ICICI Bank launches Branch on Wheels in Chhattisgarh

- First private sector bank to launch Mobile Branch with ATM
- Launched in Raipur by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh and ICICI Bank Executive Director Mr. Rajiv Sabharwal

Raipur, Chhattisgarh: ICICI Bank Limited, India’s largest private sector bank, today announced the launch of its Branch on Wheels’ in Chhattisgarh, as part of its financial inclusion plan that aims at providing banking services in villages which are so far devoid of banking facilities.

The ‘Branch on Wheels’ is a first of its kind initiative by any private sector bank in India. It was inaugurated at Raipur in Chattisgarh by Dr. Raman Singh, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chattisgarh and Mr. Rajiv Sabharwal, Executive Director of ICICI Bank.

The ‘Branch on Wheels’ is a mobile branch with an ATM. It offers a wide range of banking products and services such as savings accounts, loans, cash deposit/withdrawal, account balance enquiries, statement printing and funds transfer/DD/PO collections, among others. The ‘Branch on Wheels’ will be operated on a van. It will be stationed at specific timings of the day in pre-identified, unbanked villages at specified locations. It is equipped with a GPS tracking system, laptops with 3G connections, LED TV, a safe, a printer, public announcement system, an UV Lamp that detects forged cheques, a note counting-cum-authentication machine that identifies fake currency notes and a unique low weight ATM. Two ICICI Bank officials and a guard will manage the ‘Branch on Wheels’.

The nearest branch of the Bank will act as the parent branch of the ‘Branch on Wheels’, routing all the cash and transactions for it. The ‘Branch on Wheels’ which has been launched in Raipur today is mapped to the parent branch at Champa (Janjgir-Champa district) and Chirmiri (Korea district). It will cover eight unbanked villages namely Pachori, Afrid, Sonthi and Hathnewra (Janjgir Champa district) and Barkapara, Dubchola, Sarbhoka, Sendha-Morga (Korea district).

Chhattisgarh is the second state where ICICI Bank has expanded its ‘Branch on Wheels’ network after Maharashtra in September 2013.

Dr Raman Singh, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, who was the Chief Guest at the launch function said, “It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate ICICI Bank’s first ‘Branch on Wheels’ in Chhattisgarh. This unique initiative of a mobile branch with an ATM will certainly go a long way in providing basic banking facilities to the unbanked villages in Chhattisgarh. Financial inclusion is crucial for the state and I am very happy to see ICICI Bank playing a strong role in this area.”
Mr. Rajiv Sabharwal, Executive Director of ICICI Bank said, “ICICI as a Group has always recognised the potential of rural India and the importance of inclusive growth. In line with this approach, we have already launched 436 Gramin branches across the country to provide basic banking services in unbanked villages. The ‘Branch on Wheels’ is yet another step of the Bank to expand its reach to the villages which are devoid of banking facilities.”

The launch of ‘Branch on Wheels’ at Raipur augments the Bank's wide range of initiatives undertaken in Chhattisgarh and signifies its commitment for extending banking services to the remote locations in the state. The Bank has a network of 36 branches in the state, including two Gramin branches in unbanked villages across 27 districts. The Bank also operates an 24X7 Electronic Branch at Civil Lines, Raipur which was launched in June 2012. The Bank has nearly 800 rural branches, including 436 in the hitherto unbanked areas. In Chhattisgarh, the Bank has opened 960,741 basic savings accounts and has a network of 531 business correspondents bringing banking services to over 2,000 villages.

About ICICI Bank Ltd: ICICI Bank Limited (NYSE:IBN) is India's largest private sector bank and the second largest bank in the country, with consolidated total assets of US $ 124 billion at March 31, 2013. ICICI Bank’s subsidiaries include India’s leading private sector insurance companies and among its largest securities brokerage firms, mutual funds and private equity firms. ICICI Bank’s presence currently spans 19 countries, including India.

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