

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION

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

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Hi,

India Post has revised foreign postage rates and in their wisdom (?) decided to make life complicated for their customers. Whereas earlier Rs 25 stamp will take a letter by air everywhere but now customer be spoiled for a choice - Rs 22 for SAARC Countries, Rs 23 for Gulf Countries, Rs 24 for Countries in Asia (except SAARC and Gulf) & Countries in Europe, Rs 25 for Countries in Africa, Rs 27 for Countries in North America and Australia, and Rs 29 for Countries in South America. Go figure.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jagannath Mani, Kapil Gogri

We invite your inputs writeback@stampsofindia.com

India Post Revises Foreign Postage Rates

India Post has revised Foreign Postage Rates with effect from December 1, 2015 as follows:

SURFACE MAIL

LETTERS: Up to first 20 Grams Rs 20

For every additional 20 grams or part thereof up to 2000 grams Rs 10

SMALL PACKETS: Up to first 100 Grams Rs 60

For every additional 100 grams or part thereof up to 2000 grams Rs 45

PRINTED PAPERS: Up to first 20 Grams Rs 15

For every additional 20 grams or part thereof up to 2000 grams Rs 10

M BAG (Formerly referred as Bulk Bag) of PRINTED PAPERS; for All Countries: Up to first 5 Kilogram Rs 600

For every additional Kilogram or part thereof up to 30 KG Rs 100

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Surface Air Lifted (SAL) Surcharge; every 20 grams or part thereof

SAARC & Gulf Countries Rs 2

Countries in Asia except SAARC and Gulf Rs 3
Countries in Europe & Africa Rs 4
Countries in North America and Australia Rs 6
Countries in South America Rs 8

Air Surcharge; every 20 grams or part thereof
SAARC Countries Rs 2
Gulf Countries Rs 3
Countries in Asia (except SAARC and Gulf) & Countries in Europe Rs 4
Countries in Africa Rs 5
Countries in North America and Australia Rs 7
Countries in South America Rs 9

Registration Fee
Letters, Air Letters, Post Cards, Packets Rs 70
M Bag Rs 350

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New Definitive Stamps

India Post has recently issued several stamps in a new definitive series 'Makers of India' without any public notice, without documenting the First Day of Issue, without supplying these stamps to philatelic bureaus or providing First Day cover, Brochure, and First Day of Issue Postmark. India Security Press Nasik supplied the stamp in 4th week of November to all 17 Circle Stamp Depots in the country that in turn supply the post offices. With no reference to philately the regular post office counters received and sold these stamps to public.

The current and 10th definitive series, 'Builders of Modern India' has 12 stamps that were issued in three parts between December 2008 and May 2009.

The decision to bring about a new series of Definitive stamps was taken in the meeting of the Philatelic Advisory Committee held on July 27, 2015 at New Delhi, and chaired by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications & Information Technology. It was decided to retain Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi from the 10th series but to discontinue Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Prasad explained the move that "it was not fair that one family should corner all the attention and glory." Regarding 'Makers of India' Definitive series he said "Here the entire definitive series is an inclusive series which seeks to encapsulate the contribution of all the leading lights of the freedom movement including Jawaharlal Nehru. We have been most liberal and understanding in giving due recognition to people of different ideology and approaches."

So far 7 stamps all in the denomination of Rs 5 have been seen in the 'Makers of India' Definitive series of stamps honouring Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Swami Vivekananda, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhagat Singh, and Ram Manohar Lohia. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Jayaprakash Narayan, Shivaji, and Maharana Pratap are also expected to be honoured in this series.

The definitive series of stamps will normally have all different denominations to make up any postal rate, with one or more stamps. In fact the number of stamps in the series is determined by the numbers of denominations required to make up all postal rates. The 10th series was first definitive series to have two stamps in one denomination simultaneously, namely Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi both with same face value of Rs 5. This anomaly was attributed to sycophancy to the political party then in power. However in the new series there are as many as 7 stamps with one denomination – Rs 5, so far. This anomaly will be attributed to incompetence of postal officers who don't even understand the postal purpose of definitive stamps what to say of philatelic purpose.

The notice for new stamps has been regularly issued right from the first postage stamps of India since 1854. In a break from the normal procedure India Post has started issuing stamps without documenting the First Day of Issue and neither supplying them to philatelic bureaus nor providing First Day Covers and Postmark, and Brochure.

This began with Service postage stamps when two stamps in the new denominations of Rs 15 and 20 were issued in 2005 without any public notice and philatelic supplies. Next this spread to My Stamps since the 2nd series issued in November 2012 without any public notice and philatelic supplies. India Post continued this with later issues of My Stamps in 2014 and 2015. Now it has covered the Definitive series with several stamps issued in November 2015. Thus it can be safely predicted that it is only a matter of time before India Post extends this new policy (?) to Commemorative stamps by stop issuing public notice and discontinues the First Day Cover and Postmark, and Brochure, and eventually shuts down its philatelic operations for good.

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

Forthcoming Stamp Issues

Dec 4: Zoological Survey of India
Dec: Fire Services in India
Dec: Devaraj Urs
Dec: Singers (set of stamps)
Dec: Mahabharata & Ramayana

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 5 each, are put on sale at over 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

The issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice of couple of days only at times! Thus it is virtually 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 to us.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2015stamps.html>

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.

Recent & Forthcoming Special Postmarks

Nov 27: New Delhi, 3rd International Congress on Gerontology & Geriatric Medicine

ILLUSTRATED LISTS [Special Postmarks & Covers](#) <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2015pm.html>

ILLUSTRATED LISTS [Army Postal Service Issues](#) <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2015aps.html>

[Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We reimburse the costs and other agreed charges.](#)

The Imperial Durbars of Delhi

The Imperial Durbars of Delhi, the five frame exhibit of Parvesh Kumar Gupta is now available for viewing online at the website of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. The link to access the exhibit is http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=152&intCurrentFrameNumber=1 .

The exhibit was awarded Large Silver medal at BRASILIANA 2013 World Stamp Exhibition and HONG KONG 2015 the 31st Asian International Stamp Exhibition.

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://stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/DisplayAdTariff.htm>

PCI Elections

Professor Sahadeva Sahoo, Election Officer for the 13th Elections of the Philatelic Congress of India released the lists of valid nominations in institutional and life members' categories on November 28, 2015 as follows:

Institutional Members: 17 Seats

12 Unopposed

Andhra Pradesh & Telangana

Sunder Bahirwani, Hyderabad Hobbies & Philatelic Society, Hyderabad

Bihar & Jharkhand

Sanjay Jain, Bihar Philatelic Society, Patna

National Capital Territory of Delhi

Professor V K Gupta, Delhi Philatelic Society, Delhi

Gujarat including Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Dhananjay S Desai, Gujarat Philatelic Association, Ahmadabad

Karnataka

K Chaitanya Dev, The Karnataka Philatelic Society, Bengaluru

Kerala Including Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands

K S Mohan, The Philatelic Club, Thrissur

Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

Sudhir Jain, Central Indian Philatelic Society, Satna

Odisha

Shakil Ahmed, Eastern India Philatelists Association, Bhubaneswar

Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh

Mukesh K Malhotra, Ludhiana Philatelic Club, Ludhiana

Tamilnadu & Puducherry

C G Bhaskar, South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai

2 Reserved Seats

Nominee of The Philatelic Society of India, Mumbai

Damayanti Pittie

Nominee of Empire of India Philatelic Society, Mumbai

P G Bhargave

2 Seats where no nominations were received

West Bengal

North East (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim)

Contests for 3 seats

Maharashtra & Goa

2 Candidates

Dr M R Ramesh Kumar, Goa Philatelic & Numismatic Society, Goa

Suketu S Jhavery, Kutch Hobby Circle, Mumbai

Rajasthan

3 Candidates

Nemichand Chopra, Gangashahar Philatelists' Association, Bikaner

J M Dhor, Jaipur Philatelic Society, Jaipur

Rajesh Paharia, Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand

2 Candidates

Yogesh Kumar, Capital Philatelic Society & Lucknow Philatelic Society, Lucknow

Rajesh Verma, Uttaranchal Philatelic Association, Dehradun

Life members: 6 seats

16 candidates

Rajesh Kumar Bagri, Kolkata

Madhukar Deogawanka, Kolkata

Anil Dhir, Bhubaneswar

Kapil Gogri, Mumbai

Madhukar Jhingan, New Delhi

Umesh Prabhakar Kakkeri, Mumbai

Dr Vinu Khanna, New Delhi

Surendra A Kotadia, Mumbai

K Rajesh Kumar, Chennai

Ajay Kumar Mittal, New Delhi

Prashant H Pandya, Vadodra

G Anil Kumar Reddy Chennai

Dinesh Chandra Sharma, Lucknow

Anil Suri, New Delhi

Kaizad Farokh Todywalla, Mumbai

The last date to withdraw the name is December 10, 2015. The voting will commence at 11 am on December 13, 2015 at Mumbai GPO.

We appeal to all life members of PCI to make it convenient to be present in Mumbai on December 13, a Sunday, and participate in the voting process that is expected to begin at 11am. Please choose carefully those who have courage and calibre to further the cause of philately.

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Limited Stock A Philatelic Tribute to Police of India and the Sub-Continent by Sidney Kitson

Rs 1200 Post-paid in India | USD 50 post-paid worldwide

NEW India 1929 Air Mail Stamps: A Study of Constant Varieties by Rohit Prasad

The 300 Pages, A4 all color, printed on art paper hard bound book is being produced in the limited edition of 500 copies only and shall be available on October 17, 2015. The book Distributed worldwide by Stamps of India Private Limited will be available at Rs 5,000 post-paid in India and USD 100 post-paid worldwide. Send your orders today to mj@stampsofindia.com

Indian Antarctic Expedition Philatelist's Guide by Abhai Mishra

A complete priced catalogue of mails of Indian Antarctic Expeditions

Special Price Rs 1,500 post-paid in India | € 50 post-paid worldwide

Catalogue of Errors on Stamps of Modern India by Mrinal Kanti Roy

Rs 600 in India post-paid in India | USD 25 post-paid worldwide

Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

Rs 650 post-paid in India | USD 25 post-paid worldwide

Gandhi Handbook

Nearly 500 all color pages with 2000 illustrations of stamps, covers, coins, currency, and all other collectibles on Gandhi theme. Hardbound with slip case. Original publisher's price Rs 1,500 or US\$ 60!

NOW AVAILABLE FROM STAMPS OF INDIA AT 33% OFF @ RS 1,000 POSTPAID in India US\$ 40 post-paid worldwide

Stanley Gibbons India Catalogue

Stanley Gibbons published the third edition of its India and Indian States Catalogue on Aug 20, 2009 at £22.50 equivalent approximately to Indian Rupees 2,300+. However there was a very special price of Rs 750 for India for this all color 240 page catalogue. We distributed it all over India.

NOW ON SALE AT INCREDIBLE OFFER: BUY 1 @ 750 & GET 1 FREE!!!! AND POST PAID in India

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

ILLUSTRATED LISTS **Stamp Booklets** <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/sb10.html>

Recent & Forthcoming Events

* Revised / Updated information

~~* Dec 4-6, 2015:~~ Stamps of India National Exhibition

Not being held this year, New Dates will be announced soon

India Post is expected to organize a State Level show in December.

Organizers: Stamps of India

Venue: NDMC Convention Centre, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001

Dec 7-8, 2015, Jodhpur District level philately Exhibition

Organizers: India Post

Venue: Sohan Lal Manihar Girls Senior Secondary School, near Ummed Hospital, Jodhpur

Dec 8-10, 2015: Bangalore, VIJAYPEX 2015

Organizers: Philatelic Club, Vijaya High School

Venue: Yoga Mandira

Dec 10-12, 2015, New Delhi, AUTOGRAPHEX 2015 2nd National Autographs Exhibition

Organizers: Autograph Collectors Club of India, Delhi Chapter

Venue: Gallery 'C', All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001

Dec 10-12, 2015: COINEX PUNE 2015

Organizers: ICSRI Pune

Venue: Sonal Hall Karve Road, Pune 411004

Dec 18-20, 2015: Dungarpur District Level Philately Exhibition

Organizers: India Post

Venue: Vagad Vatika Dungarpur

Dec 25-27, 2015: Mudra Utsav

Organizers: Numismatic Society of Kolkata

Venue: Haldiram Banquets Hall, Ballyguange, Kolkata

~~* Dec 26-28, 2015:~~ Naturepex-2015, Philatelic Exhibition on Nature and Environment **Postponed**

New Dates will be announced soon

Organizers: Eastern India Philatelists' Association

Venue: Bhubaneswar

Open to the exhibitors of Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh

2016

Jan 7-9, 2016: 13th Kerapex, Kerala State Level Philatelic Exhibition

Organizers: India Post

Venue: Sri Shankara Hall, M G Road, Thrissur

Open for participation to exhibitors of Kerala & Lakshadweep

Jan 8-10, 2016: Rare Fair 2016

Venue: Indraprastha Hall, Old Gangapur Naka, Gangapur Road, Nashik

Jan 16-18, 2016: Mahapex-2016, Maharashtra State Level Philatelic Exhibition

Organizers: India Post

Venue: Regional Stamp Depot, Upnagar, Nashik

* ~~Jan 22-25, 2016~~: Tanapex-2016, Tamil Nadu State Level Philatelic Exhibition **Postponed**

Organizers: India Post

Venue: Mother Teresa Exhibition Hall, near Valluvar Kottam, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600034

Open for participation to exhibitors of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry

Feb 5-7, 2016: Madhya Pradesh State Level Philatelic Exhibition

Organizers: India Post

Venue: Indore

Feb 26-28, 2016: National Numismatic Exhibition

Venue: The Bell Hotel, Majestic, Next to Bangalore City Railway Station, Bangalore

See Forthcoming Events online at <http://stampsofindia.com/events.htm>

Meetings of the Philatelic Organizations in India www.stampsofindia.com/info base/clubmeet.htm

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

IS IT ALL ABOUT WINNING?

By Aditya Asthana adityaasthana@live.com

"My Name is Albert Pinto and I am a resident of Roop Mahal, Prem Gali, Kholi Number 420. I collect Thilographs and Last Flight Covers. I have a wide variety of Covers with beautiful black ink-markings. I have many envelopes and bright colorful stamps which I pasted on white papers and had put them on large window sized glass covers. I had displayed my collection in an exhibition and I won a shining medal. And No I could not go to the exhibition venue because I had fallen sick".

A winner on being asked about his collection interest and whether he was able to visit that exhibition.

The above conversation is just a horrifying figment of imagination. Much needed help is required for stopping this imagination turning into a reality. Many times it is seen that people with no interest in philately are able to easily bag beautiful pieces of metal in an exhibition in India. There are many such Albert Pintos in our circle and many more pop up every year in a district or a state level exhibitions. Unfortunately, being Albert Pinto was not at all a difficult task in the recent exhibitions held in my city. Serious Philatelists lend their collection to few fortunate friends and a weak and flexible administration allows them to put it up in the competitive class. Moreover, exhibits which have won higher awards at National Level exhibition are often accepted in state or district level exhibitions under a different name. Collectors tend to test the maximum number of medals which can be hoarded by their collection. This mad race of acquiring higher number of medals is hurting the core of philately. This feeling often leads a collector to submit their entries in the name of their spouse or children. Also, collections with a domicile of different state are submitted for competition by mentioning a temporary local address. But no objections are raised.

Promote philately is a new jargon on every collector's lips. Suggestions and advices are exchanged every time society members meet. But true promotion would need every philatelist to walk an extra mile to help in putting into effect, the desired changes in the system. As a starter, a method of verification of participants should be implemented by organizing authorities to ensure that the exhibits from the right owner are displayed. Proper Identity and address proof should be made mandatory for participating in the exhibitions. A much bigger question is how to track the rightful owner of a philatelic item. The solution to which would be, to device a system wherein a collector's possessions are tagged to his name.

A repository of the Digital scans of all the exhibits should be maintained which should be accessible to all. In today's world of Cloud Technology, running a database of few thousand properly indexed images is not a costly affair. Such a repository shall help all the newcomers to learn the art of exhibiting. Also this repository shall keep the names of the proud collectors linked to their collection forever. And this in turn should also be a database for cross checking owners and their philatelic items. A trail of improvement can also be observed and appreciated if scans spanning a wider time period are available. A collection displayed in an exhibition should not be re-displayed under someone else's name before the cooling period of two years. Currently there is no method or source which can be used to object the ownership of a particular philatelic item. All exhibit items can be indexed based keywords like type, origin, destination, year etc., so that searching the same can be made easy and user friendly.

Promotion of philately is required in our country but accepting everything coming through the gate in the name of promotion will ultimately result in demotion. Guidance is required from senior philatelists and well-wishers of this royal hobby, sitting as a part of Government and non-government bodies, to re-look into the rules and framework of competitive philately. Modern age ideas are needed to protect the integrity of this age old passion.

Collecting is a hobby but exhibiting is an art. And as Edgar Degas said, "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see."

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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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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