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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 393 - May 14, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

As promised we have returned to discussing the issues raised in Issue # 389 of this digital weekly. However you have to look at the end of Readers Forum under Editors' Response.

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

May 28: Madras Regiment

**Definitive issues**

May 11: Builders of Modern India Series, the final 3 stamps  
Rs 0.50, E V Ramaswamy  
Rs 10, C V Raman  
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 2009, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

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**LIFELINE EXPRESS STAMP RELEASED**

S C Jamir, Governor of Maharashtra released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 to mark the Lifeline Express, world's first mobile hospital train, on May 12, 2009 at Mumbai.

Lifeline Express developed in collaboration with the Indian Railways and Indian Health Ministry is run by a non-governmental organization Impact India Foundation. It was started with just three discarded wooden coaches on July 16, 1991 and has now evolved into a state-of-the-art facility with two air-conditioned operation theatres. The train has been to almost all corners of the country and has seen over 80,000 surgeons, anesthetists, nurses and volunteers work on it over the last 18 years to treat more than half a million patients for free.

Kamleswar 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. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed 0.4 million stamps by wet offset process.

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

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**NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS**

**Awaited:**

2008  
Aug 2: Aldabra Giant Tortoise, Miniature Sheet  
2009  
May 11: Builders of Modern India Definitive  
May 12: Lifeline Express

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**SPICES OF INDIA BROCHURE**

India Post issued a set of 5 stamps and miniature sheet on April 29, 2009. The Brochure accompanying this issue has lots of mistakes as noted by Jigar Desai of Mumbai.

1. All the images of stamps on the Brochure carry "2008" as the year of issue while the issued stamps feature "2009".
2. The Brochure states the denomination as Rs 5 in the Technical Data section. It also does not mention that there are 5 stamps in this issue. The issued stamps are as follows - 4 stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 each and 1 stamp in the denomination of Rs 20. This mistake has been fixed at the New Delhi Philatelic Bureau by pasting slip with the corrected information.
3. The Brochure provides short notes on all but one Spice. The write-up about Cinnamon in English and Hindi is missing.

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GAIL INDIA STAMP

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on GAIL India Limited (formerly Gas Authority of India Limited) on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee on November 19, 2008. The stamps were printed in the sheetlets of 16 stamps.

This issue is now also been made available in the sheets of 30 stamps.

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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 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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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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**NEW PHILATELIC BLOG**

Saket Bajaj from Bangalore has launched a blog dedicated to his collection of a wide variety of philatelic materials on Flowers at  
<http://florastampcollection.blogspot.com>.

He says that the main aim of creating this blog is to, list all the philatelic materials that I own and have an online presence. This even doubles up as a database of what materials you own.

Bajaj's exhibit that won a Silver medal in Inpex 2008 is also online on Exponet since a year at the following link  
<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0235/index0235a.htm>

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INDIAN NAVY IN CHINA

INS Ranvir and destroyer INS Mumbai of Indian Navy participated in the 60th anniversary celebrations of China's People Liberation Army Navy at Qingdao, China from April 19 to 24, 2009. 21 ships from 14 countries

participated in addition to Chinese ships, in the celebrations. A set of 15 special covers were issued in which one cover was commemorated the participation of Indian Navy.

To view the images please visit the following link,
<http://stampsonindia.com/nir2009.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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](http://www.vadophil.org)  
Venue: Shree Saurashtra Leuva Patel Seva Samaj, Alembic Road  
Contact: Prashant H Pandya [info@vadophil.org](mailto:info@vadophil.org)  
Website: [www.stampmania2009.com](http://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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SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south_asia_new_issues.htm

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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 f4 [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.>

MAFATLAL SHETH, Mumbai

I fully agree with views expressed by Mr Sanjay Goenka of Kolkata regarding Dr Avinash as also I appreciate and agree with views expressed by Mr Madhukar regarding Dr Avinash in the previous issue of digital weekly.

NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur

I have been reading comments on privately issued booklets, their philatelic importance, their purpose for issuance, their effect on philatelic field etc. etc.

One thing we must understand that

1. Philately i.e advance stamp collecting associated with research is done for joy and pleasure ONLY,
2. Philately is a creative hobby,
3. To be in philately, to display the exhibit or to win award in exhibition are three different aspects of philately, and
4. Philatelic trade/dealing is altogether different

Creating beautiful artistic booklets, maximum cards, folders, labels, FDC's, Special covers etc add to the beauty of philately. Even forgery is an advance art of philately. Trading forgery as forgery is highly appreciable but selling it as original is absolutely undesirable.

Collecting such philatelic material adds to the joy of philately. It is not necessary that such items should be displayed. If not allowed under rules of particular exhibition, don't display. My late friend Dr Abdul Rehman, a scholar, participated in various exhibitions even at National Level with his theme "Pictorial Art Through The Ages". He loved beauty and never hesitated to display such material too. He had one firm opinion that he displayed for pleasure and joy and not to win medals or awards. So, this is philately and philatelist. Even if he did not display he enjoyed the pleasure of collecting. I will suggest that one should go through the rules of particular exhibition before display and choose to display such items or not on that basis.

These privately issued items add to the flavor of philately. Look at American old covers, what will you find? pictorial creations. What are Mulready covers? pictorial creation. Yes, with time the methods have changed. We must create and appreciate such art and creations.

Now coming to the dealer's place, they earn their bread and butter from the sale of philatelic material only. Their selling such material is not at all bad but they should be truthful and fair in their deals. I appeal to the dealer fraternity internationally "Please do not exploit the philatelists and be truthful in your deals."

My opinion is that we should come up even with innovative philatelic creations. If those can be routed officially, it's good. If not, no problem. We should try making such creations official by collective efforts at local level. Yes, dealers should be checked/controlled/scolded and set right by framing harsh rules if they are not truthful in giving right description of the item.

Controlling price is a difficult affair in philately because buyers are ready to buy at any price.

Well, Philately is a creative hobby and we must encourage such creations and have check on dealers.

Dr Avinash B Jagtap, Binningen, Switzerland

Thank you for publishing my letter in "Stamps of India Collectors Companion (No. 392). I am glad to know that my letter did stir up the minds of readers of your weekly philatelic bulletin. Yet, I must point out that the remarks by Mr Sanjay Goenka are not appropriate. I was astonished to read his remark "... As a philatelist Mr. Jagtap himself had supported forgeries and is a victim of forgery, Experts like him could not (be) immune himself from forgery, so he should not blame stamp collectors".

To this remark I should say, that in my previous letter I did explain that I purchased the said (forged) stamp (without the knowledge that it was forged) from my most reliable and reputed dealer in Bombay. How this could ever mean, that I had supported (or encouraged) forgery? In the next sentence Mr. Goenka admits that Mr. Jagtap is a victim of forgery! I must say that a person in the first phase is a stamp "hoarder" or collector, then with years and study of relevant philatelic knowledge he becomes a philatelist. None can be "immune" to forgery, so when a costly stamp is offered without any expertise certificate, it should always be looked up on as (a possible) forgery. Even M/S Stanley Gibbons in their catalogues caution philatelists from getting cheated. I had blamed dealers and not stamp collectors for offering forged materials.

Secondly, so far as the stamp booklets are concerned, I am NOT against creation, sale or purchase of stamp booklets, which are offered at various philatelic exhibitions. I only wanted to point out that these (when not issued by the Postal Authority) are private and unofficial stamp booklets. One can purchase them as a token or souvenir of a philatelic Exhibition; but these should not be included in a philatelic display at philatelic exhibition by a participating candidate.

As against these unofficial stamp booklets, privately created First Day Covers and Maximum Cards can be shown in the displays. Many times the Official Indian FDCs are very "shabby" in their appearance. It should be clear to the philatelists that the illustration on the left hand lower corner of a F.D.C. has no "philatelic" value (i.e. one cannot get extra points for the illustration on the FDC) and no privately created FDC is banned from its inclusion in a thematic display. What is important in case of a maximum card, is a well selected view card, an appropriate valid postage stamp and an official pictorial first day cancellation (or Simple Round Date Cancellation). There is no rule that the Maximum Card must have been officially issued by the Post Office. Here is enough freedom granted to a free-lance graphic designer to create his/her own maximum card. There are three elements which define a Maximum Card, The View Card, The stamp (only ONE stamp!) and the Cancellation (Pictorial or Circular Date Stamp Cancel) must be in maximum concordance with each other.

I must bring to the notice of Indian Philatelists that many so-called Maximum Cards issued by The Philatelic Bureau of Swiss Post are in reality NOT maximum cards. This also the case of the latest Maxium Card "Europa Astronomy-Asteroid Helvetia" issued by Swiss Post on 8 May 2009. This is a case of pure swindle! (I have written a number of letters to Swiss Post in this connection that their official Maximum Cards do not observe the rules & regulations set by FIP, but I have never received their clear reply!). I shall warn Indian philatelists to study the rules & regulations which define a maximum card.

EDITORS' RESPONSE to the above

We should have taken care of the remark "Mr Jagtap himself had supported forgeries" by Sanjay Goenka at the editing stage. We believe that readers in India and of Indian origin like Dr Jagtap should be familiar with Indian English. We missed out in changing the same to global English. However the second part of the sentence made it clear what Goenka intended. We sincerely regret this omission.

We would like to state that in many countries privately issued stamp booklets are quite popular and accepted in philatelic displays as such. Israel is one such country that comes to mind but there are others as well. We believe that no one should insist on that stamp booklets must be issued by post office especially in the day and age where the postage stamps are being issued by private operators and you can have your own design on postage, and you can print postage at your own computer. In case, the individuals and organizations issuing stamps booklets in India do not follow good practice and indulge in undesirable activities, the collectors collectively will reject such issues. Our job is to inform and we now list official and private stamp booklets on our site separately. Since the day these were separated on the site, we find the most collectors continued to complete all official booklets, some of which are now quite difficult to get, but only a minuscule number now attempt the same for private stamp booklets. Come to think of it, being issued officially in India today does not guarantee an equitable distribution of stamp booklets and these are also susceptible like many other official philatelic products being monopolized by some and resold to collectors a handsome and at times at astronomical profits. But that is a story for another time and issue.

Now let's respond to the following statement by Dr Jagtap: "It should be clear to the philatelists that the illustration on the left hand lower corner of a FDC has no "philatelic" value (ie one cannot get extra points for the illustration on the FDC)". As relentless promoters of the cause of First Day Covers (as well as for maxim cards and stamp booklets) in India for nearly 3 decades, we believe that FIP regulations in this regard are simply not in national interest and should never be applied at district, state, and national exhibitions. In the best case scenario 35 exhibitors from India will participate in FIP exhibitions in a year against over 3500 in the district, state, and national exhibitions. We believe those 1 percent persons who qualify for FIP, and who can afford very high costs of its participation, can also afford to make her/him familiar with the FIP rules currently applicable and modify the participating exhibit accordingly if required. We would like to serve the remaining 99% exhibitors. Take a look at national rules in USA and Australia for FDC and other classes which are still not found in FIP.

However now even FIP is on the way to changing its view by creating a sub-class in Postal History Class as reported in Issue # 378 of January 29, 2009. After introducing classes for Fiscals and One Frame this is a major development for world philatelic exhibitions.

Before 1980 there were no clear FIP rules and the results of judging at philatelic exhibitions were mostly dependent on personal whims and fancies of the judges. This still continues in India and many Asian countries even today. Since detailed rules were introduced in 1980 these have been changed 2 or 3 times. It is required that an active exhibitor or juror must keep her/him updated. Please remember that if you disagree with particular rule or rules start a discussion amongst exhibitors and if many collectors worldwide want it the rules will be changed.

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>

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

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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

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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