

**ARRANGEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA AND THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF
BHUTAN FOR THE POSTAL EXCHANGE
OF CORRESPONDENCE**

New Delhi, 11 September 1962

In order to establish an exchange of correspondence between India and Bhutan, the undersigned, duly authorised for the purpose,

HAVE agreed upon the following articles :

Article 1

There shall be, between the Postal Administration of India and the Postal Administration of Bhutan, a regular exchange of the following kinds of fully pre-paid unregistered correspondence, namely, letters, single postcards, printed papers, business papers and samples of merchandise.

Article 2

The offices of exchange shall be Calcutta Foreign Post, Calcutta R.M.S., Siliguri R.M.S. and Dalsingpara Sub Office on the side of India and Thimpu, Paro and Phuntsholing on the side of Bhutan.

Article 3

The Postage on postal articles exchanged between the two Administrations shall be paid by means of postage stamps of the country of origin and such pre-payment shall entitle the postal articles to be delivered free of all postal charges. The two Administrations shall communicate to each other details of their tariffs of postal charges and shall supply each other with 6 complete sets of postage stamps used in their respective services.

1. Came into force on 11 September 1962.

Article 4

Unpaid or insufficiently pre-paid correspondence which is wrongly accepted shall be liable to a charge, to be paid by the addressee, equal to double postage or double the amount of deficiency.

Article 5

Each Administration shall keep the whole of the sums which it collects under Articles 3 and 4.

Article 6

No supplementary postage shall be chargeable for the re-direction of articles of correspondence within India and Bhutan.

Article 7

Correspondence of all kinds which is not delivered from whatever cause, shall be returned as soon as possible after the period for keeping it as required by the regulations of the country of destination, and at the latest at the expiration of two months, through the medium of the respective offices of exchange in a special bundle labelled "Rebuts".

Article 8

Mails exchanged between the two Administrations shall be accompanied by letter bills which shall be placed in blue envelopes marked distinctly "Letter bills". A pattern of the letter bill² is appended to this Arrangement.

Article 9

- (1) As a general rule, the articles of the mails shall be classified and tied up in bundles according to the nature of the correspondence.

Letters bearing traces of violation or damage shall have the fact noted on them and be marked with the date-stamp of the office making the note.

- (2) Every mail, after having been tied with string, shall be wrapped in strong paper sufficient in quantity to prevent damage to the contents, then tied again with string on the outside and sealed with wax by means of the official seal. The mail shall be furnished with a printed address bearing, in small characters, the name of the despatching office and in larger characters the name of the office of destination :

2. See Annexure A.

"From for".
When their size requires it, mails shall be enclosed in bags properly closed, sealed with wax or lead and labelled.

- (3) The label used for mails sent in bags shall be of strong thick paper or of paper affixed to blocks. The label shall indicate in a legible manner the office of origin and that of destination.
- (4) When the number or bulk of the mail necessitates the use of more than one bag, separate bags shall, as far as possible, be utilised :
 - (a) for letters and postcards;
 - (b) for other articles.

Each bag shall bear an indication of its contents.

- (5) No bag shall exceed 20 Kilograms in weight.

Article 10

The bags shall be returned empty to the despatching office by the next mail in the absence of other arrangements between the two Administrations.

The return of empty bags shall be effected by such office of exchange of the two countries as are respectively appointed for the purpose by the Administrations interested, after previous understanding.

The empty bags shall be rolled up and tied together in suitable bundles, the label blocks, if any, being placed inside the bags. The bundles shall be supplied with a label showing the name of the office of exchange whence the bags have been received on every occasion whenever they are returned through another office of exchange.

If the bags to be returned are not too numerous, they may be placed in the bags containing correspondence. In the contrary case, they shall be placed separately in sealed bags, labelled with the names of the respective offices of exchange. The labels shall be marked "Empty bags".

Article 11

- (1) The office of exchange which received a mail shall ascertain whether the entries in the letter bill are correct.
- (2) When the office of exchange detects errors or omissions it shall immediately make the necessary corrections on the letter bill, taking care to strike out the erroneous entries with a pen in such a manner as to leave the original entries legible.

- (3) These corrections shall be made by two officers in the case of an important office and by the officer-in-charge only in the case of an unimportant office where he works single-handed. Except when an obvious error has been committed, they shall be accepted in preference to the original statement.
- (4) A verification certificate, in conformity with the specimen form annexed to this Arrangement, shall be prepared by the receiving office and sent without delay to the despatching office.
- (5) The despatching office, after examination, shall return the verification certificate with any observations to which it may give rise.
- (6) In case of the non-receipt of a mail or of the letter bill, the fact shall immediately be reported by means of a verification certificate by the office of destination to the despatching office.

As soon as a mail which had been reported to the office of origin as missing comes to hand, a second verification certificate shall be addressed to that office announcing the receipt of the mail.

- (7) When the office of destination has not forwarded to the despatching office, by the first mail, after verification, a certificate reporting errors or irregularities of any kind the absence of that document shall be regarded as evidence of the due receipt of the mail and its contents, until the contrary be proved.

Article 12

Neither of the two contracting parties shall send to the other by post any article the importation or transmission of which by post is prohibited in the latter country, or any article which is liable to customs duty. Each Administration shall communicate to the other a list of the articles so prohibited. Any postal article which has been erroneously given transmission, shall be returned to the country of origin, except in cases where the Administration of the country of destination is authorised by its laws or by its internal regulations to dispose of it otherwise. Explosives, inflammable or dangerous substances, obscene or immoral articles, however, shall not be returned to the country of origin; when their presence is detected by the Administration of the country of destination, they shall be destroyed on the spot.

Article 13

The Postal Administration of India will forward to such of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union as indicated by the

Postal Administration of Bhutan, articles of correspondence of Bhutanese origin under the provisions of Article 7 of U.P. Convention, Ottawa, 1957. No transit charge will be levied by the Indian posts and Telegraphs Administration for forwarding such mails to those foreign countries either by surface or by air. The Bhutan Administration will prescribe appropriate postage rates for surface and air mail correspondence, which will be in conformity with the Indian Postage rates.

Article 14

The present Arrangement shall take effect on the 11th September, 1962. It shall then continue in force until it shall be modified or determined by mutual consent of the contracting parties or until six months after the date on which one of the contracting parties shall have notified the other of its intention to terminate it.

EXECUTED in duplicate and signed.

At New Delhi, the 11th September, 1962.

Sd/-

M. DAYAL
MAHESHWAR DAYAL
Member (Posts, Press and Telegraphs, Board)
New Delhi (India).

Sd/-

LHENDUP DORJI
Acting Prime Minister,
Bhutan.

ANNEXURE-"A"

LETTER BILL

Country of destination.

Mail (the despatch) from the office of exchange of _____
 For the office of exchange of _____ sent
 on the _____ 19 at _____ Hours _____ Minutes
 Arrived on the _____ 19 at " " "

Stamp of the office
 of despatch

Stamp of the office
 of destination.

No. _____ of the mail And number of bags _____
 Number of bags composing the mail including bags containing empty
 bags _____
 Official notes _____
 Total number of articles despatched _____

Officer of the despatching
 Office of exchange

Officer of the receiving
 Office of exchange

Administration

Correspondence

Office of
 Stamp of the office
 of despatch

of _____
 stamp of the office
 of destination.

Verification certificate for reporting and correcting errors and irregularities of
 all kinds in the mail No. _____ from the office of exchange of for the
 office of exchange of despatch of the 19 at H.

Various errors or irregularities. Non receipt of the mail or of the letter bill,
 abstraction from the mail, bag torn or in bad condition etc.

_____ on the _____ 19 _____ on the _____ 19

Officers of the office of Exchange
 destination

Examined and accepted of

_____ Head of the despatching
 Office of exchange.