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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 292 - Jun 7, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

From this issue and onwards the first issue of every month will carry the latest data of the Philsensex - movement-in-price monitor independently maintained by P R Krishnan from Coimbatore.

We are pleased to announce that the second issue of every month, beginning with next issue, will carry the History of Postal Communications in India by Sangeeta Deogawanka from Kolkata.

We are in process of working out monthly columns for third, fourth, and occasional fifth issue. And we are all ears, let us have your suggestions regarding what would you like to read in there.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Madhukar Deogawanka, Akshay Borad, Abhai Mishra, and Rajesh Varma

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

PHILSENSEX

By P R Krishnan, Coimbatore

My idea is of developing an organized stamp market in India through "Philsensex" and I have decided to pursue this mission of updating the price movements of India Post Independence mint stamps through Stamps of India Collectors Companion.

In this connection, I would like to quote from the bulletin published by the Investment Department of Stanley Gibbons of London for the benefit of the collectors and to understand why I venture into this idea? "The value of stamps as an investment has been highlighted by many investment institutions. A Salomon Brothers study of commodities, currencies and bonds from 1907 to 1990 gave stamps the 4th highest rate of return at 10% per year, ahead of both bonds at 9.6% and Foreign Exchange at 4.4%."

The above enticed me into starting this monthly column since I feel the Indian post Independence mint stamps have not got the rightful place it deserve both in terms of price and demand. The major reason I attribute is lack of knowledge of the intricacies or the unavailability of data of these issues to both collectors and dealers. I remember seeing in 1969 SG British Commonwealth specialized catalogue the quantity printed for 14 annas Buddha Jayanti issue of 1956 was mentioned as 200,000. But this issue is presently being traded at much lower prices in Indian market compared to other issues released during this period having larger printing quantity.

I appeal to the Indian stamp collecting fraternity to take this data purely for the promotion of Indian stamps. I am neither a dealer nor a trader in stamps. My mission simply is to promote and create a broader base of collectors for the Indian stamps and to see that these find their rightful places. Yes, I am subject to mistakes and I welcome corrections, criticisms, and comments. The prices and the information collected are based on the overall market movements during the last month and I have not taken any stray instances while compiling this data.

To begin with I am releasing the first "Philsensex" data covering pre-decimal issues. It will be gradually built up for other years in few months' time.

Visit <http://stampsofindia.com/philsensex.htm> for viewing the data

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology released a set of five stamps on National Parks of India on May 31, 2007 at a special function at New Delhi. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests were also present on the occasion. The stamps are in the denomination of Rs 5 and feature

Bandhavgarh, Bandipur, Kaziranga, Mudumalai, and Periyar National Parks of India.

India's first national park (an IUCN category II protected area) was established in 1935 as Hailey National Park, now known as Jim Corbett National Park. By 1970, India only had five national parks. In 1972, India enacted the Wildlife Protection Act and Project Tiger to safeguard habitat; further federal legislation strengthening protections for wildlife was introduced in the 1980s. Thus, as of May 2004, there are 92 national parks. All national park lands encompass a combined 38,000 km², 1.2% of India's total surface area.

Bandhavgarh National Park is located in Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh state in India. Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968 with an area of 105 km². The buffer is spread over the forest divisions of Umaria and Katni and totals 437 km². The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India. This is the place where white tigers were discovered. It contains 37 species of mammals including the great gaur or Indian bison, sambar, barking deer, and nilgai, more than 250 species of birds, about 70 species of butterflies, a number of reptiles and so on. The richness and tranquility of grasslands invites pairs of Sarus Cranes to breed in the rainy season.

Bandipur one of India's best known sanctuaries, was declared a national park in 1974 and is an important Project Tiger reserve. It is located in the Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka state, and is contiguous with the Mudumalai National Park in the neighboring state of Tamil Nadu, the Wynad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, and the Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka to the northwest. Originally created as a sanctuary of 90 km² in 1931, it was soon expanded as Venugopala Wildlife Park extending over 800 km². It is home to around seventy tigers and over three thousand Asian elephants (as per the 1997 census), along with leopards, dholes, gaur and sloth bears. It is also famous for Sandalwood trees and rare species of Flora. Bandipur is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The Western Ghats, Nilgiri Sub-Cluster (6,000+ km²), including all of Bandipur National Park, along with all of Mudumalai National Park and is under consideration by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for selection as a World Heritage Site.

Kaziranga National Park is a national park and a World Heritage Site in Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam state. Kaziranga is one of the largest tracts of protected land in the sub-Himalayan belt crisscrossed by four main rivers – Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri and has numerous small water bodies. Two-thirds of the world's Great One-horned Rhinoceroses live in the park. Kaziranga has the highest density of tigers among protected areas in the World and was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006. The park has large breeding populations of Elephant, Water Buffalo and Swamp Deer. Kaziranga is recognized as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International for conservation of avifaunal species. The park celebrated its centenary in 2005 after its establishment in 1905 as a reserve forest.

The Mudumalai National Park was created in 1940 to become the first sanctuary in southern India. Originally 60 km², the sanctuary was enlarged to 295 km² in 1956 and subsequently to its present size of 321 km². The sanctuary is contiguous with Bandipur National Park (874 km²),

Wynad Sanctuary (344 km²), Sigur and Singara reserve forests. The park is also part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Primates found in the park include the Gray Langur and the Bonnet Macaque. The Tiger is widespread, whereas the Leopard is most often seen in the Kargudi area. Other carnivores include the Dhole, the Striped Hyena, the Golden Jackal and the Sloth Bear. The Asian Elephant population totals several hundred animals. Ungulates include the Gaur, the Sambar Deer, the Chital, Indian Muntjac, the Indian Spotted Chevrotain, and the Wild Boar. Rodents include the Indian Giant Squirrel and the Red Giant Flying Squirrel. Bird life is rich and regional endemics include Malabar trogon and Malabar grey hornbill. Predatory birds include crested hawk-eagle and crested serpent eagle. Of the reptiles, monitor lizard is the most regularly observed species.

Periyar lies in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta of Kerala state. The protected area covers 777 km², out of which a 350 km² part of the core zone was made into the Periyar National Park in 1982. The park is often called by the name Thekkady also. Periyar Lake Reserve was formed in 1899 after the construction of the Mullaperiyar Dam in 1895. In 1934 Nellikampatty Game Sanctuary was formed and the area was consolidated as Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950. It was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 1978. In the buffer zone there is also the temple of Sabarimala, which is visited by about 4 million pilgrims annually. 62 different kinds of mammal have been recorded in Periyar, including many threatened ones. There are hardly any tigers left in this tiger reserve. The elephant number around 900 to 1000, and other mammals found here include gaur, sambar (horse deer), barking deer, mouse deer, Dholes (Indian wild dogs), mongoose, leopards and the elusive Nilgiri tahr. Four species of primates are found at Periyar - the rare lion-tailed macaque, the Nilgiri Langur, the common langur, and the Bonnet Macaque. So far 320 different kinds of birds have been counted in Periyar and include darters, cormorants, kingfishers, the great Malabar hornbill and racket-tailed Drongos. There are 45 different kinds of reptile in the protected area out including 30 species of snake, 2 of turtle, and 13 of lizard. Among those are Monitor lizards, Python and King Cobra. 27 different kinds of amphibians have been recorded, of which 10 are endemic to the Western Ghats. In the waters of the protected area 38 different fish types live, of which four are endemic to the Western Ghats. There is a remarkable variety of butterflies and there are about 160 different kinds of Insects in total.

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, Nasik printed the stamps by potogravure in the quantity of 0.6 million each.

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:

Gold Hallmark, Assamese  
ISI Mark Helmets, Assamese

WHO ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts) Solution, Hindi  
Yoga, Hindi & English

The grand total till date is now 405, with 129 added in 2007 alone.

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

Following post card with advertisement was recently released:

Jun 04, Godrej Hair Dye, Hindi

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 10: Durgapur, South Bengal Regional Philatelic Exhibition

May 26: Dehradun, Hugh Catchpole Centenary

May 27: Kolkata, Lions Club of Calcutta Golden Jubilee

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>

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NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL

Hena Usman joined the Philatelic Division of India Post HQ at New Delhi as the Assistant Director General on June 4, 2007. She comes in the place of Sachin Kishore who was promoted and posted to Kolkata as the Director Postal Services, HQ, West Bengal Circle of India Post.

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NEW YAHOO GROUP

Akshay Borad has founded Indian Thematic Philatelists Group on Yahoo Groups on May 30, 2007. Visit the group at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/indianthematicphilatelistsgroup/>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Aug 10-12: Bangalore, KARNAPEX,  
Exhibitors Apply before July 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>

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THE CALENDAR OF WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

The Calendar for June 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.

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

Visit [www.delcampe.net/stores/rajus2001](http://www.delcampe.net/stores/rajus2001) for Lions Club, Masonic Lodge / Freemasonry, Mushroom, Reptiles, Birds, Animals and many more themes from hundreds of countries with images at very reasonable prices.  
ABDUL AZIZ, E-mail: [rajus2001@gmail.com](mailto:rajus2001@gmail.com) A - 32/146 Chittanpura, Varanasi-221001, India. Mobile: 0 98389 70190

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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.>

LES WINICK, USA

You asked for suggestions and questions regarding your site and collecting interests.

I think that there is an interest in collectors in India, stamp clubs, etc. I know that I am. How do the collectors in rural cities get their new issues? Does their local post office get all the new stamps? Does the collector in the smaller towns belong to stamp clubs in nearby larger cities? Do all the stamp clubs belong to one Federation? If yes, how does this work as far as communications are concerned? Anything else of interest to philately would be welcome. As you may know, I write a column in Linn's Stamp News. May I use your information in my column so that other collectors will also know of the situation in India? I find it fascinating.

ASHISH TALWAR, New Delhi

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Krishnan's idea of a philatelic index. It would be interesting to know what inspired this idea and more importantly why it is called Philasensex. Perhaps, PhilaIndex does not sound as sexy. However, since your magazine will be carrying this index, I feel that certain aspects of it should be laid bare in the interests of transparency and good market practices.

Firstly, the stamps that form the components of the index should be discussed and known before the index is finalised. The same goes for the Base Year of the index. Also, the prices of the stamps in that Base Year should be decided by general consensus. It would be in the interest of all concerned if a panel of stamp dealers and philatelists is constituted to monitor the fund.

The Philasensex will take some time before becoming an instrument of bringing people into philately but is an idea that needs to be supported and assisted in every way possible.

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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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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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