

COST AND REVENUE IN VARIOUS POSTAL SERVICES IN INDIA

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Abstract

The role of Indian Post Office has undergone a drastic change as during last 150 years the India Post has proved itself more than a 'means of communication' Today's India Post is a blend of tradition and modernity, playing a role of catalyst for social change. It had knit the country together by facilitating education, trade and industry and by breaking down social barriers. It had helped the Nation Building and connecting diverse regions and populace of the country. India Post touches the lives of Indian in more ways than one. In brief, historically the Indian Post largely had acted as a carrier of written communication between Royals, traders and individuals and had the role of establishing a network in unopened and inaccessible areas. It had a public service role and character.

Keywords: India Post, Post Offices, Postal Services, Value Added Services, Means of Communication.

Introduction

Today's organized India Post is more than three hundred years old, though the unorganized system of communication/ or transmission of messages are found in the ancient scriptures of India – the earliest in 'Atharva Veda' and also in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata epics, further continuing in Mauryan Emperor Chandragupta in 322 B.C. It had started as a hand-maiden of the royalty and state and later on became an instrument of the service for the big traders to whom the rulers allowed the royal mail. The big traders who have known to operate Postal Services from 14th century A.D. were also accepting mails from others by charging fee and thus post reached to services to the society and became indispensable part in one's life. Thus, in the past it was a natural monopoly of a beneficent state though limited to a particular segment of collecting and transmitting the mails and messages. Today's Post of not limiting itself to conveyance and delivery of mails at doorstep had changed gradually during the 20th and 21st century. India Post in the current form existed for nearly 110 years – its legislative origin being the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. Basically, the India Post is committed to fulfill the Universal Service Obligation for providing basic postal services throughout the country irrespective of terrain at an affordable price and additionally the India Post also meets the emerging needs of specific segments like commerce, industry, Government and institutional bodies which require quicker and value added services. To meet the above requirements, the India Post has set a largest network of Post Offices in the world raising number of post offices from 23,344 existed at the time of India's Independence to the network of 1,54,910 Post Offices till date. The beginnings of this vast postal network can be traced back to the year 1727 when the first Post Office was set up in Kolkata.

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