

Stamps of India Collectors Companion

The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Hi

We will carry a detailed report on INDIPEX 2011 in the next issue. In the meantime we request all our readers to share their experiences with the show.

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

Christoph Gaertner India Super Sale

The 17th International Public Auction of Auktionshaus Christoph Gaertner will be held from March 7 to 12, 2011 in Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany. The sale of over 25,000 lots is covered in 7 catalogues, as follows:

INDIA & INDIAN STATES catalogue offering about 1,650 lots with top-class, unique and rare items from a specialized collection.

ASIA Specialized catalogue with many exotic and unusual items on sale. Choose from more than 3,000 single lots and several hundred collections. This has over 500 lots of India and Indian States.

Volume 1 OVERSEAS + THEMATICS (1,826 + 709 lots)

Volume 2 EUROPE (.746 lots)

Volume 3 GERMANY (4,922 lots)

Volume 4 COLLECTIONS (7,000 lots)

INTERNATIONAL RARITIES

LIVE AUCTION Only for India & Indian States

Register now for the Gartner Live-Auction at www.philasearch.com to bid live via internet.

The catalogues of the sale are available online at <http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de/> and www.stampsofindia.com.

Stamps of India is also distributing the catalogues in India. Rush your request now for the catalogue/s to: mj@stampsofindia.com with your name, postal address, and collecting interests.

Stamp Popularity Poll

Here are the results for the Stamp Poll 2010 to select the best stamp of 2010, and best miniature sheet of 2010. As only one sheetlet was issued in 2010 no poll was held for the sheetlets this time.

The stamp depicting Kalbelia dance on the India Mexico Joint Issue was voted the Best Stamp of 2010. The first runner up was the Rath Yatra Puri issue.

The Best Miniature Sheet of 2010 position was won by the Astrological Signs issue defeating Princely States issue by a whisker.

The awards will be announced in the next issue.

Forthcoming Stamp Issues

Mar 01: La Martiniere Schools

Mar 23: Subhadra Joshi

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, are put on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

Now days, issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice say couple of 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.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011stamps.htm>

INDIPEX 2011 Awards

INDIPEX 2011 had a total of 555 exhibits in the complete classes including 147 exhibits from India. 5 exhibits from India were absent. 4 exhibits in the literature class were judged as one exhibit and 8 exhibits failed to reach medal tally and were given only the Certificate of Participation.

A total of 131 medals were awarded to exhibits from India and no Indian exhibit was considered worthy for a Large Gold Medal. S C Sukhani won the highest score of 94 for an Indian exhibit for his one frame exhibit 'The Indian Lithograph 1854 Four Annas Third Printing' while Jagmohan Kapur achieved 93 marks for his 8 frame exhibit 'Handstruck Stamps of India' bagging Gold medal with Special Prize. Anil Suri's Fiscals of Cochin in 8 frames scored 92. The lone Indian recipient of the coveted Felicitations of the Jury was Kishor Chandak's Handstruck Postage Stamp of India in 8 frames scoring 91 marks. In all 7 Gold medals were awarded to India.

The Jury of INDIPEX 2011 had only 7 members from India against its allotted share of 9 jurors. And for the first time there was no Team Leader from India nor any Apprentice Jury from India. This is a major failure for the organizers and consequently Indian philately missed an opportunity that may or may not present itself again for another 10 to 15 years.

The Jury began with judging Literature class on February 11 and finished their entire work by the evening of February 13, 2011. The results were announced on the morning of February 16, 2011 while they were on a trip to Agra to see Taj Mahal. For some reason only the medal wise version of the award list was posted on the notice board and that too, believe it or not, printed out in point 6 size font! This made finding out results a world class challenge event in itself. The efforts of many to draw the attention of the organizers to correct this did not yield any result whatsoever.

The complete medal tally is still not available on the official website of INDIPEX 2011.

We shall continue with the coverage of INDIPEX 2011 in the next issue.

Stanley Gibbons India Catalog

INCREDIBLE OFFER ON STANLEY GIBBONS INDIA CATALOG 2010 - NOW AVAILABLE ON SALE AT 50% OFF ON ITS INDIAN PRICE, AT RS 375!!!

Stanley Gibbons published the third edition of its India and Indian States Catalog at £22.50 equivalent approximately to Indian Rupees 1800. However there was a very special price of Rs 750 for India for this all color 240 page catalog. Distributed all over India by us.

Rush your orders to orders@stampsofindia.com now. Please add Rs 25 for packing and postal charges for delivery registered bookpost. The orders will be fulfilled on first come first served basis.

We accept payment by transfer and cheque 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 welcome enquiries from bulk buyers.

For more details please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/SG-IN-CAT-2010.htm>

ILLUSTRATED LISTS [Philatelic Picture Post Cards](#) | [Year Packs](#)

New Stamps Issued

Census of India

Pratibha Patil, the President of India, released a stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on the Census of India on February 8, 2011.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. 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.

V Venkatasubbha Reddiar

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on V Venkatasubbha Reddiar on February 11, 2011.

Alka Sharma designed the Stamp, the First Day Cover, and the pictorial first day postmark. 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.

Mahatma Gandhi

Pratibha Patil, the President of India, released a miniature sheet containing a stamp in the denomination of Rs 100 on Mahatma Gandhi on February 12, 2011. The portrait of Mahatma Gandhi is printed on a small piece of hand-spun cloth known as Khadi, and pasted on otherwise a regular paper stamp.

The miniature sheet was not available for its face value and was sold only in a presentation pack for Rs 250. This is in violation of good philatelic practice, UPU, WADP, and FIP regulations and will disqualify the issue for full listing status in the major catalogues worldwide.

In a departure from the traditional way that the denominations are written on stamps of India, the denomination on the stamp is inscribed as '100' and without any sign for Rupees and this can only be taken as one Rupee.

If this stamp can be used for Rs 100 postage value then by the same logic the definitive stamp of Rs 50 denomination can be used for Rs 5,000 postage. This is however unlikely to happen almost as unlikely as any post office in India accepting Khadi stamp for Rs 100 postage value.

India Post did not issue First Day Cover or Brochure for this issue. The presentation pack however carries a brief write-up, credits, and technical data. It states, albeit erroneously, the quantity as 0.01million that is ridiculous way to say 10,000. Actually the quantity printed is 100,000 that is 0.1 million. The quantity should have been stated in numerals which is much easier to comprehend.

Sankha Samanta designed the Stamp, the Miniature Sheet, and the Presentation Pack. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. India Security Press, Nasik printed 0.1 million stamps.

My Stamp

India Post issued 17 different Sheetlets of 12 stamps each in the denomination of Rs 5 each, and 12 spaces to accommodate an image of buyer's choice, on February 12, 2011, by launching My Stamp - the personalized stamp program. The Sheetlets were sold for Rs 150 each.

There are 12 sheetlets, one each for the 12 Astrological Signs, and 1 Sheetlet on Taj Mahal, containing 1 design each. The remaining 4 sheetlets are on Trains, Aeroplanes, Wildlife, and Panchatantra Tales, each containing 4 designs each. Thus there are 29 stamp designs in all. Although all designs are based on stamps issued earlier between 1963 and 2010, all are distinctly different as not only the size, format, printing process and denomination is modified but also each stamp is inscribed INDIPEX 2011 in Hindi and English.

India Post did not issue First Day Cover or Brochure for this issue. India Security Press, Nasik printed stamps by Wet Offset process.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/MyStampSheetlet.htm>

100 Years of Airmail

India Post released a set of 4 commemorative postage stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 each on 100 Years of Airmail on February 12, 2011. A miniature sheet was also issued on the occasion.

Sankha Samanta designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. India Security Press, Nasik printed 0.4 million stamps by Wet Offset process. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 0.4 million.

Legendary Heroines Of Indian Cinema

India Post released a set of 6 commemorative postage stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 each on the Legendary Heroines Of Indian Cinema on February 13, 2011. A miniature sheet was also issued on the occasion. The stamps feature Kanan Devi, Devika Rani, Savitri, Meena Kumari, Leela Naidu, and Nutan.

Sankha Samanta designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. India Security Press, Nasik printed 0.4 million stamps each by Wet Offset process. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 0.3 million.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011stamps.htm>

New Special Postmarks & Covers

Jan 4: Shankarpally, 16th National Jamboree

Feb 12-18: New Delhi, INDIPEX 2011 world philatelic exhibition, 13 Covers

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011pm.htm>

World's First official Airmail Centennial Re-enactment Flight

5,000 Unaddressed First Day Cover were flown on February 12, 2011 at Bamrauli on the Centennial Re-enactment Flight by Helicopter. For some strange reason or perhaps as an innovation by India Post the delivery postmark of Naini was hand-stamped on the postage stamps itself instead of the usual practice on the back. The fact that postage stamps already were neatly machine cancelled by the first day of issue of pictorial postmark makes this case even stranger.

These were made available for sale at INDIPEX 2011 on February 13, 2011 for Rs 1,000 each. About 100 flown First Day Cover Autographed by Pilots sold for Rs 5,000 each.

A picture postcard without any postage stamp or postmark sold for Rs 500 without any explanation to its significance, if any.

This is sheer waste of money as FIP regulations do not want Unaddressed First Day Covers without delivery postmarks or picture postcard without stamp or postmark included in the exhibits.

It seems there was a competition amongst postal officers to deviate as much as possible from the original flight plan of 1911. See the editorial of Issue # 454 of January 20, 2011 for details of how not only the history but also the geography was thoroughly messed up.

In yet another logic defying deviation the re-enacting the flight was from the Bamrauli, the Airport for Allahabad, that is 12 kilometres from Allahabad. The original flight took place from Allahabad to Naini while the centennial re-enactment flew from Bamrauli to Naini. We fail to understand when the aircraft used was Helicopter what was then the reason not to fly from Allahabad. The original flight did not land at Naini but dropped the mail bags without landing while the centennial re-enactment flight did land at Naini.

All this reflects poorly not only on postal officers but also on their self-styled aero-philatelic expert advisors.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS **Special Postmarks 2011** <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011pm.htm> |

Army Postal Service Issues

Nov 01: 115 Infantry Battalion Territorial Army Mahar Golden Jubilee

Nov 01: Corps of Military Police 7th Reunion

Nov 20: Rajput Regimental Centre Fatehgarh 90 Glorious Years

Nov 20: Jammu & Kashmir Rifles 11th Reunion

Dec 08: Army Ordnance Corps 9th Reunion

Dec 08: Army Service Corps 250 Years

Dec 11: The Passing Out of 50,000th Gentleman Cadet Indian Military Academy Dehradun

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2010aps.htm>

New Stamp Pack

India Post issued a pack containing the miniature sheet of Mahatma Gandhi issued on February 12, 2011. The pack is priced at Rs 250.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/2011packs-sets.htm>

New Stamp Booklet

The Rajasthan Circle of India Post issued a stamp booklet on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on December 2, 2010 during RAJPEX the Rajasthan State Philatelic Exhibition. The booklet priced at Rs 50 contains a block of 4 of Re 1 Gandhi definitive stamps.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm>

Private First Day Covers

Eeshan Prakashan of Delhi released very special private first day covers for the miniature sheets of Mahatma Gandhi, 100 Years of Airmail, and Legendary Heroines of India Cinema issues. These are priced at Rs 1,000 and Rs 500, and Rs 500 respectively and shall be soon be available from **Stamps of India Online Offers**.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/fday2011.htm>

New Issues Availability Status

AWAITED

2008: Aldabra Giant Tortoise, Miniature Sheet

2009: Heritage Jain Temples, Miniature Sheet

ILLUSTRATED LISTS [Aerogramme & Inland Letter Card](#) | [Envelopes](#) | [Postcards](#) | [Meghdoot PostCard](#)

Silent Protest March

Majority of stamps dealers of India and overseas as well as several leading philatelists took out a silent protest march on February 17, 2011 carrying placards against stamps being treated as antiquity under Antiquities And Art Treasures Act 1972. This restricts movement of philatelic material that is 100 or more years old, virtually prohibits exports, and is clearly detrimental to the interests of Indian philatelic industry.

Auction Action

RELIGIOUS STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB

Religious Stamp Exchange Club is holding its postal auction #45. The auction has 225 lots and is closing on March 17, 2011. The bidding in the auction is open to the non-members also. The bids can be e-mailed to: 2thomaspaul@gmail.com. The bids by postal mail be marked Postal Auction #45 and addressed to Joseph D Ottaplackal, Secretary, Religious Stamp Exchange Club, 35/1310 St Martin Road, Palarivattom PO, Kochi - 682 025. The lots can be inspected with prior appointment with the Secretary over Phone 0484 2335292

Recent Philatelic Periodicals

VADOPHIL, Whole #124-125, Oct 2010/ Jan 2011, Combined Issue
Frequency: Quarterly
Editors: Prashant H Pandya and Timir R Shah
Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society, Vadodara

DAKAPANA Newsletter, Vol 15, Jan - Dec 2010, Combined Issue
Frequency:
Editor: M K Krishnayya
Publisher: Dakshina Kannada Philatelic & Numismatic Association

INDIA'S STAMP JOURNAL, Jan-Mar 2011
Frequency: Once in several Years
Editor: Vispi S Dastur
Publisher: Empire of India Philatelic Society, Mumbai

If you've found this digital newsweekly useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Stamps of India Online Offers

Stamps of India now bring you useful and unique philatelic items fulfilling a long standing demand of subscribers and friends. These philatelic items can be viewed online and several easy options to make the payment are provided.

Forgeries & Frauds Alerts

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

Advertisements Tariff

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Stamp Collector's Meet

Stamp Collectors Meet organised by Ashish Talwar and Rohit Prasad under the aegis of Philatelic Dealers Association was a tremendous success. On February 12, 2011 by 10.30am the National Sports Club of India was buzzing with philatelic activity. About a hundred philatelists turned up at the Meet while the inauguration of INDIPEX was on thereby giving priority to the Meet and not to INDIPEX inauguration.

From February 12 to 14, each of the 24 tables witnessed hectic activity and inside the Hall there was standing room only. Eminent philatelists from India and abroad made it a point to visit each table there and some foreigners even regretted that they should have visited the Meet.

Reasonably priced items, especially India mint and postal history made the Meet succeed beyond expectations.

The table-holders cajoled the organisers into promising another event within three or four months, dates of which will be announced very soon.

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Apr 25: Mumbai, Shukla Day Numismatic & Philatelic Show

Organizers: Todywala

Venue: World Trade Center

Contact: Kaizad Todywala, 0 9819872202

Nov 3-6: New Delhi, Stamps of India National Exhibition

Venue: NSIC Exhibition Complex,

Contact: sj@stampsofinida.com

Nov 18-20: Thrissur, THRISSURPEX 2011 Philatelic & Numismatic Exhibition

Organizers: Philatelic Club Thrissur

Venue: Pandy Samooaha Madom Hall

Contact: C J Vincent, 0 98470 21886

[Meetings of the Philatelic Organizations in India](#)

[South Asia New Issues](#)

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, philatelic items issued, philatelic publications, courier and other agreed charges.

VIEWS & OPINIONS

Readers Forum

Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve this digital newsweekly. Please let us have your thoughts and suggestions.

Features & Resources

[Indian Laws Relevant to Philately](#)

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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>

ADMINISTRIVIA

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Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

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[Reprints of Rare & Out of Print Official Publications of Indian Post Office](#)

such as Postal Manuals, Postal Guides, Annual Reports, Postal Notices & Circulars; also of Indian Princely States

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