



# Daily current affairs

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## Payments bank

- A payments bank is like any other bank, but operating on a smaller scale without involving any credit risk. In simple words, it can carry out most banking operations but **can't advance loans or issue credit cards**.
- It can **accept demand deposits (up to Rs 1 lakh)**, offer remittance services, mobile payments/transfers/purchases and other banking services like ATM/debit cards, net banking and third party fund transfers.

## **IPPB or Indian Post Payments Bank**

- The IPPB or Indian Post Payments Bank is an initiative of the government aimed at making **banking services available at people's doorstep**.
- This payments bank of the Indian postal department will work through a network of post offices and nearly 3 lakh postmen and '**Grameen Dak Sewaks**'.

## **Services**

- The operations of IPPB will be on a smaller scale as compared to other banks and **will not advance loans or issue credit cards to avoid risk**. Performing the rest of its functions, it will accept deposits, offer remittance services, mobile payments/transfers/purchases and other banking services like ATM/debit cards, net banking and third-party fund transfers.
  - It has **teamed up with PNB and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** for loans and insurances. The maximum limit on deposits is Rs 1 lakh, beyond which the account will be automatically converted into post office savings account.
  - The bank offers a 4 per cent interest rate on savings account.
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## Leptospirosis or rat fever

- After floods ravaged Kerala last month, the state is staring at a new problem — an **outbreak of Leptospirosis or rat fever**.
- The state government Sunday sounded an alert after the disease, which is **transmitted from animals to humans**, claimed 17 lives.
- The health department has asked people who came in **contact with floodwaters to take preventive medicine** as among those who died were involved in cleaning in flood-

hit areas.

### Leptospirosis

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Leptospirosis is an infectious disease **caused by bacteria** belonging to the genus *Leptospira*.
  - The disease is detected in areas which have witnessed **excessive rainfall or flooding**.
  - The bacteria can be **transmitted to humans through** cuts and abrasions of the skin, or through the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth with water **contaminated with the urine of infected animals**.
  - The WHO claims that the disease can also be **transmitted through drinking water or ingestion of food** contaminated with urine of infected animals, often rats.
  - However, **human-to-human** transmission occurs **very rarely**.
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