

JULY 27, 2015

CARE REVISES THE RATINGS ASSIGNED TO THE DEBT INSTRUMENTS OF INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

Ratings

Facilities	Amount (Rs. crore)	Ratings ¹	Remarks
Basel III Compliant Tier I Perpetual Bonds @	1,000	'CARE A' (Single A)	Revised from 'CARE A+' (Single A Plus)
Lower Tier II Bonds (Series VIII)	200	'CARE AA-' (Double A Minus)	Revised from 'CARE AA' (Double A)
Lower Tier II Bonds (Series X)	300	'CARE AA-' (Double A Minus)	Revised from 'CARE AA' (Double A)
Lower Tier II Bonds (Series VII)	-	-	Withdrawn

@ CARE has rated the aforesaid Basel III Compliant Tier-I Perpetual Bonds after taking into consideration its key features as below:

- The bank has full discretion at all times to cancel coupon payments.
- The coupon is to be paid out of current year profits. However, if the current year's profits are not sufficient, i.e. payment of such coupon is likely to result in losses during the current year, the balance of coupon payment may be made out of revenue reserves and/or credit balance in profit and loss account provided the bank meets the minimum regulatory requirements for Common Equity Tier I [CET I], Tier I and Total Capital Ratios and capital buffer frameworks as prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India [RBI].
- The instrument may be written-down upon CET I breaching the pre-specified trigger of 5.5% before March 31, 2019, and 6.125% on and after March 31, 2019, or written-off / converted into common equity shares on occurrence of trigger event called point of non-viability (PONV). The PONV trigger shall be determined by RBI.

Any delay in payment of interest/principal (as the case may be) due to invocation of any of the features mentioned above would constitute as an event of default as per CARE's definition of default and as such these instruments may exhibit a somewhat sharper migration of the rating compared with the conventional subordinated debt instruments.

Rating Rationale

The revision in the ratings assigned to the bond issues of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is primarily on account of moderation in asset quality parameters during FY15 (refers to the period April 1 to March 31), consequent moderation in profitability and relatively low capital adequacy levels. The ratings continue to factor in the majority ownership by Government of India (GoI), long standing track record of operations and strong presence of the bank in South India. Ability of the bank to improve its asset quality by preventing any significant slippages and improve profitability & capitalisation levels will be critical for its prospects. The various steps taken by the bank including increasing the share of low cost funds, reducing exposure to corporate segment and improving the recovery efforts is expected to aid the bank in improving the profitability, going forward. Given the relatively higher proportion of standard restructured assets in total advances with significant portion of the restructured portfolio from sectors including iron & steel, metals and infrastructure, improvement in the performance amidst a challenging environment would be the key rating sensitivity.

¹ Complete definition of the ratings assigned are available at www.careratings.com and other CARE publications

Background

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) established in 1937 at Chennai, is one of the larger public sector banks with a sizeable footprint in South India. As on March 31, 2015, the bank had a network of 3,381 domestic branches (1,028 rural, 947 semi-urban, 747 urban and 659 metropolitan branches), 8 overseas branches, 3 representative offices and a network of 3,571 ATMs spread across the country. As on June 2015, GoI held 73.80% stake in IOB.

During FY15, IOB reported a net loss of Rs.454 crore on total income of Rs.26,077 crore.

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****For detailed Rationale Report and subscription information, please contact us at www.careratings.com**

CARE has classified instruments rated by it on the basis of complexity. This classification is available at www.careratings.com. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careratings.com for any clarifications.

Disclaimer: CARE's ratings are opinions on credit quality and are not recommendations to sanction, renew, disburse or recall the concerned bank facilities or to buy, sell or hold any security. CARE has based its ratings on information obtained from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. CARE does not, however, guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from the use of such information. Most entities whose bank facilities/instruments are rated by CARE have paid a credit rating fee, based on the amount and type of bank facilities/instruments.

In case of partnership/proprietary concerns, the rating assigned by CARE is based on the capital deployed by the partners/proprietor and the financial strength of the firm at present. The rating may undergo change in case of withdrawal of capital or the unsecured loans brought in by the partners/proprietor in addition to the financial performance and other relevant factors.

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