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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 321 - December 27, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We wish you a Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year 2008.

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

- M & S & YJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Vinod
Sabharwal, and O P Gupta

We invite your inputs, please email to writeback@stampsofindia.com

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.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO INPEX 08

It is now clear that the sole purpose of organizing INPEX 08 is to
further the vested interests of a few habitual violators of the laws of

land. These persons have managed to convince the India Post to fund the show where rules have been modified against India Post's own interests such as removing 'Modern Philately' class.

Till the last minute, committee members and jurors were being added and removed. If one was not selected he brought in political or bureaucratic pressure to get in.

The allotment has been arbitrary and rules were not applied equally to all. Hundreds of qualified exhibits were not accepted and scores of unqualified exhibits were accepted. Entries received a month after the last date was accepted while those who submitted in time were not. Several of the accepted exhibits contain false information on their application form. Many who had applied for One Frame Class were asked to extend their exhibit to 2 Frames! Those who threatened the INPEX Secretariat were accommodated against the rules and those who didn't were not.

Welcome to national philatelic exhibition at Chennai from January 2 to 6, 2008 and experience the chaotic world of Indian philately in transition.

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Dec 28: Water Year (Postponed from Dec 18)

Dec 31: Ritvik Ghatak

Jan 02: Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Set of 4

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 STAMP RELEASED

SNOWS BASILICA

India Post released a commemorative stamp on 425th anniversary of Snows Basilica on December 25, 2007 in the denomination Rs 5.

Situated in Tuticorin the church was built during 1582 dedicated to St. Peter and later Jesuits consecrated to Our Lady of Snows. In 1542 St. Francis Xavier visited the shrine to catechize the paravars, the indigenous people of the Pearl Fishery Coast.

In 1982, when the Church of Our Lady of Snows celebrated the 400th anniversary, Pope John Paul II raised it to the status of Basilica.

The Basilica is also known for a golden car, which is used to carry the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Snows around the town during her feast day. The Golden Car was first taken in procession on 2nd February 1806 and then onwards 5th August of every year. A Big star rests over the royal crown on the top of the car, signifying the name of Our Lady as the Star of the Sea (Stella Maris).

Kamleshwar Singh designed the Stamp. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and 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. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed the stamps by wet offset in the quantity 0.4 million.

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

WILSON COLLEGE FIRST DAY COVER

The First Day Cover of Wilson College commemorative stamp issued on December 11, 2007 carried incorrect inscription "150 Years" instead of "175 Years". However this mistake was detected and all philatelic bureaus were instructed to sell the covers after correcting the error.

In some places it was corrected manually and at some by paste-ups. However some places it was sold as it is.

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Forestation, Marathi
Switch to CFL, English
Save Energy, English

The grand total till date is now 495, with 219 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>

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Dec 25: Chennai, Indian Fine Arts Society platinum jubilee
Dec 26: New Delhi, Special Centenary Jamboree Scouts

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>

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The Right to Information Act came in to force on October 12, 2005. This law empowers the citizens to ask for information that is any material in any form including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions,

advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force. Reason/s for seeking information are not required to be given. The public authorities are obliged to provide the information within 30 days.

In response to several requests for more information on RTI from our readers we provide below simplified guidelines. For complete details please visit <http://www.indiapost.gov.in/rticontents.html>

For any information from the India Post Head Quarters submit your request to:

Kalpana Tewari
Deputy Director General (Public Grievances) &
Central Public Information Officer
Department of Posts,
Room No. 207, Dak Bhawan,
Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Telephone: (011) 23096094, 23036172, Fax: 23096107
Email: dop.rti@gmail.com

There is no form to be filled, however please ensure the following information is included in your request:

Your Name, and your contact details including complete postal address, telephone numbers and email address (if any)

How you would like to receive this information, for example by post

Nature and details of the information requested

Date on which application is being submitted

Also please attach a proof of payment of application fee.

The fee is Rs 10 per request and can be deposited in any post office under the RTI Act 2005 Rules in UCR and receipt of the same should be attached with the request.

There is also a charge for Rs 2 per page of the information provided. It is a good idea to mention in the request that you will pay these additional charges on demand.

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

GPA NEWSLETTER, Nov 2007, Monthly
Editor: Ilyas Patel
Publisher: Gujarat Philatelists Association
Annual Subscription: Rs 200

SIPA Bulletin, Mar Apr 2007
SIPA Bulletin, May Jun 2007
SIPA Bulletin, Jul Aug 2007
Editor: G Madan Mohan Das
Publisher: South India Philatelists' Association

Annual Subscription: Not indicated

ITS STAMP NEWS, Whole # 40, Oct Dec 2007, Quarterly
Editor: Suraj Jaitly surajjaitly@yahoo.com
Publisher: Indian Thematic Society
Annual Subscription [by Airmail]: Rs.150 or US \$10 / Euro 8

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Feb 2nd week: 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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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

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.>

JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

The exhibitors participating in National level philatelic exhibitions have to pay good amount of entry fee for participation. The expenses of dispatching the exhibits to the exhibition are born by the exhibitor. As the exhibitions are organised by the Postal department it can do a favour to philatelists by sending the exhibits from G.P.O. of capital cities to the exhibition destination. For this during the exhibition, collection counter for exhibits can be opened for a limited period of time by the department. As we are aware that the exhibitors have to spend a good amount of money to send their exhibits by speed post. If they send by other services which cost less normally reach quite late. This service can also be provided at state level exhibitions at certain important head post offices. The department can easily provide this service. This facility will be very helpful for the philatelists. There is no doubt that Deptt. of posts earns a good amount of money through philatelists who spend a lot of amount on purchasing Indian stamps and of course during philatelic exhibitions.

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>

The Hindu, December 21, 2007, Delhi edition

THE WORLD OF CHRISTMAS STAMPS by N Kalyani

<http://www.hindu.com/fr/2007/12/21/stories/2007122150150300.htm>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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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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