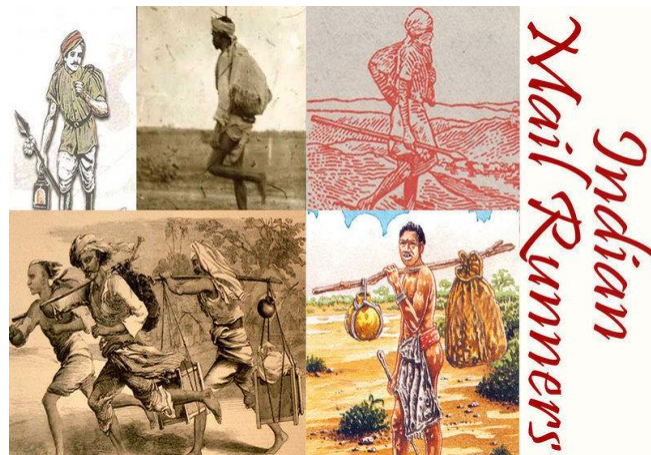# MAIL RUNNER – THE PILLAR OF THE POST

In India the early history of the postal system upto 1854 can be divided into three parts, viz. Ancient, Medieval and Modern periods. The first part starts from the Indus Valley civilization to the Gupta period. The second part includes Muslim rule and the Mughals. The third part describes the phenomenal strides under the East India Company.

In ancient times, the Kings, emperors, rulers, were using courier services to convey and obtain information through runners, messengers.

For centuries, it was rare for messages to be carried by means other than a relay of runners on foot. A runner ran from one village or relay post to the next, carrying the letters on a pole with a sharp point. The relay of postal runners worked throughout the day and night and were vulnerable to attacks by bandits and wild animals. These mail runners were used chiefly by the rulers, for purposes of conveying official information and wartime news.

Oattathoodhuvan-1854 a Tamil movie was made on the mail runner in the year 2015