

ISSN 0972-3587

----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 362 - October 9, 2008. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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I N T H I S I S S U E

PhilSensex October 2008  
Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Stamps Released  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Army Postal Service Issues  
Stamp Book on Turtle  
Fire Crackers from Post Office  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Readers Forum: Dr Avinash B Jagtap, Jagannath M

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

It is going to rain stamps now. With the issue of 3 stamps on October 7, 2008 the total number of stamps issued this year is 41. However India Post plans to issue a record 105 stamps in 2008! This means 64 stamps will be issued in next 83 days. In addition there will be several miniature sheets, and sheetlets.

We wish the Philatelic Division of India Post lots of good luck in their ambitious endeavor and sincerely hope that stamps and related products will all be available in sufficient quantity on the day of issue and will also be free of mistakes.

We are positively optimistic for India Post because we believe in miracles.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: R Ravindranath, Manohar Lal, Pradip Mohanty

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 OCTOBER 2008

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

Here is yet another set of data collected on the price movement of Mint India post independence stamps for the month of October 2008. I am in receipt of several mails requesting price movements of Sheetlets and used stamps as well as issues of pre independence India. I am glad to inform you that the Data on the price movements of all sheetlets so far issued by the India Post will be published from November 2008. I Thank you for all the support.

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/valueindex/200810.htm> for viewing the data.

STAMP WATCH

I would like to know that how much this column really helping the collectors, dealers and investors? I shall appreciate the readers' feedback on the same.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Oct 12: 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games Pune, 4 Stamps
Oct 13: Philately Day, Stamp + Miniature Sheet
Oct 16: Food Safety Day
Oct 18: 19th Commonwealth Games New Delhi 2010
Oct 22: Infantry Day
Oct 25: National Police Academy, 2 Stamps + Miniature Sheet
Oct ??: T V Ramasubba Iyer

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 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

India Post released set of 3 stamps and a miniature sheet on October 7, 2008 on Festivals of India. The stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 feature Dussehra Festival of Mysore, Dussehra Festival of Kolkata, and Deepavali Festival.

Vijayadashami also known as Dussehra is a festival celebrated in varying forms across India. It is celebrated on the tenth day of the bright fortnight (Shukla Paksha) of the autumn month of Ashvin or Ashwayuja, and is the grand culmination of the 10-day annual Navratri (nine nights) festival. Navratris are celebrated with much fervor by fasting on all nine days and worshipping the Mother Goddess in her different forms.

The underlying tradition and mode of celebration vary vastly by region. However, all festivities celebrate the victory of the forces of Good over Evil. It is considered an auspicious day to begin new ventures in life.

The festival commemorates the victory of Rama, prince of Ayodhya and an incarnation of Vishnu, over Ravana, the ruler of Lanka. Rama killed Ravana on this day. The festival is celebrated with much gusto and huge fetes are organized where the effigies of Ravana is burned signifying the victory of good over evil, brings the festivities to a colorful close. The Ramlila, an abridged dramatization of the Ramayana (Story of Rama) is enacted with much public fervor during the period of the festivities.

A lesser-known tradition associated with the Dussehra festival relates to the Mahabharata, specifically to the one year incognito exile period the Pandavas underwent following a preceding 12 year vanvas, or forest exile, that was imposed on them. Disguise being indispensable, they found it necessary to lay aside the many divine and distinctive weapons that they possessed. They secreted these in a 'Shami' tree (Prosopis spicigera) near their incognito residence. When the year ended, they returned to the spot, found their weaponry intact, and worshiped (in thanksgiving) both the Shami tree and the Goddess Durga, presiding deity of strength and victory. Meanwhile, the Kauravas had invaded that area, suspecting the residence of the Pandavas there. Upon finishing their devotions, the Pandavas made straight to battle, and won the contest comprehensively.

Durga puja is regarded as the most important festival of Bengal. The city of Kolkata dresses up in a new look for the five days of the festival. The celebration begin from Maha Shashti (the sixth day) and end with Bijoya dashami (the tenth day). The design of the stamp features Durga puja. In Kolkata it is known as Bijoya dashami and not Dussehra as incorrectly inscribed on the stamp.

The legend associated with the Shami tree finds commemoration during the renowned Navaratri celebrations at Mysore, which otherwise strongly emphasizes the Durga legend, as may be expected in the city built at the very site of the events of the Durga legend. On Vijaydashami day, at the culmination of a colorful 10-day celebration, the goddess Chamundeshwari is worshipped and then borne in a Golden Ambari or elephant-mounted throne, in a grand procession, through the city of Mysore, from the historical Mysore Palace to the Banni Mantapa. Banni is the Kannada word for the Sanskrit Shami, and Mantapa means "Pavilion".

Deepavali is virtually India's a national festival, and is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith. It is celebrated by Hindus, Jains and

Sikhs across the globe as the "Festival of Light," where the lights or lamps signify victory of good over the evil.

In North India, it is the homecoming of Lord Rama after a 14-year exile in the forest. The people of Ayodhya (the capital of his kingdom) welcomed Rama by lighting rows (avali) of lamps (deepa), thus its name, Deepavali, or simply shortened as Diwali. Southern India marks it as the day Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India it is also in honor of the day King Bali went to rule the nether-world by the order of Vishnu. In Jainism it marks the nirvana of Lord Mahavira. On this day the Sixth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Hargobind, was freed from imprisonment along with 52 Kings whom he had arranged to be released as well. Sikhs greeted the Guru by lighting lamps at Amritsar when he visited Golden Temple after his release.

Unfortunately the Hindi inscription on the stamp carries the wrong spelling of Deepavali.

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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamp by photogravure in the quantities of 3 million each. The miniature sheet is 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>

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The complete illustrated listing 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

- Jul 26: Madurai, Lady Doak College, 60 years
- Aug 11: Dehradun, India's First Olympic Gold
- Oct 2: Chandigarh, Philatelic Exhibition
- Oct 2: Cuttack, Philatelic Exhibition
- Oct 2: Tiruchirappalli, T V Ramasubba Iyer birth centenary

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

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Army Postal Service issued following 2 Special Covers in August 2008:

- Aug 19: 19 Infantry Brigade Centenary
- Aug 20: 8th Battalion The Madras Regiment Diamond Jubilee

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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STAMP BOOK ON TURTLE

Padmini Ambadi, Calicut has designed and developed a stamp book on turtle in the limited individually numbered edition of 50. The book contains all the 4 complete sheetlets of the recently released Aldabra Giant Tortoise issue and a se-tenant pair of Oliver Ridley turtle stamps issued in 2000.

For images of stamp books & packs issued in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/2008packs-sets.htm>

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FIRE CRACKERS FROM POST OFFICE

India Post as part of Deepavali celebrations will sell coupons which can be exchanged for firecrackers at the 13 post offices at Tirunelveli from October 6 to 26, 2008. The coupons available in Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations have to be exchanged at the Anil Fireworks. The buyers also get at 15% discount.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BAPUPEX

Orissa Philatelic Association organized a philatelic exhibition jointly with Kalinga philatelic Society and Utkal Philatelists and Numismatists Association on October 2, 2008 at Philatelic Bureau, Cuttack GPO. Major General B P Das AVSM (retired) inaugurated the exhibition and Sahadev Sahoo IAS (retired) was the guest of honor.

M Mishra, Director of Postal Service released the special cover depicting the Star named after Gandhi "Celestial Divine Memorial" and the special postmark depicting people with inscription "Sabko Sanmati De Bhagawan". Four different labels were also released on the occasion. Please contact Pradip Mohanty [oripphil@gmail.com](mailto:oripphil@gmail.com) mobile: 09861032965 for your requirements of special cover and labels.

Oct 13-15: Surat, Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 14-15: New Delhi, Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 17-19: Bangalore, Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Basava Bhavan, High Grounds, Near Chalukya Hotel Circle

Oct 23-25: Jaipur, Inter School Schoolpex-2008  
Venue: St. Xavier's School  
Contact: Rajesh Paharia [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com)

Oct 25-26: Bhubaneswar, Eastern India Philatelic Exhibition EIPEX-2008  
Organizer: Eastern India Philatelists' Association, Bhubaneswar  
Venue: Jayadev Bhawan, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar  
Philatelic issues: 1 Special Cover on Oct 25  
Details: The exhibition will be a non-competitive one and is limited to the members of EIPA only. All the participants will be given a certificate of participation with a commemorative medal or memento. The details of prospectus, entry forms, and inventory forms are available in the website <http://eipadownload.blogspot.com>. The last date of

submission of entry forms is October 15, 2008. A souvenir will also be released for the occasion.

Oct 31-Nov 2: Mysore, NUPHIL 08, Stamps and Coins  
Organizer: Mysore Philatelics & Mysore Numismatics  
Venue: Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, opposite Hotel Metropole  
Philatelic issues: 1 Special cover - 'Somanathapur Temple', Special postmark - 25 cash Mysore coin of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar 1799-1868  
Contact: [mysorephilatelics1@gmail.com](mailto:mysorephilatelics1@gmail.com)

Nov 7-9: Mumbai, Numismatic Exhibition  
Venue: Sunderbai Hall, Near Income Tax Office, Churchgate

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: Pandya Samootha Madhom, Thrissur  
Dealers Booth: Rs 3,000 (limited to 15 dealers only)  
Philatelic issues: 1 Special postmark Mahatma Gandhi theme  
Contact: [philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com](mailto:philatelicclubthrissur@rediffmail.com)

Nov 28-30: Coins, Numismatic Exhibition  
Organizer: Delhi Coin Society  
Venue: Bapu Sewa Sadan, Panchkuian Road,  
Timings: 10 am to 6 pm  
Visit: [www.delhicoinsociety.com](http://www.delhicoinsociety.com)  
Contact: [delhicoinsociety@gmail.com](mailto:delhicoinsociety@gmail.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>

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/xl6.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

#### READERS FORUM

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

#### DISCOLOURATION OF STAMPS DURING AND AFTER THEIR SEPARATION FROM THE BACK-PAPER

By Dr Avinash B Jagtap, Binningen (Switzerland)

In the last issue of Stamps of India Collectors Companion (NO. 361, October 01, 2008), in the Readers forum, Dr. Hemant Kulkarni, of Milwaukee, USA, has mentioned his observations and difficulties in separating stamps from the back-paper to which they are affixed. Since most of the philatelists and stamp-collectors come across this difficulty, I shall like to write a few lines in order to overcome this dilemma.

Usually we collect stamps by cutting them out from a large piece of paper of an envelope or a wrapper, care being taken that no damage is done to the stamps. The paper, to which stamps are affixed, is either white or coloured. Most of the colours used in the manufacture of paper have tendency to impart colouration to the water in which pieces of coloured papers are immersed. If a heap of tit-bits of paper, with stamps affixed to them are put in water for about half an hour or more, the oozing out colour may discolour the stamps and render them useless for collection. The bleeding of colour is accelerated by using lukewarm or warm water. So the first precaution to be taken is to separate the stamps affixed to the white paper from the coloured ones.

Most of the wrappers and large size envelopes which are used for sending mail from India to foreign countries (and also within India) are usually brown, brownish-orange in colour. Even in the rainy season the colour of the wrapper would impart its colour to the stamps affixed on it. The collectors are advised, whenever possible, to instruct their senders to use white envelopes or wrapper only.

This colouration difficulty has been observed not only in case of envelopes and wrapper sent abroad from India, but also in case of large size envelopes of orange-yellow coloured paper from Switzerland and also that gaudy red coloured envelopes used by Americans in sending their greeting-cards.

Another possibility is that the sender pastes a white coloured paper onto the envelope or a wrapper and affixes his stamps only onto this white paper. The receiver can peel off this white paper along with the stamps affixed to it and immerses this piece of paper in water. In doing so the possibility of oozing out of colour from the original coloured envelope or wrapper is effectively avoided.

It must be mentioned that the Indian stamps (especially the definitive with higher denominations) bear an inferior quality and quantity of adhesive on their back and to overcome this deficiency there is a tumbler full of typical blue coloured glue in Indian post-offices. The customers lavishly make use of this glue, so that when the stamps affixed to the paper with this bluish-white glue are immersed in water, the stamps could be freed from the paper underneath, but not necessarily from the shabby bluish gum! The instructions like "Moisten

thoroughly and Press firmly" on the margin of the stamp sheet does not improve the performance of the stamps!

YES THERE IS NO COMPETITION IN COMPETITION CLASS!  
By Jagannath M, Bangalore

Yes I too agree with Naresh Agawal, Bilaspur, it should be renamed as Grading Class to check all the disappointment emerging out of it. Even instead of Gold, Silver, Bronze, grade certificates should be given. This class should be introduced in the state levels before going to nation level and all exhibits is best not better than the best so we should not compare our exhibit with the other but let us ensure and see that whether our evaluation has been done properly.

Further to add to this, they should not be charge/fees to the frames in any class and the account holder of the philately bureau's and his her Transactions must be more than one year and he/she should be continue his/her account should be exhibit his /her to display, before that if possible the exhibit should be displayed in philately bureau's /GPO'S for the week and selected exhibit should be display in the next exhibition and then better than the best should be award 1st, 2nd and 3rd with medals and then to publicity such things should covered by media and then we can feel the difference Can this thing will be done by India post?

As I am a philatelist, to me this hobby a philately is not a competition...but instead an expression. I admire the philatelist that does not have the "copycat" or competitive nature. We all express ourselves in so many wonderful & different ways! You may not be aware of any special link, just meeting 'YOU' as a philatelist has changed my life, a lot more than you think!

It has been and is, an honor circling around the great philatelist community with each and every one of you, at philately world  
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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  
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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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STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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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