World Post Day 2026 (9 October)

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News

World Post Day, 9 October, marks the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at Bern, Switzerland, on 9 October 1874. 2026 theme: 'One postal network, infinite possibilities'. India observes National Postal Week on 9–15 October.

Key facts

Date	9 Oct – founding of the UPU (1874, Bern)
Theme 2026	One postal network, infinite possibilities
Declared	By the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo
Global network	Over 660,000 offices, 4.6 million staff
India	National Postal Week 9–15 Oct; UPU member since 1 July 1876

Background

- UPU: set up by the 1874 Treaty of Bern as the 'General Postal Union', renamed 'Universal Postal Union' in 1878; a UN specialised agency since 1948; HQ Bern; the second-oldest international body (after the ITU, 1865).
- PIN code: introduced on 15 Aug 1972 by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar; 6 digits; 9 PIN zones (8 geographic + 1 Army Postal Service).

- Law: the Post Office Act 2023 replaced the Indian Post Office Act 1898 (in force from 18 June 2024).
- India Post: the world's largest postal network (about 1.6 lakh post offices); India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) – 1 Sept 2018. National Post Day – 10 Oct.
- History: Asia's first postage stamp, the 'Scinde Dawk' – 1852, Karachi; India's first airmail – 18 Feb 1911, Allahabad–Naini.

Tamil Nadu link: PIN codes starting with '6' cover Tamil Nadu and Keralam (with Puducherry and Lakshadweep). The Chennai GPO building (1884) is a heritage structure; the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle is headquartered in Chennai.

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