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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 315 - November 15, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Your Hobby May Fetch A Million Bucks. This was the heading of the news in the Economic Times dated November 3, 2007. You can read it online at [http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/ET\\_Cetera/Your\\_hobby\\_may\\_fetch\\_a\\_million\\_bucks/articleshow/2513919.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/ET_Cetera/Your_hobby_may_fetch_a_million_bucks/articleshow/2513919.cms)

The news story, credited an unnamed postal officer referring to nation's 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, stated that India Post is "considering setting up a dedicated trading platform for 'philatelic items', which could make stamps an investment option like paintings and antiques... A mechanism for online trading of philatelic items in India will be devised after the policy is approved. This platform will give millions of stamp collectors in India a chance to unlock the value of their collections".

We were inundated with emails and phone calls about it and decided to investigate. Fortunately the recommendations of the Working Group of India Post to the Planning Commission for the 11th Five Year Plan are also available online at [http://planningcommission.nic.in/aboutus/committee/wrkgrp11/wg11\\_post.pdf](http://planningcommission.nic.in/aboutus/committee/wrkgrp11/wg11_post.pdf)

This document, although does mentions launching a business web site for philately but in our opinion it will be similar to philatelic websites of other postal administrations offering their issues and not providing a platform for trading to the collectors. Later we learned that the news story was a plant by a philatelic investor.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jeevan Jyoti, Dr Pradeep Jain, and Anil Suri,

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

INPEX 08 Update

It must be at the behest of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) that India Post has included a statement in the Bulletin at Clause 2 that the INPEX 08 is being organized in cooperation with the Philatelic Congress of India, "the apex body of philatelic associations". The India Post Regulations for Philatelic Exhibitions provide for inclusion of the name of a philatelic society that is a legal entity at this place. But why PCI, what is its contribution that merits inclusion here? Is extensive illegal and criminal activity a prerequisite for such coveted inclusion?

The second part of the statement, about being an apex body that too of philatelic associations, is misleading. In a country of over 1 billion persons the PCI claims less than 40 philatelic associations as members. Compare this, for example, to Sweden a much smaller country that has 150 active philatelic associations united under a national federation. Many of the associations on PCI list are one man bodies that are neither legal entities nor active and several have been defunct for a long time. There are far more philatelic associations active in India that are also legal entities and are not members of the PCI. The PCI is actually dominated by individual members about 300 in number. About half the seats in the Governing Council of PCI are occupied by the individuals and not by the representatives of the philatelic associations. These are the facts about PCI being a body of philatelic associations, apex or otherwise.

Madhukar Deogawanka, well known philatelist and an avid exhibitor from Kolkata, on July 24, 2007 inquired from the National Postal Headquarters under the Right to Information Act, amongst other questions:

- 4) Has India Post authorized any Philatelic Organisation or Organisations to effect such appointments (of philatelic jurors and Commissioners)?
- 5) If so on what basis.
- 6) What is the Present status of such organisation? Is it an Apex Body approved by India Post or any other concerned Ministry? Is it a Federation of Philatelist and State Philatelic Associations, similar to

Indian Olympic Association, Indian Football Federation or Board for Cricket Control in India?

India Post in its reply dated October 31, 2007 informed that  
4) No Organization/Organizations have been authorized in the past to effect appointments.  
5) No in view of (4) above  
6) Same as (4) above

This reply exposes the fraud played upon India Post by the PCI regarding the 'apex' status of the PCI.

However it is useless to expect the compliance from the habitual violators of the laws of the land and as soon as India Post realizes this it will be better for Indian philately. In any case India Post as the organizers of INPEX 08 cannot leave the serious legal matters on the likes of a few members of the PCI, who claim to be to be the custodian of Indian Philately and are part of the problem in the first place.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

India Post has scheduled several issues for release in November 2007 however dates of release are yet to be announced:

4 Gorkha Rifles - 150 Years of Raising
14 Punjab - 250 Years of Raising
Wilson College, Mumbai
S B Chavan
Maharaja Gulab Singh
Battaqh Ali Ansari
Pramathesh Barua
Damadar Sanjivaiah
Ritvik Ghatak
Tortoise
India-China Joint Issue, Set of 2
Jasmine (scented stamps), Set of 2
Rare Animals of North East, Set of 3
Architectural Heritage of Indian Railways, Set of 4

And in true India Post fashion the next issue probably will not be any of the above but a surprise:

Nov 22: Renewable Energy, Set of 4 + Miniature Sheet + 5 Sheetlets

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

India Post released a set of 2 stamps and a miniature sheet on National Children's Day on November 14, 2007.

India Post releases stamps designed by children on this occasion every year. The designs are selected by organizing all India competitions. The theme for the competition this year was 'The Magic of the Night'.

Swarali V Bhakare, and B Karthick designed this year's stamps. These young artists, students of Class 4 and Class 8 respectively had won the first prize in Group 1 and 2. Pradhan Karnik, student of Class 9, designed the Miniature Sheet having won the first prize in Group 3. Raj Ballav Hazarika, student of Class 12, designed the First Day Cover having won the second prize in Group 3.

India Post also brought out 3 maxim cards where the designs are provided by Sankar Dinesh Kamath, student of Class 3, winner of the second prize in Group 1; Jyotirmay Biswas, student of Class 8, winner of the second prize in Group 2; and Riti Sodhi, student of Class 12, winner of the third prize in Group 3.

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 0.8 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:

Education for all,
Education for all,
Education for all,
Education for all,

The grand total till date is now 484, with 208 added in 2007 alone.

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

May 26: Raipur, 30<sup>th</sup> National Learn to Live Together Camp

Oct 25: Shimla, 175 years Barners Court (Raj Bhawan)  
Barners Court, now Raj Bhawan, is a neo-Tudor timber framed building and is evocative of an English country house. This site was first occupied by the British Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Sir Edward Barnes in 1832, after whom it was named. It was the residence of various British Commanders-in-Chief, General Napier, General Gomm,

General Anson, General Campbell and General Rose. It was here that the news of Great Uprising of 1857 was given to General Anson. In 1877, Sir Robert Egerton, the first Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, became the first Lieutenant Governor to use the property as a regular residence. In 1972, the historic Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan was signed here by the then Prime ministers, Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Since 1981, this is the official residence of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Nov 14: New Delhi, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya Golden Jubilee

Nov 14-27: New Delhi, India Int'l Trade Fair, 2 covers 10 Postmarks

Nov 15: Bangalore, National Disaster Reduction Day

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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TNT AND HONG KONG POST TO ENTER INDIA

TNT, one of the world's largest express delivery service providers headquartered in the Netherlands, has signed a strategic partnership agreement to provide express services in India with Hongkong Post, the postal service provider in Hong Kong.

The companies will together provide the Speedpost FreightPlus service, which enables Hongkong Post to deliver items to India in two to three days instead of five to six days as in the past. Shipments can also be handled in multiple pieces under one consignment, leading to greater flexibility.

Under the partnership agreement, Hongkong Post will provide collection and customer services for items to be delivered overseas by express. TNT will collect the items to be delivered to India. The items would be delivered through the Indian logistics company Speedage, which has an established network in India and was acquired by TNT in 2006. Hongkong Post will provide customer service support and manage item tracking and tracing requests.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Nov 14-16: Jaipur, District Philatelic Exhibition

Nov 23-26: Patna, Bihar State Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Wheeler Senate Hall, Patna University

Nov 30-Dec 2: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh State Philatelic Exhibition  
Sales Stalls: Rs 2500  
Contact: Pankaj Tyagi, Mobile 0 93352 41900

Nov 30-Dec 2: New Delhi, Coins & Banknotes  
Contact: Goga Jain, Mobile 93123 18401

Nov 30-Dec 2: Palakkad, PHILA COINEX  
Venue: Town Hall Annex

Contact: K A Radharishnan, Tel 0492-2284701, 2284480

Dec 5-8: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Kanakakunnu Palace  
Sales Stalls: Rs 3000  
Contact: The Secretary [kerapex2007@gmail.com](mailto:kerapex2007@gmail.com) Mobile 0 94955 49431

Dec 7-9: Pune, STAMPEX  
Venue: Sonal Hall, 19 Karve Road, Next to Rasa Shala,  
Sales Stalls: Rs 4000, Two tables & two chairs. Breakfast & Lunch for two persons included. Last date booking: November 30, 2007.  
Contact: Rajendra Shah, Secretary ICSRI, (020) 24477660, 09890117252

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>

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

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STAMP QUIZZES by Anil Dhir, 224 pages, 2007 edition, contains over 1500 questions and answers. Comprehensive & detailed with quizzes on General Philately, India, Indian States, USA, Britain, Australia & New Zealand Must for all Philatelists & stamp clubs, Rs 300 post free in India. US\$20+ actual postage elsewhere, ANIL DHIR [anildhir2k5@hotmail.com](mailto:anildhir2k5@hotmail.com)

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WANTED India Stamp Booklets of King Edward VII, King George V & VI, Unexploded, exploded, and in all conditions,  
Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA [deogawanka@satyam.net.in](mailto:deogawanka@satyam.net.in)

#### VIEWS & OPINIONS

#### READERS FORUM

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

#### FEATURES & RESOURCES

Unusual Stamps of Bhutan  
By Vinod Sabharwal

Stamp collectors very well know that one of the world's best place to search out for unusual is Bhutan. Some of Bhutan's stamps are made from steel, vinyl, and silk.

Bhutan was the first nation to make a 3-D stamp on October 30, 1967 and the stamps honored America's Apollo astronauts in space.

Bhutan released the world's first "talking stamp" in April 1973. It's a tiny vinyl record, that when played at 78 rpm, the Bhutanese national anthem and a brief history of this country.

Bhutan was also the first nation in the world to have self-adhesive stamps. Today, almost every nation has followed Bhutan's lead with a self-stick stamp.

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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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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, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm>  
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