

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Postal dept goes hi-tech

TNN, Apr 8, 2010, 10.13pm IST

Tags:Mysore|Liquid Crystal Display

MYSORE: The postal department has gone hi-tech in advertisement of its products and schemes. The Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens have been put up at three post offices in the city to educate public about various facilities provided by the department.

As part of modernization, the authorities have installed display screens at the head post office near Nehru Circle and at Saraswathipuram and K R Nagara branches to promote its mail, financial and premium services.

An official at the head post office stated that the display screen was installed six months ago and it has yielded results as more number of people are coming forward to avail of the facilities. According to him, over 1,000 persons visit the post office everyday and this has come handy for them to educate masses.

The e-post service ensures larger reach. With this facility, people can send their message to any address in India with a combination of electronic transmission and physical delivery through a network of over 1.55 lakh post offices. E-post sends message as a soft copy through the internet and it will be delivered in the form of a hardcopy. The service costs Rs 10 per A-4 size paper. Such facilities are being screened to create awareness.

This apart, consumer awareness advertisements are being displayed to educate people about supply of foodgrains through the public distribution system.

Assistant superintendent of posts, Mysore division, Mahadevaiah told TOI that the initiative is a part of the Project Arrow scheme. LCD screens are put up at three posts office to promote products relating to business development, insurance and finance.

2. New salary scheme for postmen, postal clerks

2010/04/06

KUALA LUMPUR: The new salary scheme and allowances for nearly 2,000 postmen and postal clerks nationwide so as to be in line with that enjoyed by other civil servants, will take effect in July.

Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the new salary scheme which had been agreed by the government, would be announced by Pos Malaysia Bhd once the restructuring exercise had been completed.

"Currently, the starting monthly pay for a postman is RM610 and RM710 for a postal clerk, which can be said to be below the poverty line.

"But with the increase in their salary and allowances, their income can be said to be on par with that in the other services of the public sector," he told a news conference after attending the ministry's monthly assembly at Istana Budaya, here, today.

Rais said the salary restructuring exercise would also be supported by the increase in the stamp price and parcel delivery charges, effective from July.

"There has been no increase in these charges since 1992. Our stamps are the cheapest in the world, resulting in Pos Malaysia incurring RM32 million in subsidy for letters sent abroad or those that come into the country."

He said the increase in the price of stamps would not burden the people who sent ordinary letters within the country through the aerogram, which was cheaper.

"The 30-sen stamp for sending an ordinary letter may be increased to 60 sen, but the people can still use the aerogram which will not be more than 30 sen.

"We will also consider only a slight increase or no increase at all for postal delivery of books and magazines so that the public will not have to incur a high cost in acquiring educational materials."

Rais said overall, the increase in the price of stamps and parcel delivery charges would be reasonable in line with the practice in other countries, including European countries, Japan and Korea. – Bernama

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3. Postal service information for tax night

Submitted by ANNE MITCHELL, Postal Pointers

POSTED: April 6, 2010

Income tax procrastinators need to be aware that postal services for those tax returns will be limited on Thursday, April 15.

The Internal Revenue Service requires that income tax forms be sent by certified mail if the preparer wants verification that the forms were received by the IRS. The certified mail receipt would also provide verification of the date of mailing.

The Page Field Main Post Office, 2655 N Airport Rd, Ft Myers will remain open for business until 8:00 p.m. Full retail service and an April 15 postmark will be available until then.

The Naples Main Post Office, 1200 Goodlette Rd, Naples will close for retail operations at 5:00, however the last collection of mail from the outside blue collection boxes will be 8:00 p.m. for an April 15th postmark.

Three contract Post Office locations will offer extended hours, Alico Self Storage, 7600 Alico Rd, Ft Myers will extend hours to 7:30; Sun Harvest Citrus, 14810 Metro Pkwy, Ft Myers until 7; Get Your Paint On, 3398 Forum Blvd, Ft Myers until 10 p.m. Mail will be collected at midnight for an April 15th postmark from the blue collection boxes at the Ft Myers Processing & Distribution Center located at 14080 Jetport Loop Rd. All other Post Offices and Contract Post Offices in the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area will close at the end of their normal business hours. Collection of mail from all blue collection boxes will be at the normal posted times.

Mr. Zip's Tip: The U.S. Postal Service has thousands of highway contracts to transport mail between its network of hundreds of processing plants, bulk mail centers, and surface transfer centers.

An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation 146 million homes and businesses. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

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4. Postal Service researches direct mail service

Frank Washkuch April 05, 2010

The US Postal Service is seeking information from private companies that could potentially partner with the agency on a direct mail service.

The USPS wants more details on how it could “enable access to a comprehensive, end-to-end, online direct mail solution targeted at small- and medium-sized enterprises,” according to the agency's request for information filing.

The deadline for companies to respond to the RFI is April 23 at 5 pm EST. Interested parties must send questions to the USPS by April 12. The request is only “for market research and planning purposes,” and is not an RFP, according to the USPS.

The Postal Service is reviewing services including order fulfillment, database marketing, consumer segmentation and campaign analytics, Web site design and marketing, according to the RFI.

The search is part of a broader strategic program to examine the marketplace “for the potential of developing new, innovative ways to provide consumers and businesses with convenient access and smart choices to manage their mail,” according to the request.

“We're working with mailers, marketers and advertisers to improve the quality and relevancy of mail,” the agency said in the RFI.

A Postal Service representative could not be immediately reached for comment.

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Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.