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संदर्भ क Ref No.:HO:IRC:SD:2021-22:178

दिनांक Date: 22.09.2021

Scrip Code: BANKINDIA	Scrip Code: 532149
The Vice President – Listing Department, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd., Exchange Plaza, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400 051.	The Vice-President – Listing Department, BSE Ltd., 25, P.J. Towers, Dalal Street, Mumbai 400 001.

महोदय/महोदया Dear Sir/Madam,

# Rating Upgrade by CRISIL Ratings Limited

In compliance of Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations,2015, this is to inform that CRISIL Ratings Limited has vide its rating release dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021, upgraded its Rating on Additional Tier I Bonds (under BASEL III) of Bank of India (BOI) to "CRISIL AA/Stable" from "CRISIL AA/Stable" from "CRISIL AA/Stable". The details of bonds are as follows:

Name of the series	ISIN	Coupon Rate (%)	Date of Issue	Value (Crore)
Series - VI	INE084A08136	9.04 %	28/01/2021	750
Series VII	INE084A08144	9.30 %	30/03/2021	602
			Total	1352

We are enclosing release issued by Credit Rating Agency.

भवदीय Yours faithfully,

(Rajesh V Upadhya)

कंपनी सचिव Company Secretary



CRISIL Ratings Limited (A subsidiary of CRISIL Limited)



# Rating Rationale

September 21, 2021 | Mumbai

# Bank of India

'CRISIL AA+/Stable' assigned to Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III); Tier I Bonds (Under Basel III) rating upgraded to 'CRISIL AA/Stable'

#### **Rating Action**

Rs.1800 Crore Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III)	CRISIL AA+/Stable (Assigned)
Rs.1500 Crore Tier I Bonds (Under Basel III)	CRISIL AA/Stable (Upgraded from 'CRISIL AA-/Stable')
Rs.1500 Crore Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III)	CRISIL AA+/Stable (Reaffirmed)
Rs.1500 Crore Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III)	CRISIL AA+/Stable (Reaffirmed)
Rs.3000 Crore Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III)	CRISIL AA+/Stable (Reaffirmed)
Rs.30000 Crore Certificate of Deposits	CRISIL A1+ (Reaffirmed)

<sup>1</sup> crore = 10 million

Refer to Annexure for Details of Instruments & Bank Facilities

# **Detailed Rationale**

CRISIL Ratings has upgraded its rating on the tier I bonds (under Basel III) of Bank of India (BOI) to 'CRISIL AA/Stable' from 'CRISIL AA-/Stable'. CRISIL Ratings has also assigned its 'CRISIL AA+/Stable' rating to the Rs 1,800 crore tier II bonds (under Basel III) and reaffirmed its 'CRISIL AA+/Stable/CRISIL A1+' ratings on the Tier II Bonds (under Basel III) and the certificate of deposit.

CRISIL Ratings has also **withdrawn** its rating on the tier II bonds (under Basel III) of Rs. 1500 crore (See Annexure 'Details of Rating Withdrawn' for details) in-line with its withdrawal policy. CRISIL has received independent verification that these instruments are fully redeemed

The upgrade in the rating of Tier I bonds (under Basel III) factors in improved position of BOI to make future coupon payments, supported by an adjustment of accumulated losses with share premium account, and the improved capital ratios. Pursuant to the adjustment, the eligible reserve to total assets ratio for the bank has improved. Additionally, vide the Department of Financial Services Gazette notification no. CG-DL-E-23032020-218862 (S.O. 1200 E) dated 23.03.2020 referred to as Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2020, the bank still has share premium reserves which can be utilised to set off any losses in future, and this supports the credit profile of tier I (under Basel III) instruments. However, any substantial depletion of the share premium account or any regulatory changes to appropriation of the share premium account pertaining to adjustment of accumulated losses are key monitorables.

Supported by the regular capital infusion made by the Government of India (GoI) and higher accrual, BOI's capital ratios have improved, as reflected in tier 1 and overall capital to risk-weighted adequacy ratio (CRAR) of 12.0% and 15.1%, respectively, as on June 30, 2021 as against 9.5% and 12.8%, respectively, as on June 30, 2020 (12.0% and 14.9%, respectively, as on March 31, 2021). Further, the recent qualified institutional placement (QIP) of Rs 2,550 crore in August 2021, should also support the capital position.

The overall ratings continue to reflect the expectation of strong support from the majority stakeholder, GoI, and the established market position and comfortable resource profile of the bank. These strengths are partially offset by weak asset quality and modest earnings profile.

The rating on the tier I bonds (under Basel III) meets 'CRISIL's rating criteria for BASEL III-compliant instruments of banks'. CRISIL Ratings evaluates the bank's (i) reserves position (adjusted for any medium-term stress in profitability) and (ii) cushion over regulatory minimum CET1 (including CCB) capital ratios. Also evaluated is the demonstrated track record and management philosophy regarding maintenance of sufficient CET1 capital cushion above the minimum regulatory requirements.

The distinguishing features of non-equity tier I capital instruments (under Basel III) are the existence of coupon discretion at all times, high capital thresholds for likely coupon non-payment, and principal write-down (on breach of a pre-specified trigger). These features increase the risk attributes of non-equity tier I instruments over those of tier II instruments under Basel III, and capital instruments under Basel II. To factor in these risks, CRISIL Ratings notches down the rating on these instruments from the bank's corporate credit rating.

The factors that could trigger a default event for non-equity tier I capital instruments (under Basel III), resulting in non-payment of coupon, are: i) the bank exercising coupon discretion; ii) inadequacy of eligible reserves to honour coupon payment if the bank reports a loss or low profit; or iii) the bank breaching the minimum regulatory Common Equity Tier I (CET I; including the Capital Conservation Buffer) ratio. Moreover, given the additional risk attributes, the rating transition for non-equity tier I capital instruments (under Basel III) can potentially be higher and faster than that for tier II instruments.

In line with relief measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the Covid-19 pandemic, Bol had provided a moratorium to its borrowers. Though collections declined during the initial months, they have inched up subsequently. However, the second wave of the pandemic led to intermittent lockdowns and localised restrictions, thus impacting collections once again. Although the impact has been moderate during this phase, any adverse change in payment discipline of borrowers may lead to higher delinquencies.

Under the schemes announced by the RBI dated January 1, 2019, February 11, 2020 and August 6, 2020, and the resolution framework for stressed accounts, Bol had restructured 3.2% of gross advances as on June 30, 2021. Pursuant to RBI's resolution framework 2.0 in May 2021, restructuring stands at 1.3% of gross advances; the ratio could be higher and is still under review. Nevertheless, the ability of the bank to manage collections and asset quality going forward this fiscal, is a key monitorable. Going forward too, the impact of the third wave of the pandemic, if and when it comes in terms of its spread, intensity and duration, will also be closely monitored.

#### **Analytical Approach**

For arriving at its ratings, CRISIL Ratings has combined the business and financial risk profiles of Bol and all its wholly-owned subsidiaries. CRISIL has also factored in the strong support that the bank is expected to receive from Gol, both on an ongoing basis and in the event of distress.

Please refer Annexure - List of entities consolidated, which captures the list of entities considered and their analytical treatment of consolidation.

# <u>Key Rating Drivers & Detailed Description</u> Strengths:

### Expectation of strong support from the government:

The rating continues to factor in expectation of strong government support, both on an ongoing basis, and in the event of distress. This is because GoI is both the majority shareholder in public sector banks (PSBs), and the guardian of India's financial system. While the shareholding of GoI declined to ~81% from ~90% post the Rs. 2,550 crore QIP in August 2021, it remains the majority shareholder. Stability of the banking sector is of prime importance to the government, given the criticality of the sector to the economy, the strong public perception of sovereign backing for PSBs, and severe implications of any PSB's failure, in terms of a political fallout, systemic stability, and investor confidence. The majority ownership creates a moral obligation on GoI to support PSBs, including BoI.

As part of the Indradhanush framework, the government had pledged to infuse at least Rs 70,000 crore in PSBs over fiscals 2015-19, of which Rs 25,000 crore each was infused in fiscals 2016 and 2017. Furthermore, in October 2017, the government outlined a recapitalisation package of Rs 2.11 lakh crore over fiscals 2018 and 2019; Bol received capital infusion of Rs 9,232 crore and Rs 14,724 crore in fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2019, respectively. The bank also received capital infusion of Rs. 3,000 crore from Gol in fiscal 2021.

#### Established market position:

Bol has an established market position with total assets of Rs 720,502 crore as on June 30, 2021 (Rs 725,856 crore as on March 31, 2021; Rs 656,995 crore as on March 31, 2020). Presence across the country gives the bank access to a wide distribution network and retail depositors. With the bank exiting the prompt corrective action framework of RBI in January 2019, gross advances grew by 9% in fiscal 2020, as against 2% in fiscal 2019 and de-growth of 5% in fiscal 2018. However, growth in fiscal 2021 was hit by the pandemic and gross advances declined marginally to Rs 410,436 crore as on March 31, 2021 (-1% year-on-year). During the first quarter of fiscal 2022, gross advances rose marginally to Rs. 414,697 crore (+1% YTD).

The bank had 5,108 branches as on June 30, 2021, including 24 overseas branches. Almost 65% of branches are in rural and semi-urban areas, thereby offering access to low-cost deposits.

## Comfortable resource profile:

The resource profile is supported by a large deposit base and comfortable mix of low-cost deposits, driven by strong presence in rural and semi-urban areas. Domestic, low-cost current account and savings account deposits stood at 43.2% of total domestic deposits as on June 30, 2021 (41.3% as on March 31, 2021 and 41.5% as on March 31, 2020). The bank has reduced the share of bulk deposits (>Rs 2 crore) to 12% of its term deposits as of June 30, 2021, from 21% a year earlier. This, along with the high proportion of CASA deposits, enabled the bank to maintain its cost of deposit (CoD) at a competitive level; CoD was 4.1% in the first quarter of fiscal 2022 and fiscal 2021 (4.4% in fiscals 2020 and 2019). Significant overseas presence (with foreign branches accounting for 11.4% of total deposits as on June 30, 2021) also supports the resource profile.

### Weaknesses:

### Weak asset quality:

Gross non-performing assets (NPA) have remained elevated, with gross NPA at 13.5% as on June 30, 2021. Nevertheless, it has declined from 13.8% as on March 31, 2021, 14.8% as on March 31, 2020 and 15.8% as on March 31, 2019. Reduction

in gross NPAs in fiscals 2020 and 2021 was largely contributed by write-offs.

Majority of gross NPAs were contributed by large corporates (18.1% as of June 2021 and 16.9% as of March 2020) and the overseas book (13.5% as of June 2021 and 13.9% as of June 2020). These accounts formed around 59% of overall gross NPAs as on June 30, 2021. However, incremental focus in the corporate segment is on higher rated exposures and government/government-guaranteed exposures.

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, retail; micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) and agriculture segments witnessed higher stress. Slippages in the first quarter of fiscal 2022 stood at 4.3% of opening net advances and were largely from these segments (retail and MSME segments accounted 57% of overall slippages). Consequently, gross NPAs in these segments increased to 3.8%, 18.0% and 16.0% respectively, as on June 30, 2021 (2.8%, 17.1% and 15.5% respectively, as on June 30, 2020). Collections were impacted due to the intermittent lockdowns and localised restrictions during April-June 2021, during the second wave of the pandemic. Nevertheless, the bank is working on various initiatives to strengthen its collections and recoveries. Ability to arrest slippages under the challenging macro environment remains a key monitorable.

### Modest earnings, however, on an improving trend:

Earnings were remained weak over fiscals 2016-20 due to an elevated credit cost. However, the bank has been reporting quarterly profits since first quarter of fiscal 2021, supported by a lower credit cost, which improved to 1.1% in fiscal 2021, from an average of 2.5% over fiscals 2016-2020. With this, the bank reported profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 2,160 crore with return on assets (RoA) of 0.3% in fiscal 2021. Profitability improved further with RoA of 0.4% (annualised) and profit of Rs 720 crore in the first quarter of fiscal 2022. The bank's provision coverage was also high at 77.8% as on June 30, 2021 (including technical write-offs, the provision coverage ratio stood at 86% as on same date). The bank's ability to improve operating profit and contain credit cost will remain a key monitorable over the medium term.

#### Liquidity: Strong

Liquidity is supported by a strong retail deposit base. Liquidity coverage ratio was 255% as on June 30, 2021, as against statutory minimum of 100%. Also, excess over the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) stood at Rs 28,495 crore as on June 30, 2021. Liquidity is also supported by access to systemic sources of funds, which include the liquidity adjustment facility from the RBI and the call money market.

#### **Outlook: Stable**

Bol's credit risk profile derives significant strength from the strong support expected from Gol both on an ongoing basis and in the event of distress. However, the bank's asset quality and profitability will remain key monitorables over the medium term.

# **Rating Sensitivity factors**

#### **Upward factors**

- Sustained improvement in asset quality and profitability with the bank reporting RoA of over 0.4% on a steady state basis.
- Considerable improvement in capitalisation metrics with significant cushion over the regulatory requirements

#### **Downward factors**

- · Weakening of asset quality with GNPAs rising from current levels, and/or
- Decline in capital adequacy ratios below minimum regulatory requirements (including capital conservation buffer, which is Tier I of 9.5% and overall CAR of 11.5%) for an extended period
- Material change in shareholding and/or expectation of support from Gol

# **About the Bank**

Bol is the sixth-largest PSB in India, with gross advances of Rs 414,697 crore as on June 30, 2021. The bank had 5,108 branches and 5,551 automated teller machines across India as on March 31, 2021. A significant number of its branches cater to rural and semi-urban areas. It has strong presence in the corporate segment, with the bulk of its business and earnings coming from large corporate clients. It also has a strong presence overseas, with around 11.6% of its total business coming from outside India. Gol's stake in the bank was 81.4% as on September 09, 2021.

For fiscal 2021, BOI reported a profit of Rs 2160 crore and total income (net of interest expense) was Rs 21,710 crore, compared with loss of Rs 2,957 crore and total income (net of interest expense) of Rs 21,970 crore for fiscal 2020. For the three months ended June 30, 2021, net profit was Rs 720 crore and total income (net of interest expense) was Rs 5,521 crore, against profit of Rs 843 crore and total income (net of interest expense) of Rs 5,188 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

**Key Financial Indicators** 

As on / for the three months ended June 30		2021	2020
Total Assets	Rs crore	720502	681342
Total income (net of interest)	Rs crore	5521	5188
Profit after tax	Rs crore	720	843
Gross NPA	%	13.51	13.91
Overall capital adequacy ratio	%	15.07	12.76
Return on assets	%	0.40	0.49

Any other information: Not applicable

#### Note on complexity levels of the rated instrument:

CRISIL complexity levels are assigned to various types of financial instruments. The CRISIL complexity levels are available on www.crisil.com/complexity-levels. Users are advised to refer to the CRISIL complexity levels for instruments that they consider for investment. Users may also call the Customer Service Helpdesk with queries on specific instruments.

#### Note on tier II instruments (under Basel III)

The distinguishing feature of tier II capital instruments under Basel III is the existence of the point of non-viability (PONV) trigger, the occurrence of which may result in loss of principal to the investors and hence, to default on the instrument by the issuer. According to the Basel III guidelines, the PONV trigger will be determined by RBI. CRISIL believes the PONV trigger is a remote possibility in the Indian context, given the robust regulatory and supervisory framework and systemic importance of the banking sector. The inherent risk associated with the PONV feature is adequately factored into the rating on the instrument.

#### Note on non-equity Tier 1 capital instruments (Under Basel III)

The distinguishing features of non-equity Tier-I capital instruments (under Basel III) are the existence of coupon discretion at all times, high capital thresholds for likely coupon non-payment and principal write-down (on breach of a pre-specified trigger). These features increase the risk attributes of non-equity Tier-I instruments over those of Tier-II instruments under Basel III and capital instruments under Basel II. To factor in these risks, CRISIL notches down the rating on these instruments from the bank's corporate credit rating. Factors that could trigger a default event for non-equity Tier-I capital instruments (under Basel III), resulting in non-payment of coupon, include: i) the bank exercising coupon discretion, ii) inadequacy of eligible reserves to honour coupon payment if the bank reports low profit or a loss or iii) the bank breaching the minimum regulatory CET I, including CCB, ratios. Moreover, given their additional risk attributes, the rating transition for non-equity Tier-I capital instruments (under Basel III) can potentially be higher than that for Tier-II instruments.

#### Note on complexity levels of the rated instrument:

CRISIL Ratings' complexity levels are assigned to various types of financial instruments. The CRISIL Ratings' complexity levels are available on <a href="https://www.crisil.com/complexity-levels">www.crisil.com/complexity-levels</a>. Users are advised to refer to the CRISIL Ratings' complexity levels for instruments that they consider for investment. Users may also call the Customer Service Helpdesk with queries on specific instruments.

Annexure - Details of Instrument(s)

ISIN	Name of Instrument	Date of Allotment	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Issue Size (Rs.Cr)	Complexity Level	Rating Outstanding with Outlook
INE084A08037	Tier II - Series X	25-Sep-13	9.80%	25-Sep-23	1000	Complex	CRISIL AA+/Stable
INE084A08045	Tier II - Series XI	30-Sep-13	9.80%	30-Sep-23	500	Complex	CRISIL AA+/Stable
INE084A08060	Tier II - Series XII	31-Dec-15	8.52%	31-Dec-25	3000	Complex	CRISIL AA+/Stable
INE084A08136	Tier I – Series VI	28-Jan-21	9.04%	Perpetual	750	Highly Complex	CRISIL AA/Stable
INE084A08144	Tier I – Series VII	30-Mar-21	9.30%	Perpetual	602	Highly Complex	CRISIL AA/Stable
NA	Tier I Bonds (Under Basel III) *	NA	NA	NA	148	Highly Complex	CRISIL AA/Stable
NA	Certificate of Deposit	NA	NA	7-365 days	30,000	Simple	CRISIL A1+
NA	Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III) *	NA	NA	NA	1800	Highly Complex	CRISIL AA+/Stable

<sup>\*</sup>Not yet issued

Annexure - Details of rating withdrawn

ISIN	Name of Instrument	Date of Allotment	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Issue Size (Rs. Cr)
INE084A08094	Tier II - Series XIII	07-Jul-16	8.57%	07-Jul-26	1500

#### Annexure - List of entities consolidated

Names of Entities Consolidated	Extent of Consolidation	Rationale for Consolidation
Entity consolidated	Extent of consolidation	Rationale for consolidation
Bank of India New Zealand Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
Bank of India(Uganda) Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
Bank of India (Tanzania) Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
PT Bank of India Indonesia, TBK	Full	Subsidiary

BOI Shareholding Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
BOI AXA Investment Managers Pvt Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
BOI AXA Trustee Services Pvt Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
BOI Merchant Bankers Ltd	Full	Subsidiary
Star Union Dai-Ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd	Proportionate	Joint Venture
STCI Finance Ltd	Proportionate	Associate
ASREC (India) Ltd	Proportionate	Associate
Indo Zambia Bank Ltd	Proportionate	Associate
Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank	Proportionate	Associate
Vidharbha Konkan Gramin Bank	Proportionate	Associate
Aryavart Bank	Proportionate	Associate

**Annexure - Rating History for last 3 Years** 

		Current		2021 (History)		2	2020 2		2019 2		2018	Start of 2018	
Instrument	Туре	Outstanding Amount	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Rating	
Certificate of Deposits	ST	30000.0	CRISIL A1+	19-01-21	CRISIL A1+	30-12-20	CRISIL A1+	27-08-19	CRISIL A1+	31-08-18	CRISIL A1+	CRISIL A1+	
						31-08-20	CRISIL A1+			25-01-18	CRISIL A1+		
Lower Tier-II Bonds (under Basel II)	LT											Withdrawn	
Perpetual Tier-I Bonds (under Basel II)	LT					30-12-20	Withdrawn	27-08-19	CRISIL AA+/Stable	31-08-18	CRISIL AA+/Stable	CRISIL AA+/Negative	
						31-08-20	CRISIL AA+/Stable			25-01-18	CRISIL AA+/Stable		
Tier I Bonds (Under Basel III)	LT	1500.0	CRISIL AA/Stable	19-01-21	CRISIL AA-/Stable					31-08-18	Withdrawn	CRISIL A+/Negative	
										25-01-18	CRISIL A+/Negative		
Tier II Bonds (Under Basel III)	LT	7800.0	CRISIL AA+/Stable	19-01-21	CRISIL AA+/Stable	30-12-20	CRISIL AA+/Stable	27-08-19	CRISIL AA+/Stable	31-08-18	CRISIL AA+/Stable	CRISIL AA+/Negative	
						31-08-20	CRISIL AA+/Stable			25-01-18	CRISIL AA+/Stable		
Upper Tier-II Bonds (under Basel II)	LT					30-12-20	Withdrawn	27-08-19	CRISIL AA+/Stable	31-08-18	CRISIL AA+/Stable	CRISIL AA+/Negative	
						31-08-20	CRISIL AA+/Stable			25-01-18	CRISIL AA+/Stable		

All amounts are in Rs.Cr.

# **Criteria Details**

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**Rating Criteria for Banks and Financial Institutions** 

**CRISILs Criteria for rating short term debt** 

Rating criteria for Basel III - compliant non-equity capital instruments

<u>Criteria for Notching up Stand Alone Ratings of Entities Based on Government Support</u>

**CRISILs Criteria for Consolidation** 

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For more information, visit www.crisilratings.com

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