

RBI Policy- March 2020 - Key Takeaways

RBI Monetary Policy

Repo Rate	Changed	
Now at 4.40% vs 5.15%		
Reverse Repo Rate	Changed	
Now at 4% vs 4.90%		
MSF Bank Rate	Changed	
Now at 4.65% vs 5.40%		
Policy Stance	Unchanged	
Accomodative		

RBI on Growth, Inflation

FY20 REAL GDP TGT	Unchanged	
At 5%		
Jan-Mar CPI TGT	Raised	
Now at 6.8% vs 6.5%		

1. Rate Cut – MPC advanced its meeting and reduced reporate by 75 bps to 4.4%. MPC unanimously voted for sizeable reduction in the reporate, but some differences in the quantum of reduction. MPC decided to continue with accommodative stance as long it is necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted in ratio of 4-2 in favor of rate cut. In the Feb'20 policy review all members had voted in favour of keeping rates steady.

2. Liquidity measures for banks

- (i) CRR: RBI reduced CRR of all banks by 100 bps to 3% of net demand and time liabilities w.e.f. 28th March 2020. The reduction in the CRR would release liquidity to the tune of ₹1,37,000 crore. This dispensation shall be available for a period of one year ending on 26th March 2021.
 - It has been further decided to reduce the requirement of minimum daily CRR balance maintenance from 90% to 80% effective from the first day of the reporting fortnight beginning 28th March 2020 which is one time dispensation available upto June 26, 2020.
- (ii) LTRO: In order to mitigate the adverse effects of Covid-19 on economic activity leading to pressures on cash flows, RBI will conduct LTRO upto 3 years for a total amount upto ₹1,00,000 crore at a floating rate linked to the policy rate.
- (iii) MSF: RBI has raised the borrowing limits for the banks from 2% to 3% by dipping into the SLR under the MSF. This measure will be applicable upto 30th June 2020 which shall provide additional liquidity to the tune of ₹1,37,000 crore.

These three measures relating to CRR, LTRO and MSF will inject a total liquidity of 3.74 lakh crore into the system.

3. Regulatory measures

- (i) Moratorium on Term loans: All commercial banks are allowed to have moratorium of 3 months w.r.t. term loans.
- (ii) Deferment of Interest on Working Capital Loans: In respect of working capital facilities, lending institutions are allowed to defer three months on payment of interest in respect of such facilities outstanding as on 1st March 2020. The accumulated interest for the period will be paid after the expiry of the decrement period.
- (iii) Easing of Working Capital Financing: In respect of working capital facilities, lending institutions may recalculate drawing power by reducing margins and/or by reassessing the working capital for the borrowers. Any changes in credit terms will not result in asset classification downgrade.
- (iv) Deferment of NSFR: Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) has been deferred by six months to 1stOct,2020. NSFR reduces risks by requiring banks to fund their activities with sufficiently stable sources of funding over a time horizon of a year in order to mitigate the risk of future funding stress
- (v) Deferment of last tranche of Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) of last tranche 0.625% by 3 months.





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