

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as the Chief Guest at the Dak Sewa Awards 2019 and release of Special cover to mark 50 years of World Post Day function organised by Department of Posts

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as the Chief Guest at the Dak Sewa Awards 2019 and release of Special cover to mark 50 years of World Post Day function organised by Department of Posts at Vani Mahal, T.Nagar, Chennai today (15.10.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am happy to be here today at the Dak Sewa Awards presentation ceremony being held on the occasion of celebrations of the National Postal Week. A special cover has also been released today to mark the completion of 50 years of the observance of the world postal Day in India.

Beginning of the celebration of the National Postal Week coincides with the observance of the World Postal Day on 9th October. The day also marks the anniversary of the creation of the Universal Postal Union.

The Universal Union has an interesting history. The Union was established by the Treaty of Bern and is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.

Before the establishment of the UPU, every pair of countries that exchanged mail had to negotiate a postal treaty with each other. In the absence of a treaty providing for direct delivery of letters, senders sometimes resorted to mail forwarders who would transfer the mail through an intermediate country. Negotiations for postal treaties could drag on for years.

It was the Treaty of Bern which provided that:

1. There should be a uniform flat rate to mail a letter anywhere in the world
2. Postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail
3. Each country should retain all money it has collected for international postage.

One important result of the Treaty also was that it was no longer necessary to affix postage stamps of countries that a mail piece passed through in transit. The UPU provides that stamps from member nations are accepted along the entire international route.

The postal department in India has an all pervading presence. It is the most widely spread out postal system in the world and is involved in delivering mail, remitting money by money orders, accepting deposits under Small Savings Schemes, providing life insurance cover under Postal Life Insurance and providing retail services like bill collection, sale of forms, etc. The Department of Posts also acts as an agent for Government of India in discharging other services for citizens such as old age pension payments and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) wage disbursement.

The growth of the department has also been phenomenal. The number of post offices which was 23,344 when India became independent in 1947 has increased to nearly 1.6 lakhs now and 90% of these are in rural areas.

The Aadhaar identity platform which is one of the key pillars of 'Digital India', and is the largest biometrics based identification system in the world is made available across nearly 1500 post offices in the Tamil Nadu circle alone and in about 13,352 post offices at the national level. These post offices provide Aadhaar enrolment services and also updation services.

The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a 100% government owned payments bank operating under the Department of Posts, which aims to utilize all of India's 1.6 lakhs post offices as access points and 3 lakhs postal postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks to provide house to house banking services. The first phase of the bank with 650 branches and 3250 post offices as access points was inaugurated on 1st September 2018.

The digital banking through the post offices reduces the gap between the haves and the have-nots. I have been informed that this bank is performing Yeoman service at the grass roots level. As an illustration, during the period April-March 2018, the Department of Posts disbursed an amount of Rs.2,224 crore to more than 2.73 crore beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme and other Social Security Pension Schemes through National Automated Clearing House Platform.

Opening Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) account in India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) account or enrolment and updation of Aadhaar at the post offices has to be seen in this context of enabling Direct Benefit Transfer and making services accessible. These contribute enormously to arresting leakages in reaching the benefits of various schemes of the Government directly to the citizens. This has

benefited the poor and the needy, be it in delivery of Scholarships to poor students or LPG Gas subsidy to women, or social security pension to the elderly and destitute.

Once one realises this big picture the importance and context of these new products and services being introduced and offered in the post offices can be easily appreciated. The postman is always known to be helpful. He delivers letters to all recipients but when he delivers it to a person who is illiterate, the postman does not merely deliver that letters. He also reads out the letters to the illiterate persons. This helpful attitude has made him a role model for social service and given the department an iconic position in our nation. Offering that small extra help to the needy and deserving, keeping their interests uppermost in mind, which generally no Department rule prescribes or mandates, has given the departmental person a sense of family bonding with the common people which no words can describe. Everyone of you who delivers that extra service to bring a smile on the face of the poor and the needy is experiencing a happiness which is unique and fulfilling. To recognize the outstanding services in the postal department. State level awards and National level awards are conferred on the employees in eight different categories viz.,

- (1) Gramin Dak Sevak,
- (2) Postmen and equivalent levels,
- (3) Postal Assistant / Sorting Assistant and equivalent levels,
- (4) General line Supervisors,
- (5) Inspectors of Post Offices and Assistant Superintendents of Post Offices,
- (6) Group A / Group B employees,
- (7) Awards for Technology Excellence,
and awards for the
- (8) Best Women Employees.

I am given to understand that the awardees are shortlisted by a panel after careful scrutiny, giving weightage for various aspects viz., devotion to duty, efficiency in performance, contribution to improving the image of the Department, best turn-out, unimpeachable conduct, behavior and integrity, qualities of leadership, outstanding act(s) worthy of commendation etc. I congratulate all the awardees who have been conferred with the Dak Sewa Awards today and I applaud their exemplary work and unique contribution in the department.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate all the employees of the Department who have contributed for efficient Dak Sewa in the country by treating every citizen of

India as their valued customer. I extended my greetings to all of you and wish that you should all be visited with success in all your noble endeavours.”

On this occasion, Thiru. M. Sampath, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle, Thirumathi Sumathi Ravichandran, Post Master General, Central Region, Thirumathi J. Charukesi, Post Master General, Mail and Business Development, Thirumathi Sheuli Burman, Post Master General, Western Region, Thiru. R. Anand, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region, Thirumathi M. Anita, General Manager, Postal Accounts and Finance and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date :15.10.2019

Joint Director (PR)