

POSTAL NEWS

No. 40/2011

**Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI**

- 1. Swedish Postal Service Unveiling Text Message Stamps. March 7, 2011.**
- 2. Special postal cover to mark 100 years of BISM. March 8, 2011.**
- 3. Union Presses for Rejection of New Postal Law. March 7, 2011.**
- 4. Measures have been taken to make the postal service efficient. . March 5, 2011.**
- 5. Challenges before India Post. March 5, 2011.**
- 6. Potraz warns mobile phone operators. March 5, 2-011.**

* March 7, 2011 04.05pm EST

1. Swedish Postal Service Unveiling Text Message Stamps

Leslie Horn By Leslie Horn

swedish stamp

At least one country is making postage stamps a relic of the past. The Swedish postal service is ditching stamps in favor of a text message payment system.

After mobile users send a text, they will receive a reply that includes a code to be written on a piece of mail that will represent paid postage. It will work for packages weighing up to two kilograms.

"We're very interested and are just now looking into a solution," the postal service's head of marketing and development Anders Asberg told The Local, an English-language Swedish news site.

Denmark will unveil a similar system on April 1. There is no launch date for Sweden's SMS postage service, but Asberg said it "wouldn't be before the summer."

Postal services around the world have no doubt suffered as email, SMS, and social networking make communication faster and easier. Why send a letter when an email is fast, free, and paperless? But according to The Local, mail services in both Sweden and Denmark are counting on people continuing to use the dying communication form.

The U.S. Postal Service has continued to increase its rates over the past decade. It last increased stamp prices to \$0.44 in May of 2009. The USPS sought to increase the price

again in January of 2011 to \$0.46, but it was denied the request. Asberg, however, said the new text message system will not affect postage prices in Sweden.

000

2. Special postal cover to mark 100 years of BISM

Neha Madaan, TNN | Mar 8, 2011, 01.48am IST

PUNE: The city-based Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal (BISM) has entered its 101th year of establishment with a special postal cover released bearing the logo and name of the mandal. The envelope will be sold at the mandal office from March 22 for Rs 5. The centenary year celebrations concluded last October.

S M Bhave, secretary of the Mandal, said, "The centenary celebrations committee asked the government to issue a postal stamp. However, it was conveyed to us that it takes two years to prepare and issue a stamp and that it would be more convenient to prepare an envelope to mark the event. Union energy minister Sushilkumar Shinde, who is also the president of the centenary celebrations, wrote to A Raja, the then minister of communication and Gurudas Kamat, minister of state for communication and information technology, about the matter."

The envelope carries on its front the photo of the mandal's entrance, its name in three scripts -- Devnagri, Modi and Persian, along with a brief description of the Mandal's activities in Hindi and English. "The envelope will be released on March 22 by historian Babasaheb Purandare in the presence of officials from the department of post," he said.

Bhave said that people can purchase the envelope as a commemorative piece. "Since a hundred years, the mandal has rendered significant contribution to research in history. About 80 per cent of authentic documents concerning the life and reign of Shivaji were discovered by the scholars associated with the mandal."

000

3. Union Presses for Rejection of New Postal Law

published Sun 05:17 PM, updated yesterday 05:30 AM

Postal worker sorts packages.

Postal workers fear that reforms in legislation could lead to more night work.

The board of the Finnish Post and Logistics Union PAU on Sunday decided not to begin any labour action before Parliament votes Tuesday on a bill that changes provisions of the law on postal services.

The union has appealed to the Parliament to reject the bill and re-start the process of revising the legislation.

The board of the Post and Logistics Union met on Sunday to discuss the bill and its possible impact. PAU Chairman Pekka Vilkkuna described the draft legislation in its present form as "unripe fruit" and called on Parliament to reject it.

According to Vilkkuna, the bill leaves too many details unresolved.

"This law guarantees deliveries nationwide five days a week, which is a good thing. It doesn't say who will pay, in other words, it leaves that decision until later. This law is only halfway prepared, if this extremely crucial matter is not addressed," the union leader told YLE.

Vote first, then decision

The PAU board did not take any decision Sunday about calling a postal strike, a possibility that has been aired as a means to protest the bill. Pekka Vilkkuna says that the union is showing restraint in order to allow MPs to do their job. A vote is scheduled in Parliament on Tuesday, and according to Vilkkuna, the union will review Parliament's decision on Wednesday.

The union claims Communications Minister Suvi Lindén has betrayed promises made during negotiations over the introduction services that would lead to postal workers being required to work more night hours. Lindén denies the accusation.

On Friday, around 30 postal workers in Helsinki walked off the job in protest at actions by the Communications Minister. The walkout delayed deliveries to some 16,000 households.

YLE

000

4. Measures have been taken to make the postal service efficient.

PoorBest

Saturday, 05 March 2011 21:57

Post Master General M.K.B. Dissanayake says number of measures have been taken to carry out efficient postal service in the island. Although the revenue received by the sale

of stamps has shown a slight decrease many other novel income generating methods have been implemented. At a press briefing held in the postal headquarters in Colombo yesterday Mr. Dissanayake said that four hour courier service and electronic money order system is popular among the public. People can send money via postal service to any part of the island within few minutes. Payment for electricity, water and telephone bills can also be made to post offices. The Postal Department expects to provide many other services of the government institutions through the postal service as well.

000

5. Challenges before India Post

India Post's recent initiatives, which include slotting itself in cyberspace through the ePost Office, are pointers to the manner in which the world's largest postal network can be better leveraged to strengthen the financial and communication infrastructure. The Internet and other affordable alternatives have hit the basic function of post offices: delivering letters and other mails. In India, as an answer to a question raised in the Lok Sabha reveals, the volume of mail traffic fell from 6,677.18 million pieces in 2006-07 to 6,391.15 million in 2007-08, and rose marginally to 6,540.90 million in 2008-09. That the figure for 1997-98 was 15,749.30 million points to the severity of the fall. Internationally too, there are clear signs of the Internet eating into postal systems. Developed economies, in particular, saw postal businesses slump further with the onset of the recession. Statistics provided by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) show that between 2008 and 2009 domestic mail volumes were down 12 per cent globally (translating to about 13 billion pieces). Although there are signs of recovery now, particularly in the parcel and express segments, fundamental challenges posed by the emergence of alternatives to the post remain.

India's expansion of telephone services — the number of telephone subscribers increased from 76.54 million in 2004 to 764.77 million in November 2010 — and the growth of broadband are important developments that could further eat into the letter-post. Against this backdrop, the ePost Office, through which customers can carry out some basic services such as Money Order transactions, marks the beginning of what could be a new chapter for India Post. Its agreement with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to work more closely in socio-economic areas with the provider of unique identity ID cards will be watched with interest round the world. An excellent way of strengthening India Post's finances would be to build on its biggest strength — as the world's largest postal network whose reach extends to all households in the country — and take a range of services closer to Indian residents: financial services and insurance products, for a start. Optimism over economic growth offers India Post an opportunity to correct its deficit-ridden balance sheets and also play a larger role in development by strengthening business-to-business and business-to-consumer segments. Making this change — while maintaining its key public service role as a provider of affordable

services for a country of a billion-plus people — is the strategic challenge facing India Post.

Keywords: Internet, post offices, India Post, letter-post, ePost office

000

6. Potraz warns mobile phone operators

STAFF WRITER - Mar 06 2011 16:37

The Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (Potraz) has promised to take punitive measures against mobile phone operators that continue to connect unregistered users onto their networks.

Potraz director-general, engineer Charles Sibanda on Sunday said there would be no extension of the registration deadline.

Deadline for registration was February 28 2010.

“Right now we are not talking to the public. We are dealing with mobile phone operators,” said Sibanda.

“If an operator is found with an unregistered user we will deal with that operator.

“As for now we will be fining them. We are expecting those buying new lines to register them before they are activated. This time it’s an issue between regulator and operator and not operator and subscriber,” he said.

The country’s three mobile phone companies were at midnight on Tuesday last week expected to start disconnecting customers who failed to register their sim cards.

The directive to register all mobile phones was issued by Potraz last year with an initial registration deadline of August 31 2010.

As of August last year only 3,8 million subscribers had registered their sim cards out of the estimated number of 6,5 million mobile phone users in the country.

According to Potraz, the registration of mobile phone users is being done in almost every country and would help in the fight against crime.

However, international research firm IHS Global Insight has warned that registration of mobile phone users has the potential to stall growth in the telecommunications sector.

“The introduction of mandatory registration of sim cards in at least 10 countries has resulted in a dramatic slowdown in subscriber growth and will see the disconnection of millions of unregistered subscribers,” IHS Global Insight said in a report.