

Stamps of India Collectors Companion

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

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Hi

The report on INDIPEX 2011 is included here. However keep sharing your experience and opinions as we will incorporate the same in the further commentaries on the event.

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](#)

PHILSENSEX March 2011

By P R Krishnan prkrish77@gmail.com

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/valueindex/201003.htm> for viewing the data collected on the price movement of Mint India post independence stamps for the benefit of collectors, dealers and investors.

Bullock Cart Mail 2011

by Anil Dhir anildhir2k5@hotmail.com

A journey back into time is being led by me along with a hundred other devotees of Lord Jagannath from the March 6, 2011. The expedition is being held as the "Sri Sri Jagannath Sadak Sagada Yatra". The journey will take around twenty days.

The Jagannath Sadak was the old pilgrim road from Calcutta to Puri. It took form sometime in late 1700's and was the lifeline for all pilgrims who came to the Lord's abode at Puri. It was, from 1825, known as the Orissa Trunk Road, but for the devotees who descended on this path and made the

slow way to Puri, it has always been the Jagannath Sadak. The road wound its way touching Medinapore, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar before ending at Puri. The travelers cover the distances by bullock carts, hackneys, palanquins, horses and elephants, but most of them trudged on foot. This was the overland mail route too, as mail was carried to the various post offices that were established from 1803 onwards. Prominent among these were Tamluk, Kedgerree, Balasore, Soro, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam. The Government of Bengal introduced the Zamindari Dak Cess Bill in 1962 to improve the postal system prevalent in the times.

There were staging bungalows later called Dak Bungalows all along the route (some of them still exist) and this road was the lifeline for trade and communication. Even the Dak Palanquin service was in force during the period 1861-64.

The road was a well travelled one with many amenities for the pilgrims and travelers. There were Choultries, Dharamshalas, Wells, Tanks, Culverts, Bridges, Temples, Rest sheds, Ghats etc. Many remnants of these are still visible on the isolated stretches of this once grand road.

With the advent of the railways in 1892, the Jagannath Sadak fell into disuse and over the next few years was lost forever. The railways shortened the travel time from three weeks to fourteen hours. Many stretches of the road just vanished with time, it was encroached upon by villages and some lengths now form the National Highway No 5.

This journey is being undertaken to highlight the sad plight of this once great and now forgotten road on which the pilgrims travelled to visit the gods at Puri. It is a humble attempt to revisit and revive the lost glory of Kalinga, and to relocate and retrace the road with the help of modern scientific survey equipments.

The Sadak Yatra is a purely voluntary one. It is based on research that was done by me for the last four years. I have sourced old maps, travel accounts, revenue, settlement and land records, archival material etc. from various sources in India and abroad. I have personally conducted three recce trips in the last two years and have found more than two hundred archaeological remains of this road. Many more will be found during this trip. Most of what remains is in ruins, but nevertheless they still resonate with what the pilgrims underwent on their way to Puri.

The Sagada Yatra has a twofold objective, one will be the emotive and religious aspect, there will be a group of more than a hundred Jagannath Bhaktas who will wind their way thru this ancient road, spreading the message of the Lord's all encompassing love, affection and brotherhood. There shall be two bullock carts; one carrying the holy trinity, the other shall have a huge cauldron in which water shall be collected from all the rivers, holy tanks, temple ponds, pushkarinis which lie enroute. This shall start with water collected from the Ganga at Kolkatta, and all along the way devotees will be allowed to bring water from their holy sources. We shall collect water from every river and holy tank enroute. On reaching Puri after the completion of the Yatra, this amalgamation of sacred nectars will be mixed with the waters of the Bay of Bengal in a Maha Samudra Arti which will be performed at the revered Mahadodhi beach at Puri under the auspices of the Jagadguru Sankaracharya of Puri.

Besides the journey and the scientific cartographic, archaeological, historical and geographical survey of the Sadak, many other events are being organised by us. We expect people in thousands to participate with us in the Yatra. We will be accompanied by volunteer students from the faculties of Archaeology, History, Geography and other allied departments from all the major universities of the State. They will interact with the villagers and visit the ruins that dot the terrain of the route of the

Jagannath Sadak. There is a very rich oral and folk tradition history of the Sadak, and we will be recording all of it. A one hour documentary will be produced on this ancient road.

I shall be carrying 500 numbered covers in the bullock cart from Kolkatta to Puri. These will be stamped at all the major Post Offices that fall in the way and the envelopes will be carried inside the Jagannath Temple and stamped at the Singha Dwar Post office at Puri. Two hundred covers will be given away to Philatelists on a first come first serve basis. They will be affixed with the Jagannath Temple Rath Yatra Stamp. These will be signed covers by both me and fellow philatelist Kasinath Sahoo who too is participating in the Yatra.

A special cover on the Jagannath Sadak will be released on the completion of the Yatra.

Any philatelist who is interested in getting a cover may send me a mail on jagannathsadak@hotmail.com. We also invite interested philatelists to participate in the Yatra. All we can provide is basic food and accommodation. It will be tough, very tough, but it is all for a good cause.

In the name of the Lord of the Universe, Jai Jagannath!

Forthcoming Stamp Issues

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>

New Stamps Released

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on La Martiniere Schools on the occasion of their 175th anniversary on March , 2011.

Nenu Gupta 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.

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

Christoph Gaertner India Super Sale

The 17th International Public Auction of Aucktionshaus 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.

New Special Postmarks & Covers

Jan 29: Mumbai, St Aloysius High School Centenary

Feb 19: Mumbai, Rotary Club of Bombay Midcity Silver Jubilee

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

New Issues Availability Status

AWAITED

2008: Aldabra Giant Tortoise, Miniature Sheet

2009: Heritage Jain Temples, Miniature Sheet

INDIPEX 2011

Day 1

Pratibha Patil, the President of India, inaugurated the INDIPEX 2011 world philatelic exhibition on February 12, 2011. Kapil Sibal, the Minister for Communications & Information Technology, Gurudas Kamat, Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology, Radhika Doraiswamy, Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology and Chairperson Postal Services Board, Major General V Sadasivam, Member (Human Resource Development) Postal Services Board, Tay Peng Hian, the President of International Philatelic Federation, Surajit Gongvatana, President of Inter Asia Philatelic Federation, and Dilip Shah, President and Secretary General of the Philatelic Congress of India were on the dais. Dr Amarpreet Duggal, Director Postal Services in the Delhi Postal Circle of India Post anchored the inauguration ceremony.

Patil also released the Mahatma Gandhi miniature sheet in which the paper stamp carries a piece printed on Khadi - hand spun cloth, stuck on it. It was promoted as India's first stamp on cloth however it turned out to be not as exciting a design as projected.

Patil later visited the exhibition area and the booths of India Post where she was presented with the first Personalized Stamp Sheetlet with her picture on it.

The exhibition was to open to public at 1 pm however as soon as the President of India left along with other dignitaries everyone was able to enter the show at 11 am. This led to long queues and chaos prevailed at India Post's sales booth where some quantity of Gandhi Khadi miniature sheet without presentation pack were sold for face value of Rs 100 for a very short time. This 'mistake' was utilized to corner about 5,000 to 10,000 miniature sheet by those who created the 'mistake' in first place. Confusion prevailed at India Post counters almost till the closure of the show at 6pm on the first day.

The My Stamp personalized stamp booths opened only at 1.30 pm. Ordinary desk jet printers from Hewlett-Packard were being used for printing which needed rest every once in a while. Very few persons were fortunate enough to hold the personalized sheets in their hand on the first day. Some were given after a day or two. Most were told that these will be mailed to them after the show. The buyers were the guinea pigs for India Post's personalized stamp experiment. The sheetlets of personalized stamps gave serious problems in printing by laser as well as inkjet printers. Extensive trials should have been conducted before the launch of My Stamps.

India Post released the set of 4 stamps and a miniature sheet on 100 years of Airmail only at 2.30 pm at INDIPEX 2011 while these were released at Allahabad earlier in the day at 9.20 am!

A special Cover was released on Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The national level of the philatelic quiz competition was held and later awards were presented to the winners of National Philatelic Quiz, Design A Stamp, and Letter Writing contests organized in connection with the INDIPEX 2011. The first day concluded with a Light & Sound Show at the historic Old Fort that is next door to the exhibition grounds.

Day 2

The day opened with admittedly less chaos at India Post Booths. However seeing the rush at India Post Booths on the first and the early part of second day, the covers flown on the re-enactment flight of 100 years of Airmail on sale at exorbitant prices of Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000 for the autographed cover, Rs 500 for a picture postcard that neither flown, nor postmarked nor carried any postage stamp for that matter!

Two different Special covers were released, one each on Gujarat State and on the Western Union during the day. Aries Auctions held their highly successful first auction in the evening.

India Post's official reception at Imperial Hotel Lawns in the evening was preceded by release of a set of 6 stamps and a miniature sheet on Legendary Heroines of Indian Cinema. Unlike the practice in international philatelic exhibitions worldwide, India Post did not invite the exhibitors and even the Booth holders.

Day 3

This day opened to chaos of a different kind. INDIPEX 2011 team issued orders to sell the First Day Cover of the Legendary Heroines of Indian Cinema released on the previous evening at Rs 500 each against its actual value of Rs 32 as the Special Price for INDIPEX 2011! It took better part of an hour for the officials after widespread protests to give orders to sell the covers for Rs 32, the price it was already being sold at post offices all over India.

Two different Special Covers were released, one each on Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited and on the St. Michael Group of Institutions during the day. Todywala Auctions held their third philatelic auction in the evening. India Study Circle for Philately held a dinner in the evening for its members and guests.

Day 4

By the fourth day the rush had petered out and the general chaos created by surging crowds were conspicuous by their absence.

Three different Special Covers were released, one each on HCL (HCL Technologies and HCL Infosystems), on the Sethu Educational Trust Institute of Technology, and on the Hewlett-Packard

during the day. Todywala Auctions held their fourth philatelic auction in the evening. Philatelic Dealers Association held a dinner in the evening for its members and guests.

Day 5

The day when the awards were posted on a notice board. It was felt by many that the judges were more than conservative in their marking with many exhibits being awarded a lesser medal as compared to the awards given in previous International Exhibitions.

The Jury in their collective wisdom (?) decided not to award Grand Prix National to anyone.

This was also the day when the Jury and commissioners were away on a trip to Agra to see Taj Mahal. The other scheduled event for the day Heritage Train Run could not take place for reasons better known to the organizers.

Two different Special Covers were released, one each on Incredible India and on the Arya Vaidya Salar Kottakal during the day.

Day 6

On the penultimate day of the show the Awards presentation to the winners of INDIPEX 2011 was a short and strange ceremony where even gold medal winners were asked to collect their medals on the last day from the Bin Room. President of International, Asian, and National philatelic federation or for that matter any high ranking bureaucrat from India Post did not attend the ceremony. Why it was held seems to be a mystery.

Two different Special Covers were released, one each on Environment Day and on the ICICI Prudential Life during the day.

The day concluded with awards banquet which was organized at a cost of over 1 million rupees in public funds, to present just two awards - Grand Prix D'Honneur and Grand Prix International! The entry was by invitation only or at a high ticket cost of Rs. 5000.

Day 7

The schedule of Jury Critique remained a well kept secret till the last day when it just happened. Even the Indian jurors who were very much part of the organizing and other committees were ignorant of the time or date of the Critique.

A Special cover was released on Air India.

The show was suppose to close at 1 pm on the last day however no one was aware of it and no none cared to implement it in any manner. the buyers and sellers continued to be in the hall till 6pm the regular closing time.

The meetings of Lucknow Philatelic Club, Collectors of Jainism, and Sikhism, and India Study circle were held during INDIPEX 2011.

Stanley Gibbons India Catalog

Stanley Gibbons published the third edition of its India and Indian States Catalog on Aug 20, 2009 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. We had distributed it all over India.

THIS CATALOG IS NOW ON SALE AT INCREDIBLE OFFER : BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!!!!!!

Please add Rs 50 for packing and postal charges for delivery by registered bookpost or

Rs 200 for packing and postal charges for delivery by Speed post anywhere in India
Total weight of 2 catalogs when packed is 1.050 Kilograms

Rush your orders to orders@stampsofindia.com now. Please don't forget to add Rs 50 for packing and postal charges. 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.

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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. Visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/shop.htm>

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.

New Philatelic Publications

Eeshan Prakashan of New Delhi have recently brought out the following publications:

India Postage Stamp Year Book 2010 , Rs 1,195

India Postage Stamp Year Book 2009, Rs 1,395

Hobby Junction Indian Postage Stamp 2006 Rs 140

Hobby Junction Indian Postage Stamp 2007 Rs 140

Hobby Junction Indian Postage Stamp 2009 Rs 150

Hobby Junction Indian Postage Stamp 2010 Rs 175

India Miniature Sheets Hinge-less Album Rs 7,000

India Stamps Hinge-less Album in 5 Volumes Rs 31,000

India Sheetlet Hinge-less Album with pages for Booklet Panes Rs 9,600

2009 Delux Pack (Pages for stamps and miniature sheets with Mounts) Rs 550

2010 Delux Pack (Pages for stamps and miniature sheets with Mounts) Rs 600

Miniature Sheets FDC Complete 2009 Rs 2,100

Miniature Sheets FDC Complete 2010 Rs 1,600

Collectors Pack Complete Stamps & Miniature Sheet 2009 Rs 2,100

Collectors Pack Complete Stamps & Miniature Sheet 2009 Rs 1,250

For images visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/shop.htm>

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Recent Philatelic Periodicals

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS

Monthly, Whole #39, Mar 2011,

Editor: [Jeevan Jyoti](#)

Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla

Also available [online](#)

Auction Action

Spink in their auction sale held on February 28, 2011 at London reported following notable results for stamps of India:

SG 040C, 1 Anna Brown Purple upper right corner block of 12, variety overprint omitted in horizontal pair with normal realized GBP 9,450 against the estimate of GBP 4,000-5,000.

SG 36a, 8 Annas Carmine marginal block of 4, imperforate on Blue Glazed Paper sold for GBP 8,280 against the estimate of GBP 4,000-5,000.

For more information please visit www.spink.com.

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Mar 12: Mumabi, Coins n Notes n Stamps Exhibition, 10 am - 7pm

Organizers: Mumbai Coin Society

Venue: Bai Kabibai School , Bora Bazar , Opp GPO, Fort, Mumbai

Contact: Razakbhai on 9820024329 , 9819732255 , 22852355

Apr 22-24: Mumbai, Shukla Day Numismatic & Philatelic Show

Organizers: Todywala

Venue: World Trade Center

Contact: Kaizad Todywala, 0 9819872202

May 6-8: Bangalore, National Numismatic Exhibition

Organizers: Marudahr Arts

Venue: The Bell Hotel, Adjacent to City Railway Station & Opposite Majestic Bus Station

Contact: Rajender Maru, 0 80 6532 9800

Tables: Rs 9,000 includes Lunch, and Snacks for 2 persons

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

Venue: NSIC Exhibition Complex, Okhla Industrial Estate, Govindpuri Metro Station

Contact: sj@stampsofindia.com

Sales Stalls: Rs 20,000 covers 44 Square feet (2 x 2 meters) and includes a table, two chairs, name board, an electrical point, and lunch & snacks for two persons

Website: www.stampsofindia.com/sine.html

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

Organizers: Philatelic Club Thrissur

Venue: Pandy Samooha 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.

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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

[Stamps on India](#) The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

[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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