**Rural Banking**

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**PM Vishwakarma Scheme**

RBI/2023-24/61
FIDD.CO.MSME.BC.No.10/06.02.031/2023-24

September 13, 2023

The Chairman/ Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer
All Scheduled Commercial Banks
(including Small Finance Banks and Regional Rural Banks, excluding Payments Banks)
All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks
/ District Central Co-operative Banks
All Non-Banking Financial Companies (excluding housing finance companies)

Madam / Dear Sir,

**PM Vishwakarma Scheme**

Government of India (GoI) has introduced the ‘PM Vishwakarma Scheme’ which aims to provide support to artisans and craftspeople to enable them to move up the value chain in their respective trades. The Scheme envisages, among other measures, credit support to the beneficiaries at concessional interest rate, with interest subvention support by GoI.

2. In this regard, eligible lending institutions may refer to the Scheme [guidelines](https://pmvishwakarma.gov.in/FileHandling/ViewFile/MiscFiles%5CPM%20Vishwakarma-Guidelines.pdf) issued by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, for appropriate action.

Yours faithfully,

(Nisha Nambiar)
Chief General Manager

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12536&Mode=0>

**Display of information - Secured assets possessed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002**

RBI/2023-24/63
DoR.FIN.REC.41/20.16.003/2023-24

September 25, 2023

All Commercial Banks including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks and excluding Payment Banks
All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/ State Co-operative Banks/ Central Co-operative Banks
All India Financial Institutions (Exim Bank, NABARD, NHB, SIDBI and NaBFID)
All Non-Banking Financial Companies including Housing Finance Companies
All Asset Reconstruction Companies

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Display of information - Secured assets possessed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002**

As a part of the move towards greater transparency, it has been decided that the Regulated Entities (REs) of the Reserve Bank which are secured creditors as per the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, shall display information in respect of the borrowers whose secured assets have been taken into possession by the REs under the Act.

2. REs shall upload this information on their website in the format as prescribed in the [Annex](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12539&Mode=0#AN1). The first such list shall be displayed on the website of REs within six (6) months from the date of this circular, and the list shall be updated on monthly basis.

Yours faithfully,

(J.P. Sharma)
Chief General Manager

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12539&Mode=0>

**Gold Loan – Bullet Repayment – Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**

RBI/2023-24/66
DOR.CRE.REC.42/07.10.002/2023-24

October 6, 2023

Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks other than Salary Earners’ Banks

Madam / Dear Sir,

**Gold Loan – Bullet Repayment – Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**

Please refer to the [circular UBD.BPD.(PCB).Cir.No.25/13.05.001/2014-15 dated October 30, 2014](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=9307&Mode=0), in terms of which UCBs were permitted to extend gold loans up to ₹2.00 lakh with bullet repayment option, subject to certain conditions.

2. Reference is also invited to para 5 of our [circular DOR.CRE.REC.18/07.10.002/2023-24 dated June 8, 2023](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12515&Mode=0) wherein it is stated that incentives to UCBs meeting the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets shall be announced separately. Accordingly, as announced vide para 3 of [Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated October 6, 2023](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=56503), it has been decided to increase the monetary ceiling of gold loans that can be granted under the bullet repayment scheme, from ₹2.00 lakh to ₹4.00 lakh for those UCBs who have met the overall PSL target and sub targets as on March 31, 2023 and continue to meet the targets and sub-targets as prescribed at para 2 of our [circular dated June 8, 2023](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12515&Mode=0), ibid.

3. The limits prescribed above are effective from the date of this circular. All other provisions of the aforesaid circulars remain unchanged.

Yours faithfully,

(Manoranjan Mishra)
Chief General Manager

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12542&Mode=0>

**Review of Instructions on Bulk Deposits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**

RBI/2023-24/75
DoR.SPE.REC.50/13.03.00/2023-2024

October 26, 2023

All Regional Rural Banks

Sir / Madam,

**Review of Instructions on Bulk Deposits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**

Please refer to Para 3 (a) (i) of [Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016 dated March 3, 2016](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=10296), in terms of which “Bulk Deposit” means:

1. Single Rupee term deposits of Rupees two crore and above for Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) and Small Finance Banks.
2. Single Rupee term deposits of Rupees fifteen lakhs and above for RRBs.

2. On a review, it has been decided to enhance the bulk deposit limit for Regional Rural Banks. Accordingly, “Bulk Deposit” for Regional Rural Banks would now mean Single Rupee term deposits of Rupees one crore and above. The relevant sections of the Master Direction as amended are indicated in the [Annex](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12556&Mode=0#ANN_1).

3. All other instructions in this regard shall remain unchanged.

Yours faithfully,

(Sunil T. S. Nair)
Chief General Manager

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12556&Mode=0>

**Clarification regarding Shifting of Branches/Offices/Extension Counters within the same city, town or village by District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and Guidelines on Closure of Branches and Extension Counters by DCCBs**

RBI/2023-24/78
DoR.REG/LIC.No.54/19.51.052/2023-24

October 30, 2023

Madam / Sir

**Clarification regarding Shifting of Branches/Offices/Extension Counters within the same city, town or village by District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and Guidelines on Closure of Branches and Extension Counters by DCCBs**

Pursuant to the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act (No.39 of 2020) dated September 29, 2020, District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) are permitted to open new place of business/install ATMs or shift the location of such offices only after obtaining prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Accordingly, guidelines for opening of new place of business by District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) – Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies) were issued vide [Circular DOR.REG.No.63/19.51.052/2022-23 dated August 11, 2022](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12375&Mode=0).

2. In this regard, RBI has been receiving references seeking clarifications on shifting of branches within the same locality and closure of un-remunerative branches by District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs).

3. On examination of the matter, it has been decided to issue requisites clarifications regarding Shifting of Branches/Offices/Extension Counters within the same city, town or village by DCCBs and Guidelines on Closure of Branches and Extension Counters by DCCBs, as enclosed in [Annex - 1](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12559&Mode=0#ANN1).

**Commencement**

4. These guidelines will come into effect from the date of issue of this circular.

**Applicability**

5. This circular is applicable to all District Central Co-operative Banks.

Yours faithfully

(Manoranjan Padhy)
Chief General Manager

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12559&Mode=0>

**Regulatory measures towards consumer credit and bank credit to NBFCs**

RBI/2023-24/85
DOR.STR.REC.57/21.06.001/2023-24

November 16, 2023

Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks)
Non-Banking Financial Companies (including HFCs)

Madam/Dear Sir,

**Regulatory measures towards consumer credit and bank credit to NBFCs**

Please refer to [Governor’s Statement dated October 6, 2023](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=56501) flagging the high growth in certain components of consumer credit and advising banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to strengthen their internal surveillance mechanisms, address the build-up of risks, if any, and institute suitable safeguards, in their own interest. The high growth seen in consumer credit and increasing dependency of NBFCs on bank borrowings were also highlighted by Governor in the interactions with MD/CEOs of major banks and large NBFCs in July and August 2023, respectively.

2. In this context, it has been decided to effect the following measures as under:

**A. Consumer credit exposure**

(a) Consumer credit exposure of commercial banks

As per extant instructions applicable to commercial banks[1](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12567&Mode=0#F1), consumer credit attracts a risk weight of 100%. On a review, it has been decided to increase the risk weights in respect of consumer credit exposure of commercial banks (outstanding as well as new), including personal loans, but excluding housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and gold jewellery, by 25 percentage points to 125%.

(b) Consumer credit exposure of NBFCs

In terms of extant norms, NBFCs’ loan exposures generally attract a risk weight of 100%[2](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12567&Mode=0#F2). On a review, it has been decided that the consumer credit exposure of NBFCs (outstanding as well as new) categorised as retail loans, excluding housing loans, educational loans, vehicle loans, loans against gold jewellery and microfinance/SHG loans, shall attract a risk weight of 125%.

(c) Credit card receivables

As per extant instructions, credit card receivables of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) attract a risk weight of 125%[3](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12567&Mode=0#F3) while that of NBFCs attract a risk weight of 100%[4](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12567&Mode=0#F4). On a review, it has been decided to increase the risk weights on such exposures by 25 percentage points to 150% and 125% for SCBs and NBFCs respectively.

**B. Bank credit to NBFCs**

In terms of extant norms, exposures of SCBs to NBFCs, excluding core investment companies, are risk weighted as per the ratings assigned by accredited external credit assessment institutions (ECAI)[5](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12567&Mode=0#F5). On a review, it has been decided to increase the risk weights on such exposures of SCBs by 25 percentage points (over and above the risk weight associated with the given external rating) in all cases where the extant risk weight as per external rating of NBFCs is below 100%. For this purpose, loans to HFCs, and loans to NBFCs which are eligible for classification as priority sector in terms of the extant instructions shall be excluded.

**C. Strengthening credit standards**

(a) The REs shall review their extant sectoral exposure limits for consumer credit and put in place, if not already there, Board approved limits in respect of various sub-segments under consumer credit as may be considered necessary by the Boards as part of prudent risk management. In particular, limits shall be prescribed for all unsecured consumer credit exposures. The limits so fixed shall be strictly adhered to and monitored on an ongoing basis by the Risk Management Committee.

(b) All top-up loans extended by REs against movable assets which are inherently depreciating in nature, such as vehicles, shall be treated as unsecured loans for credit appraisal, prudential limits and exposure purposes.

3. The above instructions have been issued in exercise of the powers conferred by the Sections 21 and 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; Chapter IIIB of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and Sections 30A, 32 and 33 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

4. The above instructions, other than paragraph 2C(a), shall come into force with immediate effect. All REs shall endeavour to comply with the provisions at paragraph 2C(a) at the earliest, but in any case shall implement them by no later than February 29, 2024.

Yours faithfully,

(Vaibhav Chaturvedi)
Chief General Manager

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12567&Mode=0>

**Payments Infrastructure Development Fund – Extension of Scheme and Enhancements**

RBI/2023-24/101
CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S940/02-29-005/2023-24

December 29, 2023

The Chairman / Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer
Card Issuing and Acquiring Banks and Non-banks / Authorised Card Networks

Madam / Dear Sir,

**Payments Infrastructure Development Fund – Extension of Scheme and Enhancements**

Please refer to the Reserve Bank of India [circular DPSS.CO.AD No.900/02.29.005/2020-21 dated January 05, 2021](https://rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=12009&fn=9&Mode=0), on “Operationalisation of Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme” and subsequent amendments made thereto.

2. As announced in the [Statement on Development and Regulatory Policies dated October 06, 2023](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=56503), the PIDF Scheme is being extended by two years, i.e., upto December 31, 2025. Further, with a view to provide impetus to deployment of acceptance infrastructure, the following enhancements are being made to the Scheme:

1. The beneficiaries identified as part of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, across the country, shall be included as merchants for deployment under the PIDF Scheme. All eligible installations since the inception of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, i.e., September 17, 2023, may prefer claims under the PIDF Scheme.
2. The PIDF Scheme presently subsidises deployment of acceptance infrastructure based on category of device – physical or digital. It has been decided to enable other contemporary devices, viz., (i) Soundbox devices – providing instant audio payment confirmation along with payment acceptance by “scan & pay” and Near Field Communication (NFC), and (ii) Aadhaar-enabled biometric devices – certified biometric scanner devices facilitating Aadhaar authentication for acceptance of payment by merchant through BHIM Aadhaar Pay, would be eligible for subsidy under the Scheme, for installations made from October 01, 2023 onwards.
3. The amount of subsidy for devices deployed in special focus areas, viz., North Eastern States, Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, is increased from 75% to 90% of the total cost, irrespective of the type of device, for installations made from October 01, 2023 onwards.

3. The above enhancements, along with detailed guidelines, have been incorporated in the framework of PIDF Scheme, enclosed as [Annex](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12584&Mode=0#ANN).

4. These instructions are issued under Section 18 read with Section 10 (2) of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).

Yours faithfully,

(Gunveer Singh)
Chief General Manager-in-Charge

For more details, kindly refer: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12584&Mode=0>