

June 06, 2023

Satin Creditcare Network Ltd.: Provisional [ICRA]AA(SO) assigned to Series A1 PTC and Provisional [ICRA]A+(SO) assigned to Series A2 PTC backed by microfinance loan receivables issued by Nimbus 2023 MFI Gorky

Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Nimbus 2023 MFI Gorky	Series A1 PTC	115.32	Provisional [ICRA]AA(SO); Assigned
	Series A2 PTC	5.49	Provisional [ICRA]A+(SO); Assigned

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rating in the absence of pending actions/documents	No ratings would have been assigned as it would not be meaningful
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Rationale

ICRA has assigned provisional ratings to the pass-through certificates (PTCs) issued under a securitisation transaction originated by Satin Creditcare Network Ltd. (Satin; rated [ICRA]A- (Negative)/[ICRA]A1). The PTCs are backed by a pool of Rs. 137.29-crore (principal amount; receivables of Rs. 167.19 crore) microfinance loan receivables.

The provisional ratings are based on the strength of the cash flows from the selected pool of contracts. Credit enhancement is available in the form of (i) a cash collateral (CC) of 9.00% of the initial pool principal to be provided by Satin (originator), (ii) principal subordination (16.00% of the initial pool principal for Series A1 PTC and 12.00% for Series A2 PTC), and (iii) excess interest spread (EIS) of 14.98% of the initial pool principal for Series A1 PTC and 14.29% of the initial pool principal for Series A2 PTC in the structure, as well as the integrity of the legal structure. The provisional ratings are subject to the fulfilment of all the conditions under the structure, due diligence audit of the pool, review by ICRA of the documentation pertaining to the transaction, and the furnishing of a legal opinion on the transaction to ICRA by Satin.

Key rating drivers

Credit strengths

- Availability of credit enhancement in the form of EIS, over-collateralisation and CC
- Average seasoning of ~4 months and average pre-securitisation amortisation of ~11% as on the cut-off date
- One of the larger players in microfinance industry with an established track record

Credit challenges

- High geographical concentration with top 3 states contributing around 62% to the initial pool principal
- Performance of pool would remain exposed to natural calamities that may impact the income-generating capability of the borrower, given the marginal borrower profile; further, pool's performance would be exposed to political and communal risks
- Performance of the pool would remain exposed to macro-economic shocks/business disruptions

Description of key rating drivers highlighted above

According to the transaction structure, the loan pool receivables will be assigned at par to the PTC investors. The collections from the pool, after making the promised interest payouts to Series A1 PTC, will be used to make the expected principal payouts to Series A1 PTC (to the extent of 99% of the monthly pool principal billed), followed by the expected interest payouts to PTC Series A2 and the expected principal payouts to PTC Series A2 (to the extent of 1% of the monthly pool principal billed). Post the maturity of PTC Series A1, interest payouts will be promised to PTC Series A2 and excess cash flows, after meeting the promised PTC Series A2 interest payouts, will be passed on for the expected PTC Series A2 principal payouts (to the extent of monthly pool principal billed). The entire principal repayment to Series A1 PTC and Series A2 PTC is promised on the scheduled maturity date (February 17, 2025). The balance cash flows, after making the promised and expected payments, would be passed on to the residual beneficiary.

The first line of support for PTC Series A1 in the transaction is in the form of a principal subordination of 16.00% of the initial pool principal (includes the principal payable to PTC Series A2). After PTC Series A1 has been fully paid, over-collateralisation of 12.00% of the initial pool principal could be available for PTC Series A2. Further credit support is available in the form of an EIS of 14.98% of the initial pool principal for Series A1 PTC and 14.29% of the initial pool principal for Series A2 PTC. A CC of 9.00% of the initial pool principal (Rs. 12.36 crore), to be provided by Satin, would act as further credit enhancement in the transaction. In the event of a shortfall in meeting the promised PTC payouts during any month, the trustee will utilise the CC to meet the same.

There are no overdues in the pool as on the cut-off date. The pool has moderate pre-securitisation amortisation at 11% as on the cut-off date. It has high geographical concentration with the top 3 states (Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar) contributing around 62% to the initial pool principal amount. At the district level, the top 5 districts account for 12.7% of the initial pool principal amount. The company had witnessed an increase in delinquencies at the portfolio level following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has now moderated. The pool's performance would remain exposed to macro-economic shocks/business disruptions. Given the marginal borrower profile, its performance would also be exposed to natural calamities and political and communal risks.

Past rated pools' performance: ICRA has live ratings on 25 securitisation transactions backed by microfinance loan receivables for Satin. The live pools, which have completed at least three payouts, have reported healthy collections with nil CC utilisation up to the May 2023 payouts.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow modelling for rating asset-backed securitisation (ABS) transactions involves the simulation of potential delinquencies, losses (shortfall in principal collection during the tenor of the pool) and prepayments in the pool. The assumptions for the loss and coefficient of variation (CoV) are arrived at after taking into account the performance of the originator's portfolio as well as the characteristics of the specific pool being evaluated. Additionally, the assumptions may be adjusted to factor in the current operating environment and any industry-specific factors that ICRA believes could impact the performance of the underlying pool of contracts.

After making these adjustments, the expected mean shortfall in principal collection during the tenure of the pool is estimated at 4.25-5.25% of the initial pool principal, with certain variability around it. The prepayment rate for the underlying pool is estimated at 2.4-9.0% (with a mean of 6.0%) per annum.

Liquidity position: Strong

As per the transaction structure, only the interest amount is promised to the Series A1 PTC holders on a monthly basis while the principal amount is promised on the scheduled maturity date of the transaction. After Series A1 PTC is fully paid, the interest amount is promised to the Series A2 PTC holders on a monthly basis and the principal amount is promised on the scheduled maturity date of the transaction. The collections from the pool and the available CE are expected to be comfortable to meet the promised payouts to the PTC investors.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The sustained strong collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts (monthly collection efficiency >95%), leading to lower-than-expected delinquency levels, and an increase in the cover available for future investor payouts from the credit enhancement would result in a ratings upgrade.

Negative factors – The sustained weak collection performance of the underlying pool (monthly collection efficiency <90%), leading to higher-than-expected delinquency levels and higher credit enhancement utilisation levels, would result in a ratings downgrade.

Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the analysis of the performance of Satin’s portfolio till March 2023, the key characteristics and composition of the current pool, the performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool, and the credit enhancement cover available in the transaction.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

Pending actions/documents required to be completed for conversion of the provisional rating into final

The assigned ratings are provisional and would be converted into final upon the execution of:

1. Trust deed
2. Assignment agreement
3. Legal opinion
4. Trustee letter
5. Chartered Accountant’s know your customer (KYC) certificate
6. Any other documents executed for the transaction

Validity of the provisional rating

The Trust is expected to complete the pending actions/execute the pending documents in the near term. However, in case of continued pendency of the actions/documents beyond one year of this publication, the provisional rating would be withdrawn for the transaction even if the instrument has been issued.

Risks associated with the provisional rating

In case the issuance is completed, but the pending actions/documents are not completed for the transaction within one year (validity period) from the assignment of the rating, the provisional rating will be withdrawn in accordance with ICRA’s Policy on Provisional Ratings available at www.icra.in.

About the originator

Satin Creditcare Network Ltd. (Satin), which was set up in 1990 to provide individual business loans to urban shopkeepers, started providing group lending services to the rural poor in 2008. It was registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a deposit-taking non-banking financial company (NBFC) under the name, Satin Leasing and Finance Company Limited. Following its conversion into a public limited company in 1994, the company was renamed Satin Creditcare Network Ltd. in 2000. It stopped accepting public deposits from November 2004 and the RBI changed its classification to Category B (non-deposit taking) from Category A (deposit taking) in February 2009 and converted it into an NBFC-microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI) in November 2013. The company’s microfinance operations are based on the Grameen Bank joint liability group (JLG) model

and were spread across 1,078 branches in the country, as on March 31, 2023, on a standalone basis, and 1,287 branches for the Group as a whole.

Satin is listed on National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). As on March 31, 2023, the company's consolidated managed portfolio stood at Rs. 9,115 crore. It reported a net profit of Rs. 5 crore in FY2023 against a net profit of Rs. 21 crore in FY2022 at the consolidated level.

Key financial indicators (audited)

Consolidated	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Total income	1,374 [^]	1,381	1,559
Profit after tax	(14)	21	5
Gross AUM	8,379	7,617	9,115
Gross stage 3	8.4%	8.0%	3.3%
Net stage 3	4.7%	2.4%	1.5%

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios and values are as per ICRA's calculations; Net stage 3 (%) = Net stage 3 / Gross loan book

Gross and net stage 3 ratios are on standalone basis

Amount in Rs. crore

[^]Adjusted for fair value losses

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

Sr. no	Trust Name	Current Rating (FY2024)			Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years			
		Instrument	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2024	Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021
					Jun 06, 2023	-	-	-
1	Nimbus 2023 MFI Gorky	Series A1 PTC	115.32	115.32	Provisional [ICRA]AA(SO)	-	-	-
		Series A2 PTC	5.49	5.49	Provisional [ICRA]A+(SO)	-	-	-

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Series A1 PTC	Moderately Complex
Series A2 PTC	Moderately Complex

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: [Click Here](#)

Annexure I: Instrument details

Trust Name	Instrument	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date*	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
Nimbus 2023 MFI Gorky	Series A1 PTC	May 2023	10.25%	February 2025	115.32	Provisional [ICRA]AA(SO)
	Series A2 PTC	May 2023	13.00%	February 2025	5.49	Provisional [ICRA]A+(SO)

* Scheduled PTC maturity date at transaction initiation; may change on account of prepayments

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not Applicable

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About ICRA Limited:

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

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