

March 27, 2026

Rashtriya Seva Samithi: Rating reaffirmed and assigned for enhanced amount

Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Long term – Fund-based bank facilities	69.21	77.50	[ICRA]BBB- (Stable); reaffirmed and assigned for enhanced amount
Total	69.21	77.50	

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rationale

The rating factors in Rashtriya Seva Samithi's (RASS) longstanding track record of maintaining healthy profitability indicators in its microfinance operations, supported by its comfortable asset quality indicators. RASS' microfinance operations had reported net profitability¹ of 9.1% and 9.6% in FY2024 and FY2025 respectively, aided by steady interest margins and low operational and credit costs. The entity's 30+ days past due (dpd) stood at 0.0% as of September 2025 vis-à-vis 0.0% as of March 2025. ICRA expects RASS to sustain its asset quality and profitability metrics over the near-to-medium term. Further, it maintained a comfortable capitalisation profile with a gearing of 0.34 times as of March 2025 (0.37 times in the microfinance operations). ICRA expects the capitalisation profile to remain comfortable in the near-to-medium term, supported by steady internal accruals and modest growth expectations.

The rating, however, remains constrained by RASS' modest scale and the geographical concentration of operations, with its loan book at Rs. 237.7 crore as of September 2025 focused on three districts, i.e. Chittoor and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh; AP) and Tiruvallur (Tamil Nadu; TN). As it is not planning any significant expansion, the entity's geographical diversification is expected to remain restricted over the medium term.

ICRA also notes that even though RASS' microfinance operations generate stable earnings surplus, its overall profitability and liquidity are susceptible to adverse movements in the receipt of grants and donations and expenses pertaining to the non-microfinance activities. Going forward, it would be crucial for the entity to improve its funding diversity, as the microfinance portfolio expands, and to maintain an adequate liquidity profile. Further, as RASS is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, it is not subject to commensurate regulatory supervision. However, it is a member of Sa-Dhan and adheres to some of its codes of conduct, partially mitigating the risks associated with the microfinance operations. Additionally, RASS' ability to manage the socio-political and operational risks inherent in the microfinance sector, especially those related to the marginal profile and overleveraging of borrowers in the current scenario, is monitorable.

The Stable outlook factors in ICRA's expectation that RASS will maintain its comfortable asset quality and profitability indicators over the near-to-medium term.

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

Comfortable asset quality indicators – RASS has demonstrated comfortable asset quality over the years. Its delinquency levels remain under control, supported by steady collections. As of September 2025, the 30+dpd was nil vis-à-vis 0.0% as of March 2025. The collection efficiency (including overdue collections and excluding prepayments) stood at ~99% in FY2025.

¹ Profit after tax / Average managed assets

RASS uses FIMO for its microfinance operations and captures both member and group-level data. The internal audit is conducted by a team of 12 members on an annual basis. While the loan appraisal system is adequate with the verification of the track record of internal savings and lending, the absence of a credit bureau check increases the risk of overleveraging of borrowers. However, this risk is partly mitigated as there are not many microfinance lenders competing currently in the geography in which RASS operates.

Healthy profitability metrics – The microfinance operations reported a healthy net surplus of Rs. 24.1 crore in FY2025 vis-à-vis Rs. 20.1 crore in FY2024 (Rs. 17.6 crore in FY2023), supported by good segmental operating efficiency (operating expenses/average managed assets (AMA) of 2.7% in FY2025 vis-à-vis 2.9% in FY2024) and low credit costs (0.9% in FY2025 and 1.0% in FY2024). RASS' consolidated surplus was also healthy at Rs. 23.4 crore in FY2025 (Rs. 21.7 crore in FY2024), which includes the grants received and the expenditure incurred towards the various welfare activities and social programmes undertaken by the society. A significant shortfall in grants or donations could have an adverse impact on the profitability if higher expenses are incurred towards social/welfare activities.

Comfortable capitalisation profile – RASS' microfinance operations account for a predominant portion of the overall assets (~80% of the total assets in March 2025) with the remaining assets pertaining to the society's social welfare programmes. The microfinance business has a comfortable capitalisation profile with a gearing of 0.37 times as of March 2025 (0.45 times as of March 2024). Its net worth was Rs. 190.6 crore in March 2025 (Rs. 164.3 crore in March 2024). While RASS expects to grow its microfinance portfolio by ~10% in FY2027, the current capitalisation profile, along with internal accruals, would be comfortable for achieving the envisaged growth.

Established franchise and experience in microfinance operations – RASS was established in 1981 in Tirupati and commenced microfinance operations in 1989. The society conducts various welfare programmes including health, education, accommodation and vocational activities for children, women, farmers, physically challenged people and senior citizens. This has helped it build a member base of ~71,000 with ~64,000 active borrowers as of September 2025 under the microfinance programme. RASS' presence is, however, concentrated in three districts, i.e. Chittoor and Tirupati (AP) and Tiruvallur (TN).

RASS' 10-member board comprises personnel, who are experienced in rural development and microfinance. The board is involved in the strategic decision-making process and meets bi-monthly and whenever required. The senior management team is headed by Mr. Venkataratnam, General Secretary, who has been associated with the society since its inception. However, there is scope for broad-basing the middle-and-lower-level management to support the envisaged portfolio growth.

Credit challenges

Modest scale and geographically concentrated operations – RASS' operations are currently modest with a microfinance portfolio of Rs. 237.7 crore as of September 2025. The portfolio had grown by 4.4% in FY2025 vis-à-vis 27.3% in FY2024 and the society expects to achieve a loan portfolio growth of 10% in FY2025. RASS' microfinance portfolio is regionally concentrated in AP and TN, which accounted for 94% and 6%, respectively, as of March 2024. It has a presence via six branches across the districts of Chittoor and Tirupati (AP) and Thiruvallur (TN). The Tirupati branch accounted for about 60% of the portfolio as of March 2024. RASS' geographical concentration exposes it to regional risks and limits the scope for portfolio expansion.

Limited funding diversity – RASS' funding profile is limited to borrowings from a few banks. As of March 2025, it had borrowings from four lenders, totalling Rs. 71.3 crore, exclusively for the microfinance operations. The cost of average funds decreased to 10.1% in FY2025 from 10.2% in FY2024, given the rise in systemic rates. It receives grants and donations for its other welfare activities. The society's ability to secure funds from diverse sources at competitive rates would be crucial for the growth of its microfinance operations in the medium term.

Lack of regulatory supervision – As it is a society, RASS does not come under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India and is not required to follow the prudential norms applicable for non-banking financial companies-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs). However, it is member of Sa-Dhan, one of the self-regulatory bodies for microfinance institutions (MFIs) and it adheres to some of Sa-Dhan's codes of conduct. This partially mitigates the risks associated with the microfinance operations.

Ability to manage risks associated with microfinance sector – The microfinance industry is prone to socio-political and operational risks, which could negatively impact the financial performance of entities in this sector. The sector had recently experienced asset quality stress largely due to the overleveraging of microfinance borrowers from multiple microfinance lenders. Though RASS’s asset quality has remained relatively better, its ability to manage these challenges on an ongoing basis remains monitorable. Further, its ability to manage the risks arising out of the marginal profile of its borrowers, who have limited ability to absorb income shocks, the unsecured nature of lending, and the political, communal and other risks in its portfolio, would be crucial. Additionally, in line with the industry, the company’s ability to onboard borrowers with a good credit history, along with the recruitment and retention of employees, would be key monitorable issues.

Liquidity position: Adequate

RASS’ liquidity position is adequate with a cash and bank balance of Rs. 8.9 crore as on December 31, 2025 against total outflows of Rs. 6.6 crore (including operating expenses) during January 2026 - March 2026. The liquidity profile is also supported by sufficient collections in the microfinance segment and the regular receipt of donations and grants for welfare activities. Further diversification of the funding profile of the society would support the growth of its microfinance portfolio.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The rating could be positively impacted if RASS is able to steadily improve its scale and geographical presence while keeping its asset quality under control.

Negative factors – The rating could be negatively impacted if the asset quality weakens, leading to pressure on the earnings performance and capitalisation profile.

Analytical approach

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	ICRA’s Rating Methodology for Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Standalone

About the company

RASS is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with focus on welfare and developmental activities as well as microfinance lending. It was established in 1981 under the Societies Act, with its registered office in Tirupati (AP). RASS is implementing 21 different welfare and development programmes in AP, TN, Odisha, and Delhi, primarily targeted towards women and children development and welfare of elderly and specially challenged people. RASS receives funding support for its various welfare programmes through grants and donations from domestic as well as international sources.

RASS’ microfinance operations are concentrated in the Chittoor and Tirupati districts of AP and the Tiruvallur district of TN. Its microfinance loan portfolio stood at Rs. 237.8 crore as of September 2025 vis-à-vis Rs. 230.0 crore as of March 2025.

In FY2025, the society reported a net profit of Rs. 23.4 crore on total income of Rs. 60.4 crore compared to net profit of Rs. 21.7 crore on total income of Rs. 54.1 crore in FY2024. The net profit of the microfinance business stood at Rs. 24.1 crore in FY2025 on a total asset base of Rs. 264.1 crore against Rs. 20.1 crore on a total asset base of Rs. 240.4 crore in FY2024.

Key financial indicators (audited)

RASS	FY2024	FY2025
Total income	54.1	60.4
Profit after tax	21.7	23.4
Total managed assets	264.1	289.2
Return on managed assets	8.8%	8.5%
Managed gearing (times)	0.4	0.3
Gross NPA	NA	NA
CRAR	NA	NA

Source: RASS; Amount in Rs. crore

Key financial indicators (audited; IGAAP) – Microfinance business

RASS (microfinance business)	FY2024	FY2025
Total income	35.6	40.5
Profit after tax	20.1	24.1
Total managed assets	240.4	264.1
Return on managed assets	9.1%	9.6%
Managed gearing (times)	0.4	0.4
Gross NPA	NA	NA
CRAR	NA	NA

Source: RASS; Amount in Rs. crore

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

Instrument	Current (FY2026)					Chronology of rating history for the past 3 years					
	Type	Amount rated (Rs. crore)	Mar-27-2026	FY2026		FY2025		FY2024		FY2023	
				Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating
Long-term – Fund based-bank facilities	Long term	77.5	[ICRA]BBB- (Stable)	Mar-18-26	[ICRA]BBB- (Stable)	Dec-23-24	[ICRA]BBB- (Stable)	Sep-18-23	[ICRA]BBB- (Stable)	Jul-27-22	[ICRA]BB+ (Stable)

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Long term – Fund-based bank facilities	Simple

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: [Click here](#)

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Instrument	Date of Issuance/ Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating and Outlook
NA	Long term – Fund-based bank facilities	NA	NA	NA	77.50	[ICRA]BBB- (Stable)

Source: RASS

[Please click here to view details of lender-wise facilities rated by ICRA](#)

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not applicable

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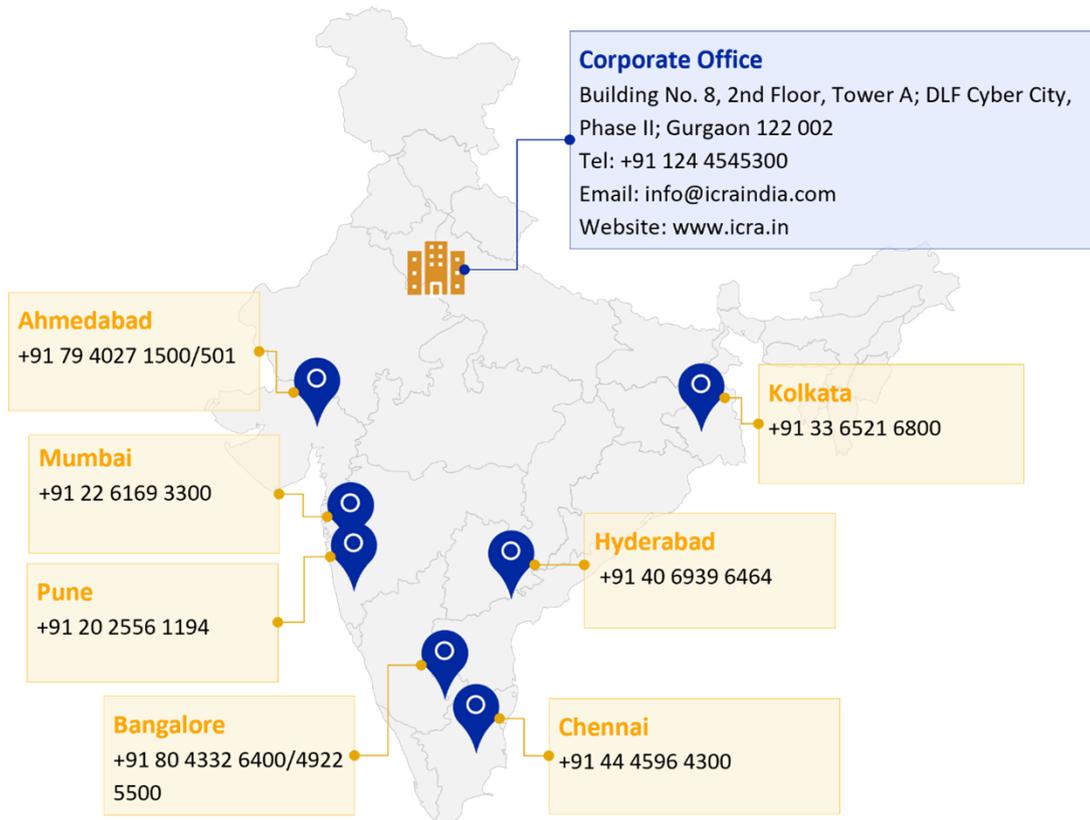


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