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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 345 - Jun 12, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

India Post usually prints 400,000 stamps for a personality. However they have issued 3.8 million for Dhirubhai Ambani in 2002 and now 2.4 million for Henning Holck-Larsen in 2008 while for Madhubala and Sai Baba issues the quantity remained inflexible at 400,000. Why?

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vinod Sabharwal, Ranjit Singh, Mainak Kathiara, Suraj jaitly, Jeevan Jyoti, and Vivek Gupta

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

MORE PREMATURE ISSUES

The commemorative postage stamps on Sheik Thambi Pavalar and Bhaktavatsalam which are yet to be released by India Post are being reported by collectors who are finding these used on commercial mails.

There are now 9 stamps of 2008 that are in circulation without yet being officially issued by India Post. This is a new record for premature issues. Earlier this year 2 stamps of Jasmine were in circulation for nearly 3 months before being officially issued by India Post in April 2008.

For images of Indian premature issues, please visit:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/premature.htm>

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RAJESH PILOT STAMP ISSUED

The Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 in honor of a parliamentarian and charismatic leader, Rajesh Pilot on June 12, 2008 at New Delhi.

Pilot was born on February 10, 1945 in village Baidpura, district Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. He did his schooling from M M Higher Secondary School New Delhi and higher studies from Meerut University.

He joined Air Force Academy, Coimbatore and was commissioned in the Flying Branch in 1966. He served Indian Air Force for 13 years in Fighter & Transport Squadron and saw action in India Pakistan war of 1971.

He resigned from Indian Air Force in 1979 and joined politics. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Bharatpur constituency in 1984 and inducted in the Council of Ministers as Minister of State for Surface Transport. Later he represented Dausa constituency five times and served as Minister of State with Independent Charge for Communications, as Minister of State for Home Affairs, Minister of State for Environment & Forest.

He died on June 11, 2008 in a freak road accident.

Brahma Prakash 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 Rs2 each. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed the stamps by wet offset in the quantities of 0.4 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jun 12: Henning Holck-Larsen

Jun 25: ??

Now days, issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice say couple of days! As you can see that the world is

moving at very fast pace and we are still bringing out an issue only after 7 long days. Thus it is impossible to inform our readers thru this weekly publication about forthcoming stamp issues of India. We however do our best to publish this information on the home page of [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com) as soon as it becomes available.

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 2008, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

- - : Anti Tobacco 1, Urdu
- - : Anti Tobacco 2, Urdu
- - : Anti Tobacco 3, Urdu
- - : Safe World 2008 Exhibition & Conference, English

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

1 more Inland Letter Card, in Bengali, carrying the Disaster Management advertisement was made available for sale this week bringing the total to 8 out of 12 as reported in issues #343 and 344 of this digital weekly.

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2008, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008ILC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2008, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2008PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit <http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

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SAI BABA FIRST DAY POSTMARK

There are 2 different types of the first day postmark of the Sai Baba stamp issued on May 20, 2008. The difference is in the one of the 2 words in Devanagari script in the centre of the design. The word on right is believed to be wrongly spelt and had the accent mark (bottom character) facing upwards in the middle letter. This postmark is used at most philatelic bureaus. However in the Ahmedabd philatelic bureau the postmark depicts the accent mark facing downwards. The Mumbai philatelic bureau used the type 1 postmark for couple of days before changing to type 2 postmark. Mumbai is the only philatelic bureau known to have used both types.

For images please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/345-plus.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Apr 26: Atgaon, 'Lifeline Express' World's First Hospital on a Train

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2008, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2008pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2008, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2008aps.htm>

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TATA STEEL PACK

The packs of Tata Steel stamp issued on April 22, 2008 have finally arrived for sale at New Delhi philatelic bureau. The pack priced at Rs 100 contains a block of 4, a FDC with brochure, and 2 maxim cards. The maxim cards are not available separately.

For an illustrated list of stamp booklets, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb99.htm>

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BUTTERFLIES MAXCARDS

A set of four maxim cards on 'Endemic Butterflies of Andaman and Nicobar Islands' stamps released on January 2, 2008 is available at Ernakulam philatelic bureau. The set priced at Rs 70 is different from the all India issue.

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SAI BABA TRAFFIC LIGHTS

India Security Press Nasik imprints the printers color control marks on margin of every sheet of stamps in either of four positions that is top right, bottom right, bottom left, and top left. These are popularly referred to as traffic lights.

In the Sai Baba issue traffic lights have been noticed with different sequence of colors in different positions. Is this for the first time?

For images please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/345-plus.htm>

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AUCTION ACTION

ITS POSTAL AUCTION #41

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com) is holding postal auction # 41. The 145 lots auction closes on July 19, 2008.

For a list of auctions in India, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/auction.htm>

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

ITS STAMP NEWS, Whole #42, Vol.11 #2, Apr Jun 2008, Quarterly

Editor: Suraj Jaitly [surajjaitly@yahoo.com](mailto:surajjaitly@yahoo.com)

Publisher: Indian Thematic Society, Ludhiana

Annual Subscription: Rs 150, US\$, Euro 6

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For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2008.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/xl6.htm> for tariff and terms

ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2008 Edited by Suraj Jaitly, 80 pages listing contact details of stamp collectors, dealers, clubs, magazines, websites, from India & overseas. Plus lots of relevant information. Price Rs.250 or US \$8 or Euro 6 OR £4 [Post paid]  
Contact at [surajjaitly@hotmail.com](mailto:surajjaitly@hotmail.com) or [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.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)

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)

## ~~~~~ 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.>

RANJIT SINGH, Delhi

I have seen two more premature issues, not listed in your site these are on Sheik Thambi Pavalar and Bhaktavatsalam. Again both seem to be from South India, Postal department's current favorite theme. I would like to read and know the comments of other collectors.

Seven premature stamps and two more on tortoises are in circulation. Don't you think this department of posts (philately) needs to be completely overhauled and reshuffled and inefficient officers dismissed?

This whole department has become an international joke. Quite a good number of my friends in India and worldwide have stopped collecting Indian stamps. Even we in India do not know what stamp comes next it seems the concerned ministry is sleeping. Working is simply shameful. Seems minister concerned has no time to check this rot.

There a dozen more points and blunders being committed by India Post that I will write about in coming weeks.

SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL, Delhi

(Guinness Record Holder for most letters in newspapers)

Department of Posts has issued postal-stamp on 11.06.2008 in memory of Rajesh Pilot on his eighth death-anniversary in violation of its own rules.

Rule 72(4) of Handbook on Philately issued by the Department of Posts mentions "The occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary. To ensure objective assessment of the proposal no stamp will be issued sooner than ten

years after the individual's death: only exceptions made will be in the case of deceased heads of state."

It is senseless to have rules which are so frequently broken at discretion of political rules as if country is governed by rules of monarchy rather than by principles of democracy!

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

The premature issue is the current topic of discussion among Indian philatelists. Everyone is keen to know what is coming out from back doors of Post offices. There is no doubt if the number of premature issues goes on increasing, we will soon see a catalogue in the philatelic market of "Premature Issues of India". Sometime back it used to happen once or twice in a year but now we come to know about these issues once or twice in a month. In the listing India may be the first country in having regular or legal issues and irregular or illegal issues popularly known among philatelists as premature issues. Now the craze for collecting these issues has got down and collectors are not ready to pay high price for such issues. The reason is obvious if there are so many such issues they lose their importance. The Postal Department is itself responsible for this malpractice done by its own staff. Despite so many complaints by philatelists and editors of philatelic magazines, it could not be checked so far.

Besides this we are coming across various types of cancellations for a single issue given at the same place by the same post office and sometimes at different places too. We find difference in spelling and size both which are regularly noticed by the sharp philatelists. Why the standards are not maintained by India Post? Gone are the days when each and every work was manually done. Now we have highly sophisticated electronic machines for making standardized size and precision. Still such mistakes are visible. Everyone must have noticed the quality of cancellations is very poor in India and it can be seen in worst condition on our daily mail which is heavily cancelled with poor ink. The stamps on such mails are of no use and not suitable for collection. Through this esteemed column I just want to request all the philatelists to write against it and send their direct complaints to Philately section of India Post. It is really difficult to see a change, especially in our country as complaints are never taken seriously and thrown in waste paper basket. Now we have a second option to send message by e-mail besides a traditional way through snail mail which is easy and convenient for everyone. However we should always hope for the positive results and continue to make our best possible effort for a change in the existing system.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN INDIA

By Sangeeta Deogawanka

Part 10 - MEDIEVAL INDIA (1030 - 1757 AD)

Structure of the postal systems in Mughal period,  
An Analytical Overview

The period of Mughal rule in India left its indelible mark on not only the arts and culture of the land, but also laid the foundations of an organised postal administration in India. From a parochialistic system

of postal governance, there emerged an expansive system of distinct regional operations controlled by a centralized postal authority.

Till early medieval period, postal communications was for exclusive sovereign usage spurred on by a military rationale. Initiated by the landmark postal reforms of Sher Shah Suri, the Mughal regime witnessed a gradual changeover to a communication mechanism merged with administrative restructuring.

#### COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF MUGHAL DAK CHAWKI SYSTEM VIS-À-VIS EARLIER BARID SERVICE

The Diwan-i-Barid system of the Caliphate during 7th-11th century returned in a new progressive garb during the Mughal period. A similar postal communication termed the Mughal Dak Chawki system. However, this was not independent of the political administration as in the Barid service. The Dak Chawki system was a part of the Mughal governance.

The practice of division of work within the postal department started during the period of Barid service later became the hallmark of the Mughal Dak Chawki system. The Sahib-i-Barid and Sahib-i-Risalat took care of the military and provincial reportage, and correspondence section respectively. This translated into the Mughal-period ranks of Darogah-i-Dak Chawki who oversaw the entire postal and news gathering operations, and Secretaries or Munshis who headed the various postal operations.

While the Barid service was confined to a horse-relay post, the Dak Chawki system functioned on a three-tier level with mail runners, mounted couriers and horse-drawn carriages. The speed of these foot runners also surpassed that of mounted couriers, probably because of improved roads and security during the Mughal rule.

Whereas the Barid messengers were publicly appointed officers, only the mail runners, Darogah-i-Dak Chawki, and the nazir under the Mughal aegis, were appointed overtly. The others, namely Wagai Navis, Sawani Nigar and Khufia Navis were fixed secretly.

The earlier method of apportioning land to the postal officers was discontinued, and the postal employees including dak runners were paid salaries in the Dak Chawki system.

In the past, the communication routes were traditionally dependant upon the military agenda, but during the Mughal chapter, they developed in synergy with the administrative machinery.

However, the former extensive use of waterway routes, along rivers and seas, finds no reference in studies relating to the Mughal period.

#### A RUNDOWN OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS DURING MUGHAL PERIOD

The process of radical development begun by Sher Shah Suri with 3000 miles of communication network, was further expanded by the Mughals. Feeder routes synchronised with the district or provincial layout served the postal system, with Dak Chawkis dotting the route at fixed intervals.

The structure was developed as a centralised postal machinery with nodal agencies called Dak Chawkis, chaired by the Darogah-i-Dak Chawki

who supervised the entire operations. While all Darogahs and postal officials were accountable to him, the Darogah-i-Dak Chawki was answerable only to the royal office.

The Dak Chawki system was divided into separate departments that operated independently, servicing the needs of security, intelligence, supervision and military. Thus, communication needs were categorized according to urgency, secrecy and nature of message. Modes of conveyance and division of postal work were also fixed accordingly.

Chief modes of communication were the mail runner, horse carrier or special speedy horse carriages drawn by fast-paced stallions, used at times of grave importance and emergency.

References to the use of royal pigeons and camels have also been found. Though camels and camel caravans were used primarily in desert areas, camels were also used in non-desert zones, specifically for carrying royal or State mail. The introduction of pigeon post is attributed to Akbar, and not Jahangir, as mentioned in several accounts. Pigeons were trained and housed in the royal palace, in the Kabutar-Khana, found even today in the relics of Mughal palaces. They were used to carry urgent messages over short distances, exclusively for royal purpose. The practice continued to be favoured by Jahangir who extended its use to special occasions.

The racial profile of mail runners was confined to mewras or sturdy messengers belonging to lower strata of the caste system or tribal origin.

The postal work was assigned and processed by the departments of waqai navis, sawanih navis, khufia navis and dak runner. (See Part 9 for details) All postal staff except the mail runner, was accorded the rank of mansabdar, with army-type gradations. Their ranks, promotions and degradations were conveyed vide dastaks.

Categorization of state correspondence was done to ensure speedy transmission and efficiency in administration - farmans, shuqqe, nishan, hasb-ul-hukum, sanad, parwanah and dastak. (See Part 9 for details)

This is the first time we find mention of parcels being carried as part of regular mail service. These mostly contained documents or records, and sometimes personal requirements of the ruler.

Postal rules and reforms were created. The procedure of frequent transfer of postal officials started by Babar continued throughout the Mughal regime. Jahangir's construction of a pillar at every kos with a sign, and a well at every 3 kos, served as milestones along the routes. Aurangzeb's introduction of the rule that a dak runner cover a fixed travel distance or be penalized is an example of the stringent measures established in the 17th century.

While transparency was introduced with a system of an open register in public offices for record of all information and reports reaching through dak chawkis, there were plenty of undercover operations and recruits involved at the same time.



Security was provided by the Subedars and Kotwals of the districts, who provided escorts and ensured safe passage through their province. To this effect, the dak runners carried a written permit duly endorsed and sealed by the Darogah-i-Dak Chawki on his outward journey. For his return passage, he carried a similar permit sanctioned by the Sawanih Navis. These permits were an obligation upon the provincial faujdar, zamindar and thanedar to render their utmost co-operation and protection to the dak runners.

Babar introduced a mathematical dimension to road mapping. The precise measurements adopted by the royal clerks called tamaghachis set the precedence for calculation of mileage thereafter.

The Dak Chawki system was initially restricted to royal and official use. For urgent letters people had to make their own arrangements at personal cost or await the arrival of the regular messengers and prevail upon them to carry the same. In fact, it was this random practice of the postal employees being subject to inducements by the common public, which compelled Babar to introduce the system of transfer.

News was conveyed through an efficient channel of confidential reports, supplied daily, bi-weekly and weekly by different agencies acting independently. This system ruled out erroneous information reaching the ruler, not only because of the inbuilt cross-checks but also by giving the emperor different perspectives to a situation.

Besides the news reports, weekly cash statements of the dewan and administrative dispatches by the district governor, were also conveyed vide this dak system.

The Akhbar Navis system organized by Akbar set off the nascent form of the newspaper. The waqai submitted by the wakai navis (official news reporters/ news writers) were in fact, periodical summaries of the regular communiqué. These gradually evolved into periodical newsletters. The era also saw the emergence of the official ante-typographic newspapers, which were indeed the confidential reports and special newsletters devised for instant perusal of the monarch.

From this, there emerged the akhbar, or private news periodicals, perhaps designed by the private postal operators. The contents were meant for public consumption and discussion. This was very much evident during the reign of Aurangzeb.

We also find evidences of the random private post co-existing with the Dak Chawki system. For instance the private messenger system operating from the bazaars of Patna, called Bazar kasids, and the private system at Merta. These were usually operated by the traders or businessmen serving the needs of commerce along pre-determined routes. However, exorbitant rates were charged for conveyance of such private mail.

Separate postal arrangements were made at times of war and military expeditions. Postal staff was appointed as required. A superintendent was allocated the responsibility of Ithminan Dak Chawkiyat Lashkar for management of military postal stations. His terms of appointment and working directives were also as per the situation, different from that of the regular Dak Chawki operations. Farmans, arzi waqaims and all

communication between the emperor and army officials were however, delivered personally.

The system of protectorates, like Bijapur and Golkonda, began with the signing of a Treaty called Inqiyad Nama. This meant that the importance of news transmission assumed grave importance to the Emperor, so news reporters and secret agents operated in such territories too. The simultaneous operation of a regular postal system within the protectorates and that of the median Dak Chawki system is a distinct feature of the Mughal period, post Deccan subjugation.

The parallel dak chawkis operating within these kingdoms subsequently became a part of the imperial network of dak chawkis, adopted by Aurangazeb. This perhaps paved the way to annexation of these kingdoms at a later stage.

Thus, with the extension of the Mughal dominion into the Deccan region of India, the Dak Chawki system stretched beyond Karnataka by the end of the Mughal rule.

Babar mostly continued along the lines of postal system designed by Sher Shah, with some further areas of delegation. It was particularly during the regime of Akbar that a structured postal system developed with a well-planned method. The roles and work of the postal department were well demarcated into the routine provincial reports and State correspondence on one hand, and the tri-furcated news-gathering sections on the other. Jahangir is noted for his extension of postal services and pigeon post to Bengal. While Aurangazeb's rule ensured stringency in the postal methods and administration.

Thus it was in the early 16th century, that a systemic synergized two-way communication system began operations on a routine basis. In introspection, the Mughal period spanning two centuries, kick-started the process of an organized postal system in India that was later emulated by the Britishers, as mentioned by the author in Part 5.

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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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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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