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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 409 - Sep 3, 2009. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Welcome to the first issue of the 10<sup>th</sup> year of publication. We are working for some time now on major improvements and invite your inputs for the same.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue:

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

STANLEY GIBBONS INDIA CATALOGUE 2010  
Stanley Gibbons has released the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of its India catalog ahead of schedule on August 20, 2009 at London. The delivery in India is expected in next few days.

The 240 page catalog is priced at £22.50 in United Kingdom equivalent approximately to Indian Rupees 1800. However there is a very special price of Rs 750 for India which has been further sweetened by adding free postage on all prepaid orders received till September 19, 2009. Contact [orders@stampsofindia.com](mailto:orders@stampsofindia.com) right away and reserve your copy.

We have now also worked out a very attractive price for bulk buyers of at least 100 copies. Please contact us if you wish to buy this catalogue in bulk for resale.

We accept payment by transfer and cheque (not cash) deposit in to our bank account (ask for details), bank draft payable at New Delhi, and 'payable at par' cheque drawn in favor of 'Stamps of India'.

We also can accept all major credit cards directly as well as through PayPal; In this case please add Rs 75 to cover charges and remit Rs 825.

We would also like to clarify that we only have rights to sell this catalog in India and as such cannot fulfill orders from abroad.

For details of Stanley Gibbons India Catalogue 2010 please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/SG-IN-CAT-2010.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Sep 3: Uttam Kumar

Sep 9: Sacred Heart Matriculation Senior Secondary School, Chennai

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 POSTAL STATIONERY

INLAND LETTER CARD WITH ADVERTISEMENT

May 30: Consumer Awareness, English, ISP, M

May 30: Consumer Awareness, English, 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>

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>

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NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

ARRIVED

Aug 16: Heritage Railway Stations of India, remaining 2 stamps - Howrah & Mumbai, FDC, & Brochure,

AWAITED

Aug 16: Heritage Railway Stations of India, Miniature Sheet and Pack

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Feb 4: Tumkur, Dr Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamyjee Birth Centenary

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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NEW STAMP PACKS

India Post has brought out packs for the following issues recently:

Aug 4, 2009  
Maharshi Patanjali  
Content: Block of 4 Stamps, FDC, Brochure  
Price: Rs 100

For viewing the images please visit,  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/2009packs-sets.htm>

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FAKE POSTMARK ALERT

A large private first day cover for the Saint Alphonsa issue of November 16, 2009 has recently come in to circulation. The cover carries a fake first day of issue postmark of New Delhi which appears to be a rubber stamp while the genuine New Delhi postmark is made of metal. Cover also carries an insert by Gandhi Philatelic & Numismatic Study Centre, Cochin.

For viewing the image please visit,  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/409plus.htm>

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PHILATELISTS HONORED

Mukesh Bansal, Commissioner of the Bilaspur Municipal Corporation presented the Life Time Achievement Award to the renowned artist, stamp designer, philatelic journalist, and senior philatelist Dipok Dey of Kolkata on August 22, 2009 during Felicitation Ceremony at Dak Tikat Milan at Bilaspur organized by the Chhattisgarh Philatelic Association.

Bansal also honored for the promotion and development of philately in India Madhukar Jhingan of New Delhi, Madhukar Deogawanka of Kolkata, Dhananjay Desai of Ahmedabad, P C Jaiswal of Kolkata, Arun Bhattacharya of Kolkata,

Avinash Ramteke (for the promotion and development of numismatics) of Nagpur,  
and Ashwini Dubey of Gorakhpur.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sep 11-13: Mumbai, All India Coin & Currency Show  
Organizer:  
Venue: Sunder Bai Hall, Near Income Tax Office, Church gate

Oct 2-4: Coimbatore, All India Super Mega Coinstampex 2009  
Organizer:  
Venue: Kamalam Duraisamy Hall, Coimbatore-9  
Sales Booth: Rs 3,000  
Contact: C Palaleswamy, Mobile 0 94869 23558

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 17-20: 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>

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for September 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](http://www.cwiakala.com).

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SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

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

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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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.>

Dr Zulaiha Mohamed,

Whatever happened to the rest of the Railway stations stamps? I could get /find in your website just the Chennai & Old Delhi station stamps. They were not available even in Chennai GPO. What in heaven's name is happening to our postal department?

I collect British mint stamps and it is such a rewarding experience to visit their sites. The only complaint about the British philatelic bureau is that most of the philatelists who used to collect all material, have stopped and restricted themselves to few items, since the post office produces too many things like smiler sheets etc which are very expensive.

Can't anybody do anything about our Indian philatelic bureau?

Has anyone logged onto philakochi.com recently? I get a warning saying that the site might harm your computer and hence I have stopped visiting the site. It is a very informative site. Please comment on this.

ATISH KUMAR JAIN, Kottayam

I really appreciate for the design of the booklet and Special cover which were released on 15.08.2009. Especially the theme of the booklet was very informative regarding different designs of flags used in pre independent India. Once again Kudos for the excellent work.

For one thing I wanted to bring to your kind notice, the map of India which you have depicted, why have you omitted southern Indian states? You could have by incorporated the full map by adjusting its size a little bit. This is my personal suggestion to show whole of sovereign India as one country. Anyway, the theme was superb once again.

HEMANT V KULKARNI, Milwaukee, USA

In your # 408 campaign there has been mention of two individuals, namely Mr Hemant K Jain and A Mallik -each of whom has been credited for 'bringing out' (?) several First Day Covers of their own in so called 'Definitive' series of Indian commemorative stamps/sheetlets. Not only a link has been provided for the readers to see these creations, an 'e.mail' address has also been added on behalf of Mr Jain. I could not figure out the reason behind this e.mail address. Is it an advertisement by/for him for the readers' benefit if they would want to congratulate him on his achievement or to find out if an interested individual may want to purchase any FDCs directly from him.

I showed an interest in purchasing one by just doing that with several questions for Mr Jain to answer for me the significance of his efforts for a layman like me who has been living in USA since 1971 -call me ignorant. I have received no reply from him -which is not a complaint (people do remain extremely busy) -hence can Editors (Jhingans) explain the exact motive behind all this -an 'advertisement, -a compliment or both'?

In USA, there have been at least a dozen prominent commercial vendors who routinely 'bring out' their own outstanding FDCs in 'thousands' (commercial quantities) for worldwide Philatelists to purchase but NOT IN A MANNER I saw in your newsletter. So, my specific questions is: Do depicted FDCs have any VALUE or are these FOR THEIR CREATORS' OWN PRIDE FOR A PRIVATE ALBUM? If the latter may be true, there could be a flood of such worthless FDCs in this arena to boast about -hence what's the big deal? Call it my ignorance (which I candidly explained to Mr Jain with an offer from me to gift one to experience a fine US example, also explaining my willingness to purchase one of his -if available) to satisfy my curiosity as there could be several readers like me who could be in a similar dilemma.

As far as I'm concerned, FDCs of this nature should be discouraged for a display in Philatelic exhibitions (perhaps they do) and more so in a newsletter like yours'. I must admit that e.Bay, USA often offers for bidding 'HAND PAINTED -ONE OF A KIND ORIGINAL FDCs' that are priced as if the owner is trying to sell his/her original work of art (?). Those participants without much knowledge of Philately must be purchasing them under a 'rip-off' possibility. To me, these are worth only for the private possession of its creators and nothing more. My advice: Don't show them on your newsletter as it can have a detrimental effect on beginners of the hobby of stamp collecting. Just show the 'OFFICIAL FDCs' issued by India Post or its affiliated bureaus -I can't figure out what's official in India anymore!

#### EDITORS RESPONSE

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is news weekly. It aims to report and record all philatelic activity in India and Indian philately worldwide.

'Stamps of India' is providing a service by giving email address or other contact details of the persons where the items may be had. Arvind Mullick is one of those stamps dealers who is still not on the net otherwise his email address would have been published as well.

India Post has in the past always issued FDC and brochure for definitive issues (these are not commemoratives or sheetlets) beginning with the first definitive series in 1949. However for the current definitive series launched on December 1, 2009 India Post issued neither.

We were able to persuade the officials at the philatelic division at the national headquarters of India Post to provide the first day of issue postmark at all the philatelic bureaus in India. The order for this was issued on December 11, 2009. The collectors meanwhile had no difficulty in getting their FDC made in the plain envelope with the date stamp of the post office. The post offices change date in their regular postmarker every day and will not provide the December 1 date stamp on any other day. The First Day of Issue postmarks are available for one month.

India Post in recent years has published FDC on several occasions that have insufficient space for all the stamps of the set and more often than not the miniature sheet accompanying the issue is much larger than the size of the FDC.

Collecting FDC till few years back was a lost cause in India and earlier issued could be had for the price of prevailing used stamps since 1980 primarily due to wrong official policies for philatelic exhibiting. You may be surprised to note that unlike USA there was no FDC class in philatelic exhibitions India till 2003. While India Post use to fund the philatelic

exhibitions selfstyled bosses of Indian philately use to throw the exhibit out of the FDC issued by India Post. The FDC are back in favor due to corrective action by India Post and to some extent due to eBay.

Till 1948 India Post did not issue an FDC while private FDC were produced by stamp dealers since 1929 onwards for almost all issues. During the classic period of modern Indian philately from 1947 to 1957 over a dozen cachet makers were actively producing FDC. These command a high premium than Official FDC if there was one released for the same issue of stamps. The private cachet makers disappeared in 1960s when India Post regularly brought out FDC for every issue produced in large quantities and at very nominal prices.

The reappearance of private cachet makers in India is now couple of years old. We see some good design and some poorly produced ones. Survival of fittest will rule and FDC with outstanding designs and great production values with proper marketing will be bestsellers.

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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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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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