

# POSTAL NEWS

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## **1. China's postal business revenue surges 16% in 2007**

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BEIJING, Jan. 25 (Xinhua) -- China's post service business revenue stood at 93 billion yuan (12.9 billion U.S. dollars) in 2007, up 16 percent year on year, Xinhua learned Friday from a work conference of the Chinese State Post Bureau.

"The year of 2007 was the fastest growing year of the country's post industry and the China Post Group saw robust growth of postal, financial and express services," said Ma Junsheng, director of the bureau at the conference.

The development goal for the country's post industry in 2008 includes increasing the total business revenue to 106.5 billion yuan, improving the express service qualities and establishing a post service quality appraisal system.

Ma said the country was scheduled to help every village in the country to have access to post services in 2008.

In 1998, China carried out the reform to separate postal and telecommunications businesses from each other nationwide, and in 2005 the government carried out further reforms to separate administration from business operation in the postal sector.

Under the new postal system, postal enterprises operate independently while administrative departments supervise the industry according to law.

In January 2007, the restructured State Post Bureau and the China Post Group had officially started operation. By September 4 last year, all postal businesses at the provincial level had been separated from administrative functions.

Editor: Sun Yunlong

## **2. Postal convenience? It's a reach**

Published 01/25/2008 - 1:03 a.m. PDT

Editor:

More than 150 years ago, the great English novelist Anthony Trollope, while working for the British post office, came up with a bright idea: why make people carry their outgoing mail to the post office? Why not provide mailboxes in which they could drop their mail? Terrific idea!

Strangely, today the mailbox is disappearing. There are more fast-food locations than mailbox locations in Antioch. So we are back to the post office to drop off our letters.

Drop off? Hardly, not at the Antioch post office, where using the drive-up letterboxes is a contest of skill, a game of the humble letter writer versus that elephantine entity, the present-day USPS.

One of several events can take place when you drive up and roll down your window: 1) you have pulled as close as possible to the box, thereby scratching your car's wheels against the curb beyond repair; 2) you have pulled up not quite as close, to save your wheels, only to find you have to extend most of your torso out the window to barely reach the slot, often missing and having to step out of the car to retrieve the letters from the ground; or 3) you recognize that, given your lack of 38-inch arms, you haven't a chance, so you exit the car to drop the letters.

There is plenty of room to move the boxes closer to the curb. I have written the postmaster with this suggestion, even offering to turn up with a couple of brawny guys to do the task – but no reply. Fortunately, I am able to write this letter via e-mail.

Frank Scalpone  
Antioch

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## **3. SMS – The postal carrier pigeon of modern age**

(Muhammad Zulqarnain Zulfi)

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SMS (Short Message Service) is for all the favourite of Cell Phone's Features. There are many other modern and future developments like Enhanced Message Service (EMS) and Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) but still every Cell Phone user loves SMS.

It is an important communication media and it is hard to believe you can live without SMS when you have a Cell Phone. People are always looking for new cell phones with modern technology. There many other communication medias like EMS and MMS but still they are not so popular like SMS.

The first SMS was sent in December 1992. They never know their development will be one of most important communication media in the world. Today Americans are sending billions of SMS every month. They use SMS for Info-Channels, Notification Message, Dating, and Payment per Premium SMS.

One of the reasons why SMS is the favourite than EMS and MMS is the network compatibility. There are many Cell Phone Providers who don't have the necessary hard and software for their network. Therefore SMS will never have this End.

SMS is much faster to write and send than other communications media like EMS and MMS. You can send for example your pictures with MMS but they are limited in data and files and they are very expensive to use. It could be possible that the end users sometimes send more MMS or EMS but only when the prices are less than SMS.

You can send SMS through Internet. There are many web sites where you can send free SMS. That is a good alternative when you have Internet access like Cable and want to save money with your short massaging.

Usually the young people use SMS to contact friends. It is faster to communicate for them because they like to do something than to talk. They send a short text message and let their friends know what is going on. That is why they call it Short Message Service. It is short but useful. Thus SMS has become the pigeon of modern age.

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#### **4. Cabinet approves ratification of acts of Universal Postal Union**

January 24th, 2008 - 4:47 pm ICT by admin - Email This Post Email This Post

New Delhi, Jan 24 (ANI): The Union Cabinet today gave its approval for ratification of the seventh additional protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) adopted by the unions 13th Congress held at Bucharest in 2004.

The ratification enables the postal administration of India to have the instrument of ratification signed by the President and have the same deposited with the Director General of the International Bureau of the UPU through diplomatic channels along with approval of other acts of the union, a government release said.

The ratification would complete a formality required by the Article 25 of the Constitution of the UPU and fulfill its commitment as required by a member country of the union.

It will also enable the department of posts to bring out administrative orders to enforce the provisions of the UPU convention.

The UPU was established on October 9, 1874. It became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1948.

The aim of the union is to assist the postal sector in its member countries in improving and developing their postal services and to promote in this sphere, the development of international collaboration.

The union, at present, has 191 countries, including India, as its members. (ANI)

## **5. Postal Deptt considering commercial use of real estate**

23 Jan, 2008, 1459 hrs IST, PTI

NEW DELHI: Reeling under acute financial pressure, the Postal Department is exploring new areas of revenue including commercial use of huge real estate at its disposal to guard against any debt trap.

With losses of over Rs 400 crore annually -- which could be attributed to a chunk of postal business going to private competitors, the government is working seriously on different proposals, including commercial use of land, to make this over 100 years old institution financially viable.

India Post has huge properties in each circle including Nariman Point in Mumbai. The land is either lying vacant or is leased out at a meagre rent, senior officials said, adding these would now be used for commercial purpose to earn revenues.

The government is likely to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to bring the postal department out of losses and earn revenues. This is for the first time that Communication and IT Minister A Raja has taken a view on the issue.

Officials said a Cabinet note for creation of SPV would be moved soon. Asked by when the department would place the matter in the Cabinet, officials said the matter would be taken up within a month.

The department is also working on innovative schemes like instant money order, air transfer of logistics and computerisation of main centres. These efforts would help India Post become self-sufficient in the coming years, they said.

When contacted Department of Post General Manager J Samuel said "we are expecting a revenue of about Rs 550 crore for the current financial year, up from about Rs 450 crore."

## **6. PIN Group to pay statutory postal minimum wage to employees - report**

MUNICH (Thomson Financial) – Jan 23, 2008. PIN Group, the troubled German mail delivery company that has put itself up for sale, is to pay the statutory postal minimum wage to its employees, Focus Online reported, citing no sources.

The decision was made by the company's new management led by Horst Piepenburg and will be announced within the next few days, it added.

Accordingly, the wages will be increased this month.

At the moment, the company pays its employees an average wage of 7.50 eur per hour.

However, since Jan 1, the statutory minimum wage is 8-9.80 eur.  
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