



State Level Bankers' Committee UT of Puducherry

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Minutes of the State Level Bankers' Committee meeting for the Quarter ended Sep'2025 held on 27.11.2025

The meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) was held on 27.11.2025 at Puducherry to review the performance of banks for the quarter ended Sep'2025 for the FY 2025-26.

Shri. Shiv Bajrang Singh, Chairman of SLBC and Executive Director, Indian Bank, Presided over the meeting, along with other following noted dignitaries.

- Shri. C. Djeacoumar, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt.of Puducherry
- Shri. Krishna Mohan Uppu, I.A.S. The Secretary (Finance)- Govt. of Puducherry
- Shri Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, I.A.S. The Secretary (Agriculture)- Govt. of Puducherry
- Shri. M. Rajkumar, General Manager, RBI, Chennai
- Shri V Chandrasekaran, GM (FI & Rural Banking/SLBC/RRB), Indian Bank, CO Chennai
- Smt. Padmavathy Srikant, FGM, Indian Bank, FGMO Chennai,
- Dr. P.S Harikrishnaraj, General Manager, NABARD, Chennai
- Shri. Vengata Subramanian M, SLBC Convenor & Zonal Manager, Indian Bank, Puducherry

Senior Executives/Officials of various banks, Senior Officials of various Government Departments and Coordinator of member banks participated in the meeting.

Welcome Address given by respected Shri Chandrasekaran V., General Manager, Indian Bank, Chennai.

- As on 30.09.2025, deposits stood at ₹33,729 Cr, advances at ₹26,139 Cr, with a CD ratio of 77.5%.
- Priority sector lending reached 55%; agriculture accounted for 29.38%, and weaker sections 22.83% of total advances.

- Under the Annual Credit Plan, disbursement was ₹8,011 Cr, achieving 132% of the September half yearly target. Agriculture and MSME sectors have recorded strong performance, with agriculture achieving 145% of the half yearly target and MSME 114%
- Government-sponsored schemes such as PMMY, Stand-Up India, PMEGP, PM SVANidhi, and KCC for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries have also shown commendable progress.
- In Financial Inclusion, 2.73 lakh PMJDY accounts were opened; enrollments under social security schemes reached PMJJBY: 2.58 lakh, PMSBY: 5.65 lakh, and APY: 1.16 lakh.
- During FY 2025–26 (up to September), 1,302 SHGs were credit-linked with a total disbursement of ₹99.72 crore, reflecting strong progress under the Lakhpati Didi initiative and NRLM.

Presidential Address given by respected Shri. Shiv Bajrang Singh, Executive Director & Chariman SLBC, Indian Bank, Puducherry

- The RBI's Oct'25 MPC projected GDP growth at 6.8% for FY26, reflecting strong domestic demand, infrastructure push and services sector resilience. The RBI revised its CPI inflation projection for FY26 to 2.6%, down from the earlier 3.1%, reflecting easing food prices and supply-side improvements.
- Basel III Capital Guidelines: Updated norms to align with global standards, including stricter capital adequacy and leverage requirements, ensuring banks remain resilient under stress.
- Non-food bank credit rose by 10.2% YoY as of the fortnight ending 19 Sep'25, compared to a stronger growth of 13.0% in the same period last year. Agriculture and allied activities registered a 9.0% YoY credit growth, significantly lower than the 16.4% growth recorded in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year.
- UT of Puducherry Banking Performance: Strong Credit Growth & Financial Inclusion: Deposits grew by 13.60% YoY to ₹33,729 Cr, and advances increased by 13.75% to ₹26,139 Cr. The Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio stood at 77.50%, reflecting strong credit deployment and financial inclusion efforts.
- Priority Sector Lending Achievements: Priority Sector Lending (PSL) reached 55% of total advances, with agriculture at 29.38% and weaker sections at 22.83%, both exceeding targets and reflecting strong focus on inclusive credit flow.

- Performance under Government-Sponsored Schemes: Schemes like PMEGP (164% of target), PM SVANidhi (103% in 1st tranche, 187% in 2nd, 237% in 3rd), and Stand-Up India (112% achievement) showed impressive results, though continued focus is needed for PMFME and MUPSES.
- Re-KYC & Financial Inclusion: The Re-KYC drive continues, and banks must ensure timely KYC updates, especially for accounts due before June 30, 2026. Additionally, financial inclusion schemes and outreach initiatives, including the saturation of FI schemes, remain a priority for ensuring equitable access to banking services.

Special Address given by respected Shri. Krishna Mohan Uppu, I.A.S. The Secretary (Finance)- Govt. of Puducherry

- The Finance Secretary appreciated the efforts of Member Banks, the Convenor Bank and Government Departments for supporting the development priorities of the UT of Puducherry and emphasised the importance of SLBC as a platform for coordinated financial outreach.
- Banks were urged to strengthen credit deployment in priority sectors, especially Agriculture, MSME, SHGs, women entrepreneurs under Lakhpati Didi, and beneficiaries under MUDRA, Stand-Up India and other livelihood-oriented schemes.
- The Secretary stressed the need for accelerated financial inclusion, including saturation of Jan Suraksha schemes, adoption of Smart Farmer ID Cards under AgriStack and expedited settlement of unclaimed deposits, with special focus on rural and semi-urban coverage.
- Banks were advised to ensure strict compliance with recent RBI regulatory updates, such as amendments to the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, KYC norms, nomination rules and procedures for settlement of deceased customers' claims to enhance transparency and customer service.
- Support was sought from banks for Puducherry's priority development sectors, including fisheries, shrimp farming, allied agricultural activities and RIDF projects. NABARD was specifically requested to expedite pending approvals to enable timely tendering and implementation before the election-related restrictions.
- The Secretary highlighted the need for strong coordination among banks, departments and local bodies, expressing confidence that Puducherry will achieve full financial inclusion and improved credit outreach across sectors, and noted that detailed issues would be taken up in the respective agenda items.

Special Address given by Shri. C. Djeacoumar, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture

- In our Union Territory of Puducherry, around 20,000 dedicated farmers faces numerous challenges, earning modest incomes while sustaining agriculture and allied activities that form the backbone of our rural economy.
- Bankers must rise to the occasion by extending robust financial support to these farmers, not just for core farming but also for allied sectors like dairy, fisheries, and horticulture, ensuring they overcome difficulties and thrive.
- Priority must be given to organic farming initiatives, focus can be on a panchayat-wise basis, transforming Puducherry into a model of sustainable agriculture.
- Such targeted interventions will spur agricultural development, enhance farmer incomes, and contribute to the overall prosperity of our Union Territory.

Special Address given by respected Shri. Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, I.A.S, Secretary to Government (Agriculture), Govt of Puducherry

- The Secretary informed significant improvement in the performance of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors since the last SLBC meeting, and appreciated the support of all banks for the notable progress achieved.
- He highlighted the strong national-level agricultural performance, noting India's farm sector growth of 3.7%—the highest globally—and emphasised the role of food processing and expanding export opportunities, including Puducherry's rise in exports of dragon fruit and traditional varieties like Karuppu Kavuni rice.
- The Secretary encouraged banks to recognize the strong potential of agriculture in Puducherry, reiterating that production remains strong, the department is committed to increasing acreage, and adequate credit support from banks is essential.
- He briefed members on major Central Government initiatives such as the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, along with Puducherry's own developments including the ₹200 crore expansion of the Ponlait dairy plant and efforts toward mechanization and to increase the output to meet requirement.
- He appreciated banks for achieving strong credit performance, with agriculture reaching 145% of Half yearly targets, and requested continued support for PMFME, agri-business centres, value-addition initiatives and strengthening of FPO infrastructure.

- He announced the rollout of the Smart Farmer Card, enabling fully digital, verified land and cropping records for KCC sanctioning, and urged banks to sensitize branch managers for its effective use, emphasising its importance in improving farmer service delivery.

Special Address given by respected Shri. M. Rajkumar, General Manager, RBI, Chennai

- The Monetary Policy Committee has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.50%, with a neutral stance, while projecting real GDP growth at 6.5% to 6.8% for 2025-26, reflecting resilience in domestic growth.
- The campaign for saturation of FI Schemes and re-KYC at Gram Panchayat level concluded on October 31, 2025. Out of the total no. of accounts due for Re-KYC till June 30, 2026, the percentage of Re-KYC done by Rural bank branches in Puducherry till October 30th is around 23% only. Banks are requested to strengthen their efforts in reducing Re-KYC pendency.
- A nationwide campaign on "Your Money, Your Right" has been initiated from October to December 2025 to facilitate the return of unclaimed deposits to rightful claimants and to ensure timely settlement of eligible claims from the Depositors Education Awareness (DEA) fund. Banks are requested to actively participate and encourage the public to activate their inoperative accounts and claim their unclaimed deposits.
- RBI has also introduced an accelerated payout scheme on inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits, offering incentives to banks from October 2025 to September 2026, and this window should be fully utilized to return funds to customers.
- In the Annual Credit Plan, banks in Puducherry have achieved 66% of the overall annual target in the first half, with notable performance in agriculture, housing, and especially renewable energy, and this momentum must be continued considering the upcoming elections next year.
- While appreciating the progress made, there is a clear need to strengthen lending to social infrastructure and to ensure that all banks work in coordination to extend timely, inclusive banking services to the last mile in the Union Territory.

Special address given by respected Dr. P.S Harikrishnaraj, General Manager, NABARD

- Launch of Smart Farmer Card (Pilot to Scale-Up) NABARD, in collaboration with the Government of Puducherry, launched the Smart Farmer Card for 32 farmers as a pilot—planned to scale to 400 and ultimately 4,000 farmers. The

smart card integrates Chitta and Adangal for easy bank verification and hassle-free credit access.

- Strengthening KCC Across All Sectors Highlighted the need to priorities KCC for crop, animal husbandry, and fisheries. Emphasized that fisheries potential exists even in inland areas and must be fully tapped for enhanced credit flow.
- Credit Opportunities in Agri & Allied Sectors Shared that GoI has set a ₹5 lakh crore national target for agri-allied credit, with Puducherry receiving a substantial ₹2,260 crore target.
- NABARD Support for Infrastructure Projects Updated that ₹119 crore out of ₹150 crore for the year is already sanctioned under RIDF/AHIDF. NABARD is ready to fund milk processing, feed plants, fisheries infrastructure and other agri-infrastructure. Requested departments to expedite proposals to ensure timely disbursements.
- Promoting JLGs, PMFBY and Storage Infrastructure Requested 100% PMFBY coverage for all loanee farmers. Reported progress of 2,500 JLGs sanctioned (1,722 already formed by Puducherry Grama Bank). Emphasised the urgent need for scientific storage facilities and WDRA-registered godowns to enable Negotiable Warehouse Receipt financing.
- Support for New & Emerging Activities Encouraged banks and departments to promote Agri-Clinics Agri-Business Centres and new sectors like seaweed farming and marine agriculture.

Thereafter **Shri. Vengata Subramanian M, Zonal Manager, Indian Bank and SLBC Convenor** presented the agenda items for discussion and the detailed deliberations were made by the Committee on the progress made.

Agenda 1:

The minutes of the previous SLBC meeting held on 08.08.2025 was confirmed by the forum.

Agenda 2:

The Action Taken Report of Previous SLBC meeting was presented in the forum which was taken for the record.

Action Point 1: The respected Secretary (Finance) has advised the DRDA to ensure completion of the new land allotment process for INDSETI for the purpose of constructing its own building prior to this SLBC meeting.

ATR 1: The DRDA has informed that the allotment of new land at Thavalakuppam Revenue Village is currently in process and is expected to be completed by December 25.

Action Point 2: HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were advised to activate their inactive BCs numbering 8 and 5 respectively before this SLBC meeting.

ATR 2: HDFC Bank has activated 7 BCs and 1 BC has been discontinued. Axis Bank has activated all 5 BCs.

Action Point 3: Implementation of Agri stack in Puducherry for providing online Sowing Certificates to bank branches for facilitating and expediting the issuance of KCC crop loans by replacing traditional documents.

ATR 3: The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare vide letter dated 25.08.2025 communicated the GO issued by Government of Puducherry to consider the Sowing Certificate (issued by the Agriculture Department) as a valid cropping document for providing KCC loans.

The Agriculture Department has provided access to all bank branches along with login credentials to search and download the Sowing Certificate for facilitating and expediting the issuance of KCC crop loans.

Action Point 4: An awareness Programme covering MUDRA, SSS and cybercrime/fraud-related aspects of banking activities is to be broadcasted through All India Radio.

ATR 4: As advised, a Programme on MUDRA, SSS and cybercrime/fraud-related to banking awareness has been broadcasted in All India Radio on 28.08.2025 to reach a wider audience.

Agenda 3:

Review of performance of banks in U.T. of Puducherry

3.A Bank Branches in Puducherry:

The total number of branches in the Union Territory of Puducherry stands at 301 as on 30.09.2025.

3.B CD ratio, Advances Outstanding & NPA in UT Puducherry as on 30.09.2025:

- The total business amounts to ₹59868.85 crores with a YoY growth of 13.66%, deposits at ₹33729.2 crores with a YoY growth of 13.60%, and advances outstanding at ₹26139.65 crores with a YoY growth of 13.75%. The Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio for UT Puducherry stands at 77.5%.

It was advised that Central Bank of India and UCO Bank need to improve their CD ratio, as it is currently below the benchmark level of 60%. **(Action: Central Bank of India and UCO Bank)**

- Out of Total advances, the Priority sector comprising 55.00%, the agriculture sector accounted for 29.38%, MSME Sector accounted for 19.54%, while weaker section advances reached 22.83%.
- Non-Performing Assets (NPA) against total advances, the overall NPA stands at 1.9% and the Public Sector Banks at 1.6%, Private Sector Banks at 1.8%. The education loans have the highest level of NPA of 10.00%.

Agenda 4: Performance under Annual Credit Plan as on 30.09.2025

A comprehensive update on credit disbursements as on Sep 2025 of the fiscal year 2025-26 was provided, covering sectors such as Agriculture, MSME, Housing, and Education, along with outreach to Minorities, SC/ST, and women beneficiaries. The overall ACP achievement stood at Rs. 8011.42 crore, surpassing the Half Yearly target of Rs. 6050.00 crore with 132% achievement and against the annual target of Rs. 12100.00 crore, the achievement stood at 66%.

Specifically, against the annual targets, achievements were as follows:

- **Agriculture:** Achieved Rs. 5255.95 crores against the target of Rs. 7255 crores, which is 72%.
- **MSME:** Achieved Rs. 2455.01 crores against the target of Rs. 4325 crores, which is 57%.
- **Other Sectors (Priority):** Achieved Rs. 300.46 crores against the target of Rs. 520 crores, which is 58%.

Agenda 5:

5.A Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY):

The performance of banks and other financial institutions, in the UT of Puducherry as on 14.11.2025 (FY 2025-26) were informed to the members. Under this scheme, the achievement is Rs.437.71 crores against the Annual Target of Rs.602.70 Crores with the achievement of 72.6%.

5.B Stand up India (SUI)

As on 30.09.2025, banks have sanctioned SUI loans to 570 beneficiaries, totaling Rs.134.3 crores, achieving 112% of the target. Banks were appreciated for their performance under this scheme.

Agenda 6:

Performance under Government Sponsored Schemes in UT of Puducherry

6.A PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme)

As on 15.11.2025 (FY 2025-26), banks have disbursed 41 loans against annual target of 25 loans representing 164% achievement. The margin money claimed amounts to Rs. 119.39 lakhs, which is 130% of the target of Rs. 91.75 lakhs. Banks are performing well in the scheme and making good progress.

6.B PM SVANidhi Scheme

As on 19.11.2025, for the first tranche, the target set was 3445, and the achievement was at 3561 (103.05%). For the second tranche, the target was 900, and the achievement was 1743(187.44%). For the third tranche, the target was 170, and the achievement was 486(237.06%). Banks were appreciated for achieving the target in all three tranches under this scheme. It was advised that member banks to reduce the number of returned applications under the PM SVANidhi Scheme for both the second and third tranches.

6.C PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

As on 11.11.2025(FY 2025-26), banks have sanctioned 39 loans against the Annual Target 50, resulting in an achievement rate of 78%. It was advised that Central Bank of India to process the pending application under PMFME scheme within turn around time.

6.D PM Vishwakarma Scheme:

As on 19.11.2025 (FY 2025-26), out of 194 applications received, banks have sanctioned 149 loans and rejected 21 applications. The sanction percentage stood at 99%.

6.4 MUPSES:

As on 19.11.2025 (FY 2025-26), against the annual target of 270, banks have sanctioned 234 loans out of 332 applications received, achieving 86.7% of target.

6.5 KCC to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries:

Animal Husbandry: As on 30.09.2025, against the target of 4000, banks have sanctioned 4238 (106%) applications and surpassed saturation target.

Fisheries: As on 30.09.2025, against the target of 3200, banks have sanctioned 3463 applications which is 108% of target.

Agenda 7:

Banks are advised to cover all the SHG and JLG by providing credit linkage.

SHG Credit Linkage: As on 30.09.2025(FY 2025-26), 1302 groups have been credit linked and disbursed to the tune of Rs 99.72 crores during the year.

Women Led Enterprises: As on 31.10.2025, a total of 982 Lakhpati Didi accounts have been opened, amounting to Rs. 977.66 lakh, representing 196.4% achievement against the annual target. Member banks were appreciated in the forum for achieving this target.

Agenda 8:

Financial Literacy Training:

As on 31.10.2025 (FY 2025-26), a total of 182 FLC camps have been conducted, benefiting 4,741 participants.

It was advised Financial Literacy Counsellors and Centers for Financial Literacy to create awareness among the public about cyber security, the ongoing campaign on unclaimed assets, and the importance of updating Re-KYC in customer accounts during their camps. (Action: FLC and CFL.)

Center for Financial Literacy: (CFL)

As on 30.09.2025 (FY 2025-26), CFL DHAN Foundation Ariyankuppam has conducted 420 programs benefitting 11040 individuals.

Self-Employment Training Institute:

Indian Bank Self Employment Training Institute (INDSETI) – conducted 17 training programs benefiting 585 candidates. Out of these, 369 candidates settled in businesses, and 297 received credit linkages, which is 80%. INDSETI is expected to ensure that a minimum of 75% of trainees are linked with credit for business after completion of training.

Agenda 9:

Financial Inclusion & Jansuraksha Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Mobile seeding, Aadhar seeding & Authentication

All member banks should continue opening additional PMJDY accounts for new household members. Under NSFI, assess training needs of new PMJDY account holders and share details with training institutions. INDSETI and the FLC of Indian Bank may be effectively utilized for this. Aadhaar and mobile seeding in SB accounts must continue, especially for scheme beneficiaries. Consent-based seeding should also

be done for willing account holders to enable DBT and digital transactions. INDSETI and FLCs are utilized for this purpose.

Saturation drive for Jan Suraksha Schemes

The objective of the drive is to ensure all eligible persons are covered under insurance and pension schemes for saturation. The PMJDY account holders and PMMY, PM SVANidhi account holders who are not enrolled under social security schemes are also being contacted and enrolled in the schemes as per their eligibility. SVANidhi Se Samriddhi Camps are conducted monthly to cover the social security schemes for PM SVANidhi Street vendors and their families.

Agenda 10:

Performance under Jansuraksha Scheme.

The Cumulative enrolment figures as on 05.11.2025 (FY 2025-26):

- PMJDY : 2,73,248 enrolments.
- PMJJBY: 2,57,656 enrolments.
- PMSBY: 5,65,409 enrolments.
- APY : 1,15,584 enrolments.

Banks are requested to ensure maximum enrollment of all eligible account holders to attain saturation in these schemes so that social security benefits will be made available to them. When compare to last year performance , UT Puducherry is performing better in APY and ranked second in Small and UT Category as per PFRDA ranking.

Agenda 11:

Performance of Digital Banking Unit

The total outstanding of DBUs as on 31.10.2025 (FY 2025-26) is Rs. 24.68 crores in deposits and Rs. 32.36 crores in advances. DBU should work fully based on the digital channel services.

It was advised that Financial Literacy Camps be organized near the DBU to showcase the benefits of digital banking. (Action: Financial Literacy Counsellor)

Agenda 12:

Discussion on Market Intelligence Issues

Banks/Branches were requested to inform SLBC about any instances of Ponzi schemes, illegal deposit-taking, or cyber frauds. The 1930 helpline (MHA initiative) may be used for reporting cyber frauds. Member Banks' State Coordinators were

advised to promptly share data with LEAs, act on complaints in real time, and follow the escalation matrix for faster resolution.

Agenda 13:

INDSETI Land Allotment

As per MoRD guidelines, every RSETI must have its own building in coordination with DRDA and the State Government. Currently, a land has been identified in Thavalakuppam revenue village and now it is currently under progress.

Agenda 14:

Saturation Campaign for Financial Inclusion in UT of Puducherry (01.07.2025 to 31.10.2025)

As per the directions of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, a countrywide campaign for the saturation of Financial Inclusion (FI) schemes at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level was conducted from July 1 to October 31, 2025. Under PMSBY, against a target of 50,564, SLBC achieved 53,479, attaining 105.8%. Under PMJJBY, against a target of 34,962, bankers achieved 35,702, attaining 102.1%.

Agenda 15:

Settlement of Unclaimed Financial Assets Campaign (1 October to 31 December 2025)

Under this campaign, 342 accounts with balances of less than ₹1 lakh amounting to ₹68.21 lakh have been settled. Additionally, 54 accounts with balances of ₹1 lakh and above amounting to ₹1.22 crore have been settled. Further, to popularize the Unclaimed Financial Assets campaign under the directions of DFS, the SLBC conducted awareness campaigns in Puducherry on 17.10.2025 and in Karaikal and Mahe on 21.11.2025.

"Your Money, Your Right" Campaign: The nationwide campaign to trace and settle unclaimed financial assets is ongoing until December 2025. Banks are urged to identify unclaimed accounts, assist customers with record updates, and ensure timely settlements to boost financial inclusion. Government accounts in DEAF status should be identified, and the accounts should be renewed. The same process should be applied to public accounts.

Agenda 16:

Smart Farmer ID cards under AgriStack for issuance of Crop Loans

Digitally enabled sowing certificates on the Agri department's portal are available for banks to verify bona fide farmers and ensure timely, transparent disbursement of

seasonal crop loans. Member banks are advised to adopt these documents and process loans once the SFICs are issued.

The Smart Farmers ID Card was launched in Puducherry during the SLBC meeting in the presence of Shri C. Djeacoumar, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Shri Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, I.A.S., Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Puducherry, and SLBC Committee members, with financial assistance from NABARD. This card will serve as proof of identity for farmers.

Agenda 17:

Campaign for saturation of FI Schemes at Gram Panchayat (GP) level – Tamil Nadu and UT of Puducherry

The campaign for saturation of FI schemes and re-KYC at the Gram Panchayat level was concluded on October 31, 2025. Out of the total number of accounts due for re-KYC as of June 30, 2026, 30% have been completed by bank branches in UT of Puducherry, and improvement is expected in this regard.

Shri M. Rajkumar, General Manager, RBI, appreciated the performance of Indian Bank, UCO Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank, and advised improvement in the performance of Puducherry Grama Bank, State Bank of India (which is below the Bank's national average), ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Federal Bank, IndusInd Bank, City Union Bank, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, Yes Bank, Catholic Syrian Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank. He emphasized that accounts opened under PMJDY must undergo re-KYC, as the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India are focusing on this measure to reduce fraud.

Government-related accounts opened for subsidy utilization that have remained idle for years without any balance may be identified and closed during the campaign.

Agenda 18:

Scheme for Facilitating Accelerated Payout - Inoperative Accounts and Unclaimed Deposits

RBI has launched a scheme to facilitate accelerated payouts for inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits. The scheme enables banks to proactively reactivate inoperative accounts and return unclaimed DEA Fund amounts to rightful claimants, ensuring faster and more efficient settlement. The payout structure has been provided, with categories based on the age and type of account (inoperative or unclaimed).

Agenda 19 :

Amendment to Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB - IOS, 2021)

The inclusion of State Cooperative and Central Cooperative Banks under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021, effective from 1 November 2025, has been noted in the agenda.

Agenda 20:**Amendments - Reserve Bank of India [Know Your Customer (KYC)] Directions, 2016**

In the agenda, amended directions have been highlighted to strengthen inclusivity for persons with disabilities in banking and V-CIP processes, require third-party due diligence for transactions above ₹50,000, and allow Aadhaar Face Authentication as a valid verification method.

Agenda 21 :**Reserve Bank of India (Settlement of Claims in respect of Deceased Customers of Banks) Directions, 2025**

Updated procedures for settlement of deceased customers' deposit accounts, lockers, and safe-custody articles have been outlined in the agenda. The guidelines are to be implemented by March 31, 2026, and are not applicable to Government Savings Schemes such as SCSS and PPF. Simplified claim limits have been prescribed—up to ₹5 lakh for Cooperative Banks and up to ₹15 lakh for other banks. Claims are required to be resolved within 15 calendar days. Compensation for delays will be payable at Bank Rate + 4% for deposit accounts and ₹5,000 per day for lockers and safe-custody articles.

Agenda 22 :**Reserve Bank of India (Nomination Facility in Deposit Accounts, Safe Deposit, Lockers, and Articles kept in Safe Custody with the Banks) Directions, 2025**

New directions on the nomination facility for deposit accounts, lockers, and safe custody have been highlighted in the agenda, effective 1 November 2025. Customers are to be informed of the nomination option at account opening, and a written declaration is to be obtained and recorded if the facility is declined.

Agenda 23 :**Reserve Bank of India (Lending Against Gold and Silver Collateral) – (1st Amendment) Directions, 2025**

From 1 October 2025, loans for purchasing gold or gold-backed assets have been prohibited by RBI. However, need-based working capital may be provided by Scheduled Commercial Banks and Tier 3/4 UCBs to businesses using gold or silver as raw materials, ensuring it is not for investment or speculation.

Agenda 24 :**Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Advances) (Amendment Directions), 2025**

With effect from 1 October 2025, banks have been permitted by RBI to reduce non-credit risk spread components before three years for customer retention on fair and justified grounds. Borrowers of EMI-based floating-rate personal loans must be offered the option to switch to a fixed rate at each reset, as per a Board-approved policy.

Agenda 25 :**Reserve Bank of India (Co-Lending Arrangements) Directions, 2025**

RBI's Co-Lending Arrangement (CLA) Directions, effective from 1 January 2026, have been issued covering Commercial Banks (excluding SFBs, LABs, RRBs), AIFs, and NBFCs/HFCs. At least 10% of each loan is to be retained by each lender, with roles and blended interest rates disclosed to borrowers. All transactions are to be routed through escrow accounts, and individual borrower accounts maintained. Active CLA partners are to be disclosed on websites, and aggregate CLA details included in financial statements.

Agenda 26 :**e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi E-NWR based Pledge Financing**

This agenda was discussed in the earlier SLBC meeting concerning the e-NWR based pledge financing scheme with a ₹20 crore target for UTP. It has been informed by the Agriculture Department that no WDRA-accredited warehouse is available in UTP.

Agenda 27 :**Implementation and Promotion of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC)****Scheme in Puducherry**

The ACABC Scheme under Krishonnati Yojana is being continued in FY 2025-26. Certificates from MANAGE will be awarded in December to 25 candidates who completed training in October–November 2025, and they are made eligible for credit linkage and subsidy. It was advised that the list of 25 candidates who have completed training be shared with member banks for credit linkage.

Agenda 28 :**World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme (WLGS)**

Under the World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme, PACS-level storage is being expanded. Loans for creating these facilities are to be provided by cooperative banks, and concessional refinance is to be made available to PACS for the required infrastructure.

Agenda 29 :

For PMFBY 2025-26 Kharif and Rabi seasons, RRBs, State Co-op Banks, DCCBs, and PACS are requested to issue guidelines in the vernacular and display them on notice boards for farmer awareness. It was advised that all banks to ensure all loanee farmers' enrollment under PMFBY, an important scheme of the Government of India, and to encourage farmers to participate in the scheme.

Agenda 30 :

A total target of ₹5,00,000 crore for Agriculture Allied Activities for FY 2025-26 has been allocated by NABARD, vide Letter No. NB.CPD.GLC/103729/GLC Corresp./2025-26 dated 16 October 2025, with ₹2,260 crore assigned to the UT of Puducherry. Active credit disbursement under this sector is requested to be ensured by all member banks.

Agenda 31 :**List of ongoing RIDF projects in UTP (Social Monitoring)**

The revised list of ongoing infrastructure projects in UTP has been enclosed for banks' information, as per the social monitoring requirements in the RIDF guidelines. Banks are requested to ensure that credit demand in these areas is capitalized upon and that BCs are deployed for loan syndication.

Agenda 32 :**Focus on Fisheries Sector Development through Gol Initiatives**

The Government of India is focusing on fisheries sector development, including a smart fishing harbour in Karaikal, the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), Fisheries Clusters, Integrated Aqua Parks, and 100 Climate-Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV).

Out of 100 climate-resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages, Narambai in Puducherry District and Pattinacherry in Karaikal District have been selected in UT Puducherry by the Government of India as pilot project villages, with ₹2 crore allocated to each.

It was requested member banks to participate, explore lending opportunities, and support the development of the sector in these villages.

Agenda 33 :**Sanction and Disbursement of Credit for Shrimp Farming by Banks and RFls**

As announced in the Union Budget 2024-25, nucleus breeding centres for shrimp broodstocks are to be established in Puducherry, with funding for shrimp farming and exports to be facilitated by NABARD. A credit potential of ₹6.09 crore for shrimp farming in the UT has been identified in NABARD's PLP.

Action 34:**One State One RRB Initiative: Name Change and Branding of Puducherry Grama Bank**

As part of the "One State One RRB" initiative for uniform branding, "Puduvai Bharathiar Grama Bank" has been renamed to Puducherry Grama Bank by DFS. Branding requirements, including a common logo, bilingual representation of the bank name, and the disclosure of ownership as "Scheduled Bank Owned by Government," have been adopted by the bank.

Smt. Padmavathy Srikant, FGM, Indian Bank, FGMO Chennai, has summed up of the agenda and given vote of thanks with following points.

- The presence of the Hon'ble Ministers, Secretaries of Finance and Agriculture, and senior officials from RBI, NABARD, SLBC, and Indian Bank is gratefully acknowledged, and their valuable guidance is sincerely appreciated.
- The encouragement given by Shri V. Chandrasekaran, GM (FI & Rural Banking/SLBC/RRB), on the achievements in CD ratio, priority sector, agriculture, weaker sections, and on strengthening Re-KYC and revival of DEAF and inoperative accounts, is gratefully noted.
- The insights shared by our SLBC Chairman and ED, Shri Shiv Bajrang Singh, on the global and Indian economy, RBI's developmental measures, and the progress under financial inclusion and government-sponsored schemes, are deeply appreciated.
- The constructive suggestions offered by the Finance Secretary, Shri Krishna Mohan Uppu, IAS, and the Agriculture Secretary, Shri Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, IAS, on enhancing credit deployment, MSME, SHGs, digital adoption, and customer service, are sincerely acknowledged.
- The guidance provided by Shri M. Rajkumar, GM, RBI, on Re-KYC, DEAF revival incentives, clearing initiatives, and the initiatives highlighted by Dr. P.S. Harikrishnaraj, GM, NABARD, including the Smart Agri-Stack Cards and support to agriculture and allied sectors, has been greatly appreciated.
- The participation of all banks and departments is sincerely acknowledged, and it is assured that all commitments for the UT of Puducherry—including Re-KYC, death claim settlement, and revival of DEAF and inoperative accounts—will be earnestly pursued.
