

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS ("COMMITTEE") OF UJJIVAN FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED ON THE SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF UJJIVAN FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED INTO AND WITH UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED

1. Background

- 1.1. A meeting of the Committee of Independent Directors ("**the Committee**") of Ujjivan Financial Services Limited ("**Transferor Company**") was held on October 14, 2022 to consider and recommend to the Board of Directors the proposed Scheme of Amalgamation ("**Scheme**") of Transferor Company into and with the Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited ("**Transferee Company**"), under Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("**Act**").
- 1.2. The equity shares of the Transferor Company and Transferee Company are listed on BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**"). The Transferor Company is the promoter and holding company of the Transferee Company and holds 73.68% (seventy-three point sixty-eight percent) of the total paid-up equity share capital and 100% (hundred percent) of the total paid-up preference share capital of the Transferee Company as on the date of this report.
- 1.3. This report of Committee of Independent Directors is made in order to comply with the requirement of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**") Master Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/DIL1/CIR/P/2021/665 dated November 23, 2021 as amended from time to time ("**SEBI Master Circular**").
- 1.4. The following documents were placed before the Committee:
 - (i) The draft Scheme of Amalgamation among Ujjivan Financial Services Limited (Transferor Company), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited (Transferee Company) and their Respective Shareholders And Creditors
 - (ii) Valuation Report dated October 14, 2022 issued by viz., Mr. Prakash Adiga B (IBBI Reg. No. IBBI/RV/03/2019/11780), registered valuer ("**Valuation Report**").
 - (iii) Fairness Opinion dated October 14, 2022 issued by DAM Capital Advisors Limited, independent merchant banker ("**Fairness Opinion**")
 - (iv) Certificate dated October 14, 2022 issued by Varma & Varma, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors of the Transferor Company, certifying that the accounting treatment provided in the Scheme is in conformity with the accounting standards provided under Section 133 of the Act, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the guidelines and circulars issued by the Reserve Bank of India ("**RBI**") with respect to accounting;

2. Review of the Proposed Scheme:

2.1. The salient features of the Scheme are:

- (i) Amalgamation of Transferor Company into and with the Transferee Company;
- (ii) reduction of issued and paid up share capital of the Transferee Company, pursuant to cancellation of equity shares and preference shares held by the Transferor Company in the Transferee Company;
- (iii) issuance and allotment of equity shares of Transferee Company to the shareholders of the Transferor Company consequent upon coming into effect of aforesaid amalgamation;

- (iv) The debit balance in the capital reserve, if any, arising pursuant to the amalgamation of the Transferor Company with the Transferee Company on the Appointed Date, pursuant to accounting treatment as contemplated under the scheme, shall be set-off against the resulting Securities Premium Account (as adjusted after recording of balance in Securities Premium account of the Transferor Company pursuant to accounting treatment as referred to in the scheme); and
 - (v) dissolution of the Transferor Company without winding up.
- 2.2. Upon coming into effect of this Scheme, in consideration of the amalgamation, and based on the Valuation Report and Fairness Opinion, the Transferee Company would issue and allot to the shareholders of the Transferor Company whose names are recorded in the register of members of the Transferor Company on the Record Date, 116 (One hundred and sixteen) equity shares of the face value of Rs. 10 (Rupees ten) each of Transferee Company, credited as fully paid-up, for every 10 (ten) equity shares of the face value of Rs. 10 (Rupees ten) each fully paid-up held by such member in the Transferor Company (“**Share Exchange Ratio**”).
- 2.3. The Fairness Opinion confirmed that the Share Exchange Ratio as mentioned in the Valuation Report is fair to the Transferor Company and its shareholders.
- 2.4. The Scheme is conditional and subject to the following:
- (i) the approval of the RBI in terms of RBI Master Directions – Amalgamation of Private Sector Banks, Directions, 2016 dated April 21, 2016 and RBI certification under Section 44(B)(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949;
 - (ii) no-objection of BSE and the NSE and SEBI comments as per Regulation 37 and Regulation 94 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (“**SEBI LODR**”) read with SEBI Master Circular;
 - (iii) the Scheme being approved by the requisite majority of each classes of members and/or creditors (where applicable) of the Transferor Company and Transferee Company in accordance with the Applicable Laws (as defined in the Scheme) and as may be directed by the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Branch (“**NCLT**”). Further, the Scheme is conditional upon Scheme being approved by the public shareholders through e-voting in terms of Para (A)(10)(a) of Part-I of SEBI Master Circular 1 and the Scheme shall be acted upon only if vote cast by the public shareholders in favour of the proposal are more than the number of votes cast by the public shareholders against it in terms of Para (A)(10)(b) of Part-I of SEBI Master Circular;
 - (iv) the Scheme having been sanctioned by the NCLT;
 - (v) fulfilment of any compliance(s), condition(s) etc., if any, stipulated by the RBI, SEBI, BSE, NSE and/or any other relevant Governmental Authority (as defined in the Scheme) prior to effecting the Scheme;
 - (vi) receipt of such other sanction(s), approval(s) etc., of any other Governmental Authority as may be required by Applicable Laws (as defined in the Scheme) in respect of the Scheme; and
 - (vii) certified copy of the NCLT order sanctioning the Scheme being filed with the jurisdictional Registrar of Companies by both the Transferor Company and the Transferee Company.
- 2.1. The Scheme is proposed to be effective from Appointed Date (as defined in the Scheme) and operative on the Effective Date (as defined in the Scheme).

3. Comment by the Committee of Independent Directors on the Scheme:

Need and rationale for amalgamation:

- 3.1. The Transferee Company is a small finance bank (SFB) and was issued a license in this regard by the RBI on November 11, 2016. As per the conditions laid in the said license read with RBI Guidelines for Licensing of 'Small Finance Banks' in the Private Sector dated November 27, 2014 and the RBI Guidelines for 'on-tap' Licensing of 'Small Finance Banks' in Private Sector dated December 5, 2019 ("SFB Guidelines"), the promoter of SFB was required to reduce its equity stake in SFB to 40%, then to 30%, and then to 26% within a period of 5 (five) years, 10 (ten) years and 12 (twelve) years respectively, from commencement of operations of SFB. Subsequently, certain recommendations including *inter alia* with respect to the dilution of promoter shareholding were made in a report dated November 20, 2020, by the Internal Working Group (IWG) which was constituted by the RBI to review the extant guidelines on ownership and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks. The RBI vide its press release dated November 26, 2021, has *inter alia* accepted IWG's recommendation with respect to dilution aspects of promoter shareholding in the private sector banks and clarified that the submission of a dilution schedule shall be mandatory.
- 3.2. Accordingly, the proposed amalgamation among other business objectives and benefits (as indicated in the Scheme) would enable the Transferee Company to ensure the aforesaid compliance. The Committee of Independent Directors noted that in proceeding with this approach, the Transferee Company and Transferor Company, have *inter alia*, resorted to:
- (i) the RBI clarification dated January 1, 2015 which provides that promoter can exist or cease to be a promoter after completing lock-in period of five years, subject to the RBI's regulatory and supervisory comfort and SEBI Regulations; and
 - (ii) RBI letter dated July 9, 2021 issued to the 'Association of Small Finance Banks of India', which allows reverse merger of holding company with the SFB subject to RBI approval.
- 3.3. The Committee of Independent Directors also took note of the advantages which the proposed amalgamation would yield, as elaborated in the Scheme, and is of the view that such benefits and the purpose of the amalgamation as referred above and in the Scheme, justifies the basis for the amalgamation.

Synergies of business:

- 3.4. The proposed amalgamation would result in formation of a larger, stronger, and single entity having greater capacity for conducting its operations more efficiently and competitively. It would enable better administration and cost reduction, including reduction in administrative, legal and other costs associated with the Transferor Company.

Impact of the Scheme on the shareholders:

- 3.5. The Transferor Company does not have its own operations and derives its value primarily from its investments in the Transferee Company, and therefore, pursuant to amalgamation the public shareholders of the Transferor Company would benefit by directly holding shares in the Transferee Company and derive value from the business of Transferee Company directly.
- 3.6. The Scheme will result in economies of scale, cost reduction and better administration, which will contribute to make the combined entity more profitable and accordingly further unlock and enhance the overall shareholders value, including for the shareholders of Transferor Company who would be directly holding equity shares in the Transferee Company, upon the Scheme coming into effect.

- 3.7. The amalgamation would result in larger free public float for the combined listed entity as pursuant to coming into effect of the Scheme, the resultant listed entity would be entirely held by the public shareholders.

Cost benefit analysis of the Scheme:

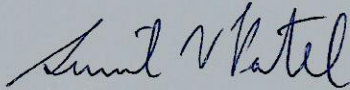
- 3.8. Keeping in view the rationale and purpose of the amalgamation as mentioned in the Scheme, the Committee of Independent Directors is of the view that the amalgamation would result in economies of scale, reduction in compliance and administrative costs, increase efficiencies, and better administration, thereby contributing to the future profitability of the combined entity and enhancement of shareholders value, including for the shareholders of Transferor Company who would be directly holding equity shares in the Transferee Company, upon the Scheme coming into effect.

4. Recommendation of Committee of Independent Directors:

The Committee of Independent Directors after due deliberations and considerations on, inter alia, the draft Scheme, the overall rationale and advantages of the Scheme, the Share Exchange Ratio, Valuation Report, Fairness Opinion, statutory auditors' certificate on accounting treatment, and the above-referred considerations, is of the view that the Scheme is not detrimental to the shareholders of the Transferor Company.

In light of the aforesaid, the Committee of Independent Directors recommends the draft Scheme for favorable consideration of the Board of Directors of the Transferor Company.

**For Committee of Independent Directors of
Ujjivan Financial Services Limited**



Sunil Vinayak Patel
Chairman of the Committee of Independent Directors
DIN: 00050837

Date: October 14, 2022