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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 are looking for someone to take up the challenge of reporting on Indian philatelic material on eBay, especially unusual activities and alerts as well as the price trends. The reporter need not disclose his/her identity to the readers and can use a pseudonym. Apply now.

And don't forget to send in your comments on the part 1 of the new series 'History of Postal Communications in India' by Sangeeta Deogawanka debuting in this issue.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Surendra Bhaskar

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

Next Issue sometime in July 2007

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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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 18: Jaipur, RCCI Excellence Award State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur

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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COLLECTORS PACK 2005

The collectors pack containing all stamps issued in 2005 is now available for sale at Rs 350 at the Philatelic Bureau New Delhi.

Also the pack of the First Day Covers with brochures of 2005 is also available for sale at Rs 450 at the Philatelic Bureau New Delhi.

Till date all collectors pack sold by India Post contained only the commemorative issues but the packs of 2005, both the stamps and the FDC, is the first pack to include a definitive issue.

For images of all year packs please visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/yearpacks.htm>

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INDIAN THEMATIC SOCIETY

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com) is holding postal auction # 37. The 129 lots auction closes on July 21, 2007.

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

#### KEONJHAR PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The Keonjhar Philatelic Association has been registered under the Society Registration Act in March 2007. The following are the new office bearers of the Association. Akshaya Kumar Nayak- President, Niladri Bihari Mishra- Vice President, Dr Chandra Sekhar Basak- Secretary-cum-Treasurer, Dr Abdul Rehaman- Joint Secretary, Suresh Kumar Sahoo, Sujit Kumar Patnaik, Sasmita Nayak, Abhijit Patnaik, Kalyani Basak, Ajita Singh and Elora Priyadarshini are the members of the managing Committee.

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#### RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

GPA NEWS, Vol.10 #10, Whole #118, May 2007, Monthly

Editor: Ilyas Patel

Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association

Address: C/o M/s D Desai & Co., 1/M National Chambers, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009

Annual Subscription including Membership: Rs 200

The Fila Capsule, Vol2 #2, Mar-Apr 2007, Bi-Monthly

Editor: Ajit K Dash

Publisher: Eastern India Philatelists' Association

Address: D-13/6, Rental Colony, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar-751015

Annual Subscription including Membership: Rs 200

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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#### ALBUM FOR SE-TENANTS

Indian Se-tenants are currently very popular and in demand. The latest Indian issue on National Parks is the 89<sup>th</sup> se-tenant issue.

The Gujarat Philatelists Association has very timely published an illustrated album to house all the Se-tenant issues of India. The album is very economically priced at Rs 80 plus postage.

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#### RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 24-25: Angul, District Philatelic Exhibition

16 exhibits in 29 frames, Jury Ajit Kumar Dash,

Mar 16-18: Cuttack, District Philatelic Exhibition

21 exhibits in 50 frames, Jury Bijoy Kumar Sinha,

Mar 17-18: Balangir, District Philatelic Exhibition

15 exhibits in 35 frames, Jury Ajit Kumar Dash,

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

Aug 10-12: Bangalore, KARNAPEX, Karnataka State Philatelic Exhibition

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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READERS FORUM

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

NIKHIL, Chennai

The National Parks set of 5 stamps which have been issued recently is a beautiful thematic issue from India. Such issues which have good exchange/trade market are few and far between. India is generally known to be issuing stamps only on personalities, and in my limited experience, this is one major reason why collectors back out after hearing 'India'.

As the Department had issued MS and sheetlets for other such good issues like Birds and Lakes, it would only be logical to bring out additional items for the Parks issue also.

Miniature Sheets, Sheetlets and Maxim Cards can be brought out at a later date, if possible. This has been the case for some of the earlier MSs like Indepex'73, Himalayan Ecology, etc.

MAINAK KATHIARA, Ahmedabad

Philisensex which has been started by Mr Krishnan and Mr Madhukar Jhingan will be a very good step in sustaining interest in Indian philately. Keep it up...

We need to reevaluate and enhance our stamps worth and with the Indian economy growing fast the spare extra income's spend will be reflected in the price of the stamps.

SURENDRA BHASKAR

The concept of Philasensex is most intriguing and exciting, If it provides on a periodical basis the price movements with a reference base year the increase in demand /supply as reflected in the current stamp market in India and abroad.

How exactly this is proposed to be done is not very clear and I would suggest the proponent to give a brief write up of the main features of such a indicator. Will the Philasensex be based on key issues of each post independence year, will it include definitives, will there be separate indices for Indian market and another for the International market. Will there be a separate index for used and for mint (MNH) etc are some of the questions that spring to mind.

I had in one of the previous issues raised this very issue of the acute need to stimulate the flagging hobby by infusing in it some monetary incentive and compensation to the stamp collectors who are investing their hard earned money to an increasing extent necessitated by the surge in the quantity of stamps issued each year as well as their value due to increased denominations. After all there is a dearth of reliable and logical valuation of stamps, and the presently only a couple of guides/catalogs are available, which are updated once in 2/3/4 years, which is far too long a gap.

With best wishes for the successful creation of the Philasensex and its monthly review as proposed

AKSHAY BORAD

First of all I want to thank you for publishing about our group in your news letter, there are lots of people who have shown their interest in joining our group after reading in your news letter. This shows how popular your news letter is.

Further I want to express my views regarding Philsensex and views expressed in article about it in your news letter published on 7th of June 2007

Though some commercial establishment dealing in philatelic material have promoted philatelic material as investment option, but it can't be seen as serious investment option as the prices will highly dependent on want of the person or persons want to buy the material and the trend of philatelic scene at that particular point of time. Like these days thematic and topical philately is more popular than traditional country collections, which were popular before.

USA is known to be a pure capitalist country and people there are known to exploit each and every mean where they can make money and lot of people have burned fingers who had seen philately as investment option there. Some of USA's earlier issues are selling for below face values and almost all the philatelic associations and clubs have negative opinions about philately as investment option and they prompt philately purely as hobby for pleasure.

Who is going to be benefited, if philately is promoted as investment option, philately, philatelists, or commercial establishments dealing in philatelic material? I think none of them, in first case let's assume that value of philatelic material will get appreciated if more and more people will be investing, in this case first of all the interest of serious collectors and philatelists will deteriorate as the price of material will get artificial inflation.

Secondly the prices of philatelic material will fall as availability of philatelic material will become more as people will buy more new issues and down the line the availability of material will be more as has happened with USA's 1940's issues. Remember both the situations are not good for healthy philatelic scene.

Further regarding Philsensex we should remember that there are no fixed prices for philatelic material, there are different varieties of same material according to physical condition of the same. The same material can be two or three times expensive depending on condition. And same material can sell for half the price if the demand is not there with its same period of time.

So the philately should be thought and pursued purely as hobby for pleasure and attempts to prompt it commercially should not be appreciated.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN INDIA

Part I - ANCIENT INDIA

India - the land with the highest number of post offices and postal workers today, is also the country with probably the most eclectic, yet effectual modes of mail conveyance used over a span of scores of centuries, befitting its diverse topography and compelling history.

The element of romanticism was very much evident in most forms of communication adopted in ancient India. The primitive drawings and heliographic characters found in caves and the carvings of the ancient temples and pillars are vibrant stories with messages of their own. They can be interpreted as messages symbolic of the ethos of that period that have traversed across time, down the centuries. Messages were also written on leaves and stones that have been the boon of archaeological discoveries. Yet the most remarkable and emotive method of communication was through music, the rendering of the flute tenor or the melody and pitch of a song, conveying very effectively a piece of good, bad or daunting news that was conveyed instantly across the village. Messages were also conveyed by the sounds of drumbeats and crude bushfires that even cut across hills and valleys.

The need to communicate was manifested in various ways. There are various references in the most ancient works '*RigVeda*' of a dog '*Sarama*' being used to carry message. The '*Atharvaveda*' records couriers and names them '*Palagala*'.

The mythology and the ancient history also records of traditional emissaries conveying messages in an unconventional manner. '*Ramayan*' has many instances of *Hanuman*, being sent by Lord *Ram* to convey messages, flying over land and water, in particular the message to *Sita* who was kept hostage in Lanka. In '*Mahabharata*', King *Drupad* dispatched the message to King *Dhritirashtra* to give away half the kingdom through the Royal Priest. Also from '*Mahabharata*' is the romantic legend mentioning swan being used to convey the message of prince *Nal* to princess *Damayanti*.

Chanakya's 'Arthashastra' also mentions the efficient manner of collecting information and revenue data using *doots*, who also doubled up as spies for the King.

The practice of using homing pigeons as message carriers also prevailed from the earliest times and believe it or not still is being officially used by government departments in remote areas.

Then, of course, the legendary mail runner, who has stoked the passions of many a poet, writer and artist, who have eulogized him, was used by the Kings for purposes of invitation, chivalry and war. The mail carriers were also used by the merchants for the purpose of their business. The common man it seems either had little use for such a service or its cost were beyond his reach.

One of the earliest evidence of a systematic postal service using foot messengers is found during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya (322-298 B.C.). A courier service between the capital and the outlying provinces of the vast kingdom served the needs of intelligence gathering and collection of revenue data, whence regular messengers, *doots* (emissaries) and pigeons were used for conveying the royal communiqué. However its efficacy was lost upon his death and the system fell through. Emperor Ashoka also devised a very efficient means of communication that helped him create a vast empire.

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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 post paid worldwide.

Credit cards accepted <http://www.stampsofindia.com/99999.htm>

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