

Stamps of India Collectors Companion

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

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Jhingans Jottings

Hi,

A recent article in the newspaper caught our attention as it is not every day that a 10-year-old catches the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Government of India off-guard.

The article pertained to the query under the Right to Information Act (RTI) regarding 'Father of Nation' status to Mahatma Gandhi, sent by Aishwarya Parashar, a class sixth student from Lucknow in February 2012. The RTI application was sent to the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of Prime Minister's office seeking a photocopy of the order through which Mahatma Gandhi was declared as father of the nation.

The PMO forwarded the RTI application to the Ministry of Home Affairs which further sent it to the National Archives of India (NAI).

In its reply Assistant Director of NAI Jayaprabha Ravindranthe, "As per the search among the public records in the NAI there is no specific documents on the information being sought by you; As per the guidelines laid down by the DOPT (Department of Personnel and Training) the duty of the CPIO is only to make available the records for consultation and not undertake any research on behalf of the application. You are therefore most welcome to visit the department to undertake a detailed search among the public records and library material for the desired information."

An amazing state of affairs, makes us wonder how many things are taken as facts without questioning and what actually is the truth.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jigar Desai, Kapil Gogri, Sandeep Chaurasia

We invite your inputs writeback@stampsofindia.com

Centenary of Civil Aviation That Wasn't

On March 14, 2012 India Post released a set of 4 stamps to commemorate 100 years of civil aviation in India.

On October 15, 1982 India Post had issued a stamp earlier to commemorate 50 years of civil aviation in India.

In simple mathematics it is only a gap of 30 years? The question is which one of the 2 dates is wrong or are we looking at different celebrations that have been wrongly been given the name of civil aviation?

If look at the following dates that are documented may be the mystery shall clear:

The First Flight in India, also the first flight in Asia, took place on March 10, 1910 at Madras. In the month of December of the same year pioneer flights took place in Patiala, Allahabad, and Calcutta .

The Civil Aviation department of Government of India was formed in 1919 after the end of First world war in 1918 to utilize the spare war planes for civil services as was the case all over the world.

Imperial Airways was formed on March 31, 1924 in UK. Imperial Airways began operation a London – Karachi flight from April 4, 1929.

Commercial aviation in India started on December 28, 1929 when Government of India established Indian State Air Service and connected to the Imperial Airways London - Karachi flight by Karachi - Delhi flight.

The Indian State Air Service was closed in 1931, and the flight was operated by Delhi Flying Club from 1932 till Imperial Airways took over its operation in 1933.

Aviation Department of Tata Sons, forerunner of Tata Air and eventually of Air India, launched operation with Karachi - Madras flight on October 15, 1932.

From the above documented facts it appears that India Post commemorated 50 years of civil aviation based on the Tata Sons Karachi - Madras flight of 1932. However the first Indian State Air Service Flight was started in December of 1929 and therefore the celebration is technically off the mark by 3 years.

Now the 2012 stamps are commemorating the flight from Karachi to Delhi, as per the brochure accompanying the stamp issue is stated to have taken place in 1912. This flight did not take place till 1929 thus being off the mark by 17 years.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation have been celebrating 100 years of Civil Aviation for one whole year, based on which date? It appears that based on the same date they have proposed the issue of the stamp to India Post which alone dose not deserves the blame.

There are one more set of facts and dates based on official documents by Ministry of Civil Aviation including the speech of the Minister for Civil Aviation, and Press Information Bureau that need to be taken into consideration:

(1) On 18 February, 1911 the first commercial civil aviation flight took place in India between Allahabad and Naini, a distance of 6 miles when Henri Piquet carried 6500 mails on a Humber

biplane. This is considered to be the world's first airmail service and the beginning of civil aviation in India.

Correct and Well documented version:

Henri Piquet had been flying at Allahabad from December 11, 1910 onwards without carrying mails. His colleague Davies had also flown a day before in Bleriot on December 10, 1910.

(2) In December 1912, the Indian State Air Services in collaboration with UK based Imperial Airways introduced the London -Karachi - Delhi flight, the first International flight to and from India.

Correct and Well documented version:

Commercial aviation in India started on December 28, 1929 when Government of India established Indian State Air Service and connected to the Imperial Airways London - Karachi flight. Imperial Airways itself was formed only in 1924

(3) In 1915 Tata Sons Ltd started regular air mail services between Karachi and Madras and on January 24, 1920 Royal Airforce started regular airmail services between Karachi and Bombay.

Correct and Well documented version:

Aviation Department of Tata Sons, forerunner of Tata Air and eventually of Air India, launched operation with Karachi - Madras flight on October 15, 1932.

There are many more such anomalies that appear in the documentation of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The information quoted above and officially issued by Government of India Press Information Bureau is either an attempt to rewrite the history or is proof that no one in the Government of India knows the history and worse still no one cares to even check their facts before publishing and spending millions of public money.

Someone needs to point out to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Press Information Bureau that advent of airmail and civil aviation is not the same thing.

The pioneer flights were taking place from the March 1910, one needs to now look at what is being celebrated? A first ever flight, a flight with passengers, a flight with letters, a cargo flight, a commercial flight as all dates are different. How does the Government define Civil Aviation? The date of the celebration should match that.

The official documents by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Press Information Bureau, and India Post, that have not clarified the above and have been repeated a large number of times over the internet seem to have become the new truth for unsuspecting readers worldwide.

And in the eyes of the researchers and historians who know the true facts, the Government of India becomes a perpetrator of disinformation.

It appears an RTI to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Press Information Bureau, and India Post would be in order to not only to ascertain facts but also to fix responsibility.

Forthcoming Stamp Issues

Apr 12: Isabella Thoburn College Lucknow

Apr 18: R Venkataraman

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 Issues Availability Status

AWAITED

2008: Aldabra Giant Tortoise, Miniature Sheet

2009: Heritage Jain Temples, Miniature Sheet

Recent Special Postmarks

Mar 14: Mumbai, Shree Ram Welfare Society's High School Diamond Jubilee

Mar 14: Mumbai, International Women's Day

Mar 24: Anpara – Sonebhadra, Anpara Thermal Power Project Silver Jubilee

ILLUSTRATED LISTS

Special Postmarks 2011 <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011pm.htm>

Army Postal Service Issues <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011aps.htm>

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

2nd National Stamp Fair

Philatelic Dealers Association is organizing the 2nd National Stamp Fair from June 16 to 18, 2012 at Bhai Veer Singh Sahitya Sadan, Gole Market, New Delhi. Tables are available at Rs 6,000 inclusive of lunch and tea for 2 persons on each day. The Steel almirah is available on additional charge and required to be booked in advance. Please contact Ashish Talwar on 0 98101 86108 talwar2002@hotmail.com, for bookings.

Bookings are considered final only on receipt of full payment. Allotment of tables is solely at the discretion of the organizers. Tables are not transferable without the prior permission of the organizers and such transfer will only be possible if communicated to the organizers 15 days before the Fair and the decision of the organizers shall be binding in this regard. If there is any sharing of tables, the same has to be communicated to the organizers at the time of booking/making payment.

Aries Auction will be held at on Sunday, Jun 17, 2012.

My Stamp Update

Stamps of India and Eeshan Prakashan has released a set of 29 First Day Covers, one for each design, for My Stamp personalized postage stamps issue. The individually numbered covers are issued in the limited quantity of 100 and is priced at Rs 11,000 postpaid for the set. Please send your orders to orders@stampsofindia.com.

Images are on display at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/fdc.htm>

Special Postmark Project

Rajjesh Mittal of New Delhi has started an initiative, where they are trying to collect all the Special Post Marks issued in India in the year 2012, on a post card. This endeavor would help Philatelists in getting all information at one place with search facility for thematic collectors, and revive interest in

Post Marks. A small network of collectors have already started working in this direction, and collectors in six cities have come to help fellow Philatelist in collecting the above Postmarks. They are looking at other collectors, who could help in getting postmarks from their respective cities, if they could drop a small note to mail@rajesh.com it would really help above initiative.

Please note, their emphasis is on Post Mark and not on Special covers, so they are not looking for Special covers, but only collecting Special Post Marks.

Recent Philatelic Periodicals

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS

Monthly, Whole #52, April 2012

Editor: Jeevan Jyoti j.jyoti9@gmail.com

Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla

Also available online at <http://rainbowstampnews.blogspot.com/>

Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition

Australian Philatelic Federation is organizing 'Australia 2013' World Stamp Exhibition from May 10 to 15, 2013 at Melbourne, Australia. Besides all regular FIP classes, Australia 13 will also have Open Philately Class and Promotional Class for 50 Years ModernTraditional Philately. The participation fees are AUD 90, equivalent to Indian Rupees 4,750 approximately, per frame or per exhibit in the Literature class. The fees for One Frame exhibits are AUD 150 or over Rs 8,000. These are highest ever fees for participation in a international philatelic exhibition.

Costas Chazapis, Editor of Philotelia, in Editorial of the January/February 2012 issue, describes Australia 2013 as a 'bad precedent'. Chazapis's criticism concerns the exorbitant raise in the fees that exhibitors have to pay for their participation in the exhibition. He speaks of a 'burden' for exhibitors and he regards the higher fees as 'discouraging'.

The last day to submit forms to national commissioner for India, Damyanti Pittie dm_pittie@vsnl.net is July 31, 2012.

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>

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 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 book post or Rs 200 for packing and postal charges for delivery by Speed post anywhere in India. Rush your orders to orders@stampsofindia.com now. The orders will be fulfilled on first come first served basis.

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

We also welcome enquiries from bulk buyers.

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

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.

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.

Text ADS Stamps of India Collectors Companion

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/TextAdsTariff.htm>

Display Ads www.stampsofindia.com

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/DisplayAdTariff.htm>

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Apr 14: New Delhi, 88th Monthly Meet of Delhi Philatelists

Time: 2.30 pm

Venue: the Spirit Restaurant, E 34, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi

Contact: Rohit Prasad rohit1962@yahoo.com 0 9810304233

Apr 18-20: Srinagar, Philatelic Exhibition

Organizers: J & K Postal Circle

Apr 20-22: Mumbai, Shukla Day

Venue: World Trade Centre

Organizers: Todywalla

Contact: Kaizad Todywalla 0 9820032468

Apr 21-22: Ludhiana, Seminar on Philately + Stamp Exhibition + Stamp Bazar

Venue: Lions Bhawan, Udham Singh Nagar, Ludhiana

Organizers: Philatelic Congress of Punjab and Ludhiana Philatelic Club

Contacts: Rajesh Gupta, General Secretary 9463132086, Mukesh Malhotra, PRO 9023084608

email: ludhianaphilatelicclub@gmail.com

May 11-13: Exhibition For Stamps,Coins & Currencies

Occasion: 75th Anniversary of the First Stamp Exhibition In Travancore, at YMCA Kottayam in 1937

Organizers: Kottayam Philatelic & Numismatic Society

Venue: K P S Menon Hall, near Public Library, Sastri Road, Kottayam, 1 km from Railway Station

Sales Stall: Rs 3,500 inclusive of lunch & tea; Only 20 stalls are available

Mobile dealers: Rs 1,300 inclusive of lunch & tea

Contacts: Sunil Joseph(09446124923), Atish Jain(09447756118)

June 16-18: New Delhi, 2nd National Stamp Fair

Venue: Bhai Veer Singh Sahitya Sadan, Gole Market, New Delhi

Timing: 11am to 6pm on all 3 days,

Organizers: Philatelic Dealers Association

Tables: Rs. 6,000 inclusive of lunch and tea for 2 persons on each day.

Steel almira is available on additional charge and requires to be booked in advance

Auctions: Aries Auction at 6pm on Sunday, Jun 17

Contact: Ashish Talwar talwar2002@hotmail.com , 0 98101 86108

[Meetings of the Philatelic Organizations in India www.stampsofindia.com/info base/clubmeet.htm](http://www.stampsofindia.com/info_base/clubmeet.htm)

[-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.

Jagannath Mani, Bengaluru

India post is playing a new ball game with philately as no issues can be seen in this list "Stamp Issue Programme for the year 2012" for Olympic 2012, though other countries have been issuing Olympic stamps to promote the games and to enrich Olympic philately. I was hoping many stamps will be issued during 2012 Olympic Games by India post as I have written on the blog please refer the below link <http://olympicgamesphilately.blogspot.in/2009/12/india-in-olympic.html>

I am keeping my fingers crossed and hoping many stamps will be issued by India Post on this subject to promote the sports in India

Features & Resources

Article of the Month: March 2012

First Day of Issue Postmarks of Stamp Centenary Issue

by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

India Post celebrated the centenary of the India postage stamps on a grand scale all over the country. A set of 4 stamps in the denomination of 1 , 2 , 4 and 14 annas commemorating the event were issued on October 1, 1954. Also issued on this day was a set of 7 commemorative postal stationery items – 9 pies Postcard, 1½ annas Inland Letter Card, 2 annas Embossed envelope in commercial size, 2 annas square Stamped envelope, 8 annas Aerogramme, 9½ annas Registration envelope, and 14 annas Airmail envelope. The Airmail envelope sold for 14½ annas contained a sheet of blue letter paper with inscription 'India Postage Stamp Centenary 1854 – 1954' in English printed on top. Special Letter Pads containing 16 sheets of white paper with inscription 'India Postage Stamp Centenary 1854 – 1954' in Hindi printed on top were also issued at 4 annas per pad.

A multicolor First Day Cover priced at 1 anna was released for this issue. However no brochure was issued on this occasion.

A special First Day of Issue pictorial postmark was provided at 34 post offices across India for this issue. Usually at that time the First Day of Issue postmark was provided at the philatelic bureaus that were 10 in all. Thus for this issue the First Day of Issue postmark was provided at additional 24 locations. The postmark was inscribed 'India Postage Stamp Centenary' and depicted a postal runner and an aircraft.

The First Day of Issue postmark with inscription 'International Philatelic & Postal Exhibition' and with same design as that with the inscription 'India Postage Stamp Centenary', was provided at New Delhi as well as at Calcutta.

In addition the INDIPEX P O at the India International Philatelic Exhibition at New Delhi also serviced the First Day Covers with its date postmark.

All these postmarks were provided in both the languages English and in Hindi. Thus there were 2 postmarks for each location, one in each language. A complete collection of the First Day of Issue postmark of this issue will have 74 different postmarks.

India International Philatelic Exhibition was held at New Delhi. It was the first large scale exhibition in this part of the world with participation from 70 countries. This exhibition was originally scheduled from October 1 to 15 but was extended to October 31, 1954. International Postal Exhibition was also held at New Delhi from October 1 to 31, 1954.

Following is the complete list of places where the First Day of Issue postmark was provided:

Inscribed India Postage Stamp Centenary

Agra
Ahmedabad
Ajmer
Allahabad
Ambala
Amritsar
Banaras
Bangalore
Bombay
Calcutta
Chandigarh
Cuttack
Dehradun
Delhi
Hyderabad
Indore
Jaipur
Jullundur
Kanpur
Karnool
Lucknow
Madras
Madurai
Meerut
Nagpur
New Delhi
Ootuckmund
Patna
Poona
Rajkot
Shillong
Simla
Srinagar
Tiruchirapalli

Inscribed International Philatelic & Postal Exhibition

New Delhi

Calcutta

INDIPEX P O

There are several varieties in the design of the postmark but that is matter for another article.

Acknowledgments: Various Postal Documents

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

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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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

Reprints of Rare & Out of Print Official Publications of Indian Post Office & Indian Princely States

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