

POSTAL NEWS

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Indian postal department: Time for overhaul. Okt 5, 2008.2. Legal framework for private postal operators. Okt 5, 20083. In Brief. Okt 3, 2008. |
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1. Indian postal department: Time for overhaul

The Indian postal department has been serving the nation for over 150 years. However, now the department needs an overhaul. Change in logo design, postal stationery and a few fares and charging system can possibly give it a new look.

CJ: MADHU AGRAWAL , Okt 5, 2008.

INDIAN POSTAL department should change its style with change in its logo. The department can come up with a new image by issuing a complete new set of postal stationery and stamps of definitive series every year on first day of new financial year, which should also be the date on which tariffs for the new financial year may be applicable.

The design of stamps of definitive series should be based on a theme selected for that year keeping the colour of a particular denomination same for every year. The postal department has confessed that stamp-sheets with stamps of more than one denomination in a single-sheet are lying unsold in post-offices.

Since users of different denominations of postage stamps are different, it is absolutely senseless to have stamps of more than one denomination in the same stamp-sheet.

The department should have a common national tariff of Rs 15 (inclusive of service-tax) for articles mailed by speed post instead of present dual tariff of Rs 12 for local speed post and Rs 25 for speed post to other parts of the country. People will prefer paying a little extra at Rs 15 for local speed post because of its reliability over private courier-service.

Multi-colored commemorative stamps usually issued in denominations of Rs 5 and Rs 15 will then make speed post even more attractive. Foreign mail tariff should also be rationalised in multiples of Rs 10 with air-mail and surface-mail tariffs independently fixed for equal price-rise of every 20-gms slab-weight of the mail-article.

2. Legal framework for private postal operators

UNB, Dhaka, Okt 5, 2008.

The Advisory Council of the caretaker government Sunday approved in principle The Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 to bring private postal operators under legal framework.

A meeting of the Advisory Council with Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair approved the Ordinance in principle in the light of discussion and suggestions.

However, the council asked the Ministry concerned for placing the draft ordinance again at the advisory council meeting after vetting by the Law Ministry.

The Post and Telecommunications Ministry placed the draft Ordinance proposing to amend two sections of the Post Office Act 1898.

The meeting also discussed the draft Dearness Allowance (Constitutional Post) Ordinance 2008 to provide dearness allowance to persons positioned in the constitutional posts.

It asked the Law Ministry for reexamining the draft Ordinance incorporating all constitutional posts and placing again at the council-of-advisers meeting.

The meeting also discussed a proposal on re-fixing the value of lands under Housing and Works Ministry and increase in the fees and service charges on transfer of lands and flats.

The meeting asked for placing comprehensive proposals by holding joint meeting of Finance, Law, and Housing and Works Ministries.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed newsmen about the outcome of the meeting.

Members of the council of advisers attended the meeting at the CA's Office. Cabinet Secretary, CA's Press Secretary and Secretaries concerned were also present.

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3. In Brief

Postal Service plan online

CUMBERLAND — The U.S. Postal Service has released Vision 2013, its new five-year strategic plan that is designed to balance near-term priorities with long-term needs.

The plan is available online at www.usps.com/strategicplanning/vision2013.htm.

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