



DoP Launched New Digital Platforms

[Source: PIB](#)

The **Department of Posts (DoP)** launched two digital platforms-‘**Know Your DIGIPIN**’ and ‘**Know Your PIN Code**’, marking a significant stride in India’s efforts **to modernise its address system and geospatial governance** under the framework of the [National Geospatial Policy 2022](#).

- **Know Your DIGIPIN:**
 - **DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number)** is an **open-source, geo-coded, grid-based digital addressing system** developed to enable **precise location identification** using **latitude and longitude coordinates**.
 - DIGIPIN **links addresses to exact latitude-longitude coordinates**, enabling **high-resolution geospatial identification**.
 - It facilitates **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** by providing secure, standardised digital address solutions.
 - Incorporates [Geographic Information System \(GIS\)](#) tools to **enhance logistics, emergency response, and digital governance**.
 - It enables digital **address access in remote and underserved regions**.
- **Know Your PIN Code:**
 - **Digitally defines boundaries** of over 1.5 lakh PIN Codes by **geo-fencing of PIN zones** to improve location accuracy.
 - Enables users to find the correct PIN Code using real-time [GNSS \(Global Navigation Satellite System\)](#) location data.
 - Includes a **public feedback system** for continuous improvement of the PIN Code database.
 - **Enhances delivery networks**, emergency services, and postal logistics, especially for e-commerce and rural areas.

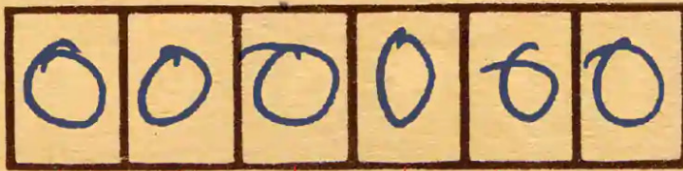
What are PIN codes?

PIN or Postal Index Number codes, are 6-digit codes which are part of the postal office numbering system used by India Post. These are also known as Zip codes or area codes and each of the six digits has a particular meaning.

Brief history

The PIN Code system was introduced in India by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar, who had served as an additional secretary in the Union ministry of communications. Its implementation began from August 15, 1972, with the objective of simplifying the sorting of mails, speeding up mail transmission and delivery.

The need for such a system was realised due to the confusion resulting from the duplication of names of various places across the country, the use of multiple languages to write addresses, and different ways in which the name of a place could be spelt. For example, in Tamil Nadu, names like Mettur and Aathur are very common. PIN codes help postmen deliver the letters to right people.



FIRST DIGIT: Postal zone SECOND DIGIT: Sub-zone/ state or Union territory

The first digit indicates postal zones which range from 1 to 9. There are 9 postal zones in India. The postal zones are further divided into sub-regions, which are denoted by the second digit. The sub-regions are often the states or Union territories. It's indicated as:

11 Delhi	Pradesh
12, 13 Haryana	50 Telangana
14, 15 Punjab	56-59 Karnataka
16 Chandigarh	60-64 Tamil Nadu,
17 Himachal Pradesh	Puducherry
18, 19 Jammu & Kashmir	67-69 Kerala, Lakshadweep
20-28 Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	70-74 West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
30-34 Rajasthan	75-77 Orissa
36-39 Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli	78 Assam
40-44 Maharashtra	79 Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura
45-48 Madhya Pradesh	80-85 Bihar and Jharkhand
49 Chhattisgarh	90-99 Army Postal Service (APS)
51-53 Andhra Pradesh	

THIRD DIGIT: Sorting district

Combined with first two digits, the third one points to specific geographical regions (except in the case of the functional zone for the Army). This geographical region is known as a sorting district, which is headquartered at the main post office of the largest city in the region and is called the sorting office.

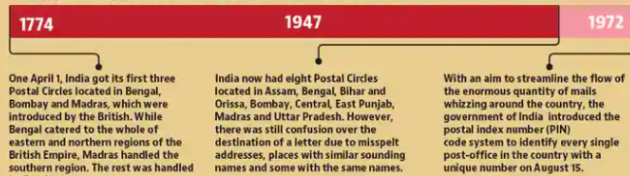
FOURTH DIGIT: Service routes

The fourth digit represents the route on which a delivery post office is located within the sorting district. This digit is 0 for offices which are located in the core area of the sorting district. The third and fourth digit combined zoom in on the mail-sorting district within each state.

LAST TWO DIGITS: Individual post Office

The fifth and sixth digits together identify the specific post-office whose jurisdiction the address falls under. Starting from 01, which indicates the General Post Office (GPO) or head office (HO) in the area, this numbering is done chronologically and higher numbers are assigned to newer delivery offices. If the volume of mail handled at a delivery office is very large, a new delivery office is created and the next available PIN is assigned to that office. As a result, any two delivery offices situated next to each other in an area will have the first four digits in common.

Long journey: From British raj to modern India



SOURCES: MEDIA REPORTS, WIKIPEDIA, INDIA POST ANNUAL REPORT (2018)
GRAPHIC: BIKASH CHOWDHURY

Numbers that matter

At the time of independence, there were 23,144 post offices in India, which were primarily in the urban areas.

19,101	Total number of post offices
23	Total number of post offices in rural areas
51	Total number of post offices in urban areas
446	Total number of post offices in India
24	Total number of post offices in India
810	Total number of post offices in India
24,716	Total number of post offices in India
141	Total number of post offices in India
129,380	Total number of post offices in India
146,623	Total number of post offices in India

154,965 Total number of post offices

139,067 Total number of post offices in rural areas

15,898 Total number of post offices in urban areas



Read More: [National Geospatial Policy 2022](#), [Digital Public Infrastructure](#).

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