

Summary of important PIB release : 01/09/2024

1.India Post Payments Bank celebrates 7th Foundation Day: Reinforcing commitment to financial inclusion

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a key player in driving financial inclusion across the country, proudly marks its 7th Foundation Day (IPPB Day) today. The IPPB has made significant strides in bridging the financial inclusion gap, leveraging India Post's extensive network of over 161,000 post offices and 1,90,000 postal employees during the last seven years. The IPPB's innovative approach has ensured that millions of people across the country, especially in rural and remote areas, have access to essential banking services, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the nation by empowering every household with Doorstep Digital Banking Services.

About India Post Payment Bank:

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India. It was launched on September 01, 2018. The bank has been set up with the vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man in India. The fundamental mandate of India Post Payments Bank is to remove barriers for the unbanked & underbanked and reach the last mile leveraging the Postal network comprising 1,61,000+ Post Offices (1,43,000 in rural areas) and 190,000+ Postal employees.

The IPPB's reach and its operating model is built on the key pillars of India Stack - enabling paperless, cashless and presence-less banking in a simple and secure manner at the customers' doorstep, through a CBS-integrated smartphone and biometric device. Leveraging frugal innovation and with a high focus on ease of banking for the masses, it delivers simple and affordable banking solutions through intuitive interfaces available in 13 languages.

It is committed to provide a fillip to a less cash economy and contribute to the vision of Digital India. India will prosper when every citizen will have equal opportunity to become financially secure and empowered. Our motto stands true - Every customer is important, every transaction is significant and every deposit is valuable.

2. Host of measures taken by Government of India for the LGBTQI+ community

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) has invited inputs of stakeholders and public at large, so as to ensure that policies and initiatives regarding LGBTQI+ community are inclusive and effective. A host of measures have been taken by Government of India regarding the community.

The Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 17.10.2023 in the Writ Petition No. 1011/2022 - Supriyo@Supriya vs. Union, recorded that the Union Government will constitute a committee chaired by Cabinet Secretary for the purpose of defining and elucidating the scope of entitlements of the queer community.

Government of India, through a gazette notification dated 16.4.2024, constituted a Committee with Cabinet Secretary as the Chairperson and Secretaries of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Legislative Department as Members and Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment as Member Convenor to examine and submit recommendations on the measures to be taken by Central and State Governments to safeguard the interest of the queer community.

Accordingly, Government of India has already taken following **interim action**:

- i. Department of Food and Public Distribution (D/oF&PD) has issued an advisory to all the States and UTs, that as per existing provisions, enabling partners in a queer relationship are to be treated as a part of the same household for the purposes of ration card. Further, States/UTs have been asked to take necessary measures to ensure that partners in queer relationships are not subject to any discrimination in the issuance of ration cards.
- ii. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has issued an advisory that there are no restrictions for persons of the queer community to open a joint bank account and also to nominate a person in queer relationship as a nominee to receive the balance in the account, in the event of death of the account holder.
- iii. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued letters to all stakeholders including all States/UTs to take measures to ensure the rights of LGBTQI+ community with relation to healthcare, planning awareness activities, prohibition of conversion therapy, availability of sex reassignment surgery, changes in curricula, provision of Tele consultation, sensitization and training various levels of staff and making of provision to claim the body when near relative/next of kin/family is not available.
- iv. The Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued letters to the State Health Departments and other

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stakeholders on the subject of ensuring health care access and reducing discrimination towards LGBTQI+ community.

- v. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has framed guidelines in respect of medical intervention required in infants/ children with disorders of sexual differentiation (intersex) to have medically normal life without complications. The Ministry is working on guidelines to address the issues pertaining to mental health/well-being of queer community.
