# **REPORT ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Corporate governance is about promoting fairness, transparency, accountability, commitment to values, ethical business conduct and considering all stakeholders' interest while conducting business.

In accordance with the provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and amendments thereto, (the 'SEBI Listing Regulations'), given below are the corporate governance policies and practices of Bajaj Finance Ltd. (the 'Company', 'Bajaj Finance' or 'BFL') for FY2023.

This report outlines compliance with requirements of the Companies Act, 2013, as amended (the 'Act'), the SEBI Listing Regulations and the Regulations of the Reserve Bank of India ('RBI') for Non-Banking Financial Companies (the 'RBI Regulations'), as applicable to the Company. As will be seen, the Company's corporate governance practices and disclosures go well beyond complying with the statutory and regulatory requirements stipulated in the applicable laws.

# Philosophy

For us, corporate governance is a reflection of principles rooted in our values and policies and also embedded in our day-to-day business practices. The commitment of Bajaj group to the highest standards of corporate governance predates the provisions of the SEBI Listing Regulations and clause 49 of erstwhile Listing Agreement. Ethical dealings, transparency, fairness, disclosure and accountability are the main thrusts of the working of the Bajaj group. The Company maintains the same tradition and commitment.

### Key elements of Bajaj Finance's Corporate Governance

- Compliance with applicable laws.
- Proactive adherence to the regulations.
- Benchmarking and adopting best practices among banks, peers and other leading organisations.
- Number of Board and Committee meetings are more than the statutory requirement, including meetings dedicated for discussing strategy, operating plans and risks.
- Board comprises of Directors from diverse backgrounds and substantial experience, who are able to provide appropriate guidance to the executive management as required.
- Panel of independent directors with outstanding track record and reputation.
- Effective 1 April 2023, Audit Committee comprising of independent Board members.
- Pre-Audit Committee meetings of the Committee's Chair with statutory auditors, internal auditor and members of executive management who are the process owners.
- Independent discussions by the Audit Committee members with Chief Internal Auditor without presence of Managing Director and Senior Management on a quarterly basis.
- Independent Discussions by the Risk Management Committee members with Chief Risk Officer without presence of Managing Director and Senior Management on a quarterly basis.
- Separate meeting of independent directors without presence of non-independent directors or Executive Management.
- Confidential Board evaluation process where each Board member evaluates the performance of every Director, Committees of the Board, the Chairman of the Board and the Board as a whole.
- Presentations by key Senior Management Team members of the Company and its subsidiaries to familiarise the Directors with key elements of each of the businesses.
- Complete and detailed information provided to Board members in advance to enable them to evaluate matters carefully for meaningful discussions.
- Representation of the Company via non-executive and independent directors on the Board of its material subsidiary which ensures an institutionalised structure of control over subsidiary.
- Half-yearly communication from the Chairman to all shareholders/debenture holders of the Company giving an update on the Company's performance.

#### **BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**

• Adoption of key governance policies in line with the best practices, which are made available to stakeholders for viewing and downloading from the Company's website. These include:

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- Whistle Blower Policy/Vigil Mechanism;
- Policy on materiality of related party transactions and dealing with related party transactions;
- Dividend Distribution Policy;
- Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace;
- Fair Practices Code in English and all vernacular languages;
- Employee Charter on Human rights;
- Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy;
- Remuneration policy for Directors, Key Managerial Personnel and Senior Management;
- Data Privacy Policy;
- Responsible and Sustainable Business Conduct Policy;
- The weblinks of key policies are given as an annexure to this Report.

#### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors ('Board') and its Committees play significant role in upholding and furthering the principles of good governance which translates into ethical business practices, transparency and accountability in creating long term stakeholder value.

Keeping with the commitment to the principle of integrity and transparency in business operations for good corporate governance, the Company's policy is to have an appropriate blend of independent and non-independent directors to maintain the independence of the Board and to separate the Board functions of governance and Management.

The responsibilities of the Board, *inter alia*, include formulation of overall strategy for the Company, reviewing major plan of actions, setting performance objectives, laying down the Code of Conduct for all members of the Board and the Senior Management team, formulating policies, performance review, monitoring due compliance with applicable laws, reviewing and approving the financial results, enhancing corporate governance practices and ensuring the best interest of the shareholders, the community, environment and its various stakeholders.

### Composition

In compliance with the SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company has an optimum combination of executive and non-executive directors with a woman independent director. The Company has a non-executive Chairman. According to provisions of the SEBI Listing Regulations, if the non-executive Chairman is related to promoter, at least one half of the Board of the Company should consist of Independent Directors.

As on 31 March 2023, the Board of the Company consisted of eight directors, of whom one was executive (Managing Director), five were non-executive independent (including one-woman independent director) and two were non-executive non-independent. The Board does not have any institutional nominee director.

The Company is in compliance with the SEBI Listing Regulations.

#### Number of meetings of the Board

The calendar for the Board and Committee meetings, in which the financial results would be considered in the ensuing year, as well as major items of the agenda are fixed in advance for the entire year. Besides the quarterly Board meetings, meetings are also scheduled in the month of March and September every year to facilitate the Board to devote additional time on long range planning and strategic matters. The Board and Committee meetings are scheduled for one full day to enable adequate time for deliberations.

During FY2023, the Board met six times, viz., 26 April 2022, 27 July 2022, 12 September 2022, 20 October 2022, 27 January 2023 and 16 March 2023. The gap between two consecutive meetings has been less than 120 days.



The summary of composition of Board, number of meetings held during FY2023, attendance record, total compensation for the year, and shareholding in the Company is provided below.

			No. of Board Meetings	% of	Remunera	tion(₹ in c	rore)	No. of Shares held in the
Sr. No.	Name of director, DIN and capacity/ category	Director since	Entitled to attend/ Attended	meetings attended in last 3 years	Salary and other compensation	Sitting Fee	Commission	Company as on 31 March 2023
1.	Sanjiv Bajaj (DIN: 00014615) Chairman, Non-executive, Promoter Group	18 January 2005	6/6	100	-	0.23	0.58	530,792
2.	D J Balaji Rao (DIN: 00025254) Independent director	1 April 2014 <sup>#</sup>	6/6	100	-	0.07	0.18	Nil
3.	Dr. Naushad Forbes (DIN: 00630825) Independent director	1 April 2019	6/6	100	-	0.15	0.38	Nil
4.	Anami N Roy (DIN: 01361110) Independent director	1 April 2019	6/6	100	-	0.18	0.45	Nil
5.	Pramit Jhaveri (DIN: 00186137) Independent director	1 August 2021	6/6	100 <sup>\$</sup>	-	0.17	0.43	Nil
6.	Radhika Haribhakti (DIN: 02409519) Independent director	1 May 2022	5/5	100*	_	0.08	0.20	Nil
7.	Rajiv Bajaj (DIN: 00018262) Non-executive, Promoter Group	2 May 1994	6/6	94.44	-	0.06	0.15	1,000
8.	Rajeev Jain (DIN: 01550158) Managing Director	1 April 2015	6/6	100	18.04	-	-	169,950

#### Notes:

All directors attended the AGM held on 27 July 2022.

Sanjiv Bajaj and Rajiv Bajaj are brothers and related to each other.

No other directors are related interse.

<sup>S</sup> Pramit Jhaveri was appointed with effect from 1 August 2021. % of meetings attended is calculated based on the number of Board meetings attended post his appointment.

- \* Radhika Haribhakti was appointed with effect from 1 May 2022. % of meetings attended is calculated based on the number of Board meetings attended post her appointment.
- <sup>#</sup> Date of appointment pursuant to Companies Act, 2013 as an independent director is considered.

The Company has not issued any convertible instruments and none of the Directors hold any convertible instrument. Rajeev Jain, Managing Director is entitled to Employee Stock Options as per Employee Stock Option Scheme, 2009. The above remuneration is exclusive of fair value of options granted as per black scholes model in the year of vesting.

#### Changes in composition of Board during FY2023 and FY2022

Details of change in composition of the Board during the year under review and previous year i.e., from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023 is given below:

Sr. No.	Name of director	Capacity	Nature of change	Effective date
1.	Late Rahul Bajaj	Non-executive director	Resignation	30 April 2021*
2.	Dr. Omkar Goswami	Independent director	Resignation	9 July 2021
3.	Pramit Jhaveri	Independent director	Appointment	1 August 2021
4.	Dipak Poddar	Independent director	Retirement	31 March 2022*

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Sr. No.	Name of director	Capacity	Nature of change	Effective date
5.	Dr. Gita Piramal	Independent director	Resignation	30 April 2022*
6.	Ranjan Sanghi	Independent director	Resignation	30 April 2022*
7.	Radhika Haribhakti	Independent director	Appointment	1 May 2022
8.	Madhur Bajaj	Non-executive director	Resignation	31 July 2022*

\* Close of business hours

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The Board at its meeting held on 16 March 2023, appointed Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya as an independent director for a period of 5 years effective 1 April 2023. Further, the Board at the said meeting, appointed two additional Executive Directors viz., Anup Saha and Rakesh Bhatt with effect from 1 April 2023 for a period of five years.

#### **Resignation of independent director during FY2023**

Ranjan Sanghi who was holding office for a second term till 31 March 2024, stepped down as director and independent director of the Company in view of his age and ill health with effect from close of business hours on 30 April 2022.

Dr. Gita Piramal has also tendered her resignation as director and independent director due to health reasons with effect from close of business hours on 30 April 2022.

Both these directors also confirmed that there are no material reasons for resignation other than those mentioned in their respective resignation letters. The letters which have been furnished to stock exchanges can be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-stock-exchange-filings">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-stock-exchange-filings</a>

#### **Board diversity**

In compliance with the provisions of the SEBI Listing Regulations, the Board through Nomination and Remuneration Committee ('NRC') has devised a policy on Board Diversity. The Board comprises adequate number of members with diverse experience and skills, such that it best serves the governance and strategic needs of the Company. The directors are persons of eminence in areas of financial services, technology, banking, business transformation and strategy, audit and risk management, finance, law, administration, research and investment banking, etc. and bring with them experience/skills which add value to the performance of the Board. The directors are selected purely on the basis of merit with no discrimination on race, colour, religion, gender or nationality.

### Core skills/expertise/competencies

A brief profile of directors is available on the website of the Company at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-board-of-directors</u>

As stipulated under schedule V to the SEBI Listing Regulations, core skills/expertise/competencies as required in the context of the business and sector for it to function effectively and those actually available with the Board have been identified by the Board of Directors.

The chart/matrix of such core skills/expertise/competencies, along with the names of directors who possess such skills is given below:

#### Sr. No. Core skills/expertise/competencies Management and Governance 1. 2. **Financial Services** Consumer behaviour, sales, marketing and customer experience 3. Technology and Innovation 4. 5. Understanding of accounting and financial statements Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls 6. 7. Regulatory, Public policy and economics 8. Human Resource 9. Business Transformation and Strategy



••••	Name of director	Core skills/expertise/competencies
1.	Sanjiv Bajaj	Management and Governance, Financial Services, Technology and Innovation, Consumer Behaviour, Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Regulatory, Public Policy and Economics, Human Resources and Business Transformation and Strategy.
2.	D J Balaji Rao	Management and Governance, Financial Services, Consumer Behaviour, Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls and Business Transformation and Strategy.
3.	Dr. Naushad Forbes	Management and Governance, Consumer Behaviour, Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience, Technology and Innovation, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Regulatory, Public Policy and Economics, Human Resources and Business Transformation and Strategy.
4.	Anami N Roy	Management and Governance, Financial Services, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Regulatory, Public Policy and Economics and Human Resources.
5.	Pramit Jhaveri	Management and Governance, Financial Services, Consumer Behaviour, Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience, Technology and Innovation, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Regulatory, Public Policy and Economics, Human Resources and Business Transformation and Strategy.
6.	Radhika Haribhakti	Management and Governance, Financial Services, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Human Resources and Business Transformation and Strategy.
7.	Rajiv Bajaj	Management and Governance, Consumer Behaviour, Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience, Technology and Innovation, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Human Resources and Business Transformation and Strategy.
8.	Rajeev Jain	Management and Governance, Financial Services, Consumer Behaviour, Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience, Understanding of Accounting and Financial Statements, Risk, Assurance and Internal Controls, Regulatory, Public Policy and Economics and Business Transformation and Strategy.

# **Opinion of the Board**

The Board confirms that, in its opinion, the independent directors fulfil the conditions specified under the SEBI Listing Regulations and the Act and are independent of the Management of the Company.

# Non-executive directors' compensation

The Company believes that non-executive directors' ('NEDs') (including independent directors) compensation must reflect the time, effort, attendance and participation in Board and Committee meetings. The payment is proportionate to attendance and ensures directors' remuneration is commensurate with their time, effort, attendance and participation.

The members of the Company *vide* special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Company held on 27 July 2022 have, approved the payment of commission up to a sum not exceeding one percent of the net profits of the Company, calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 198 of the Act, to be paid and distributed among the directors of the Company or some or any of them (other than the Managing Director/Whole-time Directors) in such amounts, subject to such ceiling/s and in such manner and in such respects, as may be decided by the Board of Directors from time to time during the five years commencing from 1 April 2022.

During FY2023, NEDs of the Company were being paid commission at the rate of ₹ 250,000 per meeting of the Board and/or its Committees attended by them.

An independent benchmarking exercise was done on the compensation payable to NEDs vis-a-vis peers and other well governed companies. The Board, after taking into account the same and keeping in view the responsibilities that the NEDs are expected to bear in the interest of higher level of excellence in corporate governance on account of statutory and regulatory changes, enhanced the commission from ₹ 250,000 to ₹ 400,000 per meeting of the Board and/or Committee. The total commission payable to all directors, however, will be within the maximum permissible ceiling prescribed under Act.

The Commission is paid to the directors after the adoption of audited financial statements by the shareholders at the AGM.

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The directors are also entitled to sitting fee at ₹ 100,000 per meeting for every meeting of the Board and/or Committee (except Corporate Social Responsibility Committee) attended by them.

The Company does not have a stock option programme for any of its directors other than the Managing Director/Executive Directors.

#### Information placed before the Board

The Board is presented with relevant information on various matters related to the working of the Company, especially those that require deliberation at the highest level. Presentations are also made to the Board by key members of Senior Management on important matters from time to time. Directors have separate and independent access to the officers of the Company. In addition to items required to be placed before the Board for its noting and/or approval, information is provided on various significant items.

In terms of quality and importance, the information supplied by Management to the Board is far ahead of the mandate under the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations. The independent directors of the Company met on 16 March 2023 and expressed their satisfaction on the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the Company's Management and the Board.

Pursuant to the various regulatory requirements and considering business needs, the Board is apprised on various strategic, business, compliance and regulatory matters. During the FY2023 it, inter alia, covered the following:

- Business plans, forecast and strategic initiatives
- Changes in regulatory landscape including impact of the RBI Scale Based Regulations, and Company's preparedness
- Capital expenditure and updates
- Internal financial controls
- Succession planning and organisation structure
- Details of incidence of frauds, and corrective action taken thereon •
- Supervisory concerns raised by regulators •
- Performance of subsidiaries
- Status of compliance with Act, SEBI Regulations, RBI Regulations and shareholder related matters
- Review of various policies framed by Company from time to time covering, amongst others, Code of Conduct for Directors and Senior Management, Whistle-blower policy, Fair Practices Code, IT related policies, Risk Management policy, etc.
- Risk management system, Risk Management Policy and strategy followed
- Compliance with corporate governance standards
- Minutes of meetings of various Committees including Risk Management, Asset-Liability and IT Strategy Committee
- Compliance with fair practices code ٠
- Functioning of customer grievance redressal mechanism •
- Awareness on cyber security

#### Directors and Officers liability insurance ('D&O policy')

The Company has in place a D&O policy which is renewed every year. It covers directors (including independent directors) of the Company and its subsidiaries. The Board is of the opinion that quantum and risk presently covered is adequate.

#### **Orderly succession to Board and Senior Management**

One of the key functions of the Board of Directors is selecting, compensating, monitoring, and when necessary, replacing key managerial personnel and overseeing succession planning.

Pursuant to regulation 17(4) of the SEBI Listing Regulations, the framework of succession planning for appointment of director/Senior Management is placed before the Board for its review from time to time.



### **Directorships and memberships of Board Committees**

 Table 1: Number of directorship/committee positions of directors as on 31 March 2023 (including the Company)

	Directorships				Committee p listed and un compa	listed public
Name of director	No. of Directorships	In equity listed companies	In unlisted public companies	In private limited companies	As member (including as chairperson)	As chairperson
Sanjiv Bajaj	18	5	5	8	8	-
D J Balaji Rao	4	4	-	-	4	2
Dr. Naushad Forbes	14	5	1	8	7	2
Anami N Roy	10	6	3	1	8	4
Pramit Jhaveri	4	3	-	1	2	-
Radhika Haribhakti	8	7	1	-	9	2
Rajiv Bajaj	11	5	2	4	-	_
Rajeev Jain	2	1	1	-	2	-
	D J Balaji Rao Dr. Naushad Forbes Anami N Roy Pramit Jhaveri Radhika Haribhakti Rajiv Bajaj	Name of directorDirectorshipsSanjiv Bajaj18D J Balaji Rao4Dr. Naushad Forbes14Anami N Roy10Pramit Jhaveri4Radhika Haribhakti8Rajiv Bajaj11	No. of DirectorshipsIn equity listed companiesSanjiv Bajaj185D J Balaji Rao44Dr. Naushad Forbes145Anami N Roy106Pramit Jhaveri43Radhika Haribhakti87Rajiv Bajaj115	No. of DirectorshipsIn equity listed companiesIn unlisted publicSanjiv Bajaj1855D J Balaji Rao44-Dr. Naushad Forbes1451Anami N Roy1063Pramit Jhaveri43-Radhika Haribhakti871Rajiv Bajaj1152	Name of directorNo. of DirectorshipsIn equity listed companiesIn unlisted public companiesIn private limited companiesSanjiv Bajaj18558D J Balaji Rao44Dr. Naushad Forbes14518Anami N Roy10631Pramit Jhaveri43-1Radhika Haribhakti871-Rajiv Bajaj11524	listed and un DirectorshipsNo. of DirectorshipsIn equity listed companiesIn unlisted public companiesIn private limited companiesAs member (including as 

Note: For the purpose of considering the limit of committees in which a director can serve, all public limited companies, whether listed or not, have been included; whereas all other companies including private limited companies, foreign companies, high value debt listed entities and companies under section 8 of the Act/section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 have been excluded. Only the Audit Committee and the Stakeholders' Relationship Committee are considered for the purpose of reckoning committee positions. Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., being a public limited company as well as high value debt listed entity is considered under the category of public limited company.

None of the directors hold office as a director, including as an alternate director, in more than 20 companies at the same time. None of them has directorships in more than 10 public companies. For reckoning the limit of public companies, directorships of private companies that are either holding or subsidiary companies of a public company are included; while directorships in dormant companies and section 8 of the Act/section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 are excluded. For the purpose of reckoning the directorships in listed companies, only equity listed companies have been considered.

As per declarations received, no director serves as an independent director in more than seven equity listed companies or in more than three equity listed companies if he/she is a whole-time director/managing director in any listed company. The independent directors also confirmed that they are not on the Board of more than three NBFCs [NBFC-Middle Layer ('NBFC-ML') or NBFC-Upper Layer ('NBFC-UL')] at the same time in line with RBI Scale Based Regulations.

Pursuant to RBI Scale Based Regulations, Key Managerial Personnel shall not hold any office (including directorships) in any other NBFC-ML or NBFC-UL except for directorship in a subsidiary. Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, holds office as a Non-Executive Vice Chairman of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., the wholly subsidiary of the Company. He does not hold office in any other NBFC.

None of the directors was a member in more than 10 committees, nor a chairperson in more than five committees across all public companies in which he/she was a director.

Notwithstanding the number of directorships, as highlighted herein, the outstanding attendance record and participation of the directors in Board/Committee meetings indicates their commitment and ability to devote adequate time to their responsibilities as Board/Committee members.

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# Directorship in listed companies (including debt listed companies)

# Table 2: Name of listed entities where directors of the Company held directorships as on 31 March 2023(including the Company)

Sr. No.	Name of director	Name of listed entity	Category	
		Bajaj Auto Ltd.	Non-executive, non-independent	
		Bajaj Finance Ltd.	Chairman, non-executive, non-independent	
		Bajaj Finserv Ltd.	Chairman and Managing Director, executive	
	Sanjiv Bajaj	Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd.	Managing Director and CEO, executive	
		Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd.	Chairman, non-executive, non-independent	
		Maharashtra Scooters Ltd.	Chairman, non-executive, non-independent	
		Bajaj Auto Ltd.		
		Bajaj Finance Ltd.	Non everytive independent	
•	D J Balaji Rao	Bajaj Finserv Ltd.	Non-executive, independent	
		Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd.	-	
		Bajaj Auto Ltd.		
		Bajaj Finance Ltd.	-	
	Dr. Naushad Forbes	Bajaj Finserv Ltd.	Non-executive, independent	
		Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd.	-	
		Zodiac Clothing Company Ltd.	-	
		Bajaj Auto Ltd.		
	Anami N Roy	Bajaj Finance Ltd.	-	
		Bajaj Finserv Ltd.		
		Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd.	Non-executive, independent	
		Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd.	-	
		GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	-	
		Finolex Industries Ltd.	-	
		Bajaj Finance Ltd.		
).	Pramit Jhaveri	Bajaj Finserv Ltd.	Non-executive, independent	
		Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	-	
		Bajaj Finance Ltd.		
		Bajaj Finserv Ltd.	-	
		EIH Associated Hotels Ltd.	-	
	Radhika Haribhakti	ICRA Ltd.	Non-executive, independent	
		Navin Fluorine International Ltd.	-	
		Rain Industries Ltd.	-	
		Torrent Power Ltd.	-	
		Bajaj Auto Ltd.	Managing Director and CEO, executive	
		Bajaj Electrical Ltd.	Non-executive, non-independent	
	Rajiv Bajaj	Bajaj Finance Ltd.	Non-executive, non-independent	
		Bajaj Finserv Ltd.	Non-executive, non-independent	
		Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd.	Non-executive, non-independent	
		Bajaj Finance Ltd.	Managing Director, executive	
3.	Rajeev Jain	Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd.	Vice Chairman, non-executive, non-independen	

# **Certificate on qualification of Directors**

The Company has received a certificate from Shyamprasad D. Limaye, practising company secretary, to the effect that none of the directors on the Board of the Company have been debarred or disqualified from being appointed or continuing as director of the Company by SEBI/Ministry of Corporate Affairs ('MCA') or such other statutory authority. The certificate forms a part of this Annual Report.

# **Review of legal compliance reports**

The Board periodically reviews compliance report with respect to the various laws applicable to the Company, as prepared and placed before it by the Management.



### **Code of Conduct**

The SEBI Listing Regulations requires listed companies to lay down a Code of Conduct for its directors and senior management, incorporating duties of Directors prescribed in the Act.

The Company has a Board approved Code of Conduct for Board members and Senior Management of the Company. Based on the review, the Code of Conduct was revised in line with applicable regulations and approved by the Board at its meeting held on 16 March 2023. The updated Code has been placed on the Company's website and can be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents</a>.

All the Board members and Senior Management personnel have affirmed compliance with the Code for the year ended 31 March 2023. A declaration to this effect signed by the Managing Director forms a part of this Annual Report.

### Maximum tenure of independent directors

In terms of the Act, independent directors shall hold office for a term of up to five consecutive years on the board of a company but shall be eligible for re-appointment on passing of a special resolution by the company and disclosure of such appointment in the board's report. The tenure of the independent directors is in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

# Formal letter of appointment to independent directors

The Company has issued a formal letter of appointment/re-appointment to independent directors in the manner provided in the Act. As per regulation 46(2) of the SEBI Listing Regulations, the terms and conditions of appointment/re-appointment of independent directors are placed on the Company's website and can be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents</a>.

# **Familiarisation programme**

On an ongoing basis, the Company endeavours to keep the Board including independent directors abreast with matters relating to the industry in which Company operates, its business model, risk metrics, mitigation and management, governing regulations, information technology including cyber security, their roles, rights and responsibilities and major developments and updates on the Company and group, etc.

The independent directors of the Company are made aware of their roles and responsibilities at the time of their appointment through a formal letter of appointment, which also stipulates various terms and conditions of their engagement.

The familiarisation details for the FY2023 can be accessed at the link: <u>https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/</u> <u>content/bajajfinance/familiarisation-programme-for-independent-directors-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf</u>.

# Whistle Blower Policy/Vigil Mechanism

The Company has a Whistle Blower Policy encompassing Vigil Mechanism pursuant to the requirements of the section 177(9) of the Act and regulation 22 of the SEBI Listing Regulations and meeting the requirements under applicable RBI regulations. This mechanism enables directors, employees and value chain partners to report confidentially to the Management, without fear of victimisation, any unacceptable and/or unethical behaviour, suspected or actual fraud, violation of the Company's Code of Conduct or ethics policy and instances of leak or suspected leak of unpublished price sensitive information which are detrimental to the organisation's interest. It provides safeguards against victimisation of directors/employees/value chain partners who avail of the mechanism and allows direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases. It also allows them to share their inputs or raise their concerns anonymously at the dedicated link provided for it.

The policy has been appropriately communicated to the employees within the organisation and has also been hosted on the Company's website which can be accessed at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents</u>.

Employees of the Company are required to undergo mandatory online learning module on Code of Conduct including Whistle Blower Policy and affirm that they have understood and are aware of vital aspects of the policy.

During FY2023, no employee was denied access to the Audit Committee. During FY2023, 145 complaints were received by Company out which 17 are pending for resolution as on 31 March 2023.

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# **Details of material subsidiaries**

The Company has one material subsidiary viz., Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd. ('BHFL').

The details of the same are as under:

Sr.		
No.	Particulars	Information about BHFL
1.	Date of incorporation	13 June 2008
2.	Place of incorporation	Pune
3.	Registered office	Bajaj Auto Ltd. Complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi Pune - 411 035
4.	Name of the Auditor	Khandelwal Jain & Co. and G.D. Apte & Co.
5.	Date of appointment	16 November 2021
6.	Period of appointment	3 years to hold office till the AGM scheduled in 2024 for audit of Financial Statements for FY 2022, 2023 and 2024 as per RBI Guidelines.
7.	Other details	• BHFL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company registered as a Housing Finance Company with National Housing Bank (Registration No. 09.0127.15).
		• It is also classified in the Upper Layer pursuant to RBI Scale Based Regulations.
		<ul> <li>It issues debentures on private placement basis from time to time. These are listed on the Wholesale Debt Market Segment of BSE Ltd. It is classified as a high value debt listed entity in terms of SEBI Listing Regulations.</li> </ul>

As on 31 March 2023, the Board of BHFL comprised of five directors out of which two are independent directors viz., Anami N Roy and Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya. It is a professional Board comprising of highly qualified and eminent persons. The profile of the directors can be accessed at <u>https://www.bajajhousingfinance.in/directors-board</u>.

The Board of BHFL approved appointment of Jasmine Chaney as an independent woman director effective 1 April 2023 for a period of five years.

In addition to above, the Company has a wholly owned subsidiary viz., Bajaj Financial Securities Ltd ('BFinsec'). and an associate company viz., Snapwork Technologies Private Ltd.

Details of the subsidiaries and associates including their performance, businesses, are given in the Directors' Report.

The Policy on 'material subsidiaries', as approved by the Board, is available on the Company's website and can be accessed at <a href="https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-for-determining-material-subSldiary-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf">https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-for-determining-material-subSldiary-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf</a>.

### Loans and advances

The Company and its subsidiaries have not provided any loans and advances in the nature of loans to firms/ companies in which the directors are interested.

# **Share Capital**

As of 31 March 2023, the paid-up capital of the Company was ₹ 121.09 crore consisting of 605,429,233 equity shares of face value of ₹ 2 fully paid up. The Company has not issued any convertible securities and there are no outstanding convertible securities as on 31 March 2023.

# Utilisation of funds raised through preferential allotment/qualified institutions placement

The Company has not raised funds by issue of equity shares either on preferential basis or through qualified institutions placement during FY2023. Therefore, there are no details to be disclosed as per regulation 32(7A) of SEBI Listing Regulations.

# **Related party transactions**

All related party transactions entered during FY2023 were in the ordinary course of business, at arm's length and not material under the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations. Prior approval of the Audit Committee was obtained for all related party transactions entered during FY2023. Details of such transactions were placed before the Audit Committee for its noting and review on a quarterly basis.

A statement containing disclosure of transactions with related parties as required under Indian Accounting Standard 24 (Ind AS 24) including transaction with promoter/promoter group holding 10% or more shareholding



in the Company is set out separately in this Annual Report. Disclosures relating to related party transactions are filed with the stock exchanges on a half-yearly basis.

During FY2023, there were no materially significant related party transactions that may have potential conflict with the interest of the Company at large. The policy is given below as required pursuant to Master Direction – Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016, as amended. It is also hosted on the Company's website at <a href="https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-of-materiality-and-dealing-with-related-party-transactionpdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf">https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-of-materiality-and-dealing-with-related-party-transactionpdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf</a>.

#### Policy on materiality of related party transactions and dealing with related party transactions

#### Quote

#### Background

Pursuant to regulation 23 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('SEBI Listing Regulations'), the Board of Directors of Bajaj Finance Ltd. (the Company) at its meeting held on 14 October 2014 had approved a Policy on Materiality of and dealing with related party transactions. Pursuant to SEBI circular dated 9 May 2018, which notified certain amendments effective from 1 April 2019, the Policy was revised by the Board at its meeting held on 12 March 2019.

SEBI, vide circular dated 9 November 2021, has notified further amendments necessitating changes to be made in the policy, which will be effective from 1 April 2022, unless stated otherwise.

#### **Policy:**

In supersession of the existing Policy, the Policy on Materiality of and dealing with Related Party Transactions, which is to be read together with Regulation 23 of the said Regulations and relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 is accordingly being revised as under:

- The terms 'Related Party', 'Related Party Transactions', 'Relative', 'Material RPTs', 'Arms' length transaction', 'Omnibus Approval' and such other terms will carry the meaning as stated under the Companies Act, 2013 or SEBI Listing Regulations as amended from time to time.
- 2. Related Party Transactions (RPTs), including subsequent material modifications thereof of the Company covered under the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 23 of the SEBI Listing Regulations will be approved by the Audit Committee of the Board from time to time, subject to such exceptions as are provided therein.

For the above purpose, 'material modifications' as defined by the Audit Committee would refer to the following:

Material modification will mean and include any modification to an existing RPT having variance of 20% of the existing limit or ₹ 1 crore whichever is higher, as sanctioned by the Audit Committee/Shareholders, as the case may be. Provided further that:

- a related party transaction to which the subsidiary of the Company is a party, but the Company is not a party, shall require prior approval of the Audit Committee if the value of such transaction whether entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year exceeds ten per cent of the annual consolidated turnover, as per the last audited financial statements of the Company;
- With effect from 1 April 2023, a related party transaction to which the subsidiary of a listed entity is a party, but the listed entity is not a party, shall require prior approval of the Audit Committee of the listed entity if the value of such transaction whether entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, exceeds ten per cent of the annual standalone turnover, as per the last audited financial statements of the subsidiary.
- 3. Prior Consent of the Board and the Shareholders would be taken in respect of all RPTs, including material modifications thereof, except in the following cases:
  - i. Where the transactions are below the threshold limits specified in the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules thereunder or the SEBI Listing Regulations, as may be applicable;
  - ii. Where the transactions are entered into by the Company in its ordinary course of business and are on arms' length basis;

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- iii. Payments made with respect to brand usage or royalty where the transaction(s) to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, do not exceed five percent of the annual consolidated turnover as per the last audited financial statements of the Company;
- iv. Where the transactions to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year do not exceed ₹ 1,000 crore or ten percent of the annual consolidated turnover of the Company as per the last audited financial statements of the Company, whichever is lower;
- v. Transactions entered into between the Company and any of its wholly owned subsidiary whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval;
- vi. Transactions entered into between two wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company, whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval.
- 4. Notwithstanding the above, approval of the Board and shareholders would be necessary, where the RPTs exceed the following threshold limits:

Sr N	o. Description	(₹ in crore) <b>Threshold limits</b>
51.14		The Short minus
1.	Sale, purchase or supply of any goods or materials or securities	
2.	Borrowing including by way of deposits	
3.	Selling or otherwise disposing off or buying of any property including by way of leave and license arrangement	1,000
4.	Availing or rendering of any services including lending	

The Chairman of Board and of Audit Committee are jointly authorised to make changes to Policy as they deem fit and expedient, taking into account the law for the time being in force.

The above policy is subject to review from time to time and at least once in every three years.

### Unquote

### **Audit Committee**

Pursuant to the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and RBI Regulations, the Company has an Audit Committee, meeting the composition prescribed with a minimum of two-third of its members (including Chairman) being independent directors. All members are non-executive directors, are financially literate and have accounting or related financial management expertise.

The Board reviews the working of the Committee from time to time to bring about greater effectiveness and to ensure compliance with the various requirements under the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and RBI Regulations.

The terms of reference of the Committee are in accordance with the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and RBI Regulations. These broadly include oversight of the Company's financial reporting process and disclosure of its financial information, review of financial statements, review of compliances and review of systems and controls, approval or any subsequent modification of transactions with related parties, review statement of deviations, if any, review Management letters/letters of internal control weaknesses issued by the statutory auditors, review compliance with SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The detailed terms of reference of the Committee can be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</a>

### Meetings and attendance

During FY2023, the Committee met five times viz., on 26 April 2022, 27 July 2022, 20 October 2022, 27 January 2023 and 16 March 2023. The meetings were scheduled well in advance and not more than 120 days elapsed between any two consecutive meetings.

In addition to the members of the Audit Committee, these meetings were attended by Chief Financial Officer, internal auditor, representative of statutory auditors and other senior executives who were considered necessary for providing inputs to the Committee.

The Company Secretary acted as the secretary to the Audit Committee.



Anami N Roy, Chairman of the Committee, was present at the AGM of the Company held through Video Conferencing (VC) on 27 July 2022, to answer shareholders' queries.

Sanjiv Bajaj, stepped down as member of the Committee with effect from close of business hours on 31 March 2023.

Further, the Board of Directors inducted Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya as member of the Committee effective 1 April 2023.

Effective 1 April 2023, all members of the Committee comprise of only independent directors.

#### Table 3: Composition of the Audit Committee and attendance record of the members for FY2023

				No. of Meetings hel during FY2023 (5)	
Sr. No.	Name of director	Member of Committee since	Category	Entitled to attend	Attended
1.	Anami N Roy	10 July 2021	Chairman, non-executive, independent	5	5
2.	Sanjiv Bajaj	21 May 2008	Non-executive, non-independent	5	5
3.	Dr. Naushad Forbes	19 May 2020	Non-executive, independent	5	5
4.	Pramit Jhaveri	1 August 2021	Non-executive, independent	5	5

During FY2023, the Board had accepted all recommendations of the Committee.

#### **Nomination and Remuneration Committee**

Pursuant to the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and RBI Regulations, the Company has constituted a Nomination and Remuneration Committee ('NRC').

The terms of reference of the Committee are in accordance with the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and RBI Regulations. These broadly include formulation of criteria for determining qualifications, positive attributes and independence of a director, recommendation of persons to be appointed to the Board and Senior Management and specifying the manner for effective evaluation of performance of Board, its Committees, Chairperson and individual directors, recommendation of Remuneration Policy for directors, key managerial personnel and other employees, formulation of criteria for evaluation of performance of independent directors and the Board, devising a policy on Board diversity and such other matters as may be prescribed by the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and RBI Regulations. Detailed terms of reference of the Committee can be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</a>.

The Committee acts as the Compensation Committee for administration of the Company's Employee Stock Option Scheme, 2009.

#### Meetings and attendance

During FY2023, the Committee met three times viz., on 26 April 2022, 12 September 2022 and 16 March 2023.

Anami N Roy, Chairman of the Committee, was present at the AGM of the Company held through VC on 27 July 2022, to answer shareholders' queries.

Consequent to his resignation, Ranjan Sanghi ceased to be a member of NRC with effect from close of business hours on 30 April 2022. Radhika Haribhakti was inducted as member of the Committee in his place from 1 May 2022.

Radhika Haribhakti has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee effective 13 September 2022.

#### Table 4: Composition of the NRC and attendance record of the members for FY2023

				No. of Mee during FY	tings held 2023 (3)
Sr. No.	Name of director	Member of Committee since	Category	Entitled to attend	Attended
1.	Radhika Haribhakti	1 May 2022	Chairperson, non-executive, independent	2	2
2.	Sanjiv Bajaj	14 October 2009	Non-executive, non-independent	3	3
3.	Ranjan Sanghi (up to 30 April 2022)	15 January 2002	Non-executive, independent	1	1
4.	Anami N Roy	17 March 2020	Non-executive, independent	3	3

During FY2023, the Board had accepted all recommendations of the Committee.

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The Company has in place performance evaluation criteria for Board, Committees, Chairperson and Directors. The criteria for evaluation of independent directors, *inter alia*, includes attendance and participation, acting in good faith, openness to ideas, pro-active and positive approach with regard to Board and Senior Management particularly the arrangements for management of risk and the steps needed to meet challenges from the competition, independence and independent views and judgment, etc.

These criteria are hosted on the website of the Company and can be accessed at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/</u><u>finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents</u>.

#### **Risk Management Committee**

Pursuant to the RBI Regulations and SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company has constituted a Risk Management Committee ('RMC').

The terms and reference of RMC, *inter alia*, includes formulation of a detailed Risk Management Policy, reviewing and guiding the Management on reputational and market (investment) risk, ensuring that appropriate methodology, processes and systems are in place to monitor and evaluate risks associated with the business of the Company, monitoring and overseeing implementation of the Risk Management Policy, including evaluating the adequacy of risk management systems, appointment, removal and terms of remuneration of the Chief Risk Officer. The detailed terms of reference of the Committee can also be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</a>.

The Company has a risk management framework duly approved by the Board. The details of Risks Management and various mitigants are covered in detail in Management and Discussion Analysis and in the Directors' Report.

Fakhari Sarjan is the Chief Risk Officer of the Company.

#### Meetings and attendance

During FY2023, the Committee met four times viz., on 26 April 2022, 27 July 2022, 20 October 2022 and 27 January 2023.

The Board of Directors inducted Pramit Jhaveri as member of the Committee effective 1 April 2022 in place of Dipak Poddar, who ceased to be director and independent director on completion of his second term on 31 March 2022.

During the year under review, Pramit Jhaveri has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee.

#### Table 5: Composition of the RMC and attendance record of the members for FY2023

				No. of Meetings held during FY2023 (4)		No. of shares held in the Company as on 31
Sr. No.			Category	Entitled to attend	Attended	March 2023
1.	Pramit Jhaveri	1 April 2022	Chairman, non-executive, independent	4	4	*
2.	Sanjiv Bajaj	20 October 2015	Non-executive, non-independent	4	4	*
3.	Anami N Roy	10 July 2021	Non-executive, independent	4	4	*
4.	Rajeev Jain <sup>#</sup>	21 May 2008	Managing Director, executive	4	4	*
5.	Fakhari Sarjan <sup>#</sup>	12 March 2019	Senior Executive, Chief Risk Officer	4	4	4,575
6.	Sandeep Jain <sup>#</sup>	3 February 2016	Senior Executive, Chief Financial Officer	4	4	66,375
7.	Deepak Bagati <sup>#</sup>	29 January 2020	Senior Executive, President, Debt Management Services	4	3	Nil

\* Details provided in the table containing composition of directors.

<sup>#</sup>They are also entitled to stock options of the Company.

During FY2023, the Board had accepted all recommendations of the Committee.



#### Stakeholders' Relationship Committee

Pursuant to the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company has constituted a Stakeholders' Relationship Committee ('SRC'). This Committee specifically looks into the grievances of debenture holders and fixed deposit holders, in addition to the equity shareholders of the Company.

The terms of reference of the Committee, *inter alia*, includes review of measures taken for effective exercise of voting rights by shareholders and review of adherence to the service standards in respect of various services rendered by the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent ('RTA'). The terms of reference of the Committee can be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</a>.

More details on this subject and on shareholders' related matters including unclaimed suspense account have been furnished in General Shareholder Information.

#### **Meetings and attendance**

During FY2023, the Committee met once on 27 January 2023 to review the status of investors' services rendered. The secretarial auditor as well as the Company Secretary were present at the said meeting.

The Committee was apprised of the major developments on matters relating to investors. In addition, the Committee also considered matters that can facilitate better investor services and relations.

Consequent to her resignation, Dr. Gita Piramal ceased to be Chairperson and member of SRC with effect from close of business hours on 30 April 2022. D J Balaji Rao was inducted as member and Chairman of the Committee from 1 May 2022.

Consequent to his resignation, Ranjan Sanghi ceased to be a member of SRC with effect from close of business hours on 30 April 2022. Radhika Haribhakti was inducted as a member of the Committee from 1 May 2022.

#### Table 6: Composition of the SRC and attendance record of the members for FY2023

				No. of Meetings he during FY2023 (1	
Sr. No.	Name of director	Member of Committee since	Category	Entitled to attend	Attended
1.	D J Balaji Rao	1 May 2022	Chairman, non-executive, independent	1	1
2.	Sanjiv Bajaj	11 May 2010	Non-executive, non-independent	1	1
3.	Radhika Haribhakti	1 May 2022	Non-executive, independent	1	1

R Vijay, Company Secretary, acts as the Compliance Officer.

D J Balaji Rao, Chairman of the Committee, was present at the AGM of the Company held through VC on 27 July 2022, to answer shareholders' queries.

#### Table 7: Details of the investor complaints received during FY2023

No. of complaints outstanding at the beginning of the year	No. of complaints received	No. of complaints not solved to the satisfaction of the shareholders	No. of complaints solved	No. of complaints pending at the end of the year
1	24	-	25	-

### **Duplicate Share Certificate Issuance Committee**

To meet the requirement of the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company has constituted a Duplicate Share Certificate Issuance Committee of the Board to approve the issuance of duplicate share certificate in lieu of original share certificate lost or misplaced.

As a measure to enhance ease of dealing in securities market by the investors, SEBI through its circular dated 25 January 2022 has mandated listed entities to issue of securities in dematerialised form only while processing any service request including issue of duplicate share certificate.

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During FY2023, the Committee met once on 16 March 2023.

#### Table 8: Composition of the Duplicate Share Certificate Issuance Committee and attendance record of the members for FY2023

			No. of Mee during FY	
Sr. No.	Name of director	Category	Entitled to attend	Attended
1.	Sanjiv Bajaj	Chairman, non-executive, non-independent	1	1
2.	Rajeev Jain	Managing Director, executive	1	1
3.	Dr. Naushad Forbes	Non-executive, independent	1	1

# Information Technology (IT) Strategy Committee

Pursuant to Master Direction – Information Technology Framework issued by RBI for NBFC Sector, the Company has constituted an IT Strategy Committee.

#### Meeting and attendance

During FY2023, the Committee met twice on 25 July 2022 and 27 January 2023 as required under the above Master Direction.

#### Table 9: Composition of the IT Strategy Committee and attendance record of the members for FY2023

				No. of Mee during FY	tings held 2023 (2)
Sr. No.	Name of Member	Member of Committee since	Category	Entitled to attend	Attended
1.	Dr. Naushad Forbes	17 March 2020	Chairman, non-executive, independent	2	2
2.	Sanjiv Bajaj	13 September 2017	Non-executive, non-independent	2	2
3.	Rajeev Jain	13 September 2017	Managing Director, executive	2	2
4.	Rakesh Bhatt	13 September 2017	Executive Director	2	2
5.	Anurag Chottani	13 September 2017	Senior Executive, Chief Technology Officer	2	2
6.	Rajendra Bisht	12 March 2019	Senior Executive, Vice President – Technology and Digital	2	2

The Board at its meeting held on 20 October 2022 amended the terms of reference to include evaluation of risks related to cyber security/information security and review of Business Continuity Plan (BCP)/ Disaster Recovery (DR) Plan. The detailed terms of reference of the Committee can also be accessed at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</a>.

During FY2023, the Committee reviewed IT Infrastructure Projects, Information Security Projects, Governance Framework, Cyber Security, System Audit Reports, etc.

The Board had accepted all recommendations of the Committee during FY2023.

### **Customer Service Committee**

To strengthen the customer engagement and monitoring process, the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 14 March 2022 have voluntarily constituted a Customer Service Committee, in line with the requirements applicable to Banks. It is headed by an independent director.

During FY2023, the Committee met twice on 12 September 2022 and 16 March 2023.



# Table 10: Composition of the Customer Service Committee and attendance record of the members for FY2023

				No. of Mee during FY	
Sr. No.	Name of director	Member of Committee since	Category	Entitled to attend	Attended
1.	Pramit Jhaveri	14 March 2022	Chairman, non-executive, independent	2	2
2.	Sanjiv Bajaj	14 March 2022	Non-executive, non-independent	2	2
3.	Rajeev Jain	14 March 2022	Managing Director, executive	2	2
4.	Dr. Naushad Forbes	14 March 2022	Non-executive, independent	2	2

The terms of reference of the Committee can be accessed at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</u>.

During FY2023, the Committee reviewed, *inter alia*, customer service and grievance related matters and also had discussions with internal ombudsmen. Details of various initiatives on the customer service front are provided in the Directors' Report.

The Board had accepted all recommendations of the Committee during FY2023.

# Review Committee for Wilful Defaulter's Identification ('Review Committee')

In line with RBI Guidelines, the Company is required to constitute a Committee for identifying a non-cooperative borrower as specified in the guidelines. To review the decision of this Committee, a Review Committee of the Board has been constituted. The order shall become final only after it is confirmed by the said Review Committee.

#### Table 11: Composition of the Review Committee

Sr. No.	Name of director	Member of Committee since	Category
1.	Sanjiv Bajaj	15 September 2015	Chairman, non-executive, non-independent
2.	Rajeev Jain	15 September 2015	Managing Director, executive
3.	Ranjan Sanghi (up to 30 April 2022)	15 September 2015	Non-executive, independent
4.	Radhika Haribhakti	27 July 2022	Non-executive, independent
5.	Anami N Roy	19 May 2020	Non-executive, independent

The terms of reference of the Committee can be accessed at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-composition-of-the-committee</u>

During FY2023, there have been no instances of declaration of any borrower as non-cooperative.

### **Asset Liability Management Committee**

Pursuant to the RBI Guidelines, the Company has in place an Asset Liability Management Committee. The Committee comprises of Managing Director/Executive Directors and other senior executives of the Company.

The Managing Director chairs the meetings of the Committee.

The role of the Committee is to oversee the implementation of the Asset Liability Management system and review its functionality periodically covering liquidity risk management, management of market risks, funding and capital planning, profit planning etc.

The Committee meets on a monthly basis. The Board is updated on the decisions of the Committee.

#### **Investment Committee**

Pursuant to the RBI Guidelines, the Company has in place an Investment Committee. The Committee comprises of senior executives of the Company. The Managing Director chairs the meetings of the Committee.

The role of the Committee is to review the investment strategy, asset allocation, investment decision and other operating guidelines, monitor the changing environment in the money market/capital market and accordingly, recommend changes to the investment strategy for execution and also review the audit reports on Treasury operations and provide directions for corrective actions, if any.

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The said Committee meets on a monthly basis. The Board is updated on decisions of the Committee.

#### **Remuneration of Directors**

#### Pecuniary relationship/transaction with non-executive directors

During FY2023, there were no pecuniary relationship/transactions of any non-executive directors with the Company, other than receiving remuneration as directors.

#### Criteria of making payments to non-executive directors

Non-executive directors of the Company play a crucial role in the independent functioning of the Board. They bring in an external perspective to decision-making and provide leadership and strategic guidance while maintaining objective judgment. They also oversee the corporate governance framework of the Company.

The criteria of making payments to non-executive directors is placed on the Company's website and can be accessed at https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-policies-and-documents

#### **Details of Remuneration of directors**

Additionally, the details of remuneration payable to all non-executive directors are provided in the Form MGT-7 ('annual return') which is hosted on the website of the Company and can be accessed at https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relation-annual-reports

#### **Managing Director**

During FY2023, the Company paid remuneration to Rajeev Jain, Managing Director (MD) of the Company as provided in the annual return and elsewhere in this report. The tenure of the MD is of five years up to 31 March 2025 with a notice period of six months or salary in lieu thereof. The performance pay/bonus of the MD is based on the performance of the Company and his contribution towards the same. During FY2023, 116,789 stock options were granted to the MD at a grant price of ₹ 7,005.5, being the closing market price on the NSE on the day preceding the day of grant. These grants will vest over a period of four years (25% every year) after a period of one year from the date of grant. The vested options will be exercisable over a period of five years from the date of vesting. The MD is also entitled to other perquisites and benefits mentioned in the agreement entered into with the Company. During FY2023, he has been awarded a one-time grant of 94,680 stock options (post giving effect to sub-division and bonus issue) of Bajaj Finserv Ltd., the holding company, at a grant price of ₹ 1,482.64. All such options will vest after completion of five years from the grant date.

During FY2023, none of the directors, other than the MD, were paid any performance-linked incentive.

Anup Saha and Rakesh Bhatt have been appointed as Executive Directors with effect from 1 April 2023. Hence, their remuneration for FY2023 have not been disclosed.

The Company currently has no stock option plans for any of its directors other than Managing Director/ Executive Directors.

#### Management

#### Management discussion and analysis

This is given as a separate section in the Annual Report.

#### **Disclosure of material transactions**

Pursuant to the SEBI Listing Regulations, senior management is required to make disclosures to the Board relating to all material, financial and commercial transactions, where they had or were deemed to have had personal interest that might have been in potential conflict with the interest of the Company at large. As per the disclosures submitted by the Senior Management, there were no such transactions during FY2023.

#### **Compliances regarding Insider Trading**

Pursuant to SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, as amended, ('SEBI PIT Regulations') the Company has a Board approved Code of Conduct to regulate, monitor and report trading by Designated Persons ('Code of Conduct') and a code of practices and procedures for fair disclosure of unpublished price sensitive information ('Code of Fair Disclosure').

Wherever non-compliance by a Designated Person concerned was observed, penalty was levied, and the amount was remitted to the SEBI stipulated fund.



By frequent communications, the Company also makes aware the Designated Persons of their obligations under the SEBI PIT Regulations.

The Audit Committee and the Board at its meeting held on 16 March 2023 had reviewed the compliance in terms of regulation 9A(4) of SEBI PIT Regulations and confirmed that the systems for internal control with respect to Insider Trading Regulations are adequate and are operating effectively.

#### Means of communication

Quarterly and annual financial results are published in the Business Standard and Lokmat. An abridged version of the financial results is also published in all editions of the Mint, Hindu Business Line, Economic Times, Financial Express and Ananda Bazar Patrika.

The Company's website, viz., <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/corporate-bajaj-finance</u> under the section of 'investor relations', contains all important information including financial results, various policies framed/approved by the Board, presentations made to the media, analysts and institutional investors, schedule and transcripts of earnings call with investors, matters concerning the shareholders, etc. The Company also displays official press releases on the website.

All financial and other vital official news releases and documents under the SEBI Listing Regulations are also communicated to the concerned stock exchanges, besides being placed on the Company's website.

#### **Green Initiatives**

Sections 20 and 136 of the Act, read with relevant Rules, permit companies to service delivery of documents electronically to the registered email ID of the members.

In compliance with the said provisions and as a continuing endeavour towards the 'Go Green' initiative, the Company proposes to send all correspondence/communications through email to those shareholders who have registered their email ID with their depository participant's/Company's RTA. The same is available on the website of the Company at <a href="https://www.bajajfinserv.in/shareholder-green-initiative">https://www.bajajfinserv.in/shareholder-green-initiative</a>.

During FY2023, the Company sent documents, such as notice convening the annual general meeting, audited financial statements, Directors' Report, Auditors' report, credit of dividend intimation letters, etc. in electronic form to the email addresses provided by the members and made available by them to the Company through the Depositories.

### Information on general body meetings and details of special resolution(s) passed

#### A. Details of the AGMs held during last three years:

Details of AGM	Date and time of AGM	Details of special resolution(s) passed at the AGM	Voting percentage of sha participated	reholders	
33rd AGM – Through VC	21 July 2020 at 12:15 P.M.	1. Re-appointment of Rajeev Jain as Managing Director of	Particulars	% favour	% Against
Deemed Venue: Registered office		the Company for a period of five years with effect from	All shareholders	93.63	6.37
		1 April 2020.	Non-promoter category	79.48	20.52
		2. Issue of non-convertible debentures through private	Particulars	% favour	% Against
		placement.	All shareholders	99.47	0.53
			Non-promoter category	98.30	1.70
34th AGM – Through VC Deemed Venue:	20 July 2021 at 3:30 P.M.	1. Issue of non-convertible debentures through private	Particulars	% favour	% Against
Registered office		placement.	All shareholders	99.99	0.01
			Non-promoter category	99.98	0.02

Details of AGM	Date and time of AGM	Details of special resolution(s) passed at the AGM	Voting percentage of sha participated	reholders	
35th AGM – Through VC Deemed Venue:	27 July 2022 at 3:30 P.M.	1. Appointment of Radhika Haribhakti as an independent	Particulars	% favour	% Against
Registered office		consecutive years effective	All shareholders	94.08	5.92
			Non-promoter category	81.54	18.46
		debentures through private	Particulars	% favour	% Against
			All shareholders	99.31	0.69
		Non-promoter category	97.90	2.10	
		<ol> <li>Payment of commission to non-executive directors for a period of five years</li> </ol>	Particulars	% favour	% Against
		commencing from 1 April	All shareholders	98.41	1.59
		2022.	Non-promoter category	95.17	4.83

It can be seen from the above, all resolutions proposed by the Board have been passed with overwhelming majority by the shareholders. The percentage of votes in favour, when reckoned to the exclusion of promoters/ promoter group category has been quite significant.

The recording of last AGM is hosted on the website of Company at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/corporate-bajaj-finance</u> and written transcript of the same can be accessed at <u>https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/transcript-bfl-agm-27-july-2022-2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf</u>.

#### B. Details of special resolution passed through Postal Ballot during last year

During the year, the Company did not pass any special resolution through postal ballot. The details of the previous postal ballots are available on the website at <u>https://www.bajajfinserv.in/finance-investor-relations-general-meeting-and-postal-ballots</u>

### C. Special resolutions proposed to be conducted through postal ballot

As on the date of this report, below mentioned special resolution is proposed to be conducted through postal ballot:

• Appointment of Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya as an independent director of the Company for a period of five years with effect from 1 April 2023.

### D. Procedure for postal ballot

- Pursuant to the provisions of the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company provides facility to the members to exercise votes through electronic voting system ('remote e-voting'), in addition to physical ballot.
- Postal ballot notices and forms are dispatched along with the postage pre-paid business reply envelope to members/beneficial owners through email at their registered email IDs and through physical copy to the members who have not registered their email IDs.
- The Company also publishes notice in the newspapers for the information of the members. Voting rights are reckoned on the equity shares held by the members as on the cut-off date.
- Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the Company appoints a scrutiniser for conducting the postal ballot process in a fair and transparent manner. The scrutiniser submits his consolidated report to the Chairman and the voting results are announced by the Chairman by placing the same along with the scrutiniser's report on the Company's website, besides being communicated to the stock exchanges. The resolution, if passed by requisite majority, is deemed to have been passed on the last date specified by the Company for receipt of duly completed postal ballot forms or remote e-voting.
- In view of the relaxation granted by MCA, postal ballot notice will be sent only through email, to all those members who had registered their email IDs with the Company/Depositories. Arrangements will also be made for other members to register their email ID to receive the postal ballot notice and cast their vote online.



#### Details of capital market non-compliance, if any

During FY2023, fine of ₹ 50,000 was levied by BSE Ltd. for delayed intimation of payment of interest and principal in respect of 4 ISINs of privately placed Non-Convertible Debentures. The aforementioned intimations pertain to June 2021, November 2021 and September 2022. The Company has paid the requisite fine. There has been no delay or default in the payment of interest or principal to the debenture holders.

Apart from this, no other penalty or stricture has been imposed on the Company by any of the stock exchanges, SEBI, or any other statutory authority, in any matter related to capital markets, during the last three years.

#### **Compliance Certificate**

The Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer have certified to the Board with regard to the financial statements and other matters as required under the SEBI Listing Regulations.

#### **Report on Corporate Governance**

This section read together with the information given in the Directors' Report, the section on Management Discussion and Analysis and General Shareholder Information, constitute the compliance report on Corporate Governance for FY2023. The Company has been regularly submitting the quarterly corporate governance compliance report to the stock exchanges as required under regulation 27(2) of the SEBI Listing Regulations.

# Disclosure under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

The disclosure as required under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 is given below:

Number of complaints filed during FY2023		
Number of complaints disposed of during FY2023	2	
Number of complaints pending at the end of FY2023		

#### Fees paid to statutory auditors

Deloitte Haskins & Sells and G. M. Kapadia & Co. were appointed as joint statutory auditors of the Company effective 17 November 2021. Further, G. M. Kapadia & Co. were appointed as statutory auditor of BFinsec, subsidiary of the Company effective 16 November 2021.

A. Fees paid to G. M. Kapadia & Co., on a consolidated basis, including all entities in their network firm/entity of which they are a part, is given below:

(	in	₹	)

Amount
3,100,000
2,243,590

B. Fees paid by the Company to Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, joint statutory auditor including all entities in their network firm/entity of which they are a part, is given below:

(in₹)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Amount
1.	Audit Fees	5,500,000
2.	Fees for other services	4,026,579

### Auditors' certificate on Corporate Governance

The Company has obtained a certificate from its statutory auditors regarding compliance with the provisions relating to corporate governance laid down under the SEBI Listing Regulations.

This certificate is annexed to the Directors' Report.

# **Compliance of mandatory and discretionary requirements**

#### Mandatory

The Board of Directors periodically reviews the compliance of all applicable laws. The Company has complied with all the mandatory requirements of the SEBI Listing Regulations including but not limited to the provisions of regulations 17 to 27 and 46(2)(b) to (i) of the said Regulations.

#### Discretionary

The Company has also complied with the discretionary requirements as under:

#### 1. The Board

A Chairman's office has been made available for the Non-Executive Chairman. He is allowed reimbursement of expenses incurred in performance of his duties.

#### 2. Shareholder rights

A half-yearly declaration of financial performance including summary of significant events in the preceding six months is sent to each household of members.

#### 3. Modified opinion(s) in audit report

The Company confirms that its financial statements are with unmodified audit opinion.

#### 4. Separate posts of Chairperson and the Managing Director

The positions of Chairperson and Managing Director are held by two different persons who are not related to each other.



# List of key policies of the Company

Sr.

No.	Name of Policy	Website Link
1.	Whistle Blower Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/whistle-blower- policy-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
0	Descurption Delicies	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/remuneration- policy-companies-act-2013pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
2.	Remuneration Policies	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/remuneration- policy-rbipdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
3.	Policy of materiality and dealing with related party transactions	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-of- materiality-and-dealing-with-related-party-transactionpdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
4.	Policy on appointment of statutory auditors	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-on- appointment-of-statutory-auditorspdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
5.	Policy for Determining Material Subsidiaries	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-for- determining-material-subSldiary-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
6.	Policy on Determination of materiality for disclosure of events or information	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/policy-on- determination-of-materiality-for-disclosure-of-events-or-information- v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
7.	Performance Evaluation Criteria for Board, Committees of Board, Chairperson and Directors	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/performance- evaluation-criteria-for-board-committees-of-board-chairperson-and- directorspdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
8.	Interest Rate Model	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/interest-rate- modelpdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
9.	Guidelines on Corporate Governance	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/guidelines-on- corporate-governance-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
10.	Dividend Distribution Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/dividend- distribution-policypdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
11.	Criteria for payment of remuneration to Non-Executive Directors	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/ criteria-for-payments-of-%20remuneration-to-non-executive- directorspdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
12.	Corporate Social Responsibility	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/corporate- social-responsibilitypdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
13.	Fair Disclosure Code	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/code-of- practice-and-procedure-for-fair-disclosure-of-upsi-v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
14.	Code of Conduct for Directors and Members of Senior Management	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/code-of- conduct-for-directors-and-senior-managementpdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
15.	Archival Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/archival-policy- v2pdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
16.	Disciplinary action policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/disciplinary- action-policypdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
17.	Employee Charter – Human Rights	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/employee- charter-human-rightspdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
18.	Equal employment opportunity and Non-discrimination Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/ equal-employment-opportunity-and-non-discrimination- policypdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
19.	Prevention of sexual harassment at workplace	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/prevention-of- sexual-harassment-at-workplacepdf-1?scl=1&fmt=pdf
20.	Data Privacy Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/final-data- privacy-policypdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
21.	Environmental Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/environmental- policypdf?scl=1&fmt=pdf
22.	Responsible and Sustainable Business Conduct Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/responsible- and-sustainable-business-conduct-policypdf-3?scl=1&fmt=pdf
23.	Deputation and Advisory Services Policy	https://cms-assets.bajajfinserv.in/is/content/bajajfinance/bfl-deputation- and-advisory-policy-2022pdf-1?scl=1&fmt=pdf

### Declaration by the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director

[Regulation 34(3) read with schedule V (Part D) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015]

To, The Board of Directors **Bajaj Finance Ltd.** 

I, Rajeev Jain, Managing Director of Bajaj Finance Ltd. hereby declare that all the Board members and senior managerial personnel have affirmed compliance with the code of conduct of the Company laid down for them for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Rajeev Jain** Managing Director Pune : 26 April 2023

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