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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 320 - December 20, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

It happened again. The Philatelic Bureau Mumbai GPO sold the Water Year issue on its originally scheduled date, December 18, 2007. The issue was postponed to December 28, 2007 but the oldest and the largest philatelic bureau in country did not receive this information in time. Please use your own imagination for the state of affairs at other philatelic bureaus spread all over the country.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abhai Mishra, A V Jeychandran, and Vijay Navlakha

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

Dec 25: Our Lady of Snows Shrine Basilica Tuticorin  
Dec 28: Water Year (Postponed from Dec 18)  
Dec 31: Ritvik Ghatak

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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INDIA CHINA JOINT ISSUE

Although India's next year's issue plan is still a big mystery, China announced couple of months ago that its joint issue with India is scheduled for release on April 10, 2008. The Chinese plan also states that the stamps will feature China's White Horse Temple & India's Mahabodhi Temple.

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#### NEW STAMPS RELEASED

#### GREETINGS

India Post released a set of 5 special stamps on Greetings on December 15, 2007. All the stamps are in the denomination Rs 5. However the inland postal rate for a greeting card up to 20 grams is Rs 4 only.

Each stamp in this issue has a label attached to it. These labels also carry Greeting messages. This is the first Indian issue with 'tabs'.

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamps and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing Kamleshwar Singh 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 photogravure in the quantity of 3 million for the 4 stamps and of 5 million for the 5<sup>th</sup> stamp.

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

#### S B CHAVAN

Pratibha Patil, the President of India released a commemorative postage stamp on former Minister Shnkarrao Bhaurao Chavan on December 17, 2007 at New Delhi.

Born on July 14, 1920, Chavan was an arts graduate from the then Madras University and a law graduate from Osmania University. He started his career as a lawyer but quit the profession after he plunged into the "Quit Court" movement in the erstwhile Hyderabad province of Nizam, of which Marathwada was a major part then.

During the fight against the Nizam's rule, he came in contact with Swami Ramanand Teerth and P V Narasimha Rao. It was a lasting friendship.

His foray into the state politics began with his stint as a member of the state legislative council in 1956. He, however, got elected to the state assembly the next year from Bhokar constituency and continued to be its member till 1980. Chavan, served as chief minister of Maharashtra state from 1975 to 1977 and then again from 1986 to 1988.

He switched over to national politics and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Nanded. Starting his career at the Centre as an education minister in the Indira Gandhi cabinet in 1980, Chavan was assigned important portfolios like external affairs, finance, defence and home in subsequent Congress governments.

He was also the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission from 1981 to 1984. The veteran Congressman was also the leader of his party in the Rajya Sabha from July 2, 1991 to May 15, 1996.

He died on February 26, 2004 at Mumbai.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamp 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 stamp 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:

Education for All,

The grand total till date is now 492, with 216 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

- Jan 24: Kolkata, International Photographic Conference
- Oct 11: Dehradun, Shri Shradhanand Bal Vanita Ashram
- Oct 15: Dehradun, Him Jyoti School, Inauguration

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 MAX CARDS

India Post released a set of 5 max cards along with Greetings stamp issue on December 15, 2007. This pack carries the price tag of Rs 30 and for the first time it is clear that this price is for the cards alone and does not include the price of stamps as was the case with all other issues earlier this year.

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

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NEW PICTURE POSTCARDS

Uttarakhand Circle of India Post issued a set of 12 picture postcards with images of stamps of India in July 2007.

For an illustrated list of Stamp Picture Postcards Issues in 2007, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/icards-2007.htm>

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INPEX 2008 ACCOMMODATION

The venue of INPEX 08, Rani Meyyammai & Rajah Muthiah AC Halls in Egmore area is few kilometer distance from Chennai Central Railway Station. Auto-rickshaw fare is Rs25 to 30.

Following is information on rooms with bath attached near the Egmore Railway Station

Hotel Ashoka, 47 Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai 8
Telephone 91 44 28553377 (15 lines) Email madras_ashoka@vsnl.net
Distance to the Venue, 1 Kilometer
Tariff Non-Ac Room: Single 850 Double 995; Ac Room: 1050 Double 1300

Hotel Kanchi, Egmore, Chennai 8
Telephone 28272287, 28279010, 282791412
Nearest to the Venue
Tariff Standard Non-AC: Rs900 Standard AC: Rs1100.

Hotel Impala Continental, 12 Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai 8
Telephone 28191423 28191778 28191780
Tariff Rs350 to 750

Hotel Imperial Supreme, 6 Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai 8
Telephone 28193954, 28194976
Tariff Rs399 To 880

Tourist Home, 45 Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai 8
Telephone 28194679 42146471
Tariff RS441 Onwards

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jan 2-6: Chennai, INPEX India National Philatelic Exhibition  
Venue: Rani Meyyammai & Rajah Muthiah AC Halls, Egmore

Jan 25-28: Chandigarh, Punjab State 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>

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/x16.htm> for tariff and terms

#### WANTED Miniature Sheets of India

Contact RAMAWTAR B JAIN, Mobile: 093777 66365

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)

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

##### IS THIS PHILATELY

By Ashok Bayanwala

India Post has laid down rules for such event which cannot be commemorated by issue of a stamp, may be commemorated by issue a special cover and cancellation and such covers cancellation can be issued at the instance of private parties (clause 13, 53, 56 and 57 of Handbook on Philately).

This facility of India Post is for philatelists at large and promotion of Philately and not for the proponent of the proposal to corner all special covers and cancellation.

To check any nefarious practice by the proponent, India Post laid specific rules in clause 13 E to 13 M in Handbook on Philately.

The gist of such clauses is that the special covers should be sold on the day of release through the post office of release and afterward such covers will be available at Philatelic Bureau for full one month And the special cancellation should be given on any item / cover bearing Inland Letter mail rate, which is presented at Philatelic Bureau. Any deviation from these rules of India Post should be taken very seriously and appropriate steps should be taken to stop recurrence in future.

But rules are just decorative piece of paper if not implemented. The latest example of the Breach of Rules laid by India Post is in black & white in "GPA NEWS" (monthly philatelic magazine) November 2007 issue and in Stamps of India Collectors Companion, an e-newspaper.

True story of Gandhi Ashrams Special Post Mark - Gujarat Philatelists Association of Ahmedabad took an order from ADPS Gujarat Circle that special post mark on International Non Violence Day on 2nd October 2007 will be issued from Gandhi Ashram P.O. but only 350 covers tendered by GPA will be cancelled and no other cover or cancellation should be entertained.

The rules laid down in clauses 13, 53, 56, & 57 Handbook on Philately where over looked and / or suppressed and the cover - 350 in quantity where taken in the possession by GPA. Then these covers were sold for Rs. 500 each during Gujpex 2007. (Readers please note that such activity is not taking place for first time but this incident took place second time; previously it was also done by GPA with the permission of India Posts during 2nd October 2006 Gandhi metered cancellation taken & was sold by GPA Rs. 500 each cover, some philatelist approach to the department but did not get any answer).

If this type of practice continues the promotion of philately (which is undertaken by India Post) will be doomed. If any Philatelist takes the special post mark and makes it available at cost price to other philatelist then this practice is labeled as Dubious Activity.

Now it is upon Readers of the article to be decided that should we philatelist keep quite or we should oppose such practice of the proponent.

#### 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

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>

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

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