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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 still struggling with the time management.

Something or other has cropped up quite regularly for past 6 months  
that has delayed the publication of this digital weekly. We don't  
succeed every time but we always try.

We do hope to get back to normal schedule with this one. Let us see.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: P G Bhargave,  
Rajesh Paharia, S K Biswas, Madhukar Deogawanka, Moloy Sarkar, Manohar  
Lal, Ashish Talwar, Sudhir Kumar Jain, Akhilesh Arka, and Rakesh Walia

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsfindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsfindia.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
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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

March 8: Women's Day, Set of 4 Stamps & a Miniature Sheet

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>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

ROSES

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications & Information Technology released a set of 4 special postage stamps on Indian Roses on Feb 7, 2007 at Mumbai. The Minister presented the first set to popular cine star Prity Zinta.

The two stamps are in the denomination of Rs 5, inland letter rate, and 2 are in the denomination of Rs 15, overseas airmail letter rate. These are scented stamps, the second such issue by India Post. The first scented on Sandalwood was issued on December 13, 2006.

The stamps are produced in an unprecedented variety of formats, in sheets of 20 containing 5 sets in se-tenant strips, and in sheetlets of 16 containing 4 sets in se-tenant strips, and in a Miniature Sheet of 4 containing 1 set. The Sheets of 35 stamps of one kind for all four stamps of the issue are also issued. There also is a sheet of 16 stamps 4 sets in blocks.

In addition Presentation Packs of Miniature Sheet and Sheetlet are released priced at Rs 55 and Rs 185 respectively. A Greeting Card priced at Rs 60 containing a set of 4 stamps accompanied this issue. The Greeting Card is sold with a First Day Cover (blank) to facilitate mailing for the Valentines Day.

Suresh Kumar designed the Stamps 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. India Security Press, Nashik Road printed the stamps by Photogravure in the quantity of 0.8 million sets of 4 stamps. The Miniature Sheets is printed in the quantity of 0.4 million.

For viewing Presentation Packs and Greeting Card please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/misc-packs2007.htm> and
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/greetingcards.htm>

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

MANOHARBHAI PATEL

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications & Information Technology released a commemorative postage stamp on Manoharbhai Patel, an industrialist, on February 9, 2007 at a special function at Gondia. R S Gavai, the Governor of Bihar, presided over the function and Vasundhara Raje Scindia, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, was the chief guest. Sharad Pawar, Praful Patel, son of Manoharbhai Patel & Minister for Civil Aviation, Minister for Agriculture a galaxy of businessmen and industrialists Gautam Adani, Uday Kotak, Shishir Bajaj, Sajjan Jindal, Shailendra Mittal and Harsh Mariwala attended the function.

The stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 depicts a portrait of Patel.

Patel was born on February 9, 1906 at Nadiad to a poor farmer's family. He was unable to pursue education beyond Standard IV and moved to Jabalpur at the age of 15 to work in factory. In 1930 he moved to Gondia to work for his uncle. Soon he was made a partner in the firm. By the 1940s his firm had become the major manufacturer of bidis (Indian hand-rolled cigarettes) with manufacturing units in East and Central India employing over 60,000 workers.

Deprived of formal education, Patel established Gondia Education Society and on one single day started 22 high schools and 1 degree college in a district which did not have a single high school then. Today the Society runs 30 colleges and 30 high schools with 80,000 students. He later setup Nadiad Education Society as well as numerous hospitals and charitable organizations all over country.

Patel participated in freedom movement and joined Indian National Congress. He was a member of All Indian Congress Committee, President of Vidarbha Region Congress Committee, and Treasurer of Maharashtra Congress Committee. He was President of Gondia Municipal Council from 1946 to his demise in 1970. He became a member of the first Legislative Assembly of Central Province and Berar in 1952 and later in the Maharashtra State Assembly.

Government of Maharashtra named one of the major irrigation projects in Vidarbha region as Manohar Sagar in recognition of Patel's contribution towards development.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps 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. India Security Press, Nashik Road printed the stamps by Photogravure 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>

FAIRS

India Post released a set of 4 stamps in the denomination of Rs 5 each to showcase Fairs of India on February 27, 2007. A Miniature Sheet of Rs 20 is also issued on the occasion.

The first stamp depicts the famous fair of Bihar, Sonepur Fair. This fair is supposed to be one of Asia's largest cattle fairs, specializing in the sale of elephants. Hence the picture in the stamp depicts elephants surrounded by villagers.

The second stamp features the Pushkar fair, the annual fair held in Rajasthan during October-November. The fair mainly deals with the selling of camels and the picture rightly portrays such a scene.

The third stamp is on the three-day festival of music and dance at the Goa carnival held in February every year. The origin of this celebration can be traced to the early years of Portuguese colonization.

The fourth stamp is for the Baul mela. The stamp shows a congregation of baul singers along with their "ektara". Baul melas are held annually each year in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamps 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 0.48 million each. The Miniature Sheet was printed 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>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

India Post will issue postal stationery with single motif, Mahatma Gandhi in green color, on March 1, 2007. It replaces the existing uni-motif, Rock-cut Chariots from Mahabaipuram -a World Heritage site, which was introduced in 2003.

The new motif will appear on Single Post Cards - 50p, Reply Post Cards - 50p+50p, Inland Letter Cards - 250p, Registered Envelope - 2250p, and Aerogramme - 850p. The stamped envelope in the denomination of Rs 5 is excluded from this design change.

The initial quantity printed is 335,000 each except for Aerogramme where it is 67,000. All Philatelic Bureaus, and not only 8 that handle postal stationery, will sell these issues.

Initial supplies will be from India Security Press, Nashik and the supplies from Security Printing Press Hyderabad will follow later.

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>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jan 2: Kolkata, Special National Jamboree, Scout Movement Centenary

Jan 28: Dharmasthaka, Bahubali Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava

Feb 9: Bhopal, District Philatelic Exhibition, 2 covers

Feb 13-15: Lucknow, Regional Philatelic Exhibition, 4 covers

Feb 14: Bangalore High Court Golden Jubilee

Feb 17: Chandigarh, District Philatelic Exhibition, 1 cover

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

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES

Jan 01: 60 Field Regiment Golden Jubilee

Jan 01: 29 Air Defence Regiment (Samba) Golden Jubilee

Jan 02: 63 Cavalry Golden Jubilee

Jan 10: 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Sailing Expedition around the world

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

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SPEED POST NETWORK EXPANDED

Speed Post service will be extended to 25 more towns in the national network effecting from March 1, 2007. With this, there are 211 Speed Post Centers in the national network and more than 1000 Speed Post Centers in the states network.

These are Bhiwani, Jind, Kaithal, Rewari, Sirsa, and Sonapat in Haryana; Chithradurga, Gokak, Hassan, Hospet, Kolar, and Koppal in Karnataka; Annamalaingar, Dindigul, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai, Pudukottai, Rajapalayam, Sivakasi, Thanjavur, Tiruvannamalai, Udagamandalam, Villupuram, and Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu; and Darjeeling in West Bengal.

All these 25 new centers will be fully computerized in terms of operations and will have 'Speednet' on-line tracking system in place. Apart from the operations, these centers will also have customer service centre and Speed Post Business Office to manage the entire service in a professional manner.

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PHILATELIC CALENDAR & DIARY

The Post Master General, Western Region, Tamil Nadu Circle has once again published a six-sheeter calendar for 2007 depicting Miniature sheets. This very well produced calendar priced Rs 110 is available at the Philatelic Bureau, Coimbatore Head Post Office 641002.

Jagori has brought out a diary for 2007 featuring postage stamps on women from all over the world. JAGORI (Awaken, Women) is a women's training, documentation, communication and resource centre that was

established in 1984 with the aim of carrying feminist consciousness to a wider audience using creative media. The 168 page diary is available for Rs 150 from [jagori@jagori.org](mailto:jagori@jagori.org)

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STAMP POPULARITY POLL

India Post organized Stamp Popularity Polls for issues of 2004 and 2005. The entry forms were available at all head post offices and were to be submitted to the nearest philatelic bureau by February 28, 2007.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jan 20-22: Hyderabad, Stamps & Coins Exhibition jointly organized by the Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, India Post and Hyderabad Philatelic & Hobbies Society

INDIA 60 YEARS

Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology inaugurated a philatelic exhibition on January 25, 2007 at the National Philatelic Museum, New Delhi. India Post is holding this exhibition to coincide with the Nation's 58th Republic Day being celebrated throughout the country. The Exhibition displays various panels of stamps issued by India Post after Independence portraying great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, various freedom fighters and stamps issued on freedom movement. I M G Khan, Director General of India Post & Chairman of Postal Services Board & Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology along with several of his senior colleagues attended the function. Madhukar Jhingan, President of Delhi Philatelists, accompanied the Minister on a tour of the exhibition and shared with him the finer points of each exhibit. A poster in A4 size priced Rs 5 has been issued by India Post on this occasion.

Poster <http://www.stampsofindia.com/posters.htm>

Jan 27-28: Ludhiana, District Philatelic Exhibition  
Vikas Pratap, Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation inaugurated the exhibition held at Ludhiana Club. 35 renowned philatelists of the region displayed stamps on themes like elephants, birds, animated characters of Disney, coins, space technology, fauna/animals, Gandhiji, Lady Diana, Jainism, Indian states, blood donation and various other subjects.

Feb 2-4, Coimbatore, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 9-10: Jaiselmer, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 9-11: Bhopal, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 13-15: Lucknow, Regional Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 17-18: Chandigarh, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 23-24: Bhilwara, District Philatelic Exhibition

Feb 27-28: Car Nicobar, District Philatelic Exhibition

Mar 3-4: Nashik, District Philatelic Exhibition

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>

#### THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for March 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](http://www.cwiakala.com).

#### STAMPS ON INDIA

##### ZUBIN MEHTA

Austria Post issued a postage stamp depicting Zubin Mehta conducting the New Year's Concert in Vienna, on January 1, 2007. The stamp in the denomination of Euro 0.75 was designed by Renate Gruber and printed by Austrian State Printing Office by offset in the quantity of 500,00.

Zubin Mehta was born in Mumbai (then known as Bombay) on April 29, 1936 in a Parsi family. It was his father, a concert violinist and founder of the Bombay Symphony Orchestra, that he received his first musical education, thereby acquiring a familiarity with European classical music. After two semesters studying medicine, he decided to devote his entire attention to music.

At the age of 18, Mehta came to Vienna, where he studied piano, composition and the double bass at the Academy of Music. He was taught conducting by Hans Swarowsky.

Mehta began his career as a conductor in 1958, when he won the Liverpool International Conducting Competition. He became involved in exchange programs for young musicians and he was one of the youngest conductors ever to take the rostrum before the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras. He is still today linked by bonds of friendship with the two orchestras, and the Vienna Philharmonic has awarded him their "Ring of Honour" as a symbol of their appreciation.

In USA, Charles Münch, the head of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, soon took note of the young conductor, and assisted his career in the New World, Mehta spent thirteen years as Music Director in New York, and also worked in Montreal, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, developing the latter's Philharmonic Orchestra into one of the world's most highly appreciated bodies of musicians.

Mehta also served as musical advisor and chief conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, performing almost 2,000 concerts with this orchestra on five continents. For his commitment to Israel, the maestro was awarded the United Nations Peace and Tolerance Prize, handed to him personally by Lea Rabin.

He debuted as opera conductor at the early age of 28 in Melbourne. He was then engaged by the major opera houses of the world, in London,

Milan, Florence, New York, Vienna and the Salzburg Festival. The Vienna State Opera House made this popular conductor an honorary member.

Mehta, famous for his positive approach to open-air performances, also conducted the spectacular Turandot performance in the Forbidden City in Beijing. Most recently, Mehta was the General Musical Director of the Bavarian State Opera House for eight years.

This popular Indian and world-famous conductor conducted the 2007 New Year's Concert in Vienna for the fourth time.

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For sale Indian stamps un-mounted mint: 1947 Independence (3V) RS 300, 1949 UPU(4V)RS 600, 1950 Republic (4V)RS600, 1951 Asian Games (2V) RS 500, 1952 Saints & Poets (6V) RS 1000, 1953 Railways RS 50, 1953 Mount Everest (2v) Rs 400, 1953 C Telegraphs (2v) Rs 500, Regd Postage Rs 30 extra, Pradeep Kumar Agrawal patnapradip@hotmail.com

I am 16 Years old and like to collect postage stamps and postal stationary. I have more than 2500 postage stamps of 75 countries. I have about 400 Spare postage stamps of Different countries, which I want to exchange. Please contact me MITUL KANSAL, 336/14 Shekhan Moholla Shahabad (M) 136135 Haryana. mitulkk97@rediffmail.com

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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.>

MADHU AGRAWAL, New Delhi, (Guinness Record Holder for letters in Newspapers)

Department of Post on Feb.02.2007 is going to issue a set of four perfumed postage stamps on roses with two in denominations of Rupees Five and the other two in denominations of Rupees Fifteen, mainly to popularise postal service which is fading down in present era of e-mails, SMS and private courier-service. But the move can be fruitful for masses only if such perfumed stamps are in common denominations, and are for stamps of definitive series sold in general post offices throughout the country. Presently these specially printed stamps are available only in selected big post offices. Moreover denomination of Rupees Fifteen is neither common for inland nor for foreign mail-tariff. It will be better that foreign-mail tariffs may be rationalised in multiples of Rs 10 which may be the denomination for such beauty-filled perfumed postage-stamps. Department should also go for slight upward revision of inland Book-Post tariff to be at par of Rs 5 as present inland first-class tariff so that perfumed postage stamps may be used on articles sent by Book-Post also. It will not pose any burden on users of the service because of being used by affordable people to

mail greeting-cards. But in no case stamps of more than one denomination should ever be used in a single stamp-sheet because users of different tariffs are different. Another denomination for perfumed stamps can be of Rupees Twenty Five for popularising Speed Post.

Department can give newness to the system by issuing a complete new set of postal stationery and stamps of definitive series every year on first day of new financial year which should also be the date on which tariffs for the new financial year may be applicable. Design of stamps of definitive series should be based on a theme selected for that year. But for normal distinction, colour of a particular denomination should remain same for every year.

RANJIT SINGH, New Delhi

For the three days India Post had advertised in newspapers and was bragging about the issue of scented Rose stamps. Imagine the disgust and disappointment the collectors had to face when the stamps were not made available at the Philatelic Bureau for reasons best known the postal department.

This new trend in distribution or sale of new issues of stamps is not uncommon now. Collectors like me spent lot of money to visit Parliament Street Post Office to buy stamps and much hyped sheets which were not available for sale. Rather collectors were humiliated and made to stand in queues to buy just one Miniature Sheet each.

I sent a dozen letters worldwide with those elusive rose stamps but the strange working of India post did not make it possible, thus resulting in loss of money and valuable time of stamp collectors. In case such postal lapses had taken place in any other country, the officials concerned would have been shown the door.

I have received programs for year 2007 issues of stamps from several countries but here in India we know nothing about such a program. Few persons know what comes next in stamps. Is this the way to make India a world class country? We have no stamp issuing policy worth the name. The ministry I presume has a blinkered view and the Philately Division is obsessed with issuing of stamps on themes related to a particular state in India. Is this promotion of Philately? More and more philatelists are turning away from collecting current India stamps

Another sad feature of the India post is the "farce" of stamp exhibitions in Delhi which are held unannounced or Unpublicized for reasons known to the Department which in my opinion needs to be overhauled in case philately is to be promoted.

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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>

SCENTED STAMPS WORLDWIDE
By Yogini Jhingan

I was very happy that India is issuing scented stamps, first Sandalwood on December 13, 2006 and now Roses on February 7, 2007.

I wondered about scented stamps issued by other countries. I have found and made a list of all scented stamps.

1973 Jan 30: Bhutan, Roses. 6
1999 Aug 01: Brazil, Burnt Wood (Forest Fire Prevention), 4
2001 May 09: Switzerland, Chocolate, 1 sheetlet of 10
2001 Sep 09: Hong Kong, Tea, 4
2001 Oct 02: Great Britain, Eucalyptus (Noble Prize for Medicine), 1
2003 Aug 07: Russia, Fruits, 5
2006 Jan 27: Australia, Red Rose
2006 Dec 13: India, Sandalwood
2007 Feb 7: India, Roses, 4

The stamps of Bhutan in 1973 and Brazil in 1999 were printed on scented paper. All other stamps are printed with scented ink.

I plan to put up a page with images of all these stamps soon. I request you to tell me additions and corrections at yj@stampsofindia.com

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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>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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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.

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