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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

The year MMVIII (2008) has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Planet Earth, and the International Year of the Potato. It will be a leap year and Olympic Games will be held in China.

What would you like to see on stamps of India in the coming year? Write to us, write to India Post, write to Minister of Communications & Information Technology, and write to the Member of Parliament of your area. The idea is to get involved. And let this be one of your new year resolution.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue:

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 15: Happy New Year 2008, 5 Stamps

Dec 17: S B Chavan

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>

## NEW STAMPS RELEASED

### THE DALY COLLEGE

India Post released a postage stamp to commemorate 125 years of the Daly College, Indore on December 8, 2007 in the denomination of Rs 5.

The Daly College was founded in 1882. However, the story started in 1869 when General Sir Henry Daly was appointed Agent to the Governor General in Central India. Those days, the Indore Residency School was running in the building of the East of the Indore Residency Post Office. This in 1867 was to be called the Indore Residency College with Aberigh-Macay, as the Principal.

Henry Daly retired in 1881, and it was decided to develop the separate classes for the princes into a full-fledged school and name it "The Daly College" with an independent building. The building was constructed by the Military Works Department. On 14th November, 1885, it was inaugurated by Viceroy Lord Dufferin.

The Daly College is affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi and trains students to appear for the All India Secondary and Senior Secondary School Certificate Examinations under the 10+2 scheme.

The Daly College has produced eminent persons who made a mark in different walks of life.

Brahm Prakash designed the Stamp 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. 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>

### WILSON COLLEGE

India Post released a postage stamp to commemorate 175 years of the Wilson College, Mumbai on December 11, 2007 in the denomination of Rs 5.

Rev Dr. John Wilson, our founder, established the Ambroli English School in 1832 and subsequently added to it the college division in

1836. Dr. Wilson was a learned scholar and a pioneering educationalist, whose contributions to the intellectual and social life of 19th century India were historically and socially significant of Scottish descent. He had made it his life's ambition and vocation to spread the light of education to the people of India. In the year 2000, Dr. John Wilson was given his place as one of the seven 'Founding Fathers of modern Bombay (Mumbai)', by the Department of Archives, Government of Maharashtra.

The College has produced a Prime Minister, 3 Bharat Ratnas, 8 Vice Chancellors, 5 L L D'S, the last one being a record in itself.

Bharati Mirchandani designed the Stamp. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and 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 stamp by photogravure 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:

Earthquake Don't Kill, English
Earthquake Don't Kill, Hindi
Earthquake Resistant House, English
Earthquake Resistant House, Hindi
Save Lives in Disasters, English
Save Lives in Disasters, Hindi
Experience of Seniors & Power of Youth, Hindi

The grand total till date is now 491, with 215 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

Dec 5-8: Thiruananthapuram, Kerala State Philatelic Exhibition 4 covers

Dec 8: New Delhi, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences 25 Years

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 STAMP BOOKLETS

International Collector's Society of Rare Items released 3 stamp booklets at recently concluded philatelic exhibition at Pune.

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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>

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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.>

K K MIGLANI

Thanks for the information on special packs. It is brought out that some of the packs are very expensive. Like pack of Int'l year of Disabled is costing Rs. 50 & it contains only First Dar cover of Rs 7 & information sheet of Rs 2. I think, there has to be justification for the price.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

HISTORY OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN INDIA, PART 7
By Sangeeta Deogawanka

Part 7 - MEDIEVAL INDIA (1030 - 1757 AD)

Structure of the postal systems in Mughal period

With the advent of the Mughals, came a turning point in the history of Indian postal communications. For, this was the period, when the foundations of a unified communication system were laid. It is no wonder that Arabic and Persian travelling historians attributed the establishment of a postal system to the Mughal period, in particular the administration of Babar, Akbar and Sher Shah Suri. However, Sher Shah, whose reign was parallel to that of Humayun, deserves special mention. His landmark contributions to the evolution of postal system in India, were further boosted by the speedy development of roads and administrative reforms effected by him.

It is evident therefore, that the genesis of the Imperial Post lay in the Central Postal Department established during the Mughal period. However, the Imperial system is widely and erroneously believed to be the precursor of the modern postal system, as it was only under the colonial rule that the entire country was brought under one umbrella postal structure.

The author wishes to re-examine this perception, in the following chapter(s), reasoning how the uniform postal reforms and organizational structuring evolved during the Mughal period, became the bedrock of the ensuing postal system. At the same time, existed the parallel postal practices in neighbouring kingdoms and emerging European trade centres, albeit, in an embryonic stage. These fused with the Mughal communication and administrative approach to form the basis of a subsequent Imperial system.

Thus a milestone was erected with the uniformity of postal methods and routes evolved during the Mughal period, with the establishment of provinces (sarkars) and districts (parganas) right up to the Deccan in Southern India, and centralized operations with a separate postal administration.

Under Sher Shah Suri (1540-1545)

The Suri dynasty of the Pashtuns from Northern India may have been an aberration of the Mughal period, but proved to be a boon for the postal history of medieval India. In the short span of a 5-year rule (1540-1545), Sher Shah Suri established the foundations of a mounted post or horse courier system, wherein conveyance of letters was also extended to traders. This is the first known record of the Postal system of a kingdom being used for non-State purposes, i.e. for trade and business communication. Sher Shah's administrative reforms were so well integrated with the postal system, that it rightly earned the place of the first officially recorded mounted post in India.

His multi-front crusade began with building 3000 miles of communication network, complete with milestones, connecting the capital, Agra with outlying areas. Sher Shah is also credited with establishing the principal line of communication, the Grand Trunk Road or Sadak-e-Azam,, which has been rigorously used down the centuries. It ran from Sonargaon (now Upazila in Bangladesh) through Agra, Delhi and Lahore to Multan in Sind (present Pakistan). Feeder routes from Agra to various parts of North India also spruced up communication, and will find mention in further articles. One road ran from Attock to Cacca,, a second route from Agra to Mandu was extended to Burhanpur on Tapti

river, a third route from Agra went up to Chittor fort, while a fourth went on to Jodhpur and Ajmer linking up with the seaports of Gujrat. A new road between Multan and Lahore completed the North-Eastern link.

The existing dak runner system was revamped, with two horse couriers stationed at every 2 mile-distance for speedy conveyance of official and trade correspondence. A total of 1700 post houses with 3400 postal messengers have been recorded.

The serais(inns)and dak chawkis(post-houses) dotting the route were overhauled to serve the needs of Hindus and Muslims alike. Serais were more in the nature of inns, serving traders, travellers and officers of the government. The dak chawkis served as transitory points for changing post-horses. The author believes that often these serais doubled up as dak chawkis. These serais were maintained from the land revenue collected by dak employees from the neighbouring areas, and were self-sustaining.

A porter cum chawkidaar, stationed at each of the post houses, attended to the post-horses and oxen of travellers as well as the needs of post-messengers. A Darogah (Watchman-in-charge) looked after each post-house. Additionally, there were two tariqh navis or post-house clerks, who recorded the arrival and departure of the mail carriers. Mails were carried by mewras and messengers, who were essentially of tribal origin or belonged to the lower castes.

Sher Shah Suri's reforms devised a practical approach to administration, whence the system of provinces was replaced with Sarkars, Parganas and villages. This was adopted by the subsequent Mughal and British colonial administration. The empire was divided into 47 provinces, called Sarkars (19 in Bengal). Each Sarkar was further divided into smaller districts called Parganas. Each Sarkar was managed by two officers, the Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaram (Military Chief) and the Munsif-i-Munsifan,(Chief of Justice), who oversaw the work of Pargana officers, namely the Shiqdar (administrative officer), Amin (revenue officer), Munsif (judicial officer), Patwari (keeper of land revenue records), Chowdhury (landholder, next to zamindar rank) Muqaddam (village headman), Qarqun (accountant), Mushrif (holder of trust) and Khazaanchi (treasurer). While the Fautedar maintained property records in both, Persian and Hindi, the Qanoongo in each Sarkar supervised the same.

The officers were transferred every two or three years to prevent misuse of office, which was an innovation in that epoch of time. It maybe noted that the postal system was still not open to general public, though one comes across references to malpractices involving covert transmission of messages, besides transactions involving land. This is probably the reason that the practice of transferring officers was adopted.

A genealogical study of present use of these titles indicate the antecedence of the afore-mentioned administrative officers of this period. However, the author is intrigued by the prevalence of Kanungos and Shikdars solely in the Eastern provinces of Bengal and Orissa, while Fotedars being confined to the Kashmiri Pandits with a bureaucratic lineage, the Patwaris to Rajsthan. Whereas the administrative system was uniform throughout the empire from greater

Bengal (including present Bangladesh) in the East to the Sind in North-West. Then why is there a regional proclivity in lineage patterns?

Abolishment of taxes that were a barrier to free trade, brought about development of trade. Introduction of the Rupayya or rupee coin in place of "Tanka" and "Jeetal" and the system of custom duties, gave a fillip to trade and commerce. The consequential increase in business correspondence was facilitated by the large network of roads built during the reign of Sher Shah Suri. The revenue and agricultural reforms of this period will also be of interest to the students of fiscal history

Though military intelligence continued the use of spying as a tool, military matters were however isolated from political and social issues of the empire. The same serais that served as post-houses, also served as centres of local intelligence gathering, However, were the conveyance of mails and military intelligence network operations mutually exhaustive?

As a great postal administrator, Sher Shah established a self-sustaining postal system. The entire postal system was under supervision of the Darogah-I-Dak and the the Darogah-I-Dak Chawki, Superintendent of Postal Department. He served also as Director of Post-Houses, receiving the administrative dispatches for conveyance to the ruler. The department of correspondence was overseen by the Dewan-i-Isha who issued letters and royal firmaans, forwarding the same for transmission to the Darogah-I-Dak Chawki. These imperial firmaans and correspondence were served by Mir Munshis, the Head Clerks.

Notes:

1. The 'Mughal Period' denotes the period (early 16th to mid 19th century A.D.) of supremacy of the Mughal rulers in India, notwithstanding the occasional defeat and dethroning of any ruler.
2. The reign of Sher Shah Suri, who wasn't a Mughal but an Afghan, corresponds to this period of history, and has been dealt by the author apropos to Mughal period, given that his contributions to the postal system fall within the purview of the Mughal time-period.

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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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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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