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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

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We have been having difficulties in mailing because of our Internet Service Providers (ISP) who won't make an effort to differentiate in unsolicited bulk mail and solicited bulk mail such as this digital weekly. We are confident that we will eventually convince our ISP this time too as we successfully had on several earlier occasions. However it also entails uncertainty for next mailing for some time as well as a drain on our limited resources of time, energy and funds. We have therefore decided to switch over to a new service in the interests of regular on-schedule publishing.

All existing subscribers would have received an email asking them to reconfirm their subscription. This was a mandatory requirement for utilizing this new service for mailing this publication.

The subscription to the Stamps of India Collectors Companion will continue to remain free of charge. However in view of added financial commitments we have introduced nominal charges for the advertisements with this issue.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Dr S K Sondhi, P G Bhargave,

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

May 02: Lord Buddha - 2050<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mahaparinirvana, 6 Stamps +  
1 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

DR RM ALAGAPPA CHETTIAR

M Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released a postage stamp,  
in the denomination of Rs Five, in honor of Dr RM Alagappa Chettiar,  
great Philanthropist and eminent educationist, on April 6, 2007 at  
Chennai. India's Finance Minister P Chidambaram and Minister for  
Communications and Information Technology Dayanidhi Maran also attended  
the release function.

Dr Alagappa Chettiar was born on April 6, 1909 at Kottaiyur of  
Sivagangai District, In Tamilnadu. He had his primary education at the  
S M S Vidyasala in Karaikudi and went on to obtain his Masters from the  
Presidency College in Madras at the age of 21. He had the fortune of  
befriending Dr S Radhakrishnan, a model teacher who later on became the  
President of India.

At the age of 21, he became the first Indian trainee at the Chartered  
Bank in London. Thereafter he qualified for the bar at Middle Temple in  
England and became a 'bar-at-law'. He launched his career by pioneering  
in textiles and diversified with rubber plantations in Malaya, Tin  
mines in Burma, Textile Mills in Kerala, Insurance companies in  
Calcutta, Hotels in Bombay, Theatres in Madras, a flourishing stock  
broking company and a private airline and has been referred to as the  
unsung business maharaja of South India in the thirties and forties.  
His business interests were however short lived as he changed his focus  
to education.

He demonstrated his versatility as a successful business tycoon, an  
intrepid academician with a vision to change the mere scrub jungle of

Karaikudi to an educational Mecca. When he passed away prematurely at the age of 48, he had redefined philanthropy and contributed more to the betterment of education in Tamil Nadu than any other person of eminence had done until then.

His stellar record as a business entrepreneur was acknowledged by the British government when he was knighted in 1945 at the age of 37. He renounced the prestigious knighthood when India attained independence. The distinction of Padma Bhushan was conferred by the president of India on January 26, 1956.

He harboured a firm conviction that education is an absolute must for a human being to become productive, wholesome and humane. In 1947 at the Dr Annie Besant centenary celebrations the Vice-Chancellor of Madras University called industrialists to start colleges to educate India. Spontaneously Dr Chettiar answered the call in the same function and within three days Alagappa Arts College started functioning at Gandhi Maleghai in Karaikudi. His generous donations led to the establishment of a string of educational institution, which formed the basis for the establishment of the Alagappa University in 1985.

He had the vision to convince Prime Minister Nehru to house Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI) in the heart of the Alagappa campus at Karaikudi in 1953 with a gift of 300 acres of land 1.5 million of Rupees.

At the tender age of 48, in the midst of single handedly revolutionizing his native place and changing the course of history he succumbed to his illness. Perhaps his crowning piece of philanthropy was giving away his own palatial residence in Kottaiyur to found the Women's college.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps and the First Day Cover. Alka 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. India Security Press, Nashik 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>

#### MAHBOOB KHAN

India Post released a postage stamp, in the denomination of Rs Five, in honor of Mehboob Khan, the legendary film maker, on March 30, 2007.

A man of humble beginnings and little formal education, Mehboob Khan became one of India's greatest Filmmakers and like many other filmmakers of his time, he learnt his craft in the Film Theatre.

Born Ramjan Khan in Bilimoria, Gujarat, he ran away from home to Bombay and spent his earlier youth scrounging work in the studios. He started his career with the Imperial Film Company as a bit player in 'Alibaba and the Forty Thieves' in 1927 where as one of the thieves he was hidden inside a wooden vat!

He then joined Sagar Movietone and played supporting characters in several films before getting his first break as a director there with

Judgement of Allah (1935). More importantly it formed a lasting team with the cameraman of the film Faredoon Irani who photographed every film Mehboob made.

Manmohan (1936), and Jagirdar (1937) consolidated his position but with Ek hi Raasta (1939), Mehboob gave his first inclination of his social concerns and political leanings.

The beginning of World War II witnessed the collapse of Sagar. RCA with financial backing from the Tatas took it over and renamed it National Studios. Mehboob with his entire production unit joined the newly formed company for whom he directed three of his most important films - Aurat (1940), Bahen (1941) and Roti (1942).

Mehboob then left National to set up his own Mehboob Productions. (A hammer and sickle was chosen for the company's emblem even though he was formally unassociated with the Communist Party).

Anmol Ghadi (1946) did create a stir because of its casting coup of three singing stars together - Surendra, Noorjehan and Suraiya, besides a great musical track by Naushad who since gave music for every film that Mehboob made after Anmol Ghadi

Mehboob's next masterpiece was Andaaz (1949) followed with the spectacle Aan (1952), his first film in color. Aan even had a release in London and was much appreciated even though a critic quipped - it goes aan and aan and aan!

Amar (1954) was an interesting film though regarded by Mehboob as his favorite film, the film flopped. Mehboob returned to familiar territory remaking his earlier hit Aurat as Mother India (1957). Mother India was his magnum opus and is the ultimate tribute to Indian Womanhood. The film won the Best Actress Award at the prestigious Karlovy Vary festival for its central character played by Nargis. The Film became the first Indian Film to be nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film Category and at the 1958 Academy Awards lost out to another masterpiece Federico Fellini's Nights of Caberia by a solitary vote at the third poll.

After the high of Mother India, Mehboob aimed to fly even higher with Son of India (1962) but the film was a total misfire. He died in 1964 harboring ambitions to make a film on the life of Habba Khatoon, the 16th century poetess-queen of Kashmir.

Bharati Mirchandani 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 0.4 million.

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

RAJ NARAIN

India Post released a postage stamp, in the denomination of Rs Five, in honor of Raj Narain, great freedom fighter and eminent parliamentarian on March 23, 2007.

Raj Narain was born in 1917 at Motikot, Gangapur District Banaras (now Varanasi), United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh). He was directly related to Maharaja of Banaras. He was a postgraduate with a degree in Law.

He was the President of the Student Congress during Quit India movement of 1942. He was imprisoned several times for participating in the freedom struggle. British once announced a prize of Rs 5000 for getting him dead or alive.

He joined Socialist Party led by Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya. He was elected member of the Legislative assembly of Uttar Pradesh from 1952 and 1962. He was also the first Leader of Opposition in the assembly. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1966 to 1972 and again from 1974 to 1976. He was Minister of Health from 1977 to 1980 after defeating Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister of India, in parliamentary elections in 1977.

He passed away on December 31, 1986.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamps 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.

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:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research, English  
Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Hindi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 1,  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 1, Marathi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 1, Gujarati  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 1, Hindi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 1, Tamil  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 2,  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 2, Marathi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 2, Gujarati  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 2, Hindi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 2, Tamil  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 3,  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 3, Marathi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 3, Gujarati  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 3, Hindi  
Petroleum Conservation Research Association 3, Tamil  
New & Renewable Energy 1, Hindi  
New & Renewable Energy 2, Hindi

New & Renewable Energy 3, Hindi  
New & Renewable Energy 4, Hindi  
New & Renewable Energy 5, Hindi  
New & Renewable Energy 1, Gujarati  
New & Renewable Energy 2, Gujarati  
New & Renewable Energy 3, Gujarati  
New & Renewable Energy 4, Gujarati  
New & Renewable Energy 5, Gujarati  
New & Renewable Energy 1, Marathi  
New & Renewable Energy 2, Marathi  
New & Renewable Energy 3, Marathi  
New & Renewable Energy 4, Marathi  
New & Renewable Energy 5, Marathi  
New & Renewable Energy 1, Assamese  
New & Renewable Energy 2, Assamese  
New & Renewable Energy 3, Assamese  
New & Renewable Energy 4, Assamese  
New & Renewable Energy 5, Assamese  
New & Renewable Energy 1, Bengali  
New & Renewable Energy 2, Bengali  
New & Renewable Energy 3, Bengali  
New & Renewable Energy 4, Bengali  
New & Renewable Energy 5, Bengali  
Tata Motors' Ace Mini Truck, Marathi  
Education for All,

The grand total till date is now 333.

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 3-4: Nashik, District Philatelic Exhibition, 2 covers  
March 8: Jaipur, World Kidney Day, Rs  
Mar 18: Dehradun, State Flower Show, Rs 10  
Mar 28: New Delhi, Sashastra Seema Bal (Border Guarding Force), Rs 10  
Mar 31: Ahmedabad, Introduction of Permanent Pictorial Postmark at  
Indian Institute of Management PO, Rs 100  
Apr 01: Delhi, Decimal Currency, 50 Years, Rs 100  
Apr 01: Ahmedabad, Decimal Currency, 50 Years, Cover by Reserve Bank of  
India, Rs 10  
Apr 01: Ahmedabad, Decimal Currency, 50 Years, Collector Created Cover,  
Rs 100  
Apr 07: Ludhiana, Stamp Exhibition, 1 Cover, Rs 15

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

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FRANCHISE POST OFFICES

India Post has begun franchising post offices to private operators in metros and satellite towns where there has been a long-pending demand for a post office but it is not financially viable for the department to open one.

Franchise post offices would provide all the services except banking and money order service. These services include booking of registered letters, parcel, speed post, e-post, sale of stamps and stationery. Also, the franchise would function as an agent for postal life insurance and market products for which India Post has a corporate agency or tie-up. The franchise can also provide retail, collection and payment of bills, tax, fines as is carried out by departmental post offices. It can also facilitate the provision of e-governance and citizen-centric services.

In return, the franchise would be entitled to a commission of Rs 2 for booking of registered and speed post articles, Rs 3.50 for booking of money orders, 5% of sale proceedings from postage stamps, postal stationery and money order forms. This apart, the franchisee is entitled to 40% commission earned from sale of retail services.

5 franchise post offices were opened in Madhya Pradesh Circle of India Post on April 5, 2007. These are in Indore, Jabalpur and Bhopal. It has been decided to open 2 franchise post offices each in Gwalior, Jabalpur, and Bhopal.

15 franchise post offices are being set up in Maharashtra Circle. 7 are in Mumbai at Hiranandani Garden Powai, PMGP Colony in Mankhurd, Lokhandwala and Oshiwara in Andheri, Kharegaon in Thane district, Kharghar and Nerul in Navi Mumbai. 3 are in Pune, 2 in Nagpur, 2 in Goa and 1 in Aurangabad.

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NEW PHILATELIC LITERATURE

DECIMALISATION REDEFINED

Author: Ashok Kumar Bayanwala  
Publishers: Parth Publications Pvt Ltd  
Address: 227 A J C Bose Road, 202 Anandlok, West Wing, Kolkata 700020  
Price: Rs 150  
Pages: 42 almost all in color, Hardbound, Quatro

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MORE PHILATELIC EXHIBITS ONLINE

Deepak Jaiswal, Stampbay Inc USA has added following exhibits at EXPONET online philatelic exhibition:  
India Jaipur  
India Feudatory States  
India Convention States  
Britisch Indien Ausgaben Der Kronverwaltung 1858-1876  
Britisch Indien Londoner Ausgaben Der Ostindischen Kompanie 1855-1858  
Britisch Indien Einheimische Ausgaben Der Ostindischen Kompanie 1854

These are the first exhibits that are offered for sale.  
Visit <http://www.exponet.info> for viewing

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Philatelic Gallery on Science and Technology at Kapurthala  
Dr R S Khandpur, Director General, Pushpa Gujral Science City,  
Kapurthala inaugurated a Philatelic Gallery on Science and Technology  
on March 19, 2007. In this gallery, collection of stamps depicting  
knowledge about general science, physics, chemistry, life sciences and  
means of transportation are on display. The exhibits have been provided  
by Philatelic Congress of Punjab and shall be rotated periodically.

Mar 23-24: Shrirampur, Ahmednagar District Philatelic Exhibition  
23 exhibits in 60 frames, No special cover and/or postmark

Mar 25-26: Vashi, Navi Mumbai District Philatelic Exhibition

Apr 8-9: Ludhiana,

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>

#### MORE PHILATELIC CALENDARS

National Philatelic Museum, New Delhi has issued a desktop calendar  
this year, the second in a row.

Chief Post Master General of Kerala Circle has also issued a larger  
desktop calendar for 2007 depicting stamps.

Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Ludhiana Division has issued a  
large single sheeter wall calendar for 2007 depicting stamps. The  
Calendar was designed by philatelist, Mukesh Malhotra

#### RECENT PHILATELIC PERIODICALS

VADOPHIL Whole # 108-109, Oct 2005 -Jan 2007, Quarterly  
Editors: Prashant H Pandya & Timir R Shah  
Publisher: Baroda Philatelic Society  
Address: [vadophil@indianphilately.net](mailto:vadophil@indianphilately.net) "Jaya", A-9 Siddharth Park, Near  
Saideppnagar, New VIP Road, Vadodara 390022

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Rs 250 per insertion, Discounts available for 5 or more insertions  
All advertising must be prepaid. Send your ad to [ad@stampsofindia.net](mailto:ad@stampsofindia.net)

Terms: 1. This facility to advertise the wants and for sale philatelic  
items is a privilege available only to the subscribers of the Stamps of  
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2. A Subscriber can insert only one ad per issue.

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

#### 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

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>

STAMPS OF INDIA also publishes:

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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