STUDYING THE HOME LOANS OFFERED BY INDIAN BANKS

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ABSTRACT

Home loans are one of the most common types of loans offered by banks in India. Indian banks offer home loans to people who want to buy a house or build a new one. These loans are also offered to those who want to renovate or repair an existing house. Home loans are a popular choice among people in India due to the increasing demand for housing and the high cost of purchasing a home.

Indian banks offer home loans with different interest rates, repayment periods, and other terms and conditions. The interest rates on home loans in India vary depending on the bank, the loan amount, the repayment period, and the creditworthiness of the borrower. Banks usually offer home loans with interest rates ranging from 6.5% to 12%. The repayment period for home loans in India can be up to 30 years, depending on the bank and the borrower’s preference.

Indian banks require borrowers to meet certain eligibility criteria to be eligible for a home loan. These criteria include age, income, credit score, and employment status. Banks usually require borrowers to be between the ages of 18 and 65 years to be eligible for a home loan. The borrower's income and credit score are also important factors that determine eligibility for a home loan. The borrower must have a stable source of income and a good credit score to be eligible for a home loan.

The documentation required to apply for a home loan in India includes proof of identity, address, income, and employment. The borrower must provide a copy of their Aadhaar card or PAN card as proof of identity and address. They must also present documentation of their employment and income, such as pay stubs, bank statements, and tax returns.

Fixed-rate, floating-rate, and hybrid home loans
are among the options that Indian banks provide for mortgages. Home loans with fixed rates have a fixed interest rate for the duration of the loan, while floating-rate home loans have an interest rate that fluctuates based on market conditions. On the other hand, hybrid home loans have a set interest rate for a predetermined amount of time, after which it switches to a floating rate.

In addition to these types of home loans, Indian banks also offer special home loan schemes tailored for different categories of borrowers, such as women, senior citizens, and government employees. These schemes often come with lower interest rates and more relaxed eligibility criteria compared to regular home loans.

Home loans are a popular choice among people in India who are looking to purchase or construct a house. Banks in India provide home loans with varying interest rates, repayment periods, and other terms and conditions. To be eligible for a home loan, borrowers need to meet specific eligibility criteria and provide the necessary documentation. Banks also offer special home loan schemes for different categories of borrowers, such as women, senior citizens, and government employees. It's important to understand the different types of home loans and their terms before choosing the right one for your needs.

**KEYWORDS:** HOME Loans, Low-interest rate, Eligibility criteria, Repayment tenure, Tax benefits.

**INTRODUCTION**

Indian Bank is a public sector bank that was established in the year 1907 and is headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the oldest banks in the country, and its operations are spread across the length and breadth of India. Indian Bank has a pan-India presence, with a network of more than 3300 ATMs and over 2900 branches. The bank has a strong customer base of over 100 million, and it provides a variety of banking services and products to its clients.

Indian Bank has been at the forefront of the banking industry in India, and it has been crucial to the expansion and development of the Indian economy. Over the years, the bank has adopted the latest technology and innovative practices to offer world-class banking services to its customers. It has also been recognized for its excellence in various areas, such as customer service, technology, and financial performance.

In this research paper, we will focus on home loans offered by Indian Bank. We shall examine the various home loans that the bank offers, the eligibility criteria, the interest rates, the repayment tenure, the documentation required, the tax benefits, the online application process, loan disbursement, EMI calculation, prepayment and foreclosure, default and repossession, and additional important characteristics of the home loans provided by Indian Bank. By the end of this research paper, the numerous elements of Indian Bank’s home loans will be clearly understood by the readers.
and will be able to make an informed decision regarding their home loan requirements.

**HOME LOANS**

Home loans, also known as housing loans, are a type of loan taken by individuals to purchase or construct a house or property. Home loans are long-term loans that typically have a repayment tenure of 15 to 30 years. Home loans are secured loans, which means that the borrower has to provide collateral in the form of the property being purchased or constructed.

Home loans are an important financial product in India, as a large number of people aspire to own a house or property. In India, a number of financial institutions, such as banks, housing finance firms, and non-banking financial corporations (NBFCs), offer home loans. These institutions offer a range of home loan products with different interest rates, repayment tenures, and other features.

**HOME LOANS OFFERS**

To meet the various demands of its clients, Indian Bank provides a variety of home loan options. The bank offers home loans for the purchase of a new house or property, construction of a new house or property, renovation or repair of an existing house or property, and transfer of an existing home loan to a new lender for better terms and conditions. The eligibility criteria for availing a home loan from Indian Bank include age, income, credit score, and employment status. The borrower should be between 18 and 70 years of age, and should have a regular source of income. The bank also considers the credit score of the borrower while evaluating the loan application. A good credit score increases the chances of loan approval and also helps in negotiating better interest rates.

Home loans from Indian Bank are available with both fixed and adjustable interest rates. While variable interest rates are tied to the current market rates, fixed interest rates stay constant throughout the loan's term and can vary over time. The interest rates offered by Indian Bank for home loans are competitive and are subject to change from time to time.

The repayment tenure for home loans offered by Indian Bank can range from 1 year to 30 years, depending on the borrower's requirements and financial situation. The bank also offers the facility of part prepayment and full prepayment of the loan, subject to certain terms and conditions.

The documentation required for availing a home loan from Indian Bank includes proof of identity, proof of address, proof of income, and details of the property being purchased or constructed. The bank may also require additional documents based on the loan amount and other factors.

Indian Bank offers an easy and hassle-free online application process for home loans. The borrower can apply for a home loan through the bank's website or mobile application, and can track the status of the application online. The
bank also provides the facility of online loan disbursement and EMI calculation.

Indian Bank offers a range of home loan products with competitive interest rates, flexible repayment tenures, and easy application and disbursement processes. The bank's focus on customer service and technology has made it a popular choice among home loan borrowers in India.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
To avail a home loan from Indian Bank, the borrower needs to meet certain eligibility criteria. Depending on the type of loan requested and the requested loan amount, the qualifying requirements could change. The borrower should be an Indian resident and should be between 18 and 70 years of age at the time of loan application. The borrower should have a regular source of income, which can be from employment or business. The bank also considers the borrower's credit score while evaluating the loan application. A good credit score increases the chances of loan approval and also helps in negotiating better interest rates.

The borrower should also have a stable employment history or business continuity at least for a minimum of two years. The bank may require the borrower to submit income tax returns or bank statements as proof of income. The borrower's debt-to-income ratio is also considered while evaluating the loan application.

In addition to the above criteria, the borrower must also submit the required identification, residence, income, and property information documents. The documents required may vary depending on the loan amount and other factors.

It is important for the borrower to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria before applying for a home loan from Indian Bank. This will increase the chances of loan approval and also help in availing better terms and conditions.

INTEREST RATE
When applying for a house loan, interest rate is among the most crucial things to take into account. The fee that the borrower must pay the lender in exchange for a loan is known as the interest rate. Home loan interest rates in India can vary depending on several factors such as the loan amount, the repayment tenure, the type of interest rate, and the borrower's credit score.

Home loans from Indian Bank are available with both fixed and adjustable interest rates. The fixed interest rate applies for the duration of the loan, while floating interest rates are linked to the prevailing market rates and can vary over
The interest rates offered by Indian Bank for home loans vary depending on the loan amount and the repayment tenure. The interest rates offered by Indian Bank for home loans typically range from 6.85% to 7.55% per annum for women borrowers, and from 6.90% to 7.60% per annum for other borrowers. These prices could fluctuate from time to time, and the borrower should check with the bank for the latest interest rates.

It is important to note that the interest rate is not the only factor to consider when availing a home loan. Other factors such as processing fees, prepayment charges, and the cost of the loan as a whole is also affected by foreclosure fees. Therefore, borrowers should carefully evaluate all the charges associated with the loan before making a decision.

**REPAYMENT TENURE**

Indian Bank offers flexible repayment tenures for its home loan products, which can range from 1 year to 30 years. The repayment tenure for the loan is determined based on the borrower's financial situation and requirements.

The length of time a home loan is repaid determines the loan's final cost in a significant way. A longer repayment tenure leads to a lower EMI (equated monthly installment), however, the total interest paid over the course of the loan is larger. On the other hand, a shorter repayment tenure leads to a higher EMI, however, the overall amount of interest paid during the loan term is less.

Indian Bank offers the facility of part prepayment and full prepayment of the loan, subject to certain terms and conditions. Part prepayment allows the borrower to make a partial payment towards the loan, which can help in reducing the overall interest paid over the loan tenure. Full prepayment allows the borrower to pay off the entire loan amount before the end of the loan tenure, which can lead to significant savings in interest.

The repayment tenure of a home loan also depends on the borrower's age and retirement plans. The borrower should ensure that the loan is repaid before they retire, to avoid any financial burden during retirement.

Indian Bank provides various options for repayment of the loan, including ECS (electronic clearing system), post-dated cheques, and standing instructions. The borrower can choose the repayment option that is convenient for them.

Indian Bank offers flexible repayment tenures for its home loan products, which can range from 1 year to 30 years. The borrower should carefully evaluate their financial situation and requirements before choosing the repayment tenure. The bank also provides the facility of part prepayment and full prepayment, which can help in reducing the overall interest paid over the loan tenure.
DOCUMENT REQUIREMENT

Indian Bank requires certain documents from the borrower to process the home loan application. The documents required may vary depending on the loan amount, type of loan, and other factors.

The borrower needs to provide identity proof documents such as PAN card, voter ID card, Aadhaar card, passport. The bank also requires address proof documents such as electricity bill, telephone bill, or passport. The borrower must provide evidence of income in the form of the last six months’ worth of bank statements, tax returns, or pay stubs.

In addition to the above documents, the bank requires property-related documents such as sale deed, agreement of sale, and land records. The borrower also needs to provide documents related to the construction of the property such as building plan approval, completion certificate, and NOC from the concerned authorities.

If the property is being purchased jointly, then the co-applicant also needs to provide identity proof, address proof, and income proof documents. In case the borrower is self-employed, the bank may require additional documents such as business registration certificate, business profile, and profit and loss statement.

The documents required by Indian Bank are essential for the loan approval process. The borrower should ensure that they provide all the necessary documents in a timely manner to avoid delays in loan processing.

Indian Bank requires the borrower to provide various documents related to identity proof, address proof, income proof, and property details. The borrower should ensure that they provide all the necessary documents to avoid any delays in loan processing.

TAX BENEFITS

Indian banks, including Indian Bank, offer tax benefits to borrowers who obtain mortgage loans from banks in accordance with the terms of the 1961 Income Tax Act, which are subject to change according to government rules and regulations.

Borrowers may deduct interest paid on their mortgage under Section 24(b) of the Income Tax Act from their taxes. The most that can be deducted from a self-occupied property is Rs. 2 lakh each fiscal year, while there is no maximum limit for a property that is not self-occupied.

Under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, borrowers may additionally deduct taxes from principal repayments. The most that can be deducted is Rs. 1.5 lakh every fiscal year, and it can only be claimed once the property's construction is complete, and the borrower has taken possession of the property.

Additionally, under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, borrowers may claim tax savings on stamp duty and registration fees paid on the
property, with a maximum deduction of Rs. 1.5 lakh each financial year.

It’s important to note that borrowers need to provide the necessary documents such as the loan sanction letter, interest certificate, and payment receipts to claim the tax benefits. Additionally, timely filing of income tax returns is crucial to avail these benefits.

In conclusion, Indian Bank offers tax benefits to borrowers who avail home loans from the bank, including deductions on interest paid, principal repayment, and stamp duty and registration fees. Borrowers need to provide the required documents and file their income tax returns on time to claim these tax benefits.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Indian banking industry has made great strides in providing online services to its customers, and applying for a home loan online is no exception. The online application process for applying for a home loan from an Indian bank is relatively straightforward.

Firstly, you will need to choose the bank from which you want to apply for the home loan. Once you have made your choice, visit the bank's website and look for the section on home loans. Here, you will find all the necessary information related to the home loan product, including the eligibility criteria, interest rates, and repayment options.

Next, you will need to fill in the online application form with your personal and financial details. This may include your name, contact details, income, employment details, and the details of the property you want to purchase.

Once you have filled in the application form, you will need to submit the necessary documents, which may include proof of identity, address, income, employment, and property ownership.

After the bank receives your application and documents, they will conduct a thorough evaluation of your eligibility for the home loan. This evaluation may include a credit check, verification of your income and employment details, and a valuation of the property you want to purchase.

If your application is approved, the bank will send you an offer letter, which will include the details of the home loan, such as the loan amount, interest rate, and repayment schedule. You will need to accept the offer by signing the loan agreement and submitting any additional documents required by the bank.

Finally, the bank will disburse the home loan amount to your account or directly to the seller of the property. You can then begin repaying the loan as per the agreed schedule.

The online application process for applying for a home loan from an Indian bank is convenient and easy to use. However, To prevent any delays
or rejection of your application, it is crucial to make sure you have all the required documentation and information.

**LOAN DISBURSEMENT**

Loan disbursement is an essential function of banks in India. Banks in India offer various types of loans to individuals and businesses. The loan disbursement process involves several steps, starting with the application and ending with the disbursement of funds.

The first step in the loan disbursement process is the application process. The borrower needs to fill out an application form and submit it along with the necessary documents. The bank then verifies the information provided by the borrower and assesses their creditworthiness.

Once the bank is satisfied with the borrower’s creditworthiness, it approves the loan and issues a loan agreement. The borrower needs to sign the loan agreement and provide any collateral or security required by the bank.

After the loan agreement is signed, the bank disburses the loan amount to the borrower’s account. The borrower then repays the loan in monthly instalments, which includes the principal amount and the interest charged by the bank.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates banks in India and mandates a set of rules for loan disbursement. These rules make sure that the loan disbursement process is fair and open.

Overall, loan disbursement is an important function of banks in India and plays a crucial role in the country’s economic growth.

**EMI CALCULATION**

EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) calculation is an essential aspect of loan repayment in Indian banks. EMI is the fixed amount that a borrower pays every month to repay a loan, which includes both the principal amount and the interest charged by the bank.

The loan amount, the interest rate the bank charges, and the loan tenure (the length of time the loan is taken) are the three variables used to calculate the EMI. The larger the loan amount, interest rate, and loan term, the higher the monthly interest payment.

In India, banks use various methods to calculate EMI, comprising the daily declining balance technique, the reducing balance method, and the flat-rate approach. The reducing balance method is the most commonly used method, which calculates interest on the outstanding loan balance, reducing the principal amount with each EMI payment.

Banks in India provide EMI calculators on their websites, which allow borrowers to calculate based on the loan amount, interest rate, and loan term, the EMI amount. This helps borrowers to plan their finances and choose a loan amount and tenure that is affordable for
them.

It is essential for borrowers to ensure that they pay their EMI on time every month, as defaulting on EMI payments can lead to penalties and negatively impact their credit score. Banks also offer the option of pre-paying the loan, which helps borrowers save on interest and reduce their overall loan burden.

Overall, EMI calculation is an important aspect of loan repayment in Indian banks, and borrowers should carefully consider their financial situation before opting for a loan and ensure that they can afford to pay the EMI amount every month.

**PREPAYMENT & FORECLOSURE**

Prepayment and foreclosure are two options available to borrowers in Indian banks to repay their loans before the end of the loan tenure. These options can help borrowers save on interest and reduce their overall loan burden.

Prepayment is when a borrower pays off a part of the loan amount before the end of the loan tenure. Banks in India allow prepayment of loans, but may charge a prepayment penalty, which is usually a percentage of the outstanding loan amount. However, as per the RBI guidelines, banks cannot charge a prepayment penalty on floating rate loans taken by individual borrowers.

Foreclosure, on the other hand, is when a borrower repays the entire loan amount before the end of the loan tenure. Banks in India also allow foreclosure of loans, but may charge a foreclosure penalty, which is usually a percentage of the outstanding loan amount. However, as per the RBI guidelines, banks cannot charge a foreclosure penalty on floating rate loans taken by individual borrowers.

It is important for borrowers to carefully consider the prepayment or foreclosure option, as it may not always be financially beneficial. For example, if the outstanding loan amount is small, the prepayment penalty or foreclosure penalty may be higher than the interest saved. In such cases, it may be better to continue with the regular EMI payments till the end of the loan tenure.

Overall, prepayment and foreclosure are useful options for borrowers to reduce their loan burden in Indian banks, and borrowers should carefully consider these options before making a decision.

**DEFAULT & REPOSSESSION**

Default and repossession are serious consequences of loan default in Indian banks. Defaulting on loan payments can negatively impact a borrower's credit score and lead to legal action by the bank.

The loan is labelled as a non-performing asset (NPA) by the bank if the borrower misses a specific number of payments on time on their EMI. The bank then takes legal action against the borrower, which may include sending notices, initiating recovery proceedings, and
seizing the collateral or security provided by the borrower.

Repossession is the last resort for banks, and they can only repossess the collateral or security provided by the borrower after following due legal process. The bank has to provide notice to the borrower before seizing the collateral, and the borrower has the right to challenge the bank’s decision in court.

In India, a framework for banks to recover their loans in the event of default is provided by the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, which was passed in 2002. The Act allows banks to take possession of the collateral without the intervention of the court in case of default and also allows banks to auction the collateral to recover their dues.

Overall, default and repossession are serious consequences of loan default in Indian banks, and borrowers should ensure that they pay their EMI on time to avoid these consequences. In case of financial difficulty, borrowers should approach the bank and seek assistance in restructuring the loan or finding a suitable repayment plan.

CONCLUSION
In conclusion, home loans in India have become more accessible and affordable over the years, banks and mortgage lenders provide affordable interest rates and flexible repayment choices. The government has also introduced various initiatives and schemes to promote affordable housing and support first-time homebuyers. However, there are still some challenges that borrowers face, such as high property prices, lengthy approval processes, and the risk of default and repossession.

One key finding is that home loans have become more affordable due to the low-interest rates and flexible repayment options offered by banks and housing finance companies. The reduction in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India has also contributed to this trend. This has led to an increase in demand for home loans, especially among first-time homebuyers. The government's initiatives Examples is the Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have also helped make home loans more accessible to low-income groups.

Another key finding is that the home loan approval process can be lengthy and time-consuming, requiring several documents and verification procedures. This can be a challenge for borrowers, especially those who need to purchase a property quickly. However, some banks have introduced digital platforms and streamlined processes to make the approval process faster and more efficient.
Prospects for home loans in India are promising, with the government's focus on affordable housing and the increasing demand for housing among the growing middle class. After the COVID-19 pandemic-related slowdown, the real estate market is anticipated to recover, which may present additional options for borrowers to purchase real estate. Recommendations for borrowers include doing thorough research on the property and the lender before taking out a home loan. Understanding the loan's terms and conditions, particularly the interest rate and EMI, is crucial, prepayment and foreclosure options, and any penalties or fees associated with the loan. Borrowers should also ensure that they can afford to repay the loan and have a backup plan in case of financial difficulties.

Another recommendation is to maintain a good credit score, which is essential for loan approval and can also help in negotiating better terms and interest rates. Borrowers should also consider factors such as the location, size, and resale value of the property before purchasing, to ensure that it is a sound investment.

Home loans in India have become more accessible and affordable, with competitive interest rates and flexible repayment options. The government's initiatives and schemes have also helped promote affordable housing and support first-time homebuyers. However, borrowers should be aware of the challenges they may face, such as the lengthy approval process and the risk of default and repossession. It is essential to do thorough research, maintain a good credit score, and ensure that they can afford to repay the loan before taking out a home loan.

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