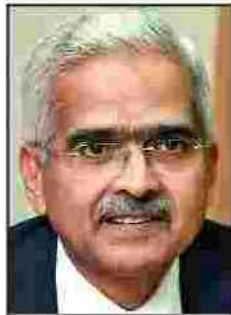


## New RBI gov signals better ties with govt

New RBI governor **Shaktikanta Das** has hinted at a reconciliation between the bank and the government, saying that all issues, however contentious, could



be resolved through discussions.

“RBI is a great institution. It has got a rich legacy and

I will do everything possible to uphold its professionalism, values, credibility and autonomy,” he said after taking charge. But he added every institution must adhere to the principle of accountability.

Das said while RBI needed to be watchful on inflation, maintaining the growth trajectory of the economy was also important. TNN

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## RBI gov to focus on stakeholder consultations

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In his first media interaction since taking over as RBI governor, Shaktikanta Das said the RBI would soon name a panel that will look into the economic capital framework for the central bank, which in turn would determine the extent of capital required by it. The appropriate level of reserves for RBI was one of the major flash-points between the Urjit Patel-led RBI and the Centre.

Das took charge on Wednesday morning after being appointed the 25th RBI governor on Tuesday evening, a day after Urjit Patel abruptly resigned following months of bitter differences with the government over RBI's autonomy and other issues. Das indicated that his approach would be to take decisions by focusing on stakeholder consultations—something that his predecessor was accused of not doing. Consultations will start with Mumbai-based public-sector banks on Tuesday followed by other PSU banks and later private banks. Hitting the ground running, Das said that a meeting of the RBI's central board of directors, would be held on Friday as scheduled.

Reiterating the need to engage with the Centre, Das said, "The government is not just a stakeholder, it also runs the economy and the country and manages major policy decisions. There has to be free, fair, objective and frank discussions between the government and RBI."

While refusing to comment on interest rates, maintaining that it was for the monetary policy committee to decide, Das said inflation was in lines with targets and outlook remained benign. "The issue of liquidity comes up from time to time in the public space. That will be an area where one has to interact with stakeholders and get an internal view on the issues." He acknowledged stewardship role played by his predecessor Patel and wished him all the best.

When asked whether deputy governor Viral Acharya was still with the central bank, he said he had just had a cup of tea with him. Acharya had delivered a fiery speech warning the government against impinging upon RBI autonomy, which brought the differences between the two out into the open.