



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



National Postal Week (October 09-15)

India's Postal Network: Touching Lives Across the Nation

(Ministry of Communications)

October 12, 2022

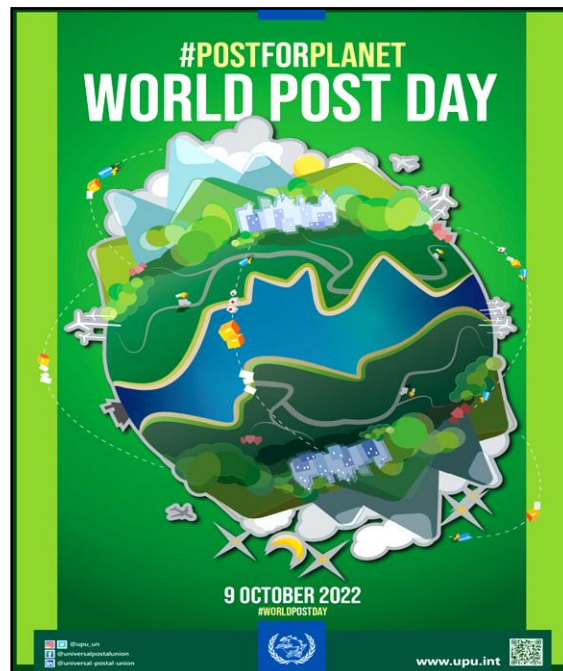
Introduction:

India possesses the largest postal network in the world, with **over 1.59 lakh post offices** spread across the country, 90% of which are in rural areas. Of these, over 1.54 lakh post offices are Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-enabled so as to be suitably equipped to offer a wide range of services with changing times. There are over 4.28 lakh letter boxes across the length and breadth of India, and over 4.14 lakh employees of India Post and Gramin Dak Sevaks are engaged in connecting the nation.

World Post Day and National Postal Week

World Post Day is celebrated each year on October 09, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since then, countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations.

The Post is the [world's largest logistics network](#). The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the **social and economic development** of countries. The celebration encourages member countries to undertake programme activities aimed at generating a broader awareness of their Post's role and activities among the public and media on a national scale. **Every year, more than 150 countries celebrate World Post Day** in a variety of ways.



India Post celebrates **National Postal Week from October 09 to 15 every year**. The celebration is aimed at generating a broad awareness about India Post's roles and activities among the public and media at a national level.¹

As part of National Postal Week, the Department of Posts celebrates Savings Bank Day, Mails Day, Philately Day, Business Development Day and Postal Life Insurance Day to focus on various services provided.

India Post: Touching Lives

For more than 150 years, the Department of Posts (DoP) has been the backbone of the country's communication and has played a crucial role in the country's socio-economic development.



The DoP also acts as an agent for the Government of India in discharging other services for citizens such as *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)* wage disbursement and old age pension payments.

India Post touches the lives of Indian citizens in many ways—delivering mail, accepting deposits under Small Savings Schemes, providing life insurance cover under Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) and providing retail services like bill collection, sale of forms, etc. The Post Office Savings Bank, which is the largest bank in India in terms of network, accounts and annual deposits, has

introduced a number of new financial services in collaboration with the private sector.

With more than 1.5 lakh IT-enabled Post Offices, India Post played a crucial role in rendering postal and financial services during the pandemic lockdown in 2020 and 2021. The robust IT system enabled India Post to deliver financial services at the doorstep of citizens.

Some of the schemes offered by India Post are: Savings Bank (SB/Recurring Deposit/Time Deposit /Monthly Income Scheme or National Saving Certificate /Kisan Vikas Patra), Funded Post Office Savings Account (POSA) linked IPPB Account, Postal Life Insurance/ Rural Postal

¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1662827>

Life Insurance Policy, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana / Pradhan Mantri Jyoti Bima Yojana.

India Post also offers a wide number of savings schemes. To read in detail, click [here](#).

Recent Initiatives by India Post

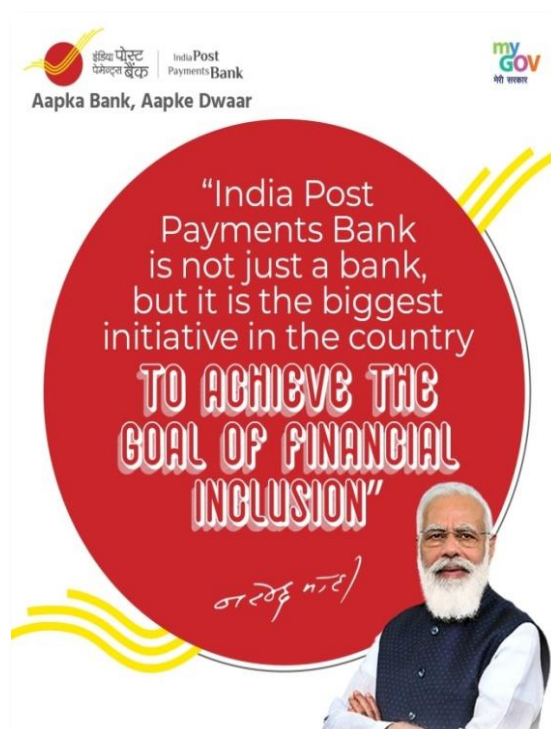
‘Anytime Anywhere Post Office Savings’

The [Union Budget 2022-23](#) stated that in 2022, 100 per cent of 1.5 lakh post offices will come on the core banking system enabling financial inclusion and access to accounts through 11 net banking, mobile banking, ATMs, and also provide online transfer of funds between post office accounts and bank accounts. As of April 2022, around **96 per cent of post offices across the country have already been brought under the Core Banking System (CBS)**. This will not only help the existing post office savings account holders but also encourage new individuals to open up a savings account with ease. The government is also working towards providing National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) facilities for online transfer of funds from post office accounts to bank accounts and vice versa.

Five Star Village Schemes to ensure 100% rural coverage of postal schemes

The Department of Posts has launched a scheme called **Five Star Villages**, to ensure **universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas** of the country. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages. All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at the village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme. Branch offices will function as a one-stop shop to cater for all post office-related needs of villagers. The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:

1. Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue)(NSC) / Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) certificates
2. Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ Public Provident Fund (PPF) Accounts
3. Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts
4. Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy
5. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account



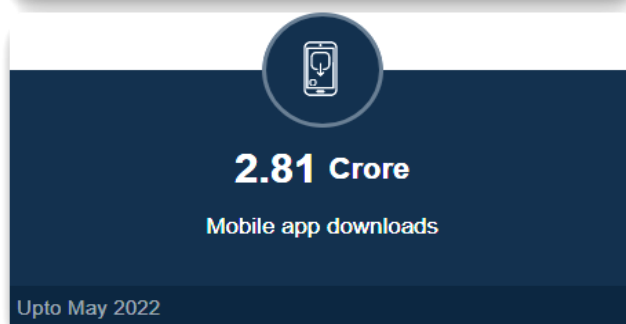
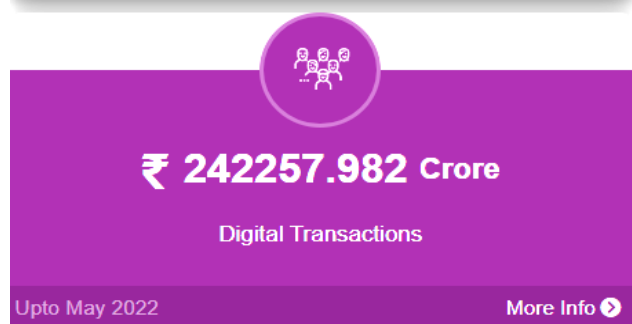
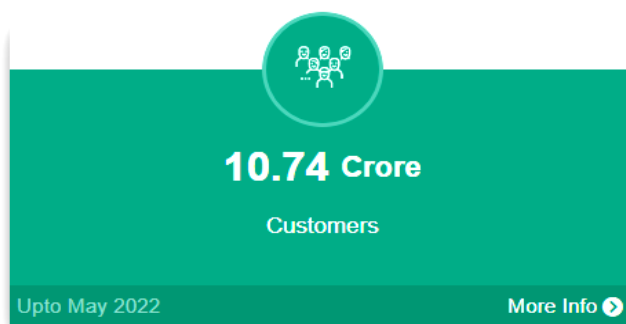
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

India's vast postal network – involving millions of workers moving billions of pieces of mail through hundreds of thousands of post offices – is woven into our societies, connecting communities the world over. This network has been further strengthened through the **launch of India Post Payments Bank in 2018, with a vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man.**

It has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India.

The fundamental mandate of IPPB is to remove barriers for the unbanked and under-banked and **reach the last mile, leveraging a network comprising nearly 1.60 lakh post offices (1.45 lakh in rural areas) and 4.0 lakh postal employees.**

IPPB's reach and its operating model are 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 Core Banking System (CBS)-integrated smartphone and biometric device. IPPB delivers simple and affordable banking solutions through intuitive interfaces available in **13 languages.**



India Post Payments Bank launches 'Fincluvation'

As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations, IPPB launched **Fincluvation**– a joint initiative to collaborate with the Fintech Start-up community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.

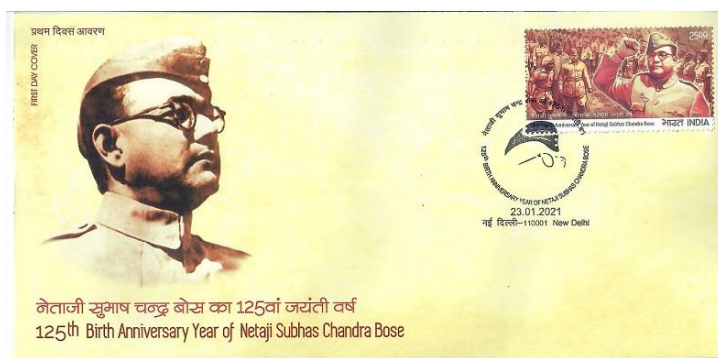
Fincluvation is envisaged as an Industry-first initiative to create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion. **A combination of IPPB's banking stack, DoP's trustworthy doorstep service network and the techno-functional acumen of start-ups** can deliver unmatched value to the citizens of the country.”

IPPB and DoP collectively **serve close to 430 million customers** through the neighborhood post office and at their doorstep via more than 400,000 trusted and capable Post Office employees and **Gramin Dak Sevaks** - **making it one of the largest and trusted postal networks in the world.**



Postage Stamps

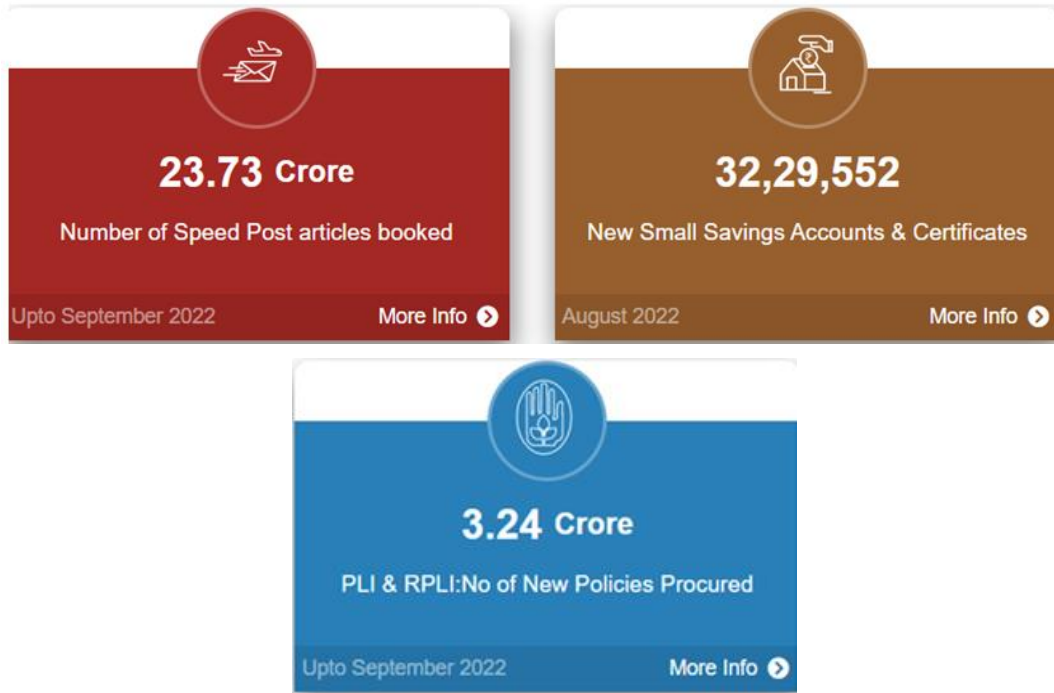
Historically, a Postage Stamp began as a piece of paper, a receipt denoting a specific value, which was a **token of prepayment for postal service equivalent to its face value**. Over a period of time, however, the postage stamp has evolved into an article with diverse functions ranging from its original role, to functioning as **a tool for celebration and promotion of a nation's heritage, and, as a collectible item, of both intrinsic and actual value**, which may differ greatly from its postal value.



Postage stamps perform multifarious roles of being the **paper ambassadors representing their country of origin, being brand images of their postal administrations, promoters of the image of a nation, and, as collectibles**. The universality and history associated with the postage stamps attach to them an aura, which is far beyond their physical form.

For Stamps Catalogue from 1854 - 2022 [click here](#).

India Post: Performance



Post Office Savings Bank



Postal Network in Aspirational Districts (as on September 30, 2022)

India post is dedicated to 'Antyodaya' and serving the nation. Hence, it has been ensured that the aspirational districts are not left behind in benefiting from the services provided by the nation's vast postal network.

- Post Office Passport Seva Kendras in Aspirational Districts – **65**
- Post Offices with Crore Banking Solution – **2265**
- Branch Post of Offices using ICT– **18061**
- Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation Centre in Aspirational Districts– **1116**

Citizen Centric Services (as on September 30, 2022)

India Post is also committed to provide responsive, convenient citizen-centric services to the people of the country. These services include Aadhaar enrolment and updation, providing passport services to citizens, utility bill payments and accessing Direct Benefit Transfers, among others.

- Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation– **13352**
- Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras – **428**
- Value of Utility Bill Payments- **Rs. 1235.43 crores**
- Direct Benefit Transfers– **Rs. 621.823 crores**

References:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1801035>
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1828591>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?releid=70771>
<https://www.upu.int/UPU/media/upu/publications/Postal-development-report-2021.pdf>
2022 World Post Day Message from the UPU Director General
<http://postagestamps.gov.in/Pdf/35112011Phil.pdf>
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1663036>
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1763715>
75 Lakh Postcard Campaign | MyGov.in
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1763312>
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1862136>

Twitter Links:

https://twitter.com/IndiaPostOffice/status/1574588621641826304?s=20&t=R_vuvJPGe830Rvg1ISAEsw
<https://twitter.com/mygovindia/status/1519176923418865664?s=20&t=StgPBrdFK1WZwQEssfihEA>
<https://twitter.com/inregistry/status/1519705220749479938?s=20&t=StgPBrdFK1WZwQEssfihEA>
<https://twitter.com/IndiaPostOffice/status/1574945607151538176?s=20&t=16cJtCiocrzjHOy5RcFWQ>

AG/HP/RC/KG/TT