

# the hindu businessline

## bl portfolio



**Salary reset.  
How the new  
labour codes will  
impact your salary,  
EPF and gratuity**

**BIG STORY P2**



**IPO Watch.  
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go for the Wakefit  
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**TAKING STOCK P5**

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## Govt caps fares, asks IndiGo to clear refunds

**CANCELLATION FALLOUT.** Invokes regulatory powers to prevent opportunistic pricing as passengers face widespread disruption

### Our Bureaus

New Delhi/Mumbai/Chennai/  
Hyderabad/Bengaluru

The Centre has imposed a cap on airfares after taking cognisance of the unusually high tariffs, even as the embattled IndiGo cancelled around 850 flights on Saturday.

In addition, IndiGo has been directed to clear all pending passenger refunds without delay. Accordingly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has mandated that the refund process for all cancelled or disrupted flights must be fully completed by Sunday 8 pm.

In terms of pricing, all domestic airlines have been directed to adhere to newly prescribed maximum fare limits of ₹7,500 for routes up to 500 km, ₹12,000 for 500-1,000 km, ₹15,000 for 1,000-1,500 km and ₹18,000 for sectors above 1,500 km.

Per the Ministry, these limits exclude user development fee, passenger service fee and taxes, and are not applicable to business class or RCS UDAN flights.

The move, said the Ministry, aims to ensure that passengers are not burdened with opportunistic pricing during the period of operational irregularities. Airlines have been instructed not to levy any rescheduling charges for passengers whose travel plans were affected by cancellations. Any delay or non-compliance in refund processing, the Ministry said, will invite immediate regulatory action.

### REFUND CELLS

IndiGo has been instructed to set up dedicated passenger support and refund facilitation cells, which have been tasked to proactively contact affected passengers and ensure that refunds and alternative travel arrangements are processed without the need for multiple follow-ups.

“The system of automatic refunds will remain active until operations stabilise completely,” the Ministry said.

Additionally, IndiGo has been directed to ensure that all baggage is traced and delivered to the pas-



**GROUNDING.** Travellers continue to throng the IndiGo counter for clarifications regarding their schedule even as few flights began operations on Saturday from the Chennai airport. **BUJOY GHOSH**

senger’s residential or chosen address within the next 48 hours. The new directives came after MoCA invoked its regulatory powers on Saturday.

A press release from IndiGo said, “...we are on our way to operate over 1,500

flights by end of day. With regards to destinations, over 95 per cent of network connectivity has already been re-established as we are able to operate to 135 out of the existing 138 destinations in operations.”

Reacting to the move on capping prices, an Air India spokesperson said, “Air India and Air India Express clarify that, since December 4, 2025, economy class airfares on non-stop domestic flights have been proactively capped to pre-

vent the usual demand-and-supply mechanism being applied by revenue management systems.”

SpiceJet has said it plans to operate hundred extra flights over the next few days, while Goa-based regional airline Fly91 is adding extra flights to Hyderabad.

On its part, IndiGo said its customer refunds are being processed on priority and it is coordinating with airports and partners to ensure timely updates through terminals, its website and direct notifications.

Meanwhile, passengers continued to face hardships across airports. IndiGo cancelled 144 flights, including 74 departures and 70 arrivals by the evening in Hyderabad. In Bengaluru, the carrier cancelled 104 flights — 61 arrivals and 63 departures. IndiGo partially resumed services at the Chennai airport by flying to a few destinations like Pune, Ahmedabad, Port Blair, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Kochi.

**Also read p12**

## US team to arrive in India on Dec 10 for trade talks

### Amiti Sen

New Delhi

A US trade negotiating team led by Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer is scheduled to be in India next week for a three-day discussion with Indian counterparts on the first phase of the bilateral trade deal, which hasn’t progressed much since the pre-Diwali talks in Washington DC, sources said.

“The talks will begin on December 10 and would be at an informal level, not to be counted as a formal round,” a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

The timing is important, close on the heels of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s much publicised visit to New Delhi on December 4-5.

**Read more p12**

## Pharma’s post-Covid run faces a reality check

### Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli

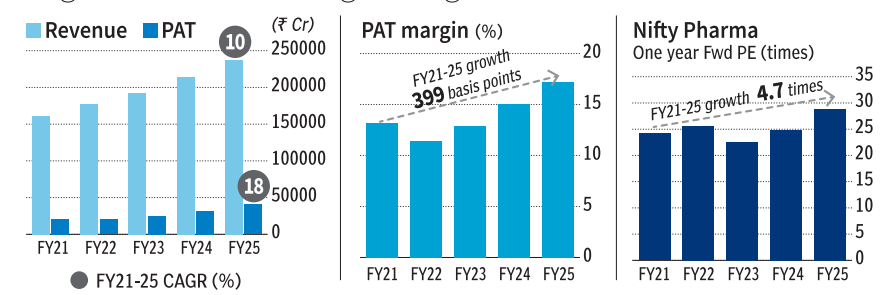
bl. research bureau

Pharma has had a strong run post-Covid. The top 10 companies, by market capitalisation, delivered 10 per cent revenue CAGR in FY21-25 and 18 per cent earnings, aided by a 400 bps PAT margin expansion, which lifted valuations.

Sun Pharma’s specialty portfolio led the stock performance in the sector along with Glenmark, which delivered strong R&D output. The Nifty Pharma index has delivered a good 86 per cent returns in the last five years, while it has lagged Nifty50 in this period due to the base effect from its 2020 outperformance.

The strong revenue drive in the sector was from Dr. Reddy’s and Zydus Lifesciences which reported 15 per cent revenue CAGR in the period. For the two companies and most of the industry play-

### High valuations on high margins



ers, generic Revlimid launch played a part. Others benefited from maturing portfolios, with Sun’s specialty sales, Lupin and Cipla’s respiratory products, and Torrent’s domestic growth delivering an average 11 per cent CAGR.

Improved profitability has been a sector-wide phenomenon in the last five years. Rest of the world markets are now self-sustained growth engines, while the US saw generic Revlimid (for multiple myel-

oma) and lower price erosion, and India gained from improved utilisation of sales force and expanded portfolios adding to profitability.

### REVLIMID CLIFF IN 2026

Dr. Reddy’s, Zydus Lifesciences, Sun, Cipla, Aurobindo and Lupin face a post-Revlimid reality.

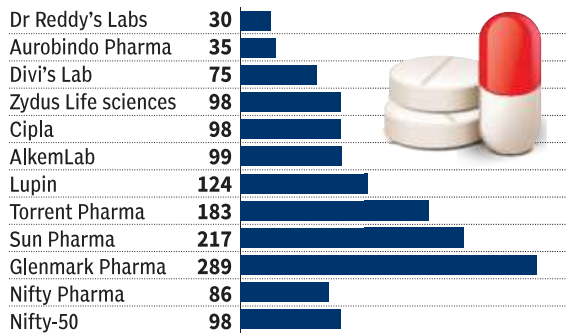
Since FY22-23, each earned \$100-500 million from the product under a volume-limited launch agreement, de-

livering 50-70 per cent EBITDA margins. From January 2026, patents expire, competition intensifies and earnings plunge from a high FY25 base.

### SEMAGLUTIDE’S CHANCE

The coming year also marks the opening of a much larger, more consistent and high value opportunity for a host of companies. Semaglutide is an insulin for diabetes treatment belonging to the promising

### Pharma stock returns



GLP-1RA category of drugs. The category also has weight loss applications boosting addressable market. A large and consistent addressable market, complexity of manufacturing peptides as a technology barrier, and patent losses from emerging to developed markets present a large opportunity to most Indian generic companies.

At the starting material stage, Divi’s has started a centre of excellence for pep-

tides and has advanced from smaller blocks of the peptide to the complete peptide chain to address the significant demand. At the formulation stage, Dr. Reddy’s is ahead of the curve and aims to be in the first wave of launches in ‘87 countries. The company has applied to Health Canada for generic Semaglutide. But the application has been issued with a notice of non-compliance and launch may have been delayed from early 2026 to

H2CY26. The company is also working on back-end integration. Sun Pharma, Torrent and Lupin have also aimed to be in the first wave of launches in India. Torrent and Lupin also intend to address Brazil and South Africa, respectively.

While Cipla will address markets with an eye on regulatory pathway, Aurobindo is setting up its Vizag facility with an eye on second wave of launches.

### PIVOT PERIOD

The shift from Revlimid windfall to Semaglutide opportunity may not be linear. Semaglutide requires high capex and longer gestation, unlike Revlimid’s short-term profit boost. Investors can expect margin compression in FY26, with valuations hinging on company-specific execution. After a 400 bps PAT margin expansion in five years, some stocks may take a breather in CY2026. Bottom-up approach will matter more than ever.

## Netflix-Warner Bros deal could pose a threat to theatrical releases: Multiplex body

### Meenakshi Verma Ambwani

New Delhi

The Multiplex Association of India has raised concerns over the proposed acquisition of Warner Bros Discovery by streaming major Netflix, saying it poses a threat to India’s theatrical and the broader film economy. Analysts believe the buyout will boost Netflix’s market share globally and in India, intensifying competition across streaming and liner TV segments.

In a statement, Kamal Gianchandani, President, Multiplex Association of India (MAI), said, “If this acquisition proceeds, there could be a meaningful reduction in high-quality content for cinemas, and the potential for shortened or non-existent theatrical windows will impact revenues, limit consumer



choice and weaken the film production, distribution and exhibition ecosystem in India.”

He added that a consolidation of this magnitude warrants careful scrutiny and the MAI will highlight these concerns to regulatory authorities.

### RESHAPING CONTENT

Analysts believe the intensifying competition will force the Indian media industry to focus

on sports, localised storytelling, drive innovation in pricing and bundling.

Rajesh Sethi, Partner and Leader-Media Entertainment and Sports, PwC India, said that the Netflix WBD deal creates a single and dominant global streaming hub for premium Hollywood content, including HBO and DC franchises.

“In India, this intensifies competition for local streaming platforms, driving them to invest heavily in sports and unique, regional language content along with smart pricing and bundling. This merger will eventually make Netflix the primary destination for international hits, potentially leading to higher subscription costs for Indian consumer. However, current content deals mean WBD shows will stay on the competition platform at least until 2026, giving

Indian rivals a short term leverage to prepare,” he added.

Karan Taurani, EVP, Elara Capital, said the acquisition will enhance Netflix’s positioning and market share in the India OTT market, at a time when JioStar has a dominant position in live sports. He added that the deal could limit other platforms’ ability to scale and hurt the linear broadcasting sector.

“It will also strengthen Netflix’s production capabilities, potentially resulting in higher film production activity in India for direct-to-OTT releases and theatrical films,” Taurani said, highlighting that the importance of the Indian Premier League rights will rise further.

Netflix is the market leader in subscription video on demand segment, while JioStar is the second largest player in the advertising video on demand market after YouTube.

## Biocon integrates Biocon Biologics; to raise ₹4,500 crore via QIP to fund Viatriis payout

### Our Bureau

Bengaluru

Biopharma major Biocon has consolidated its wholly-owned subsidiary, Biocon Biologics Ltd (BBL), into Biocon Ltd, with the integration expected to be completed by March 31, 2026.

Biocon Biologics was formed in 2017 as a separate subsidiary to house all biosimilar assets, with the intent of unlocking value at a later stage. In 2022, Biocon Biologics acquired the global biosimilars business of Viatriis for \$3.3 billion, a transaction funded through equity and approximately \$1.2 billion of debt.

The leverage coming from the acquisition, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder, said, has weighed on market perception and continued to suppress Biocon’s valuation, resulting



in a holding-company discount that does not reflect the underlying strength of BBL. Pursuing an IPO in the current environment, she noted, would not have been beneficial for shareholders, as it would have undervalued the business.

As part of the restructuring, the promoters’ stake will fall below 50 per cent following the proposed qualified institutional placement (QIP). The board has approved raising up to ₹4,500 crore (approx-

imately \$500 million) through the QIP, subject to shareholder approval, with most of the proceeds allocated to the cash component payable to Viatriis.

**SHARE SWAP**  
Biocon will acquire the remaining stake in BBL from Serum Institute Life Sciences, Tata Capital Growth Fund II and Activ Pine LLP through a share swap of 70.28 Biocon shares for every 100 Biocon Biologics shares, priced at

₹405.78 per share, valuing BBL at \$5.5 billion.

Biocon will also acquire the balance stake held by Mylan Inc (Viatriis) for \$815 million — \$400 million in cash and \$415 million through a share swap of 61.70 Biocon shares for every 100 Biocon Biologics shares.

To oversee the process, Biocon has set up a Governance Council chaired by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and a Transition and Integration Management Committee led by Shreehas Tambe, MD & CEO, BBL.

Post-integration, subject to approvals, Tambe will take charge as MD & CEO of the combined business, and Kedar Upadhye will assume the role of Chief Financial Officer. Siddharth Mittal, the current CEO, will transition into a leadership role within the Group.



WISE WORDS.

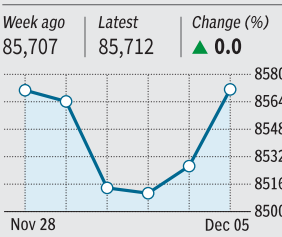
“Don't try to buy at the bottom and sell at the top. It can't be done except by liars.

BERNARD BARUCH

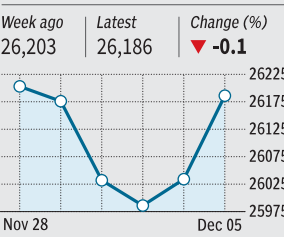
Contrarian Investor, famously known as the Lone Wolf of Wall Street

MARKET ACTION.

SENSEX



NIFTY



Venkatasubramanian K  
bl. research bureau

On November 21, 2025, the government of India announced that the four labour codes are being implemented from that date.

These include the code of wages, 2019, the industrial relations code, 2020, the code on social security, 2020, and the occupational safety, health and working conditions code 2020.

These four codes aim to consolidate as many as 29 previous acts/labour laws.

Though these four codes have been deemed effective from the date mentioned earlier, the government has stated that the corresponding rules, regulations and the relevant schemes is likely to be operational from April 1, 2026. During the transition period, the existing labour laws would be in force.

These labour codes are very wide in their ambit and cover a whole host of industrial relations, employee/worker salaries, social security benefits, worker safety, hiring/firing norms, union formation, equality in pay for women and their participation in the workforce and many more aspects.

From a personal finance angle, the most important parts in these labour codes pertain to how the basic pay definition, gratuity, provident fund deduction etc, change and how employers may restructure salaries.

We factor in all the changes indicated in the labour code and illustrate with examples on how your pay is likely to change, how your provident fund contributions are set to increase and what your gratuity payouts are likely to be.

Fixed-term employees are also given a host of benefits, which we highlight here.

In addition, we look at a few other points from the code that could have a monetary impact on contract, informal and gig workers.

Finally, we also give suggestions on how to manage cashflows and modify your investment portfolio if the code adversely impacts your take-home pay.

REDEFINING THE BASIC SALARY

For most of the salaried, much of their hikes, provident fund deductions etc depended on how their basic pay was structured as a part of the overall salary.

The new labour code (code of wages) has mandated that basic salary, comprising basic pay, dearness allowance and any retaining allowance must add up to at least 50 per cent of the overall salary. There was no such mandate until now on how the basic pay is structured.

Many companies, especially those that gave more by way of allowances, have only 30-40 per cent of their employees' overall salary as basic pay.

Perhaps, the most critical part from a personal finance angle is how the new labour code affects individual salary structures, employees' provident fund deductions and the pre-tax net salary after the new labour code has taken effect.

Now, the primary change in the salary calculations would involve how the basic pay is arrived at.

In general, the total salary is arrived at by adding a various components. The first is the basic pay and dearness allowance. Then there are the house rent, special, leave travel and other allowances.

Finally, there are the retiral parts that include the company's contribution to the EPF and also to the payment towards gratuity.

The basic pay and house rent allowance (and any retaining allowance, if offered) are mandated to be at least 50 per cent of the total salary.

All retiral deductibles are based on the basic pay calculation.

This can be illustrated with an example (see table).

Now assume a person earns a total salary of ₹25 lakh per annum. In the present salary structure, we assume 35 per cent of the total salary to be basic pay (along with DA and any retaining allowance) currently, which comes to ₹8.75 lakh per annum.

Since the new labour code is in force, we need to take 50 per cent of total salary as the basic pay, which would come to ₹12.5 lakh.

Now, EPF contributions of self and that of the company come to 12 per cent each of the basic pay. In the old code, the amount would be ₹1.05 lakh each for both contributions.

With the new labour code, the EPF deductions would rise to ₹1.5 lakh each (12 per cent of Rs 12.5 lakh), an

Labour code impact on your pay

**SALARY RESET.** Post implementation, here's how your take-home pay will likely change with increases in your PF contributions and your gratuity payouts. There's good news for gig and informal workers too on social security



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How your pre-tax net salary changes

	₹15 lakh annual salary		₹25 lakh annual salary	
	Before new labour code	After new labour code	Before new labour code	After new labour code
Salary component				
Basic pay + Dearness allowance	5,25,000	7,50,000	8,75,000	12,50,000
House rent, leave travel, special and other allowances	8,86,748	6,23,925	14,77,913	10,39,875
Gratuity contribution by the company	25,253	36,075	42,088	60,125
EPF contribution by the company	63,000	90,000	1,05,000	1,50,000
Total salary	15,00,000	15,00,000	25,00,000	25,00,000
EPF deduction - employee's contribution	63,000	90,000	1,05,000	1,50,000
Net pay (pre-tax)	13,48,748	12,83,925	22,47,913	21,39,875
Difference in net pay (pre-tax)		64,823		1,08,038

Basic pay + Dearness allowance is assumed to be 35% of total pay before the labour code and 50% post implementation

increase of ₹45,000 each compared to the earlier code's outflows.

Gratuity (calculations will be discussed separately) in the earlier regime would come to ₹42,088. In the new labour code, the gratuity amount would be ₹60,125 per year.

From the total salary, the company's and personal contributions to EPF are deducted, as is the gratuity contributions to arrive at the net salary.

In the old code, the net salary before tax would come to around ₹22.48 lakh, while the figure would be about ₹21.4 lakh according to a salary structured according to the new labour code.

The difference in net salary (pre-tax) between the old and new labour codes would be ₹1.08 lakh per annum.

When the example is repeated with a person earning ₹15 lakh per annum, the difference in net salary (pre-tax) comes to ₹64,823.

Thus, the new labour code would mean lower in-hand salary if implemented as such and your employer restructures your pay components.

One aspect — on the salary structures that are more complex — needs mentioning here. There is still clarity awaited on whether bonuses not linked to compensation, commissions, performance-related payouts or incentives would have to be

Gratuity calculations

Years of service	Amount receivable by employee (₹)			
	₹15 lakh annual salary		₹25 lakh annual salary	
	Before new labour code	After new labour code	Before new labour code	After new labour code
1	-	36,075	-	60,125
2	-	72,150	-	1,20,250
3	-	1,08,225	-	1,80,375
4	-	1,44,300	-	2,40,500
5	1,26,263	1,80,375	2,10,438	3,00,625
6	1,51,515	2,16,450	2,52,525	3,60,750
7	1,76,768	2,52,525	2,94,613	4,20,875
8	2,02,020	2,88,600	3,36,700	4,81,000
9	2,27,273	3,24,675	3,78,788	5,41,125
10	2,52,525	3,60,750	4,20,875	6,01,250

clubbed with the total salary for the purpose of calculating the basic pay. For our calculations, we have excluded these and focused on regular salary structures.

Another key point to understand is that the 12 per cent deduction in EPF is compulsory only for those earning a monthly basic pay of up to ₹15,000.

However, most companies tend to make employees contribute 12 per cent of basic pay and themselves match it with a corresponding payment.

Some firms do not go beyond the legally stipulated limit of ₹1,800 a month (12 per cent of ₹15,000), so as to keep the in-hand salary at a higher level for employees.

Therefore, employers paying higher salaries can opt not to restructure salaries or make higher EPF contributions.

GRATUITY INCREASES

As a means of rewarding employees who stick around for a reasonably long period, companies were expected

to reward them suitably when they moved out elsewhere or retired.

Now, this gratuity amount again is calculated based on the basic salary.

The formula for gratuity is: (last drawn annual basic salary/12)\*(number of years of service)\*15/26

The number 12 in the formula above comes in for converting annual salary to the monthly amount.

Then, the number 15 refers to half a month, assuming a total of 30 days. Finally, 26 days refer to the number of working days in a month.

Up until now, gratuity was offered only to employees who have put in at least five or more years of service. Those who quit before five continuous years of service aren't paid the amount.

However, the new labour code (code on social security) has made it clear that gratuity must be paid to all fixed-term employees after one continuous year of service in the company.

This change marks a dramatic departure from the earlier regime and now even shorter tenors in the era of job hopping would earn you a gratuity payout.

The formula, though, remains the same as earlier for the calculation of the gratuity amount. But, as the basic pay calculation is set to change, your gratuity, too, would increase.

This can be explained with an example of a person earning a total salary of ₹15 lakh per annum (see table).

Earlier, no gratuity was payable till the end of the fifth year of service. So, at the end of year five of continuous service in a company, a fixed-term employee quitting the firm would get a little over ₹1.26 lakh.

With the new code in place, a person with the same ₹15 lakh annual pay would receive ₹36,075 even if she quits after one year of service. At the end of five years, at the same ₹15 lakh pay, the gratuity pay out would be a bit more than ₹1.8 lakh, more than ₹54,000 higher than what becomes payable under the old code.

One clarification is awaited on gratuity. Currently, the tax-free limit for gratuity payout across all employ-

ments is restricted to ₹20 lakh for private sector employees and ₹25 lakh for government staff. With gratuity becoming payable from the end of year one and with the enhanced basic pay calculation, gratuity payouts are likely to increase. It remains to be seen if the ceiling would remain or be enhanced later.

Also, the labour code gives this benefit of gratuity after one year to fixed-term employees. It is not clear if permanent employees would be treated at par with fixed-term employees and offered the same benefit.

OTHER NOTABLE CODE CHANGES

One key change pertains to benefits offered to fixed-term (contractual) employees. These fixed-term staff were not entitled to any EPF, ESIC or gratuity benefits.

Now the new code on social security specifies that all benefits must be offered to fixed-term employees as well. In fact, the code also says pay must be on par with that of permanent employees and gratuity is to be paid after one continuous year of service.

All employees above the age of 40 must be given a free annual health check-up by the employer. This would be extremely helpful for employees to take care of any health issues promptly and also enhance their own health insurance to make it more robust in case these checkups reveal potential ailments, so that any waiting periods can be quickly completed.

Aggregators who employ gig and digital platform workers are expected to earmark 1-2 per cent of their revenues (capped at 5 per cent of total worker payouts) for the social security (health insurance, accident cover etc.) of these workers.

In the new code, all overtime work required by employers must have the consent of the concerned employees and should be compensated. The labour code states that overtime wages must be paid at 2x the normal wage rate.

Women are allowed to work in night shifts across industries, provided they give their consent for the same, going by the new labour code norms. Arranging for their safety is the employer's responsibility while working in night shifts.

The labour code also states that a new national floor wage would be set, below which no company or establishment can pay its workers.

An interesting point in the labour code (industrial relations code, 2020) is that companies must set up a reskilling fund for workers. This must be equivalent to 15 days' wages of the workers.

Each of these measures, while providing better social security coverage to employees and greater options to women in the workforce, is expected to increase the wage bill of companies.

Now, in this age of hiring and firing, market forces of demand/supply/business dynamics determine recruitment and retrenchment. The labour code has increased the threshold for seeking government approval for letting go employees from 100 to 300, which is expected to benefit start-ups and small-medium enterprises to have nimble operations without too much of a compliance burden.

Sorting personal finances

If your employer does make changes to your salary structure and you end up with a lower in-hand pay, you will need to work on your cashflows and tweak your investments a bit.

Receiving a lower in-hand pay will mean that you will first have to stabilise your cashflows for a few months to ensure any tight situations are avoided.

Take the case of the person earning ₹25 lakh salary. The pre-tax net salary is lower by as much as ₹1.08 lakh annually, which is approximately ₹9,000 a month.

In the case of a person earning ₹15 lakh, the net salary becomes lower by

around ₹5,500 a month.

You can consider restructuring some of your payments towards certain financial products.

For example, in case you are paying premiums for any life insurance policy (term cover) or health cover on a monthly basis, you could shift them to the annual mode, perhaps to coincide with the time of your yearly bonus. You can check with your insurers on how and when you could do it without any loss of coverage.

For a brief while, you could tap into your emergency fund, if any, and replenish it once your cashflow stabilises after a pay hike.



GETTY IMAGES

Another aspect to note with the new labour code is that considerable sums are being ploughed to your retirals.

And both the (enhanced)

EPF and gratuity are defined benefits.

Since these are essentially fixed income in nature, you can consider them as part of your debt

portfolio. EPF, in fact, offers 8.25 per cent interest, almost 175 basis points more than the 10-year G-Sec yield.

You can, therefore, cut back on any debt or hybrid fund investments, especially if you have 15-20 or more years of service and are investing in these funds via the SIP mode. Directing your SIPs to large-cap, flexi-cap, large- & mid-cap or multi-cap schemes based on your risk appetite may work better if you are aged 45 or less and considering a regular retirement at 60.

The idea is to get a tad more aggressive with your equity portfolio given that a compulsory debt portfolio is getting built at work.









# What lies beneath

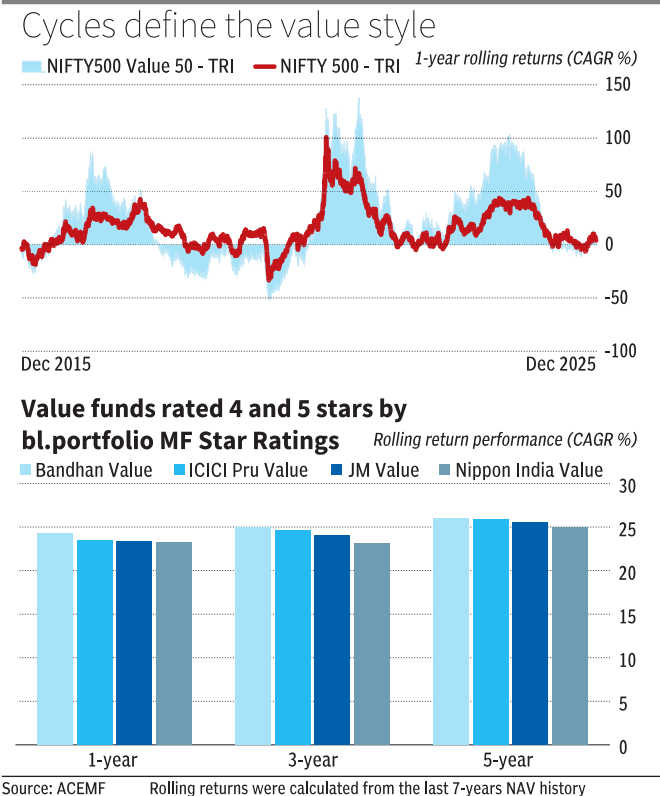
**FUND TRACKER.** Diving into opportunities in an uneven market, value-oriented funds prefer firms with strong fundamentals that lie submerged due to temporary pessimism

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**Dhuraivel Gunasekaran**  
bl. research bureau

After two strong years in 2023 and 2024, value-oriented mutual funds have delivered a mixed bag in 2025. The Nifty50 Value 20 index, the large-cap value benchmark, has been largely flat, while the multi-cap-focused Nifty500 Value 50 has clocked a healthy 12 per cent year-to-date. Meanwhile, the overall value category managed to deliver just 4 per cent. The dispersion within funds, too, has been stark: ICICI Prudential value leads with a 13 per cent gain, whereas LIC MF value fund slipped 6 per cent into the red. Nearly two-thirds of schemes posted returns below five per cent. With value investing being deeply cyclical, it's worth revisiting how the category has behaved, what fund managers are betting on, and whether the style still holds relevance.

There are currently 21 schemes in the value category. As per SEBI rules, these funds must invest at least 65 per cent in equities but enjoy considerable flexibility across sectors and market caps — within a disciplined valuation-driven framework. Managers typically hunt for stocks trading below their intrinsic value using metrics such as P/E, P/B, earnings yield, cash flows, dividend yield,



ROE and ROCE, relying primarily on bottom-up stock selection.

The core idea is simple: buy companies with strong fundamentals but depressed prices due to temporary market pessimism, hold through volatility, and wait for earnings recovery and sentiment rerating. Portfolios are diversified, turnover is

usually lower, and the payoff lumpy: long stretches of underperformance can be followed by sharp catch-ups.

**CYCLES DEFINE STYLE**  
Value funds have historically moved in cycles. After a dull post-Covid phase, they rebounded strongly in 2021 with a 36 per cent return, beating the

Nifty 500 TRI's 32 per cent. Economic reopening, a rebound in cyclical and broader market undervaluation helped, while high inflation and rising rate expectations pushed investors towards banking, energy and industrials. Stocks such as ONGC, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel and Hindalco were key performance drivers. The tide turned in 2022. Value funds delivered just six per cent. With inflation staying sticky, central banks hiking policy rates aggressively and recession worries mounting, markets shifted to growth and quality. Funds that held IT and pharma stocks such as Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Mphasis, Ipca Laboratories and Alkem Laboratories saw their returns deteriorate.

The next turnaround came in 2023 and 2024 when value funds delivered 34 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. Strong GDP growth, easing inflation and a pickup in corporate earnings brought focus back to cyclical. Banking, capital goods, energy and selective large-caps helped value funds reclaim leadership. Stocks such as Bajaj Auto, HPCL, L&T, Coal India and HCL Technologies contributed meaningfully to NAV expansion.

**2025 POSITIONING**  
In 2025, the leaders are those who leaned early into oil & gas, mid-cap IT, hospitals and select pharma, PSU banks and life in-

surers. ICICI Prudential value and DSP value have benefited from sizable allocations to Reliance Industries, HDFC Life, SBI Life, Maruti Suzuki, Hero Moto-Corp and pharma majors like Sun Pharma and Lupin — positions built patiently through 2023–24. Funds with heavy small-cap exposure, however, have lagged. JM Value, LIC MF Value, ITI Value, ABSL Value and Quant Value carried small-cap weights as high as 30–45 per cent, which hurt in a year when market breadth narrowed. In contrast, ICICI Pru, HDFC, Sundaram and UTI Value funds stayed firmly anchored in large-caps, with allocations ranging from 65–80 per cent.

The Nifty500 Value 50 index has also outpaced the large-cap-heavy Nifty50 Value 20 index, thanks to higher exposure to mid- and small-cap financials. Stocks like RBL Bank, Manappuram Finance, City Union Bank, Indian Bank and Canara Bank have surged 40–87 per cent over the past year, lifting the Nifty500 Value 50's performance. Most fund managers are currently overweight in IT, oil & gas, healthcare and FMCG.

**FOR INVESTORS**  
Long-term NSE index data show that while value investing delivers strong excess returns over cycles, it can test patience. Value funds tend to do well during economic recoveries and inflationary regimes, when cheap assets rebound sharply. Conversely, they often underperform in liquidity-driven bull markets and when momentum takes precedence over fundamentals.

Value-oriented mutual funds deserve a place in an investor's long-term equity strategy. They provide exposure to fundamentally strong, attractively priced businesses that can deliver better returns in the long run. While the style demands patience and has its share of value traps, disciplined value investing executed through well-managed funds — adds both diversification and return potential to a well-rounded portfolio. Investors should prioritise funds with strong long-term track records. Five-year rolling return analysis over the past seven years shows ICICI Prudential value and Bandhan value delivering around 26 per cent CAGR. Schemes rated four and five stars on *bl.portfolio's* Star Track can also be considered. Investors seeking cost-efficient, benchmark-aligned returns can opt for passive index funds, ETFs, and smart beta funds.

A minimum time horizon of seven years is crucial for this style to play out.

## ALERTS.

### Groww MF launches Multi Asset Omni FOF

Groww Mutual Fund has launched Groww Multi Asset Omni FOF, an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in equity-oriented schemes, debt-oriented schemes and



Gold & Silver ETFs. The NFO closes on December 17, 2025. No entry and exit load will be charged under the scheme. The minimum subscription amount is ₹500 and in multiples of ₹1 for purchases and switch-in. The performance of the scheme will be benchmarked against the Nifty 500 TRI (65 per cent) + CRISIL

Composite Bond Fund Index (25 per cent) + Domestic Gold Prices (5 per cent) + Domestic Silver Prices (5 per cent); its fund managers are Paras Matalia, Shashi Kumar and Wilfred Peter Gonsalves.

### Mirae Asset's BSE 500 Dividend Leaders 50 ETF

Mirae Asset Mutual Fund has launched Mirae Asset BSE 500 Dividend Leaders 50 ETF, an open-ended scheme replicating/tracking BSE 500 Dividend Leaders 50 Total

Return Index. The NFO closes on December 10, 2025. No entry and exit load will be charged under the scheme. The minimum subscription amount is ₹5,000 per application and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. The performance of the scheme will be benchmarked against the BSE 500 Dividend Leaders 50 Total Return Index; its



fund managers are Ekta Gala and Akshay Udeshi.

## ETF movers

Top ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds) traded on NSE based on weekly change in price

ETF	NAV (₹)	Price (₹)	Weekly change in price (%)	Volume traded in the last week (in '000s)
	as on Dec 5			
<b>ETF</b>				
Axis Nifty IT ETF	422	423	4.1	284
DSP Nifty IT ETF	41	40	3.8	276
Aditya Birla Nifty IT ETF	42	42	3.7	2,398
SBI IT ETF	424	425	3.6	52
ICICI Pru IT ETF	42	43	3.5	3,451
Kotak Nifty IT ETF	42	42	3.5	1,112
UTI Nifty IT ETF	402	401	3.4	17
<b>SILVER ETFs</b>				
UTI Silver ETF	172	172	8.7	11,861
Kotak Silver ETF	173	172	8.7	7,490
ICICI Pru Silver ETF	177	177	8.6	35,591

Source: Bloomberg. Returns as on Dec 05, 2025

## Best NPS plans

Top pension funds in each category based on 5-year CAGR

Name of the fund	NAV (₹) as on Dec 5	Returns (% CAGR)			Assets (₹ cr)
		1-year	3-year	5-year	
TIER I: EQUITY PLANS					
Kotak Pension	72	7	16	18	3,804
ICICI Pru Pension	77	6	16	18	24,646
UTI Pension	75	3	16	17	5,150
TIER I: GOVERNMENT BOND PLANS					
ABSL Pension	19	5	8	6	2,236
LIC Pension	31	5	8	6	7,884
UTI Pension	37	5	8	6	3,784
TIER I: CORPORATE DEBT PLANS					
HDFC Pension	30	9	9	7	28,720
ICICI Pru Pension	45	9	9	7	11,439
SBI Pension	45	9	8	7	13,562
TIER I: ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS					
UTI Pension	22	30	15	12	33
HDFC Pension	24	20	12	11	514
SBI Pension	24	19	13	10	141

\*Source: NPS Trust. Returns as on Dec 05, 2025

## Top PMS schemes

Based on 5-year returns

AMC	Strategy	AUM (in ₹ cr)	Returns (% CAGR)		
			1-year	3-year	5-year
LARGE CAP					
Tulsian PMS	Tulsian PMS	328	9.0	21.5	34.1
ICICI Pru	Largecap	886	5.0	21.8	25.0
Renaissance Investment	Opportunities Portfolio	NA	0.9	15.4	23.6
Standard Chartered Securities India	Long Term Value Compounder	NA	7.2	20.6	22.0
MULTI CAP					
Negen Capital Services	Special Situ & Tech Fund	1,223	4.9	26.5	37.7
Renaissance Investment	Indianext Portfolio	NA	-3.2	19.6	34.7
Bonanza Portfolio	Edge	NA	-4.7	24.3	34.4
Buoyant Capital	Opportunities	6,954	15.2	24.9	33.2
Asit C Mehta Invest. Intermediates	Ace - Multicap	142	2.4	35.6	32.8
Stallion Asset	Core Fund	6,486	6.0	37.8	32.5
MID-CAP					
NAFA Asset Managers	Emerging Bluechip	NA	-2.9	20.0	28.9
Right Horizons	Super Value	NA	-4.3	19.5	27.8
Master Portfolio Services	Master Trust India Growth	389	5.7	19.9	27.5
Unifi Capital	APJ 20	NA	1.2	20.3	25.9
SMALL CAP					
Counter Cyclical Investments	Diversified Long Term Value	805	-2.6	28.7	52.5
Aequitas Invest. Consultancy	India Opportunities	3,963	30.2	44.8	47.5
Equitree Capital Advisors	Emerging Opportunities	1,042	5.2	37.8	43.4
Accuracap	Dynamo	15	3.2	32.0	31.7

\*Source: PMS Bazaar. Returns as on October 31, 2025

**Reuters**  
New York

Hedge funds are using near-record levels of leverage to trade equities and betting on debt-backed strategies in efforts to juice returns, making the most of markets buoyed by a boom in artificial intelligence.

Over the past few years, debt-fuelled strategies have surged as funds have become larger and more complex. That trend is starting to raise concerns about whether the higher use of leverage could expose them and the broader market to steeper losses in the event of a correction.

“We are seeing leverage around historical highs on our books,” said John Schlegel, head of positioning intelligence at JP Morgan. “When you look at the amount of exposure relative to liquidity in the markets, markets have gone up pretty materially from pre-Covid to now, much faster than the hedge fund AUM (assets under management) has.”

Data compiled by Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and Morgan Stanley, the largest global prime brokerages, show that leverage used to bolster returns for traditional hedge funds that go long or short on stocks is close to an all-time high and continues to rise, depending on the bank. These reports were sent in recent weeks to a restricted group of clients and seen by *Reuters*.

Goldman's prime brokerage data showed that in November, US gross and net leverage for hedge funds across the board increased. Hedge funds' gross leverage globally, which includes investor money and trading positions, sits at nearly three times their books, or 285.2 per cent, up about 12.4 percentage points this year to date, which is close to an all-time record, according to Goldman's data. That data means that for every \$100 of capital from investors, hedge funds on average had roughly \$300 in long and short positions.

# Hedge funds double down using near-record leverage

**GLOBAL VIEW.** ‘Gross leverage at nearly three times their books, or 285.2 per cent, up about 12.4 percentage points’

GETTY IMAGES

### BRIEFLY

‘For every \$100 of capital from investors, hedge funds on average had roughly \$300 in long and short positions’

### AI BUBBLE

The rise in leverage levels has coincided with ongoing bullishness among hedge funds across different strategies, despite a recent market sell off triggered by fears of an AI bubble. The S&P 500 index has risen 16.1 per cent on a year-to-date basis, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 index has jumped 21.6 per cent during the same period.

“The month (of November) also saw the second-largest clip of global equity buying this year, driven mainly by long additions, which lifted both net and gross leverage and meaningfully increased long-book concentration,” UBS said in a note to clients on November 27. *Reuters* contacted at least half a dozen major hedge funds for comment on this story including Millennium Management, Citadel, and Bridgewater Associates. Millennium and Citadel declined to comment, while Bridgewater

did not respond to a request for comment.

Financial regulators ranging from the Federal Reserve to the Bank for International Settlements are scrutinising the use of leverage by the most high profile funds. Leverage magnifies gains and losses, said Michael Oliver-Weinberg, a hedge fund investor and special advisor to the Tokyo University of Science Endowment.

“If many of the large multi-strategy funds have the same trade on in size, an unwind would mean everyone running for the doors at the same time with few to take the other side of the trade. This can cause big market moves,” he said.

Over the past decade, leveraged strategies have become commonplace among funds, as they have grown at a much faster clip compared to the rest of the asset management industry. For years, the most prominent global multi-strategy funds, also known as “pod shops”, have borrowed money to take bigger swings at markets, as they juiced their returns from those bets.

According to data from Goldman, which compiles data based on client positions on their books, multi-strategy funds account for roughly one-third of







**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 (26,186) and Nifty Bank (59,777) ended flat last week. Here is our analysis of the futures and options data of both indices.

**NIFTY 50**  
Nifty futures (December) (26,333) declined in the first half of last week. But then it recovered, particularly on Friday, cutting the weekly loss to 0.2 per cent. The contract rebounded on the back of the support at 26,050 where a trendline support coincides.

That said, the contract remains below the resistance at 26,500. Only a decisive breakout of this can result in a fresh leg of rally. Notable barriers above 26,500 are at 27,000 and 27,500.

On the other hand, if Nifty futures declines from the current level, it can find support between 26,050 and 26,000. Until the contract trades above the latter, the broader inclination will be bullish.

In case the support at 26,000 is breached, Nifty futures can drop to 25,750 and 25,600.

As Nifty futures dropped by 0.2 per cent last week, the open interest of the December contract rose from 136 lakh contracts to 147 lakh contracts.

While a price drop along with an increase in open interest denotes short build-up, considering the recovery in the second half of last week and the broader price action, it can be concluded that the bears have not gathered enough momentum to influence the trend.

With respect to options, Put Call Ratio (PCR) of weekly and monthly options stood at 1.2 and 1.1 respectively. A ratio greater than 1 is a positive sign.

Considering all the aforementioned factors, although Nifty fu-



**F&O TRACKER.**  
Retain Nifty Bank futures long; buy Nifty futures on a breakout

tures maintain a bullish bias, there is some element of uncertainty at the moment.

**Strategy:** Refrain from trading for now. Go long if Nifty futures (December) breaks out of the resistance at 26,500. Target and stop-loss can be 27,500 and 26,000 respectively. After initiating the trade, once the contract reaches 27,000, trail the stop-loss to 26,500.

**NIFTY BANK**  
Nifty Bank futures (December) (60,056) dropped in the first half of last week and marked a low of 59,315 on Wednesday. However, it rallied on Friday reclaiming the 60,000-mark, indicating that the bulls are regaining traction.

We expect the contract to move up further and touch 61,000 in the near term. A breakout of this can open the door for a

**BROAD TREND**

- Nifty futures face resistance at 26,500
- Nifty Bank futures appear stronger
- F&O signals mixed but bullish bias intact

rally to 62,000.

On the other hand, if Nifty Bank futures declines from the current level, it can find support at 59,400, its 20-day moving average. Below this is the key base of 59,000, an important level from the short-term trend perspective. A clear breach of this can turn the outlook bearish. Nearest notable support below 59,000 can be spotted at 58,250.

Over the last week, the open interest of December Nifty Bank

futures slightly dropped from 15.8 lakh contracts to 14.8 lakh contracts. But since the contract ended flat last week, the movement in open interest do not carry significance.

Coming to the options, the PCR of December expiry stood at 1 on Friday.

Overall, the futures and options data do not show a definite indication. Nevertheless, the price shows that Nifty Bank futures stays above a key support level and the uptrend is intact.

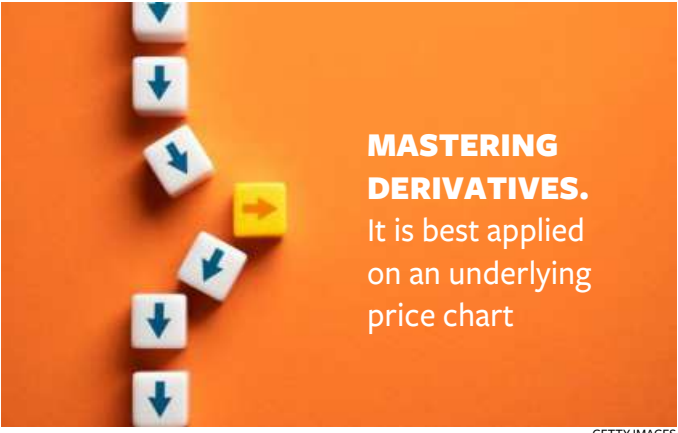
**Strategy:** Last week, we suggested buying Nifty Bank futures (December) at an average of 59,784. Retain this trade and maintain stop-loss at 58,800. When the contract touches 60,800, revise the stop-loss to 60,000. On a rally to 61,500, tighten the stop-loss further to 61,000. Book profits at 62,000.

# Stop-loss for options trading

**Venkatesh Bangaruswamy**

It is one thing to identify a stop-loss level for a position. It is quite another to take those stop-losses. Identifying an appropriate stop-loss requires accurate reading of price charts.

Taking the stop-loss requires a disciplined approach to trading. This week, we discuss why stop-loss on options is best applied on an underlying price chart.



**MASTERING DERIVATIVES.**  
It is best applied on an underlying price chart

**CONTINUOUS PRICE DATA**  
A stop-loss is the level at which you decide that carrying the position is no longer optimal. In the case of a long (short) position, this is the level identified from the chart which could indicate that the bulls (bears) are no longer in control.

You can determine the stop-loss for a futures position looking at the one-month continuous futures price.

This is the chart that shows one-month futures price stitched together over a chosen period.

You cannot have continuous one-month equity option price chart or continuous one-week Nifty option price chart for a particular strike. Why? For one, option loses time value with each

**QUICK TIP**

Stop-loss on the options are best applied on an intraday basis, not on a closing basis as in the case of futures contract

passing day, and the time value of all options becomes zero at expiry.

So, stitching together the same strike option, say 25200, across time may not be meaningful; the option would have lower value as it approaches near week expiry and higher value immedi-

ately thereafter as the next expiry will be days away.

And two, the price of the option is determined by the location of its strike in relation to its underlying price. So, 25200 strike today may be trading higher because it is in-the-money (ITM) whereas it would have been trading lower a month ago because it was out-of-the-money (OTM).

Now, if we cannot have continuous prices on an option strike, data is not enough to graph its price.

So, how will you fix the stop-loss using the option chart? That is why it is important to determ-

ine the stop-loss for your option position based on the underlying price chart. Note that stop-loss on the options are best applied on an intraday basis, not on a closing basis as in the case of futures contract. That is, if your stop-loss is, say, 750 based on the underlying price, it is best you close your long call position if the underlying trades intraday below 750 in the spot market. The reason for using intraday prices is because of the time decay that options suffer from.

**OPTIONAL READING**  
Stop-loss for equity options must be based on the underlying price and for index options preferably on their index futures, as spot indices are not tradable contracts. The loss from stopping your option position based on the underlying or its future price need not be equal to the loss if you were to trade the underlying or its futures contract with the same stop-loss. This is because a long option position loses value because of its delta and theta when the underlying price declines.

The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments

## Positive outlook

**BULLION CUES.** Retain gold futures long

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Gold (\$4,199/ounce) was down 0.4 per cent whereas silver (\$58.40/ounce) gained 3.5 per cent. In the domestic market, gold futures (₹1,30,462/10 gm) and silver futures (₹1,83,408/kg) rose 0.7 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively.



**MCX-GOLD (₹1,30,462)**  
Gold futures (February) was trading in the narrow range of ₹1,29,200-1,31,400 over the last week. Going ahead, the consolidation might continue, or the contract might see a minor decline, possibly to ₹1,27,000.

That said, the broader trend remains intact and gold futures is expected to eventually rally to ₹1,34,000. A rise above this can lift the contract to ₹1,35,000.

If gold futures falls from the current level, it can find support at ₹1,27,000 and ₹1,23,300. Note that the trend will remain positive until ₹1,20,000 holds.

**Trade strategy:** Retain the buy on gold futures (February) initiated at ₹1,29,500. Add long if the price dips to ₹1,26,000. Stop-loss can be ₹1,23,300. When the

contract rises to ₹1,32,000, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,30,500. Book profits at ₹1,34,000.

**MCX-SILVER (₹1,83,408)**  
Silver futures (March) posted a gain of 4.8 per cent. But this was largely due to the gap-up opening and rally on Monday. Otherwise, throughout last week, it was trading sideways between ₹1,77,000 and ₹1,84,500.

But the trend remains positive and we expect silver futures to rally to ₹1,92,500 soon. In case silver futures declines, it can find support at ₹1,75,000. Subsequent support is at ₹1,65,000.

**Trade strategy:** Buy silver futures at ₹1,80,000 and ₹1,70,000. Keep a stop-loss at ₹1,65,000. When the contract rises to ₹1,86,000, tighten the stop-loss to ₹1,78,000. Exit at ₹1,92,500.

## Hurdle ahead

**CRUDE CHECK.** Buy crude futures on a breakout

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices increased last week. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$63.80/barrel) was up 2.2 per cent whereas crude oil futures in the domestic market (₹5,427/barrel) gained 1.9 per cent.



**BRENT FUTURES (\$63.80)**  
Brent crude oil futures rose last week. While it moved above the 21-day moving average, it is now hovering around the resistance at \$64, where a trendline and 50-day moving average coincides.

In case the contract decisively breaks out of \$64, it can rise to \$66 soon. A breach of this can trigger a rally to \$70.

On the other hand, if Brent crude oil futures slips from the current level, it can find support at \$61.50. Subsequent support is the price band of \$60-60.50.

**MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹5,427)**  
Crude oil futures (December) broke out of a trendline resistance at ₹5,350 last week. It also moved above both 21- and 50-day moving averages. While these are

positive indications, there is a notable resistance at ₹5,500.

For crude oil futures to establish a fresh leg of rally, it ought to clearly break out of the barrier at ₹5,500. Once this occurs, the contract can appreciate to ₹5,750, a resistance.

But in case crude oil futures drops from the current level, it can find support at ₹5,300. The weekly outlook will remain positive as long as this level holds.

Support levels below ₹5,300 are at ₹5,150 and ₹5,000.

**Trade strategy:** Avoid initiating fresh positions at the current level. Go long on crude oil futures (December) only if it surpasses the barrier at ₹5,500. Place initial stop-loss at ₹5,360. When the contract rises to ₹5,650, revise the stop-loss to ₹5,550. Book profits at ₹5,750.

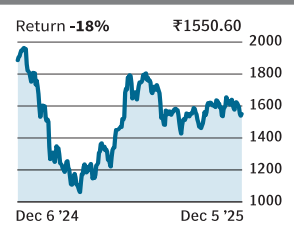
## F & O QUERY



**AKHIL NALLAMUTHU**  
bl. research bureau

**I have bought CDSL December futures for ₹1,634.50. Shall I exit or hold?**

**Palani Shanmugam**



**CDSL (₹1,550.60):** The stock has been in a decline since early this week. That said, over the last few months, the trend has largely been flat. The trading range since August has been ₹1,450-1,660. Within this, the stock has been oscillating between

₹1,510 and ₹1,660 over the past two months.

As it stands, the outlook is uncertain. But since it is now nearing the support at ₹1,510, a rebound cannot be ruled out. If such a bounce happens, the scrip can rally to ₹1,660. In such a case, CDSL December futures can rise to ₹1,675. The support for the contract is at ₹1,530.

Given the above factors, you can hold the long position on CDSL December futures but with a stop-loss at ₹1,520. Exit the trade at ₹1,675.

**I have purchased one lot of Adani Energy Solutions December futures for ₹1,000. What levels should I aim to book profit/loss?**

**Rajeev Gupta, Lucknow**



**Adani Energy Solutions (₹978.50):** The stock has been in an uptrend since early September. It found support at ₹750 which helped in establishing a rally. But after hitting a one-year high of ₹1,050 three weeks ago, the

uptrend lost momentum and the price has been moderating since then.

However, the recent drop in price is likely to be only a corrective one and the stock is likely to resume the rally. Supporting this, the price remains above a key support at ₹950. Given the prevailing chart set-up, we expect the stock to resume the uptrend and touch ₹1,100 in the near term.

Hence, Adani Energy Solutions December futures, too, is likely to rise to ₹1,100. So, you can retain this trade.

But we recommend keeping a stop-loss at ₹950. When the contract moves up to ₹1,050, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,015. Tighten the stop-loss further to ₹1,050 when the price hits ₹1,080. Book profits at ₹1,100.

● Send your queries to [derivatives@thehindu.co.in](mailto:derivatives@thehindu.co.in).

## Change in Open Interest (OI)

Scrip	FII		Retail	
	As on Dec 5	Weekly change %	As on Dec 5	Weekly change %
Future Index Long	22996	-12	162541	10
Future Index Short	144298	27	76461	-16
Net Futures	-121302	38	86080	55
Index Call options Long	537053	10	2277858	-6
Index Call options Short	522684	6	2398995	-3
Net Call options	14369	-438	-121137	71
Index Put options Long	756389	10	2561829	1
Index Put options Short	498217	15	2939540	3
Net Put Options	258172	3	-377711	14

Fills have increased net short on index futures. Also, they hold considerable amount of net long on index put options. These show bearish inclination.

## Stocks that witnessed major change in OI

Company	Price (₹)	Weekly price change %	OI (in lakh)	Weekly OI change %
<b>RISE (as on Dec 5)</b>				
CAMS	775.70	0.2	179.6	472.3
POWERINDIA	19,305.00	-12.5	10.0	221.7
KAYNES	4,353.50	-20.7	138.6	139.5
INDIGO	5,370.50	-9.0	190.0	92.2
ANGELONE	2,641.70	-2.3	101.5	69.6
<b>FALL (as on Dec 5)</b>				
BOSCHLTD	36,920.00	2.2	2.9	-6.7
SAMMAANCAP	148.32	-3.5	1776.8	-5.8
PAYTM	1,344.60	1.8	322.2	-4.4
EXIDEIND	380.15	1.4	462.7	-4.3
CYIENT	1,169.20	4.1	58.3	-3.3

## Stocks in F&O ban (for trade on Dec 8)

BANDHANBNK	KAYNES	SAMMAANCAP
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## Change in OI and market positioning

Symbol	Expiry date (2025)	Price (₹)	OI	Indication
		(Weekly change %)		
COMMODITIES (as on Dec 5)				
ALUMINIUM	31-Dec	279.0 (2.2)	3,208 (-3)	Short covering
COPPER	31-Dec	1,093.4 (5.5)	7,863 (-10)	Short covering
CRUDEOIL	18-Dec	5,427.0 (1.9)	13,607 (-2)	Short covering
CRUDEOILM	18-Dec	5,426.0 (1.9)	12,347 (-30)	Short covering
GOLD	5-Feb	130,462.0 (0.7)	13,050 (8)	Long build-up
GOLDGUINEA	31-Dec	104,377.0 (1.1)	8,600 (-24)	Short covering
GOLDM	5-Jan	129,206.0 (0.7)	45,328 (35)	Long build-up
GOLDPETAL	31-Dec	13,069.0 (1.0)	131,046 (-22)	Short covering
LEAD	31-Dec	182.9 (0.6)	397 (2)	Long build-up
MENTHAOIL	31-Dec	904.0 (-0.7)	519 (2)	Long build-up
NATURALGAS	26-Dec	488.0 (14.6)	33,494 (40)	Long build-up
SILVER	5-Mar	183,408.0 (4.8)	13,957 (-13)	Short covering
SILVERM	27-Feb	183,955.0 (4.9)	30,604 (-4)	Short covering
SILVERMIC	27-Feb	183,934.0 (4.9)	69,201 (-9)	Short covering
ZINC	31-Dec	310.6 (2.5)	3,520 (24)	Long build-up
CURRENCIES (as on Dec 5)				
USDINR	29-Dec	90.12 (0.6)	1,428,890 (-4)	Short covering
EURINR	29-Dec	105.04 (1.2)	28,261 (25)	Long build-up
GBPINR	29-Dec	120.14 (1.5)	22,983 (32)	Long build-up
JPYINR	29-Dec	58.08 (1.2)	164 (102)	Long build-up

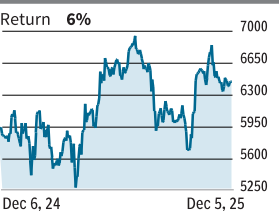
## F&O Strategy

## Divi's Lab bull call spread

**KS Badri Narayanan**

The stock of Divi's Laboratories (₹6,473.50) has been moving in a long range between ₹5,250 and ₹7,000 in the last one year. Immediate support levels are at ₹6,359 and ₹6,200. Nearest resistances are at ₹6,520 and ₹6,604. Overall, we expect the stock to move in a narrow band with a positive bias in the short term.

**F&O pointers:** Divi's Lab



December futures closed at ₹6,495.50 against the spot price of ₹6,473.50. Though the healthy premium indicates existence of long positions, the counter has witnessed unwinding of open interests in the last few days, giving mixed signals.

**Strategy:** Consider a bull call spread on Divi's Lab which can be initiated by selling 6,550-call and simultaneously buying 6500-call of December expiry. This strategy is best suited when one expects a moderate increase in the underlying.

As these options closed with a premium of ₹101.10 and at ₹125.30 respectively, the net cost of this strategy would be ₹24.2 or ₹2,420 (market lot: 100 shares) for traders. The maximum loss of ₹2,420 will happen if Divi's Lab fails to sustain above ₹6,500 level.

A profit of ₹2,580 is possible if the stock rises sharply above ₹6,550 before expiry. Hold the position till expiry week.

**Follow-up:** Stop-loss would have triggered in Hindustan Aeronautics.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis and F&O positions. There is a risk of loss in trading.

## Short Take

## Contango & backwardation

**bl. research bureau**

These are two common terms that investors and traders in commodities markets often hear. Understanding them helps gauge the price, demand and supply in the market for a particular commodity.

A trader or investor refers to a market condition for a commodity as contango when the futures price (for that commodity) is trading at a premium to spot price.

This difference can arise as futures contract accounts for the spot price plus the cost of carry, storage and insurance.



So often, the later-date futures contract could be more than just the underlying spot price, depending on the time until delivery. For example, consider MCX Copper (as on Dec 4). The price of Dec, Jan and Feb futures were at ₹1,073.60; ₹1,081.85 and ₹1,089.90 respectively.

Contango is a situation that arises when a commodity's price is expected to rise in the future. Over time, as the futures contract nears delivery, spot and future prices of commodities get adjusted by converging.

Backwardation is the market condition where the price of futures contract of a commodity is trading lower than the spot price. Traders and investors would take a position if they expect the price of a commodity to fall in the future.

So, when a contract nears delivery, the prices of the futures contract and the spot price will converge towards expiry.



Gurumurthy K  
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50, Sensex and the Nifty Bank index witnessed a short-lived dip as expected. The supports for the benchmark indices limited the downside and the bounce is as anticipated. Sensex and the Nifty Bank index recovered all the loss and closed marginally higher. Nifty, on the other hand, closed slightly in the red by 0.06 per cent.

Among the sectors, the BSE IT index, up 2.92 per cent rose the most last week.

The overall uptrend is intact. We retain our bullish view of the benchmark indices making new highs going forward.

NIFTY 50 (26,186.45)

**Short-term view:** The outlook remains bullish. Nifty can rise and retest the 26,300-26,350 resistance zone. We expect the index to make a bullish breakout above 26,350. Such a break can take the Nifty up to 26,850-26,900 in the short term.

Supports are at 26,000 and 25,850. Even if the index breaks below 25,850, the downside can be limited to 25,700. A fall below 25,700 is needed to turn the outlook negative. But that is unlikely.

**Medium-term view:** The overall uptrend is intact. We retain our bullish view of seeing a rise to 27,500-28,000 in the medium term. Nifty has potential to target 31,000-32,000 on the upside in the long term.

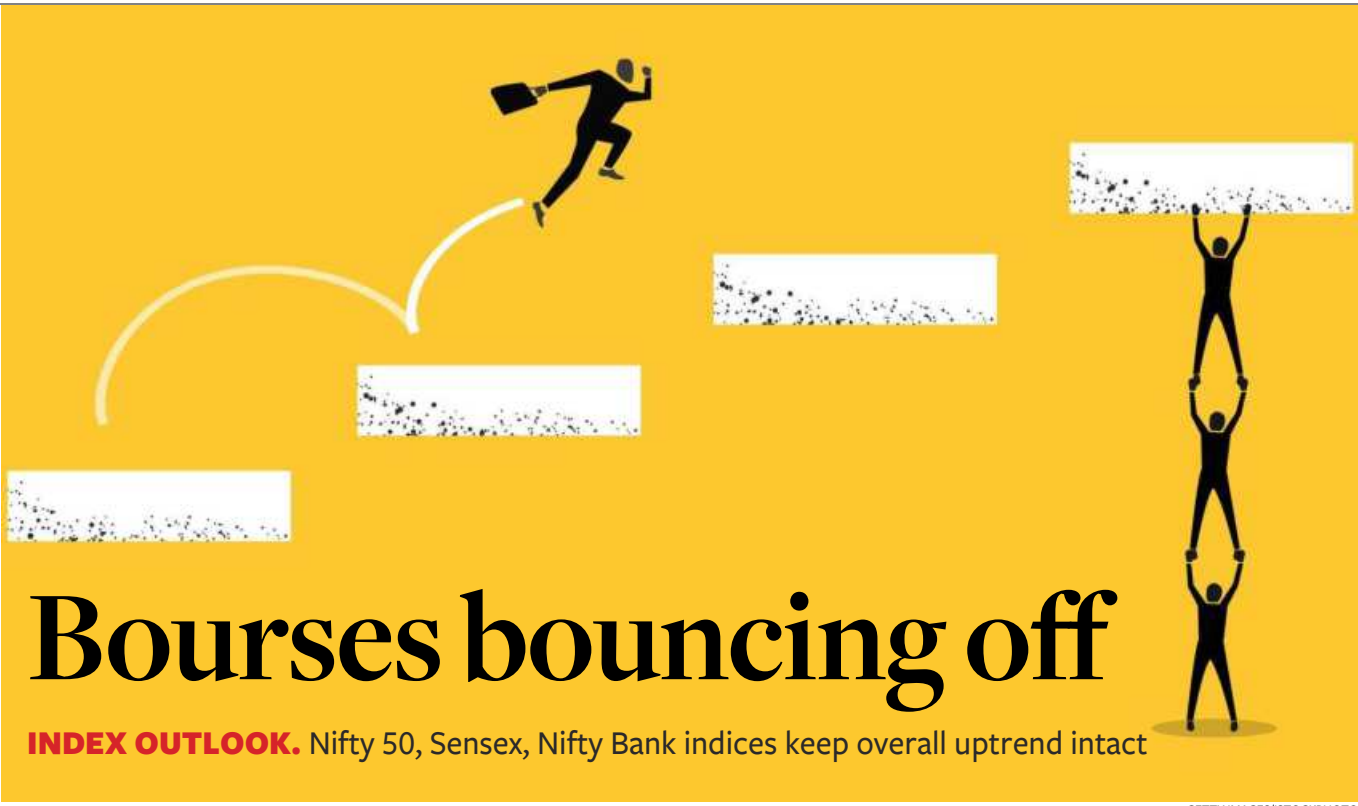
Immediate support is at 25,000. Below that, 24,000-23,500 is the next strong support zone. The outlook will turn bearish only if the index declines below 23,500. That looks less likely. Also, we can expect the Nifty to sustain above 25,000 itself now.

NIFTY BANK (59,777.20)

**Short-term view:** The dip to 59,000 happened last week as expected. Nifty Bank index has bounced back well after making a low of 58,925.70. That keeps the broader bullish view intact.

Immediate support is at 59,500. The next support is at 59,000. Nifty Bank index can test the 60,300-60,500 resistance zone this week. An eventual break above 60,500 can then take the index further up to 61,000 in the short term.

**Medium-term view:** The



# Bourses bouncing off

INDEX OUTLOOK. Nifty 50, Sensex, Nifty Bank indices keep overall uptrend intact

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

## Nifty 50: Support holds well



### NEAR-TERM RESISTANCE

- Nifty 50: 26,300-26,350
- Sensex: 86,300-86,350
- Nifty Bank: 60,300-60,500

rection from around 89,000 to 86,000 cannot be ruled out. Eventually, Sensex can target 95,000 on the upside over the long term.

The region between 83,000 and 82,000 will be a strong support. A fall below 82,000 is needed to turn the outlook bearish and drag the Sensex down to 79,000.

### NIFTY MIDCAP 150 (22,207.90)

Nifty Midcap 150 index is stuck between 22,000 and 22,500 over the last four weeks. That leaves the short-term outlook unclear. For now, the range is intact. A breakout on either side of 22,000-22,500 will determine the next move.

A break above 22,500 will be bullish to see 22,900 on the upside. It will also confirm the bullish inverted head and shoulder pattern on the chart. That in turn will keep the upside open to see 24,500-25,000 in the medium term and 27,000-28,000 in the long term.

On the other hand, if the index breaks the range below 22,000, it can fall to 21,700-21,600. The outlook will turn bearish for a fall to 21,000 only on a break below 21,600. That will also negate the bullish inverted head and shoulder pattern.

### NIFTY SMALLCAP 250 (16,494.90)

The Nifty Smallcap 250 index has declined below the crucial support level of 16,600. The 200-Day Moving Average (DMA) support is at 16,470. A break below it can take the index down to 16,300. Such a fall will turn the entire picture bearish to see 15,500-15,400.

To avoid the danger of this fall, the index has to sustain above 16,470 and rise past 16,750 immediately this week. If that happens, then there is a good chance of seeing a rise to 17,000-17,300 and some relief.

So, the price action this week is going to be very crucial for this index.



Watch bl. Guru share the Nifty and Bank Nifty technical outlook for this week

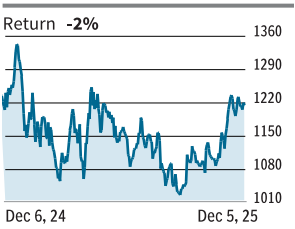


## MOVERS & SHAKERS

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

### Aurobindo Pharma (₹1,217.45)

Fresh breakout expected

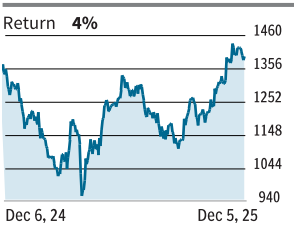


Since January, the stock of Aurobindo Pharma has been charting a sideways trend. It has been oscillating between ₹1,020 and ₹1,250. Over the past few weeks, the stock has been hovering near the resistance at ₹1,250. The price action indicates a

bullish undertone and so, the stock is likely to break out of ₹1,250. Such a breach can open the door for a rally to ₹1,800. So, we suggest buying the stock at ₹1,215 and accumulate at ₹1,150. Stop-loss can be ₹980. When the stock touches ₹1,500, move the stop-loss up to ₹1,400. On a rally to ₹1,650, alter the stop-loss to ₹1,580. Exit at ₹1,800.

### Bharat Forge (₹1,405.10)

Forms higher high

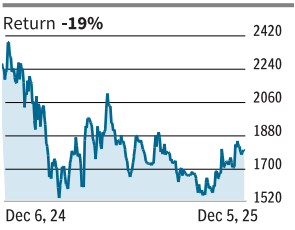


The stock has been in an uptrend since April. The price is now above 20- and 50-day moving averages. The daily chart shows that the stock has formed higher high and higher low, which are bullish indications. So, broadly, the outlook is positive. While there might

be some moderation in price, possibly to ₹1,350, the stock can eventually resume the rally and appreciate to ₹1,800. Go long on the stock now at ₹1,405 and buy more shares at ₹1,350. Stop-loss can be ₹1,175. Trail the stop-loss to ₹1,500 when the price rises to ₹1,625. On a rally to ₹1,725, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,650. Exit at ₹1,800.

### Gravita India (₹1,796.55)

Gaining traction



The stock has been moving up gradually over the last few weeks. The recovery has been on the back of a key support at ₹1,550. While there is a resistance ahead at ₹1,900, the price action hints that the stock is gaining traction. We expect it to surpass ₹1,900

soon and set off for a rally to ₹2,600 over the medium-term. Therefore, we suggest buying the stock of Gravita India now at ₹1,796 and accumulate if the price dips to ₹1,700. Place stop-loss at ₹1,525. When the stock rises to ₹2,200, revise the stop-loss to ₹2,080. Alter the stop-loss to ₹2,300 when the price touches ₹2,400. Exit at ₹2,600.

# Indices sustain higher

## US MARKET OUTLOOK.

Follow-through rise last week keeps the upside open for the bourses to rise more



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Gurumurthy K  
bl. research bureau

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500 and the NASDAQ Composite index managed to sustain higher last week. This keeps the bias positive after the indices witnessed a sharp rise in the previous week. The Dow and S&P 500 were up 0.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively. The NASDAQ Composite rose 0.9 per cent. Will the US benchmark indices rise more from here? Here is our analysis:

### DOW JONES (47,954.99)

The support at 47,300 has held very well. That keeps the bias positive. Another support is at 47,000. A rise to 48,500 looks likely from here. If the Dow manages to breach 48,500, then the upside will open up to see 50,000 in the medium term.

As mentioned last week, the region around 50,000 is a strong resistance which can halt the rally. We can expect the Dow to reverse lower thereafter and fall to 48,500. To negate the rise to 50,000, the index has to fall breaking above 48,500 and fall below 47,000 in the next two-three weeks. That in turn can drag the index down to 45,000.

### S&P 500 (6,870.40)

The index has sustained above 6,800 and has risen well last week. The region between 6,800 and 6,750 will continue to act as a good support and limit the downside.

The previous high of 6,920 can be tested now. A break above it can boost the bullish momentum. Such a break can take the S&P 500 index higher to 7,100 and even 7,200 in the coming weeks. The 7,100-7,200 region is a strong resistance. A rise beyond 7,200 will be difficult. The S&P 500 index can turn down from this resistance zone and fall towards 6,900-6,800 in the coming months.

### NASDAQ COMPOSITE (23,578.13)

The NASDAQ Composite index has managed to rise and close just above the key resistance level of 23,500. Immediate support is at 23,400. The index has to sustain above this support to keep the outlook positive. If it does, then a rise to 24,000 looks possible in the short term. It will also keep the doors open to see 24,800-25,000 on the upside in the medium term.

This bullish view will go wrong if the index fails to get a strong follow-through rise from here and declines below 23,400. In that case, a fall to 23,000-22,900 is possible.

### DOLLAR OUTLOOK

The dollar index (98.99) fell last week to test the support at 98.80 in line with our expectation. Although it is holding above the support for now, the price action on the chart indicates weakness. Another support is at 98.60 which can be tested this week. The index looks vulnerable to break this sup-

### ● MORE FALL

Dollar index looks vulnerable to break the support at 98.60 and fall to 97.20-97

port. Such a break can increase the downside pressure and drag the dollar index down to 97.20-97 in the coming weeks. However, before this fall happens, a short-lived corrective bounce from around 98.60 to 99.50 is a possibility. For now, the chance of a rise to 101 that we have been mentioning in this column stands negated.

### TREASURY YIELD

The US 10Yr Treasury Yield (4.14 per cent) has risen sharply last week. The 4.15-4.2 per cent resistance zone can be tested this week. It is critical to see if the yield manages to break above 4.2 per cent or not. A break above 4.2 per cent will strengthen the pace of the rise and take the 10Yr Yield up to 4.3-4.35 per cent. On the other hand, if the yield reverses lower from this 4.15-4.2 per cent resistance zone, it can fall back to 4 per cent and even lower again.

The price action last week shows a divergence between the treasury yield and the dollar index. If this divergence sustains, then the rise to 4.35 per cent on the 10Yr Treasury Yield will still be possible even if the dollar index falls to 97.

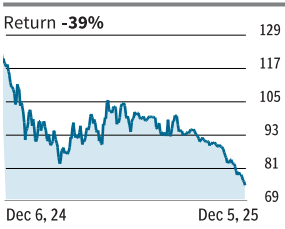
## TECH QUERY



GURUMURTHY K  
bl.research bureau

I have shares of SJVN. My average purchase price is ₹124. What is the outlook?

Raja Balasubramanian

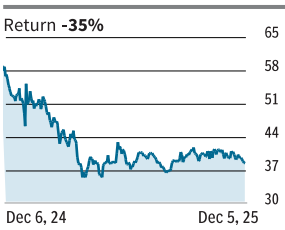


**SJVN (₹74):** The trend is down and strong since late-July last year. The stock has room to see ₹69 or even ₹65 on the downside. In a worst-case scenario, the fall can extend to ₹60 as well. A bounce from any of the three levels

mentioned can trigger a relief rally towards ₹80. However, the stock has to rise past ₹80 in order to indicate a bullish trend reversal. Only then the doors will open for a rise to ₹100 and higher levels. But there is no strong sign of that rally happening now. Even if that happens, it may take a long time. As there is more downside left and considering the time factor, it is better to exit stock now and accept the loss.

I have Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) shares bought at ₹70. What is the outlook?

Jeniffer, Mumbai

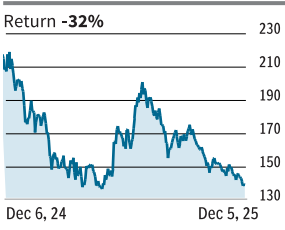


**IOB (₹38):** The stock has been in a downtrend since June last year. Within that, the share price has been stuck in a sideways range between ₹33 and ₹43 since April this year. It is not very clear whether this sideways move is a

consolidation before the next leg of fall or a base formation. There are chances to see ₹30 on the downside. Ideally, the stock has to rise past ₹50 in order to turn the outlook bullish. Only then the bias will turn bullish for a rally to ₹80 and higher. The short-term charts are looking weak indicating high chances for a fall to ₹35-₹33 from here. So, it looks like the rise above ₹50 is not going to happen in the near future. Exit the stock and accept the loss.

What is the outlook for Kronox Lab Sciences? Can I invest in this stock now?

Swetha, Chennai

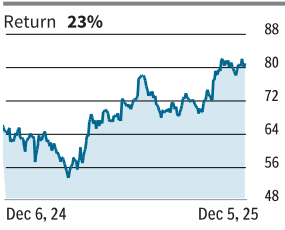


**Kronox Lab Sciences (₹138):** The trend is down now. Supports are at ₹129 and ₹123 which can be tested in the coming weeks. The price action thereafter will need a close watch. A bounce from either of these supports and a

subsequent rise above ₹139 will turn the outlook bullish. In that case, there is a good chance to see a rise to ₹180 in the second half next year. You can keep an eye on this stock. Once the bounce and rise above ₹139 happens, you can buy the stock. Keep the stop-loss at ₹128. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹143 when the price goes up to ₹158. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹157 and ₹168 when the price touches ₹164 and ₹172 respectively. Exit the stock at ₹178.

I bought IDFC First Bank shares at ₹87 two years ago. Can I buy more now? What is the outlook?

Prakash, Bengaluru



**IDFC First Bank (₹81):** The outlook is bullish. So, you can continue to hold the stock. Follow the strategy given below. Immediate support is at ₹78. Below that, cluster of supports are there in the ₹75-70 region. A fall

below ₹70 is needed to turn the outlook bearish. That looks less likely, and it will need some strong negative trigger. There is potential for a rise to ₹105 in the coming months. You can buy more at ₹79 and ₹76. Keep the stop-loss at ₹68. Move the stop-loss higher to ₹84 when the price goes up to ₹91. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹88 and ₹96 when the price touches ₹93 and ₹99 respectively. Exit the stock at ₹105.

● Send your queries to [techtrail@thehindu.co.in](mailto:techtrail@thehindu.co.in)

## BANDU'S BLOCKBUSTERS.

On April 1, four years back, piqued by the incessant jokes in the village at his expense, Bandu Barve decided he'd had enough. It was time for him to turn 'smart'. His dead granny's voice rang in his ears — "Read the papers, Bandya, they tell you all." So, off went Bandu to the stash of newspapers on his father's desk. As luck would have it, the first paper Bandu got his hands on was The Hindu businessline. The stock recos, in particular, had him in thrall. Soon Bandu metamorphosed into an ace investor and trader.

These days, Bandu picks five stocks each Sunday, which he believes will be blockbusters over the next week

- 1 Birlasoft
- 2 Hindustan Copper
- 3 Vodafone Idea
- 4 NALCO
- 5 Lemon Tree Hotels

Last week's prize winner  
**Aslam Rabbani**

Last week's winning stock  
**Laurus Labs**

Closing price (Nov 28)  
**₹1,031.35**

Closing price (Dec 5)  
**₹1,025.95**

Return:  
**-0.52 per cent**

Here's your chance to match step with Bandu. Guess the stock that will give the best return by next Friday (BSE prices). By Wednesday noon, mail us your pick and its expected price rise to [bandublockbuster@gmail.com](mailto:bandublockbuster@gmail.com) with your name, mobile number and address. One lucky winner will get a prize of ₹2,000.

Scan to know the winner selection process



## Valuation Radar: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

The benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty 50, declined about 0.1 per cent each last week. BSE IT and BSE Teck were the top gainers, rising 2.9 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively. BSE Capital Goods and BSE Power were the worst performers, falling 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively.

The sector indices are disseminated by S&P BSE.

	Nifty 50	Sensex	Auto	Bankex	Capital Goods	Consumer Durables	FMCG	Healthcare	IT	Metal	Oil & Gas	Power	PSU	Reality	Teck
P/E	22.8	23.4	32.4	16.8	53.4	66.2	38.7	39.1	28.1	18.9	10.3	27.0	11.6	43.5	8.5
P/BV	3.6	4.5	6.9	2.9	11.3	15.7	8.5	6.5	7.8	1.9	1.7	3.8	2.2	5.7	2.3

	Nifty 50	Sensex	Auto	Bankex	Capital Goods	Consumer Durables	FMCG	Healthcare	IT	Metal	Oil & Gas	Power	PSU	Reality	Teck
Dividend Yield	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.5	1.8	0.5	2.3	1.7	2.9	1.4	2.5	0.3	1.9
Weekly Return (%)	-0.1 ▼	0.0 ▼	0.6 ▲	0.1 ▲	-2.3 ▼	-1.7 ▼	-0.9 ▼	-1.0 ▼	2.9 ▲	0.4 ▲	-0.9 ▼	-1.7 ▼	-1.1 ▼	-1.1 ▼	2.5 ▲

	Nifty 50	Sensex	Auto	Bankex	Capital Goods	Consumer Durables	FMCG	Healthcare	IT	Metal	Oil & Gas	Power	PSU	Reality	Teck
Monthly Return (%)	2.3 ▲	2.7 ▲	4.4 ▲	3.0 ▲	-3.9 ▼	0.6 ▲	-1.4 ▼	-0.9 ▼	8.0 ▲	-1.5 ▼	-2.9 ▼	-5.2 ▼	-2.1 ▼	-7.1 ▼	6.4 ▲
Annual Return (%)	6.0 ▲	4.8 ▲	15.7 ▲	10.0 ▲	-6.8 ▼	-6.3 ▼	-7.2 ▼	-0.3 ▼	-16.1 ▼	9.3 ▲	2.5 ▲	-14.6 ▼	-1.2 ▼	-17.3 ▼	-7.0 ▼

Aarti Hsg. Fin.	480.8	22.8	21.1	3.0	202509	17.4	17.1	18.8	18.5	-0.1	11.4	2.8	547.8	340	
Aarti Industries [5]	363.4	7.4	49.0	23	202509	20.9	68.0	8.3	-39.3	-4.9	6.2	0.7	494.0	347	
AAVAS Financials	150.10	62.0	24.2	3.2	202403	21.4	12.3	25.4	14.2	-3.0	9.9	3.2	2238.4	1451	
ABCL [1]	28689.4	71.0	40.7	15.3	202509	7.6	15.8	10.7	17.5	-4.0	45.0	0.3	35921.6	25702	
ABCL [1]	1788.9	172.0	10.5	1.7	202509	28.0	401.4	19.4	74.7	-2.8	17.9	0.0	2293.2	1775	
Action Conestog [2]	962.3	35.1	27.4	6.4	202509	-1.6	-5.0	5.0	14.3	-3.1	40.2	0.0	1599.6	91.1	
Adani Energy Sol.	979.3	18.8	52.2	5.0	202509	6.7	-20.9	23.0	18.4	-1.5	10.1	2.2	1050.0	639.4	
Adani Enterp. [1]	2265.1	17.0	133.4	3.7	202509	-6.0	-72.6	-9.1	-61.8	-0.7	0.9	1.8	2612.1	962.0	
Adani Green [1]	1016.4	13.6	74.5	8.6	202509	3.7	-4.0	17.4	8.4	-1.3	9.4	6.4	1271.0	788	
Adani Ports [2]	1509.1	55.6	27.2	4.9	202509	29.7	25.1	24.8	16.6	-0.5	14.0	0.9	1548.6	1011	
Adani Power [2]	143.8	6.2	23.0	4.7	202509	0.9	-11.4	1.5	-5.4	-2.5	21.2	0.0	172.8	8.1	
Adani Total Gas [1]	592.9	5.7	104.2	14.5	202509	19.1	11.9	16.6	-10.9	-2.2	17.4	0.4	79.4	533	
Aditya Aamc [1]	726.3	33.6	21.6	5.9	202509	8.7	-4.0	17.4	8.4	-1.3	35.5	0.0	911.6	708	
Aditya Birl. Fats.	77.3	-6.1	1.5	202509	12.6	-206.2	-15.7	2.1	-1.0	0.0	1.3	114.4	72		
Aditya Birla Cap.	358.9	12.5	28.8	2.9	202509	2.6	-14.1	8.1	-11.7	0.3	9.5	4.4	368.0	148.8	
Aegis Logistics [1]	740.9	24.0	36.3	4.4	202509	31.1	42.6	5.1	22.8	-3.0	14.5	0.9	1037.7	610.5	
Akzo Industries [1]	946.2	15.3	55.3	4.8	202509	38.4	50.3	52.1	119.1	-3.5	8.7	0.6	70.3	723.2	
Akzo Industries [1]	398.9	13.7	29.2	2.7	202509	1.0	-22.4	-0.6	4.3	-1.3	14.4	0.6	570.0	382	
Affle 3 [2]	1631.8	29.8	54.7	7.1	202509	1.1	20.1	19.5	22.3	-1.7	16.6	0.1	2186.8	1221	
AI Engineering [2]	3752.8	120.8	31.1	4.8	202509	-0.1	8.1	-7.3	0.6	-2.7	19.1	0.1	3919.5	300.6	
Ajanta Pharma [2]	1638.8	77.9	33.9	7.6	202509	14.1	20.2	10.7	13.2	-3.2	12.0	0.0	3115.0	2022	
Ajo Nobel [1]	2533.0	86.0	29.1	4.7	202509	-15.0	-14.7	-3.0	-10.0	5.9	39.1	0.1	3942.0	3046	
Alembic Pharma [2]	899.9	32.3	27.9	3.3	202509	15.9	28.8	11.4	-0.4	-0.8	13.1	0.2	1122.4	725.6	
Alkem Lab [2]	5689.3	196.6	28.9	5.1	202509	17.1	11.1	9.3	8.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	5867.5	4489.9	
Alkyl Amines [2]	1337.8	35.6	46.0	5.8	202509	-6.1	-9.5	3.9	8.3	-2.4	18.2	0.0	2448.8	1598	
Alkyl Industries [1]	16.2	-1.6	-0.4	202509	6.3	-164.0	-20.0	11.9	-4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.6	1.3	
Amara Raja Ener.	945.2	40.1	23.5	2.2	202509	6.7	-21.0	5.9	-25.2	-0.7	15.6	0.0	1360.0	805.1	
Amber Enterp. [1]	6556.6	63.4	103.4	6.3	202509	-2.2	-271.1	34.2	20.0	-8.9	13.5	0.8	8625.0	5238.5	
Ambuja Cements [2]	533.9	23.3	22.9	2.4	202509	21.5	240.5	15.3	98.6	-29	12.7	0.0	625.0	45.0	
Anand Rajhi Wea.	156.5	12.8	28.2	2.8	202509	16.1	47.8	20.7	29.9	-3.1	25.5	4.7	147.7	123.3	
Anant Raj [2]	52.5	13.7	38.4	3.4	202509	23.0	30.8	26.3	42.2	-8.7	10.9	0.1	94.7	366.2	
Angel One [1]	2642.5	86.1	30.7	4.1	202509	-20.7	-50.0	-12.7	-40.6	-2.2	25.8	0.7	3502.6	1942	
Apur Inds. [1]	8897.7	233.9	38.0	7.4	202509	23.2	29.8	21.4	10.5	-2.8	32.6	0.1	11797.4	4270	
Apur Apollo Tubes [2]	1770.0	32.8	46.9	10.7	202509	8.9	460.4	14.5	79.9	3.0	22.0	0.2	1935.0	1273	
Apollo Hospitals [5]	1189.3	116.3	11.4	202509	12.8	26.0	13.7	41.3	-2.0	17.5	0.6	8099.0	602		
Apollo Tyres [1]	520.8	20.7	25.2	2.1	202509	6.1	25.6	4.4	-13.4	1.4	10.9	0.3	575.2	368	
Aptus Value Hou.	282.6	16.8	16.8	3.0	202509	29.1	24.5	29.6	24.9	-1.2	15.1	1.5	364.9	267.8	
Arcelor India Glas [1]	1026.8	11.3	79.1	10.4	202509	1.1	0.9	107.0	51.1	0.9	107.0	51.1	0.9	107.0	51.1
Ashok Leyland [1]	160.9	5.7	28.2	7.5	202509	12.7	25.2	9.6	30.0	1.7	14.9	4.3	164.5	95.2	
Asian Paints [1]	2967.2	41.9	70.8	14.5	202509	6.4	20.4	-1.2	-14.4	-3.3	24.4	0.1	2985.5	2160	
Aster DM Health.	635.1	7.2	88.8	7.9	202509	10.2	13.9	7.7	64.0	-4.6	11.6	0.5	73.0	382	
Asterand [1]	1458.6	1.9	76.9	10.4	202509	15.1	22.5	4.7	-3.1	1.3	20.8	0.0	170.0	1232	
Astrazeneca Phar [2]	921.15	92.5	99.6	28.8	202509	37.0	51.3	35.1	79.6	-1.8	32.9	0.0	10653.1	6301	
Atul [1]	586.21	184.2	31.8	2.9	202509	11.4	31.0	16.5	43.4	0.2	12.8	0.0	779.3	482	
AU Small Finance	90.01	29.1	33.0	4.0	202509	15.4	-1.8	30.4	15.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	967.0	47.9	
Aurobindo Pharma [1]	112.15	0.58	20.7	2.0	202509	7.7	3.8	8.2	-6.2	-0.5	14.2	0.2	136.0	93.4	
Aurion Invest [1]	2635.7	236.2	11.2	2.8	202509	-44.6	-9.0	-14.3	-1.6	-2.8	29.7	0.1	3308.0	1333	
Avenue Super [1]	3953.0	42.0	94.1	11.2	202509	15.5	3.9	16.5	1.7	-1.1	18.0	0.0	4916.3	3337	
AWL Agri Busine.	252.7	8.3	30.4	3.3	202509	21.7	-21.3	27.6	10.2	-2.5	19.8	0.3	370.1	231.6	
Axis Bank [2]	1282.9	83.7	15.3	2.0	202509	2.2	-25.3	6.1	-6.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	1304.0	934	

BHEL [2]	277.8	1.6	173.2	4.0	202509	14.1	253.2	13.3	25.6	-4.4	3.2	0.4	295.2	176.0
B PCL [1]	360.3	49.6	7.3	1.7	202509	21	168.3	-1.3	60.8	0.3	15.7	0.7	381.6	234.2
Bajaj Auto [1]	9107.9	298.3	30.5	7.4	202509	1.0	53.2	11.1	13.0	0.4	28.1	0.2	9471.0	708.8
Bajaj Finance [1]	1048.5	29.4	35.6	6.3	202509	18.7	21.9	22.7	19.0	1.0	11.4	3.8	1120.7	668.8
Bajaj Finserv [1]	2096.1	60.6	34.6	4.4	202509	11.1	7.5	11.8	13.9	0.1	12.4	4.9	2194.5	1553.3
Bajaj Holdings [1]	11180.6	636.1	17.6	1.8	202509	42.2	8.5	-42.7	-4.4	-2.7	11.5	0.0	14873.2	1058.0
Bajaj Housing [1]	95.5	2.8	33.7	3.8	202509	14.1	17.8	20.7	27.9	-9.1	9.5	4.7	147.7	123.3
Balrampur Inds. [2]	634.5	17.4	33.4	4.4	202509	-1.1	-21.3	-3.7	-15.3	-3.3	17.9	0.3	290.0	2157.2
Balrampur Chini [1]	444.5	20.1	22.2	2.3	202509	28.7	-19.8	9.7	-6.2	-0.7	11.1	0.6	62.70	41.8
Bandhan Bank [1]	140.2	7.6	18.4	0.9	202509	-2.7	-88.1	4.1	-56.0	-6.8	0.0	0.0	125.5	128.2
Bank of Baroda [2]	292.6	37.2	7.9	1.0	202509	4.4	-4.1	6.0	-3.8	9.9	0.0	0.0	303.9	148.0
Bank of India [1]	143.2	22.0	6.5	0.9	202509	6.0	6.4	11.7	28.2	-2.7	0.0	0.0	151.4	90.0
Bank of Maha [1]	57.0	7.9	7.2	1.5	202509	18.5	25.2	20.9	24.3	-2.7	0.0	0.0	61.6	38.1
BASF India [1]	4093.9	85.2	47.4	6.6	202509	-4.8	-16.2	0.4	-42.4	-2.9	17.9	0.1	5944.3	4020.1
Bata India [1]	966.0	14.5	66.8	8.2	202509	4.3	-63.7	0.9	-23.3	-3.3	14.6	0.9	956.0	629.0
Bayer Crop Sci. [1]	4469.8	135.5	33.2	6.5	202509	-10.6	12.0	8.9	5.1	-3.2	23.8	0.0	6540.0	4224.0
BEML Ltd [1]	171.05	35.5	48.1	5.1	202509	-2.4	-5.9	-1.3	3.6	-4.1	0.1	2437.4	1173.2	
Berger Paints [1]	552.7	9.5	58.3	10.3	202509	19	23.5	3.9	-3.4	-2.3	24.8	0.1	601.6	466.0
Beta Dynamics [1]	1511.0	17.8	84.7	13.1	202509	114.2	76.2	83.5	18.2	-0.2	10.2	0.0	2096.0	90.8
Bharti Airtel [1]	406.7	7.8	52.2	13.8	202509	25.8	17.9	16.6	25.5	-1.2	36.9	0.0	436.0	240.0
Bharti Electronics [1]	392.5	1.5	10.5	1.4	202509	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Bharti Finance [1]	2107.7	55.5	38.0	10.2	202509	25.7	61.9	25.2	122.5	0.3	14.3	2.2	2174.7	1561.0
Bharti Hexacom [1]	1756.8	32.1	54.7	14.1	202509	10.5	66.4	18.8	70.8	-0.5	16.5	1.5	2051.0	1225.0
Bikaji Foods [1]	717.2	8.6	83.2	12.0	202509	15.8	19.7	14.2	-25.6	-0.1	18.4	0.2	863.1	520.0
Birla Group [1]	392.8	3.5	111.9	2.0	202509	28.7	-28.4	13.7	-66.3	-1.4	0.8	295.0	290.0	290.0
Birla Corp. [1]	1083.1	68.8	15.8	1.4	202509	13.0	259.2	6.9	72.9	-3.2	7.2	0.6	1537.2	90.1
Birlsoft Ltd [2]	432.7	16.6	26.1	3.3	202509	-2.9	-8.9	-2.0	-25.9	13.9	20.8	0.0	624.1	330.0
BSL Internet [1]	332.6	14.6	22.7	6.1	202509	48.8	26.8	14.6	44.1	0.8	39.0	0.0	522.0	271.0
BSL Networks [1]	153.3	4.3	10.5	1.4	202509	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Blue Star [2]	4793.1	26.4	66.4	11.5	202509	6.4	2.9	14.2	21.1	-1.7	25.8	0.1	2420.0	1521.0
Bombay Barmah [1]	184.8	158.0	11.7	2.1	202509	4.2	-5.5	7.2	-12.1	0.8	45.2	0.4	248.5	152.0
Bosch [1]	3689.8	770.6	47.9	7.8	202509	9.1	10.7	10.6	13.4	2.2	20.5	0.0	4189.4	2593.8
Brainerds Solus [1]	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	202509	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brigade Enterprise [1]	882.0	32.5	27.1	3.3	202509	29.0	36.6	11.2	64.9	-1.5	13.2	1.3	1330.0	812.0
Britannia Inds. [1]	5961.1	96.2	62.0	38.5	202509	4.1	23.1	1.2	7.7	2.0	51.9	0.4	6370.0	4506.0



**Dhuraivel Gunasekaran**  
bl. research bureau

The yield curve is an important barometer of economic health and market sentiment within the fixed-income space. While professionals use it to interpret expectations around future interest rates, inflation, growth and risk premiums, retail investors can also draw meaningful cues from its movements when deciding among fixed deposits, debt mutual funds or bonds.

A yield curve plots bond yields against their maturities, with short-term securities on one end and long-term instruments on the other. The vertical axis shows the yield, while the horizontal axis represents the time to maturity. Under normal market conditions, the curve slopes upward, reflecting the typical expectation that investors require higher returns for holding long-term debt.

In India, the yield curve is generally constructed using central government securities such as Treasury Bills maturing in 91, 182 and 364 days, and dated government securities (G-secs) ranging from 1 to 50 years. The curve is dynamic and shifts in response to monetary policy, inflation expectations, demand-supply conditions and global economic developments.

The yield curve also helps determine the spread between G-secs and other instruments such as State Government Securities (SGS), PSU and corporate bonds of similar maturities. This spread represents the additional credit or risk premium investors demand over risk-free government securities.

**TYPES OF YIELD CURVES**

A normal, upward-sloping yield curve signals optimism. It indicates that the economy is expanding, inflation expectations are moderate and long-term borrowing costs reflect appropriate risk premiums. However, the curve does not always maintain this shape. It can steepen, flatten or invert, with each change conveying distinct information.

**STEEP**

A steepening yield curve occurs when the gap between long-term and short-term interest rates widens. This may happen through bull steepening, where short-term yields fall more sharply than long-term yields due to monetary easing, or through bear steepening, where long-term yields rise significantly, typically on inflation fears. A steeper curve often points to confidence in eco-



**PATTERN-WISE.** The yield curve reflects market expectations on interest rates, inflation, economic growth & risk premiums

nommic growth, expectations of future rate hikes or higher anticipated inflation.

A clear instance of bull steepening took place toward the end of 2020, after the Covid-19 shock, when the RBI infused liquidity and cut the repo rate by 115 basis points to boost the growth. Short-term yields such as the 91-day T-bill fell by 210 basis points to 2.92 per cent in eight months, whereas 30-year G-sec yields declined by only about 80 basis points. The current environment offers another example of steepening, driven by expectations of strong economic growth and increased government borrowing at longer maturities, alongside surplus liquidity. As of December 3, the 91-day T-bill yielded 5.35 per cent, while the 30-year G-sec traded at 7.3 per cent.

Surplus liquidity reduces borrowing costs and pulls down short-term yields, while the heavier issuance of long-maturity bonds prompts investors to seek higher returns to absorb the increased supply.

**FLAT**

A flat yield curve emerges when short- and long-term yields converge, signalling uncertainty or a transitional economic phase. Markets may be uncertain about whether growth will strengthen or slow, and monetary policy direction may be unclear.

A notable instance occurred in March 2024, when inflation remained sticky at around five

per cent, liquidity conditions were tight and the RBI held the repo rate steady after raising it by 250 basis points from 4 per cent to 6.5 per cent. Growth concerns also persisted, as GDP had then moderated to 5.4 per cent in Q2 FY24. These factors created uncertainty about how long elevated interest rates would persist, with both short- and long-tenor bonds trading near the 7 per cent mark.

**INVERTED**

An inverted yield curve, where short-term yields exceed long-term yields, is generally viewed as the most concerning curve shape. Historically, inversions precede economic slowdowns or recessions, as they signal that markets expect interest rates to fall in the future due to weakening growth.

Although there were moments when 1-year G-sec yields briefly exceeded 10-year yields, a fully inverted curve occurred in August 2013 during the US taper-tantrum episode. Heavy foreign outflows weakened the rupee sharply, prompting the RBI to tighten short-term liquidity aggressively to stabilise the currency. This pushed money-market and short-tenor G-sec yields into double digits, while long-term yields rose far less because markets expected the measures to be temporary. The result was a rare policy-driven inversion reflecting liquidity stress rather than recession fears. On August 30, 2013, the 91-day T-bill yielded 11.2

per cent, while 10-year and 29-year G-secs stood at 8.6 per cent and 9.1 per cent, respectively.

**WHY SHOULD RETAIL INVESTORS CARE?**

For retail investors, the yield curve is a practical tool for navigating interest rate cycles. A steepening curve may indicate that rates are likely to rise and it may be advantageous to lock into long-term instruments with higher yields. Long-duration bond funds suit investors with a moderate risk profile, while conservative long-term investors may consider RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds or the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme.

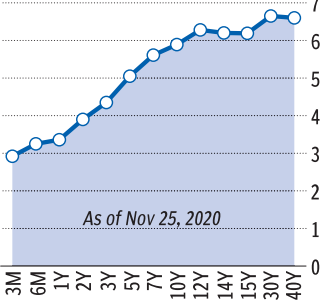
An inverted curve suggests that interest rates may fall, favouring short-term or floating-rate products such as money market funds, low-duration funds and floating-rate funds.

A flat curve warrants caution and diversification, potentially through a laddering strategy that distributes investments across different maturities to balance risk and return. Short-duration funds can also be suitable in such periods.

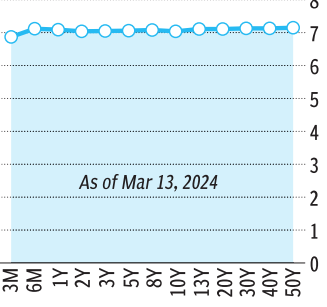
While yield-curve datasets are not extensively available in the public domain, several mutual fund houses, such as UTI Mutual Fund in its monthly fixed-income insights, and primary dealers such as STCI PD in their daily and weekly research reports, publish relevant analyses that investors can refer to.

**How yield curves take shape**

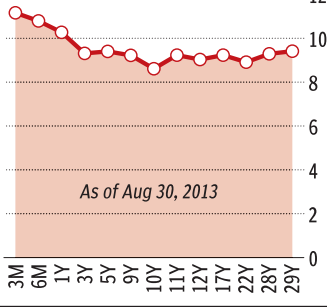
**Steep yield curve**



**Flat yield curve**



**Inverted yield curve**



Source: Bloomberg

**SIMPLYPUT.**

# Currency market & central bank intervention

**Gurumurthy K**  
bl. research bureau

Antony was waiting for his friend Mark in a restaurant. He was curiously reading something on his mobile. Mark just arrived at the table, and a conversation ensued:

**Mark:** Hi Antony, looks like you are reading something very interesting?

**Antony:** Hey Mark, when did you come? Sorry, I didn't see you. Please sit.

**Mark:** You were so focused on the phone. What's so interesting?

**Antony:** I was just reading about the Indian rupee. I see that it is hitting the headlines very often in the last two weeks. Was wondering why!

**Mark:** Yes, you are right. Rupee has weakened sharply in the last two weeks and has declined below 90 against the dollar. Indeed, it touched a low of 90.42 earlier this week.

**Antony:** I know. But why all of a sudden?

**Mark:** What do the news articles say?

**Antony:** They say nothing significant is happening in India-US trade talks on tariffs. But this tariff thing has been going on for a long time. It isn't something new to cause such a ripple effect.

**Mark:** What else are they saying about the rupee's sudden fall?

**Antony:** They also say that the central bank has stepped out of the market. I don't understand what that means. Hey Mark, you are a forex dealer, please explain.

**Mark:** Officially, the central bank always says that they step into the market only to arrest unexpected volatility. However, according to the information available from public reports and major forex dealers, the central bank does have a major presence in the Indian currency market. So, that can possibly be the main reason for the sharp and sudden move in the last two weeks.

**Antony:** Why would they step in and step out of the currency market?

**Mark:** We call it central bank intervention.

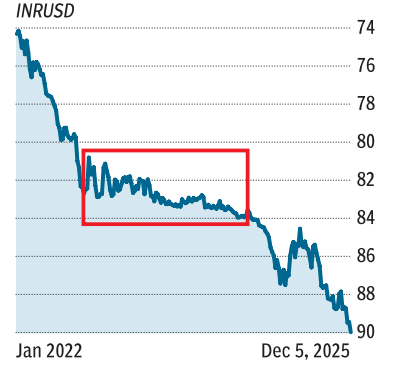
**Antony:** What do they do?

**Mark:** They (the central bank) come into the market and buy or sell the currency, the US dollar in our case. Now, pull out the Dollar-Rupee price chart in



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**Controlling the currency**



your mobile and see the movement.

Look at the two-month period just before this sharp movement. What do you see?

**Antony:** I see that the exchange rate was not moving beyond 88.80-88.90. It was kept well within that for two months. How is that possible?

**Mark:** In this case, the central bank would have entered the market and sold the dollars.

**Antony:** Why?

**Mark:** To help the rupee from becoming weaker. Now, look at the movement from November 2022 to October 2024. What do you see?

**Antony:** Give me a minute. Let me take

a look at that.

**Mark:** Take your time, my friend. I will order some juice for us in the meantime.

**Antony:** It looks like a range. Roughly, it will be 81-83 for some time, then 82.50-83.50 and lastly 83-84. Oh, wait... after October 2024, I see a sharp and sudden move from around 84 to 88 in just four months!

This looks weird. A three-rupee movement (81 to 84) for two years and then a four-rupee move (84 to 88) in just four months. How come?

**Mark:** Before we get into the reasons, first look at the dollar index chart for the same two-year period.

**Antony:** Let me check. Oh no... Not possible at all.

**Mark:** Why, what do you see?

**Antony:** The dollar index has come down sharply from around 115 to 100 by July 2023.

**Mark:** Correct!

**Antony:** But the rupee has not strengthened to that extent. Instead, it was trading in a range. Intervention again?

**Mark:** Here, the central bank would have bought the dollars to keep the rupee in that tight range rather than allowing it to strengthen

**Antony:** But why would they do that and not allow the rupee to strengthen?

**Mark:** May be to help the exporters!

**Antony:** But if the rupee was allowed to strengthen then, it would have helped the

importers right? We import more than we export.

**Mark:** You are right. But that's a different topic altogether for another day!

**Antony:** Ok, let's leave that! I see that the sharp move in 2024 from 84 to 88 and now 89-90 looks similar. So, I think the central bank would have apparently moved out of the market at that time as well.

**Mark:** Correct!

**Antony:** Why does the rupee move so sharply when the central bank steps out? I remember reading that stop-loss orders triggered below 89 causing a sharp fall in the rupee. What is the connection between them?

**Mark:** Ok. Imagine a dam with water fully filled up on one side and little water on the other. Let's take the same time-frame of November 2022 to October 2024; say, the dam was not opened at all for two long years. What will be the scenario on the side of the dam now where there is little water?

**Antony:** The water might have dried up at least to some extent, if not completely. And people living on the side would have encroached into the empty dam space thinking that it will remain dry in future too.

**Mark:** Now, all of a sudden, if the dam gates were to be opened, what will happen?

**Antony:** People who have occupied the dry dam space will get washed away in no time.

**Mark:** Exactly, when a trader identifies that rupee is not allowed to move beyond, say, 89, he enters the trade every time the exchange rate comes closer to 89. For his trade, he will place a stop-loss order below 89, say maybe at 89.10 or 89.20.

Say, if there are a thousand traders doing this trade, they will have different stop-loss levels. Say at 89.30, 89.25 and so forth, based on their risk-taking capacity.

Now, you tell me, what will happen when the central bank moves out of the market?

**Antony:** All the stop-loss orders will be triggered and there will be a sharp movement in no time.

**Mark:** That is what likely happened in both the instances.

**Antony:** Oh, I get it.

**Bank FD interest rates (%)**

Bank	<1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	w.e.f
<b>FOREIGN BANKS</b>					
DBS Bank	6	6.6	6.4	6.4	Nov 14
Deutsche Bank	5	7	6.25	6.25	Jul 25
HSBC	4.1	5.5	5.35	5.5	Jul 17
Scotia Bank	3.7	3.9	4	4	Nov 01
Standard Chartered	5.75	6.6	6.5	6.5	Aug 29
<b>INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>					
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	6.65	6.2	6.1	Oct 29
Bank of Baroda	6	6.6	6.5	6.4	Jun 12
Bank of India	5.5	6.45	6.6	6.25	Aug 04
Canara Bank	5.75	6.5	6.25	6.25	Aug 07
Central Bank of India	5.5	6.5	6.5	6.25	Sep 10
Indian Bank	4.75	6.6	6.3	6.25	Nov 01
Indian Overseas Bank	5.5	6.7	6.5	6.2	Sep 15
Punjab National Bank	5.6	6.5	6.4	6.25	Dec 01
Punjab & Sind Bank	5	6.6	6.15	6.1	Oct 01
State Bank of India	5.9	6.45	6.45	6.3	Jul 15
UCO Bank	6.3	6.45	6.15	6.1	Aug 26
Union Bank	6	6.3	6	5.9	Dec 05
<b>INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS</b>					
Axis Bank	5.75	6.6	6.6	6.6	Dec 05
Bandhan Bank	4.20	7.2	7.2	7	Sep 12
CSB Bank	6.75	7	6.5	5.75	Sep 10
City Union Bank	6.25	6.75	6.65	6.25	Jun 13
DCB Bank	6.5	7	7.1	7.2	Oct 07
Dhanlaxmi Bank	6.6	6.95	6.5	6.5	Nov 28
Federal Bank	6	6.6	6.7	6.5	Nov 17
HDFC Bank	5.75	6.6	6.45	6.4	Jun 25
ICICI Bank	5.5	6.4	6.6	6.6	Dec 05
IDBI Bank	6	6.65	6.55	6.35	Sep 19
IDFC First Bank	5.5	7	7	7	Nov 04
IndusInd Bank	6.25	7	6.9	6.65	Sep 25
J & K Bank	6	6.75	7.05	6.65	Oct 11
Karnataka Bank	5.75	6.65	6.15	6.15	Aug 01
Kotak Bank	6	6.7	6.4	6.4	Dec 05
Karur Vysya Bank	6.65	6.55	6.55	6.55	Sep 26
RBL Bank	6.05	7.2	7.2	7	Sep 24
South Indian Bank	5.9	6.6	6.2	6.2	Oct 24
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	6.4	6.9	6.6	6.6	Oct 04
TNSC Bank	6.6	7.5	6.85	6.6	NA
Yes Bank	6.25	7	7	7	Aug 30
<b>SMALL FINANCE BANKS</b>					
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.35	7.1	7.3	7	Nov 03
ESAF Small Finance Bank	4.75	7.6	7.25	6	Jun 18
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.25	7.45	7.5	8	Dec 02
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	6.75	7.5	7.25	8	03-Dec
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6	7.5	7.5	7.25	Dec 01
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6	7.45	7.25	7.2	05-Aug

Data as on respective banks' website on 05 Dec 2025; For each year range, the maximum offered interest rate is considered; interest rate is for a normal fixed deposit amount below ₹1 crore. Compiled by BankBazaar.com;

**ALERTS.**

**LIC launches Protection Plus, Bima Kavach plans**

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched two new plans — Protection Plus and Bima Kavach. Protection Plus is a non-par, linked, life, individual savings plan, which offers life insurance cover-cum-savings throughout the term of the policy. Bima Kavach is a non-par, linked, life, individual pure risk plan, which provides financial protection to the family of the insured in case of their unfortunate death during the policy term.

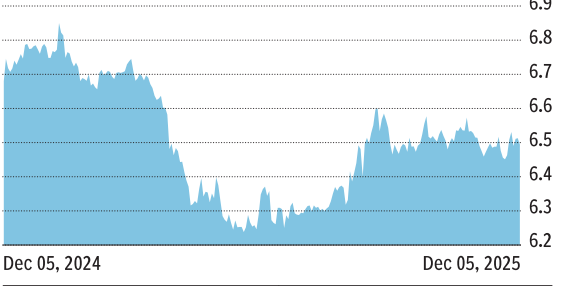
**Small Savings Schemes - Interest rates**

Small Savings Scheme	Interest rate (%)		Compounding frequency
	July 1 - Sep 30, 2025	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2025	
Post Office Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually
	1 year	6.9	Quarterly
	2 year	7.0	Quarterly
	3 year	7.1	Quarterly
Post Office Time Deposit	5 year	7.5	Quarterly
	6.7	6.7	Quarterly
Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 year)	6.7	6.7	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.2	8.2	Quarterly and paid
Post Office Monthly Income Scheme	7.4	7.4	Monthly and paid
National Savings Certificate	7.7	7.7	Annually
Public Provident Fund	7.1	7.1	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5*	7.5*	Annually
Sukanya Samridhidi Yojana	8.2	8.2	Annually

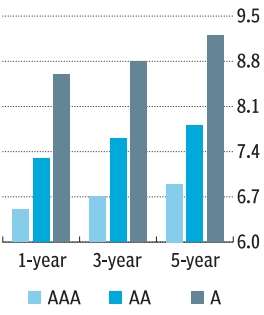
Note: Small savings rate as on the latest quarterly reset on September 30, 2025  
#Will mature in 115 months Source: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India

**Bond yields**

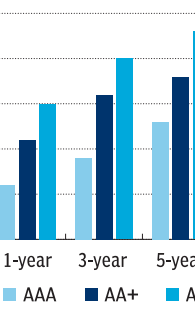
**10-year benchmark G-Sec yield (%)**  
Latest **6.49** | Month-ago **6.53** | Year-ago **6.68**



**Corporate bond yields (%)**



**NBFC bond yields (%)**



**Yields on government securities of different maturities (%)**



Source: Bloomberg (FIMMDA data), RBI Note: All data as on Dec 05, 2025 or latest available





bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr.)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				Sortino Ratio (%)
				Regular	Direct	1 Year CAGR	3 Year CAGR	5 Year CAGR	10 Year CAGR	
EQUITY - LARGE CAP FUNDS										
*****	Canara Robeco Large Cap	65.2	17234	1.6	0.5	4.0	14.7	15.5	14.6	0.58
*****	ICICI Pru Large Cap	116.2	75863	1.4	0.9	7.6	17.5	19.2	15.2	0.77
*****	Nippon Ind Large Cap	94.2	48871	1.5	0.7	5.1	18.4	21.4	15.0	0.82
*****	Aditya Birla SL Large Cap	548.5	31016	1.6	1.0	5.3	14.7	16.7	13.4	0.62
*****	HDFC Large Cap	1178.3	39779	1.6	1.0	3.3	15.0	18.3	13.8	0.71
*****	Kotak Large Cap	596.4	10900	1.7	0.6	4.7	14.8	16.4	13.5	0.59
*****	SBI Large Cap	96.1	54688	1.6	0.8	5.4	13.7	15.8	13.1	0.62
*****	Bandhan Large Cap	80.5	2017	2.0	0.9	4.7	16.3	16.2	13.7	0.56
*****	Baroda BNPP Large Cap	226.4	2729	2.0	0.8	0.9	14.7	15.9	13.3	0.57
*****	DSP Large Cap	489.6	6934	1.8	0.8	5.5	17.3	16.1	12.5	0.62
*****	Edelweiss Large Cap	87.1	1408	2.1	0.6	3.9	14.4	15.8	13.6	0.57
*****	Franklin Ind Large Cap	1072.0	7925	1.8	1.1	4.5	14.1	15.5	12.1	0.57
*****	Invesco India Largecap	71.7	1686	2.0	0.7	2.5	16.4	17.1	13.6	0.57
*****	Mirae Asset Large Cap	118.1	41088	1.5	0.5	5.6	12.5	14.9	14.1	0.54
*****	Tata Large Cap	525.5	2790	2.0	1.0	4.3	14.1	17.2	12.8	0.63
*****	UTI Large Cap	284.2	13399	1.7	0.9	4.9	12.1	14.4	12.7	0.51
*****	HSBC Large Cap	491.5	1893	2.1	1.3	0.3	13.8	14.7	13.3	0.48
*****	JM Large Cap	159.1	482	2.4	0.8	-1.6	14.9	15.4	11.9	0.52
*****	LIC MF Large Cap	57.3	1503	2.1	1.0	1.8	11.0	12.7	11.5	0.43
*****	Union Largecap	24.1	476	2.5	1.7	1.6	11.8	14.2	-	0.50
*****	Axis Large Cap	62.3	33827	1.6	0.7	3.3	11.5	11.6	12.9	0.37
*****	Groww Largecap	44.5	132	2.5	1.2	2.6	12.9	13.7	12.0	0.45
*****	PGIM India Large Cap	352.4	609	2.4	0.8	4.7	11.1	12.8	11.3	0.44
*****	Mahi Manu Large Cap	23.9	738	2.3	0.6	4.2	13.1	15.8	-	0.57
*****	Taurus Large Cap	163.1	52	2.6	2.4	2.2	13.1	15.0	10.4	0.46
EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS										
*****	HDFC Large and Mid Cap	348.9	28487	1.6	0.8	3.0	18.9	22.7	15.3	0.80
*****	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	1048.4	25753	1.6	0.7	9.5	20.2	23.8	16.5	0.96
*****	Bandhan Large & Mid Cap	139.7	11799	1.7	0.6	4.9	22.4	22.6	16.5	0.78
*****	Nippon Ind Vision Large & Mid Cap	1502.4	6690	1.9	1.2	2.7	20.0	20.7	13.6	0.73
*****	SBI Large & Midcap	647.6	35514	1.6	0.8	6.1	16.3	20.5	15.4	0.81
*****	UTI Large & Mid Cap	186.6	5498	1.9	1.0	3.5	20.8	22.7	14.8	0.82
*****	Canara Robeco Large and Mid Cap	256.2	26269	1.6	0.6	-2.0	15.1	17.2	15.3	0.59
*****	DSP Large & Mid Cap	639.7	16530	1.7	0.6	2.9	19.2	19.8	15.8	0.71
*****	Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	89.6	4347	1.8	0.4	0.4	17.1	19.3	15.2	0.64
*****	Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	102.0	9034	1.8	0.6	4.6	22.8	21.0	16.0	0.65
*****	Kotak Large & Midcap	352.0	29516	1.6	0.6	2.1	18.2	19.5	16.5	0.68
*****	Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	157.7	42981	1.5	0.6	4.8	16.3	18.3	17.6	0.62
*****	Quant Large & Mid Cap	114.9	3549	1.9	0.7	-4.0	14.1	20.1	16.1	0.64
*****	Tata Large & Mid Cap	523.4	8829	1.8	0.7	-2.0	12.0	16.4	13.4	0.62
*****	BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	91.1	437	2.3	0.8	0.4	15.7	17.8	13.2	0.56
*****	Franklin Ind Large & Mid Cap	197.3	3688	2.0	1.3	4.2	16.1	17.8	12.5	0.62
*****	LIC MF Large & Midcap	38.8	3141	1.9	0.6	-2.4	15.7	17.1	15.1	0.58
*****	Sundaram Large and Mid Cap	88.2	6998	1.8	0.8	1.0	15.3	18.1	14.6	0.59
*****	Aditya Birla SL Large & Mid Cap	915.8	5867	1.9	1.2	0.5	13.4	13.9	12.4	0.39
*****	Navi Large & Midcap	36.0	319	2.3	0.5	-1.2	11.7	16.9	-	0.57
*****	Axis Large & Mid Cap	33.4	15453	1.7	0.6	1.4	18.3	18.6	-	0.57
*****	HSBC Large & Mid Cap	27.2	4613	1.9	0.8	-5.0	18.9	18.7	-	0.51
EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS										
*****	HDFC Flexi Cap	2083.6	91041	1.4	0.7	8.7	20.7	24.9	16.7	1.01
*****	Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	87.3	125800	1.3	0.6	7.2	20.8	20.5	17.5	0.83
*****	Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1675.3	19796	1.7	0.9	1.2	16.9	20.3	14.5	0.72
*****	JM Flexicap	97.5	6015	1.8	0.5	-8.5	19.4	21.1	17.0	0.71
*****	PGIM India Flexi Cap	37.1	6399	1.8	0.4	2.4	12.1	15.5	14.0	0.52
*****	Union Flexi Cap	52.0	2414	2.0	0.9	1.0	14.1	17.0	13.4	0.58
*****	Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1883.9	24443	1.7	0.9	6.9	16.5	17.2	14.9	0.60
*****	Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	351.0	13799	1.7	0.5	3.7	14.6	16.2	14.4	0.58
*****	DSP Flexi Cap	105.4	12198	1.7	0.6	1.0	16.8	16.8	14.6	0.55
*****	Edelweiss Flexi Cap	39.6	3006	1.9	0.4	1.0	17.8	19.2	15.1	0.63
*****	HSBC Flexi Cap	220.9	5267	1.9	1.2	-2.3	18.2	18.0	13.7	0.55
*****	Kotak Flexicap	87.1	56040	1.4	0.6	4.9	15.6	16.5	14.4	0.58
*****	Motilal Oswal Flexi Cap	61.9	14319	1.7	0.9	-2.9	21.2	16.7	13.6	0.50
*****	Axis Flexi Cap	27.0	13319	1.7	0.7	0.4	13.6	13.5	-	0.42
*****	Bandhan Flexi Cap	215.9	7645	1.9	1.1	5.5	14.8	16.3	11.7	0.57
*****	SBI Flexicap	113.0	23168	1.7	0.8	2.5	12.9	15.0	13.3	0.57
*****	UTI Flexi Cap	328.1	25575	1.7	1.0	0.2	10.6	11.9	12.8	0.36
*****	LIC MF Flexi Cap	102.1	1077	2.3	1.3	-2.0	14.6	13.9	10.5	0.45
*****	Taurus Flexi Cap	226.8	364	2.6	2.6	-3.7	12.4	14.7	10.0	0.48
*****	Navi Flexi Cap	23.5	263	2.2	0.6	0.6	11.7	15.2	-	0.52
*****	Quant Flexi Cap	99.1	6890	1.8	0.7	-1.0	14.6	23.7	18.7	0.69
*****	Shriram Flexi Cap	20.5	138	2.4	0.8	-7.5	9.6	12.0	-	0.34
*****	Tata Flexi Cap	24.9	3618	1.9	0.6	5.4	15.6	15.3	-	0.55
EQUITY - MULTI CAP FUNDS										
*****	Baroda BNPP Multi Cap	289.2	3108	2.0	0.9	-4.3	17.7	20.2	14.6	0.62
*****	ICICI Pru Multicap	794.0	16067	1.7	0.9	-0.3	17.9	20.3	14.7	0.77
*****	Invesco India Multicap	128.6	4228	1.9	0.7	-7.1	16.1	18.6	13.9	0.58
*****	Mahi Manu Multi Cap	36.0	6055	1.8	0.4	1.9	18.1	22.3	-	0.67
*****	Nippon Ind Multi Cap	301.3	49314	1.5	0.7	0.8	20.8	26.2	15.2	0.89
*****	Quant Multi Cap	613.5	9323	1.8	0.7	-8.5	9.1	19.7	16.9	0.56
*****	Sundaram Multi Cap	390.8	2928	2.0	0.9	2.5	16.5	20.0	15.3	0.66
EQUITY - MID CAP FUNDS										
*****	HDFC Mid Cap	203.5	89383	1.4	0.7	5.9	24.6	26.1	18.4	0.91
*****	Motilal Oswal Midcap	102.6	37501	1.5	0.7	-8.2	24.6	29.3	17.9	0.81
*****	Nippon Ind Growth Mid Cap	4226.1	41268	1.5	0.7	1.4	23.2	25.7	18.1	0.82
*****	Edelweiss Mid Cap	104.0	12647	1.7	0.4	1.9	24.0	25.7	18.4	0.78
*****	PGIM India Midcap	64.2	11581	1.7	0.5	-1.0	11.8	19.9	15.3	0.65
*****	Quant Mid Cap	211.3	8525	1.8	0.8	-7.0	14.3	23.4	16.8	0.71
*****	SBI Midcap	233.9	23036	1.7	0.9	-1.9	16.0	21.4	14.5	0.77
*****	Baroda BNPP Mid Cap	103.9	2276	2.0	0.6	0.7	19.0	21.5	15.3	0.71
*****	ICICI Pru Midcap	309.5	6964	1.9	1.0	5.5	21.1	23.2	15.9	0.75
*****	Invesco India Midcap	185.1	9320	1.7	0.5	6.7	26.0	25.1	18.4	0.74
*****	Kotak Midcap	135.9	60385	1.4	0.4	0.1	20.1	23.0	17.9	0.75
*****	Mahi Manu Mid Cap	33.5	4192	1.9	0.5	-2.5	22.4	24.6	-	0.74
*****	Sundaram Mid Cap	1433.9	13236	1.7	0.9	2.8	23.1	23.8	15.4	0.74
*****	Tata Mid Cap	446.4	5283	1.8	0.6	1.7	20.5	21.3	15.9	0.70
*****	UTI Mid Cap	303.4	12050	1.8	0.9	-2.7	15.7	19.0	14.3	0.59
*****	Aditya Birla SL Midcap	797.7	6271	1.9	1.0	0.6	19.1	21.2	13.8	0.68
*****	Axis Midcap	113.6	32069	1.6	0.6	0.0	18.0	18.7	16.4	0.59
*****	Franklin Ind Mid Cap	2810.1	12770	1.8	0.9	0.5	20.9	20.4	15.5	0.65
*****	HSBC Midcap	398.0	12370	1.7	0.6	-2.4	22.9	21.1	16.0	0.58
*****	DSP Midcap	149.7	19609	1.7	0.7	0.5	18.5	16.5	15.0	0.52
*****	LIC MF Midcap	29.1	348	2.5	1.4	-2.4	18.2	18.4	-	0.55
*****	Taurus Mid Cap	121.9	133	2.6	2.1	-2.4	15.1	18.0	15.0	0.53
EQUITY - SMALL CAP FUNDS										
*****	Nippon Ind Small Cap	165.5	68969	1.4	0.6	-8.0	19.9	28.1	19.8	0.79
*****	Quant Small Cap	252.5	30504	1.6	0.8	-7.9	20.3	30.0	19.1	0.75
*****	AXIS Small Cap	104.7	27066	1.6	0.6	-3.7	16.9	22.4	18.1	0.74
*****	DSP Small Cap	194.6	16868	1.7	0.8	-4.3	18.6	23.0	16.5	0.66

bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr.)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				Sortino Ratio (%)
				Regular	Direct	1 Year CAGR	3 Year CAGR	5 Year CAGR	10 Year CAGR	
EQUITY - FOCUSED FUNDS										
*****	HDFC Small Cap	138.9	38412	1.5	0.7	-3.3	19.6	25.8	17.9	0.77
*****	HSBC Small Cap	78.0	16548	1.7	0.6	-14.3	16.8	25.2	17.6	0.66
*****	ICICI Pru Smallcap	86.1	8622	1.8	0.8	-3.9	15.8	23.2	15.7	0.81
*****	Kotak Small Cap	249.5	18024	1.7	0.6	-11.4	14.2	21.2	16.8	0.65
*****	Sundaram Small Cap	259.7	3496	1.9	0.9	-2.4	19.0	23.7	13.6	0.67
*****	Union Small Cap	48.5	1790	2.1	1.0	-6.6	16.7	22.8	14.9	0.61
*****	Franklin Ind Small Cap	165.1	13790	1.7	0.9	-9.8	18.8	24.1	15.4	0.68
*****	SBI Small Cap	168.3	36945	1.6	0.8	-7.5	12.7	19.5	17.8	0.66
*****	Aditya Birla SL Small Cap	84.7	5127	1.9	0.9	-5.9	16.3	19.2	12.9	0.54



bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				AA & Below
				Regular	Direct	1 Month *Ann	3 Month *Ann	6 Month *Ann	1 Year CAGR	
CASH FUNDS										
LIQUID FUNDS										
-	360 ONE Liquid	2058.9	1023	0.3	0.2	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.4	-
-	Aditya Birla SL Liquid	431.2	55408	0.4	0.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Axis Liquid	2980.0	37358	0.2	0.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Bandhan Liquid	3231.6	17409	0.2	0.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.5	-
-	Bank of India Liquid	3083.0	1426	0.1	0.1	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Baroda BNPP Liquid	3076.1	10643	0.3	0.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.5	-
-	Canara Robeco Liquid	3221.6	6250	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.6	-
-	DSP Liquidity	3820.7	19055	0.2	0.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Edelweiss Liquid	3423.4	10214	0.2	0.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Groww Liquid	2588.0	176	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.6	-
-	HDFC Liquid	5250.2	63737	0.3	0.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	HSBC Liquid	2668.1	17011	0.2	0.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	ICICI Pru Liquid	396.1	47726	0.3	0.2	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.6	-
-	Invesco India Liquid	3678.4	17793	0.2	0.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	ITI Liquid	1393.8	54	0.3	0.1	5.7	5.6	5.8	6.5	-
-	JM Liquid	73.0	2851	0.3	0.2	5.8	5.7	5.6	6.5	-
-	Kotak Liquid	5408.6	34798	0.3	0.2	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.6	-
-	LIC MF Liquid	4837.2	11543	0.3	0.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.5	-
-	Mahi Manu Liquid	1741.9	1190	0.3	0.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Mirae Asset Liquid	2806.1	18005	0.2	0.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Motilal Oswal Liquid	14.1	1156	0.4	0.2	5.6	5.4	5.5	6.1	-
-	Navi Liquid	29.1	66	0.2	0.2	5.5	5.4	5.6	6.2	-
-	Nippon Ind Liquid	6530.6	32355	0.3	0.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	Parag Parikh Liquid	1484.0	5075	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	6.3	-
-	PGIM India Liquid	348.4	557	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.6	-
-	Quant Liquid	42.3	1709	0.5	0.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	6.4	-
-	Quantum Liquid	35.8	548	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.4	5.4	6.2	-
-	SBI Liquid	4181.7	69048	0.3	0.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.5	-
-	Sundaram Liquid	2359.5	6763	0.3	0.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.5	-
-	Tata Liquid	4215.6	21673	0.3	0.2	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.6	-
-	Union Liquid	2575.7	7052	0.2	0.1	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	UTI Liquid	4391.1	24570	0.3	0.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	-
-	WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1438.7	544	0.3	0.2	5.7	5.6	5.7	6.5	-
ARBITRAGE FUNDS										
-	Aditya Birla SL Arbitrage	27.2	24256	1.0	0.3	5.6	5.7	5.7	6.4	-
-	Axis Arbitrage	19.1	7873	1.0	0.3	5.3	5.6	5.6	6.3	-
-	Bandhan Arbitrage	33.2	8748	1.1	0.4	5.2	5.4	5.4	6.2	-
-	Bank of India Arbitrage	14.1	43	0.9	0.4	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.8	-
-	Baroda BNPP Arbitrage	16.4	1279	1.1	0.3	5.2	5.6	5.6	6.1	0.00
-	DSP Arbitrage	15.3	6448	1.0	0.4	5.3	5.6	5.6	6.2	-
-	Edelweiss Arbitrage	19.8	16687	1.1	0.4	5.4	5.6	5.7	6.3	-
-	HDFC Arbitrage	31.4	23009	0.9	0.4	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.3	-
-	HSBC Arbitrage	19.4	2403	0.9	0.3	5.8	5.6	5.6	6.2	-
-	ICICI Pru Equity-Arbitrage	35.1	32196	0.9	0.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	6.4	-
-	Invesco India Arbitrage	32.7	27151	1.1	0.4	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.4	0.40
-	ITI Arbitrage	13.3	47	0.9	0.2	4.2	5.5	5.7	6.3	-
-	JM Arbitrage	33.3	373	1.1	0.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.8	-
-	Kotak Arbitrage	38.4	72279	1.1	0.4	5.4	5.6	5.7	6.4	-
-	LIC MF Arbitrage	14.1	282	1.0	0.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	6.1	-
-	Mahi Manu Arbitrage	12.6	85	1.0	0.2	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	-
-	Mirae Asset Arbitrage	13.3	3422	0.9	0.2	5.1	5.7	5.6	6.1	-
-	Nippon Ind Arbitrage	27.2	15895	1.1	0.4	5.5	5.7	5.6	6.2	1.30
-	PGIM India Arbitrage	18.8	102	1.1	0.4	5.6	5.3	4.9	5.9	-
-	SBI Arbitrage Opport	34.6	39859	0.9	0.4	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.5	-
-	Sundaram Arbitrage	14.8	331	1.0	0.2	5.9	5.4	5.4	6.1	-
-	Tata Arbitrage	14.7	20107	1.1	0.3	5.3	5.4	5.6	6.3	-
-	Union Arbitrage	14.4	296	1.1	0.5	5.3	5.4	5.4	6.0	-
-	UTI Arbitrage	35.9	10720	0.8	0.3	5.7	5.8	5.8	6.5	-

bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				AA & Below (%)
				Regular	Direct	1 Year CAGR	2 Year CAGR	3 Year CAGR	5 Year CAGR	

DEBT FUNDS

DEBT - ULTRA SHORT DURATION FUNDS										
*****	Aditya Birla SL Savings	564.3	23785	0.6	0.3	7.6	7.7	7.5	6.2	11.23
*****	Baroda BNPP Ultra Short Duration	1583.9	1071	0.5	0.3	7.1	7.3	7.3	6.0	1.41
*****	Nippon Ind Ultra Short Duration	4134.8	13682	1.1	0.4	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.6	18.78
*****	HDFC Ultra Short Term	15.6	18875	0.7	0.4	7.1	7.3	7.1	5.8	4.44
*****	HSBC Ultra Short Duration	1390.0	4059	0.4	0.2	7.1	7.2	7.2	5.8	-
*****	ICICI Pru Ultra Short Term	28.5	19711	0.8	0.4	7.2	7.3	7.2	6.0	9.84
*****	UTI Ultra Short Duration	4347.1	4788	1.0	0.3	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.2	6.56
*****	Axis Ultra Short Duration	15.1	6924	1.2	0.4	6.7	6.9	6.8	5.5	8.91
*****	Bandhan Ultra Short Duration	15.6	4483	0.5	0.3	7.0	7.2	7.2	5.8	-
*****	DSP Ultra Short	3491.5	3960	1.0	0.3	6.8	6.9	6.8	5.4	5.77
*****	Invesco India Ultra Short Duration	2766.9	1603	0.8	0.2	6.9	7.2	7.0	5.6	9.66
*****	Kotak Savings	44.0	16008	0.8	0.4	6.9	7.1	7.0	5.7	6.65
*****	Mahi Manu Ultra Short Duration	1411.6	200	0.7	0.3	6.9	7.1	7.0	5.7	2.51
*****	PGIM India Ultra Short Duration	34.9	209	1.1	0.4	6.5	6.7	6.6	5.4	-
*****	SBI Magnum Ultra Short Duration	6136.4	15624	0.6	0.4	7.1	7.2	7.2	5.8	1.76
*****	BOI Ultra Short Duration	3239.6	166	0.9	0.3	6.5	6.6	6.5	5.3	16.38
*****	LIC MF Ultra Short Duration	1353.6	195	1.0	0.3	6.5	6.7	6.4	5.3	26.68
*****	Tata Ultra Short Term	14.5	6031	1.2	0.3	6.7	6.8	6.7	5.4	6.25
*****	WhiteOak Capital Ultra Short Dur	1394.5	576	1.0	0.5	6.5	6.7	6.6	5.5	-
*****	Canara Robeco Ultra Short Term	3891.9	568	1.0	0.3	6.6	6.7	6.6	5.2	-
*****	Motilal Oswal Ultra Short Term	16.8	566	1.0	0.3	5.5	5.8	5.8	4.6	-
*****	Sundaram Ultra Short Duration	2745.5	2363	1.5	0.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	4.9	1.32
*****	Mirae Asset Ultra Short Duration	1344.5	2441	0.4	0.2	7.3	7.5	7.3	6.0	2.26

DEBT - LOW DURATION FUNDS										
*****	ICICI Pru Savings	560.5	30206	0.6	0.4	7.8	7.9	7.8	6.3	8.41
*****	UTI Low Duration	3653.4	3184	0.4	0.3	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.1	8.70
*****	Axis Treasury Advantage	3185.2	7365	0.7	0.4	7.6	7.7	7.4	6.0	6.19
*****	DSP Low Duration	20.4	5872	0.6	0.3	7.3	7.4	7.2	5.8	-
*****	HDFC Low Duration	59.4	25757	1.0	0.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	5.9	11.37
*****	Nippon Ind Low Duration	3850.8	12254	1.0	0.4	7.4	7.4	7.2	5.9	8.29
*****	Aditya Birla SL Low Duration	674.9	15556	1.2	0.4	7.2	7.2	7.0	5.7	11.67
*****	Bandhan Low Duration	39.7	7046	0.7	0.3	7.3	7.4	7.2	5.8	-
*****	Canara Robeco Savings	43.3	1388	0.5	0.2	7.4	7.4	7.2	5.7	-
*****	Invesco India Low Duration	3890.5	1742	0.6	0.3	7.4	7.5	7.2	5.8	8.40
*****	JM Low Duration	38.1	181	0.9	0.4	7.3	7.4	7.1	5.6	9.68
*****	Kotak Low Duration	3435.4	15809	1.2	0.4	7.2	7.3	7.1	5.7	9.88
*****	SBI Magnum Low Duration	3588.6	16698	0.9	0.4	7.2	7.3	7.1	5.6	0.94
*****	Tata Treasury Advantage	4040.0	3656	0.6	0.2	7.3	7.4	7.2	5.8	-
*****	Baroda BNPP Low Duration	41.1	288	1.0	0.3	7.0	7.0	6.9	5.5	5.25
*****	LIC MF Low Duration	40.6	1987	1.0	0.3	7.0	7.1	6.9	5.6	2.57
*****	Mirae Asset Low Duration	2321.3	2842	0.9	0.2	7.2	7.4	7.1	5.6	4.24
*****	Sundaram Low Duration	3551.1	383	1.2	0.4	7.0	7.1	6.9	5.6	3.41
*****	HSBC Low Duration	29.5	1270	0.9	0.4	8.6	8.1	7.7	6.1	11.83
*****	Mahi Manu Low Duration	1678.4	617	1.1	0.3	7.0	7.1	7.0	5.5	8.80

DEBT - MONEY MARKET FUNDS										
*****	Nippon Ind Money Market	4270.4	24261	0.4	0.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.2	-
*****	UTI Money Market	3173.4	22198	0.2	0.1	7.6	7.7	7.6	6.2	-
*****	Aditya Birla SL Money Manager	380.7	32711	0.4	0.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	6.2	-
*****	Axis Money Market	1472.3	24194	0.3	0.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.2	-
*****	ICICI Pru Money Market	390.4	36029	0.3	0.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.1	-
*****	Tata Money Market	4857.4	40598	0.4	0.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.2	-
*****	DSP Savings	54.1	7524	0.4	0.2	7.1	7.3	7.2	5.8	-
*****	Franklin Ind Money Market	51.6	4422	0.3	0.1	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.0	-
*****	HDFC Money Market	5877.9	37517	0.4	0.2	7.4	7.6	7.5	6.1	-
*****	Invesco India Money Market	3130.8	5326	0.4	0.2	7.2	7.4	7.2	5.8	-
*****	Kotak Money Market	4619.3	36157	0.4	0.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.1	-
*****	Sundaram Money Market	15.4	2051	0.3	0.2	7.4	7.5	7.3	5.9	-
*****	Baroda BNPP Money Market	1418.3	6018	0.4	0.2	7.4	7.4	7.2	5.7	-
*****	HSBC Money Market	27.1	6012	0.3	0.2	7.4	7.4	7.3	5.7	-
*****	PGIM India Money Market	1363.6	294	0.5	0.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	5.7	-
*****	SBI Savings	42.6	36650	0.6	0.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	5.7	-

bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)		
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# TN to ink shipbuilding MoUs at Madurai conclave

**BIG BOOST.** Chowgule to ink ₹7,500 crore shipbuilding deal at ‘TN Rising’ meet

**Sindhu Hariharan**  
Chennai

In a move that could boost Tamil Nadu’s status as a shipbuilding and ship repair hub, the State is set to sign investment MoUs with global and domestic shipping companies as part of the Madurai edition of the TN Rising Conclave on Sunday. Sources in the know said the line-up of investments to be signed at the conclave includes ship-building projects along the Cuddalore and South TN coast.

While one will be from a global shipping major, whose name *businessline* could not confirm, shipping firm Chowgule Group’s shipbuilding division is also committing around ₹7,500 crore for a facility in South



**RIGHT TIMING.** The investment commitments come at a time when TN is formalising a Maritime and Shipbuilding Policy

TN, sources said. Further, Chowgule Global is set to ink a deal to invest around ₹1,000 crore in Cuddalore district for a ship repair facility, they added. Once established, the projects could boost the prospects of MSMEs in the related areas.

The shipping industry’s investment commitments come at a time when TN is formalising a Maritime and Shipbuilding Policy to in-

centivise new shipyards and attract global companies.

The State is focused on turning “its 1,000-km coastline into a corridor of immense blue economy opportunities”, Industries Minister TRB Rajaa said recently.

**ATTRACT INTEREST**  
The TN government is set to sign 91 MoUs worth ₹36,680 crore, with em-

ployment potential for about 57,000 people, at the Madurai TN Rising Conclave.

Companies across aerospace, defence, IT and IT-enabled services will also be part of the conclave, signing deals with the State. The event will also unveil the progress made by the State in the SIPCOT Melur project — an industrial park in Melur district, near Madurai.

While Madurai’s business ecosystem is known for its traditional strengths of MSMEs across the textiles and industrial goods space, it is also becoming home to a growing number of IT companies. Like the other TN Rising Conclaves, the event in Madurai will also unveil investments signed for other districts.

WinZO seeks Karnataka HC stay on its ₹500 cr asset freeze

**Vallari Sanzgiri**  
Mumbai

Gaming platform WinZO asked the Karnataka High Court for a stay order against the recent search and seizure and asset freeze carried out by the Enforcement Directorate.

WinZO, in its plea, described ED orders as “illegal” for exceeding provisions of the PMLA and asked the court for a stay order on the freezing of its assets. “The impugned search and seizure is patently illegal, arbitrary, and exceeds the powers conferred under Section 17 of the PMLA and its attendant rules. The brazen exercise of draconian power amounts to a patent illegality on the face of the record, warranting immediate judicial intervention,” reads the petition.

According to WinZO, the freezing orders have stalled the salary release of its 200 employees and payment to vendors.

# US team to arrive in India on Dec 10 for three-day talks on trade deal

**Amiti Sen**  
New Delhi



A US trade negotiating team led by Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer is scheduled to be in India next week for a three-day discussion with Indian counterparts on the first phase of the bilateral trade deal, which hasn’t progressed much since the pre-Diwali talks in Washington DC, sources said.

“The talks will begin on December 10 and would be at an informal level, not to be counted as a formal round,” a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

The timing of the American team’s visit is important, close on the heels of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s much publicised visit to New Delhi on December 4-5 and pledges by both countries to increase bilateral trade and investments.

New Delhi is keen that the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement, focussed

primarily on the rollback of the 50 per cent additional tariffs imposed on Indian goods, concludes before the year-end.

## NEED FOR CLARITY

“In the bilateral trade meeting in Washington in mid-October, India had given its tentative list of offers in terms of increased market access for American goods in lieu of a rollback of the additional tariffs on Indian goods. It was hopeful that the US would accept the offer and bring down tariffs on India. But that has not happened yet. At the meeting next week, there will be more clarity on what the US has in mind,” another source said.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, who had participated in the face-to-face negotiations with the US team in Washington in October, had recently expressed hope that a deal addressing the 50 per cent US tariffs on Indian goods would be reached by the year-end. However, he pointed to the need for a political call on some of the sticking issues.

Without going into details, the Commerce Secretary said there were some non-negotiables from India’s perspective and the country had always stood by its sensitivities.

The US demand for access for some dairy items and agriculture produce, especially genetically modified (GM) soybean and corn, are difficult for India to meet as these are amongst the biggest sensitivities.

“At next week’s meeting, there is a possibility that the American side would want to know more about India’s plans for trading with Russia and purchasing Russian oil,” the second source said.

# ‘Digitisation has led to a transparent fiscal system’

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur said that a combination of paperless budget preparation, fund release through electronic means, and reconciliation in real time has helped in achieving a transparent fiscal ecosystem.

Delivering the keynote address at a seminar on ‘Sharing India’s public financial management (PFM) experience for countries of the Global South’, organised by the office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in New Delhi, Thakur outlined India’s macro-fiscal reforms over the last decade.

In her address, Controller General of Accounts TCA Kalyani reiterated India’s support to Global South countries in designing public financial management.

## FORMAL TAX BASE

Thakur emphasised India’s strengthened fiscal discipline under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework, the expansion of the formal tax base, and the increasing transparency and accountability across the Union and State fiscal systems. She highlighted that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has brought unprecedented settlement interoperability and revenue buoyancy.

Thakur noted that Public Financial Management System (PFMS), together with

**Technology accelerates processes, but institutions ensure integrity, says Anuradha Thakur**

the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), has integrated budgetary and accounting workflows, enabling stronger audit trails and evidence-based policy analysis. She stressed that technology accelerates processes, but institutions ensure integrity.

Kalyani highlighted India’s longstanding ethos of custodial integrity in public finance and the pivotal role of treasury discipline in governance. She emphasised that India’s PFM modernisation is anchored in the principle of ‘Koshpoorvah Sarvambhah’ — the requirement that every government action must begin with a strong, accountable treasury.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The seminar was conceived as a platform for knowledge exchange, technical dialogue and collaborative exploration of public finance reform pathways across developing economies. Participants engaged by asking technical questions, seeking clarifications on India’s digital and treasury systems, and offering their own country experiences.

# Air India caps economy fare, plans more flights for stranded IndiGo passengers

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

Air India has capped economy-class fares on its non-stop domestic flights from Thursday and is looking to add capacity to cater to the needs of stranded travellers, the airline said on Saturday.

The statement comes as airfares skyrocketed after IndiGo cancelled scores of flights due to pilot roster-

ing issues. Air India and Air India Express said in the statement that economy-class airfares on non-stop domestic flights have been capped since Thursday to prevent revenue management systems from triggering the demand-and-supply mechanism.

“We are aware of screenshots of last-minute itineraries with one-stop or two-stop flights or a combination of economy and premium economy or

business cabins taken from third-party platforms.

“It is not technically possible to cap all such permutations, but we are engaging such platforms to exercise oversight,” Air India said.

## MORE AIRLINES ACT

Other airlines, too, are adding flights to help stranded passengers. SpiceJet said it plans to operate 100 extra flights over

the next few days. Goa-based regional airline Fly91 will offer extra flights to Hyderabad.

“What happened is extremely unfortunate, and it has caused a huge amount of inconvenience to passengers...

“I am sure the government is working really hard to make sure the problem is resolved at the earliest,” SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh told ANI on Friday.

# 40,000 Negev light machine guns to reach Indian Army early next year: Israeli firm IWI

**Dalip Singh**  
Jerusalem

The supply of the first batch of 40,000 Negev 7.62X51 mm light machine guns (LMGs) to the Indian Army will begin early next year, the chief executive officer of Israeli defence manufacturer Israel Weapon Industries (IWI), Shuki Schwartz, has confirmed.

The delivery of the combat proven weapon, originally manufactured by IWI, follows the completion of all mandatory trials and government checks for a contract cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired

by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in August 2023.

PLR Systems, a joint venture between IWI and Adani Defence & Aerospace, will execute the contract as the LMGs are being co-produced at Adani’s facility in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

## LANDMARK TENDERS

“We have completed all tests, trials and government checks, and have now received the production licence. The first batch will be supplied at the beginning of the year,” Schwartz said during an interaction at the manufacturer’s facility in Jerusalem.

The LMG order is scheduled to be fulfilled over five years, though Schwartz noted that deliveries could be accelerated if required.

Alongside the LMG order, Bharat Forge and PLR Systems jointly secured a landmark ₹2,770-crore contract in September for the supply of 4.25 lakh close quarters battle (CQB) carbines, as part of the Army’s ongoing modernisation efforts.

Bharat Forge emerged as the primary bidder and PLR Systems as No. 2 in this tender.

Under the arrangement, 60 per cent of the CQB carbines will be produced by Bharat Forge,

and the rest by PLR Systems. The carbines are expected to be inducted into the land force from September 2026.

## SMALL ARMS SUPPLY

The company, through its India partner Adani, is simultaneously working with multiple agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs to supply a range of small arms, including pistols, rifles and machine guns. These engagements, Schwartz said, involve smaller but frequent orders amounting to “tens of thousands of weapons a year”.

The writer was in Israel at the invitation of the Israeli government

# Sunil Munjal’s serendipitous detour as storyteller

Hero Enterprise chief’s decade-old Serendipity Arts Festival lines up several new launches

**Chitra Narayanan**  
New Delhi

Five years ago, Hero Enterprise chairman Sunil Munjal’s book *The Making of Hero*, on the band of brothers who founded the cycle empire and their electrifying journey, swept up many literary awards in the business books category. Now, the industrialist and art patron has penned something different — a food book titled *Table for Four* — together with three of his Doon School buddies, Ajay Shirram, Nitan Kapoor and the late Deepak Nirula.

## TASTY TALES

The book will be launched during the Serendipity Arts Festival (SAF), which kicks off in Goa on December 12. Munjal said he and his friends would often dine together at various Delhi restaurants and privately exchange reviews, looking at the food, ambience, service and even the loos. “After some time, we felt, why not turn it into a book,” he said. For the book, the friends ex-



**ART OF BUSINESS.** Hero Enterprise chairman Sunil Munjal speaking at the Shaam-e-Ghazal event at Delhi’s Safdarjung Tomb

panded the scope, adding recipes, interviews with chefs, and spiced it with some rich cultural history and conversations.

“We have not been snooty in any manner,” declares Munjal. “We went to Bukhara, we went to Indian Accent, but we also ate at Bikanerwala and the State bhawans,” he said. Family Fables, a bespoke New Delhi-based publishing house, has published the book, says Munjal, who has also co-authored *The World is a Stage*, a

pictorial book on Ludhiana’s performing arts.

## CRAFTS AND COMMERCE

Another exciting announcement at SAF, which turns 10 this year and is Munjal’s passion project, will be on Brij Incubator, a new platform supporting

early-stage cultural and craft-led enterprises. “Culture is fundamental, almost civilisational to all of us. Why should it not benefit from this miracle of technology that is taking place around us?” said Mun-

jal, who was recently conferred France’s Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Merite honour for his efforts to democratise culture and education.

At SAF, there will also be a panel on business model innovation and funding in arts and crafts, and a *Shark Tank*-like pitching session for cultural start-ups. Munjal said the Brij incubator aims to ‘contemporarise’ the age-old skills of rural artisans. Five or six ventures have already been funded.

“Instead of migrating people to big cities and towns, we are trying to see if we can help develop a parallel rural economy based on arts, crafts and textiles that can co-exist with the agrarian,” said Munjal. The campus for the incubator is under construction in Delhi’s Vasant Kunj.

In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, SAF is travelling to 10 cities — after Birmingham, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Chennai, Delhi, Dubai, it is currently in Paris. The 10-day festival in Goa this year will be the largest till date with 35 curators.

# ICICI AMC prices IPO at ₹2,061-2,165 a share

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

The price band for the initial public offering of ICICI Asset Management Company has been fixed between ₹2,061 and ₹2,165 per equity share of face value ₹1.

The minimum bid lot for the offer has been fixed at six equity shares of ICICI AMC, and multiples of six thereafter. The UK-based Prudential Corporation Holdings will offload 4.89 crore equity shares and there will be no fresh issue of shares.

The issue, entirely through offer

of sale, is expected at about ₹10,500 crore. ICICI Prudential AMC or its parent, ICICI Bank, will not receive any money from the IPO.

The bidding for anchor investors will open on December 11 and the retail portion will open on December 12. At present, ICICI Bank owns 51 per cent stake in the asset management company, while the rest is held by its joint venture partner Prudential Corporation Holdings.

## MAJORITY STAKE

In June, ICICI Bank said its board had approved a 2 per cent increase in stake in ICICI Prudential AMC.

The additional purchase was meant to maintain the bank’s majority shareholding in the event of a stock-based compensation grant by the company, ICICI Bank said.

ICICI AMC would be the fifth asset management firm to list on the exchanges, after HDFC AMC, UTI AMC, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC, Shriram AMC, and Nippon Life India Asset Management.

ICICI Prudential AMC will be the group’s fifth entity to be listed after ICICI Bank, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company, ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, and ICICI Securities.

# Zepto turns into public company ahead of IPO

**Our Bureau**  
Bangaluru

Quick-commerce firm Zepto has converted into a public limited company — a key requirement ahead of its planned stock market debut in 2026, regulatory filings show.

The move comes months after the start-up appointed Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JM Financial and others as bankers for its initial public offering.

Zepto is expected to raise about \$500 million (₹4,500 crore) through the IPO, as reported earlier.

The company has been preparing

for a listing for several months. Soon after finalising its banking syndicate last year, Zepto flipped its holding structure back from Singapore to India — a shift several late-stage start-ups have undertaken ahead of going public.

## BACK-TO-BACK FUND-RAISE

An intense scramble for capital is underway in the quick-commerce sector. Swiggy, Zepto’s closest rival, is raising around ₹10,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP), barely a year after its blockbuster ₹11,000-crore IPO in November 2024. Eternal, which operates Blinkit, has also completed

a QIP of over ₹8,000 crore.

The back-to-back fund-raise by the two largest listed players highlights the competitive burn rate in the sector and the need for deeper war chests to expand dark-store networks, improve delivery speeds and widen category mix.

## businessline.

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