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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 354 - Aug 14, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Congratulations to Abhinav Bindra on winning gold medal at ongoing Olympic Games at Beijing in 10 meter Air Rifle event. This is the first ever individual gold medal for a country of over 1 billion.

With this India has won a total of 9 gold medals since the Olympic Games debuted in 1896. The first 8 gold medals were won by Hockey team and the last time India won gold at Olympics was way back in 1980. This time India's Hockey team failed to qualify for participation in the Olympics.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sudhir Kumar Jain, O K Prakash,

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

PHILSENSEX AUGUST 2008

By P R Krishnan [prkrish77@gmail.com](mailto:prkrish77@gmail.com)

I am pleased to provide the Philsensex data for the month of August 2008 for the benefit of collectors, dealers and investors.

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/philsensex200808.htm> for viewing the data.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Aug 21: Bismillah Khan, Rs 5

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](http://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 2008, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

Games of 29<sup>th</sup> Olympiad

India Post released a set of 4 stamps and a miniature sheet on August 8, 2008 to mark the Games of 29<sup>th</sup> Olympiad ay Beijing China.

The designs and denominations are Olympic Torch on Rs 5, Shooting on Rs 15, Archery on Rs 15, and Boxing on Rs 5.

Kamleshwar Singh 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamps by photogravure in the quantities of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 1 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

Indian Coast Guard

India Post released a set of 4 stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 each and a miniature sheet on August 12, 2008 to mark 30 years of Indian Coast Guard. The stamps depict the Dornier Fixed Wing Aircraft, Advanced Light Helicopter, Hovercraft, and Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel.

The Indian Coast Guard is the fourth armed force service created to guard India's vast coastline on August 18, 1978. The coast guard works closely with the Indian navy and the Indian Customs Department, and is usually headed by a naval officer of the rank of Vice-Admiral. India's coast guard has a large number of fast craft including hovercrafts and hydrofoils. They patrol the seas and river mouths. The coast guard has performed a number of commendable tasks of rescuing distressed personnel. It has also apprehended pirates on high seas and cleaned up oil spills. Heavy patrolling of sensitive areas such as Gujarat, West Bengal and Mumbai have resulted in catching a large number of smugglers and illegal immigrants.

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 the stamps by wet offset in the quantities of 0.8 million each. The miniature sheet was printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

National Tobacco Control Program, Assamese

The grand total till date is now 646, with 115 added this year.

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008ILC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Aug 23: Madanganj (Kishangarh), 87th Birth Anniversary of Mahasati Umrao Kanwarji Maharaj Sa

This Special Cover priced at Rs 10 plus postage is available from J M Dhor, President, Rajasthan Philatelic Society, 999 Dhor Building, Gopalji Ka Rasta, Jaipur 302003, India. Mobile: 9314504591

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2008pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit

<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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PRIVATE FIRST DAY COVER

Jigar Desai of Bombay, [jigarjdesai1977@gmail.com](mailto:jigarjdesai1977@gmail.com) created a first day cover for the Games of 29<sup>th</sup> Olympiad Issue of August 8, 2008.

For illustrations of all FDC issues of 2008, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/fdc/fday2008.htm>

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INDIAN PAPER MONEY CATALOG 2009

Philatelia of Kolkata has announced the publication of the third edition of the Indian Paper Money Guide Book 2009 on August 15, 2008. The book is hardbound and in full color. Priced at Rs 550 this limited edition book is available from Philatelia, One Moti Sil Street, Kolkata 700013. The phone numbers are 22288549 & 22287777.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 15-17: Bangalore, Coin & Stamps Show

Sep 12-14: Mysore, Coin & Stamps Show

Nov 21-23: Thrissur, Philatelic Exhibition, THRISSURPEX-2008

Participation: Open to Kerala State, 100 Frames

Organizer: Philatelic Club Thrissur, part of their 30 year celebrations

Venue: Pandu Samoocha Madhom, Thrissur

Dealers Booth: Rs 3,000 (limited to 15 dealers only)

Philatelic issues: 1 Special postmark

Contact: [philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com](mailto:philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com)

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2008.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/x16.htm> for tariff and terms

ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2008 Edited by Suraj Jaitly, 80 pages listing contact details of stamp collectors, dealers, clubs, magazines, websites, from India & overseas. Plus lots of relevant information. Price Rs.250 or US \$8 or Euro 6 OR £4 [Post paid]  
Contact at [surajjaitly@hotmail.com](mailto:surajjaitly@hotmail.com) or [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com)

WANTED India Stamp Booklets of King Edward VII, King George V & VI, Unexploded, exploded, and in all conditions,  
Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA [deogawanka@satyam.net.in](mailto:deogawanka@satyam.net.in)

STAMP QUIZZES by Anil Dhir, 224 pages, 2007 edition, contains over 1500 questions and answers. Comprehensive & detailed with quizzes on General Philately, India, Indian States, USA, Britain, Australia & New Zealand Must for all Philatelists & stamp clubs, Rs 300 post free in India. US\$20+ actual postage elsewhere, ANIL DHIR [anildhir2k5@hotmail.com](mailto:anildhir2k5@hotmail.com)

VIEWS & OPINIONS

INPEX 08 - Details of Expenditure

Following is the text of the letter, Dipok Dey wrote to India Post in response to their reply of his application under Right to Information Act regarding INPEX 08. The original application and India Post's response was published in issue # 351 of July 24, 2008.

Dated: 6th August, 2008

To,  
The Director of Postal Services, (HQ),  
O/o Pr. Chief Postmaster General  
Tamilnadu Circle,  
Chennai - 600 002

Sub: My Application under R.T.I. Act Dt. 13th June, 2008

Ref: Reply by Ms. R.P.Chitra Devi, Assistant Director (Phil) & CPIO  
No. PHIL/11-15/02/08-09, Dated 14.07.08

Thanks for the reply to my Application under R.T.I. Act dated 13th June, 2008, vide above referred letter.

Organizing Philatelic exhibition to promote Philately at District, State, National & International level is always welcome and is appreciated by one and all, however wasteful expenditure, high headedness, not addressing the actual cause and not spending at required heading is cause of concern to the lovers of this hobby.

However the information sought is not dealt with correctly and in full, In the same reply there are different versions at different places, therefore once again I am asking to clarify the following:-

1) I have asked to provide the detailed Income and Expenditure account of the exhibition with supporting documents, whereas a clubbed summary is sent without any supporting documents.

a) On the income side, item (ii) mentions Amount collected through entry fee, fee for dealer booth, advt. for souvenir, sponsorship and donation as Rs. 19,62,357. Please provide the detailed break -up, together with the expenditure incurred on that account.

b) On the expenditure side the name of Committee is mentioned and expenditure incurred by that committee; this doesn't explain that for what purpose that amount is spent. The amount shown is exorbitantly high & suspicious. Please provide details with supporting documents.

i) Secretariate: Expenditure incurred: Rs.18,85,862.00/-  
Taking into account the Expenditure on other headings it's exorbitant and sounds camouflaged, Please provide the break -up so the matter can be understood.

ii) Hall & Security: Expenditure incurred: Rs.9,47,297.40/-  
Please provide the break -up

iii) Reception: Expenditure incurred: Rs.9,93,391.00/-

We fail to understand any expenditure under this heading, even a customary dinner was not hosted or a cup of tea was offered to any participant or outstation visitors. There was not a single person available to facilitate the exhibitors at the Airport or Railway Station, then on whose reception this amount is spent.?

iv) Publication: Expenditure incurred: Rs.4,32,161.00/-

Please provide the break -up of each publication, quantity, No. of pages in each publication and to whom they were distributed. Cost of Souvenir is shown separately, doesn't it fall in publication.

v) Allotment: Expenditure incurred: Rs.74,114.00/-

Please provide the break -up

vi) Exhibit: Expenditure incurred: Rs.2,53,038.75/-

Please provide the break -up. I fail to understand this heading at all. Has department prepared any exhibit?

vii) Souvenir: Expenditure incurred: Rs.38,600.00/-

Every exhibitor is supposed to receive the copy of the souvenir, which was not given to anyone. Moreover what purpose dose it serves if it is not released & distributed during the exhibition. Please inform how many copies were printed and what happened to them; also provide me with a copy of same. Secondly is it different from publication, if not why two separate headings of publication & souvenir.

viii) Trade: Expenditure incurred: Rs.1,66,413.00/-

Please provide the break -up

ix) Publicity: Expenditure incurred: Rs.5,85,113.00/-

Please provide the break -up

x) Award: Expenditure incurred: Rs.2,79,977.00/-

In the award heading an expenditure of Rs. 2,79,977 is shown whereasthe total of item 4. & 5. of the reply regarding Amount Spent on award is Rs. 2,29,025 + Rs. 2,500 + Rs. 1,378 + Rs. 11,100 = Rs. 2,44,003. In the same reply there are two versions.

For the first time in the history of Indian Philatelic Exhibitions, the medals were sent without Box which shows how insensitive & indifferent the person responsible was. Please explain the reason for difference in amount and insensitiveness, what action against the person is going to be taken or we will be required to raise questions in parliament or take legal recourse.

xi) Jury: Amount Spent: Rs.4,46,255.00/-

In the item 3 of the reply the total amount incurred on Jury is shown as Rs. 3,36,146.00 which covers all the expenditure then why the difference of Rs.1,10,109.00/- isn't it a big discrepancy or this is just a small amount to camouflaged.

xii) Youth Promotion: Amount Spent: Rs.3,77,849.00/-

Please provide the break -up, as I have not seen any activity for the youth and not a single Rupee is spent on this account.

xiii) Anna Road PB: Amount Spent: Rs.61,293.00/-

Please provide the break -up

Total Amount Spent: Rs.65,41,364.15

xiv) There is a mention, "Apart from the above certain bills which are under correspondence are yet to be settled", let me know the amount and towards which expenditure.

2) Item 2. as mentioned 165 persons were engaged in mounting and dismounting & the expenditure incurred on them was Rs. 1,24,348.75, which comes to Rs. 753/- per head.

a) In which of the main headings mentioned above by you this amount is clubbed, Is this the total amount incurred on TA/DA, Fooding during mounting & dismounting, boarding & lodging during stay in Chennai for those coming from different places. If not provide details.

b) There were Aprox. 1300 frames, and so many persons were not required for mounting and dismounting, according to you 1300 frames divided by 165 person comes to 7.8 Frames per person in 8 hours whereas my experience tells me that a team of Four can mount a minimum of 100 frames & dismount minimum of 300 frames in 8 hours.

3) Item 3. as mentioned that the traveling expenditure incurred was for regular Jury, then what about Boarding and lodging of apprentice Jury, why their Boarding and lodging expenditure were paid & what are you going to do to recover it, as any expenditure of apprentice Jury is not to be paid as per the norms, so why this special favor. Provide me the details of hotel charges, no of rooms booked & amount incurred on each individual Jury member. When 4.5 lacks is spent on Jury the awards they are giving is of less value (Rs. 2.50 lacks) isn't this disparity condemnable.

4) Item 4. Where I have asked Specification (metal contents & weight) of each category of medals and amount incurred. Very cleverly you, mentioned the weight but ignored about the metal contents & cost of each category of medal. I once again request you to provide details with supporting documents, and certificate from the manufacturer of the medal about the contents.

5) Item 5. you have mentioned about the amount Spent on Grand Prize of Championship Class & other special prizes. However you have failed to reply the following point:

Para: 7.11 on Page 13 of "Hand Book on Philatelic Exhibition" of India Post states "The art object selected for Grand Prizes,----- shall be of quality and style appropriate to a philatelic exhibition organized or recognized by India Post" Do you think that the Grand Prize of Championship Class of Inpex - 2008 was up to the requisite standard? Why proper attention was not paid? After a lifetime of efforts, research, time & money very few is able to achieve Grand Prize of Championship Class.

During Indipex - 73 the Grand Prize's cost was some Rs. 25.000, it was a Ivory Tusk carved in the shape of a boat. The last Inpex - 2001 at Nasik, the Grand Prize Trophy was more than 1 ½ K.g. of silver and what a shabby Grand Prize of Inpex - 2008.

As per you the cost of Grand Prize of Championship Class, is Rs. 1250/- whereas the entry fee per exhibit was Rs 4800/-, do you mean to say that the award will be less than the collective amount collected from that class. Are you planning to take any corrective measures to rectify the mistake or the matter has to be taken up at appropriate forum/level?

As per the norms the accounts must have been audited by internal auditors as well as CAG, please provide me the copy of audited accounts together with auditors' report and all the annexure.

Any Charges for photocopying will be paid by me on receiving the intimation as per the guidelines of R.T.I. Act.

You are requested to send the reply at earliest. RTI doesn't mean to provide the information selectively, it also requires for actions to be taken and reply the questions arising out of it.

Yours Sincerely

Dipok Dey  
Editor  
Stamp World  
107/2 Raja Rammohan Sarani  
Kolkata 700 009

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

RANJIT SINGH, New Delhi

Have you ever checked Brochures issued with new releases of India stamps? It is really a matter of shame that India post rarely finds it necessary to check mistakes in printing or proof reading.

In the Brochure of the issue of stamps on Olympic games under the heading Technical data "Printing process: 1.00 million" is printed instead of "Miniature sheets: 1.00 million".

There are several spelling mistakes in the text too. In another Brochure there are over a dozen errors in spellings and grammar.

I do not understand why India post stopped giving information about perforations and numbers of stamps per sheet as was done till a few years back.

India post is destroying philately instead of promoting it. They think that the commemorative stamps are meant for albums only and not for mailing. Normally I have to post mails worldwide on first day of issue by registered post. But in many cases stamps are issued late in the evenings when PO registration counters are closed.

No thought is given to the size of FDCs. Olympics stamps miniature sheet is much bigger than the size of the FDC issued thus making it impossible to have special cancellation for posting mails.



Very important events in India are ignored while finalizing plans for issue of stamps in spite of appeals and suggestions from various quarters.

On the day issue of stamps one or the other item is not available at the counter. Philatelic Bureau expects collectors to visit P O again and again and waste money, time and energy to obtain stamps or FDCs of any particular issue.

Philatelic service is more of a headache than pleasure. More and more collectors are abandoning this hobby and a good number of my friends worldwide have simply stopped collecting Indian stamps, mainly due to lack of information and inefficiency of India philatelic service.

Indian philately of today is fast losing its sheen.

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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

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan [mjhingan@yahoo.com](mailto:mjhingan@yahoo.com) for 'Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037  
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Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at 'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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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

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm>

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