



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति
PRESS RELEASE

संपर्क प्रभाग, सेबी भवन, बांद्रा कुर्ला कॉम्प्लेक्स, बांद्रा (पूर्व), मुंबई - 400 051
Communications Division, SEBI Bhavan, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051
दूरभाष / Tel: +91-22-26449000 ईमेल / email-press@sebi.gov.in वेबसाइट /website: www.sebi.gov.in

PR No.75/2025

Caution to Public regarding unregistered Online Bond Platform Providers

It has been observed that certain entities, including fintech companies and stock brokers, are offering services in the nature of Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) without obtaining due registration from the Stock Exchanges as mandated in SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/CIR/2022/154 dated November 14, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as 'unregistered platforms').

Such unregistered platforms lack regulatory or supervisory oversight and do not provide for any mechanisms for investor protection or grievance redressal.

The activities undertaken by such unregistered online platforms may potentially be in violation of the Companies Act, 2013, the SEBI Act, 1992, and regulations framed thereunder. SEBI in the past has issued an interim order on November 18, 2024 against few such entities.

Investors are urged to exercise caution and avoid transacting on unregistered online bond platforms. Investors should verify the registration status of the OBPPs prior to transacting, and deal only with SEBI-registered entities, in order to safeguard their interests.

Links where registration status of the Online Bond Platform Providers can be verified are given below:

SEBI website: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/online-bond-platform-providers.html>

NSE website: <https://www.nseindia.com/trade/members-compliance>

BSE website: https://www.bseindia.com/downloads1/OBP_MEMBER_LIST.zip

Additionally, all market participants are cautioned to ensure compliance with the applicable regulatory framework prior to offering any services in the nature of Online Bond Platform Provider.

Mumbai

November 19, 2025



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PR No.70/2025

Caution to public regarding dealing in 'Digital Gold'

SEBI has enabled investments in gold and gold related instruments through various SEBI regulated gold products. These are exchange traded commodity derivative contracts, Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) offered by Mutual Funds and Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) tradeable on stock exchanges. Investments in these SEBI regulated gold products can be made through SEBI registered intermediaries and are governed by the regulatory framework prescribed by SEBI.

It has come to the notice of SEBI that some digital/online platforms are offering investors to invest in 'Digital Gold/E-Gold Products'. Digital Gold is being marketed as an alternative for investment in physical gold.

In this context, it is informed that such digital gold products are different from SEBI regulated gold products as they are neither notified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives. They operate entirely outside the purview of SEBI. Such digital gold products may entail significant risks for investors and may expose investors to counterparty and operational risks.

Investors / participants are made aware that none of the investor protection mechanisms under securities market purview shall be available for investments in such Digital Gold/ E-Gold products.

Mumbai

November 08, 2025



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PR No.69/2025

SEBI Intensifies Efforts to Combat Online Investment Scams, Calls for Greater Collaboration from Social Media Platforms

In an effort to enhance investor protection, SEBI has formally communicated with major social media platforms and internet search engine providers, urging them to implement robust mechanisms to prevent the misuse of their platforms for fraudulent activities.

This initiative aligns with the global call to action by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). In its statement on May 21, 2025, IOSCO highlighted the critical role of platform providers in combating online harm and urged them to enhance efforts to reduce the risk of financial harm to investors.

SEBI supports IOSCO's recommendations and to address these challenges decisively, SEBI has called upon the platforms to immediately prioritize and fast-track the following measures for the Indian market:

- **Mandatory Advertiser Verification in securities market domain:**
Implementing a verification process to ensure that only SEBI-registered entities can advertise investment products and services.
- **Verified Status through clear labelling of Registered Intermediary Apps:**
Introducing a distinct label for authentic, regulated trading applications available on app stores to help investors differentiate them from fraudulent apps.

SEBI again advises investors to exercise extreme caution –

1. **Verify registration of entities** before investing at <https://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html>
2. Carry out transactions only through **authentic trading apps of SEBI registered intermediaries** after verification at <https://investor.sebi.gov.in/Investor-support.html>
3. Use “**Validated UPI Handles**” (“@valid” UPI IDs of SEBI-registered investor-facing intermediaries) and “**SEBI Check**” platform by visiting <https://siportal.sebi.gov.in/intermediary/sebi-check> or through Saarthi app, for secure investor payments (refer [Press Release No. 64/2025](#))

Mumbai

November 06, 2025



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PR No.64/2025

SEBI rolls out “Validated UPI Handles” and “SEBI Check” for secure investor payments

Further to its [Press Release No. 31/2025](#) and [Circular No. SEBI/HO/DEPA-II/DEPA-II SRG/P/CIR/2025/86](#) dated June 11, 2025, SEBI is pleased to announce that the initiatives on **Validated UPI Handles** and **SEBI Check** are now live and available for investors.

1. Validated UPI Handles

The UPI IDs of SEBI-registered investor-facing intermediaries will now carry the exclusive “**@valid**” handle, issued by NPCI, along with category-specific suffixes. This will enable investors to easily identify legitimate entities.

As of today, major brokers, covering over 90% of investors, along with all Mutual Funds have already adopted the “**@valid**” UPI handle. Introduced as an additional payment option for investors, this facility complements existing payment modes, allowing investors the flexibility to continue using the method they are most comfortable with.

This milestone initiative establishes a secure and verified payment channel within the securities market. SEBI advises all individual investors to actively use the structured and exclusive “**@valid**” handle to make payments to SEBI-registered investor-facing intermediaries.

Key Features of '@valid' Handle

- i. **Exclusive "@valid" Handle:** The handle will feature a unique and exclusive identifier, "@valid", combined with the name of the self-certified syndicate bank. The new UPI id will also include the special suffix, such as **.brk** for brokers and **.mf** for mutual funds, for easy identification of registered intermediary type.

(Example: **abc.brk@validhdfc**; **xyz.mf@validicici**)

- ii. **Visual Verification:** A distinctive “thumbs-up inside a green triangle” icon will appear when making payments through the “@valid” UPI handle, confirming transaction authenticity. At the same time its absence serves as a caution to investors that they are making payments to unauthorised entities.



- iii. **Distinctive QR Code:** A specially designed QR code, featuring the “thumbs-up” logo at its centre, enables convenient and error-free transactions. The presence of this QR code assures investors that payments are being made to SEBI-registered intermediaries.



abc.brk@validupi

(Sample QR Code)

2. SEBI Check Tool

To further empower investors, SEBI has developed a new functionality called “**SEBI Check**”. Through this functionality, investors, irrespective of whether they are making payments through the @valid handles or other modes of bank transfer (like NEFT, RTGS, IMPS), can independently verify and confirm the

authenticity of the bank account details and UPI IDs of SEBI registered intermediaries with the help of the bank account number and IFSC code or @valid UPI ID of an entity through SEBI Check by visiting: [SEBI Check platform](#) or <https://siportal.sebi.gov.in/intermediary/sebi-check> or Saarthi app of SEBI.

SEBI strongly urges all individual investors to verify the authenticity of the bank account details at “SEBI Check” when making payments to SEBI-registered investor-facing intermediaries. By doing so, investors can safeguard their funds and transact with greater confidence.

3. Core Benefits of these Initiatives

- i. **Assured Security:** Payments will be routed exclusively through verified SEBI-registered intermediaries, reducing risks of fraud and misdirection.
- ii. **Fraud Prevention:** Investors can now instantly detect and avoid fraudulent activities when the exclusive “thumbs-up” visual cue is absent in UPI transactions.
- iii. **Transparency and Trust:** A simple, reliable and transparent framework to empowers investors to transact with confidence.

These two rollouts of “@valid Handle” and “SEBI Check” are expected to significantly **enhance investor protection by curbing fraudulent money collections by unregistered entities.**

These initiatives underscores SEBI’s continued commitment to safeguard investors, uphold market integrity and build robust digital trust in India’s securities market ecosystem.

For more details on this initiative, please refer to the [Circular](#) available on the SEBI website.

Mumbai
October 1, 2025



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PR No.53/2025

Advisory Against investment in Fraudulent Trading Schemes claiming to be offered to Indian residents by FPIs

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) advises investors to exercise caution when dealing with social media messages, WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels, or apps claiming to offer stock market access through Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) or Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).

These schemes are fraudulent and do not have SEBI's endorsement. Be wary of claims such as:

- Institutional trading account
- IPOs at discounted price
- Guaranteed allotment in IPO
- Ability to participate in Anchor book
- Block Trade at discounted price

Remember, the FPI investment route is unavailable to resident Indians, with limited exceptions as outlined in the SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2019. Always verify the registration status of entities on SEBI's website before investing and use only authentic trading apps from SEBI-registered intermediaries.

Stay Informed:

- Visit SEBI's investor website for resource material and Do's and Don'ts of investing.

- Verify entity registration on SEBI's website at

<https://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html>

- Carry out transactions only through authentic trading apps of SEBI registered intermediaries at <https://investor.sebi.gov.in/Investor-support.html>

Mumbai
August 22, 2025