

### ***Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, as amended (“SARFAESI Act”)***

The SARFAESI Act, read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, as amended, governs securitization of assets in India. Any asset reconstruction company may acquire assets of a bank or financial institution, including HFCs, by either entering into an agreement with such bank or financial institution for transfer of such assets to the company or by issuing a debenture or bond or other security in the nature of debentures, for consideration, as per such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed. If a bank or financial institution is a lender in relation to financial assets acquired by the asset reconstruction company, such company shall be deemed to be the lender in relation to those financial assets. For HFCs, recovery under the SARFAESI Act is allowed for all loans of greater than ₹ 0.10 million ticket size.

Further, the SARFAESI Act provides for the enforcement of security interest without the intervention of the courts. Under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, a secured creditor, such as an HFC, can recover dues from its borrowers by taking any of the measures as provided therein, including (i) taking possession of the secured assets or (ii) taking over the management of business of borrower. Rights, with respect to the enforcement of security interest, under the SARFAESI Act cannot be enforced unless the account of the borrower has been classified as a NPA in the books of account of the secured creditor in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the RBI or any other applicable regulatory authority. However, the requirement for a secured debt to be classified as a NPA shall not apply to a borrower who has raised funds through debt securities. In the event that the secured creditor is unable to recover the entire sum due by exercise of the remedies under the SARFAESI Act in relation to the assets secured, such secured creditor may approach the relevant court for the recovery of the balance amounts. A secured creditor may also simultaneously pursue its remedies under the SARFAESI Act.

In terms of the RBI circular on Display of information - Secured assets possessed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 dated September 25, 2023, HFCs which are secured creditors as per the SARFAESI Act, are required to display information in respect of the borrowers whose secured assets have been taken into possession by them under the SARFAESI Act. HFCs are required to upload the information on their website in the format as prescribed in the said circular. The first such list shall be displayed on the website of the regulated entities within six months from the date of the abovementioned circular and subsequently, the list is required to be updated on a monthly basis.

### ***Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, as amended (“DRT Act”)***

Under the DRT Act, the procedures for recovery of debt have been prescribed and time frames have been fixed for speedy disposal of cases. The DRT Act prescribes the rules for establishment of Debt Recovery Tribunals (“DRTs”), procedure for making application to DRTs, powers of DRTs and modes of recovery of debts determined by DRTs, including *inter alia* attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties of defendants, taking possession of property over which security interest is created or any other property of the defendant and appointing receiver for such property and to sell the same, arrest of defendants, defendants’ detention in prison and appointment of receivers for management of the movable or immovable properties of defendants. The DRT Act also provides that a bank or public financial institution, such as an HFC, having a claim to recover its debt may join an ongoing proceeding filed by some other bank or public financial institution against its debtor at any stage of the proceedings before the final order is passed by making an application to the DRT.

### ***Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, as amended (the “IBC”)***

The IBC empowers creditors, whether secured, unsecured, financial, operational or decree holder to trigger resolution processes to start at the earliest sign of financial distress, provides for a single forum to oversee insolvency and liquidation proceedings, enables a calm period where new proceedings do not derail existing ones, provides for replacement of the existing management during insolvency proceedings while maintaining the enterprise as a going concern, offers a finite time limit within which the debtor’s viability can be assessed and prescribes a linear liquidation mechanism.

### ***The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (“DPDP Act”)***

The Parliament passed the DPDP Act on August 9, 2023. The DPDP Act received the assent of the President and was notified on August 11, 2023. The DPDP Act seeks to balance the rights of individuals to protect their personal data with the need to process personal data for lawful and other incidental purposes. All data fiduciaries, determining the purpose and means of processing personal data, are mandated to provide an itemised notice to data principals in plain and clear language containing a description of the personal data sought to be collected along with the purpose of processing such data. The DPDP Act further provides that personal data may be processed only for a lawful purpose after obtaining the consent of the individual. A notice must be given before seeking consent. The notice should contain details about the personal data to be collected and the purpose of processing. Consent may be withdrawn at any point in time.

An individual whose data is being processed (data principal), will have the right to *inter alia* (i) obtain information about processing; (ii) seek correction and erasure of personal data; and (iii) nominate another person to exercise rights in the event of death or incapacity. The DPDP Act lays down several duties for the data principal. As per the DPDP Act, data principal shall not *inter alia* (i) register a false or frivolous grievance or complaint; and (ii) furnish any false particulars or impersonate another person in specified cases.