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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 416 - Oct 22, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We take this opportunity to thank you all for sending us greetings for Diwali and sending messages of congratulations for stampsofindia.com crossing one million hits mark.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Mrityunjay Mishra, Anil Suri, Jigar Desai, Mainak Kathiara,

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

INDIA'S FIRST FDC WITH HOLOGRAM: UPDATE

Prepaid orders received till date are being processed and will be dispatched on October 26, 2009 by Speed Post. It is expected that all prepaid orders received till October 24, 2009 will also be fulfilled by then.

Stamps of India and Eeshan Prakashan have created two First Day Covers for the Mahatma Gandhi special definitive stamp issued on October 2, 2009 in the denomination of Rs 25. One of these covers is with a hologram while the other is a regular cover. These covers are individually numbered and are printed in the quantity of 1,000. For more details and images of the covers First Day covers please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Gandhi-Hologram.htm>.

The duly serviced covers are available at Rs 95 (US\$2) for the hologram cover and Rs 59 (US\$1.25) for the other cover on First Come First Served basis. Both covers together are available for a very special price of Rs 140 (US\$2.95). The postage and packing charges of Rs 50 (US\$1) per order are extra. Kindly contact [orders@stampsofindia.com](mailto:orders@stampsofindia.com) for your requirements.

All orders will be shipped by Express Mail Service - Speed Post in India. Overseas orders will be shipped by registered airmail; however the buyers overseas also have the option to choose Express Mail Service - Speed Post at additional charge of US\$10 to Africa, North America, & Asia including Australia & Middle East, US\$12 to South America, and US\$15 to Europe.

We accept payment by transfer and cheque (not cash) deposit into our bank account (ask for details). In case you wish to deposit cash in our bank account please add Rs 113 to the total amount on account of bank charges. Kindly advise us after the payment, along with the Cheque number or the Credit Reference number of the transfer. Please provide complete postal address to affect prompt delivery. Alternatively you may mail to us the bank draft or 'payable at par' cheque drawn in favor of 'Stamps of India' and payable at New Delhi.

We can also accept all major credit cards directly as well as through PayPal; In this case please add Rs 50 (US\$1) per set to cover charges.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Oct 22 Major General Dewan Misri Chand
Oct 29 Little Sisters of Poor, Jeanne Jugan (St. Mary of the Cross), 2 Stamps
Nov 01 Dr Raj Kumar
Nov 02 Dr Mahendra Lal Sircar
Nov 02 Apollo Hospital

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 2009, please visit

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

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NEW STAMP RELEASED

MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on October 21, 2009 on Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, on his 217<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

Brahm Prakash 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 0.3 million stamps by wet offset process.

ADDENDA

Oct 02: Mahatma Gandhi & Non Violence  
Sankha Samanta designed the Stamp, and the First Day Cover.

Oct 14: Heritage Temples, 2 Stamps 1.Dilwara Temple, 2.Ranakpur Temple:  
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. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed 0.4 million stamps by wet offset process in the sheets of 24. The miniature sheet was produced in the quantity of 0.4 million.

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

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NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

ARRIVED

Oct 01: Rare Fauna of the North East, 3 Stamps
Oct 12: India Post Freighter Carrier, FDC
Oct 14 Heritage Temples, FDC, Brochure

AWAITED

Aug 16: Heritage Railway Stations of India, Miniature Sheet
Oct 01: Rare Fauna of the North East, Miniature Sheet
Oct 06: Bishop Cotton School, Stamp
Oct 14 Heritage Temples, Miniature Sheet
Oct 21 Maharaja Gulab Singh, Stamp

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

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

Oct 11: Mumbai, Kamla High School Centenary
Oct 13: Dehradun, Philately Day
Oct 15: Mumbai, National Postal Week
Oct 20: Calicut, Thikkodi Kadalur Light House

International Collectors' Society of Rare Items, will release a special cover on Mahatma Gandhi, with slogan cancellation on 30th October 2009 during Stampex Pune 2009. This will be a limited quantity cover carried by a mail runner. For details contact Mr. Pratisad Neurgaonkar, 09766310553 / pratisad@hotmail.com

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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SPECIAL E-POST STATIONERY

Gujarat Circle of India Post has issued special stationery for delivering the Diwali & New Year greetings through ePost service. There are 4 matching pairs of designs of A4 Size Message Sheets and DL size Envelopes.

For images please visit

<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pss/epostgreetings.htm>

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OSWAL ANTIQUES AUCTION

Oswal Antiques of Mumbai www.indiacoingallery.com is holding its first auction of stamps, fiscals, and postal stationery on October 30, 2009 at 6 pm during Stampex Pune 2009 at Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune. Oswal will also hold an auction of coins on October 31 2009 at the same venue. The auction catalogue is available on-line. For further details contact Girish Veera girishvira50@hotmail.com Mobile: 093200 10483 / 098200 10483

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KALKA SHIMLA RAILWAY

An article by the eminent rail philatelist, Vikas Singh has been published in latest issue of September 2009 of Railway Philately, a prestigious journal of the Railway Philatelic Group, Great Britain. The article talks about Kalka Shimla Railway and the special cover and maximum cards issued on occasion of celebrations held to commemorate its inscription as a world heritage site. Singh has designed these special cover and maximum cards. He has also been involved with inscription of Kalka Shimla Railway as world heritage site. His articles on Indian rail philately have also been published in The Dispatcher, Journal of Casey Jones Rail road unit of ATA and in Topical time, the prestigious journal of ATA. His book on the same topic has been accepted for the London Stamp Exhibition 2010.

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FORGERIES & FRAUDS ALERTS

Look at eBay Item #120481018910 where SG 312 & 333 are being offered at Rs 1.45 million (US\$ 30,500)! The catalog prices are GBP 0.10. The fairly common stamps are both varieties of Bodhisattva 1 Anna of Archaeological series 1949 where the design was corrected and reissued in 1950.

If you detect forgeries and frauds of Indian philatelic items, please inform to suspect@stampsofindia.com. The names of volunteers and contributors will not be published, if so desired.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oct 23-25: Kolkata, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Exhibition  
Organizer: Numismatic Society of Kolkata  
Time & Venue: 10am to 6pm, Haldiram Banquet Hall, 24 Ballygunge Park  
Auctions: 6pm onwards, Oct 23 - Oswal Antiques, Oct 24 - Todiwala Auctions  
Contact: Sandip Jain 09830009533

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)

2010

Jan 8-10: Calicut, COIN FEST-2010  
Organizer: Calicut Numismatic Society [numisclt@gmail.com](mailto:numisclt@gmail.com)  
Sales Booth: Rs 2,500  
Contact: Soorej 09447124066 [soorejsks@yahoo.co.in](mailto:soorejsks@yahoo.co.in)

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>

STANLEY GIBBONS INDIA STAMP CATALOGUE: UPDATE

All prepaid orders received till date has been fulfilled.

Stanley Gibbons released the 3rd edition of its India Catalog. The 240 page catalog is priced at £22.50 equivalent approximately to Indian Rupees 1,800. However there is a very special price of Rs 750 for India. Stamps of India offer this on a first come first serve basis with free postage, by Express Mail Service - Speed Post, on all prepaid orders. Reserve your copy now contact [orders@stampsofindia.com](mailto:orders@stampsofindia.com).

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

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

##### ARUN TENDULKAR

With reference to Mr. Ranjit Singh's letter in your issue no: 415, The only solution I can see is to reduce the number of issues to 40 or less per year. Cut out the issues on personalities to minimum possible. Another possibility is to decide the issues at least 2 years in advance. This way the Postal Department will be able to prepare the design etc. and be ready to print the required numbers with a few days notice.

##### DEBASHIS MITRA, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Mr Singh has put forth some very pertinent questions to Dept of post about the mess in Philately which is going on for more than a year now and there seems no efforts by anyone in the Dept of Post to sort out the problems regarding availability of Stamps/FDCs and Miniature Sheets on all philatelic Bureaus of the country on date of issue. One can very well understand the implied agony of a philatelist like Mr Singh when he put forth those pertinent questions to the authorities in Dept of Post.

One can be very sure that it is very difficult to make the inefficient officers in charge of promotion of philately in the Ministry to wake up and take notice of the agony of each and every philatelist of this great country. I can think of only way - a coordinated effort to start a signature movement among all the prominent philatelists of the country and send it to the Hon'ble Minister, telecommunications and Hon'ble Prime Minister's office with a hope that some remedial measures are taken to clear up the mess. There is no other way to make the thick skinned officers of the Ministry to wake up from their slumber. I sincerely hope all philatelist of the country to come forward and do something to save philately from going down the drains completely. One is sure there is no dearth of good, honest and efficient officers in this country who can manage the show better than the bunch of jokers who are presently at helm of affairs.

##### ONKAR DHILLON

I generally look your this website for recent Indian stamps being issued. But many times I have observed that you do not show image of new issued stamps for a long time. Like this time you have not shown the image of stamps issued on Oct.1.2009.even today. I hope you will do something so that in future every stamp issued is shown immediately.

##### S A BHASKAR

I was pleasantly surprised at your prompt despatch of my copy of the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue 2010, which I received on 23rd. Sept. itself, by Speed Post. It is a historic event that Stanley Gibbons has commenced to make available a low priced one country edition of the latest prices in their 2010 catalogue, with details to the level of the erstwhile Part I British Commonwealth Catalogue. I am sure this historic venture will meet with increasing success in the coming years as the I believe the new generation of Indian stamp collectors will need to know the International valuations to compare it with current domestic market prices which are to be found in the famous PHILA guide. Now that liquidity has been introduced in this hobby, with the advent of EBay and Delcampe auction sites, anyone worldwide can immediately judge whether the prices are reasonable or exorbitant, which will give the modern collector/dealer a comfort level while buying or selling stamps, knowing that the hobby is still active and not dying in spite of the callous and haphazard and inefficient and discourteous attitude of the India Post which pretends to promote the hobby, but is actually strangling the same by issuing too many stamps and not giving advance publicity, and by not supplying the stamps on schedule. I have personally waited for many long years for Stanley Gibbons to commence a one country edition and have been requesting them to do so since 1985. I am sure that the yeoman service rendered by yourself to make this Catalogue available in India within such a short time from publication at such a subsidised cost in Indian Rupees, will go a very long way in regenerating the flagging interest of all collectors and dealers of Indian stamps in our vast subcontinent especially in the context of India being poised to emerge as a economic powerhouse in the coming years. Congratulations once again and my best wishes for all your future endeavors.

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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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The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

REPRINTS OF RARE AND OUT OF PRINT OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF INDIAN POST OFFICE  
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