W.E.J. van den Bold, published by "The British Thematic Association" and "The use of Postal Stationeries & Relatives in Thematic Philately" by J.A. Desimpelaere .

Few misinterpretations:

1. I talked only about Indian booklets with "Privately Printed Covers" and Dr. Sebastian wrongly interpreted it as "These officially produced stamp booklets also have no philatelic value".
2. His own interpretation that "the stamp booklets from UK, the USA, Australia, Sweden, France and Japan to name a few is in real sense only Postage Stamps housed in a folded cover for last several decades " is not true. Probably he overlooked the philatelic as well as thematic importance attached to many of such booklets. Apart from illustrations, few booklets may have text of thematic appeal which is otherwise hard to find on any other philatelic element. Greeting Labels, perforations, gumming, stamps format, tabs etc are some other important criteria which may make them suitable for inclusion in any exhibit if needed. Even few issues are released only as booklet pane. I wish here to give only one example from my Gold awarded exhibit , of a modern booklet from Sweden 1973 whose cover illustrates the map showing the route taken by the Swedish botanist Carl Peter Thunberg to reach Japan leading important discoveries in the field of botany.
3. For dealers I used the sentence "May be Excused" and he translated it as "O.K." again a silly misinterpretation.
4. Though I never talked about "Forgeries" in contest of Booklets with privately printed covers in my letter, I agree that few forgeries by Sperati etc are costlier than the original issues (those who are interested to know more on this subject may wait for my two articles soon to be published in Rainbow Stamps News entitled "Postal forgeries of Postal administrations" and "Rubens of Forgery") but they are of classic Stamps. Indian Privately printed cover booklets do not come under the category of "Forgery" instead as "Bogus".

5. Regarding deduction of points, I clearly stated that "Though there are no written provisions for such deduction of points" but Dr. Sebastian without knowing the achievements of a Gold medalist philatelist and Philatelic writer he predicted his ignorance about FIP evaluation system and markings.

6. He ignored the value of "1 point" and remarked proudly that "the exhibitor still can have a worth celebrating medal at a FIP world Show..." Difference of only 1 point changes the order of medal, and one will miss GOLD instead a LV/V only for his exhibit in any philatelic exhibition. This "1 point" can also give birth to more disappointments in various ways. I remember the dishearten face of my friend who lost the "Governor's Trophy" (against me) given for the Best Thematic Exhibit, only by ONE point and made me hero then in media.

7. He also ignored the moral responsibilities of a senior philatelist towards the younger generations in any country considering my letter as an outcome of only "personal friendship, loyalties and obligations", indirectly supporting the corrupt practices of the philatelic world. As I feel everyone will agree with my views that senior philatelists, philatelic associations should educate the young collectors about "Why-What-How" to collect and make their hard earn investments for true philatelic materials.

To conclude I wish to quote honorable Dr. Sabastian's own gospel truth from his letter "whosoever writes for an open global public platform should be very careful with the facts ..."

DR. AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen (Switzerland)

In the weekly bulletin of Stamps of India, Collectors Companion (Serial NO. 399, of July 7, 2009) Dr. Sebastian Jose of Kasargod has expressed his opinions on my views on the stamp-booklets, which have been frequently issued by some philatelists or private organisations at various philatelic exhibitions held in India. I had expressed my opinion that the purchasers should bear in mind that these are privately issued stamp booklets and their inclusion in a thematic display at official philatelic exhibitions at state, national or international level should be avoided.

I am not against the creation, sale or purchase of such "unofficial" stamp booklets, so far as these are offered at philatelic exhibition and are purchased by visitors as a souvenir or token of that exhibition. This opinion I have clearly expressed in the previous issue of "Stamps of India" bulletin (Serial NO. 393, of May 20, 2009). Also my suggestions and interpretations were always pertaining to the display of stamp-booklets in a thematic display only and not in any other discipline of a particular philatelic class as per FIP rules and regulations. Perhaps Dr. Sebastian has not taken this point of limitation while grossly criticizing my views which appeared in the column "Views & Opinions". I shall not deal with the views expressed by Dr. Satyendra Kumar Agrawal in his letter as these are to be dealt with by him and not by me.

I agree with Dr. Sebastian that the forgeries are sought after by many philatelists and they are paid more than their genuine counterparts. But these should not be exhibited in thematic displays or in displays of traditional philately in lieu of genuine ones. Even FIP demands that in case of rare stamps, the compiler should produce certificates of their authenticity. The forged stamps are meant for private collection and perhaps in One Frame Displays with the themes pertaining to certain stamps which are

frequently manipulated and sold at the loss of the postal authority concerned. Even certain names, like that of Jean de Sperati, have been known in the field of philately and had been highly "praised" for the "creation of their master pieces"!

There is some classification is to be made in case of various stamp-booklets issued by various countries. The so-called "Prestige Booklets" do contain pages or pans with a set of stamps. What Dr. Agrawal has mentioned as "Four Components of the Stamp-Booklet" of the so-called Prestige Stamp-Booklet may not be there in other booklets and yet they are official booklets and in that respect it is correct what Dr. Sebastian Jose has to say.

The simplest stamp-booklets as they offered by Swedish or Dutch Postal Authorities contain one special pane pasted to a thick folder. This pane contains all the stamps (some also in duplicate) issued to commemorate certain occasion. The folder may show various advertisements and in many cases bears the logo of the post office, official postal item number and the date of issue to indicate that it is an official stamp-booklet issued by the national postal authority. Many of such stamp-booklets do not have tabs or fly-leaves and in other cases are just stitched or stapled to the folder as Dr. Sebastian has rightly pointed out. In fact the official stamp-booklets offered by India Post are of these types.

Even in Switzerland the attractive stamp booklets offered at the issuance of their celebrated "Pro Patria" and "Pro Juventute" surcharged stamps are semi-official stamp-booklets; but they are offered to the masses over the postal counters and are also supplied officially by Swiss philatelic bureaus.

All my hitherto suggestions pertaining to the stamp booklets were restricted wholly to the use of their inclusion in the thematic displays at national or international levels only. I should repeat that I am not against the creation, sale and purchase of stamp-booklets issued privately.

DIPOK DEY, Kolkata

A skeptical discussion is going on about the private booklets, whether all these items are desirable or not.

The communication system from the ancient time was introduced and developed by private organizations, individuals; later the system was nationalized mainly for political reasons by states.

Before the introduction of envelopes all the envelopes were private, even today billions of envelopes are private.

After the introduction of Postage Stamps they are available in two conditions, one is used and the other is mint. In late fifties there was debate whether mint stamps should be collected. Now both are being collected and most of them are in mint condition.

In 1878 De La Rue was commissioned by the British Board of Inland and Revenue to produce an experimental booklet. But the first country to issue booklet was Luxembourg, they issued booklet in 1895. The idea immediately adopted by other countries. All these booklets are available in mint condition.

Even a few years ago the Gimmick stamps- such as stamps printed on plastic, wood, metal etc were unacceptable though they are all officially issued by a

Government. And today? There is plethora of Gimmick items. They are all very much covetable materials as they are being issued by European countries. What is the purpose of such splendid materials? They cannot be used on mail. But collectors are running after these materials. Then why are these items are issue? These materials are being issued for Survival.

There are two types of Stamp purchaser, one those who will write letters, but their number is diminishing due to electronic communication. Moreover there are courier services, the big competitor of post office. The other one who will never write letters- they are known as collectors. Now all the postal authorities are trying to attract these with innovative stamps and materials.

Now at this juncture we should extend our little helping hand towards India Post. Now many societies issuing special covers and department is earning some revenue out of it. For example: If 1000 covers are printed, department will get Rs 8000 (eight thousand only) Rs 3000 for special cancellation fees and 1000 stamps of letter rate denomination. Whereas from the same number of booklet department will earn Rs 20000 (Twenty thousand) because booklet requires more than one stamps- say block of 4.

The other purpose of the private booklet is: There are many people who contributed something in our society, but now they are lost in oblivion. There are topics which require public awareness. All these can be highlighted through booklet. India Post cannot cover everything.

There are many private picture postcards, bazaar card etc. Collectors are frantically trying to procure these materials, not for the postmark or stamps but for the illustration printed on the cards.

So private booklets are not bogus or forgeries they are very much collectible

If the private booklets require a touch of respectability, though it is not essential, my humble suggestion to India Post is that they should make some norms for issue of stamp booklets. For booklet no cancellation is required so cancellation fees are not applicable. Those who intend to issue a booklet, should apply to India Post for the permission to use their Logo for which they can charge a fee. Applicant may also mention how many copies to be printed and which stamps of what denomination they will use. Few copies of the booklet should be submitted to India Post for the museum and official records.

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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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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
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