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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 390 - April 23, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Postal Stationery  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Indian Awards at China 2009  
Book Nano Car at Post Office  
Recent Periodical Publications  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Nandita  
Readers Forum: Dr Avinash B Jagtap  
NewsScan: 'Philately, A New Craze In City'

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Dr Jagtap of Switzerland needs no introduction to readers of this digital weekly. We have the privilege of publishing his views in the Readers Forum of this issue on what we wrote in this space in the previous Issue #389. However we have moved the last paragraph of his views in this place and provided our response below.

Dr Jagtap wrote:

"I must bring to the notice of the readers, that nowadays several persons or associations issue their special "Stamp Booklets" and offer them at stamp exhibitions. (Surprisingly, in this bulletin there is news that a stamp booklet has been issued and is offered for sell!) All these persons and associations who offer such stamp booklets are doing so only to better their pocket and the buyers should be warned not to purchase such bogus Stamp Booklets (not worth their contents, i.e. the face-value of the stamps they contain). They are not issued officially by India Post. Such booklets should not be exhibited in any philatelic display. If done so, the Jury at the exhibition will have the right to deduct the points from the mark-sheet of such an exhibitor."

In response let us first get the errors of the fact out of the way:

1. The issue #389 referred by Dr Jagtap reported not 'a' but 2 stamp booklets.
2. The stamp booklets were not offered for 'sell!' anywhere in that issue.
3. The national and international philatelic exhibit evaluation systems in existence do not 'deduct the points'. The points are awarded on items shown and there is no provision for deducting points on account of items not shown. Properly describing the status of an item will earn

points. Properly describing includes but is not limited to, identifying a forgery, a repaired item, and a privately produced item.

To quote from the 'Jhingan's Jottings' of the same issue we bemoaned that "Some stamp booklets are neither booklet nor there is any data available about their origin." Let us elaborate a little on it. A dealer in India took a picture postcard issued by a philatelic bureau of India Post showing images of stamps, folded it in half, stapled stamps in between and sold to a buyer in Europe as an official stamp booklet. We are all for private enterprise and free economy but are against frauds, fakes, forgeries. In this we seek your cooperation to document such incidents.

The privately produced philatelic items have been an integral part of the philatelic world. And we know score of persons who can be 100 times better creative than the post office products issued. We wish that the society or individual creating a stamp booklet, first day cover, special cover, philatelic numismatic cover or maxim card must print at least the name of the issuing body on the item issued. This is a good philatelic practice and makes the life easier for reporters, authors, editors, publishers, and philatelic historians. Nowadays some items are being created at desktop printer for sale on eBay or Delcampe. And for some reason the creators of these wish to remain anonymous.

On the other hand the 2 stamp booklets reported in the previous issue of this digital weekly have been designed by a living legend in the field of Art, Cinema, Philately, and Journalism - Dipok De. These have been issued by a bona fide all India philatelic organization that is over 25 years old. The quantity produced is only 200 (our suggestion would have been 500) but even these are still easily available for the issue price of Rs 100. The stamp booklets contain stamps worth Rs 50 each and cost of production is Rs 20/30 each. It is even possible to buy a few copies of these stamp booklets for less than official price because Dipok De regularly gives a few copies of his work free to his friends. We speak from our personal knowledge that Dipok De loses money on such activities but carries on solely for the labor of love.

The good philatelic practice regarding the issue of stamp booklet is that it should be available in sufficient quantity at the face value of the stamps it includes. The cost of booklet manufacturing and marketing must be recovered by way of selling advertising space in the booklet. Ideally it should be not be large, credit card size is recommended, and should contains multiples of popular denomination/s of definitive stamps. Occasionally larger stamps booklets to accommodate commemorative stamps may be issued. Stamp booklets issued should be usable as a postal product. Whether to use it or to collect it intact is a decision of the buyer of the product.

We hope this information will be useful for both the collectors and producers of stamps booklets including postal officials.

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

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Apr 29: Spices of India, Set of 5 stamps and miniature sheet  
Apr 30: R Sankar

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 2009, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently
released:

Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Authority, Hindi

The grand total till date is now 784, with 249 added in 2008!

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 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009PC.htm>

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

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Apr 20: Chennai, Dr M R Guruswamy Mudaliar  
Apr 20: Trichirappali, 150 Years of Railway in South India

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

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2009, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2009aps.htm>

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INDIAN AWARDS AT CHINA 2009

A world philatelic exhibition CHINA 2009 was held at Luoyang City, Hunan Province, China from April 10 to 16, 2009. The National Commissioner from India was Dr Sita Bhateja and the only jury from India was Yogesh Kumar. Indian exhibits fared as under:

Silver Bronze Medal
Thokakura Ramlingeshwar Rao - Railways

Bronze Medal
Santosh S - Lord of the Jungle
Gautham - Cycling
Mathur Mrinal - Cars on Stamps
Chakraborty Chiranje - Transportation

Diploma
Mundra Nikhil - Mahatma Gandhi'S World Tour On Lufthansa
Thokakura Dheeraj Chaijanya - Means Of Transport.

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BOOK NANO CAR AT POST OFFICE

India Post has tied-up with Tata Motors for sale of booking forms and acceptance of loan forms of Tata Nano through 141 major post offices in the country.

The facility in these post offices will be available from April 22, 2009 on all working days. This may be extended keeping in view of the public demand. The price of the form is Rs 300.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

VADOPHIL, Whole #118, Apr 2009, Quarterly
Editors: Prashant H Pandya vadophil@indianphilately.net and
Timir R Shah trs_shah@rediffmail.net
Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society, Vadodara
Annual Subscription (including membership): Rs 100

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

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NANDITA

France has issued a set of 12 Stamps in a booklet on March 10, 2009. One stamp features Nandita, a woman from India. The complete booklet is available for Euros 6.72 online from French Post at the following link:  
<http://timbres.laposte.fr/detailarticle.jgi?index=2&idArticle=1109488>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Apr 24-26: Mumbai, Numismatic Exhibition

Organizer:

Venue: Tejpal Gallery, Opposite August Kranti Maidan, Gowalia Tank,
Grant Road, Mumbai 400 007

May 29-31: Ooty, Super Mega All India Coin Stampex

Organizer: Coimbatore District Numismatic & Philatelic Association

Venue: Devangar Mandapam, Ooty

Sales Booths: Rs 2750

Contact: C Palaneswamy Secretary CDNPA, Mobile - 0 94869 23558

Oct 30-31 & Nov 1: Pune, Stamp Exhibition

Contact: Pratisad Neurgaonkar, mobile 0 97663 10553

Dec 18-20: Vadodara, StampMania-2009 One Frame National Exhibition

Organizer: Baroda Philatelic Society www.vadophil.org

Venue: Shree Saurashtra Leuva Patel Seva Samaj, Alembic Road

Contact: Prashant H Pandya info@vadophil.org

Website: www.stampmania2009.com

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

ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3rd 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 or 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

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

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.>

DR AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen, Switzerland

Thank you for your remarks as regards the rise of forgeries so far as philatelic matters are concerned. Having concentrated myself on collection of stamps of British India period, I had purchased some

items some 40 years ago from prominent philatelic dealers in India. At that time I was not aware that the stamps with overprint varieties or cancellations should only be purchased with an authenticity certificates, despite the warning by reputed catalogue publishers like M/S Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

After some years to my dismay, I was less happy to realize that a certain overprint on Queen Victoria stamp was forged. I sent a letter to the dealer, whom I had purchased that stamp, expressing my dismay. One dealer did write me back, saying he is very sorry that the stamp he had sold me some 20 years ago was fake! Naturally, I did not ask him for refund. It was terribly late to ask for refund! It was my fault to have trusted him that the stamp was a genuine one.

This can happen to anyone, who prefers to trust the dealer, rather than puts the condition to get the stamp expertised for its genuineness (which involves time and money). One has to take for granted that any such item (which normally is above £ 50.) offered is "forged" and one should better abstain from purchasing it, unless it is accompanied with a certificate of authenticity.

As now many people, not necessarily philatelists, who have entered into this field of stamp collecting, have spoiled this hobby. There is no control over the dealers who make money by exercising all types of forgeries and those who have no knowledge of philately are prepared to buy any type of material offered to them.

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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>

PHILATELY, A NEW CRAZE IN CITY
Times of India, Apr 19, 2009
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Kanpur/Philately-a-new-craze-in-city/articleshow/4418505.cms>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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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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