



भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

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February 13, 2026

**Reserve Bank of India (Small Finance Banks – Credit Facilities)
Amendment Directions, 2026**

Please refer to [Reserve Bank of India \(Small Finance Banks – Credit Facilities\) Directions, 2025](#) (hereinafter referred to as ‘the **Directions**’).

2. On a review, in exercise of the powers conferred by the sections 21 and 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and all other laws enabling the Reserve Bank of India (hereinafter called the Reserve Bank) in this regard, the Reserve Bank being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient in the public interest so to do, hereby issues the Amendment Directions hereinafter specified.

3. The Amendment Directions modify the Directions as under:

3(1) In paragraph 4(1) of ‘Chapter I - Preliminary’ of the Directions, the following modifications shall be effected:

3(1) (i) Sub-paragraph (vii) shall be substituted with the following:

*(vii) “**Collateral security**” or “**Collateral**” means an asset on which a security charge is created in favour of the lender for securing a credit facility.*

3(1) (ii) The following sub-paragraphs shall be inserted:

*(va) “**Capital Market Intermediaries (CMIs)**” shall mean regulated entities undertaking trade execution and market infrastructure services in capital markets, including broking, clearing, custody, market making or other incidental services.*

Provided that CMIs shall not include Standalone Primary Dealers and Qualified Central Counterparty (QCCPs).



(viiiia) “Control” shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 2(27) of the Companies Act, 2013.

(xivb) “Eligible Securities” shall include the following securities:

- (a) *Listed Group-1 equity shares and preference shares;*
Explanation: Group 1 securities as under instructions issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (b) *Government Securities, including Treasury Bills and Sovereign Gold Bonds ;*
- (c) *Listed Debt Securities, including Convertible Debt Securities, rated BBB or higher;*
Explanation: Debt securities as defined under Section 2(1)(k) of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 dated August 9, 2021, as updated from time to time.
- (d) *Units of Mutual Fund Schemes which are listed or where repurchase/redemption facility is available for such units through the Asset Management Company, with underlying investments in equity, equity related instruments or debt instruments.*
- (e) *Units of Exchange Traded Funds (excluding commodity ETFs)*
- (f) *Units of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs);*

(xxiia) “Loan to Value (LTV)” shall mean the ratio of the outstanding loan amount to the value of the securities as on any given day.

(xxiib) “Margin” shall mean the contribution of the borrower, either in the form of cash or other liquid assets, for the purpose of purchasing or borrowing a security with bank finance or obtaining a non-fund-based facility from bank.

(xxiic) “Non-financial company” shall mean a non-banking institution which is a company but not included in the definition of a ‘financial institution’ or a ‘non-banking financial company’ as per the RBI Act, 1934.



(xxxa) “Primary Security” shall mean security created on assets which have been financed out of the credit facility extended to the borrower.



3(2) In ‘Chapter II - Role of The Board’ of the Directions, the following modifications shall be effected:

(i) Sub-paragraph 5(11) shall be substituted with the following:

“Loan Against Financial Assets including eligible securities.”

(ii) Sub-paragraph 5(12) shall be deleted.

(iii) After sub-paragraph 13, the following sub-paragraph shall be inserted:

“(14) Credit Facilities to Capital Market Intermediaries (CMIs)”



3 (3) In ‘Chapter XI - Loans Against Financial Assets’ of the Directions, the following amendments shall be effected:

3 (3) (i) All Sections and Paragraphs – except Section M and Section O, and Paragraphs 197, 198 and 200 - shall be deleted.

3 (3) (ii) A new Section ‘Q. Loans Against Securities’ shall be inserted after paragraph 201 as given below:

“Q. Loans against Securities

Q.1 General Conditions

201A. Banks may extend credit facilities against the collateral of eligible securities, as permitted in this chapter as per their approved policy (hereinafter called the policy). The policy shall, at the minimum, specify the criteria for selecting securities as collateral; determining portfolio-level as well as single borrower/group borrower limits; concentration limits for exposure to single securities; LTV/margins and haircuts for different securities; and rules for ongoing valuation and margin calls.

201B. Notwithstanding the above, following loans by a bank shall not be permitted:

(1) Loans against its own securities;

Provided that, a bank may extend loans to individuals against Long-Term Bonds issued by it for infrastructure financing under the provisions of the [Reserve Bank of India Small Finance Banks – Resource Raising Norms\) Directions, 2025](#). The Board of the bank shall frame a policy in this regard, prescribing suitable margins, purpose of the loan, and other necessary safeguards. Such loans shall be subject to a ceiling, say, ₹10 lakh per borrower; and tenure of the loan shall not exceed the maturity period of the underlying bonds. It is also clarified that a bank shall not extend loans against such bonds issued by other banks.

Provided further that, a bank may lend against CDs and buy back their own CDs where such CDs are held by mutual funds,



subject to the provisions of paragraph 42(1) of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 2026. Further, such finance if extended to equity-oriented mutual funds shall form part of banks' capital market exposure, as hitherto.

- (2) loans against partly paid shares;
- (3) loans against securities which are under any lock-in requirements;
- (4) loans against collateral of Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs);
- (5) loans against securities of such entities to which banks are not allowed to grant loans and advances;
- (6) loans to companies for buy-back of shares/ securities as specified in paragraph 23 of [Reserve Bank of India \(Small Finance Banks – Credit Risk Management\) Directions, 2025](#).
- (7) loans against Commercial Papers and Non-Convertible Debentures of original or initial maturity upto one year;

201C. While undertaking lending activities under the provisions of this chapter, a bank shall:

- (1) put in place robust mechanisms to monitor end use of the funds.
- (2) stipulate suitable risk limits taking into account *inter alia* the liquidity, volatility, and potential stress period corrections in the price of securities.
- (3) ensure that the residual maturity of the securities initially taken as collateral, or subsequently substituted for the original collateral securities, is equal to or longer than the tenor of the loan.

Explanation: Condition of residual maturity is applicable in cases of non-perpetual securities.

- (4) ensure that provision of Section 19(2) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on holding of shares are adhered to.
- (5) ensure that the prudential limits prescribed under these Directions are adhered to even when loans are extended to any of the joint holders of securities.
- (6) undertake the creation and invocation of pledge/hypothecation/lien against Government securities in terms of Section 28 of the



Government Securities Act, 2006, Chapter VII of Government Securities Regulations, 2007; any other specific requirements as issued by the Government for such securities; and relevant guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time.

- (7) ensure that loans taken against Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) are in terms of the instructions specified in SGB notification issued by Government of India and the operational instructions relating to creation and invocation of pledge/hypothecation/lien as per paragraph 11 of circular on ‘Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme of the Government of India (GoI) - Procedural Guidelines – Consolidated’ dated October 22, 2021, as amended from time to time.

201D. All exposures arising out of loans against eligible securities under this Chapter shall be included as CME, as specified in [Reserve Bank \(Small Finance Banks Concentration Risk Management\) Directions, 2025](#), except wherever specifically exempted.

Q.2 Lending to Individuals

Q.2.1 Scope

201E. Loans to individuals, including Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) which are not commercial entities, shall be covered under this section.

201F. Banks may lend to individuals against eligible securities, subject to the LTVs and prudential ceilings specified hereunder.

Q.2.2 LTV Requirements

201G. Banks shall lay down the LTV for loans against eligible securities to individuals as per their credit policy, subject to the following ceilings:

Eligible Securities	LTV Ceiling
Government Securities. including T-Bills	As per bank's policy
Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)	As applicable in case of loans against Gold and Silver Collateral
Listed shares and listed convertible debt securities	60 per cent
Mutual Funds (excluding Debt MFs), Units of ETF (excluding commodity ETFs) and Units of REITs/InvITs	75per cent



Debt Mutual Funds	85per cent
Listed Debt Securities with rating: AAA AA – BBB	85 per cent 75 per cent

201H. LTV shall be monitored on an ongoing basis and a bank shall take steps to rectify the breaches immediately, but in no case later than seven working days from the day of occurrence of such a breach.

201I. Valuation of securities taken as collateral, for the purpose of LTV shall be as per the following norms:

- (1) Valuation of debt securities shall be in terms of [Reserve Bank of India \(Small Finance Banks – Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio\) Directions, 2025](#), as updated from time to time.
- (2) Listed shares and units of mutual funds/ETFs/REIT/InvITs shall be valued at lower of the average daily closing prices/NAVs for the last six months or the closing price/NAV of the previous trading day.

Q.2.3 Prudential Ceilings

201J. Banks may fix their own prudential limits in terms of their approved policy for loans to individuals against collateral of Government securities (including T-Bills), listed debt securities and units of debt mutual fund schemes.

Provided that, during the tenor of the loan, if the credit rating of the particular debt security is downgraded below BBB(-), banks shall ensure that those securities are replaced with any other eligible security within a period of thirty working days, or proportionate portion of the exposure is repaid.

201K. The amount of loan that can be granted to individuals against eligible securities other than those mentioned in paragraph 219J above shall be capped at ₹1 crore per individual.



201L. Within the above limits as prescribed in paragraphs 219J and 219K above, loan up to ₹25 lakh per individual may be granted for the purpose of acquisition of securities in secondary markets.

Q.2.4 IPO/FPO/ESOP Financing

201M. Banks may grant loans to individuals after ensuring due diligence for subscribing to shares under initial public offer (IPO), follow-on public offer (FPO), or under employee stock option plan (ESOP) upto ₹25 lakh per individual.

Provided that the loan amount shall not exceed 75 per cent of the subscription value, i.e., borrowers shall contribute a minimum cash margin of 25 per cent.

Provided further that no loan, whether secured or unsecured, shall be granted by a bank to its own employees or Employees' Trust set up by the bank for purchasing its own Securities under IPOs/FPOs/ESOPs or from the secondary market.

201N. It shall be ensured that a lien is created on the shares to be allotted under the IPOs/FPOs/ESOPs, and such shares shall be pledged to the lender upon allotment.

Q.3 Lending to non-individuals (other than CMIs)

Q.3.1 Loans for General Business Purposes

201O. A bank may provide finance, as per its approved policy, to non-financial entities against eligible securities in addition to other permitted collateral (except Commercial Paper and Non-Convertible Debentures of original or initial maturity up to one year), for financing their working capital or for other productive purposes.

201P. The above lending shall be subject to the LTV ceiling as specified in paragraph 201G of these Directions. Banks shall ensure the end use of funds in all such cases is not used for speculative purposes

Q.3.2 Issue of Irrevocable Payment Commitments



201Q. A custodian bank may issue Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs) on behalf of their clients, in favour of a Clearing Corporation of a Stock Exchange, subject to meeting any one of the following conditions:

- (1) The IPC issuer bank has an agreement with its client which allows the bank an inalienable right over the securities to be received as pay out in any settlement; or,
- (2) Such transactions are fully pre-funded i.e., either clear INR funds are available in the customer's account or, in case of FX deals involving FPIs, the bank's nostro account has been credited before the issuance of the IPC."



3 (4) A new Chapter ‘XIA – Credit Facilities to Capital Market Intermediaries (CMIs)’ shall be inserted as given below:

“Chapter XIA – Credit Facilities to Capital Market Intermediaries (CMIs)

A. Scope

201R. Provisions of this Chapter are applicable to lending to CMIs, as defined under these Directions.

B. General Conditions

201S. Credit facilities may be extended only to CMIs which are registered and regulated by a financial sector regulator and are in compliance with the prudential norms prescribed by such regulator.

201T. All exposures to CMIs shall be included as CME, except wherever specifically exempted.

201U. Banks shall put in place counterparty as well as aggregate exposure limits for CMIs, within the overall prudential limits for CME, and relevant limits prescribed under the exposure norms for single and group obligors and Intra-group transactions and exposures (ITE) in terms of [Reserve Bank of India \(Small Finance Banks – Concentration Risk Management\) Directions, 2025](#).

C. Permissible and Prohibited Credit Facilities

201V. A bank may provide need-based credit facilities to CMIs to fund their day-to-day operations, including general working capital facilities and specific facilities such as financing for margin trading undertaken by stockbrokers; overdraft/credit line facility to stockbrokers/commodity brokers/clearing members to meet settlement related timing mismatches; and market making (for equity as well as debt securities, including State and Central Government securities).

201W. A bank may also issue guarantees on behalf of brokers or professional clearing members and in favour of exchanges or clearing houses, as applicable, in lieu of:



- (1) security deposit to the extent it is acceptable in the form of bank guarantee as laid down by stock exchanges;
- (2) margin requirements as per exchange regulations.

219X. Such guarantees shall be secured by a minimum collateral of 50 per cent, out of which 25 percent shall be in cash.

201Y. Banks shall not provide finance to a CMI (including non-fund based credit facilities) for acquisition of securities on its own account, including for proprietary trading or investments.

Provided that:

- (1) a bank may extend finance to a CMI for market making in equity and debt securities, subject to ensuring that those securities in which the market making operations are undertaken by the borrower market maker are not accepted as collateral.
- (2) a bank may provide working capital finance to a CMI for warehousing of debt securities upto a maximum period of 45 days for fulfilling firm demand/request from its clients.
- (3) a bank may extend guarantees in terms of paragraph 201W for proprietary trading by CMIs subject to the facility being fully secured by collateral of cash, cash equivalents and Government Securities, out of which a minimum 50 per cent shall be cash.

D. Security Coverage

201X. In general, all credit facilities to CMIs shall be provided on a fully secured basis (i.e. 100 per cent collateral)., Credit facilities to CMIs can be secured by eligible or other collaterals such as cash, other permissible financial assets (except Commercial Paper and Non-Convertible Debentures of original or initial maturity up to one year), immovable properties, receivables, bank guarantees and standby letter of credit (SBLC).

Provided that:



(1) Intra-day limits to CMLs to meet any shortfall arising on account of settlement timing difference in centrally cleared trades placed on behalf of clients may be extended against a minimum collateral of 50 per cent subject to the condition that receivables to the bank are from a QCCP.

(2) In respect of financing to brokers for margin trading facility (MTF) provided by them to their clients in terms of SEBI Regulations, the facility shall be fully secured by collateral of cash, cash-equivalents and Government securities out of which a minimum 50 per cent shall be cash.

(3) A bank shall apply suitable haircuts to various eligible securities accepted as collateral as per its policy, subject to a minimum haircut of 40 per cent in case of equity shares.

201AA. In terms of para 396 of '*Chapter XIV - Non-Fund Based (NFB) Credit Facilities*' of these Directions, banks cannot issue guarantee favouring another RE to enable it to provide any fund-based credit facility to an obligor. Notwithstanding this provision, counter-guarantees issued by other Indian banks and SBLCs issued by foreign banks of repute, including foreign parent bank of a CML, may also be considered as eligible non-cash collateral for this purpose. Provided that this shall be without prejudice to the extant FEMA regulations.

201AB. The collateral cover, as applicable, shall be maintained on an ongoing basis and the facility agreements shall have explicit provisions for margin calls in the event of shortfalls.

219AC. A bank shall ensure that the collaterals placed for such financing generally belong to the borrower CML. Collateral belonging to a group entity/promoter of the CML may also be accepted provided it is unencumbered, exclusively charged for this facility and legally enforceable."

4. The above amendments shall come into force from April 1, 2026, or an earlier date when adopted by a bank in entirety. Any outstanding loan / guarantee up to this date shall be permitted to continue until their respective maturity; however,



fresh loans / guarantees or existing loans / guarantees renewed from the date of adoption/coming into force of these Directions shall comply with these Directions.

5. Consequent to the above amendments, other amendment directions, viz., Reserve Bank of India (Small Finance Banks - Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Second Amendment Directions, 2026, Reserve Bank of India (Small Finance Banks – Concentration Risk Management) Amendment Directions, 2025 and Reserve Bank of India (Small Finance Banks – Financial Statements: Presentation and Disclosures) – Second Amendment Directions, 2026 have been separately issued.

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