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QUARTERLY

Editorial.

Review 2013

Years are rolling fast and yet another year had passed taking us along with 'contaminating' number of issues and stamps by our own India Post with the usual grievances and grumbling by the so called 'Philatelic Fraternity'.

As usual, let me take you all through to the "review of issues in 2013"

Compared to previous years India Post opened the flood gates of Security Presses and submerged us with 54 issues. If we take stamps number individually we are coming across a number crossing a century and actually 122 in number, out of which 8 are in the 20 rupees category. On the whole to have stamps alone a collector has to spend rupees seven hundred and thirty only.

Moreover, the attractive seventeen miniature sheets will cost rupees four hundred and forty five. If a collector is also interested to have first day covers which costs rupees nine hundred forty rupees and information brochures which cost two hundred seventy the total expenditure will be rupees two thousands three hundred and eighty five only. Mind you, this is excluding the acquirement of the so called 'sheet lets'.

On the whole, it has to be inferred and confirmed that India mint stamp collector has to be financially sound' or does it mean that India Collector has to be 'mentally sound' and be selective in collecting?

Coming to the personality issues, theoretically speaking out of 122 Stamps 75 numbers are on personalities. Yea, the "100 years of Cinema" Commemorative themselves has got 50 personalities. Right?

The 75 out of 122 works out to 61.5%. Hence the latest, 'India Post' rules & regulations of 10% and the old 25% only for personalities go haywire. So where we stand? We stand with 'India Post'. in collecting more and more philatelic deposit accounts in which business the 'heart and mind' of India Post lies. Be relaxed so that if India Post brings out another 50 personalities in 2014 to complete '100 years of Cinema' with 100 personalities, we have to carry on.

It is felt very b(s)adly by the expectant collectors on the non-issuance of planned sets on Head Gears, Stepwells, Metal crafts, Tribal dwellings, Traditional Indian Handfans, etc.,

Also, the sad music created by the musicians like DK Pattammal, Pt Ravishankar, Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Vilayat Khan et al., which started last year as a whimper has risen to funeral pitch on 31st Dec 2013 because their stamps couldn't see the light of the day this year also.

Though the issue of "100 years of Cinema" sheets were done on 3rd May at New Delhi, the other centres were blessed with them only by August.

At the same time issues like Delhi Gymkhana Club, Architectural Heritage Raj Bahadur, Acharga Gyan Sagar, Indian Academy of Pediatrics and CBI were issued surprisingly earlier than planned.

With all the above negatives, obviously India Post has to be congratulated for the attractive theme sets of Heritage, Postal Buildings, Wild Asses, Flowers, and also for the sets on Vivekananda, Sachin, and Cinema. Last but not the least for raising for the occasion of Japanese Royal Visit with a super fast issue.

Having said and done all, let us move ahead with high hopes and heavy imagination 2014 expecting India Post to issue more on "Themes" than on "Personalities".

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the
Chair, 19- members attended the
meeting on 09.12.2013.

Mr. CG. Bhaskar spoke on
"Classics of Indian Philately."

STAMP NEWS

PHILATELY DAY

12.10.2013

2000

0.41 mill

"Truth alone will endure, all the rest will be swept away before the tide of time. I must continue to bear testimony to truth even if I am forsaken by all. Mine may today be a voice in the wilderness, but it will be heard when all other voices are silenced, if it is the voice of Truth".



Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to the wider purpose of discovering truth, or 'Satya'. He tried to achieve this by learning from his own mistakes and conducting experiments on himself.

On the occasion of 'Philately Day', Department of Posts is paying tribute to the most prominent and influential leader of our country, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who has played a pivotal role in building a free and democratic India. His indelible contribution in India's freedom struggle has inspired many generations and great leaders of humankind. The Souvenir sheet issued depicts Mahatma Gandhi with spinning wheel (Charkha) in the background as he propagated 'Khadi', a hand-woven cloth all through his life. The stamp on Souvenir sheet is a collage of two stamps issued by Department of Posts in 1948 and 1969. It also has in background a slightly modified version of a stamp issued on Mahatma Gandhi in 1969.

Theme : Philately, Gandhi, Freedom Fighter.

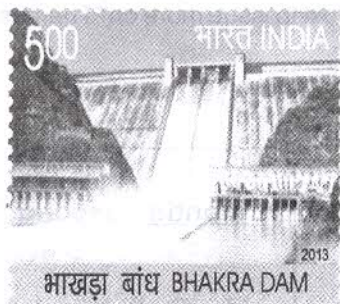
BHAKRA DAM

22.10.2013

500

0.41 mill

The construction of Bhakra Dam has been a landmark achievement of our country after independence. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, described this dam as 'New Temple of Resurgent India', his words truly illustrate the significance and magnitude of this project.



Bhakra Dam is a concrete gravity dam across the river Sutlej located at a gorge near the, submerged, Bhakra village in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh. Though the idea was first mooted in 1908, the work could only be started in 1948. On 22nd October, 1963 the dam

was dedicated to the nation by the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Bhakra dam at a height of 225.55m is Asia's second highest dam next only to Tehri dam, also in India. The dam is 518.25m long and 9.1m broad. The reservoir of the dam, known as Gobind Sagar, is 168.35 sq.km 2 in area.

Part of the larger multipurpose Bhakra Nangal Project, the dam was constructed to prevent floods in Sutlej-Beas river valley, to provide irrigation to adjoining states and provide hydro electricity. Bhakra dam alongwith Nangal dam houses hydroelectric power generators. The power generated is distributed among states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and also supplied to common pool consumers like National Fertilizers Ltd. and Chandigarh.

Theme: Water, Irrigation, Dams, Structures, Power.

RUCHI RAM SAHNI

24.10.2013

500

0.41 mill

Ruchi Ram Sahni, a well-known educationist, notable scientist, nationalist, social and religious reformer, was born on 5th April, 1863 at Dera Ismail Khan, now in Pakistan, to Karam Chand Sahni, a cloth merchant, and Gulab Devi.



Ruchi Ram Sahni completed his B.A. in 1884 and obtained masters degree in Physics and Chemistry in December, 1885. Sahni visited Presidency College, Calcutta as a trainee meteorologist in 1885 where he interacted with the leading personalities of Bengal.

Ruchi Ram was the first Indian officer in the Indian Meteorological Department where he worked from 1885-87. He then moved to Lahore and became the first Indian science professor at Government College, Lahore where he served from 1887-1918. He published two research papers on radioactivity in 1915 and 1917 while working in the laboratory of Ernest Rutherford in Manchester where he interacted with Niels Bohr.

Ruchi Ram was awarded the title Rai Sahib in 1909 which he returned in 1920 in support of the Khilafat Movement. In 1923, he was elected to the Punjab Legislative Council as a member of the Swaraj Party. He was elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences in the very year of its establishment in 1934. He served as a trustee of 'The Tribune' from 1918 till his death.

Ruchi Ram adhered to the principles of Brahmo Samaj and held all religions in high esteem. He spoke out in favour of widow re-marriage and was a strong supporter of education of girls.

