

Interaction with the CEO

Growth outlook steady; profitability set to improve

Margin outlook buoyant on rising mix of new businesses

We met with the top management team of RBL Bank (RBK IN) represented by Mr. R Subramaniakumar, MD & CEO, and Mr. Jaideep Iyer, Head–Strategy, to discuss the bank's growth outlook, performance of new businesses, profitability goals and other key focus areas. Here are the key takeaways from the discussion:

Improving asset mix to enable steady NII growth; NIMs to stay buoyant

RBK reported steady margins in FY23, though a sharp rise in funding costs resulted in a 17bp drop in NIM in 1QFY24. The management anticipates a quick turn in the margin trajectory and expects NIM to improve steadily over FY24-26. The margin expansion will be primarily driven by continued traction in new businesses and steady growth in the credit card and MFI segments while the mix of wholesale loan declines to 30% by FY26 from 44% currently. On the funding cost side, the bank expects the majority of its deposits to be re-priced by 2QFY24; hence, the cost of deposits will stabilize by 2Q-3QFY24 and thereafter decline gradually as RBK does not anticipate any further rate hikes by the RBI. We estimate NII to grow at a higher pace than loans at a 23% CAGR over FY23-FY25.

RBL Bank



Mr. R Subramaniakumar, RBL Bank Ltd

R Subramaniakumar is a veteran in the banking industry with 40 years of experience. Prior to joining RBL Bank, he was the MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank. He has acquired CISA and CISM certifications from ISACA and a banker certificate from CAIIB. He also holds an advanced banking certificate from University of Maryland, USA.

Scale-up of new businesses and continued traction in MFI/Cards to drive healthy loan growth

RBK has significantly improved its underwriting, collections and data analysis and has sharpened its focus on cross-selling of products. The bank expects to grow its advances by ~20% over FY24, led by continued scale-up of new businesses and steady traction in the credit card and MFI businesses (up 23%-25% YoY). However, the bank aims to maintain the mix of unsecured book at less than 40%. On the wholesale side, the bank is focusing more on SME/Mid-corporates as those segments are witnessing strong activity and offer better risk-adjusted returns. Thus, the ongoing pace of capacity building, rapid investments in new businesses and higher cross-selling will enable the bank to sustain a healthy growth rate over the coming years. We thus estimate a 19% CAGR in advances over FY23-FY25.

Liability growth to improve gradually; aiming for retail deposit mix of ~50%

In 1QFY24, RBK reported 21% YoY growth in advances, while its deposits base grew at a modest 8% YoY as RBK focused on deploying excess liquidity on the balance sheet. It is also making use of refinancing wherever the bank is earning good returns. The CD ratio has increased from 76% in FY22 to ~85% currently and the bank expects it to increase further in FY24 as the LCR ratio also stands at a comfortable level of 129% as on 1QFY24. Out of total 1,635 touch points as of 1QFY24, 800 are generating liability for the bank. With 1.8m liability customers, 4.5m card customers and 3.5m MFI customers, the management believes that there is immense potential for the bank to cross-sell its products. The bank follows a systematic customer on-boarding plan with a 'liability led by an asset' approach and has witnessed 2x increase in account opening vs. the earlier run-rate. Alongside, the bank is focusing more on granular deposits as it expects the retail deposit mix to increase to 50% of total deposits by FY25 vs. 44% currently. The CASA ratio is healthy at ~37% but is expected to moderate slightly as high rates drive faster growth in term deposits.



C/I ratio to improve as new businesses breakeven; estimate PPoP to grow at 30% CAGR vs. decline in prior years

RBK has made significant business investments to expand its retail product offering and tighten its underwriting, risk-monitoring and digital capabilities. As a result, its C/I ratio jumped from 49% in FY21 to 68% in FY23. However, with new businesses achieving critical mass and moving closer to breakeven (tractor business and gold loan business will be profitable by FY25 end), we estimate the C/I ratio to moderate in the coming years. In 1QFY24, the bank reported a ~300bp YoY decline in its core cost-income ratio and we estimate the overall C/I ratio to moderate to ~64% by FY25 (~68% in FY23E), thereby enabling a 30% CAGR in PPoP over FY23-25E vs. a decline in prior years.

Asset quality remains steady; GNPA/NNPA ratios to improve further

RBK has reported steady improvements in asset quality over the past one year and the bank has reduced its net NPAs to 1% with PCR of ~70%. The bank has guided for a credit cost of 1.5%-2% over the medium term and it is expected to remain at the lower end of this range in FY24. RBK is following an aggressive provisioning policy under which the bank is making 100% provisions during 6 to 9 months even on new secured retail products. The management has suggested that the bank will build a contingent provision buffer over the next 12 to 18 months to further strengthen its balance sheet.

Other highlights -

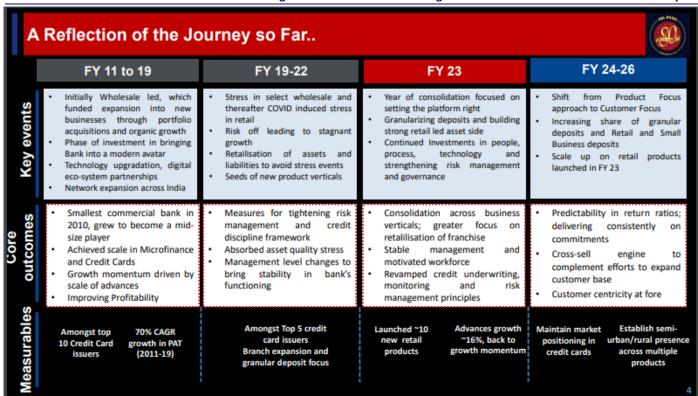
- Credit card business and Bajaj Finserv partnership: The credit card business is seeing robust growth (sourcing ~200k cards per month) and the bank expects to sustain this momentum over the medium term with a focus on diversifying the distribution base and doing more in-house origination. The profitability of the business has recovered well after experiencing high delinquencies after Covid, and the segment now accounts for 24% of gross advances as of 1QFY24. The revolve rate has likely bottomed out at ~23-24%, though the management is not looking at a meaningful recovery over the near term. RBK renewed the five-year partnership with Bajaj Finserv in Dec′21 (Bajaj accounts for 60-65% of new cards) and the bank has tied up with various fintech firms to increase its distribution network.
- **Branch expansion to gather pace:** After a year of consolidation (opened only 15 branches in FY23), the management is focusing on increasing its branch network and plans to open ~70-80 branches in FY24, increasing the total branch count to ~600 branches.

Valuations and view: Estimate 38% CAGR in earnings over FY24-25; maintain NEUTRAL with revised TP of INR240

RBK has reported a healthy recovery in loan growth and the management expects to sustain this momentum, led by steady growth in retail segments. The continued business investments and healthy cross-selling will further help to diversify the loan book and enable faster growth in retail liabilities. While the bank's RoE remains low, it is well capitalized to support growth momentum (current Tier-1 at >15%) and the management expects to raise capital only toward FY25 end. The management has guided for improved profitability ratios as new businesses achieve breakeven and an improving asset mix drives steady NIM improvement. As a result, RoA is expected to improve to 1.4-1.5% by FY26E. We raise our FY25E earnings by 8% and estimate RBK to deliver a 38% earnings CAGR over FY23-25 with RoA/RoE improving to 1.2%/11%. Maintain NEUTRAL with a TP of INR240 based on 0.9x FY25E ABV.

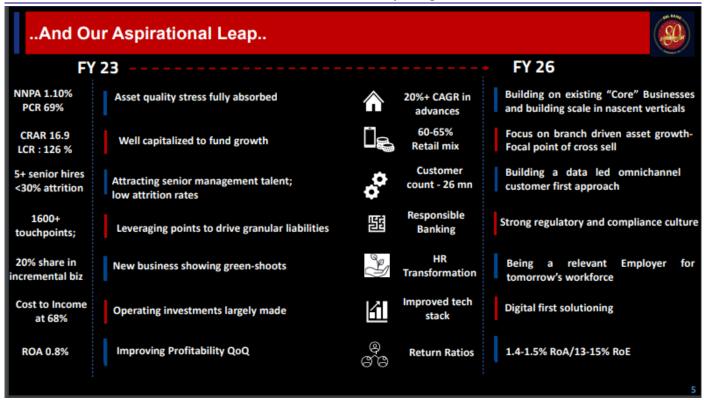


Exhibit 1: Shift from wholesale-led book to more granular business with strong focus on cross-sell and customer centricity



Source: Company

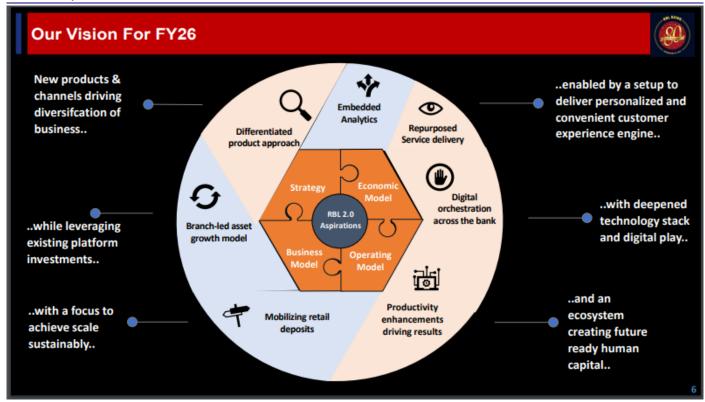
Exhibit 2: RBL aims to deliver 20%+ CAGR in loans with mix of retail improving to 60-65%



Source: Company

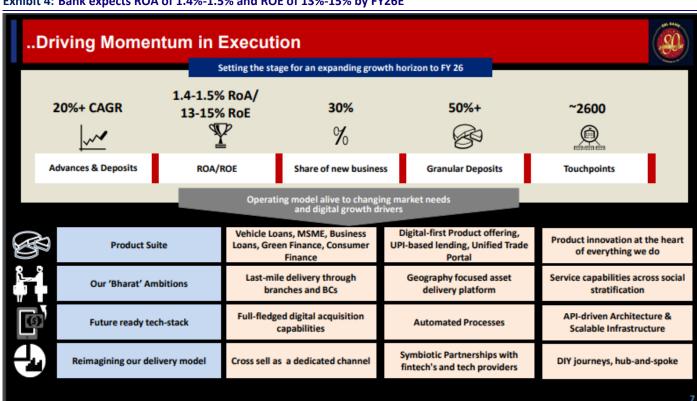


Exhibit 3: Operational vision for the bank for FY26



Source: Company

Exhibit 4: Bank expects ROA of 1.4%-1.5% and ROE of 13%-15% by FY26E



Source: Company

3 October 2023

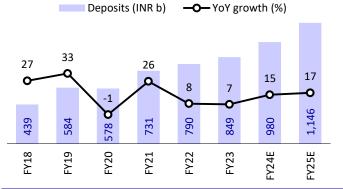


STORY IN CHARTS

Exhibit 5: Advances to see ~19% CAGR over FY23-FY25

Advances (INR b) —O—YoY growth (%) 37 35 20 19 17 0 2 1 1,003 403 702 843 543 580 909 586 FY25E FY22 FY23 FY20 FY21

Exhibit 6: Estimate 16% CAGR in deposits over FY23-FY25



Source: MOFSL, Company

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 7: Cost-income ratio to moderate to 64% by FY25E

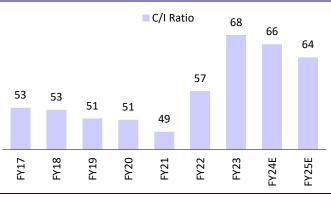
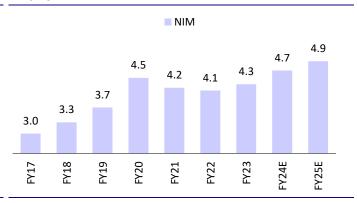


Exhibit 8: Estimate NIMs (calc.) to improve gradually over FY23-25



Source: MOFSL, Company

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 9: CASA ratio to moderate to ~35% over FY24/FY25E

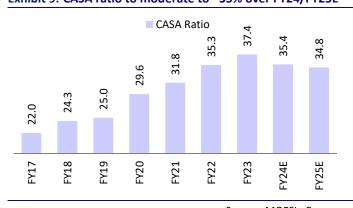
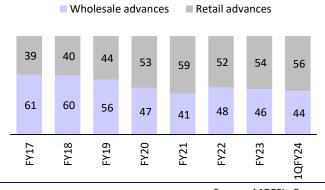


Exhibit 10: Retail loan mix to increase steadily over coming years



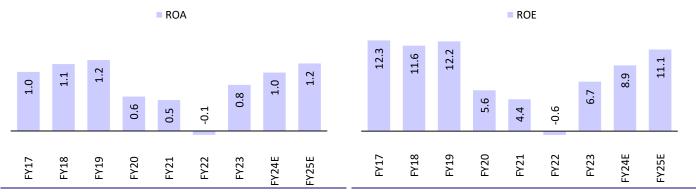
Source: MOFSL, Company

Source: MOFSL, Company



Exhibit 11: Estimate RoA to increase to 1.2% by FY25E

Exhibit 12: ROE to thus expand from 6.7% in FY23 to 11.1% by FY25E



Source: MOFSL, Company Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 13: DuPont Analysis: Estimate return ratios to improve steadily over FY23-25E

Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Interest Income	8.16	8.86	10.06	8.78	7.90	8.22	9.20	9.49
Interest Expense	4.96	5.29	5.77	4.79	4.01	4.21	4.85	4.85
Net Interest Income	3.20	3.57	4.29	3.99	3.89	4.01	4.35	4.64
Fee income	1.63	1.92	2.07	1.70	2.02	2.13	2.23	2.31
Trading and others	0.30	0.11	0.19	0.29	0.24	0.11	0.12	0.12
Non-Interest income	1.93	2.03	2.26	1.99	2.26	2.24	2.35	2.43
Total Income	5.13	5.60	6.54	5.98	6.16	6.25	6.70	7.07
Operating Expenses	2.72	2.87	3.34	2.91	3.50	4.27	4.45	4.50
Employee cost	1.00	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.97	1.21	1.27	1.27
Others	1.72	1.98	2.43	2.01	2.53	3.06	3.18	3.24
Operating Profit	2.41	2.73	3.21	3.08	2.65	1.98	2.26	2.57
Core Operating Profit	2.11	2.62	3.02	2.79	2.41	1.87	2.14	2.44
Provisions	0.66	0.90	2.32	2.35	2.77	0.92	0.91	1.01
PBT	1.75	1.83	0.89	0.73	-0.11	1.06	1.35	1.55
Tax	0.60	0.61	0.29	0.19	-0.04	0.27	0.34	0.39
RoA	1.15	1.22	0.60	0.54	-0.07	0.79	1.01	1.16
Leverage (x)	10.1	10.0	9.3	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.9	9.5
RoE	11.6	12.2	5.6	4.4	-0.6	6.7	8.9	11.1



Financials and valuations

Income Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Interest Income	45,076	63,007	85,144	83,290	81,758	91,299	1,14,963	1,37,514
Interest Expense	27,413	37,612	48,847	45,415	41,491	46,784	60,584	70,320
Net Interest Income	17,663	25,395	36,296	37,876	40,267	44,515	54,379	67,194
Growth (%)	44.6	43.8	42.9	4.4	6.3	10.5	22.2	23.6
Non-Interest Income	10,682	14,424	19,102	18,840	23,405	24,894	29,375	35,250
Total Income	28,345	39,818	55,399	56,716	63,673	69,409	83,755	1,02,445
Growth (%)	43.4	40.5	39.1	2.4	12.3	9.0	20.7	22.3
Operating Expenses	15,034	20,420	28,256	27,546	36,220	47,384	55,574	65,261
Pre Provision Profits	13,311	19,398	27,143	29,170	27,453	22,025	28,181	37,184
Growth (%)	44.6	45.7	39.9	7.5	-5.9	-19.8	28.0	31.9
Core PPP	11,645	18,615	25,548	26,449	24,961	20,803	26,714	35,424
Growth (%)	46.2	59.8	37.2	3.5	-5.6	-16.7	28.4	32.6
Provisions (excl tax)	3,645	6,407	19,615	22,279	28,604	10,219	11,374	14,688
PBT	9,665	12,992	7,528	6,891	-1,151	11,805	16,807	22,496
Tax	3,315	4,322	2,471	1,813	-404	2,978	4,230	5,662
Tax Rate (%)	34.3	33.3	32.8	26.3	35.1	25.2	25.2	25.2
PAT	6,351	8,670	5,057	5,078	-747	8,827	12,577	16,834
Growth (%)	42.4	36.5	-41.7	0.4	-114.7	-1,281.2	42.5	33.9
Balance Sheet								
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Equity Share Capital	4,197	4,267	5,087	5,980	5,995	5,996	5,996	5,996
Reserves & Surplus	62,643	71,206	1,00,742	1,20,646	1,20,187	1,29,770	1,39,404	1,52,299
Net Worth	66,840	75,473	1,05,829	1,26,626	1,26,182	1,35,766	1,45,400	1,58,294
Deposits	4,39,023	5,83,944	5,78,122	7,31,213	7,90,065	8,48,865	9,79,590	11,46,121
Growth (%)	26.9	33.0	-1.0	26.5	8.0	7.4	15.4	17.0
of which CASA Dep	1,06,783	1,45,875	1,71,156	2,32,642	2,78,790	3,17,165	3,46,775	3,98,850
Growth (%)	40.5	36.6	17.3	35.9	19.8	13.8	9.3	15.0
Borrowings	92,614	1,18,321	1,70,067	1,12,259	1,10,930	1,33,313	1,68,316	2,00,069
Other Liabilities & Prov.	20,031	25,850	35,759	36,409	34,908	40,818	46,941	53,982
Total Liabilities	6,18,508	8,03,588	8,89,778	10,06,506	10,62,086	11,58,762	13,40,247	15,58,466
Cash & Balances with RBI	25,893	48,395	64,151	67,047	1,31,111	62,381	68,874	71,348
Balances with Banks	16,951	17,626	24,421	67,195	44,366	22,820	32,141	37,693
Investments	1,54,475	1,68,404	1,81,497	2,32,300	2,22,739	2,88,754	3,20,517	3,71,800
Growth (%)	14.6	9.0	7.8	28.0	-4.1	29.6	11.0	16.0
Loans	4,02,678	5,43,082	5,80,190	5,86,225	6,00,218	7,02,094	8,42,512	10,02,590
Growth (%)	36.7	34.9	6.8	1.0	2.4	17.0	20.0	19.0
Fixed Assets	3,340	4,025	4,698	4,665	5,481	5,740	6,511	7,868
Other Assets	15,170	22,056	34,820	49,070	58,166	76,974	69,690	67,167
Total Assets	6,18,508	8,03,588	8,89,778	10,06,502	10,62,082	11,58,762	13,40,247	15,58,466
Asset Quality	F 667	7.546	24.265	26.045	27 204	24.406	22.664	24.604
GNPA (INR m)	5,667	7,546	21,365	26,015	27,284	24,196	22,661	24,694
NNPA (INR m)	3,126	3,728	11,894	12,414	8,066	7,723	7,153	7,133
GNPA Ratio	1.40	1.38	3.62	4.34	4.40	3.37	2.64	2.42
NNPA Ratio	0.78	0.69	2.05	2.12	1.34	1.10	0.85	0.71
Slippage Ratio Credit Cost	1.93	1.76	6.19	5.43	6.73	4.59	3.40	3.20
PCR (Excl Tech. write off)	1.05 44.8	1.35 50.6	3.49 44.3	3.82	4.82 70.4	1.57 68.1	1.40 68.4	1.54
E: MOEST Estimates	44.8	30.0	44.3	52.3	70.4	08.1	08.4	71.1

E: MOFSL Estimates



Financials and valuations

Ratios								
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Yield and Cost Ratios (%)								
Avg. Yield-Earning Assets	8.4	9.2	10.5	9.3	8.4	8.8	9.9	10.0
Avg. Yield on loans	9.8	10.7	12.3	11.2	10.6	11.0	11.7	11.8
Avg. Yield on Investments	7.0	6.9	7.9	6.7	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.9
Avg. Cost-Int. Bear. Liab.	5.7	6.1	6.7	5.7	4.8	5.0	5.7	5.6
Avg. Cost of Deposits	6.0	6.3	6.9	5.5	4.7	4.9	5.6	5.6
Interest Spread	2.7	3.1	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.4
Net Interest Margin	3.3	3.7	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.7	4.91
Capitalization Ratios (%)								
CAR	15.3	13.5	16.5	17.5	16.8	16.9	15.9	14.8
Tier I	13.6	12.1	15.3	16.6	16.2	15.3	14.4	13.4
Tier II	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.6	1.6	1.6	1.4
Her II	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.4
Business & Efficiency Ratios (%)								
Loans/Deposit Ratio	91.7	93.0	100.4	80.2	76.0	82.7	86.0	87.5
CASA Ratio	24.3	25.0	29.6	31.8	35.3	37.4	35.4	34.8
Cost/Assets	2.4	2.5	3.2	2.7	3.4	4.1	4.1	4.2
Cost/Total Income	53.0	51.3	51.0	48.6	56.9	68.3	66.4	63.7
Cost/Core Income	56.4	52.3	52.5	51.0	59.2	69.5	67.5	64.8
Int. Expense/Int. Income	60.8	59.7	57.4	54.5	50.7	51.2	52.7	51.1
Fee Income/Net Income	26.5	30.2	28.7	25.6	29.5	30.2	29.3	28.8
Non Int. Inc./Net Income	37.7	36.2	34.5	33.2	36.8	35.9	35.1	34.4
Empl. Cost/Total Expense	36.6	31.2	27.2	30.7	27.7	28.3	28.5	28.1
Investment/Deposit Ratio	35.2	28.8	31.4	31.8	28.2	34.0	32.7	32.4
Profitability & Valuation Ratios								
RoE	11.6	12.2	5.6	4.4	-0.6	6.7	8.9	11.1
RoA	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.5	-0.1	0.8	1.0	1.2
RoRWA	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.7	-0.1	1.1	1.4	1.6
Book Value (INR)	159	177	208	212	210	226	243	264
Growth (%)	40.5	11.1	17.6	1.8	-0.6	7.6	7.1	8.9
Price-BV (x)	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Adjusted BV (INR)	153	169	190	195	199	215	234	256
Price-ABV (x)	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
EPS (INR)	15.1	20.3	9.9	8.5	-1.2	14.7	21.0	28.1
Growth (%)	27.3	34.3	-51.1	-14.6	NM	NM	42.5	33.9
Price-Earnings (x)	16.7	12.4	25.4	29.7	-202.3	17.3	12.1	9.1
Dividend Per Share (INR)	2.3	2.1	3.8	0.0	0.0	1.5	4.2	5.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.9	0.8	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.6	2.2
E: MOFSL Estimates								

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BUY	>=15%
SELL	< - 10%
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

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