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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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The BACK ISSUES are available as Printout, on CD, and on line at
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/Download/archives.htm>

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have redesigned the 'Links' segment at the web site after a very  
long time. This is a popular area among the visitors.

We request you to visit the pages at <http://stampsofindia.com/links.htm>  
and let us have your suggestions to make these more useful and  
comprehensive.

Except special covers and special postmarks for the second half of  
2006, everything else has been updated on the site.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Mainak  
Kathiara, Krishnan, Rajesh Paharia, Madhukar Deogawabka,

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

March 23: Rajnarayan, Rs 5

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

WOMEN'S DAY

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Vice President of India, released a set of
4 stamps to mark the International Women's Day, on March 8, 2007 at New
Delhi. Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information
Technology and Renuka Choudhury, Minister of Women and Child
Development, also attended the function.

The stamps in the denomination of Rs 5, 5, 15, and 15 are based on the
paintings of the reknowned artist, Joyshree Burman on the theme
'Survival to Success: Celebrate her Life'.

Sankha Samanta 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
printed the stamps by photogravure in the quantity of 0.4 million each.
The Miniature Sheet was printed in the quantity of 0.1 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

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently  
released:

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Jharkhand, Hindi  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Tamil  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Kannada  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Gujarati

National Program for Control of Blindness, Hindi  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Marathi  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Oriya  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Telugu  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Malayalam  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Bengali  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Hindi  
National Program for Control of Blindness, Hindi  
Registration of Births & Deaths, Bengali

These Meghdoot post cards are the first issues of 2007.

There were a total of 58 Meghdoot post cards issued in 2006. The grand total since 2002 when the Meghdoot post cards were introduced, till date is 289.

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>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Mar 1-2: Gandhinagar, District Philatelic Exhibition, 3 covers

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

The Army Postal Service launched a new product 'Field Postal Order' on March 2, 2007 that was its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Field Postal Order available at the Field Post Offices will facilitate the remittance of money all over the country at very little cost.

The Army Postal Service is an extension of the countrywide network of India Post to meet the special needs of the Armed Forces. Its history dates back to 1856 when the first Field Post Office accompanying the Indian Expeditionary Force was raised initially as a wartime organization. The Jammu & Kashmir operation in 1947-48 brought the necessity to have it as a permanent organization of the Army. Thus, it became a part of the Indian Army and was affiliated to Army Service Corps till it became a separate Corps on March 1, 1972.

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

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NEW MAXIM CARDS

India Post's Philatelic Bureau at Coimbatore issued following max cards on February 2, 2007 during KOVAIPEX District Philatelic Exhibition.

Endangered Birds, Set of 4, Quantity prepared 200, Price Rs 100
Mahatma Gandhi, Set of 2, Quantity prepared 300, Price Rs 100

For an illustrated list of Max Cards issued in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007mc.htm>

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NEW STAMP BOOKLETS

Gandhi Nagar Postal Division of India Post issued a stamp booklet priced Rs 50 on March 1, 2007 during GANDHIPEX District Philatelic Exhibition.

For an illustrated list of Stamp Booklets, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm>

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VISITING ST. PETERSBURG WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

ST PETERSBURG 2007 World Stamp Exhibition is to be held at St. Petersburg, Russia from June 19 to 25, 2007. The Exhibition is commemorating 150 years of the First Postage Stamps of Russia and will be the only World level exhibition held under the patronage of the FIP in 2007.

The philatelists from India planning to visit this show are requested to contact immediately the National Commissioner for India, Madhukar Jhingan mj@stampsofindia.com for the invitation necessary for obtaining a business visa.

The visitors are advised to book a hotel room through the City Centre of Booking and Tourism in the city of Saint Petersburg (tel. +7 812 335 -0173, e-mail: info@c-btc.ru or on the web-site www.c-btc.ru. Alisa Manoylova, Tel. +7 921 940 3123 is one of the managers responsible for accommodating the guests

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PHILATELIC EXHIBITS ONLINE

A permanent, international, non-competitive exhibition named EXPONET is hosted at <http://www.exponet.info>. It is intended as a public display of high quality exhibits of all philatelic areas and time periods. There are 196 exhibits from 27 countries available for viewing.

The aim of the organizers of EXPONET, Milan Cernik [icernik@volny.cz](mailto:icernik@volny.cz) and Bretislav Janik [janik@japhila.com](mailto:janik@japhila.com), both from Czech Republic, is to facilitate on-line study for visitors from all over the world. It is not intend to compete with the traditional exhibitions, but rather to enable on-line viewing to everybody, regardless of distance, and thus take part in the support and propagation of philately.

Those who wish to participate in this with their philatelic exhibit need to scan complete album pages at the following technical specifications - 16.7 million colors, 300 dpi, and 900 pixels as the minimum width of the image. Please send numbered pages in .tif or .jpg on CD, to: Milan Cernik, P.O.Box 243, CZ-16041 Praha 6, Czech Republic

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mar 1-2: Gandhi Nagar, District Philatelic Exhibition
Mar 12-14: Bangalore, District Philatelic Exhibition
Mar 14-Apr 15: New Delhi, 'Sporting Spirit' National Philatelic Museum

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>

INDIA POST TO ACQUIRE AIRCRAFT

India Post is going to lease an aircraft to fly mail, parcels and cargo. It is in talks with Indian (airlines) to lease a freighter to fly on select high-volume routes. Blue Dart and First Flight are the only two private operators to utilize freighters in the domestic logistics and express industry in India at present.

India Post is also in the process of signing a contract for utilizing the cargo space on Indian on select routes and expects to roll out the air express services in another three months.

INDIA POST AND INDIAN RAILWAYS JOIN HANDS

India Post will soon enter into two memorandums of understanding with Indian Railways. One to reserve dedicated compartments in all 'Shatabdi' and 'Rajdhani' super-fast trains for the delivery of parcels across the country another to facilitate reservation of train tickets through post offices across the country.

INDIA POST TO WORK WITH SELF HELP GROUPS

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and India Post have jointly introduced a scheme to link self help groups and the post office. This scheme is being implemented as a pilot project in the four districts in Tamil Nadu, Thanjavur, Sivaganga, Pudukottai and Tiruvannamalai.

27 per cent of the rural areas in the country did not have access to banking facilities as per a survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. Out of 7 million self-help groups in the country, only 2.5 million had bank linkage and the remaining 4.5 million groups did not have bank linkage and hence had not availed of loans. The post offices with its vast network, which works out to almost one post office in each of the villages in district, can reach out to self-help groups not covered by banks to provide funds.

INDIA POST TO DISBURSE BANK LOANS

Union Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Dena Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and ICICI Bank have entered in to a tie up with India Post to disburse their farm loans utilizing its extensive network in Maharashtra. India Post would do the due diligence of verifying an individual's credential as well as identifying the customers and process their loan application and facilitate banks to disburse the loans.

Union Bank of India aims to disburse farm loans of Rs 1 billion for 2007-08.

INDIA POST TO PROVIDE ONLINE STOCK TRADE

IDBI Capital Market Services Ltd launched a pilot project in six post offices in South India to offer government securities under its plan to

offer online stock broking services through India Post's 54,000 branches to tap tier-II/III cities.

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MATRIMONY SITE TIES WITH INDIA POST

One of the Indian matrimony website, Bharatmatrimony.com has tied up with India Post in West Bengal for the availability of its registration and membership services through select post offices across the West Bengal Postal Circle, including Sikkim and the Andamans. The post office will sell scratch card for new registrations and the renewal of existing membership.

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MAIL THEFT RACKET BUSTED

India Post has suspended six employees following a departmental inquiry into the case of missing incoming registered mail containing cheques worth millions of rupees sent by traders and industrialists at Kanpur. The directors of post in different States have been requested to find and furnish details of the missing registered mail. India Post has now handed over the case for investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The advertising is FREE for the subscribers of the Stamps of India Collectors Companion. Send in your ad, today.  
Terms: 1. Only one ad at a time from a subscriber will be accepted.  
2. Maximum 5 Lines, up to 64 characters per line.  
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.

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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.>

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

SCENTED STAMPS II

By Yogini Jhingan

I wish to thank Dr Avinash B Jagtap, from Switzerland who was the first to respond with an addition to the list. By the way my email address yj@stampsofindia.com is not working please use yogini@stampsofindia.com to contact me.

Soon after this 'Topical Time' Mar-Apr 2007 issue arrived (Dad is a life member of ATA). I was surprised to find an article "Unusual Stamps" by Foil A Miller. It added several stamps to my list.

I then searched and found an article on Linns.com "New stamp collections can make good scents" By Rachel Supinger. This added even more stamps.

I got very excited with ever expanding, rather exploding list. Finally I combed through Scott catalogs. The result of my labor is available at [http://stampsofindia.com/2unusual/unusual\\_stamps.htm](http://stampsofindia.com/2unusual/unusual_stamps.htm)

The list, I think is now very useful. I need to add recent and new issues as I find them. My annual exams are now over and so I have more time to devote to hunt more unusual stamps.

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>

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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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<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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