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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 Jhingan

I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues

Bangkok 2007 Asian International

Kottayam Philately and Numismatic Society

Dakshina Kannada Philatelic and Numismatic Association

India Post ties up with Vishwanath Temple

Auditor General's Report on India Post

Shiva Family on Czech Stamp

Recent & Forthcoming Events

South Asia New Issues

Readers Forum: F H Magra, Pradeep Kumar Agrawal

News Scan: The World Is Not Enough For Rajan Jayakar

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We were expecting a better response, in numbers, to what we had written in this space in the previous issue. Surprised, we read the jottings carefully and realized that we may not have been very clear in our call to write back immediately. Will YOU please do it now? Do ask, add, give your views and suggestions on the idea of PHILASENSEX, and other features you would like to see in this digital weekly. And do it now.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Akshay Borad, Mansoor B, K M Singh, Manohar Lal, and Anil Suri, Madhukar Deogawanka, and Ashish Talwar

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

May 31: National Parks, Set of 5 Stamps

Mudumalai/Bandipur - Tamil Nadu/Karnataka, Periyar - Kerala, Kaziranga -

Assam, Bandhavgarh - Madhya Pradesh

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>

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

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007ILC.htm>

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

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2007aps.htm>

BANGKOK 2007 ASIAN INTERNATIONAL

The 20th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition will be held from August 3 to 12, 2007 at Bangkok, Thailand. BANGKOK 2007 is being held under the patronage of the Federation of Inter Asian Philately and expected to have 800 to 1000 frames in the competitive classes from 23 countries/territories.

The Jury from India is Dilip Shah, and the National Commissioner for India is Anil Suri. The exhibitors participating from India include: Kishor Chandak - Indian Instructional Labels & Markings, Nawal Kishore Tatiwala - Gemology, Rajan Jayakar - Fiscals of British India 1800-1900, Anil Suri - Fiscals of Cochin, Angeet Suri - British Army Uniforms, S C Sukhani - The Third Printing India 4 Annas of 1854, and Ajit Sukhatankar - Early India Cancellations.

KOTTAYAM PHILATELY AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Kottayam Philately and Numismatic Society meets first Sunday of every month at YMCA Hall, Baker Junction, Kottayam at 2.30 pm. Those desirous of joining the society or visiting and planning to attend the meeting should contact Sebastian C Parackalm, Mobile 09447040434
sebastiancparackal@yahoo.com

DAKSHINA KANNADA PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The Association is updating their webpage
http://www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa/society.htm containing name and address of philatelic and numismatic associations in India and requests all the clubs and associations to write or e-mail with their latest address. The new clubs are also welcome to get listed.

If the Association does not get any response from the clubs whose address are listed in grey font, the names will be deleted from the new updated list. Note that those who have already sent in their address recently, in response to their mail need not send the same again.

Their contact addresses are: Postal: Post Box 250, Mangalore 575 001,
Email: dakapa_1992@yahoo.com, Website: www.geocities.com/dakshina_kan_pa

INDIA POST TIES UP WITH VISHWANATH TEMPLE

The devotees of ancient Vishwanath temple at Varanasi can now get the vibhuti (holy ash) by sending a money order of Rs 60 to the Senior Superintendent of Post offices, Varanasi Head Post Office 221001. India Post signed an agreement with Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust to ensure the delivery of vibhuti.

AUDITOR GENERAL S REPORT ON INDIA POST

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India as the supreme audit institution of India conducts regulatory as well as performance audits and assists the state and central institutions on their accounts and accountability. The Performance audit Report # 1 of 2007 tabled in Parliament recently is divided in three chapters where the first chapter entirely focuses on the mail management.

Mail management involves mail collection, sorting, transmission and delivery of letters and other articles and is aimed at ensuring early delivery of mail, efficient utilisation of the resources and improved customer services. In view of the large volume of incoming and outgoing mail, efficient management of mail is one of the most important tasks of the Department of Posts (DoP). India has the largest postal network in the world with 155,516 post offices, out of which 125,148 post offices are situated in rural areas.

Performance audit of Mail Management in DoP was conducted during April to August 2006, covering the period 2001-2002 to 2005-06. Twenty one out of 22 postal circles were reviewed in audit. In each of the circles, two Head Post Offices (HPOs) and seven sub offices (SOs), including two rural SOs, under each HPO were selected randomly for the purpose of audit.

Some of the major deficiencies observed by Audit in respect of mail management were as follows:

Mail traffic registered a decline of nearly 50 per cent during last five years due to increased competition from private couriers and other modes of communication especially the value added services in telecom sector. Despite this, DoP failed to improve its operational efficiency, reduce staff costs and modernize its operations to render better services to the customer.

DoP continued to incur losses during last five years and 16 out of the 20 postal services continued to sustain losses over the years. The net loss for the year ending 31 March 2006 was Rs 120.771 billion (US\$ 300 million approximately).

According to National Test Letter Run conducted by the department, only 55 per cent of mail was delivered within the prescribed norms for delivery.

The projects for computerization of Head Records Offices, Computerized Registration Centers and Transit Mail Offices have fallen behind schedule and the computers installed were not being used for faster processing of mail and other articles in handling offices. Hardware worth Rs 67.2 million remained idle due to inadequate infrastructure, non-preparation of site, etc.

Department's efforts to modernize and mechanize mail sorting operations at Chennai and Mumbai to improve operational efficiency through introduction of Automatic Mail Processing machines and Culler-Facer-Cancellor machines also did not succeed despite investment of Rs 602.5 million due to its failure to standardize mail and ensure adequate public awareness about the advantages of using standard postal stationery. As a result, the Automatic Mail Processing machines are being underutilized to the extent of 66.39 per cent to 71.78 per cent and Culler-Facer-Cancellor machines to the extent of 93.20 per cent to 98.54 per cent. Similar projects for introducing Automatic Mail Processing Centers at a total cost of Rs 842.7 million at Delhi and Kolkata have been delayed due to deficient project management.

Book Now Pay Later facility was allowed to customers without taking advance deposits from them which resulted in accumulation of outstanding dues of Rs 13.6 million in 12 Head Post Offices test checked.

Business Post facility was extended to customers without taking advance which resulted in accumulation of outstanding dues of Rs 20.2 millions in eight Head Post Offices test checked.

Terminal dues amounting to Rs 28.4 million were pending against 23 countries from 1999 to 2004.

Agreement was signed with United Arab Emirates without taking into account weight and distance element which resulted in loss of Rs 91.5 million during the period February 2002 to December 2002.

The department also did not effectively monitor settlement of complaints to improve customer satisfaction.

SHIVA FAMILY ON CZECH STAMP

Czech Republic issued a stamp on February 21, 2007 featuring Art of India from the Collections of the National Gallery at Zbraslav Castle of the Naprstek (National) Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures. The

collection of the National Gallery is exhibited in six locations in the Czech capital, Prague and the Zbraslav Castle houses the non-European art collection of the National Gallery.

The stamp in the denomination of 24 Koruny depicts a 19th Century Glass Painting of Indian Gods - Shiva, Parvati and Ganes. Martin Srb engraved the design printed in sheets of 4 by recess process from flat plate in black combined with offset.

Under-painting on glass became popular in India in the 19th century. These paintings feature either religious or courtly themes. They show both various Hindu gods and portraits of rulers, courtiers or courtesans. The painting technique differs from painting on paper or wood in that it begins with details which are next covered with larger areas of tempera. The painting includes glossy details made of a metal sheet fixed to the back side of the painting in order to show through and imitate e.g. jewels. Most paintings are of a small size, the theme covers the whole painting. The painting texture is finished with dots and lines of rich and lively colors. The technique of painting on glass requires a good workmanship. In India the paintings used to be hung on walls especially by middle-class families.

For images of the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics issued in 2007 <http://stampsonindia.com/nir001.htm>

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

May 15-Jun 14: New Delhi, Exhibition of Stamps on Nature

Aug 10-12: Bangalore, KARNAPEX,
Exhibitors Apply before June 20, 2007

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>

SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

BANGLADESH

Mar 8, 2007: International Women's Day, Tk 10
Apr 7, 2007: World Health Day, Tk 6
Apr 19, 2007: ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, 4 Stamps, Tk 10 each

MALDIVES

Feb 8, 2007: Fish, 4 stamps, 2 Sheetlets of 4 se-tenant stamps each & 3 Miniature Sheets of 1 stamp, Rf. 1, 2, 10 & 20, Rf 10 each stamp, & Rf 30 each.

Feb 8, 2007: Orchids, 4 stamps, 2 Sheetlets of 4 se-tenant stamps each & 3 Miniature Sheets of 1 stamp, Rf. 1, 2, 10 & 20, Rf 10 each stamp, & Rf 30 each.

Feb 8, 2007: Flowers of the World, 4 stamps, 2 Sheetlets of 4 se-tenant stamps each & 3 Miniature Sheets of 1 stamp, Rf. 1, 2, 10 & 20, Rf 10 each stamp, & Rf 30 each.

NEPAL

Feb 6, 2007: 50th Anniversary of Chhatrapati Free Clinic, Rs 30

PAKISTAN

Jan 16, 2007: Karachi Municipal Corp Building Platinum Jubilee, Rs 10

SRI LANKA

Feb/Mar ??, 2007: ICC Cricket World Cup, 2 Stamps, Rs 5 & 50
Apr 30, 2007: ICC Cricket World Cup Final, 2 Stamps,
May 22, 2007: World Bio-diversity Day (sea oysters), 4 stamps,

ADVERTISEMENTS

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3. The maximum size acceptable is 5 Lines of 64 characters per line.

4. All ads shall be published at the sole discretion of the editors who reserve the right to refuse any advertisement.

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

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

F H MAGRA

You are doing a commendable service. It is no joke collecting, compiling and sending newsletter week after week without a penny earned. Thank you for your gratis services!!

I am sure you or someone else can share anecdotes, every week, about stamps issued, how the idea conceptualized or a brief history or titbits about stamps. This will make interesting reading and also entice younger generation to collect stamp for hobby or pleasure.

PRADEEP KUMAR AGRAWAL

Today after reading the idea of Mr P R Krishnan from Coimbatore I must say that the proposal suggested by him (if took place) will bring revolution in Indian Philately .

Lots of people who don t know Philately will know the same through the philsensex and may join the philately community.

It will also provide a platform for the Philatelist to buy/sell the items at a correct market price.

In brief I will only say that the idea of Mr Krishnan is fantastic and hope his efforts & your association it will take the right shape in near future.

I will be glad if any assistance or help will be needed from me or in straight way I will also like to join this program for the promotion of Indian Philately.

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>

THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH FOR RAJAN JAYAKAR

The Afternoon Despatch & Courier, May 24, 2007

http://www.cybernoon.com/DisplayArticle.asp?section=xtras&subsection=bombayfirst&xfile=May2007_extraspecial_standard809&child=extraspecial

ADMINISTRIVIA

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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.stampsfindia.com/99999.htm>

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