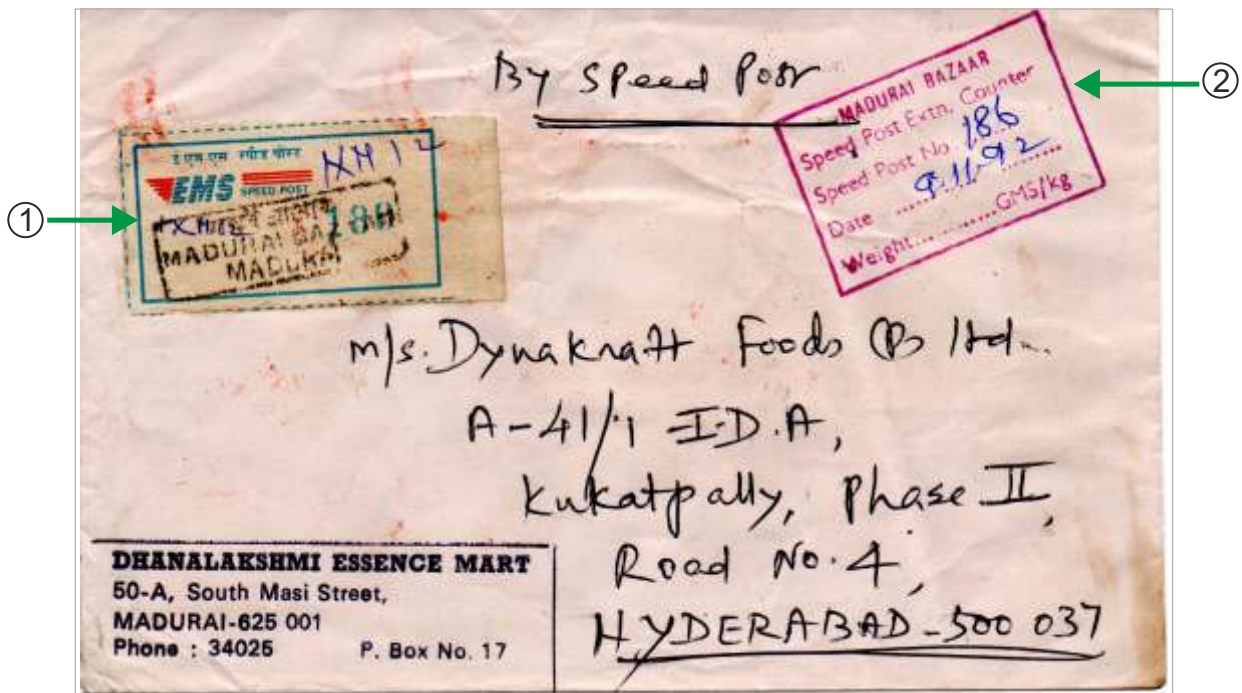


# “SPEED POST” A Philatelic Guide



A typical cover sent by Speed Post

A Typical Cover



Speed Post sent from Madurai to Hyderabad (1003km)  
Date of Posting : 9.11.1992 Travel time  
Date of Receipt : 11.11.1992  
Speed Post Rate : 30/- (Beyond 500 kms)  
Rate valid from 1.12.1990 till 1.07.1997

Travel Time : 2 days  
1. Identification Label  
2. Multi tier HS with booking data.

Speed Post is high Speed Postal Service by India Post

## Speed Post Collector's Guide

Meter Marks (1), Cancellations (2), Labels (3) & Post Marks (4).



I hope that you will enjoy viewing my study; which has given me great pleasure over many years of collection and research.

A few words of explanation might be useful for those who do not specialize in "Speed Post".

The introduction of Speed Post was Preceded by

1. Express Delivery (1-10-1930) to 31-10-1974
2. PIN Code System (15-8-1972)
3. QMS System

Key Stages in Evolution of Speed Post in India include

(I) EMS (Express Mail Service)

India Post has been part of the UPU since 01 July 1876.

EMS is a generic name used for Express Mail Service by UPU in their member countries worldwide.

Worldwide 'EMS' was experimented by UPU in the 1980/90's to standardize the protocol for handling the mail across borders & internally.

The adopted name by UPU for EMS mail was called "S-10" Standards.

The "UPU Co-Operative for EMS" was formed in 1998, India Post EMS Service was named as *Speed Post*.

(II) Meghdoot Software - 1998

Indian Point of Sale machine (PoS) & Software - Development

"Meghdoot" software is designed & maintained by Centre for Excellence on Postal Technology (PTC), Mysore (However PTC was field testing with 'PoS' technology as early as 1992).

The First fully featured Version of "Meghdoot" was released in 1998; with the roll out of "Meghdoot" Point of sale systems.

(III) Project "Arrow" - 2008

Department of Post(DOP) introduced 'Project Arrow' scheme in April 2008 to transform India Post into a vibrant & responsive organization. A new logo for India Post was introduced in 2008.

(IV) IT Modernization Project - 2012

The IT Modernization project of DOP jointly with Tata Consultancy Project (TCS) was approved as a Mission Mode e-governance project.

The project aims was to transforming the efficiency and improve service delivery through up gradation of technology & connectivity. Networking all 1.5 Lakh Post Office covering the remotest part of the country with tracking & tracing of all kinds of mail & parcel.



Rajesh Pamnani  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

| No | Sub | Description                                      | Period 1 (1986-96) | Period 2 (1997-1998) | Period 3 (1998-2008) | Period 4 (2008-2012) | Period 5 (2012-2020) | Remarks                 |
|----|-----|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  |     | MARKINGS <i>(Post Marks &amp; Cancellations)</i> |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.1 | Early Rubber Stamps                              |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.2 | Instructional Marks                              |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.3 | Too Late for Today's Despatch                    |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.4 | Delay Intimated                                  |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.5 | Delivery Post Marks                              |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.6 | Postal Cancellations                             |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 1.7 | Numbering System                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 2  |     | RATES & PAYMENT SLIPS                            |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.1 | Meter Marks (Reg/Speed Post)                     |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.2 | Meter Marks (Meghdoot)                           |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.3 | Payment Slips – Non Bar Coded                    |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.4 | Payment Slips with Bar Code (Combined)           |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.5 | Rate - Weight Criteria                           |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.6 | Rate - Distance Reiteria                         |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.7 | Indicators : Tax                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.8 | Indicators : Service Category                    |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 2.9 | MISC.  |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 3  |     | RECEIPTS   |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 3.1 | Pre Printed (Handwritten)                        |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 3.2 | Digital - Computerised (Meghdoot)                |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 3.3 | BNPL Record Books                                |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 3.4 | GST implications                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 4  |     | Identification Labels (Track & Trace)            |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 4.1 | Manuscript - Hand Written                        |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 4.2 | Pre Printed- Un-Gummed                           |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 4.3 | Digital Series - Barcoded                        |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 4.4 | Combined Barcode Label with Manual data          |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 4.5 | State-wise Indicators                            |                    |                      | X                    | X                    | X                    | From 2005 onwards       |
|    | 4.6 | Inscription / "Year" Printed on Labels           |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      | Noted :2016/17/18/19/20 |
|    | 4.7 | Errors & Varieties                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 4.8 | Abbreviations,Acronyms & Anomalies               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 5  |     | PROMOTIONAL MARKS & MATERIAL                     |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.1 | EMS Logo & its Development.                      |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.1 | Slogan Postmarks                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.2 | Advertising Stickers                             |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.3 | Greetings  |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.4 | Rubber Stamps                                    |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.5 | Publicity Labels                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 5.6 | POD with Pictures                                |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 6  |     | Service - Extensions                             |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 6.1 | Private /BNPL Bulk Customers                     |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 6.2 | Collection Agency/                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 6.3 | Extension Counters                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 6.4 | Franchise Offices                                |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 6.5 | Mobile Post Office                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 7  |     | SERVICES   |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 7.1 | Proof of Delivery (POD)                          |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 7.2 | Book Now Pay Later (BNPL)                        |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 7.3 | Free Pickup Service                              |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 7.4 | Passport service                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 7.5 | Devotional Service                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 7.6 | Rakhi service                                    |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 8  |     | ROUTES   |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 8.1 | Delivery Routes                                  |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 8.2 | Delivery Scheme                                  |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
| 9  |     | MISC.  |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.1 | Stamps,MS (& FDC) with EMS theme                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.2 | Special Covers                                   |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.3 | Notices & Correspondence                         |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.4 | Tags for Mail Bags                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.5 | Instructional Labels                             |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.6 | COVID - Challenges /Marks/Slogan's               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    | 9.9 | Refund for delay                                 |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |
|    |     | Updated 2020-10-17                               |                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                         |

## India Post - Logo - Introduction

India Post Logo:-Date : 1993



Indian Post Logo Designed by R. K. Joshi One more examples of classical logos of India is Indian Post Logo. Indian Post is the largest postal network of the World. It was year 1993 when legendary designer R.K. Joshi was at teaching at IDC, IIT Bombay, he designed the logo of Indian Post. The logo was launched on India Post Day, October 9 that year. The philosophy behind the logo is explained here.

It represented speedy action and dynamism. The logo also shows the skill and good sense of aesthetics in form of an appealing asymmetric balance in the form. The form is an envelope, the straight parallel lines with sharp angular ends represent the speed with which the postal India services transfers posts across the length and breadth of India. The colour Red signifies the depth of its reach in India. Red adds extra prominence to the speed concept of postal services for which the logo stands for. (Source: D'source, IIT Bombay)

Date : 24th September 2008  
Explaining the New Logo of India Post



Later in year 2008, Ministry of Communications and IT, launched a new corporate identity of Indian Post working with a design agency, Ogilvy and Mather. The new Indian Post Logo is inspired by the fact that Indian Post carries emotion across physical distance.

At first glance, it is an envelope and at the next glance, it is a bird in flight, unhindered and unrestricted. The following bold strokes convey free flight. The new logo kept the red colour because of its longer association with Indian post.

The construct of the logo is inspired by the fact that India Post carries emotion across physical distance. The choices of colours are Red and Yellow. Red has been chosen for its traditional association with the Postal Service. It embodies passion, power and commitment. Yellow communicates hope, joy and happiness. Evidence of the combination of the two colours is found across the country.

India Post is the bridge across physical distance and is committed to deploy efficient means to reduce the time between sending a missive to receiving it. India Post is forward-looking and modern. It embraces change and incorporates services to fulfill the requirements of its customers. India Post makes social, commercial and industrial life possible in modern India.

It is the recognition of this stellar service in a changed world that has prompted the refurbishment of the India Post Logo. The first insight that was brought on board was the evolution of design, which has become increasingly organic. This is a departure from straight lines, which the current logo is dominated by. There is an element of modernity that the refurbishment aims at. At the same time, there is a conscious effort to maintain an element of continuity. The 'wings' are the anchoring element that have been retained.

With the introduction of the logo India Posts embraces change to be a vibrant and dynamic organization, with modern and professional approach in its service to individuals and businesses.

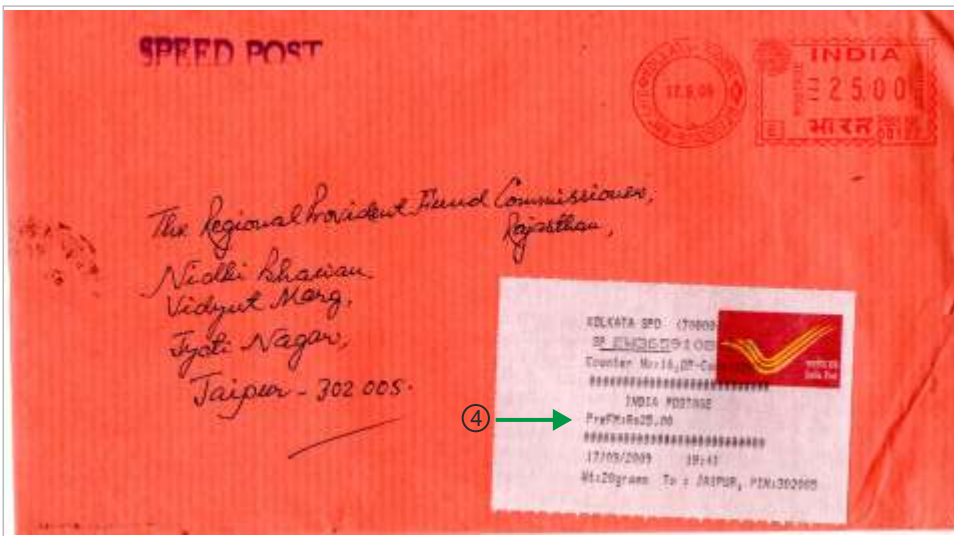
With more than 1,55,000 post offices covering the urban and rural populace, Indian Postal network is the largest in the world. India Post is poised for a major change in terms of new look Post Offices across India and new services. oncept of postal services for which the logo stands for. (Source: D'source, IIT Bombay)



India Post - Logo -



①



②



③





UPU

Postal services form part of the daily life of people all over the world. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is the specialised agency of the United Nations that regulates the universal postal service. The postal services of its 192 member countries form the largest physical distribution network in the world. More than 5 million postal employees working in over 660 000 post offices all over the world handle an annual total of 434 billion letter-post items in the domestic service and 5,5 billion in the international service. More than 6 billion parcels are sent by post annually. Keeping pace with the changing communications market, postal operators are increasingly using new communication and information technologies to move beyond what is traditionally regarded as their core postal business. They are meeting higher customer expectations with an expanded range of products and value-added services.



Express Mail Service (EMS)

EMS – the Express Mail Service – is a global brand designating the postal product with the fastest delivery. Posts in around 200 countries and territories worldwide offer this premium end-to-end service for documents and merchandise.



EMS Speed Post - India Post

The EMS service in India is EMS Speed Post, part of India Post which is India's designated universal postal service provider, supporting customers, businesses and communities worldwide. India Post was founded in 1858 and joined the EMS Cooperative in 1999.

## INDIA POST TRACKING NUMBER FORMATS

Different types of postal service have different kinds of tracking number formats.

The tracking number for Express Parcel is a 13 digit alphanumeric format.

The format for Express Parcel is XX000000000XX.

The tracking number for a Registered Mail is a 13 digit alphanumeric number and its format is RX123456789IN.

But a Electronic Money Order (EMO) has a 18 digit tracking number and its format is 000000000000000000.

For domestic Speed Post (EMS) there is a 13 digit alphanumeric tracking number with the format EE123456789IN.

| <b>Bharatiya Dak Ghar Seva</b>                      | <b>Tracking Number Format</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Electronic Money Order (eMO)                        | 000000000000000000            |
| Express Parcel                                      | XX000000000XX                 |
| International EMS Artilces to be delivered in India | EE123456789XX                 |
| Registered Mail                                     | RX123456789IN                 |
| Speed Post (EMS) Domestic                           | EE123456789IN                 |

## (S10 Bar Code Standards)



The identification requirement is met by the definition and use of a 13-character postal item identifier, according to which a single authority in each UPU member country controls the allocation of unique item identifiers for use with the special categories of postal items concerned.

The UPU S10 standard defines a system for assigning 13-character identifiers to postal items for the purpose of tracking and tracing them during shipping. The identifiers consist of a two letter service indicator code, an eight digit serial number (in the range 00000000 to 99999999), a single check-digit, and a two-letter ISO country code—the latter identifying the issuing postal administration's country.

### **Structure of the S10 identifier**

#### **Overall structure**

S10 identifiers have four components, shown in the following table.

The result has a fixed length of 13 characters.

1 and 2 is Service indicator (2<sup>nd</sup> Digit Service Indicator):

3 to 10 Serial number is the 8 digit serial number

11 no is the check digit

12 and 13 is Country code.

#### **Service indicator**

The service indicator comprises two alphabetic characters drawn from the table of service indicators intended for universal use between designated operators, the first character indicates the type of postal product or service and the second character is assigned by the origin operator from a range of allowed values. A number of service indicators have been allocated for domestic/bilateral/multilateral use. These may therefore be freely used for this purpose without risk of a possible conflict with items intended for universal use.

#### **Serial number**

The serial number shall be exactly eight digits in length. Where required to ensure a length of eight digits, leading zeros are used.

Thus any value in the range 00000000 to 99999999 is a valid serial number.

#### **Check digit**

A check digit is an arithmetically derived number that is used to support the detection of substitution and transposition errors which can occur during data capture. In the case of S10 identifiers, the 11th character is a check digit calculated in accordance with the following algorithm, called weighted modulus 11.



### Country code

This shall be the two-character ISO 3166–1 code of the UPU member country under whose authority the S10 identifier is issued (India is “IN”).

### Assigned service indicators by product type

| Types of Products | Allowable service indicator values                           | Examples (fictitious, for illustration only) |
|-------------------|--|--|
| EMS               | EA–EZ EMS; the use of EX–EZ requires bilateral agreement. ** | Example 1<br>EE123456785IN                   |

(\*\*See next page for this second letter Usage Code for Postal Circles in India)

### Human-readable representation of S10 identifiers

A human-readable representation of the S10 identifier shall be printed in close proximity to (1 mm–5 mm above or below) and parallel to the barcoded representation. Additional copies of the human readable representation may be printed without associated barcode, provided that each has identical content and the content is identical to that of the barcode.

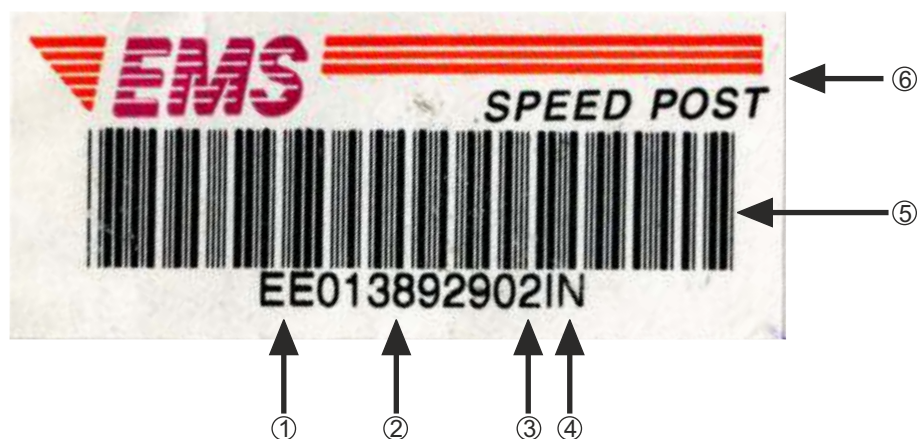
The human-readable representation consists of 13 characters.

Spaces may be inserted to enhance readability.

The recommended combination of data and spaces is AA NNN NNN NNN AA. Only upper case alphabetic and numeric characters may be used.

### How to read, measure & differentiate the Bar Code Labels

Early Type



Later Type



#### Universal Aspects

1. Service Indicator for Early EMS
2. 8 Digit number
3. 9th Digit - check digit
4. Country Indicator - IN

#### Differentiators in Labels (Over Period of Time)

5. Bar code size (L x W)
6. EMS Logo & Speed Post (Size & Colour)
7. Code Name of Postal Circle
8. Size of the Label (L x W).



## I. Indian Postal Circles & their (Postal Codes).

Generic Used from <1986> - < >



Generic Label

Indicates this Postal Circle Code adopted for use from year < >



State "Code" Label

| Name of Circle   | Bar Code series for articles | Bar Code series for bags    |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh   | EN                           | EBN                         |
| Assam            | ES                           | EBS                         |
| APS              | EE 90000000 - 99999999       | EBE 0000000001 - 2499999999 |
| Bihar            | EF                           | EBF                         |
| Chattisgarh      | EC                           | EBC                         |
| Delhi            | ED                           | EBD                         |
| Gujarat          | EG                           | EBG                         |
| Haryana          | EH                           | EBH                         |
| Himachal Pradesh | EE 70000000 - 79999999       | EBE 2500000000 - 4999999999 |
| Jammu & Kashmir  | EE 80000000 - 89999999       | EBE 5000000000 - 7499999999 |
| Jharkhand        | EJ                           | EBJ                         |
| Karnataka        | EK                           | EBK                         |
| Kerala           | EL                           | EBL                         |
| Maharashtra      | EM                           | EBM                         |
| Madhya Pradesh   | EI                           | EBI                         |
| North East       | EE 40000000 - 49999999       | EBE 7500000000 - 9999999999 |
| Odisha           | EO                           | EBO                         |
| Punjab           | EP                           | EBP                         |
| Rajasthan        | ER                           | EBR                         |
| Tamil Nadu       | ET                           | EBT                         |
| Uttarakhand      | EU                           | EBU                         |
| Uttar Pradesh    | EU                           | EBU                         |
| West Bengal      | EW                           | EBW                         |

| Speed Post corporate customers |    |  |
|--------------------------------|----|--|
| Delhi                          | EQ |  |
| Maharashtra                    | EA |  |

## II. Abbreviations Used on Meter Marks

1. On Postal Service
2. Pre FM = Prepaid by Franking Letter
3. Pre SS = Prepaid by Service Stamps
4. Pre PS = Prepaid by Postage Stamps
5. Amount= Cash Paid
- 6A.Pre:Rs (Value by Postage Stamp) & Amount (Post Paid by Cash)
- B. PrePs:Rs. (Value by Postage Stamp) & Amount: (Post Paid by Cash)
7. POD = Proof of Delivery
8. Inl = "Inland"

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <p>1.</p>   |  <p>2.</p>   |
|  <p>3.</p>  |  <p>4.</p>  |
|  <p>5.</p> |  <p>6.</p> |
|  <p>7.</p> |  <p>8.</p> |

## Speed Post Service - Growth & Expansions

(Initial Years)

“SPEED POST” Service was first introduced by India Post on 1-8-1986 in following 7 cities as

Inland Speed Post Services:

1. Ahmedabad
2. Bangalore
3. Calcutta
4. Chennai
5. Delhi
6. Hyderabad
7. Mumbai

### **1A. Ahmedabad Centre**

In Ahmedabad, Speed Post Service was first introduced at 3 post office viz., Ahmedabad G.P.O., Ahmedabad R.M.O. and Ahmedabad Railwaypura. Inland Speed Post.

### **1B. Gujarat Circle**

The Department of Posts, Gujarat Circle, has provided Speed Post Services at number of places in different cities and all of them are up as a Speed Post Service Centres in the national network of EMS. The Speed Post Service has achieved good amount of response from the customers at large.

During the early period, this service was running with high degree of success at almost all the Speed Post Service Centres in Gujarat Circle.

The Centres like Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat and Gandhinagar were functioning in the national network of EMS where as Anand, Gandhidham, Kandla, Kandla Free Trade Zone & Morbi were working as Point to Point Speed Post Service Centre.

In Gujarat, normally mails were delivered from one centre to another through Train only.

| City           | Date of Start |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Vadodara    | 15.11.1986    |
| 2. Surat       | 15.11.1987    |
| 3. Gandhinagar | 15.08.1996    |
| 4. Rajkot      | 21.10.1997    |

| City             | Date of Start |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Pune          | 15.11.1986    |
| 2. Patna         | 18.1.1988     |
| 3. Chandigarh    | 18.1.1988     |
| 4. Jammu Tawi    | 26.9.1988     |
| 5. Shilong       | 18.1.1988     |
| 6. Guwahati      | 15.11.1986    |
| 7. Agartala      | 4.4.1987      |
| 8. Imphal        | 15.9.1987     |
| 9. Port Blair HO | 8.2.1993      |
| 10. Pondicherry  | 10.1.1989     |
| 11. Salem        | 18.1.1988     |
| 12. Cochin       | 15.11.1986    |
| 13. Gwalior      | 18.1.1988     |
| 14. Goa          | 10.1.1989     |
| 15. Cuttack      | 18.1.1988     |
| 16. Allahabad    | 10.1.1989     |

### **Speed Post Inland Centres**

During the early period of its introduction, “SPEED POST” service was launched at number of post offices of various cities in different states of India.

At that point of time, this service was functioning very efficiently at 77 centres and all of them were linked up as Speed Post Service Centres in the national network of EMS.