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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First & Only Weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi
We are back.

We sincerely apologize to all our readers for the longest gap of 5 months
in publishing and the inconvenience it has caused.

There was no single apparent reason for this inordinate delay, however all
the various reasons can be grouped in one word time. We resolve to
better manage our time to avoid a recurrence of such an incidence.

We are grateful to messages of concern from our friends and well wishers.
What has truly overwhelmed us is your continued support. Thank You.

We will not be mailing the Issue # 281 dated December 28, 2006. We will
however prepare and post it on the web for download. It will have all to
news up to end of 2006. The current issue brings us up-to-date since
January 1, 2007.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sudhir Kumar
Jain, Pankaj Tyagi

We invite your inputs, please email to writeback@stampsofindia.com

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.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Feb 07: Roses, Set of 4, 2 each of Rs 5 & n Rs 15, Miniature Sheet
These are scented stamps!

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 2007, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

BIMAL ROY

K Noorjehan, Principal Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle released a commemorative postage stamp on the legendary film director, Bimal Roy on January 8, 2007 at Mumbai in a function jointly organized by the Department of English, University of Mumbai & Bimal Roy Memorial & Film Society. The stamp in the denomination of Rs 5, the inland letter rate, was issued in Roy's 41st anniversary of death. Professor Vijay Khole, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai presided over the function that was also attended by Sulochana, Dharmendra, Sitara Devi and others of the Indian film industry.

Bimal Roy was one of the directors who took Indian cinema at an international platform at a very early stage. Inspired by neo-realistic Italian film *The Bicycle Thief*, he made *Do Bigha Zameen* in 1953, a film about the agricultural laborers in India. This film won awards and accolades in international festivals like the Cannes and the Karlovy Film Festival. Later, he went on to make Bengali hits from Sarat Chandra's works like *Parineeta* and *Devdas* (1955).

Roy was born in Dhaka, now in Bangladesh, on July 12, 1909. He entered the field of cinema as a cameraman. During this time, he assisted director P C Barua on the hit 1935 movie *Devdas*, starring K L Saigal. In the 1940s and 1950s Roy was part of the parallel cinema movement in post-war India. He was famous for his romantic-realist melodramas that took on important social issues while still being entertaining. He was a filmmaker of great and in-depth understanding of human strengths and weaknesses.

Bimal Roy is idolized by aspiring filmmakers till date.

Bharati Mirchandani 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 the stamps by Wet Offset in the quantity of 0.4 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

TAMIL NADU CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the platinum jubilee of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) on January 26, 2007 at Chennai. He also released a book titled *The Romance of Tamil Nadu Cricket* written by former cricketer V Ramanarayanan."

The Minister presented the first stamp to Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid and the first copy of the book to master batsman Sachin Tendulkar. Most of the members of the Indian cricket team, several former cricketers and office-bearers of the TNCA were present.

Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) is the governing body of the Cricket activities in the Tamil Nadu state of India and the Tamil Nadu cricket team. It is affiliated to the Board of Control for Cricket in India. TNCA is involved in the conduct of the game from the grass root level to the International level.

TNCA promotes and develops Cricket by conducting various League Tournaments, Tournaments for the age group Under-13, Under-15, Under-17, and Under-19, Under-22 and Under-25 categories besides organizing and conducting National Tournaments. The Association conducts SPIC-TNCA League Championship for City affiliated Clubs and 726 league matches are played a year from First division to Fifth division. A zone consisting of 12 teams each figure in the first and second divisions, whereas third, fourth and fifth division consists of two, three and four zones respectively. The city league format is one of the best in the country especially in first division where league matches are played on three-day duration as per the Ranji Trophy guidelines.

Corporate sponsorship alone in the first division runs to over Rs.60 million towards players allowances, cricket equipments, ground maintenance etc besides participation in outstation tournaments.

There are also 28 affiliated District Cricket Associations in Tamil Nadu, where cricket is conducted in a highly systematic and professional manner. There are 780 participating clubs in the districts where tournaments are also conducted for different age categories. Free balls and mats are supplied by TNCA to the Districts every year.

M A Chidambaram Stadium at Chennai sports one of the worlds best cricket grounds including excellent features such as a Giant Video screen / Flood lights, Air-conditioned corporate boxes, Air-conditioned press box befitting any International stadium.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamp and the First Day Cover. Nenu Gupta 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 the stamps by Wet Offset in the quantity of 0.4 million.

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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

NEW MEGHDOOT POSTCARDS

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Small Savings, Telugu
xxx, Telugu
AIDS, Telugu
Education for All, Telugu
Education for All, Punjabi
AIDS, Bengali
Small Savings, Telugu

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

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 5-6: Asansol, 5th South Bengal Regional Philatelic Exhibition, 2 Jan
6: Panaji, District Philatelic Exhibition, 1
Jan 8: New Delhi, National Projects Construction Corporation
Jan 13-15: Ajmer, Rajasthan State Philatelic Exhibition, 3
Jan 29: Bikaner, Seth Hiralal Rampuria, philanthropist
Jan 31-Feb 1: New Delhi, West District Philatelic Exhibition, 2
Feb 1: New Delhi, Indian Coast Guard, 30th Anniversary

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2007, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2007pm.htm>

NEW STAMP BOOKLETS

Three stamp booklets have been issued by the Post Master General, South Bengal Region, West Bengal Circle of India Post on during Stamp Show Asansol 2007, the 5th South Bengal Regional Philatelic Exhibition from January 5 to 7, 2007. The booklets designed by Dipok Dey are priced Rs 70 each and contains 10 stamps of Rs 5.

The designs of the booklets are as under:

A scene from Chandra Nath penned by Sarat Chandra Chatterji (Inset stamp) featuring the Most Romantic Pair of Bengali Cinema Uttam Kumar & Suchitra Sen

A scene from Alam Ara, the First Indian Talkie, celebrating 75 years of Indian Talkie Cinema

Asansol Railway Station

The complete illustrated list of Stamp Booklets is available at:

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

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jan 13-15: Lucknow, Regional Philatelic Exhibition

Venue: Lalit Kala Akademi, Aliganj, Lucknow

Contact: Pankaj Tyagi

Phone: 0 93352 41900

Dealer Stall Fee: Rs 1,000

2 Covers priced Rs 10 each will be issued.

For a list of exhibitions in 2007, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2007.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

The sordid saga, dubbed by some as Telgi II, continues.

J B Paper Mill, New Delhi obtained a contract to manufacture watermarked paper in 1987. India Security Press (ISP) supplied the mill with dandy roll, a device, for manufacturing the stamp paper. This device remained with the mill all this while till an internal audit at ISP recently discovered that it has not been received back while the contract was over several years ago. ISP officials rushed to Mill's address only to realize that the mill and its directors have disappeared meanwhile and are now untraceable. They then had no option but to go to police with their complaint.

Delhi police is now looking at possible links with the Telgi scandal since that revolved around the abuse of watermark paper as well.

The implication of this is enormous. It is entirely possible that this device was being used to produce tonnes of fictitious stamp paper, stamps or other security documents, setting the scene for another Telgi-type multi-billion scam leading to grave consequences for the security of the country

THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for February 2007 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.

FREE

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3. All ads shall be published at the sole discretion of the editors who reserve the right to refuse any advertisement. 4. No correspondence regarding advertising will be entertained.

5. Stamps of India does not endorse any advertiser and can not be held liable for transactions of any advertiser.

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.>

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

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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 post paid worldwide. Credit cards accepted <http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>

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