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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----  
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India  
Issue # 322 - January 3, 2008. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingam

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are in Chennai from January 1 to 7, 2008 to cover INPEX 08.

Mr Krishnan informs that the January 2008 update for PhilSensex will be ready for publication in the forthcoming issue as he would like incorporate and analyze the data collected during INPEX 08.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Anil Reddy

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

STAMP POLL 2007

India Post issued 72 stamps in 2007 for a total face value of Rs 420. In addition 11 miniature sheets and 21 different sheetlets were also released during the year.

Stamps of India now present the Stamp Poll 2007 to select the best stamp of 2007. The best stamp of 2007 shall be announced based on the most number of votes polled. You can send as many ballots as you wish. Several attractive philatelic prizes will be given away. The winners will be decided by draw of lots.

Please select one from the commemorative stamps issued in 2007 displayed at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/2007stampoll.htm>

Vote for the best stamp of 2007 in your opinion. Vote by the number only. (My Favorite 2007 Stamp is: # .....

Also write your name, City, email id, and philatelic interests on the ballot and email your ballots to: [stampoll@stampsofindia.com](mailto:stampoll@stampsofindia.com)

You can also Mail your ballots to:  
Stamp Poll 2007  
Stamps of India  
49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar  
New Delhi 110063

The last date to receive the ballots at Stamps of India is January 31, 2008. Incomplete ballots shall not be considered.

The results will be announced in the Issue #327 of February 7, 2008.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jan 05: B P Pal

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 STAMPS RELEASED

WATER YEAR

A Raja, Minister of Communications and Information Technology released a commemorative Postage Stamp on Water Year 2007 on December 28, 2007 at New Delhi in the denomination of Rs 5. Professor Saifuddin Soz, Minister of Water Resources also attended the function.

Government of India's Ministry of Water Resources had declared the year 2007 as Water Year.

All great civilizations in the world first developed in river valleys. The history of India begins with the mention of the Indus Valley Civilization and the story flows towards the Ganga-Bramhaputra Basin, the great five rivers that make Punjab, the cross country Narmada, the mighty Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Thungabhadra, Kaveri, Pennar to

name a few. Around these rivers agriculture, trade, customs, traditions, music even religion all grew and imparted a unique multi-dimensional identity to India. The rain bearing clouds, lakes and ponds not only inspired poetry and romance but also sustained the livelihood of the people.

From such a rich endowment that the unique geographical location gave India, to the bleak prognostication which paints a picture of water scarcity, contamination of ground water, sinking of water table, the thirsty population facing the ravages of floods and draughts is indeed a shocking reminder that such a life giving gift of nature cannot be taken for granted. The rivers that used to connect the distant lands have also divided people because of conflicting and competing demands of water for irrigation and drinking.

The water conflicts are growing also between cities and farmers, between industry and villages, between the farmers and the environment.

Such a scenario has created a need for a multi-institutional approach for creating a water balance in the country. While traditional technologies such as Rain Water Harvesting and tanks can play an important local role, a major initiative is needed by the Government and also by the users to bring abstraction from ground water in line with recharge. The global experience shows that a time has come to rationalize the demand to match sustainable supply. This difficult and essential task will require a partnership between the Government and the users.

Suresh Kumar 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 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>

RITWIK GHATAK

India Post released a postage stamp on the legendary movie maker, Ritwik Ghatak, on December 31, 2007 in the denomination of Rs 5.

Ritwik Ghatak (November 4, 1925 - February 6, 1976) was born in Dhaka in East Bengal (now Bangladesh). He belonged to an illustrious family. His father Suresh Chandra Ghatak was a district magistrate and also a poet and playwright, mother's name was Indubala Devi. He was their 11th and youngest child. His elder brother Manish Ghatak was an acclaimed radical writer of his time, a professor of English and a social activist. He and his family moved to Kolkata just before millions of other refugees from East Bengal began to flood into the city, fleeing the catastrophic 1943 famine and the Partition of India in 1947.

In 1948, Ghatak wrote his first play Kalo sayar (The Dark Lake), and participated in a revival of the landmark play Nabanna. In 1951, Ghatak joined the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). He wrote, directed and acted in plays and translated Bertolt Brecht and Gogol into Bengali. In 1957, he wrote and directed his last play Jwala (The Burning).

Ghatak entered film industry with Nemai Ghosh's Chinnamul (1950) as actor and assistant director. Chinnamul was followed two years later by Ghatak's first completed film Nagarik (1952), both major breakthroughs for the Indian cinema. Ghatak's early work sought theatrical and literary precedent in bringing together a documentary realism, a remarkable stylized performance often drawn from the folk theatre, and a Brechtian use of the filmic apparatus.

Ghatak directed eight full-length films. His best-known films, Meghe Dhaka Tara (The Cloud-Capped Star) (1960), Komal Gandhar (E-Flat) (1961), and Subarnarekha (1962), a trilogy based in Calcutta and addressing the condition of refugee-hood, proved controversial and the commercial failure of Komal Gandhar (E-Flat) and Subarnekha prevented him from making features through the remainder of the 1960s.

Ghatak moved briefly to Pune in 1966, where he taught at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). During his year at FTII, he was involved in the making of two student films, viz., Fear and Rendezvous.

Ghatak returned to film making only in the 1970s, when a Bangladeshi producer financed the 1973 epic Titash Ekti Nadir Naam (A River Called Titash). Making films became difficult for his poor health, due to extreme alcoholism and consequent diseases. His last film, and perhaps his most unusual, was the 'autobiographical' Jukti Takka ar Gappo (Reason, Debate And Story) (1974). He had a number of incomplete feature and short films in his credit.

Sankha Samanta 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamps by photogravure in the quantity 0.4 million.

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

#### ENDEMIC BUTTERFLIES OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

A Raja, Minister of Communications & Information Technology released a set of 4 postage stamps featuring Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on January 2, 2008 at Chennai during INPEX 08.

With about 225 species, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands house some of the larger and most spectacular butterflies of the world. Ten species are endemic to these Islands.

This set of stamps portrays male and female of 2 endemic butterflies - Andaman Mormon (Papilio Mayo) and Andaman Club Tail (Pachliopta Rhodifer).

The stamps are printed in the sheetlets of 24. There are 5 different sheetlets, one with block of 4 different stamps, and 4 with one design each. A miniature sheet is also part of the issue but wasn't available on sale yet.

Suresh Kumer 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed the stamps by photogravure in the quantity 3 million. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 0.2 million.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, 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:

TB, Hindi  
Malaria, Hindi  
Leprosy, Hindi  
Kalazar, Hindi  
Fileria, Hindi  
Vitamin A, Hindi  
AIDS 1, Gujarati  
AIDS 2, Gujarati  
AIDS 3, Gujarati

The grand total till date is now 504, with 228 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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NEW STAMP BOOKLET

Tamil Nadu Circle of India Post released a set of 5 Stamp Booklets on January 2, 2008 during INPEX 08 at Chennai.

For an illustrated list of all Stamp Booklet Issues, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm>

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NEW MAX CARDS

India Post released a set of 4 max cards along with Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands issue on January 2, 2008.

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

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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#### 1857 THROUGH INDIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

A Raja, Minister of Communications & Information Technology released a book titled '1857 Through Indian Postage Stamps' on January 2, 2008 at Chennai during INPEX 08. Published by India Post and priced at Rs 400 the book has the First Day Cover and miniature sheet issue on August 9, 2007 and few other stamps mounted in.

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#### RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> week: Chandigarh, Punjab State Philatelic Exhibition

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, 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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#### ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Visit [www.delcampe.net/stores/rajus2001](http://www.delcampe.net/stores/rajus2001) for Lions Club, Masonic Lodge / Freemasonry, Mushroom, Reptiles, Birds, Animals and many more themes from hundreds of countries with images at very reasonable prices.

ABDUL AZIZ, E-mail: [rajus2001@gmail.com](mailto:rajus2001@gmail.com) A - 32/146 Chittanpura, Varanasi-221001, India. Mobile: 0 98389 70190

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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.>

R HOWARD COURTNEY, Chicago, IL, USA

I want to thank you again for all your hard work in making the Newsletter available and free to all of us.

If I were living in India I would be incredibly angry with just about the entire postal administration. It is unbelievable that items are not available when promised, not issued in time for the events, terrible subjects for stamps, issued without any notice, etc.

You might consider posting an address where people can write to express their displeasure directly. I would be one of the first to let them know what I feel about their lack of concern and shoddy practices.

It is sad that such poor quality printing and paper is used for much of the philatelic material. I certainly do not want to invest large sums of money for items that will yellow and deteriorate within a few years. If the Indian postal authorities want to bring attention to the stamps and stationery of India, they had better produce better quality material.

My current interest in Indian philately consists of collecting Meghdoot postal cards. One does not realize how difficult it is as no one has any stock of most of them. Prices range (in U.S. currency) from .25 to \$2.50 - for the same cards. I am often offered large groups of cards

but do not buy them as I have the majority of them. The dealers will not sell me the ones I am looking for and do not have. I must buy the entire lots. It is all very frustrating.

I would particularly like to receive the address of someone I could write to let them know what I feel about INPEX 08 and all their nonsense. It makes Indian exhibits a bad joke.

Keep up the good work.

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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>

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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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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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