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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingana
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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

India Post has invented dynamic rescheduling of dates of release. Take a look at first 40 days of the year:

K K Birla was rescheduled from January 21 to February 19. Spices of India is rescheduling resulted in its premature release. INTACH issue was rescheduled from January 27 to 28. National Girl Child Day from February 4 to 5, 2009. (That National Girl Child Day is observed on January 24 is another matter altogether.) Postal Life Insurance issue was rescheduled from February 5 to February 11, 2009. Santaji Jagnade was rescheduled from February 8 to February 9, 2009.

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, 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

STAMP POPULARITY POLL

The counting of the votes of the Popularity poll for issues of 2008 is  
complete and here are the results:

Most Popular of Stamp of 2008: Madhubala with 23% votes  
First Runner up: Deepavali with 22% votes  
Second Runner ups: Sai Baba, Human Rights, Jasmine, & BrahMos - 9% each

Most Popular Miniature Sheet of 2008: Madhubala with 28% votes  
First Runner ups: Festivals & 2010 Commonwealth Games with 12% each  
Second Runner up: Butterflies with 9% votes

Most Popular Sheetlet of 2008: Madhubala with 41% votes  
First Runner up: Aldabra Giant Tortoise with 35% votes  
Second Runner ups: Standard Chartered Bank & Coast Guard with 11% each

Aries Stamps and Collectibles of Gurgaon has sponsored the prizes of  
Stamp Popularity Poll 2008. The first prize, a complete set of stamps  
of 2008, goes to P Mohanachandran Nair of Trivandrum and the second  
prize, a complete set of miniature sheets of 2008 goes to Kanhya  
Vidhani of Indore.

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INDIA & STATES AUCTION

Christoph Gartner of Germany info@auktionen-gaertner.de is holding its
9th auction sale of 11,000 lots from February 18 to 21, 2009. There are
3 catalogs - 1 Overseas/Europe/ thematics, 2 Germany, & 3 Collections.

In addition a special catalog covers India and Indian States with
proofs, essays, rare stamps, varieties, multiples, sheets and postal
history. An auction sale of India and Indian States by a major
auctioneer is indeed a special event for Indian philately. Peter Rover
the well known expert on Indian philately and Dr Volker Schilling
contributed to preparing the catalog covering 892 lots.

The catalog is also available online at [http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de/WWW/PHILNET/GAERTNER/GPHOME.NSF/\(HTML\)/Start-E?OpenDocument](http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de/WWW/PHILNET/GAERTNER/GPHOME.NSF/(HTML)/Start-E?OpenDocument)

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INDIA YEAR BOOK 2008

Lieutenant Colonel D K S Chauhan, Postmaster General, Gujarat released  
the India Postage Stamp Year Book 2008 on January 30, 2008 at Ahmedabad  
during the Festival of Stamps.

Developed by Narendra Kumar [kumarnarendra1960@yahoo.co.in](mailto:kumarnarendra1960@yahoo.co.in) and published by Eeshan Prakashan the year books were introduced in 2008 with launch of Year book 2007. Its high quality was appreciated by all. On popular demand the publication program of Year Books for years 2000 onwards was launched and Year book 2006 was published. Later the publication program expanded to cover Loose Leaf Set of Year books that are printed on one side on card and ready for display. For further details please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/yearbook.htm>

The hardbound books with slip case illustrate in full color on art paper all the stamps, miniature sheets, first day covers, first day of issue postmark, max cards, and stamp packs issued by India Post in the year. It adds a write-up, specifications, and several relevant illustrations. It also has place to mount the stamps and miniature sheets.

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MORE PREMATURE ISSUES

The Spices of India a set of 5 stamps and a miniature sheet was originally scheduled for release on January 24, 2009. India Post decided to postpone the release and new dates will be announced later. This decision perhaps didn't reach some philatelic bureaus in time who consequently sold the miniature sheet of spices of India issue.

The image of the miniature sheet of spices of India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/premature.htm>

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PHILATELISTS HONORED

Gujarat Philatelists Association honored following philatelists during recently concluded Festival of Stamps at Ahmedabad:

Life Time Achievement Award to Manik Jain, Kolkata for serving the cause of Indian philately by publishing Stamp Catalog and Stamp Albums of India for a long time

Life Time Achievement Award to Madhukar Jhingan, New Delhi for serving the cause of Indian philately by maintaining a website and publishing a digital weekly magazine for a long time

Life Time Achievement Award to Anand Swarup Mittal, Jaipur for serving the cause of Indian philately by being a stamp dealer and auctioneer for 60 years

Promising Young Stamp Dealer Award to Markand Dave, Nadiad for serving the cause of Indian philately by attending philatelic events worldwide

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FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

Gujarat Philatelists Association organized the Festival of Stamps at Ahmedabad from January 30 to February 1, 2009. In the past the competitive exhibits have overshadowed all other activity in all philatelic events large or small. The Festival of Stamps was a national philatelic event without competitive exhibits and the philatelists were able to interact in a stress free environment. Participants and visitors from all over India were treated to unprecedented hospitality by the organizers.

Over 50 Sales booths form all over India including that of India Post and over 100 stamp dealers provided great opportunity to the buyers.

Auctions were also held on first and second day evening. The general view has been that in these times of global financial crisis the stamps in India fared better than share market and real estate sectors.

The successful holding of the Festival that was well organized, well managed, and well promoted, goes on to show that India now has the potential to host international stamp fairs on lines of Riccione and Essen.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Feb 5: Girl Child Day, Rs 5  
Feb 8: Santaji Jagnade, Rs 5  
Feb 9: Mahakavi Magh, Rs 5  
Feb 11: Postal Life Insurance, Rs 5  
Feb 19: K K Birla, Rs 5

Mar 01: 10th Definitive Series - Builders of Modern India, 9 stamps,  
Re 0.50 - K Kamraj  
Rs 1 - Mahatma Gandhi,  
Rs 2 - B R Ambedkar,  
Rs 3 - Satyajit Ray,  
Rs 4 - Homi Bhabha,  
Rs 10 - Periyar E V Ramaswamy Naicker  
Rs 15 - J R D Tata  
Rs 20 - Mother Teresa  
Rs 50 - Rukmini Devi Arundale

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/2009stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

BISHNU PRASAD RABHA

India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bishnu Prasad Rabha on January 31, 2009.

Born in 1909, Bishnu Prasad Rabha was a famous poet, littérateur, dramatist, musician, dancer and an actor, all rolled into one. He is known as Kalaguru (Master of Arts).

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Alka Sahrma 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 0.4 million stamps in the sheets of 40 by wet offset.

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Jotiradaitya Scindhia, Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Steel Authority of India on February 3, 2009 at New Delhi.

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 1.5 million stamps in the sheets of 25 by photogravure process.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

The following stamps are still awaited:

2009 Jan 28: Heritage Monuments Preservation by INTACH, Set of 4 Stamps
- Expected late February

The following Miniature Sheets are still awaited:

2008 Aug 02: Aldabra Giant Tortoise
2008 Nov 14: Children's Day - Expected mid February

The First Day Covers for these issues are still awaited:

2009 Jan 21: Vaikom Muhammad Basheer
2009 Jan 25: Saint Paul's Church
2009 Jan 28: Heritage Monuments Preservation by INTACH
2009 Jan 31: Bishnu Prasad Rabha

The Brochures for these issues are still awaited:

2009 Jan 21: Vaikom Muhammad Basheer
2009 Jan 25: Saint Paul's Church
Jan 28: Heritage Monuments Preservation by INTACH
2009 Jan 31: Bishnu Prasad Rabha

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

MEGHDOOT POST CARDS

Jan 31: AIDS, Hindi

The grand total till date is now 736, with 201 added in 2008.

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

INLAND LETTER CARD

Feb 29, 2008: Disaster Management, ISP, Bengali

The last of the 12 Inland Letter Cards on Disaster management has finally arrived!

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009ILC.htm>

POST CARD

Jan 28: AIDS, Hindi, ISP

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009EN.htm>

PRIVATE FIRST DAY COVERS

Eeshan Prakashan kumarnarendra1960@yahoo.co.in and Stamps of India launched first day covers of miniature sheets of India. The first day cover with miniature sheet affixed and duly serviced is priced uniformly at Rs 100 each.

A first day cover was also published for the 10th Definitive Series and is priced at Rs 50 for a duly serviced cover.

These first day covers are produced in the limited quantity of 500 and are individually numbered.

For an illustrated list of all First Day Covers of 2008, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/fdc/fday2008.htm>

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

2008

- Feb 23: Indore, Saadat Khan Mewati
- Feb 24: Tiruchirappalli, Lions District 324 A2 Silver Jubilee
- Mar 28: Indore, district philatelic exhibition
- Oct 18: Hyderabad, Ham Tech Expo & Conference
- Nov 17: Kakinada, Rangaraya Medical College
- Nov 30: Kolkata, Jagdish Chandra Bose 150th Birth Anniversary
- Dec 12: Chennai, St Thomas Tamil Church Sesquicentennial

2009

- Jan 17: Kanpur, Maharaj Prayag Narain Temple
- Jan 30: Ahmedabad, Mahatma Gandhi 61st Death Anniversary
- Jan 30: Chandigarh, philatelic exhibition
- Jan 31: Mumbai, Dream Rotary Conference

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2009, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2009pm.htm>

NEW STAMP BOOKLETS

A set of 3 stamp booklets were released on January 30, 2009 during Festival of Stamps at Ahmedabad. The Booklets commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 61st Death Anniversary, World Leprosy Day, and Mother Teresa respectively. The booklets priced at Rs 250 per set are produced in the limited quantity of 750 sets.

For an illustrated list of Stamp Booklets, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm>

NEW MAXCARDS

Arvind Mullick of Jabalpur, telephone 0761-4082044, has created the following maxim cards:

2009 Jan 4: Louis Braille

2008 Dec 10: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

2008 Oct 18: Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games

The Philatelic Bureau at Ernakulam brought out a set of 2 maxim cards for Aldabra Giant Tortoise issue of August 2, 2008. The set of cards is priced at Rs 80 and is produced in the limited quantity of 300 sets.

For an illustrated list of maxim cards in 2009, visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2009mc.htm>

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NEW PHILATELIC NUMISMATIC COVER

Eeshan Prakashan [kumarnarendral960@yahoo.co.in](mailto:kumarnarendral960@yahoo.co.in) created a philatelic numismatic cover for the Louis Braille Birth Bicentenary where a commemorative stamp and coin were issued on January 4, 2009. The limited edition of 75 first day covers carry 2 coins, displaying both sides, mounted on a multicolor card. The covers are priced at Rs 200 each.

For viewing the image, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/philnumis.htm>

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SEA MAIL SERVICE

India Post has discontinued the Sea Mail Parcel service with effect from January 1, 2009. Other Sea Mail services viz. Sea Mail letters and Bulk Bag are not discontinued.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

RAINBOW STAMP NEWS, Whole #14, February 2009, Monthly

Editor: Jeevan Jyoti [j.jyoti9@gmail.com](mailto:j.jyoti9@gmail.com)

Publisher: Jeevan Jyoti, Shimla

Annual Subscription: Free

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

VADOPHIL, Whole #117, Jan 2009, Quarterly

Editors: Prashant H Pandya [vadophil@indianphilately.net](mailto:vadophil@indianphilately.net) and

Timir R Shah [trs\\_shah@rediffmail.net](mailto:trs_shah@rediffmail.net)

Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society, Vadodara

Annual Subscription (including membership): Rs 100

PHILANEWS, Whole #42, Nov Dec, Bimonthly

Editor: Rajesh Paharia [shreeshell@hotmail.com](mailto:shreeshell@hotmail.com)

Publisher: Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Annual Subscription: Rs 200

For a list currently published Indian philatelic periodicals, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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PHILATELIC WORKSHOP AT PURI

Puri Division of India Post organized a philatelic workshop on February 1, 2009 at the Puri GPO with participation of about 150 Students from 15 Schools. Philatelic Quiz and Stamp designed contests were also conducted between the students.

There were three categories for each contest namely Senior (Class-VIII-X), Junior (class-V-VII) and Sub-Junior (Class I-IV). Ajit Kumar Dash, Secretary, EIPA and Anil Kumar Dhir Senior Philatelist of EIPA were appointed as jury members for the competitions. Niranjan Behera Senior superintendent of Posts, Puri presided over the functions. Prizes were distributed amongst the winners. Senior Philatelists of EIPA Kasinath Sahoo, Haripada Panda and Nrusingha Dash also attended and assisted in conducting the workshop.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jan 30 - Feb 1: Bhubaneswar, Philatelic Exhibition  
Manisha Mishra, Director Postal Services inaugurated a three day philatelic exhibition organized by the Regional College of Management, Bhubaneswar with support of the Eastern India Philatelists' Association (EIPA) and India Post during the 'Basantosav ETHOS-2009', the National Cultural Festival at the auditorium of the college. The exhibits of noted philatelists of EIPA were displayed in 40 frames.

Feb 9: New Delhi, Philatelic Festival  
Organizer: South Delhi Division, India Post  
Venue: Worldwide Fund for Nature, Lodhi Road

Feb 27-28, & Mar 1: New Delhi, Coins, Numismatic Exhibition  
Organizer: Delhi Coin Society  
Venue: Bapu Samaj Seva Kendra, Panchkunj Road,  
Contact: Goga Jain 0 93123 18401

Dec: Vadodara, Stamp-Mania 2009 One Frame Philatelic Exhibition  
Organizer: Baroda Philatelic Society  
Contact: Prashant H Pandya [vadophil@indianphilately.net](mailto:vadophil@indianphilately.net)

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2009.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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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for February 2009 has been updated and is now available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/2auctions.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

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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)

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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.>

HEMANT V KULKARNI, Milwaukee, USA

I've noted with interest Lesley Brine's remarks on behalf of apparently prestigious Stanley Gibbons Catalogue (Issue# 378) that it will not list 'India miniature sheets', reason being such sheets have a typical (stamp) face value of Rs. 5 each while the Indian postal service officially prints it as Rs. 15. In other words (and in a civilized manner) this translates to saying this to be an official BLACK MARKETING practice by the government itself. Indeed it is and I suggest that a simple solution would be to eliminate this official printing of Rs. 15 on such sheets and let the market conditions dictate how much they should fetch in the open market. Here in the USA (and probably in rest of the world) every stamp memorabilia shows the true face value of its stamp and the postal service officially sells it at a premium without printing such mark up on the memorabilia itself. This is commonsense that should filter through resolving several other issues that give Indian Philately a black eye -thus questioning the integrity and value of commemorative stamps and artifacts themselves.

On an unrelated issue, I was awestruck to find the number of stamps India issues (nine on March 01, 09 alone) on INDIVIDUALS which must cause a hardship to an average stamp collector who may be limited to his/her resources and is required to purchase such commemoratives (however worthy of individual's honour) to remain up todate in collection for the sake of love of this apparently expensive hobby. It should hurt even more considering the fact that such purchases still remain a hurdle thanks to India's beurocratic and inept operation of related postal bureaus -the official vendor who is actually funded from the public tax-revenue of which the stamp collector has been an indirect part.

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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>

The Hindu

February 3, 2009

WINDOW TO THE WORLD by N Kalyani

<http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/yw/2009/02/03/stories/2009020350300400.htm>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

STAMPS OF INDIA also publishes:

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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