

## Corpsec Hotline

October 17, 2008

### DEBT, SET, GO.....

In light of all the recent changes in the FII Regulations, we are organizing an audio call to provide our views on the same and also to keep you abreast with the developments.

**Speaker: Siddharth Shah**

**Date: Tuesday, October 21 2008**

Time: 7 P.M. IST (+5:30 GMT), 9.30 A.M. EDT (New York time)

Dial in Numbers: +91 22 6629 0101 / +91 22 3065 1010 / +91 22 4039 2525

With a view to provide a greater scope and more flexibility for Foreign Institutional Investor ("FII") to invest in India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") has issued a circular, which further relaxes the investment norms by FIIs for investing into India.

### Background

#### 1. Limits on FII investment in debt securities

SEBI, vide Circular No. IMD/FII & C/ 29 /2007 dated June 6, 2008 had increased the FII limits on investment in Indian debt securities. FIIs on a cumulative basis could invest upto US \$5 billion in Government Securities and upto US \$3 billion in Corporate Debt, with a ceiling of USD 200 million per registered entity. These changes were brought about in line with the changes in the External Commercial Borrowing policy of the Government of India.

#### 2. Debt : Equity ratio of FII investment

Until SEBI's circular issued yesterday, FIIs could invest in India through two routes:

- 70:30 route - wherein the total investment in equity and equity-related instruments should not be less than 70% of the aggregate of all the investments and only up to 30% of the aggregate investment can be made in debt securities.
- 100% debt route - wherein, an FII registered under 100% debt category can invest its entire corpus only in debt securities.

### After relaxation in FII investment norms

SEBI, vide Circular No IMD/FII & C/ 33 /2007 dated October 16, 2008 notified two important relaxations in the FII norms for investments in Indian securities:

#### 1. Limits on FII investment in debt securities

- Increase in the cumulative debt investment limit from US \$3 billion to US \$6 billion for FII investments in Corporate Debt.
- This change has been made after the Government of India has reviewed the External Commercial Borrowing policy
- Accordingly, the enhanced limit for investment in corporate debt shall be allocated among the FIIs on a 'first come first served' basis in terms of our Circular dated January 31, 2008, subject to a ceiling of US \$300 million per registered entity
- The debt requests in this regard shall be forwarded to the dedicated email id [fii\\_debtrequests@sebi.gov.in](mailto:fii_debtrequests@sebi.gov.in). The mailbox shall open at 23:59 PM IST, October 20, 2008

#### 2. Debt : Equity ratio of FII investment

## Research Papers

### Mergers & Acquisitions

July 11, 2025

### New Age of Franchising

June 20, 2025

### Life Sciences 2025

June 11, 2025

## Research Articles

### 2025 Watchlist: Life Sciences Sector India

April 04, 2025

### Re-Evaluating Press Note 3 Of 2020: Should India's Land Borders Still Define Foreign Investment Boundaries?

February 04, 2025

### INDIA 2025: The Emerging Powerhouse for Private Equity and M&A Deals

January 15, 2025

## Audio

### CCI's Deal Value Test

February 22, 2025

### Securities Market Regulator's Continued Quest Against "Unfiltered" Financial Advice

December 18, 2024

### Digital Lending - Part 1 - What's New with NBFC P2Ps

November 19, 2024

## NDA Connect

Connect with us at events, conferences and seminars.

## NDA Hotline

[Click here to view Hotline archives.](#)

## Video

### Reimagining CSR: From Grant Giving to Blended Finance & Outcome Based Funding

June 16, 2025

### Courts vs Bankruptcy code: The

■ SEBI decided to do away with the 70:30 ratio of investment in equity and debt respectively, with immediate effect

JSW-Bhushan Saga

June 04, 2025

## NDA View

We believe that such constant changes are primarily aimed at ameliorating the current economic conditions and lackluster performance of the markets. Due to the liquidity crunch, most of the FIIs have been exiting their positions in Indian stocks and securities and with the bankruptcy scare, there were not many positive signs in the debt markets also. We have seen in the recent past where Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") has taken measures such as cuts in the Cash Reserve Ratio ("CRR") to infuse liquidity into the market. As a securities regulator, SEBI too has exercised its powers to ease the inflow of capital into India and for infusing cash in the debt market, and has come out with these changes for relaxing the norms for overseas borrowing by Indian entities.

Source: SEBI's circular on [FII investments in Debt Securities](#)

Further to our hotline "[SEBI disclosure on overseas securities lending: Falling 'short'?](#)" dated 16th October 2008, SEBI has notified the changes vide Circular No.IMD/FII&C/32/2008 issued on October 16, 2008

1. The FIIs / sub accounts are required to submit information about the quantity of the securities which they have lent to entities other than in the Indian Securities Market, i.e. where the Overseas Derivative Instruments ("ODIs") are issued having an effect of a short sale in the Indian security (including F&O) / synthetic shorts
2. The format for the information pertaining to securities lent by the FIIs to entities abroad is enclosed in [Annexure A](#) for cash securities & [Annexure B](#) for derivatives positions
3. This information is required to be submitted by the FIIs to SEBI on a daily basis on the dedicated e-mail id- [odireporting@sebi.gov.in](mailto:odireporting@sebi.gov.in), so that the same can be collated, and disseminated on a consolidated basis on the SEBI website

Thus, vide the circular SEBI has specified the format in which such information has to be submitted and they have also made such reporting to be done on a daily basis as against the biweekly basis specified in the Press Release.

Source: SEBI's Circular on [Dissemination of further information about FII activity](#)

*In response to the current economic conditions, SEBI has come out with many significant changes in the FII regulations over the last month.*

- [Divaspati Singh & Anshumita Singhania](#)  
You can direct your queries or comments to the authors

## DISCLAIMER

The contents of this hotline should not be construed as legal opinion. View detailed disclaimer.

This Hotline provides general information existing at the time of preparation. The Hotline is intended as a news update and Nishith Desai Associates neither assumes nor accepts any responsibility for any loss arising to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any material contained in this Hotline. It is recommended that professional advice be taken based on the specific facts and circumstances. This Hotline does not substitute the need to refer to the original pronouncements.

This is not a Spam mail. You have received this mail because you have either requested for it or someone must have suggested your name. Since India has no anti-spamming law, we refer to the US directive, which states that a mail cannot be considered Spam if it contains the sender's contact information, which this mail does. In case this mail doesn't concern you, please unsubscribe from mailing list.

Vyapak Desai speaking on the  
danger of deepfakes | Legally  
Speaking with Tarun Nangia |  
NewsX

April 01, 2025