

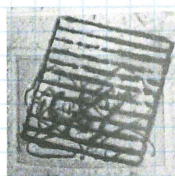
## XVII: A study of early postal cancellations of Hyderabad

Many kinds of cancels were used to obliterate the postal stamps of Hyderabad, key ones are described below and representative examples are shown in stamps or covers bearing the stamps in this exhibit

**1. The first handstruck obliterator of Hyderabad (1869)** - After the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamp on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1869, regular cancellations (rhombus bar cancellation) were not supplied immediately to all post offices. In the absence of regular obliterators the postal employees used handstrucks to obliterate the first postage issues. Example is shown here as well as a cover showing such a handstamp is displayed in next page



**2. The rhombus bar cancellation (1869-1896)** - This was the main cancel of the first postage stamp which was also used initially to cancel the post stamp series until the numeral cancels were introduced. Examples are shown here as well as in intact cover in this exhibit frame



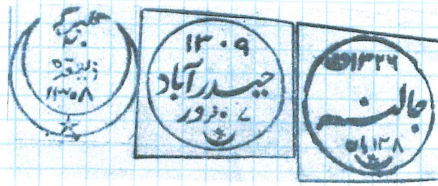
**3. The numeral cancellations (1870-1880)** - The rhombus bar cancel was found to be too big to cancel the smaller post stamp stamps hence numeral cancels were introduced which also contained the numbers designating various places from where they originated



**4. Sarkar-i-Nizam cancel (1881-1891)** - This carried the depiction of text declaring that the stamps and the mail was from the Nizam's province i.e. Hyderabad



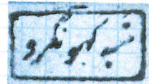
5. General date stamps (1870-1950) – these were used extensively towards the latter part of the years to specify different aspects of postal procedures namely: Date stamps, delivery stamps, time stamps, inward stamps, outward stamps, registered stamps



½ Anna  
Red Brown Post stamp series  
First stamp on left shows dot missing variety while others normal



6. Express stamps (Tappa Ghungru stamps) – these were special rectangular stamps used for express delivery. Examples are scarce and a cover is shown in this frame



7. Post marks of exchange department – After signing the Hyderabad-India postal agreement in 1882, the Hyderabad govt established the exchange department in head post office for inter change of correspondence with English Indian post offices. These cancels were used for such mail

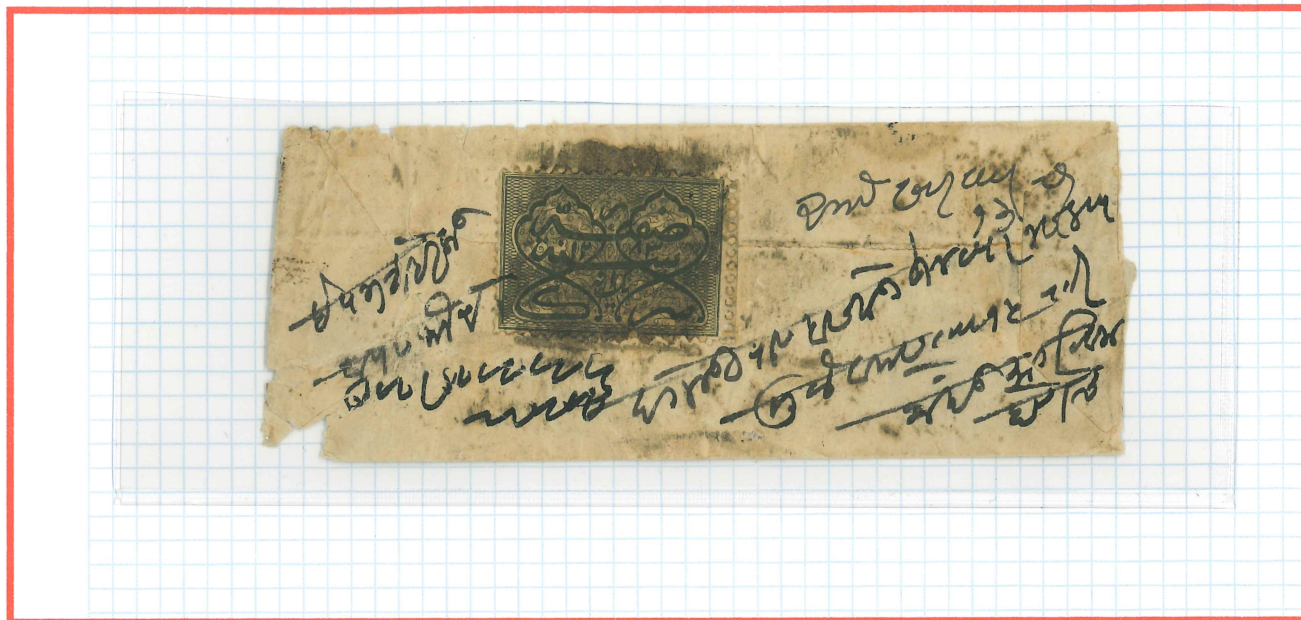


## XVII: A study of early postal cancellations of Hyderabad

### The first handstruck obliterator of Hyderabad

After the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamp on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1869, regular cancellations (rhombus bar cancellation) were not supplied immediately to all post offices. In the absence of regular obliterations the postal employees used handstrucks to obliterate the first postage issues.

Such a practice is evident from the native cover with 1 anna cancelled in black ink shown below



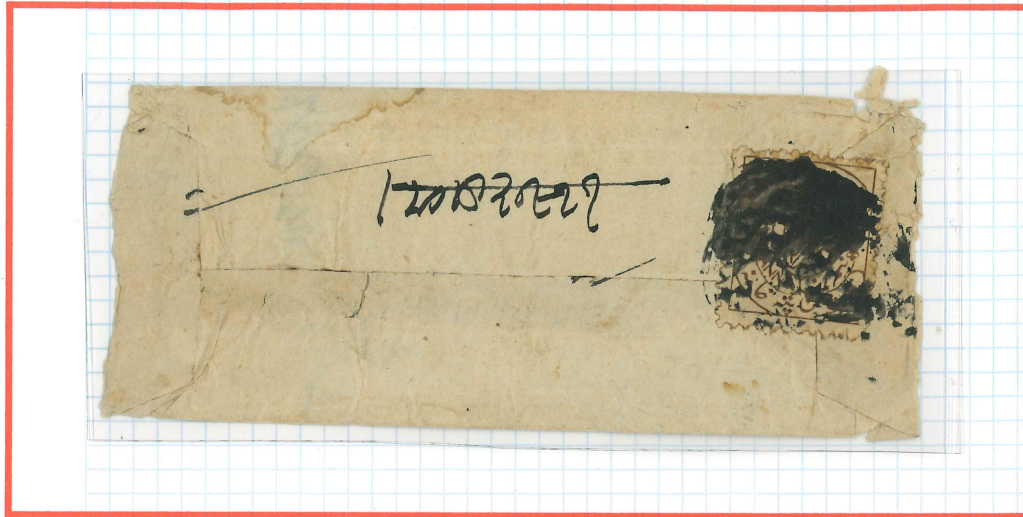
Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker

Another uncommon example is depicted below of an early obliterator in red ink (such cancels are very scarce) displayed here in a partial native cover of Hyderabad of the 1869 usage. Red ink was used for obliterations only during the first year of use of postage stamps

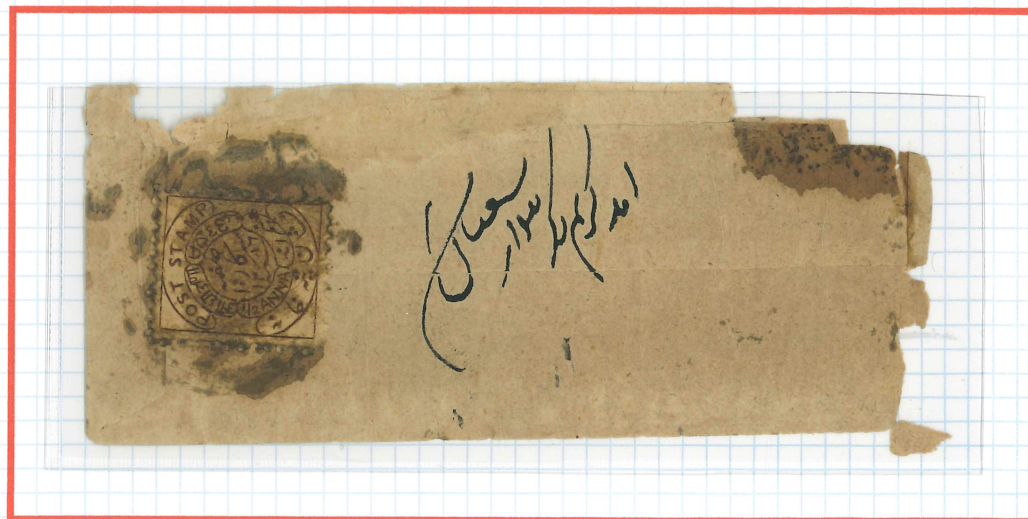


The first handstruck obliterator of Hyderabad used in second issue stamp

The use of early handstruck obliterator is mainly seen in the first stamp of Hyderabad. Here are two examples which shows early handstamp in second ½ anna issue of Hyderabad. Not documented so far and a new find.



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker



Red ink was used for obliterations only during the first year of use of postage stamps and here is another 1 anna local cover, cancelled in red ink. The stamp is 1869 1 anna perf 11 ½



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker

## The first issue Reprint postally used

An 1880 reprint of the first issue of Hyderabad postally used is shown on this cover. These reprints were produced in many colors, not used for the 1869 stamps, and are perf 12 ½ not 11 ½ as the originals.

The reprint stamp appears to have been accepted by the post office and is cancelled by numeral obliterator "164" of Suryapet. A scarce usage on cover



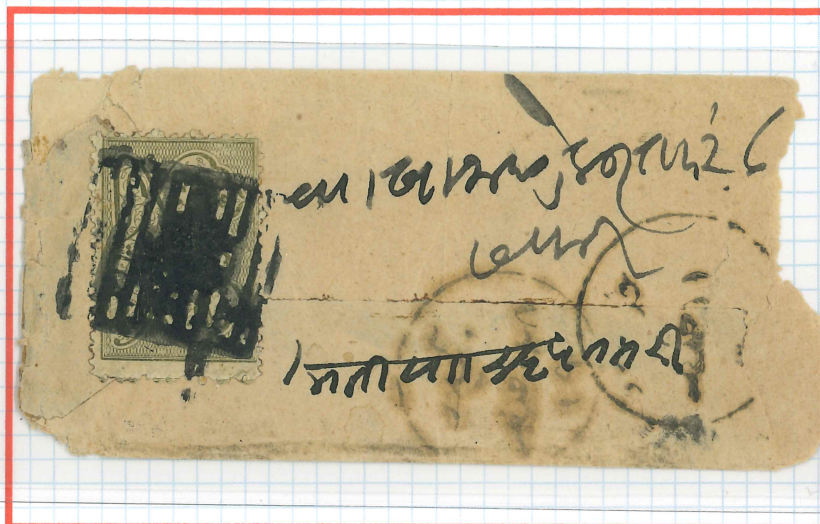
Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker



### The 1869 Bar Cancellation Usage examples

The rhombus bar cancellation was issued in steel dies and varies from 12 bars-11 bars with thick and thin bar lines.

Here is an example of a native cover with 1 anna stamp cancelled with a thick 11 bar rhombus in black (all bars of uniform thickness)



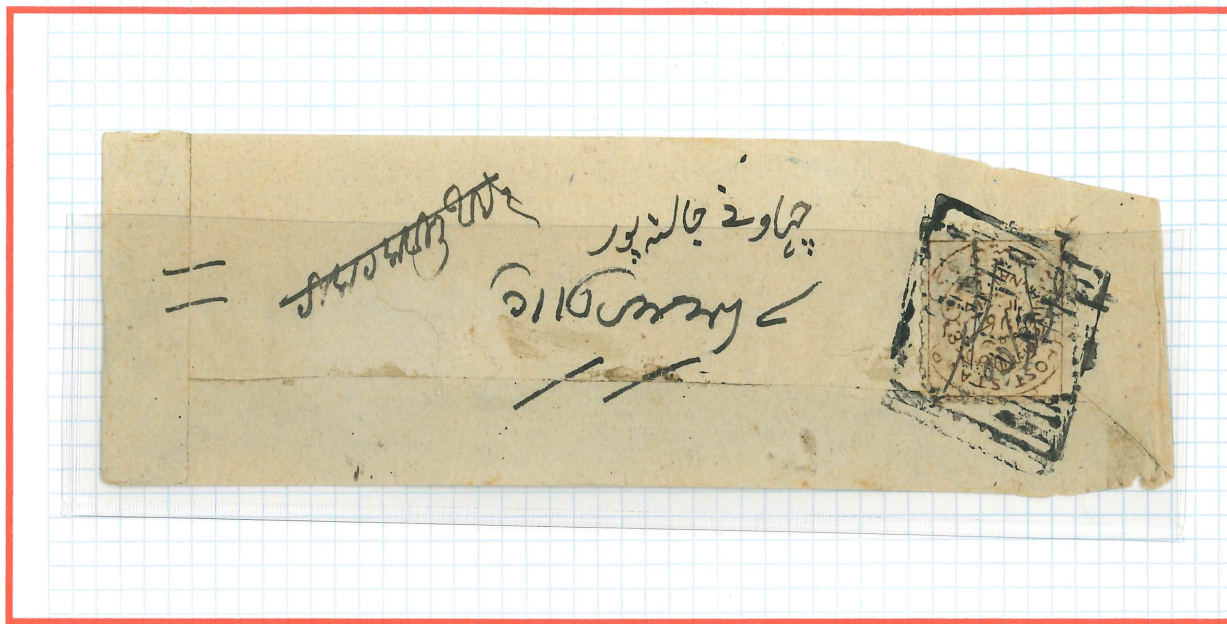
Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker

A native cover with 1 anna cancelled with a 12 bar rhombus in black (alternate bars are thick and thin)



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker

The bar obliterator was also used to cancel the second stamp issue of Hyderabad from Post series and here is a rare cover showing the 12 bar rhomboid cancel on ½ anna stamp of 1870



The bar obliterator was also used in early few years for the second post stamp series and the cover below shows the late usage of the rhombus bar obliterator.

A cover from Nagar Karnaul to Hyderabad dates 18<sup>th</sup> Zu-Ihijja 1290H (6<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1874) (scarce)



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker



Here is another example of the 1891-1909 Post series stamps being cancelled by rhombus bar cancellation showing its late usage.

A registered cover franked by 5-1 anna stamps in drab. The postmark is dates 13<sup>th</sup> Rabi II 1304H (1887) and the stamps cancelled by a 12 bar rhombus



## The POST stamp series early usage (Tappa Ghungru)

In the early days of the state harkaras (postman) used to carry a small rod 3-4ft long with ghungrus (jingers of brass) tied at one end of the rod. The rod was carried by postman carrying normal as well as express post. The term Tappa Ghungru was used to get the attention of harkaras as well as common folks so that they understand that urgent message was being carried for forwarding

A registered cover from Mudhol to Hyderabad City dated 2<sup>nd</sup> safar 1300 H (13<sup>th</sup> Dec 1882). The stamps are cancelled by the numeral obliterator "25" of the dispatching post office and the letter was then carried by "Tappa Ghungru" or Bell post (as noted by rectangular hand stamp)

Under this system the cover was despatched immediately from the PO at a charge of 4 annas per kroh (2 miles), which had to be pre-paid in cash. As Mudhol is about 130 miles north of Hyderabad City the cost to the sender, over and above the 5 annas postage and registration, would have been approximately 16 rupees



Provenance: Ex Alan Jobling Walker

### The Numeral Cancellations

The barred cancellations were found to be oversized for obliterating the much smaller size second issues of stamps hence smaller numeral cancellations were issued in 1873-74.

The numeral cancels are of many types ranging from different numbers and also styles of bars surrounding the numbers but they are circular in shape almost always.

Shown below is a ½ anna red-brown post series stamp on a native cover dated 3<sup>rd</sup> Sarfar 1305H (21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1887)



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker

### The Numeral Cancellations

A registered cover franked by 3- ½ anna stamps in orange brown and 2 annas in green total of 3 ½ annas for registered postage of upto 500km. The postmark is dates 17<sup>th</sup> Ramadan 1303H (1886) and the stamps cancelled with the numeral obliterator 159 in blue of Yelburga (Lingsugur) to Hyderabad which is approx. 395 Km away.

One can also see the registered handstruck stamps in Square and the receiving stamps in the shape of crescent moon



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker

### The Numeral Cancellations

The Post stamp with multiples on covers is scarce and here is an excellent example of such a cover bearing multiple stamps

A registered cover to Hyderabad, with 10 – ½ ann stamps postmarked 12 Safar 1310H (4th Sept 1892)

The stamps are:

A single, plate 1-R134

A pair, plate 2-R1

A single, plate 3-R1

& a block of 6, plate 3, R127-128-129

The stamps are cancelled with the no 42 obliterator of Jamikantah



Provenance: Ex Alan Jobling Walker

## The Sarkar-i-Nizam Cancellation

The earlier cancellations did not say anything about the State of Government in Hyderabad, hence, Maulvi Abdul Karim, postmaster general from 1881-1891 thought of introducing this cancellation called Sarkar-i-Nizam as shown in the cover below.

Sarkar-i-Nizam means Nizam's Government was inscribed in Urdu which was surrounded by thick bars of diminishing length (framed rectangular) above and below the script. The appearance of obliterator is circular.

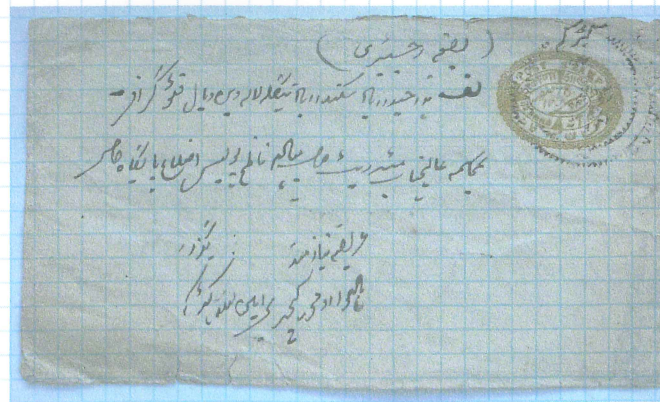
A registered cover made up by a ½ anna yellow postal stationery, with a curved flap-die II knife K7. A pair of ½ orange and a 2 annas green being stuck to back side of the cover with Sarkar-i-Nizam cancel. The postmark is dated 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1897



Provenance: Ex. Alan Jobling Walker



Sarkar-i-Nizam cancels



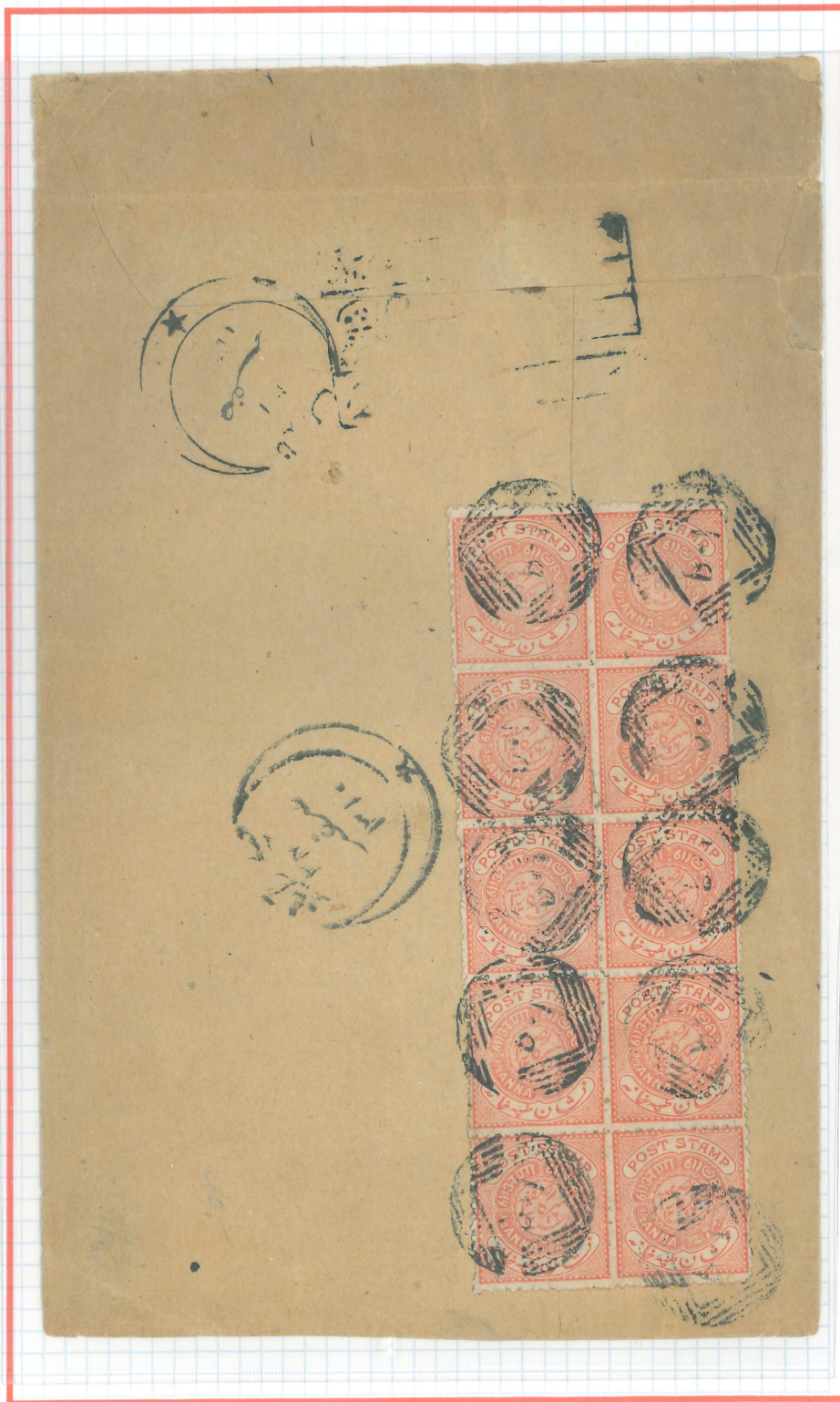
FRONT ½ anna Postal Envelope

## The Numeral Cancellations

The Post stamp with errors found on covers is very scarce and here is an excellent example of such a cover bearing multiple error stamps

A registered cover from Naldrug dated 21<sup>st</sup> safar 1310H (13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1892). The postage has been paid by a block of 10 ½ ann stamps, from plate 3, each cancelled by the numeral obliterator "109" of Naldrug

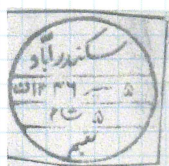
The stamps are from rows 1 and 5 and show the pantograph flaws of columns 2 and 3. The stamps of column 2 each show the "double pearl omitted: flaw and those from column 3 each show the "pearl and dot omitted"



2 Covers containing the 1931 Pictorials



Example of a Delivery date stamp introduced after the "Police Action" in Hyderabad by the Indian Union on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 1948. Consists of a circle (32mm diameter) divided by 3 lines creating spaces to enter Post office name on top, Date of delivery and time of delivery and lastly in lower segment "Taqseem" meaning to be divided or distributed



Another example of a Delivery date stamp. Consists of a circle (27mm diameter) divided by 3 lines creating spaces to enter Post office name on top, Date of delivery and time of delivery and lastly in lower segment "Taqseem" meaning to be divided or distributed



16 Pies + 4 annas Registered rate



Third example of a Delivery date stamp. Consists of a circle (32mm diameter) divided by 2 lines creating spaces to enter Post office name on top, Date of delivery and time of delivery and lastly in lower segment Star and crescent symbol of the Nizam



16 Pies Domestic rate