
WINDOW DELIVERY

Significant Service of Bygone Era

by
RAJESH PAHARIA, JAIPUR



Window Delivery means delivery of Postal Article at a post office window or a special designated place in Post Office. Since the beginning of organized postal system by the British, Window delivery services were generally available at Bombay, and for steamer and overland letters, at Madras. The first official mention of window delivery for regular mails is found in report of the Commissioners for Post Office Enquiry, published in 1851 which suggested that window delivery ought to be established at each presidency Post Office, whereby all persons signifying their desire to the postmaster, may obtain their letters from a clerk at the specified window. By this arrangement, the merchants in the vicinity of General post office, and on the arrival of the steamer and overland mails, nearly the whole European community was supposed to be benefitted.

It was thus established that any person residing within the ordinary delivery beat of the postmen, can have all letters and other postal articles to be delivered to him, regularly, during business hours of the post office, received for his address, at the designated window of a post office, free of any further charges; provided that the articles are taken over loose and that the addressee makes a written application to the post office requesting that his letters and other articles may be retained in the post office till called for, instead of being sent out in the ordinary course by the postmen.

With heavy increase in number of people availing window delivery services, resulting in rush and crowded post offices, Post Boxes were established at Presidency Post Offices to ease the burden. Free window delivery service for such presidency post offices, where Post Boxes were available, was discontinued and only in special conditions, a person was allowed to obtain delivery of articles addressed to his address from the window of the post office in presidency town of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Rangoon.

विन्डो डिलीवरी

राज पोस्ट ऑफिस से डाक तफतीश करने के लिये पोस्टमैन सुबह ८ बजे रवाना हो जाते हैं और अपने २ हाथों में डाक थोकें हुये हुए जगह पहुँचते हैं। इसमें कहीं एक थोक मात्र है। जो स्थिति चाहे कि उनकी डाक बहुत जल्द मिल जाय करे और किसी दूसरे आदमी के हाथ न पड़े वा पोस्टमैन का इन्तजार किये बिना मिल सक जाय, अपनी डाक तीसरी हाथलाके से बंधवाके, तो उनको यह सुविधाय दी जा सकती है। इसके लिये उनको विन्डो डिलीवरी टिकट खरीद लेना चाहिये। जिसकी कीमत साधारण तौर १५ रुपये है। यह टिकट १ सितम्बर से ३१ अगस्त तक दिया जाता है। इस टिकट से वह एक मिल जाता है कि सुबह ८ बजे से रात के ६ बजे तक किसी एक भी अपनी डाक के पासवार्ड, निरुक्त के टिकट और अखबार जिनका महत्त्व ज्यादा हो चुका हो, बंधवाये जा सकते हैं। इसके लिये इस तरह का पैका काम में लेना मुनासिब है जिसके ताबा लगाया जा सके और जिसकी एक चाबी अपने पास और एक चाबी पोस्ट ऑफिस में रखी जाय। ताक अपने डाक बन्द करके ताबा लगा दिया जाये और जो आदमी डाक लेने आये उसे ही दी जाय। इस तरह रात में किसी लज के गिरने वा और किसी के दुस्ते का डर न रहेगा। अगर कोई साहज सुद या अपने आदमी के जरिये से हाथ ही में डाक लेना चाहे और पैका बंधना न सके तो ऐसा भी हो सकता है।

समाप्त अन्वयरी, कारखानेदार और सरकारी महत्त्वके विन्डो डिलीवरी से फायदा उठा सकते हैं।

ता. १० मार्च सन् १९४७

अबदुल्लाह खान
सुपरिन्टेंडेंट, डाकखानेदार,
राज सवाई मन्डपुर।

A POSTAL NOTICE ABOUT WINDOW DELIVERY SERVICES BY JAIPUR STATE POST OFFICE WHICH EXTENDED THIS SERVICE UNDER COMBINED IMPERIAL POST OFFICE



WINDOW DELIVERY SIGN PLATE FOR POST OFFICES

Post Offices with Window Delivery facilities were supposed to put a standardized designed sign plate made with red background and letters in white color, on window where window delivery articles were to be provided.

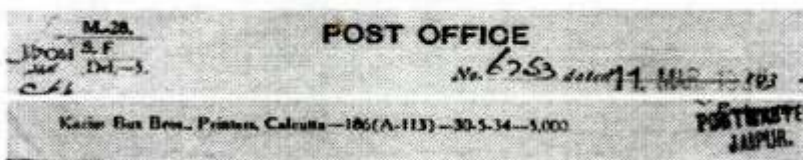
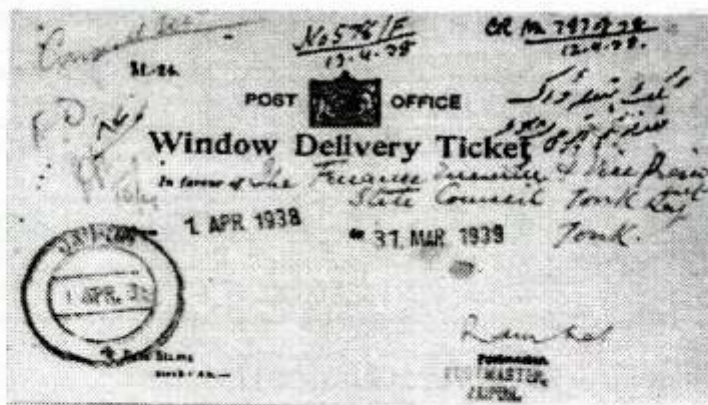
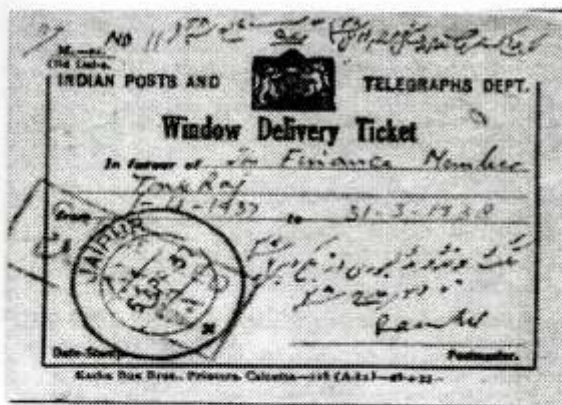
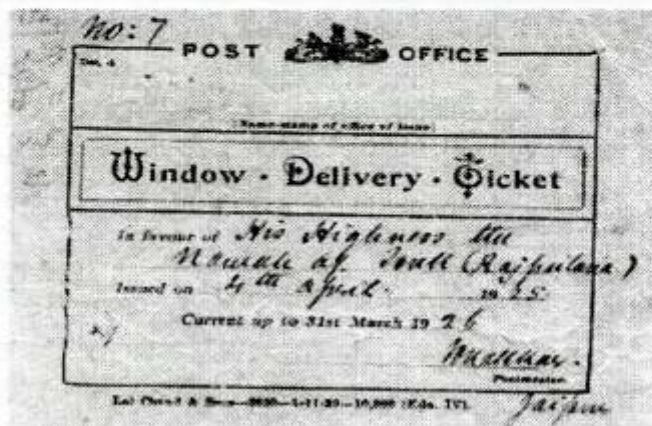
Persons with larger number of postal articles were also allowed to avail facility of getting their mails in special lock-able bag, the bag was to be provided with a lock and two keys at the applicants own expense. This facility was provided if applicant pays to the post office, the prescribed fee in advance. Such person was issued a Window Delivery Ticket for the purpose, valid from the month of payment up to the month of March, the following year, both inclusive. The ticket was not transferable from one holder to another; may be renewed up to the 31st March of the next year on payment of applicable fee, which was Rupees twelve per year at that time. No refunds were allowed. If the Window delivery Ticket holder's address changed, than the change in the Window Delivery Ticket could be effected at the Fee of Rs 1/- and the changed address was marked on the ticket.

Different types of stationery & postal forms were used for the Window Delivery system, for internal & external use.

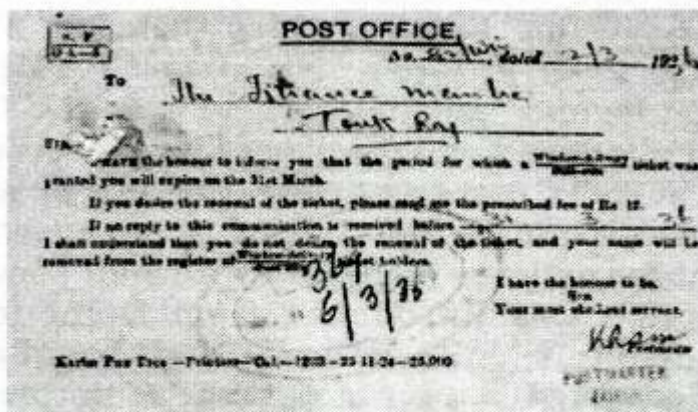
Window Delivery Tickets were allotted stationery no; "Del-4" which was later changed to "M-24".

On the expiry of the Window Delivery Ticket, a postcard reminding about this was sent to the registered user so that they may deposit the prescribed fee and renew it. This reminder card was allotted stationery no; "Del-5" which was later changed to "MS-28".

The external cover which carried the Window Delivery Card to the user, was given stationery no; "MS-5".



WINDOW DELIVERY TICKETS



WINDOW DELIVERY CHARGES RENEWAL REMINDER CARDS

The following table shows some of the stationery items used for this system and some other relevant details about these items.

#	Stn. No.	Printer Name & Print Order Details	Stationery Details	Place & Year of use
1	Del 4	Gulab Singh & Sons , Calcutta- No 42 P.O-30.4.15-3000	Window delivery Card	Jaipur, 1919
2	Del 4	Lal Chand & Sons-2650-1-11-20-10800 (Edn.IV)	Window delivery Card	Jaipur, 1925
3	M-24/ Old Del 4	Karim Bux Bros.Printers. Calcutta – 118 (A-82) 23.4.33	Window delivery Card	Jaipur, 1937
4	M-24	MGIFPAH	Window delivery Card	Jaipur, 1938
5	M-24	MGIFPAH-821 -30.7.51-15000	Window delivery Card	unused
6	M-24	MGIFPAH-1379-14.11.53-41000	Window delivery Card	unused
7	M-24	MGIFPAH-1866 & 21-3-4-68-35000	Window delivery Card	unused
8	M-24	MGIFPAH-255-11.5.70-50000	Window delivery Card	unused
9	M-28/ SF/Del-5	Karim Bux Bros.Printers. Calcutta – -(A-113)30-5-34-5000	Renewal Reminder Card	Jaipur, 4.3.1939
10	SF/Del-5	Karim Bux Bros.Printers. Cal – 1203- 25.11.24-25000	Renewal Reminder Card	Jaipur, 2.3.1936
11	M-28	MGIFPAH-2173-12.11.34-3630	Renewal Reminder Card	Jaipur, 30.3.1937
12	Ms-5 small	Karim Bux Bros.Printers. Cal – 172 (A-107)11.5.28-5000000	Window Delivery Ticket Envelope	Jaipur, 21 Mar 1930

Window Delivery Cancellations

During General sorting for Delivery, letters deliverable at the window were separated and entered in window book while rest were entered in peon book. These articles in some cases were also stamped with delivery postmark with specially inserted legend 'Window'. Most of such cancellation are recorded in the period of 1900 to 1950. Apart from Presidency Circles, majority of post offices recorded with window delivery cancellations are from Punjab & Sind and NWP & Oudh Circle, although exceptions are there. Earliest recorded window cancellation, Type 1 & 2 have legend 'window' at top of circle which is changed in all later types where legend 'window' is placed in between or bottom of circle. Some unusual types includes Window delivery cancellation with Set / Batch No (type 7). Window delivery cancellations with legend 'Reg'(type 9) recorded by ISC member Mr Ken W Carter in India Post and legend 'window' incorporated in slogan cancellation (type 11) is displayed in collection of Mr A K Gupta. Another single use example (type 10) is boxed window delivery cancellation used for articles handled by airmail service at Jodhpur. New airmail service was introduced from Delhi to Karachi with stopover point at Jodhpur. Mails carried in that airmail and deliverable from window at Jodhpur HO were impressed with this cancellation. A gazette notification in this respect was released as follows :

		Delivery.—At Head Post Office Window.	
Sundays	...	At 12 - 30 Hrs.	From and via Hyderabad (Sind), Karachi, and Foreign Countries.
Mondays	...	At 12 - 30 Hrs.	From and via Delhi.
JOHNPUR.		By Order,	
28th December, 1929.		MURLIDHAR, RAI SANKU, HEAD POST MASTER, Jodhpur.	

Type 1 : Circular Stamp / Legend 'WINDOW' at Top / with Delivery No; / No Time.



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Lucknow (with delivery number)/ time not mentioned.

Type 2 : Single Circle / Divided by two parallel horizontal lines in upper half / Legend 'WINDOW' at top / Time & legend 'DELY' mentioned between parallel lines / Post office Name at bottom.



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Peshawar / 6.30 A.M.

Type 3 : Divided Single Circle, as above / Time & legend 'DELY' between parallel lines / 'WINDOW' at bottom / Post Office name at top



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Multan / 10 A.M. ; Ambla / 7.30 A.M. ; Fort Bombay / 8 P.M. ; Gorakhpur / 6.30 A.M. ; Ferozapore / time illegible. ; Kasauli / time illegible.

Type 4 : Divided Single Circle as above / Legend 'DELY' above & date below the parallel lines / Post office name at the top & legend 'WINDOW' at bottom, inside the circle.



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Mussooree / 10.15 A.M. ; Rawalpindi / 5 P.M.; Peshawar / 7.45; Rangoon / time illegible.

Type 5 : Double Circle divided by three parallel horizontal lines at the centre / Time & Date between parallel lines / Post office name at the top & Legend 'WINDOW' at bottom between both the lines of the double circle



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Bombay-Fort / 9 A.M.

Type 6 : Double Circle divided by two parallel horizontal lines at the centre / Only inner circle is divided for date & time / Post office name between lines of the double circle / Legend 'DELY.' on top & 'WINDOW' on bottom space between inner circle & parallel lines.



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Chandausi / 9 A.M. ; Sialkot / 6 P.M. ; Bombay-Kalbadevi / 1.30 P.M.; Bombay-Fort / 5 P.M.

Type 7 : Divided Double Circle as above / Date & Time between parallel lines / Legend 'DELY' at top in the inner circle / 'WINDOW' at bottom between, both the circles



Examples available from Post-office / Time :

Dera Ismail Khan / 5 P.M. ; Bombay GPO / 12.30 ; Bombay (Kalba Devi) / 11 A.M. & 8 A.M. ; Jullundur / 1 P.M. ; Hoshangabad / 8 A.M.; Allahabad / 6.15 P.M.; Lucknow / 12 A.M.; Agra / 8.30 A.M. ; Bijnor / 7.30 A.M. ; Kanauj / 9.30 A.M.; Muttra / 8 A.M. ; Gorakhpur / 8 A.M.; Mujaffarnagar / time illegible

Type 8 : Divided Double Circle as above / Date & Time between parallel lines / Legend 'WINDOW' between both circles at bottom / Without legend 'DELY'



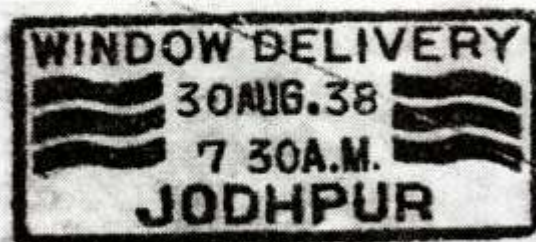
Examples available from Post-office / Time : Calcutta / 7 A.M.

Type 9 : Divided Double Circle as above / Date & Time between parallel lines / Legend 'REG.' at top space between dividing lines and inner circle / Legend 'B' & 'WINDOW' at bottom, between both the circles.



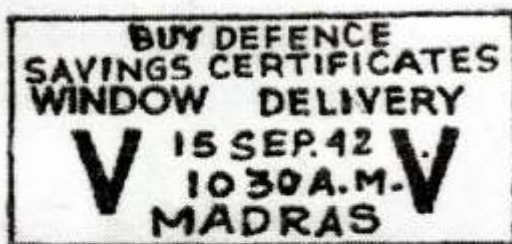
Examples available from Post-office / Time : Karachi / 9 P.M.

Type 10 : Boxed rectangular cancellation / 'WINDOW DELIVERY' at top / Date & Time at centre between thick wavy lines / Post office name at Bottom of the box.



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Jodhpur / 7.30 A.M. & 10.30 A.M.

Type 11 : Boxed, Slogan Postmark with 'WINDOW DELIVERY' / Date & Time at centre between two capital 'V's / Post office name at bottom of the box.



Examples available from Post-office / Time : Madras / 10.30 A.M.

Information Sources

1. Report of the Commissioners for Post Office Enquiry, India 1851
2. Indian Postal Manuals & Guides
3. Indian Postal History 1873-1923 by Brig. Virk
4. Article in India Post by Maurice Jerram 1981



RAJESH PAHARIA
46, Geej garh House,
Civil Lines, Hawa Sarak,
JAIPUR 302 019
Phone : 093517-16969
e-mail : r.paharia@yahoo.in
