

Twitter Thread by [Alex Xu](#)

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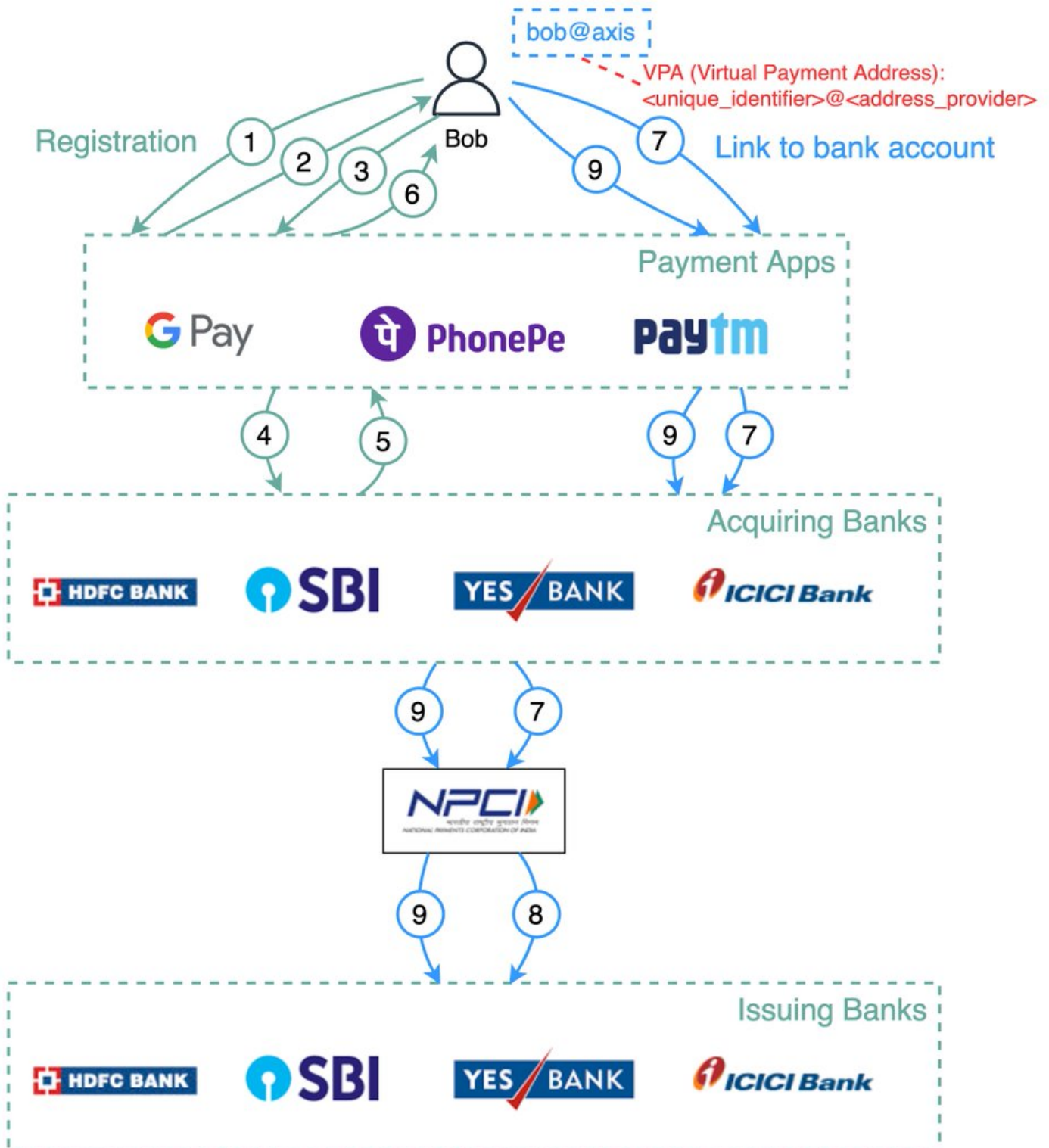
[@alexubyte](#)



1/ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for real-time transactions in India is a good case study for other nations in the payment space.

How does UPI Work?

1. Registration & Link to Bank Account



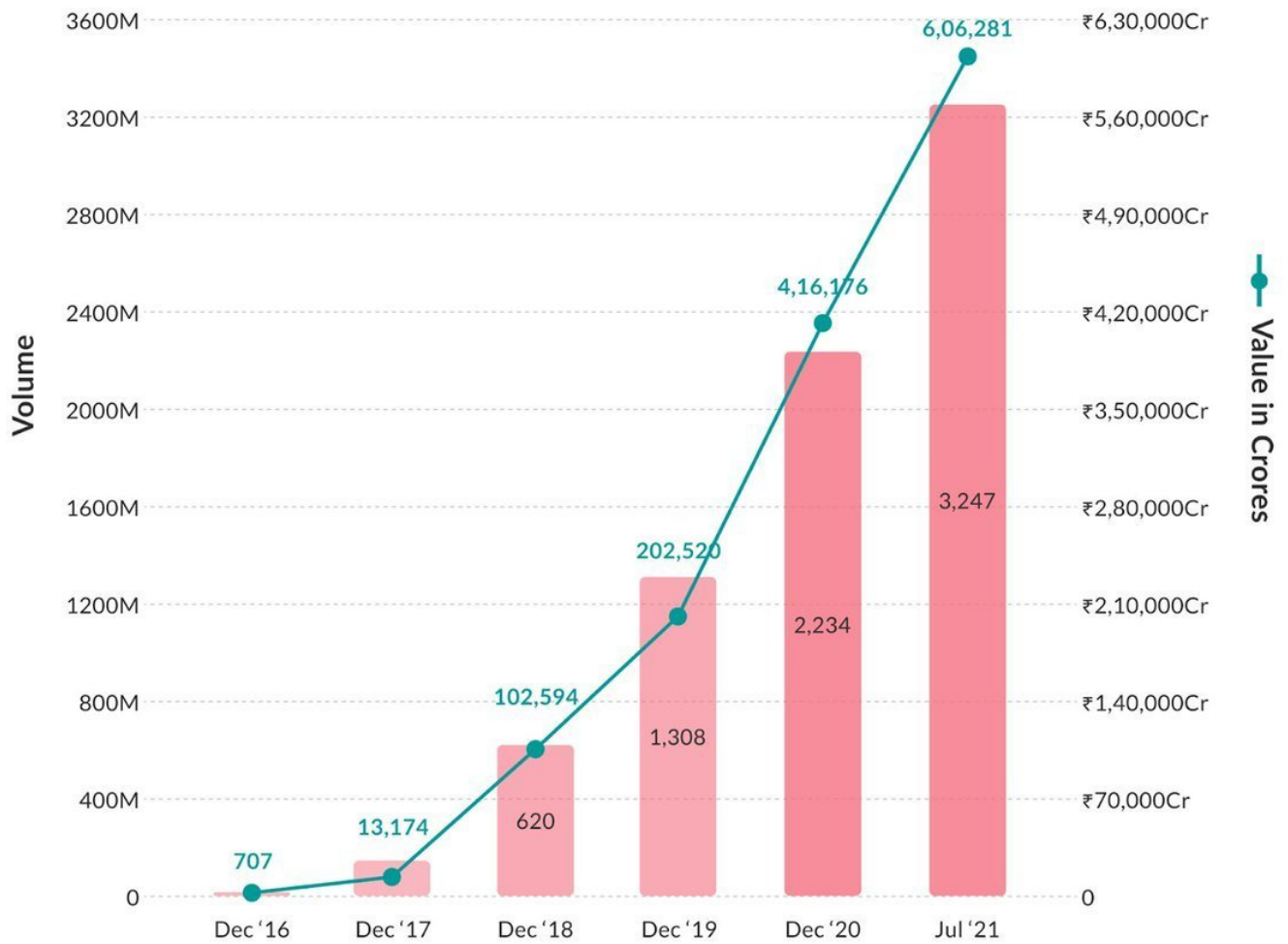
2/ What's UPI? UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India.

It accounts for 60% of digital retail transactions in India today and still growing.

UPI = payment markup language + standard for interoperable payments



UPI Growth in Numbers



Source: NPCI

Omkar Joshi for ajuniorvc.com

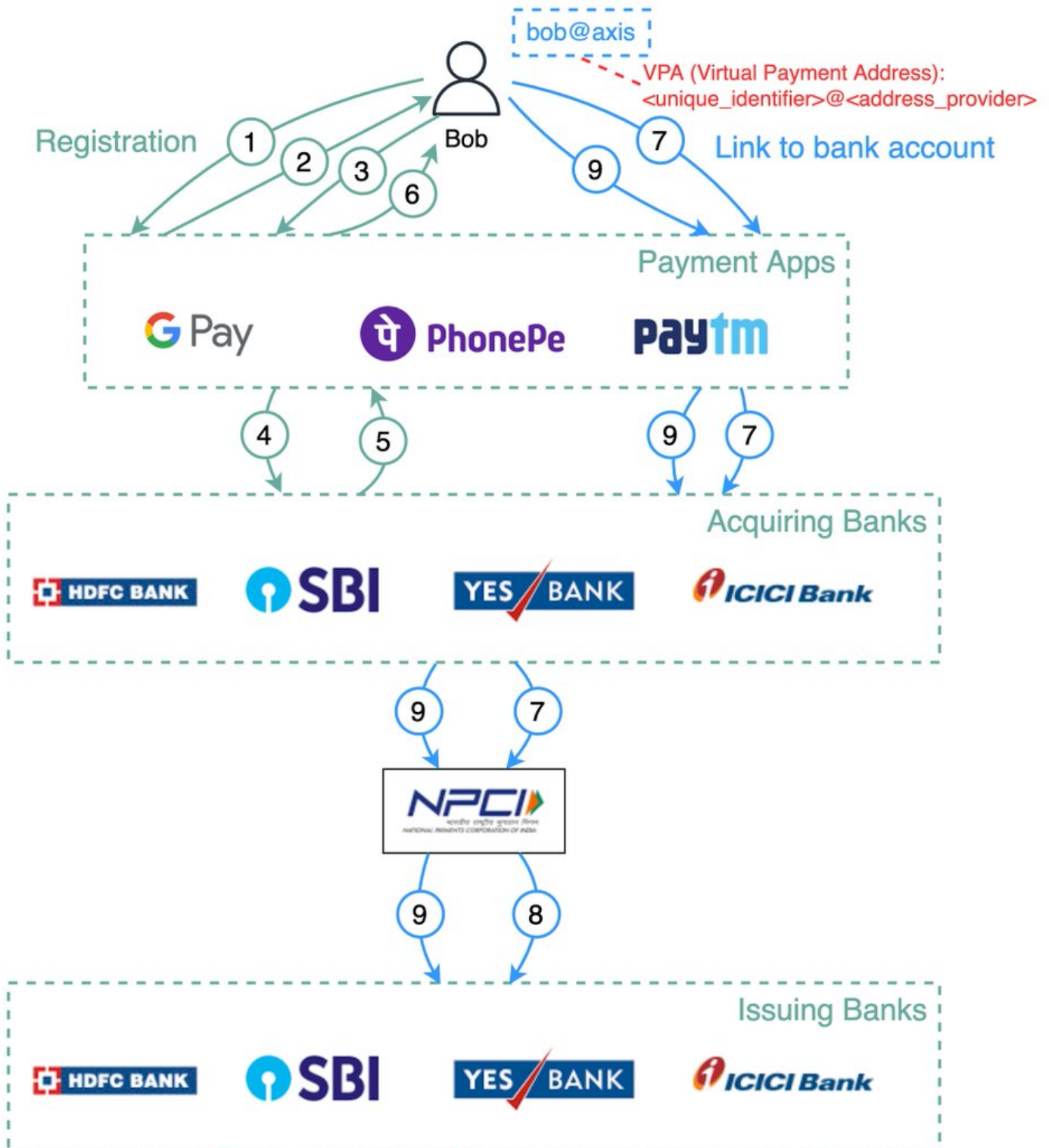
3/ Let's take a look at how it works.



1. Bob wants to open an account and provides his phone number +91 12345678
2. Bob performs OTP (One-Time Password) phone verification
3. Bob sets up VPA (Virtual Payment Address) bobaxis

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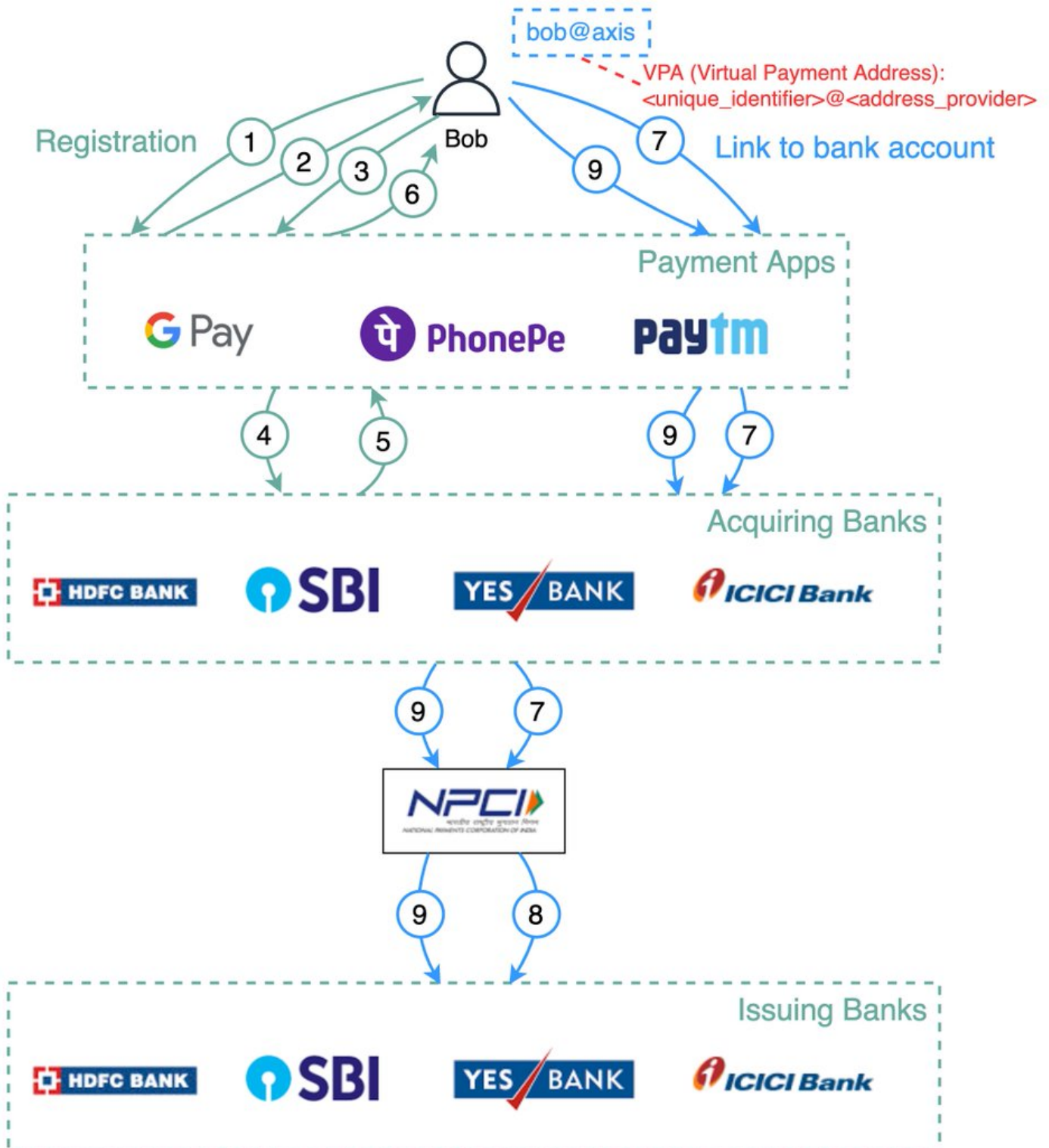
4/ 4. Bob's payment app creates VPA with the acquiring bank

5. The acquiring bank returns with VPA

6. The payment app returns VPA to Bob

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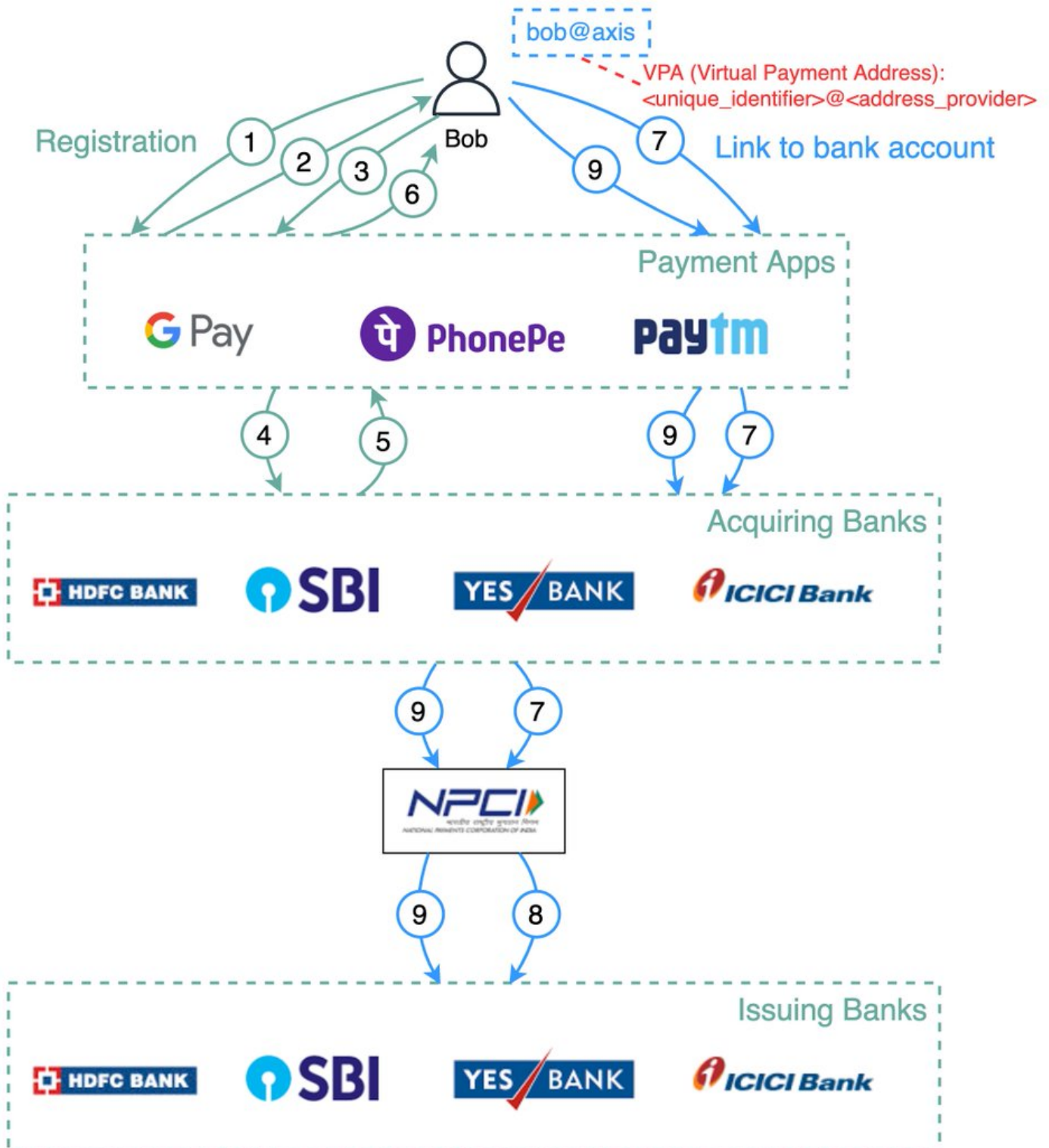


6/ 8. NPCI acts as a switch between acquiring banks and issuing banks. It resolves the account detail from VPA with different issuing banks.

9. Bob authenticates with account details and sets the PIN, which is used for 2FA. This goes all the way to the issuing bank.

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1. Alice enters Bob's UPI ID bob and the amount INR 100

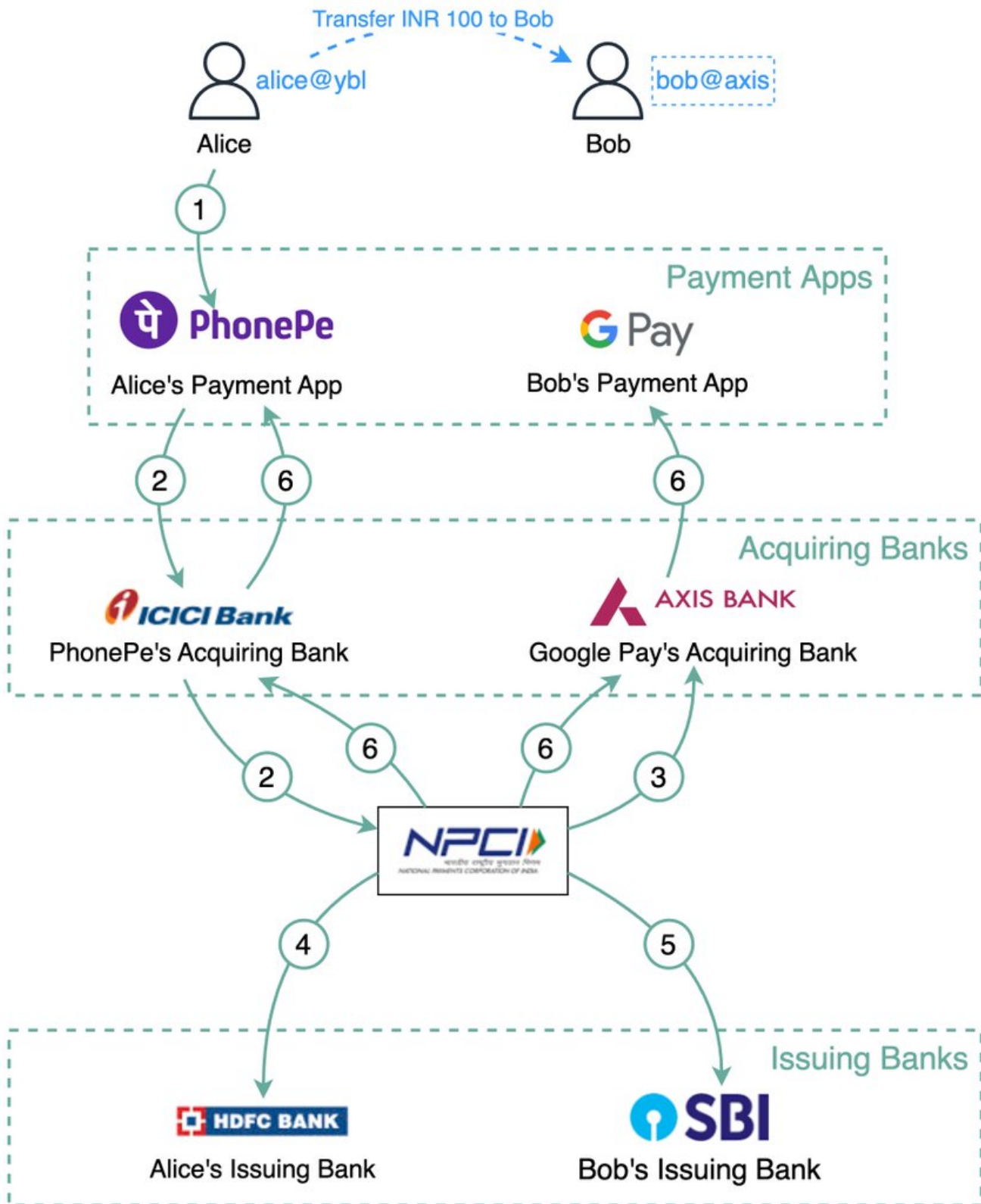
2. PhonePe verifies and forwards the request to NPCI via ICICI bank

3. NPCI requests Axis Bank to resolve detail for bob at axis

4. NPCI deducts Alice's HDFC bank account by INR 100

How does UPI Work?

2. Direct Payment

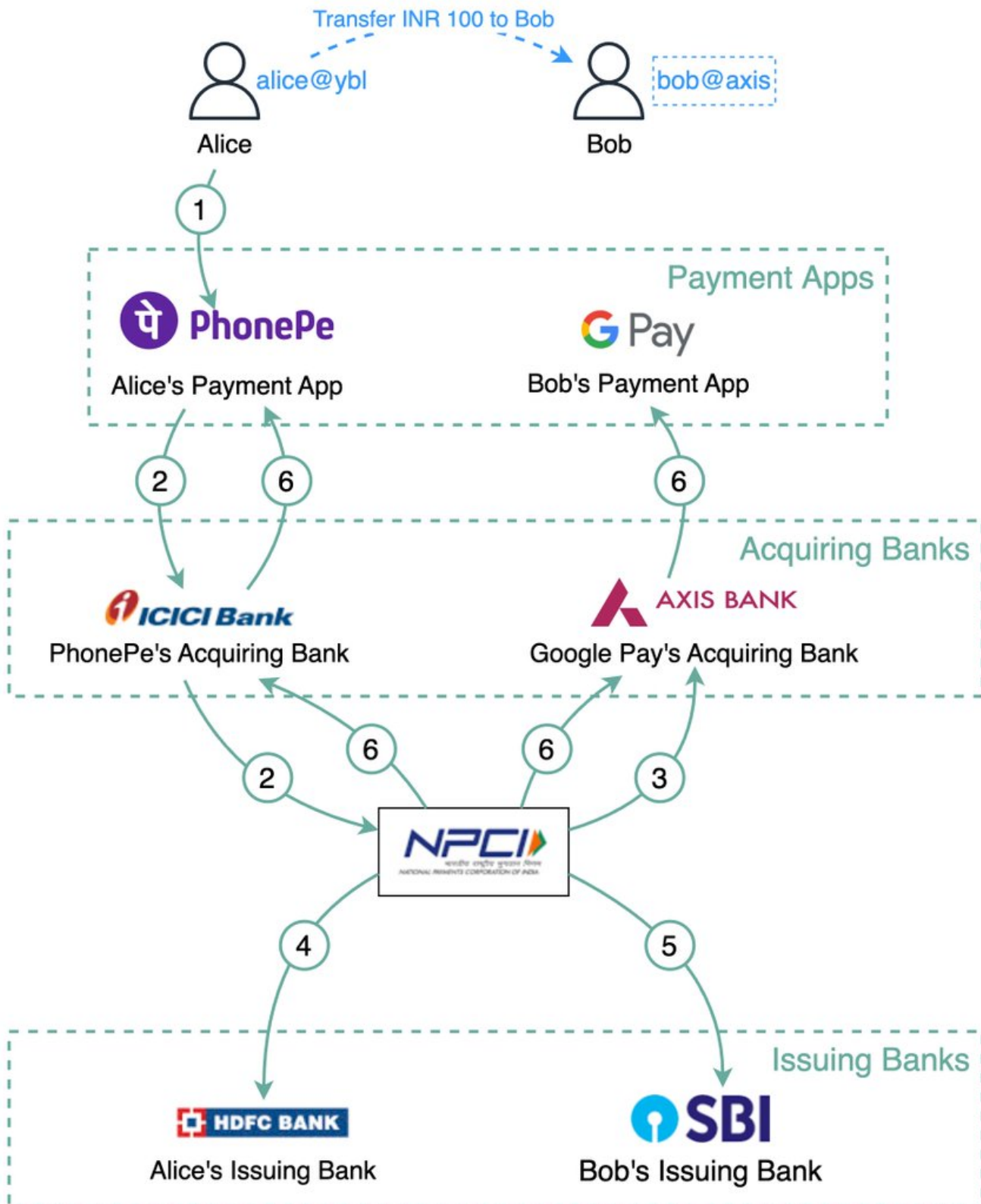


8/ 5. NPCI sends an instruction to SBI bank and add INR 100 to Bob's account in SBI bank.

6. Upon success, NPCI notifies the payment apps via acquiring banks.

How does UPI Work?

2. Direct Payment



9/ I hope you've found this thread helpful.

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1/ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for real-time transactions in India is a good case study for other nations in the payment space. <pic.twitter.com/ivrdfcf17g>

— Alex Xu (@alexsubyte) [September 22, 2022](#)