

INDIAN TELEGRAM

The first experimental telegraph line was laid between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour in 1850. On 27th April 1854 the Indian commercial operations started and the first commercial telegram was between Pune and Mumbai. It was a service anticipated and feared, bringing both good and bad, but urgent news to people.

The Telegram was the fastest means of communication in the world when it was introduced. It even withstood the telephone introduced much later. Be it a birth, death, graduation or an important business deal, the TELEGRAM or TAAR, as it was popularly called by the Indian populace, was the most preferred way to communicate the news.

The usage of telegram was wide spread and the 1970 and 80s saw about 1,00,000 telegrams being sent each day. This was the heyday of telegrams. With the telecom revolution of the 1990s and the proliferation of phones, usage of telegrams dropped drastically. By late 2010, with the advent of internet and mobile phones becoming more and more acceptable, the telegram was relegated to a back seat. The telegraph service was shut down in July 2013.

Here we try to bring out the different types of telegrams that were used for different occasions and also different time periods.