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MFI distress.
Listed NBFCs with
much exposure to
the troubled sector
feel the heat
BIG STORY P2



Real Returns.
How to play
thematic equity
funds? Here are 5
rules for investors
YOUR MONEY P3

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Why bond market turbulence will hit equities

PARADOX OF PLENTY. The ability to print money at will appears to be now making a few developed economies prey to the resource curse

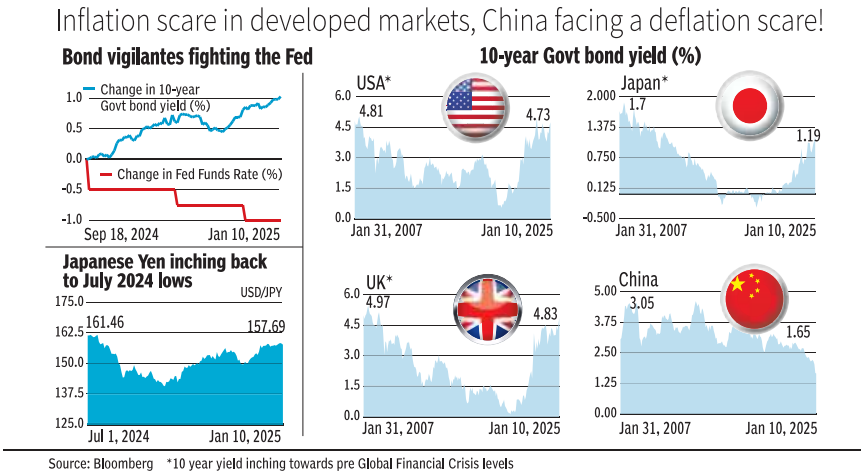
Hari Viswanath
bl. research bureau

The resource curse (or the paradox of plenty) has been known to affect many emerging and frontier market countries with an abundance of natural resources.

Developed countries with their entrenched democratic systems and values, seemed to be free of this, at least until now. Unfortunately, their exploitation in recent years of a single unique resource of theirs — the ability to print money at will as domestic and global investors lapped it up — appears to be now making them prey to same resource curse.

At least that is the message that the surging bond yields in developed markets are signalling. With the US 10-year treasury yields nudging at the peak levels reached in October 2023, that had then wrought pressure on global stock markets, doubts are now cast on whether the US Fed rate cutting cycle has been aggressive.

This argument gains further strength given the high



fiscal deficit of the US government and loose financial conditions as reflected in surging equity markets and low corporate bond spreads.

FOOL IN THE SHOWER
The US Fed faced considerable embarrassment for calling the surging inflation of 2021 as transitory, until it was too late to make amends.

Now it faces the risk of its interest rate cuts turning out to be transitory as well! On Friday, after a very strong US jobs data for December, analysts

trimmed their US Fed rate-cut expectations for 2025, with Bank of America Global Research going a step ahead and noting the rate-cutting cycle is over and that inflation is now stuck above target with upside risks. In its view, the conversation could move to rate hikes if the inflation exceeds 3 per cent.

Nobel economist the late Milton Friedman had likened central banks in haste to the ‘fool in the shower’.

According to him, when they overreact to data points, they end up like the

person in a shower turning on hot water tap when he realises the water is too cold, but since hot water takes time to flow, turns the tap too much, scalding himself! And in reaction to this, as the person closes the hot water tap, the water gets freezing cold again!

Some now fear that the US Fed may have over-reacted with its first 50 bps interest rate cut in September 2024, possibly in reaction to the scare caused in early August 2024 by the increase in US unemployment rate, squeeze in USD-JPY and unwinding of some Yen

carry trades roiling global markets.

One of most unusual things to note in the current US rate-cut cycle has been how the long-end rates have actually been moving up since the time the US Fed embarked on the rate-cut cycle.

FIGHTING THE FED

It is warned not to fight the Fed given the enormous resources at its disposal to achieve what it targets. But this is precisely what the bond vigilantes have been onto.

Between September 2024 and now, the Fed Fund rates have been cut by a full 100 basis points. During this time, the US 10-year-treasury yield is up the same 100 basis points! Such contrarian movements have not happened in the last 40 years.

For many crucial sections of the economy like housing, the long term rates-matter more than the short-term Fed Funds rate. The investors in long-term bonds have been indicating for a while now that they are not convinced the US Fed inflation target of 2 per cent will be realised and

hence been demanding higher term premium for long-end bonds. As an old maxim goes ‘if central banks don’t do their job, the markets will do it for them.’ High fiscal deficit and resultant issuance of bonds have enhanced the pressure on yields.

Further bond yields are surging not only in the US, but across many markets. Ten-year yields in Japan and the UK are at their highest level in 14 and 17 years, respectively.

The yields in the UK are now above the levels they had touched during the UK gilt crisis, also known as the Liz Truss moment, of September 2022.

Concerns are gradually building that if developed market governments don’t get their fiscal deficit and rising government debt in order, the Liz Truss moment can play out for them.

In an environment where bond yields are soaring, cooling bond yields must be welcome.

But this is not the case when the bond yields are declining to such an extent as in China, reflecting deep concerns of its economy. Last week 10-year bond

yields in China reached the lowest levels ever of 1.65 per cent.

And it would be worth noting that along with these extreme moments in global bond yields, the USD-JPY is nearing the levels close to which the Japanese Central Bank intervened in the currency markets to defend the Yen, that subsequently resulted in global stock market volatility in August.

VOLATILITY AHEAD

The bond market tantrums can flow through into equity markets as well if investors start fearing higher yields are going to persist. Higher risk-free yields make risk assets less attractive.

According to Warren Buffet, high interest rates act like gravity on stock prices. Amid relentless FPI selling in recent months, equity investors in India will have to factor these global factors, too, apart from the ongoing domestic earnings slowdown.

In the past 5 years every dip has been a buying opportunity, but this dip appears to be facing more challenges than the previous ones.

INVESTMENT. FOCUS

Sun Pharma: Accumulate

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

Sun Pharma speciality portfolio for regulated markets is inching towards self-sustained model.

Sun Pharma’s speciality products including the anchor product Ilumya which generated sales of \$580 million in FY24 is driving the stock. Ilumya has yet to reach its peak sales and is in trials for an additional indication.

In October 2024, Sun Pharma licensed a product for oncology which is in clinical trials. Sun Pharma is looking to commercialise another large product as well.

All through this, Sun Pharma has not taken eyes of India branded generics market.

The strong balance-sheet allowing for M&A opportunities, the high margin business allowing for elevated R&D commitments should sustain the speciality build-up of Sun Pharma along with leading presence in branded generics in India and other segments.

Despite SEBI tightening regulations, SME fresh issue frenzy continues

Suresh P. Iyengar
Mumbai

Notwithstanding SEBI’s move to tighten regulations for IPOs on the SME platform, the issuances have been buoyant, with one IPO hitting the market daily in the last 10 days, and another four set to open for subscription by the next weekend.

SME exchanges — BSE SME and NSE Emerge — opened the new year on a strong footing, with 14 companies set to raise ₹557 crore in the first 20 days of this month.

The year 2024 was a bumper year for both the SME exchanges as 243 SMEs raised a whopping ₹9,428 crore, up from 182 companies mopping up ₹4,967 crore in 2023, according to Chit-torgarh, an online platform tracking corporate fund raising.

Last month, SEBI made it



mandatory for SMEs to achieve an operating profit of ₹1 crore in any two out of three financial years immediately preceding the filing of the IPO application.

It also disqualified SMEs raising money to repay the promoter group’s loans and has capped general corporate expenses to 15 per cent of the funds raised or ₹10 crore, whichever is lower.

The change of rules comes in the wake of instances of diversion of issue proceeds to shell companies controlled by the promoters.

Deepak Sharma, Managing Director, Sarthi Capital Advisors, said the new SEBI norms are meant to safeguard investors from immature companies that might misuse investor sentiment.

With a track record of over a decade, the SME exchanges have gained confidence and many small businesses are coming forward to raise funds for various business needs, he added.

Uday Nair, Director, FedEx Securities, said the recent amendments will strengthen the entire process, allowing only good companies to tap the market, and will boost investor confidence which, in turn, will translate into higher demand.

Bipin Bhanushali, President-Investment Banking, Marwadi Chandarana Intermediary Brokers’ Investment Firm, said India being a developing nation and home

to a number of small-scale businesses, the growth potential for SME-listed companies remains strong in spite of the stricter regulations.

HIGH RETURNS

According to government data, there are over 63 million MSMEs in the country, but only about 1,000 companies are listed on the stock exchanges, he said.

Puneet Singhania, Director, Master Trust Group, said the recent trend of massive over-subscriptions in SME IPOs underscores investor interest, largely driven by the potential for high returns, particularly significant listing-day gains.

Further, various government policies aimed at promoting SMEs have created a supportive environment for them, while the tightening of norms will enhance the credibility and resilience of the SME segment, he said.

COLOURS, CULTURE, AND KITES



SOARING HIGH. Visitors enjoy the vibrant inauguration of the ‘International Kite Festival 2025’ at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad on Saturday. This year’s festival, running from January 11 to 14, features 143 international kite flyers from 47 countries and 52 participants from 11 States. Gujarat has 65 per cent share of the country’s kite market, with exports to countries such as the US, the UK, and Canada PTI

Poor show: Bollywood’s collections down 13% in 2024

Regional films did comparatively better; Hindi-dubbed South films earn big

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

The 2024 report card of Indian cinema is out and it was a poor show by both Bollywood and Hollywood.

Regional films did comparatively better. Hindi cinema gross box office collections declined by 13 per cent to ₹4,679 crore in 2024 from ₹5,380 crore in 2023.

A report released by Ormax Media noted that the year just past also saw Hindi cinema’s contribution to the overall India box office collections dip-

ping to 40 per cent in 2024 compared to 44 per cent in 2023.

“Notably, 31 per cent of Hindi cinema’s collections came from dubbed versions of South Indian films. If only original Hindi language films are considered, the decline in box office was a steep 37 per cent,” Ormax Box Office Report 2024 stated.

PUSHPA 2 SCORES

Pushpa 2: The Rule was the highest-grossing film of 2024 collecting about ₹1,403 crore. Its Hindi dubbed version raked in ₹889 crore, setting a new record for highest-grossing



BREAKING RECORDS. *Pushpa 2: The Rule* was the highest-grossing film of 2024 collecting about ₹1,403 crore. Its Hindi dubbed version raked in a record ₹889 crore

‘Hindi’ film of all time.

Through the year, only three movies — *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, *Kalki 2898 AD*, and *Stree 2* — crossed the ₹500-crore gross collec-

tion mark. *Devara - Part 1*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* and *The Greatest Of All Time* were the other three to gross above ₹300 crore in 2024.

Hollywood saw the steepest decline of 17 per cent in terms of gross collections in the Indian market. Overall, Hollywood movies collected ₹941 crore in 2024 (₹1,139 crore), the report added.

Overall, Indian gross box office in 2024 stood at ₹11,833 crore down 3 per cent over the previous year. “Despite a marginal 3 per cent decline compared to the previous year, 2024 stands as the second-highest-grossing year, falling just short of the ₹12,000-crore milestone. It also marks the fourth year to surpass the ₹10,000-crore mark, fol-

lowing 2019, 2022 and 2023,” the Ormax Media Report said.

In 2024, the footfalls in cinema halls at 88.3 crore were 6 per cent down from 2023.

REGIONAL RISE

Malayalam cinema doubled its box office share from 5 per cent in 2023 to 10 per cent in 2024, surpassing the ₹1,000-crore mark for the first time. Tamil and Telugu cinema largely maintained their box office share. Collecting ₹84 crore, Gujarati cinema recorded an impressive 66 per cent jump over 2023, the Ormax Media added.

‘Clean energy sector must become self-sustaining’

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Product Linked Incentives (PLIs) and subsidies are detrimental to long-term growth and development of the clean energy sector, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

“PLI schemes can only help kickstart the sector, but the clean energy sector must strive to become self-sustaining and independent of the government,” he said while unveiling the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025.

The Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform is an initiative designed to en-



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

hance India’s cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen and battery storage sectors, according to a press statement issued by the Commerce Ministry on Saturday.

Details p12

Aarati Krishnan

With mutual fund houses running out of mainstream equity categories for new funds, they have been rolling out many sector and thematic funds. Such funds take concentrated bets on a single sector or on a theme consisting of a few sectors. In end-November 2024, 190 of 481 open-end equity schemes open for business were thematic funds and this was the most popular category of equity funds.

Sector and thematic funds can deliver a big kicker to your equity portfolio when they click. In the last five years, the best-performing thematic funds managed a 25-31 per cent CAGR (compounded annual growth rate), against the 15 per cent return on Nifty50. But these returns were pocketed only by investors who identified the right themes, selected the most promising funds within them and entered them at the right time. Doing all this requires skills of a high order.

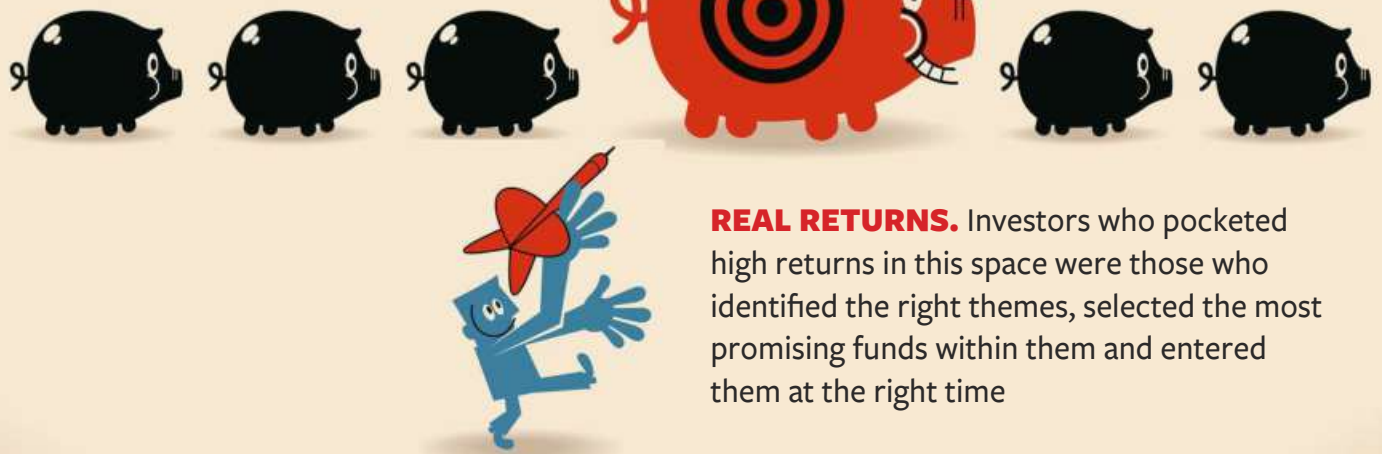
BEFORE YOU BUY...

Are you tempted to buy into an ‘Opportunities’ fund because two of the top-performing thematic funds in the last five years have been from this genre? Before taking the plunge, you need to understand what kind of opportunities you are hoping to play, because there’s no standard definition of this theme. If you ask five MF experts what an ‘Opportunities’ fund is, you may get six different answers!

ICICI Prudential and Franklin India run Opportunities funds that look to exploit special situations in stocks or sectors arising from corporate actions, government policy, regulatory changes, companies going through a rough patch etc. But Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund bets on companies and sectors with strong growth potential. The portfolios of these thematic funds, despite their similar names, are very different.

For instance, in November 2024, ICICI Pru Opportunities Fund was 80 per cent invested in large-caps with a 38 per cent weight in financial stocks, and most other sectors bagging small weights. But Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund was 35 per cent invested in midcaps and had weights of 17-19 per cent each in

Five rules to play thematic equity funds



REAL RETURNS. Investors who pocketed high returns in this space were those who identified the right themes, selected the most promising funds within them and entered them at the right time

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

● EXIT STRATEGY

Apart from knowing when to enter a theme, you also need to have the conviction to parachute out when it is peaking out

three sectors — financials, industrials and technology.

This is just one example of an outperforming theme where different managers have vastly differing ideas on how to play it. You will find vast differences in strategies, market-cap orientation and stock choices across thematic funds with broad mandates such as Quant, Manufacturing, Business Cycle and Innovation. Therefore, before betting on a thematic fund with a nice-sounding label, go through its Key Information Memorandum describing its precise strategy. Read recent factsheets and portfolios to see what types of stocks it owns.

SPECIALISED SKILLS

When betting on sector or theme funds, many investors think that any fund playing the theme will do to earn big returns. They believe that if a Transportation and Logistics Fund from one AMC has delivered stellar returns, another will do just as well, and ditto for Manufacturing or Consumption.

The reality, however, is different. While the top-performing consumption funds (Nippon and SBI) delivered a 24-25 per cent CAGR in the last five years, the bottom performers managed only 17-19 per cent. Returns on Manufacturing-themed funds range from 27 per cent CAGR to 20 per cent. This underlines the fact that you should buy thematic

or sector funds only if you have the skills to distinguish between a well-constructed portfolio in the theme and a poorly-constructed one.

Alternatively, you should know enough about the AMC/fund manager to bet on their ability to spot opportunities before the market.

Acing a sector or thematic fund is a specialised job. This is precisely why brokerage and AMC research teams run on sector specialisation. An AMC running a Business Cycle or Opportunities fund needs a top-down view of macros, to hop on to cycles ahead of the market. An AMC running a Pharma, Housing, Defence or Innovation fund needs bottom-up knowledge of specific companies in these themes. It is rarely that a single AMC or fund manager has both capabilities.

Typically, the bottom rankers in thematic funds have delivered very little alpha over flexi-cap funds. So, if you are not confident of running the above checks, you should stick to flexi-cap funds and avoid thematic bets.

A lowdown on the pedigree and performance of PMS strategies

INVEST SMART. Currently, 438 PMS strategies provide customised investment solutions to high net-worth investors

GETTY IMAGES

Dhuraivel Gunasekaran
bl. research bureau

Like mutual funds, Portfolio Management Service (PMS) has also become a popular investment vehicle among investors in higher income brackets. The PMS industry added 1.44 lakh clients over the previous 10 years, reaching 1.9 lakh as of November 30, 2024. Their assets under management (AUM), too, have grown manifold to ₹7.5 lakh crore from ₹62,217 crore in November 2014.

PMS offers personalised investment solutions and active portfolio management to high net-worth individuals, family offices, corporate/institutional clients.

The minimum ticket amount in PMS is ₹50 lakh; however, an investor can begin investing in mutual fund schemes with as little as ₹100. The PMS portfolios are

called strategies that are similar to that of the mutual fund schemes. Investors get to choose from the various strategies available with different PMS. The portfolio of each strategy that an investor puts money in is held in a separate demat account.

PMS can be categorised as discretionary and non-discretionary, based on the level of control that the portfolio manager holds. In discretionary, the client provides the PMS manager the ‘Power of Attorney’ to execute transactions in the demat account on his/her behalf. Under non-discretionary PMS, transactions can be executed only after approval from the client.

COST STRUCTURES

In India, PMS is offered with three cost structures – fixed only, profit sharing only and hybrid fee. In fixed fee structure, the investor has to pay a

fixed percentage periodically that ranges from 0.25 per cent to 2.5 per cent. The profit-sharing option is structured as a percentage of profits generated by the portfolio in excess of a specified hurdle rate.

The hurdle rate is the minimum rate of return a portfolio must achieve before the fund manager can charge a performance fee. In the case of hybrid-fee option, the portfolio managers charge both fixed and profit-sharing fees.

As per a PMS Bazaar study, about 53 per cent of the strategies provide investors with all three fee alternatives. About 29 per cent of strategies offer only the hybrid option, while 17 per cent offer fixed-only and 2 per cent profit-sharing only fee options.

TAILORED STRATEGIES

Unlike mutual funds with a standard categorisation, PMS goes beyond one-size-fits-all solutions and customises investment strategies to offer each person a unique and personalised investment solution.

In PMS, you gain direct ownership of securities in your portfolio that allows investors to make informed decisions about the investments.

PMS enjoys flexible investment approaches. For instance, mutual funds cannot take more than 10 per cent exposure to one stock. There is no such restriction for

PMS. Some PMS schemes hold even 20-30 per cent in a single stock.

TAX ASPECTS

In mutual funds, the fund manager engages in a number of transactions in an equity mutual fund. Unit-holders do not have to pay tax for this, though. They only have to pay taxes when they redeem money from the fund.

Meanwhile, PMS trades stocks from an investor’s demat account. So, the investor bears transaction costs and short- and long-term capital gains, which leads to much higher expenses that can eat into the returns.

PERFORMANCE

Each PMS strategy follows a different approach to investing. As per PMS Bazaar, the PMS strategies are classified into 14 categories. The equity strategies are further classified as large-cap, large-&mid-cap, mid-cap, small-cap, small-&mid-cap, flexi-cap, sector and thematic funds. The other categories include multi-asset funds, debt and arbitrage funds.

As per the data, currently there are 438 PMS strategies available in the market. Of these, 62 have a 10-year track record. On an average, PMS funds have delivered a 15 per cent annualised return (CAGR) in the past 10 years up to December 31, 2024, surpassing the Nifty 50 TRI which delivered 12.4 per cent returns in the same period.

Top 10 performing PMS strategies		Annualised return (%)		
(In terms of 10-year return)		1 year	5 year	10 year
AMC	Category	13.3	40.3	26.4
Aequitas Investment - India Opportunities Product	Small cap			
Master Trust India Growth Strategy	Mid cap	12.3	29.0	23.1
Globe Capital Market - Value	Multi cap	12.3	23.3	21.5
Valuequest Investment - Platinum	Multi cap	31.1	37.1	21.3
Accuracap - Picopower	Small cap & Mid cap	31.8	35.0	19.7
Nine Rivers Capital - Aaurum Small Cap Oppo	Small cap	15.2	35.4	19.3
Alpha Alternatives - Systematic Equity	Multi cap	34.4	25.0	19.1
Girik Wealth - Multicap Growth Equity	Multi cap	23.9	25.7	18.7
Abans Investment - Growth and Momentum	Multi cap	18.6	25.0	17.7
Globe Capital Market - Arbitrage	Multi cap	12.1	23.9	17.6

Source: PMS bazaar. As of Decemebre 31, 2024
Computed as per TWRR method

TAX QUERY



SUDHAKAR SETHURAMAN



I am aged 54, working in a PSU and fall under the 30 per cent tax bracket. I have opted for the new tax regime. I am a long-term investor with investments in shares and mutual funds. I have booked long term capital gains (LTCG) on shares and mutual funds in the current FY. Since I have opted for the new tax regime, kindly clarify. Can I claim the exemption of ₹1.25 lakh for LTCG on shares and mutual fFunds? Am I eligible to claim the benefits of grandfathering provisions?

S. Subramanyan

Exemption of ₹1.25 lakh for LTCG (under Section 112A) and grandfathering provisions are available under both old and new tax regimes.

Conditions to avail the benefit under Section 112A:

- Sale must be of equity shares or units of an equity-oriented mutual fund or units of a business trust.
 - The securities should be long-term capital assets — having more than one year of holding.
 - The transactions of purchase and sale of equity shares are subject to STT (Securities Transaction Tax). In the case of equity-oriented mutual fund units or business trusts, the transaction of the sale is liable to STT.
- If the conditions are satisfied, exemption of up to ₹1.25 lakh under Section 112A can be claimed. Grandfathering provisions apply for eligible capital assets (listed equity shares, units of equity-oriented mutual funds and units of business trust) acquired on or before January 31, 2018, and sold on or after February 1, 2018. Assuming that your assets satisfy these conditions, grandfathering provisions are also available.

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Venkatasubramanian K
bl, Research Bureau

The equity markets have been volatile and in a corrective mode for the past three months with a mix of factors at play: fears of US trade tariffs, FPI selling, valuation concerns, slowing GDP growth and underwhelming corporate results.

In the broader markets, only large-caps have relative valuation comfort, more so after the recent correction.

For investors with a medium risk appetite, large-cap funds are ideal investment vehicles from a long-term perspective. Without taking high risks and maintaining relatively less volatile portfolios, large-cap funds are ideal avenues for being in the core part of investor portfolios.

In this regard, Edelweiss Large Cap is a fund that investors can consider from a long-term perspective of at least 7-10 years.

The fund has a track record of over 15 years and has delivered healthy benchmark and category-beating returns over the long term.

SIP route for taking exposure to the fund would help average

WHY INVEST

- Delivered steady outperformance over the benchmark on a rolling return basis
- Maintained a steady portfolio without undue churn
- Suited for investors with a medium risk appetite

costs and reduce portfolio volatility.

ROBUST OUTPERFORMER

Large-caps in general have struggled to beat the benchmark Nifty 100 TRI or the BSE 100 TRI, especially after market regulator SEBI brought in rigorous categorisation and investment norms. However, Edelweiss Large Cap has consistently done better than the the Nifty 100 TRI over the past decade or so.

In the past 1-year, 3-year, 5-year and 10-year timeframes, the fund has delivered 15.8 per cent, 15.2 per cent, 18.7 per cent and 14.3 per cent, respectively on a point-to-point basis. The scheme outperformed its benchmark by 2-3 percentage

points across timeframes.

When five-year rolling returns over the period January 2013 to January 2025 are considered, the fund has delivered mean returns of 14.3 per cent. For comparison, the Nifty 100 TRI delivered average returns of 13.3 per cent.

Also, in the period mentioned above, on a 5-year rolling basis, the scheme has beaten its benchmark Nifty 100 TRI over 94 per cent of the time. It has delivered more than 12 per cent over 78 per cent of the time during this period and more than 15 per cent for nearly 47 per cent of the time.

The fund's SIP returns (XIRR) over the past 10 years are healthy, at 16.3 per cent. An SIP in its benchmark Nifty 100 TRI would have returned 14.7 per cent over the same period.

All return figures pertain to the direct plan of the fund.

Edelweiss Large Cap fund has an upside capture ratio of 100.2, indicating that its NAV rises almost as much as the benchmark during rallies. The scheme has a downside capture ratio of 81.3, suggesting that the scheme's NAV falls much less than the Nifty 100 TRI during corrections. A score of 100 indicates that a fund performs in line with

its benchmark. These observations are based on data from January 2022-January 2025.

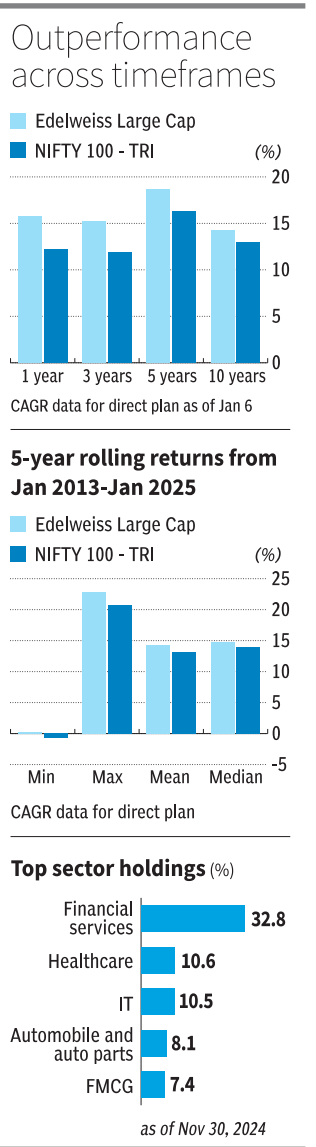
STEADY SECTOR MIX

Edelweiss Large Cap invests around 85 per cent (can go higher to 89-90 per cent at times) of its portfolio in large-cap stocks. About 10-15 per cent of its holdings is in mid-caps, a strategy that most schemes in the category resort to. The mid-cap holdings have aided the fund's outperformance.

The exposure in large-cap stocks is reserved for the top few companies in any given sector.

There is a slight value tilt to the fund's top holdings, though growth is also given considerable prominence. Most of the picks are from the Nifty 100 index.

Firms in the financial services space have always been the fund's top holdings, with banks gaining the most prominence. IT software has also figured among the top holdings of the fund, though healthcare has now become the second largest segment held by the fund. Automobiles and auto parts have seen increased exposure in recent portfolios. Surprisingly, FMCG companies, which have



Source: ACE MF, Fund factsheet

witnessed anaemic growth and have been shunned by the markets, now figure among Edelweiss Large Cap fund's key holdings. A stiff 25 per cent correction in some of the key stocks in the segment may have made these picks attractive.

The fund generally holds around 70 stocks in its portfolio, with exposure to individual firms rarely crossing 4 per cent barring the top few holdings.

Edelweiss Large Cap remains invested to the tune of 95-98 per cent and rarely holds high cash and debt positions.

The fund is suitable for investors with a medium risk appetite. Investors saving for financial targets that are 7-10 years away can opt for the systematic investment route.

The scheme can be a key component of an investor's large-cap portfolio.

ALERTS.

WhiteOak Capital MF's Quality Equity Fund

WhiteOak Capital MF has launched the NFO of its Quality Equity Fund, an open-ended scheme. Benchmarked against the BSE Quality Index, this scheme is thematic in nature. The scheme proposes to follow the quality theme and invest in companies with strong fundamentals and sustainable competitive advantages. The minimum application amount is ₹500, and investors can invest in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. The minimum SIP amount is capped at ₹100. Exit load is at 1 per cent for redemption within 1 month, with no exit loads for redemptions beyond one year. The NFO is open for subscription until January 22.

Kotak MF's Nifty Smallcap 250 Index Fund

The NFO of Kotak MF's Nifty Smallcap 250 Index Fund is open. An open-ended index fund tracking the Nifty Smallcap 250 Index, this scheme is designed to replicate the performance of the Nifty Smallcap 250 Index, subject to tracking errors. The Nifty Smallcap 250 Index tracks the performance of the 250 companies ranked 251 to 500 within the Nifty 500. It aims to measure the performance of small market capitalisation companies. The minimum application amount is ₹100, and investors can invest in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. The minimum SIP amount is also capped at ₹100. There is no exit load for this fund. The fund is rated 'very high risk' on the risk-o-meter. The NFO is open for subscription until January 20.

ETF movers

	NAV (₹)	Price (₹)	Weekly change in price (%)	Volume traded in the last week (in '000s)
as on Jan 10				
ETF				
UTI Silver ETF	88.3	88.8	2.3	798
Edelweiss Silver ETF	91.7	91.6	2.2	280
ICICI Prudential Silver ETF	91.1	91.0	2.1	4,067
Kotak Nifty IT ETF	47.7	47.7	2.0	433
Axis Silver ETF	91.0	90.8	2.0	154
ICICI Prudential Nifty IT ETF	47.9	48.0	2.0	7,665
ABSL Silver ETF	91.2	90.9	2.0	832
GOLD ETFs				
Nippon India ETF Gold BeES	65.4	65.9	1.3	57,111
Axis Gold ETF	65.8	66.2	1.3	1,275
ICICI Prudential Gold ETF	67.5	67.9	1.2	7,385

Source: Bloomberg. Returns as on January 10, 2025

Best NPS plans

Top pension funds in each category based on 5-year CAGR					
Name of the fund	NAV (₹) as on Jan 10	Returns (% CAGR)			Assets (₹ cr)
		1-year	3-year	5-year	
TIER I: EQUITY PLANS					
UTI Retirement Solutions	69.0	18.4	14.9	17.3	3,286
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	69.5	15.2	14.2	17.3	18,304
Kotak Pension Fund	63.7	14.3	13.9	17.0	2,657
TIER I: GOVERNMENT BOND PLANS					
ABSL Pension Scheme	18.2	10.7	7.5	7.5	1,197
LIC Pension Fund	29.2	11.0	7.5	7.5	6,483
HDFC Pension Fund	27.1	10.9	7.4	7.5	34,263
TIER I: CORPORATE DEBT PLANS					
HDFC Pension Fund	27.7	10.0	7.0	8.1	21,020
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	41.7	9.5	6.8	7.9	8,687
ABSL Pension Scheme	18.6	9.7	6.8	7.8	699
TIER I: ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS					
SBI Pension Fund	20.4	12.6	7.8	9.6	103
HDFC Pension Fund	19.7	10.5	8.4	8.6	324
LIC Pension Fund	18.2	8.7	6.8	7.3	23

*Source: NPS Trust. Returns as on January 10, 2025

Top PMS schemes

Based on 5-year returns					
AMC	Strategy	AUM (in ₹ cr)	Returns (% CAGR)		
			1-year	3-year	5-year
LARGE CAP					
ICICI Pru	Largecap	619	21	21	22
Renaissance Investment	Opportunities	NA	25	20	21
Standard Chartered Securities India	Long Term Value Compounder	308	29	18	20
Agreya Capital Advisors	Momentum	NA	11	15	20
MULTI CAP					
Negen Capital Services	Special Situ & Tech Fund	1,051	33	26	39
Valuequest Invest. Advisors	Platinum	3,279	31	27	37
Stallion Asset	Core Fund	4,163	70	34	37
Bonanza Portfolio	Multicap	NA	33	30	35
Bonanza Portfolio	Edge	NA	22	29	34
Valuequest Invest. Advisors	Growth	2,175	23	22	33
MID-CAP					
Unifi Capital	APJ 20	NA	14	17	36
Asit C Mehta Invest. Intermediates	Ace - Midcap	NA	28	31	31
Right Horizons	Super Value	NA	31	22	30
NAFA Asset Managers	Emerging Bluechip	NA	22	21	30
SMALL CAP					
Counter Cyclical Investments	Diversified Long Term Value	638	43	43	73
Equitree Capital Advisors	Emerging Opportunities	566	51	41	43
Accuracap	Dynamo	NA	38	31	41
Aequitas Invest. Consultancy	India Opportunities	2,873	13	37	40

*Source: PMS Bazaar. Returns as on Dec 31, 2024

The magic of long-term investing

FUND TRACKER. Equity schemes that made up to ₹5 crore from ₹5,000/month SIP in 25 years

Dhuraivel Gunasekaran
bl, research bureau

Mutual funds (MF) have become the go-to investing option for retail as well as large investors ever since the Unit Trust of India, the country's first mutual fund scheme was launched almost 60 years ago.

MFs have rewarded the patience of long-term investors handsomely. They are powerful vehicles to participate in the equity markets. Well-managed equity-oriented schemes have proved with their long-term track records that wealth can be built over the long term.

Data compiled from the ACEMF show that the top-performing equity schemes multiplied the monthly investment of ₹5,000 made over the last 25 years up to ₹5 crore. A Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) enables investors to make recurring investments in mutual fund schemes.

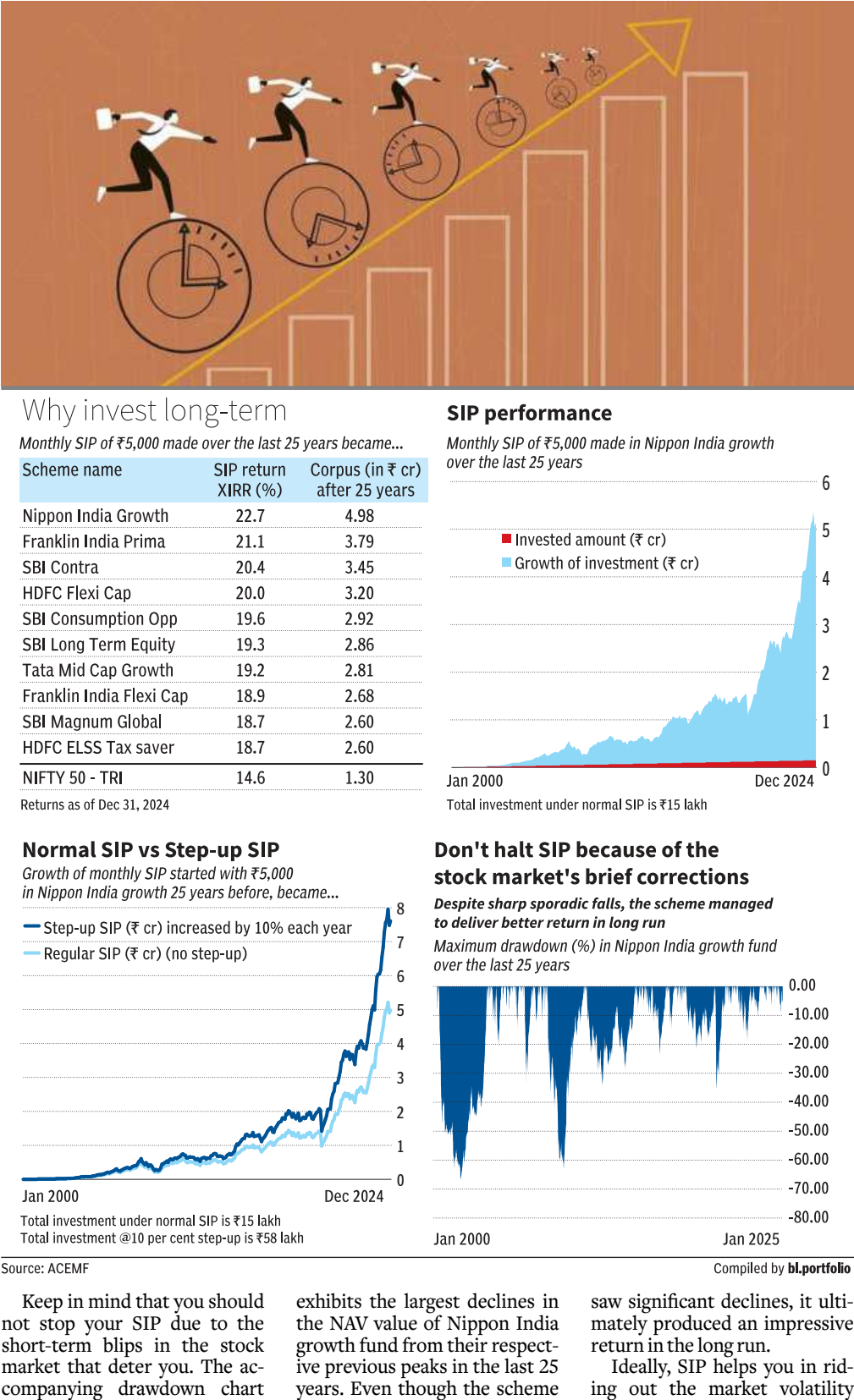
The accompanying table shows that you would presently be sitting on a corpus worth between ₹2.5 crore and ₹4.98 crore if you had invested ₹5,000 a month through the systematic route for 25 years in these schemes.

According to the table, as of December 31, 2024, the top-performing scheme Nippon India Growth Fund has returned ₹4.98 crore for the 25-year SIP. Remarkably, as of October 2024, it had reached ₹5 crore.

SIP WORKS IN LONG TERM

Indian investors are now more acquainted with the benefit of SIP to invest in MF schemes. Now, more than ₹25,000 crore is the monthly SIP contribution in MFs, which is expected to increase in the future; SIP enables you to regularly invest small sums in MFs to build wealth, and reach your financial goals.

SIP helps in reaching your long-term financial objectives, including retirement and your children's education. As shown in the table, you can accumulate a huge corpus by allocating a lesser amount over time.



exhibits the largest declines in the NAV value of Nippon India growth fund from their respective previous peaks in the last 25 years. Even though the scheme

saw significant declines, it ultimately produced an impressive return in the long run.

Ideally, SIP helps you in riding out the market volatility

Sun anchors its speciality business

PHARMA. From branded generics to speciality-driven growth, Sun Pharma is preparing for the long haul



Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

Sun Pharmaceuticals has developed a sizeable portfolio of speciality products that the company can now be seen as a speciality player. The existing speciality portfolio is powering earnings and the company is developing a pipeline for the next leg of growth. We earlier recommended that investors hold the stock in *bl.portfolio* edition dated January 2, 2022. But now with the company on such sure footing, we revise our call and recommend investors to accumulate the stock on dips.

The one headwind is valuations being a little on the higher side with Sun Pharma trading at 34 times one-year forward EPS or 32 per cent premium to 10-year average along with sector valuations also expanding 14 per cent in 2024 to 30 times. Hence accumulating on dips offers some margin of safety.

SPECIALITY PORTFOLIO

Global speciality revenues accounted for 18 per cent of FY24 revenues from 7 per cent in FY18. The impact of the same is witnessed in margins and balance-sheet strength of the company. The gross and EBITDA margins have expanded from an average of 73 per cent/23 per cent in FY16-20 to 78 per

● ACCUMULATE ON DIPS Sun Pharma ₹1,786

WHY

- Transition to speciality portfolio in regulated markets
- Strong foothold in India
- Healthy balance sheet provides fire power

cent/28 per cent in H1FY25. Sun Pharma has a net cash of around ₹7,000 crore in September 2024. Sun Pharma's speciality products are in Dermatology, Ophthalmology and Oncodermatology including the anchor product Ilumya (for plaque psoriasis), which generated sales of \$580 million in FY24. Winlevi (acne), Cequa (dry eye disease) and Odomzo (basal cell carcinoma) are the other leading products.

Ilumya has yet to reach its peak sales as inferred from the strong 22 per cent year-on-year growth in FY24. This can be driven by global markets including Europe and China, where it is partnered for marketing along the US markets.

But the lifecycle management in the US post 2031 when patents are likely to expire will have to be watched. Cequa and Winlevi are in an earlier phase of

growth and are expected to ramp up sales further.

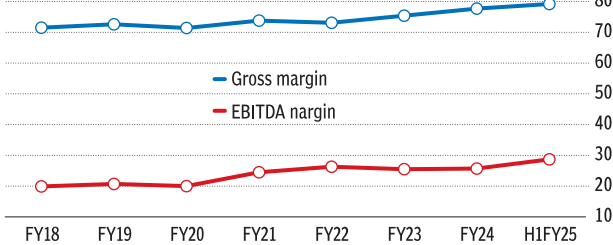
The pipeline includes several other potential products. Ilumya is in trials for Psoriatic Arthritis as well, which is an additional indication. This can potentially add 15-20 per cent to existing sales when approved. In October 2024, Sun Pharma and Philogen have announced an exclusive global licencing agreement for Fibromun, a product under clinical trials for soft tissue sarcoma (Phase-3) and glioblastoma (Phase-2). Philogen will conduct the studies and generate marketing authorisations and manufacture the product and Sun Pharma will commercialise the product for a 55 per cent share. Other studies, which are equally large in opportunity, are MM-II about enter Phase-3 for osteoarthritis, SCD-044 for atopic dermatitis in Phase 2 and GL0034, a GLP product (leading class in diabetes) for obesity about to enter Phase-2. Sun Pharma is also working on a portfolio of GLP generics for diabetes in global studies. This is targeting a flurry of patent expiries in the lucrative space during 2027-30.

But Sun Pharma has almost secured an 'Ilumya'-sized opportunity. Deuruxolitinib, now named Leqselvi after approval in July 2024, was acquired as part of the \$576-million acquisition of Concert Pharma in 2023. The product is approved for alo-

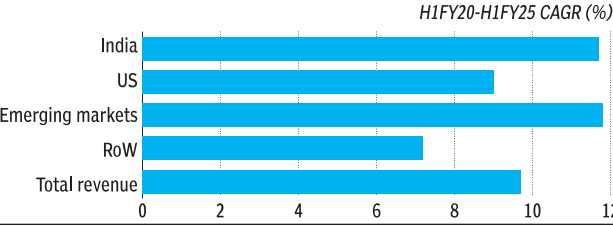
Speciality drives US and Global revenues



Consistent margin expansion with speciality boost



Branded generics continue growth



pecia areata. Assuming Sun Pharma secures 5 per cent share of the patient population by the eighth year and pricing of \$50,000 per year (similar to peers), the product can generate peak sales of \$500 million, which can make it the second-largest product for Sun Pharma. While approval has been received, Incyte, a leading autoimmune player, has successfully filed an injunction based on infringement of one patent. The appeal must be monitored with the least-favourable scenario being delay for two years when the patent expires or a high royalty. Sun Pharma also has contingent payment based on milestones to erstwhile Concert Pharma shareholders of more than \$200 million.

Sun Pharma has transitioned from one speciality product to a complete portfolio in the Onco-

Derma space, which is now capable of self-sustaining the global speciality momentum.

All through this, Sun Pharma has not taken eyes off India-branded generics market and other markets, where it has a significant presence. Sun Pharma has grown above the Indian Pharma market growth rate, as it is a leading player and has supplemented its sales force significantly in the last three years. The other regulated markets are benefitting from the speciality portfolio as well with parallel sales.

The strong balance sheet allowing for M&A opportunities, the high margin business allowing for elevated R&D commitments (7-8 per cent of sales) should sustain the speciality build-up of Sun Pharma along with leading presence in branded generics.

Quartz sheen at reasonable value

HOME DECOR. Revival in the US market and traction for Carysil's new product line-up will be key monitorables

Arun K Shanmugam
bl. research bureau

The home decor space is closely linked with the real estate sector. While exposure to real estate brings to the table serious cyclical, proxy plays such as home decor are relatively insulated, thanks to the replacement market. And Carysil is one such player in this space, manufacturing premium sinks, kitchenware, faucets and bathroom accessories. It is one of the only four players globally manufacturing quartz sinks using the pioneer Schock technology.

Carysil's flagship product - quartz sink is largely under-penetrated in the sinks market with stainless-steel sinks leading with over 75 per cent market share. With its superior performance and aesthetics, quartz sinks have been gaining market share and continue to have headroom to grow. Though exports contribute to 80 per cent, domestic revenue - at just 20 per cent - can benefit from the rising demand in the premium housing market and sustained improvement in discretionary spending. The UK is the biggest market for Carysil with around 38 per cent share of FY24 revenue, while the US follows with 21 per cent. Other geographies such as APAC, GCC and Europe accounted for the rest.

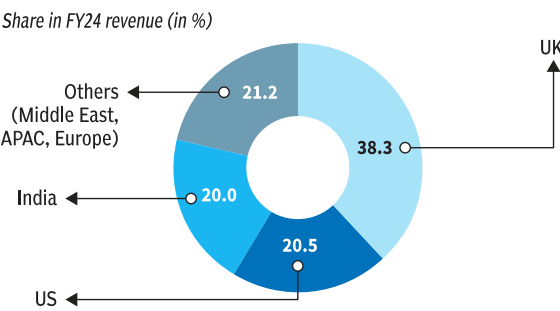
With a trailing 12-month PE of around 33 times, the stock, while not cheap, is reasonably valued relative to good growth in business delivered in H1 FY25. Revenue / EBITDA / PAT have also grown at a strong CAGR of 25 per cent / 29 per cent / 27 per cent since FY20.

Having corrected around 38 per cent from its peak in February 2024, with signs of recovery in demand in its key geographies, investors with a long-term perspective could look at accumulating the stock on dips over 10 per cent from here.

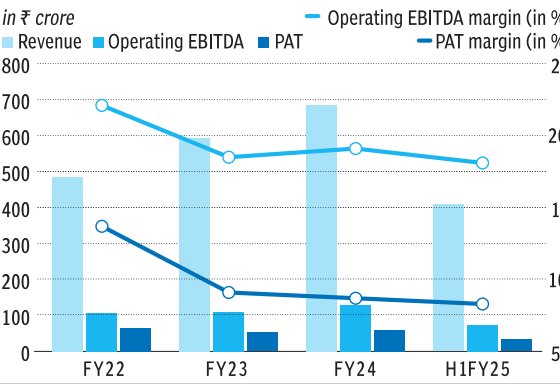
Though the long-term growth prospects appear interesting, since it is a small-cap stock and can be volatile, investors can limit purchases to small quantities.



Geography-wise revenue contribution



How the numbers stack up



BUSINESS SEGMENTS

Carysil used to be a one-product company until 2010, manufacturing just quartz sinks. Quartz sink continues to be the biggest segment, contributing 51 per cent of the revenue in FY24, though the company is now diversified into stainless-steel sinks (10 per cent revenue mix in FY24), appliances (5 per cent), surfaces and others (34 per cent).

Three acquisitions have been completed in the last 36 months - two companies operating in the UK and one in the US. The acquisitions are in line with the

company's diversification strategy, focusing on kitchen-top fabrications, solid-surface products, kitchen and bathroom faucets.

Customer line-up includes the likes of IKEA, Home Depot, Grohe, B&Q, Menards and Lowe's. The company has consistently invested in the expansion of its manufacturing capacities and the same has more than doubled from FY20 levels. Capacity utilisation stood at 63 per cent and 90 per cent for quartz sinks and stainless-steel sinks respectively, in H1 FY25. The current phase of capex is be-

● ACCUMULATE ON DIPS Carysil ₹708.5

WHY

- Growing market share of quartz sinks
- Technological advantage with German Schock technology
- Capex and acquisitions in the last 36 months to help growth from here

ing done primarily in the faucet, built-in kitchen appliance and stainless-steel sink segments.

SCHOCK TECHNOLOGY

Quartz sinks are stain-resistant, scratch-resistant and dent-resistant. Colours are thermochemical bonded, and the sink is UV-protected which solves the problem of fading. It is also relatively easier to clean and aesthetically pleasing, making a better alternative to steel sinks.

Schock is a German company, the inventor of, and pioneer in quartz sinks with around 21 per cent global market share and over 100 patents in this space. Based on a quartz-acrylic composite developed by Schock, its premium quartz sinks are three times stronger than natural granite and superior in performance to sinks made from other materials and other quartz sinks.

Around 60 per cent of the world's quartz sinks currently are made using Schock technology. And thus, Carysil's products are technically competent with the market.

OPERATING METRICS

Volume growth year on year across quartz sinks, steel sinks, and appliances and others stood at 24.5 per cent, 44 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively in H1 FY25.

H1 FY25 also saw a good 33 per cent increase in the topline year on year. EBITDA and PAT margin, however, dipped to 18.1 per cent and 8.1 per cent respectively, mainly owing to an

increase in employee expenses and other expenses on the back of integration of its US acquisition. Red Sea chaos to some extent, the rise in cost of acrylic - key raw material and the product mix also caused a drag on the margin front both in H1 FY25 and FY24, which is expected to ease off, going forward.

The US acquisition had turned PAT-negative for H1 FY25 despite being positive during the previous period, owing to a drop in demand. Integration of acquisitions and ramping up of operations will remain key monitorables, going forward.

WHAT WORKS

Substituting the European products, which the UK and US subsidiaries have been distributing, with lower-cost India-manufactured Carysil sinks will help profit margins post integration and normalising of operations, in the medium to long term. Moreover, since all other players with access to this technology operate from the western hemisphere, Carysil also enjoys a cost advantage. The recent devaluation in rupee adds wind to the sail.

Borrowings have dropped to ₹255.8 crore as of H1 FY25 and with improving utilisation from existing capacities, finance costs should reduce sequentially, aiding in bottomline growing faster. Net debt to equity stands at 0.5 times as of H1 FY25. The company also looks on track to meet the \$100-million revenue guidance for FY25, which would work out to FY25 revenue of around ₹850 crore.

The dealer network more than doubled between FY20 and FY24, and with a consistent increase in distributors, the company expects to gradually gain domestic ground. A foray into e-commerce is on the cards in India, and with many new partnerships announced overseas, Carysil is looking to grow its market share.

Revival in the US market and the traction for its kitchen appliances, faucets and other new ventures will also be key monitorables, going forward.

businessline's editorial policy prohibits analysts from taking positions in the stocks they recommend — Editor

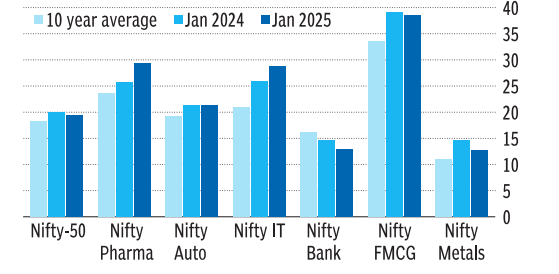
REALITY CHECK.

Banking on Pharma

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

As investors turned apprehensive in the later half of 2024, all eyes turned to Pharma. Nifty Pharma gained 29 per cent in the last year, which is the highest among the large sectors, as it is unaffected by consumption concerns, trade volatility, reversal of cycles (auto, metal, commodity) or rupee depreciation. On the other hand, the sector made strides in product innovation, establishing a strong outlook for earnings growth.

Pharma and IT valuation are rising



One year forward P/E Source: Bloomberg

Consequently, the sector valuations are at a peak of 29 times one-year forward earnings. This is a 25 per cent premium to its 10-year average. In the last one year alone, the valuations have expanded 14 per cent. Again, this is the largest expansion amongst the major sectors. The broader Nifty50 is trading below last year's multiple, despite a premium of 8 per cent over the last 10 years. But sector headwinds must also be considered to temper expectations from Pharma.

SECTOR DRIVERS

Easing of US FDA plant inspection concerns contributed to the multiple expansion. Cipla, Aurobindo, Lupin, Torrent Pharma and others have found resolutions of long-standing plant concerns. This unlocked the portfolios and boosted sentiment reflected in valuations.

Indian markets were a cause for concern as price controls took hold in the last year. But the overall market growth has hovered around 8-9 per cent in the latest quarters indicating a return to normalcy.

Complex product traction has been the main driver. Indian generic operators have established a divergence from long-standing generic markets, albeit on smaller contributions.

SECTOR HEADWINDS

Valuations at 29 times should be a primary headwind to the sector. At such valuations, earnings growth of 15-20 per cent is required. This can be hard to generate, but few structurally positive factors can provide some offsets. For now 'defensive' tag of pharma can provide some support, but important to note it may dissipate if earnings growth revives for other sectors.

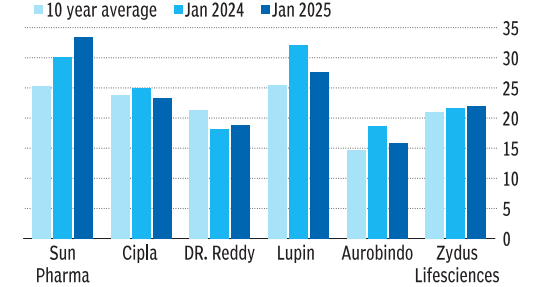
Although not an immediate threat, product cliff is not-too-far. The gRevlimid cliff in 2026 is a significant overhang for Dr. Reddy's, Aurobindo and others. The initial bust of new launches by Sun, Cipla, Zydus and Lupin are in the mid-to-late stage of product lifecycle. However, the industry as a whole has been downplaying the threat from trade generics in India.

COMPANY OUTLOOK

While sectoral factors are important, individual trajectories are crucial. With Goa plant cleared, Cipla can target gAbraxane and gAdair is on track for next year launch. Peptides and respiratory assets round up Cipla's healthy launch pipeline. Similarly, Lupin has put plant issues behind and is currently monetising its base. Competition to Albuterol (Lupin and Cipla) is expected, but Lupin has launches lined up to secure revenue growth.

Concentration risk runs high for Dr. Reddy's (gRevlimid) and Zydus (gAsacol). Dr. Reddy has utilised the cash flows to create alternate assets. Zydus continues reliance on generics for future growth, but with limited competition and high-potential assets, Ibrance, Adempas and Sitagliptin, it should tide over.

Generic diversification drives valuations



One year forward P/E Source: Bloomberg

WHO AM I?.

Are you an avid investor? How well do you know corporate India?

Here's a challenge. Using the five clues below, identify the company that is being talked about here

- 1 I have recently completed three decades of being listed, delighted to have delivered more than 100 times return to shareholders over the last two decades.
- 2 My revenues have grown 10 times over the last 10 financial years and during the same period, my net profits have grown more than 15 times.
- 3 Despite delivering more 40 per cent CAGR returns to shareholders over the last three/five/10 years, I am yet to have any material institutional holdings.
- 4 Half of my board members have doctorates in various fields.
- 5 My founder-family has been steadily increasing stake over the decades and currently own more than 70 per cent.

Send your answers by Wednesday 6 p.m. to who-am-i@thehindu.co.in, with your full name, postal address and phone number. A lucky winner in each week will get a book sponsored by UNIFI Capital as a reward.

Contributed by
UNIFI CAPITAL

Last week's stock:
Procter & Gamble Health
Last week's winner:
Harpreet Singh



Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 (23,432) and Bank Nifty (48,734) depreciated 2.4 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively last week, quelling the hopes of a recovery. Here is an analysis of derivatives data of both indices.

NIFTY 50
Nifty futures (January) (23,501) lost 2.5 per cent over the past week. The bears have been gaining traction in the last two weeks. While Nifty futures dropped from 23,993 on Dec 27 to 23,501 on Jan 10, the cumulative Open Interest (OI) increased from 127 lakh contracts to nearly 159 lakh contracts. This denotes that fresh short positions have been coming in since December 27.

While the Put Call Ratio (PCR) of January monthly options is now at 1.1, the same for the weekly options is 0.7. A ratio less than 1 is because of a higher number of call option selling, which is a bearish indication.

The chart of Nifty futures, too, is bearish. In the near term, the

contract is likely to drop to area between 23,000 and 22,900. The region between these two levels is a good demand zone.

In case Nifty futures rallies from the current level of 23,500, it will face resistance between 23,850 and 24,000. For it to turn the outlook bullish, it should break out of a higher resistance level of 24,350.

Strategy: Sell Nifty futures now at 23,501 and at 23,750. Place a stop-loss at 23,925. When the contract touches 23,250, trail the stop-loss to 23,550. Tighten the stop-loss further to 23,250 when the contract touches 23,100. Book profits at 23,000.

Or one can buy Jan expiry 23500-put, whose premium stood at ₹309 on Friday. Buy this contract at ₹275 and on a dip to ₹200. Keep a stop-loss at ₹125. When the price rises to ₹380, alter the stop-loss to ₹275. Move the stop-loss to ₹380 when the premium hits ₹480. Exit at ₹580.

BANK NIFTY
Bank Nifty futures (January) (48,886) slipped 4.6 per cent last week. Like in Nifty futures, Bank

- BRIEF SUMMARY**
- Short build-up on index futures
 - Traders can create new shorts
 - Bank Nifty weaker than Nifty 50

Nifty futures has been witnessing short build-up in the last couple of weeks. The price of the January contract declined from 51,724 on December 27 to 48,886 on January 10. During this period, the cumulative OI shot up from nearly 23 lakh contracts to about 34 lakh contracts.

The options, too, give a bearish inclination as the PCR of January monthly options is currently at 0.6, showing that the number of call options sold is nearly double that of put options.

Bank Nifty futures has now slipped below a support of 50,000, which only strenghtens bearishness. Although it may see a minor rally to 50,000, it will eventually resume the downtrend.

While 48,000 can offer some support, given the current downward momentum, we anticipate a fall towards the support band of 46,400-46,000.

But if Bank Nifty futures surpass 50,000, it can provide some temporary relief. However, only a decisive breakout of 51,000 can turn the short-term outlook positive. For the medium-term trend to become bullish, the contract should top 54,000.

Strategy: Sell Bank Nifty futures now at 48,886 and on a rise to 50,000. Keep initial stop-loss at 51,250. When the contract touches 47,800, trail the stop-loss down to 49,800. Tighten the stop-loss further to 48,500 when the contract touches 46,900. Book profits at 46,400.

Instead, one can buy puts. Go long on Jan expiry 50000-put, whose premium stood at ₹1,480.80 on Friday. Buy this contract at ₹1,400 and on a dip to ₹950. Keep a stop-loss at ₹500. When the price rises to ₹2,500, alter the stop-loss to ₹1,200. Raise the stop-loss to ₹2,000 when the premium hits ₹3,000. Book profits at ₹3,500.

F & O QUERY



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU
bl. research bureau

I'm holding one lot of January expiry Biocon 320-put option bought for ₹1.15. Should I hold or exit now?

Nijenthan

Biocon (₹360.95): The stock has largely been moving in a sideways trend since July last year. Except for a brief fall to ₹303 in October, the price oscillates between ₹325 and ₹385. The chart shows that the price region between ₹385 and ₹395 is a resistance.

Last week, the stock fell off the upper end of the range. It could see a further drop in price, probably to the range bottom at ₹325. So, you can hold onto the 320-put option. That said, while a drop to ₹350 can happen soon, a decline below ₹320 is less likely.

In case the stock declines from the current level to anywhere between ₹350 and ₹335 in about a week from now, the 320-put option's premium can rise between ₹1 and ₹3. Look for a target of ₹2.

I bought United Spirits 1600-put option (Jan expiry) for ₹29. I'm in profit now. Will the share price fall further? Shall I hold or exit at current price?

Nelson

United Spirits (₹1,539.15): The stock, which has been in a long-term uptrend, has seen a sharp fall in price in recent sessions. Although it is a counter-trend trade, you have timed it well and capitalised on the fall by buying a put option.

That said, from the current level, the stock of United Spirits has a key support at ₹1,525. The 50-day moving average and a trendline coincide at this price level, making it a strong base. Also, as mentioned above, the broader trend is bullish. So, the support at ₹1,525 could trigger an upmove.

We suggest exiting the 1600-put option with a profit, whose premium is currently at ₹70.60.

● Send your queries to derivatives@thehindu.co.in.

F&O Strategy

Buy Voltas put

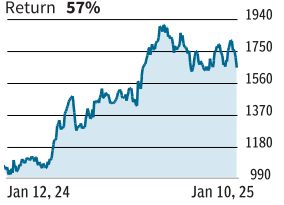
KS Badri Narayanan

The short-term outlook for the stock of Voltas (₹1,663.50) has turned negative. Immediate support levels are at ₹1,582 and ₹1,428. A close below the latter will change even the long-term outlook negative for Voltas.

On the other hand, the nearest resistances are at ₹1,711 and ₹1,766. A close above the latter will reconfirm the long-term uptrend.

F&O pointers: Voltas Jan futures, at ₹1,668.20 against the spot price of ₹1,663.50, signals the existence of long positions despite a sharp fall on Friday and heavy unwinding in recent times.

Return 57%



Rolling a diagonal spread

MASTERING DERIVATIVES. Depending on distance between strikes, position can be long vega/delta

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Previously in this column, we discussed the diagonal spread. This position involves going long a longer expiry contract and short a shorter expiry contract of a different strike.

A diagonal spread is a calendar spread with different strikes. This week, we look at how to continually roll a diagonal spread, and the similarity the spread has with a covered call.



ROLLING THE STRIKES
A diagonal spread is set up when you expect the underlying to remain range-bound during the short term and thereafter move up. It would be typical to go long on the next-week (or later expiry) Nifty call and short on the near-week Nifty call.

But what if you want to continually roll a diagonal spread? You can roll your spread for two reasons. One, when you want to use the diagonal spread as a substitute for a covered call strategy. And two, when your view on the underlying's range-bound movement extends beyond the current week.

Consider the covered call, which involves going long the un-

● WHY DO IT

A diagonal spread is set up when you expect the underlying to remain range-bound during the short term and thereafter move up

derlying and short an out-of-the-money (OTM) call.

The strategy involves locking-up large capital because you must hold the shares in multiple of the permitted lot size for this strategy to work. What if you want to create a similar position without holding the shares? You can use a longer-dated at-the-money (ATM) call instead of a

stock to minimize the need to frequently adjust the position. For instance, you could use the ATM near-month Nifty calls and OTM near-week calls to setup a diagonal spread, and the roll the short calls till a week before the expiry of the long call.

Now, consider the second reason for the roll. Suppose you go long January 30 24300 call and short January 16 24000 call. Depending on the strikes you choose, the spread can be setup for a net credit or a net debit. The position will make handsome gains when the near-week strike expires worthless, and the longer-dated call becomes in-the-money (ITM).

Suppose the 24000 January 16

option expires worthless, and you believe that the Nifty Index will continue to remain range-bound for another week. You can initiate a new short position on, say, January 23 24100 call; you will carry your long January 30 24300 strike, as you believe that the option will become ITM before its expiry.

When the long strike nears expiry, you could close the position and create a new diagonal spread- long the next near-month contract and short the next near-week contract.

OPTIONAL READING
Depending on the distance between strikes, the position can be long vega and delta. This is because longer-dated OTM strikes typically have greater vega and delta than shorter-dated options of the same or near-same strikes.

Note that a diagonal spread can also be ratioed; the position can be setup long one near-month contract and short two near-week contracts. The position will suffer losses if the underlying rises sharply before the expiry of the short-dated strike.

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

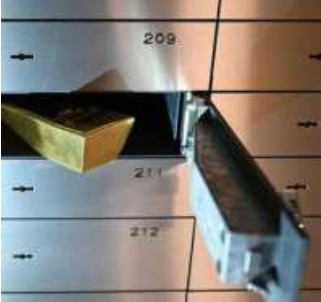
Gradual uptick ahead

BULLION CUES. Participants can consider longs

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Gold (\$2,690/ounce) and silver (\$30.4/ounce) extended the upside last week by posting a gain of 1.9 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively.

In the domestic market, gold futures (₹78,423/10 gm) was up 1.4 per cent and silver futures (₹92,506/kg) shot up 3.7 per cent.



MCX-GOLD (₹78,423)
Gold futures (February) advanced further on the positive momentum and moved above a trendline resistance, confirming a triangle pattern. Although the breakout is not solid, the price action remains positive.

In the near term, gold futures is likely to appreciate to ₹80,200. A breach of this can lift it to ₹81,000. But if the contract drops from the current level, it can find support at ₹78,000 and ₹77,200.

Until the support at ₹75,000 holds, the bias will be bullish.

Trade strategy: Last week, we suggested going long at ₹76,800. Retain this trade but revise the stop-loss from ₹75,000 to ₹76,800. Book profits at ₹80,000.

MCX-SILVER (₹92,506)
Silver futures (March) broke out of the resistance at ₹90,200 last week and the price is now above both 20 and 50-day moving averages. But there is a resistance ahead at ₹93,600.

This barrier is not likely to end the rally. Rather, it might lead to a minor correction to ₹91,000 from where the next leg of uptrend can begin.

Notable support levels are at ₹90,200; ₹86,800 and ₹85,000.

The silver futures shows potential to touch ₹96,500 soon. A breach of this can take the price higher to ₹1,02,500.

Trade strategy: Go long on silver futures if the price dips to ₹91,000. Target and stop-loss can be ₹96,500 and ₹88,500 respectively.

Testing a key barrier

CRUDE CHECK. Traders can buy on a breakout

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau



Last week's rally gave crude oil the third consecutive weekly gain. The Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$79.8/barrel) appreciated 4.3 per cent. The crude oil futures on the MCX (₹6,516/barrel) was up 2.9 per cent.

BRENT FUTURES (\$79.8)
Brent crude oil futures, which was largely tracing a sideways trend until Thursday, rose significantly on Friday, taking it to the critical level of \$80. After marking a weekly high of \$80.75, the contract ended marginally lower at \$79.80.

It is true that the upward momentum is strong. However, on the back of the resistance at \$80, there is a chance for a drop in price before the next upswing. Such a correction can drag the contract to \$77.50.

In case the breakout of \$80 occurs, the contract can quickly rally to \$90.

MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹6,516)
The February crude oil futures was broadly oscillating between ₹6,270 and ₹6,400 until

Thursday. But on Friday it broke out of the range and marked a high of ₹6,632 before wrapping up the week at ₹6,516.

That said, the contract might see a price correction before the next leg up as ₹6,650 can be a hurdle. The dip might take crude oil futures to ₹6,350-6,400 price band. Post this, a rally might begin which can take it to ₹7,000 or even to ₹7,500.

But if the contract slips below ₹6,200, the near-term outlook can turn bearish. Supports below ₹6,200 are at ₹6,000 and ₹5,850.

Trade strategy: Buy crude oil futures with a stop-loss at ₹6,250 if it breaks out of ₹6,650. When the contract touches ₹7,200, revise the stop-loss upwards to ₹6,900. Liquidate the longs at ₹7,500.

Scrip	FII		Retail	
	As on Jan 10	Weekly change %	As on Jan 10	Weekly change %
Future Index Long	64563	7	519826	12
Future Index Short	342373	18	205748	-3
Net Futures	-277810	21	314078	25
Index Call options Long	1028141	8	4958128	30
Index Call options Short	1042729	13	4586620	16
Net Call options	-14588	-143	371508	-390
Index Put options Long	1328826	8	2737500	4
Index Put options Short	1011454	16	3448562	-1
Net Put Options	317372	-11	-711062	-18

Stocks in F&O ban (for trade on Jan 13)		
BANDHANBNK	HINDCOPPER	LTF
MANAPPURAM	RBLBANK	

Change in OI and market positioning

Symbol	Expiry date (2025)	Price (₹)	OI	Indication
		(Weekly change %)	(Weekly change %)	
COMMODITIES (as on Jan 10)				
ALUMINIUM	31-Jan	245.05 (2.9)	2796 (-25)	Short covering
COPPER	31-Jan	826 (3.2)	5319 (-42)	Short covering
CRUDEOIL	19-Feb	6516 (2.9)	3666 (441)	Long build-up
CRUDEOILM	19-Feb	6517 (2.9)	4155 (59)	Long build-up
GOLD	05-Feb	78423 (1.4)	11177 (-11)	Short covering
GOLDGUINEA	31-Jan	63275 (1.3)	3280 (-43)	Short covering
GOLDM	05-Feb	78398 (1.4)	18581 (-4)	Short covering
GOLDPETAL	31-Jan	7793 (0.9)	56762 (-23)	Short covering
LEAD	31-Jan	178.05 (0.8)	982 (-15)	Short covering
MENTHAOIL	31-Jan	944.2 (0.4)	472 (3)	Long build-up
NATURALGAS	28-Jan	342.7 (18.3)	14409 (-11)	Short covering
SILVER	05-Mar	92506 (3.7)	20689 (-34)	Short covering
SILVERM	28-Feb	92492 (3.6)	31767 (-30)	Short covering
SILVERMIC	28-Feb	92478 (3.5)	106078 (-31)	Short covering
ZINC	31-Jan	273.05 (-0.1)	2768 (-19)	Long unwinding
CURRENCIES (as on Jan 10)				
USDINR	29-Jan	86.16 (0.2)	3391863 (6)	Long build-up
EURINR	29-Jan	106.01 (-0.8)	24412 (47)	Short build-up
GBPINR	29-Jan	88.82 (0.3)	20313 (15)	Long build-up
JPYINR	29-Jan	54.62 (-0.3)	2353 (31)	Short build-up



For instance, you hold a long position in January expiry Nifty 50 futures and on expiry day (on January 30) you expect the futures to rally further. To capitalise on this, you can liquidate the current month contract, which is the January series, and create a fresh long position in February or even March series depending upon your expectations and the liquidity.

Similarly, if you have short and you forecast the contract to weaken further, you can exit from current month contract and enter next month contract. For traders, rollover percentage is important as it can give a good idea about the strength of the prevailing trend. If the rollover from the previous month to the current month is 70 per cent and the rollover from the current month to next month goes up to 80 per cent, and the futures price has been steadily increasing — this is a bullish indication.

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

The Indian benchmark indices, the Sensex, Nifty 50 and Nifty Bank were beaten down last week. Sensex and Nifty were down over 2 per cent each. The Nifty Bank index on the other hand tumbled over 4 per cent.

Among the sectors, the BSE IT, up 1 per cent, was the only sector that was in the green last week. The BSE Power index fell the most. It was down 8.73 per cent. The BSE Realty and BSE PSU indices were down over 7 per cent each.

FPIS SELL-OFF
Strong sell-off from the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) weighed on the Indian equity markets last week. The FPIs sold about \$2.08 billion in the equity segment last week. For the month of January, the equity segment has seen a net outflow of about \$2.58 billion so far. Further selling from the FPIs can drag the Sensex and Nifty more lower from here in the coming days.

NIFTY 50 (23,431.50)
Nifty fell breaking below the key support level of 23,500. The index touched a low of 23,344.35 before closing the week at 23,431.50, down 2.39 per cent.

Short-term view: The outlook is bearish. Resistances are at 23,500 and then at 23,750-23,800. Nifty can fall to 23,200 immediately. A corrective bounce thereafter to 23,400-23,500 is a possibility. Thereafter the index can turn down again and fall below 23,200 targeting 23,000 on the downside.

Nifty has to rise above 23,800 to ease the downside pressure. Only then the upside will open for a test of 24,100. However, the index has to surpass 24,100 in order to turn the short-term outlook bullish.

Medium-term view: The downside is open to see 22,500 or even 22,000 (in a worst case scenario). But the region around 22,500 is a very strong long-term support. So, we expect the current fall to halt around 22,500.

A fresh rally from around 22,500 will have the potential to breach 24,000. That can take the index up to 25,000-26,000 initially. From a long-term perspective, the new leg of upmove from around 22,500 will have the potential to take the Nifty up

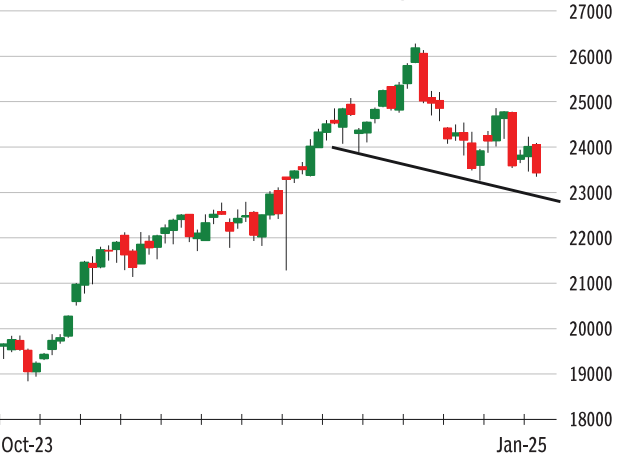


Fall nearing long-term support

INDEX OUTLOOK: More fall of Sensex, Nifty 50 from here will give a very good buying opportunity

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Nifty 50: Key support coming up



to 28,000-28,500 this year.

As such, a fall to 22,500 is going to give us a very good long-term buying opportunity. So, as the Nifty falls below 23,000 one has to start looking at the market from the buy side rather than getting more panic.

NIFTY BANK (48,734.15)
Contrary to our expectation, the Nifty Bank index has broken its 49,650-54,470 range on the downside. The index has closed the week at 48,734.15, down 4.42 per cent.

Short-term view: Immediate supports are at 48,500 and 47,950 which can be tested this week. A bounce from either of these two supports can give the index a relief rally to 49,800-50,000. But, a break below 47,950 will increase the selling

pressure. If that happens, the Nifty Bank index can tumble to 47,000-46,800 in the short term.

From a big picture, Nifty Bank index will now have to break the 50,000-50,500 resistance zone to turn the sentiment positive.

Medium-term outlook: Our view of the Nifty Bank index to sustain above 49,000 has gone wrong. Now, it looks like the downside is open to see 47,000-46,800 as long as the index stays below 50,000. We will have to wait and see if the index is managing to bounce back from the 47,000-46,800 support zone or not.

SENSEX (77,378.91)
Sensex has declined below the key support level of 78,000. It touched a low of 77,099.55 and has bounced slightly from there.

- LONG-TERM SUPPORTS**
- Nifty 50: 23,000-22,500
 - Sensex: 75,500-75,350
 - Nifty Bank: 47,000-46,800

The index has closed the week at 77,378.91, down 2.33 per cent.

Short-term view: The outlook is negative. Resistances are at 78,000 and then in the 78,500-79,000 region. Sensex can fall to 76,000 in the short term. A break below 76,000 can see an extended fall to 75,500. A fall beyond 75,500 is less likely.

After this fall we can expect the Sensex to reverse higher and rise towards 78,000-79,000 again.

Medium-term view: The region between 75,500 and 75,350 is a strong support zone for the Sensex. We can expect the current fall to halt in this support zone. A fresh rise from around 75,500-75,350 can reverse the downtrend. From a long-term perspective, this rally will have the potential to take the Sensex up towards 90,000 and higher this year.

So, the fall to 75,500 will be a very good buying opportunity from a long-term perspective.

DOW JONES (41,938.45)
The Dow Jones Industrial Average continues to trade under pressure. The resistance at 43,000 has held very well and the fall to 42,000 has happened in

line with our expectation. Dow Jones fell to a low of 41,877.30 on Friday before closing the week at 41,938.45, down 1.86 per cent.

Outlook: The broader trend remains down. Immediate resistance will be in the 42,300-42,400 region. The Dow Jones can fall to 41,500-41,300 this week. After this fall, there are good chances to see a bounce-back towards 42,000-42,500. The price action after this bounce-back move will need a close watch to see if the rise is extending towards 43,000 and higher.

Failure to sustain the bounce and a reversal again will be quite bearish. That will keep alive the danger of the Dow Jones tumbling towards 39,000-38,000 going forward.

From a big picture, the Dow Jones will have to get a sustained rise above 43,500 to indicate a trend reversal. Only then the bullish view will come back into the picture.

For now, we will brace for a fall to 41,500-41,300 and then look for a bounce towards 42,000-42,500.

bl.portfolio
video

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

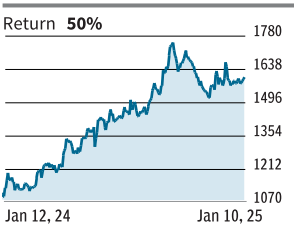


MOVERS & SHAKERS

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

Bharti Airtel (₹1,615.10)

About to break out

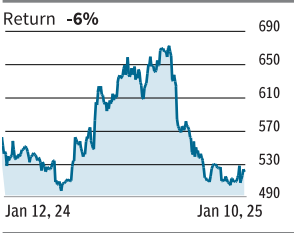


Bharti Airtel's stock has been trading in a narrow range for nearly a month. It has been oscillating between ₹1,570 and ₹1,625. Nevertheless, the broader trend is bullish and the stock retains the positive outlook despite some weakness seen since October last year. We anticipate a breakout of ₹1,625 soon, which can bring back the bullish momentum. In such a case, the price

can rise to ₹1,770 in the near-term. So, we suggest buying the shares of Bharti Airtel now at ₹1,615 and accumulate if the price dips to ₹1,570. Place initial stop-loss at ₹1,500. When the stock rises to ₹1,680, raise the stop-loss to ₹1,600. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹1,680 when the price touches ₹1,720. Exit at ₹1,770.

Dabur India (₹517.80)

Hovering around a strong base

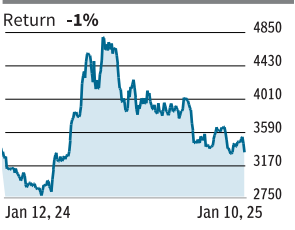


The stock of Dabur India slumped between September and mid-November last year. The price tumbled from about ₹670 to ₹500. But then, it stabilised and started to chart a sideways trend between ₹500 and ₹530. Notably, ₹500 is a long-term support, which has been in place since 2021. So, bulls might capitalise on this and are expected to lift the stock above ₹530

soon and take it to ₹600. The uptrend might even extend to ₹650. So, participants can go long on Dabur India at ₹515 with a stop-loss at ₹480. When the price goes up to ₹550, revise the stop-loss to ₹520. Tighten the stop-loss to ₹550 when the stock hits ₹575. Liquidate the longs at ₹600.

Schaeffler India (₹3,324.65)

Trades at a demand zone



The stock of Schaeffler India has been in a downtrend since June last year after encountering a resistance at ₹4,950. Since then, it has lost over 30 per cent. However, the contract is now near a support. The price band of ₹3,200-3,300 is a good demand zone. We expect the stock to recover on the back of this price region. Over the next few months, the price might gradually

appreciate to ₹4,200. Note that, on its way up, there might be minor corrections due to the presence of resistances at ₹3,700 and ₹3,830. Buy at ₹3,325 and on a dip to ₹3,250. Stop-loss can be at ₹3,150. When the price hits ₹3,700, revise the stop-loss to ₹3,400. On a rally to ₹3,830, alter the stop-loss to ₹3,650. Exit at ₹4,200.

Dollar rally can pause

CURRENCY OUTLOOK. Resistance can trigger a correction

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

The dollar index witnessed a strong recovery from its low last week. The index touched a low of 107.75 early in the week and rose sharply from there to close the week at 109.65. On Friday, the US jobs data gave the greenback an additional boost to rise.

STRONG JOB NUMBERS
The US added 256,000 jobs to its nonfarm payroll in December. This was much higher than the market expectation for an addition of 155,000 jobs. The unemployment rate fell to 4.1 per cent in December from 4.2 per cent in November.

Strong jobs data strengthened the case for the US Federal Reserve to delay the rate cuts going forward. That took the US Treasury yields sharply higher on Friday and aided the dollar index also to go up. The US 10Yr Treasury yield surged to a high of 4.78 per cent before closing the week at 4.76 per cent.

INFLATION WATCH
Under this backdrop, the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data to be released on Wednesday is going to be very important. If the data show an uptick, then it will increase the room for the talks about rate hikes rather than rate cuts. That will further push the yields higher and in turn take the dollar index also up.

RESISTANCE AHEAD
The dollar index (109.65) is coming close to a key resistance at 110.50. We can expect this resistance to hold on its first test. As such a corrective fall from 110.50 to 109-108 is a possibility.

However, after this corrective fall, the uptrend can resume. An eventual break above 110.50 can then take



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

● MORE WEAKNESS

The Indian rupee has resistance now at 85.80 and can fall to 86.40-86.50

the dollar index up to 112.

From a long-term perspective, we see the upside open for the dollar index to target 118-119 in the next couple of quarters.

STRONG DOWNTREND
The euro (EURUSD: 1.0244) continues to fall in line with our expectation. The currency has declined well below the key support level of 1.03. It has room to touch 1.02-1.0140 on the downside in the short term.

After this fall, a corrective bounce 1.0250-1.03 is a possibility.

But from the big picture, we see the euro heading down towards parity in the coming weeks. The currency can fall to 0.98 and even lower in the coming months.

CRUCIAL HURDLE
The US 10Yr Treasury yield (4.76 per cent) has a crucial resistance at 4.8 per cent. Failure to breach this hurdle

can take it down to 4.65-4.6 per cent in the short term. After this fall, the yield can rise back again towards 4.8 per cent.

On the other hand, if the US 10Yr yield breaks above 4.8 per cent it can surge towards 5 per cent in the coming weeks.

MORE FALL
The Indian Rupee (USDINR: 85.97) fell and closed around a new low of 85.97 last week. Indeed, in the offshore segment the domestic currency has declined below the psychological level of 86. The sharp rise in the US yields and the dollar index after the jobs data release on Friday has triggered this fall. The rupee closed at 86.17 in the offshore segment. That leaves the chances high for a wide gap-down open in the onshore segment on Monday.

The outlook remains bearish for the rupee. Resistance is now at 85.80. Rupee can fall to 86.40-86.50 in the coming weeks. A strong rise above 85.80 is needed to see a recovery towards 85.60-85.50 again. But that looks less likely.

From a big picture, the rupee can fall to 87.20 in the coming months.

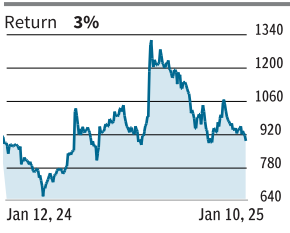
TECH QUERY



GURUMURTHY K
bl.research bureau

I am holding the shares of Rane Brake Lining bought at ₹1,220. What is the outlook? Should I continue to hold or exit?

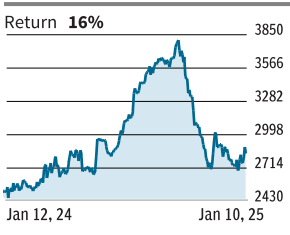
Swetha, Patna



Rane Brake Lining (₹893): The stock is in a downtrend. There is room for the stock to see ₹800-₹750 in this quarter. But from a long-term perspective, the chances are high to see a bullish reversal from the ₹800-₹750 region. That leg of rally will indicate a trend reversal. It will also have the potential to take Rane Brake Lining share price up to ₹1,350-₹1,450 or even ₹1,600 by the first half next year. If you can hold the stock for the long-term, then buy more at ₹820 and ₹770. Keep the stop-loss at ₹710. Revise the stop-loss up to ₹920 when the price goes up to ₹1,170. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹1,230 when the price touches ₹1,310. Exit the stock at ₹1,440.

I have bought shares of Colgate-Palmolive at ₹2,480. What is the technical outlook for the stock?

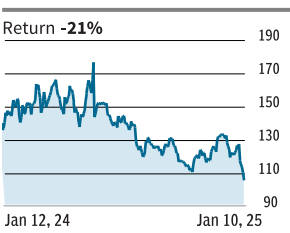
Immanuel, Kochi



Colgate- Palmolive (₹2,831.45): The share price peaked at ₹3,893 in October last year and has declined sharply. Ideally you should have had proper stop-loss strategy and exited by this time now booking some profit. Supports at ₹2,600 and ₹2,430 can be tested now. A rise to ₹3,000 is a possibility from ₹2,430. But that may or may not be a strong rise. Either you exit the stock now or keep a stop-loss at ₹2,640 and hold it. If you decide to hold the stock, then exit around ₹3,150. As a discipline have proper risk management strategy in place whenever you enter the stock. This will help in coming out of a position at the right time if there is a sudden volatility or a reversal.

I have bought Union Bank of India shares at ₹137. I am a long-term investor. Can I accumulate at current levels?

Debraj Sengupta

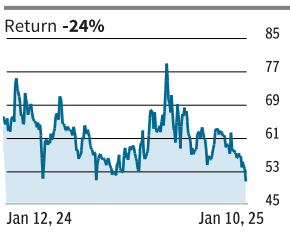


Union Bank of India (₹103.60): The stock has been in a downtrend since June last year. The sharp fall below ₹117 last week has intensified the selling pressure. The stock can fall further to ₹94 or even ₹89 in the coming weeks. But thereafter a reversal is

possible. From a long-term perspective, that leg of rally can take Union Bank of India share price up to ₹250 over the next couple of years, with intermediate corrections. Since you are a long-term investor, buy more at ₹98 and ₹91. Keep the stop-loss at ₹71. Move the stop-loss up to ₹110 when the price goes up to ₹142. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹160 when the price touches ₹195. Exit the stock at ₹230.

I have shares of SpiceJet purchased at ₹62.25. What is the outlook?

Bhaskara Murthy



SpiceJet (₹50): The stock is facing strong resistance in the ₹75-₹80 region. The price action on the chart indicates that the bias is negative. Immediate support is at ₹49. A break below it can drag the share price down to ₹40 initially. A further break below ₹40

can see the stock tumbling towards ₹25-₹20 in the coming months. To avoid this fall, the stock has to see a bounce immediately. Also to turn the outlook bullish, the share price has to go above ₹80. But on the charts, the possibility is looking high for a fall breaking below ₹49. So, it is better to exit the stock and accept the loss. It will not be worth the wait with just a hope for the share price to see a revival.

● Send your queries to 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 LTIMindtree

2 Anand Rathi Wealth

3 UNO Minda

4 HCL Technologies

5 Infosys

Last week's prize winner
Palak Sangoi

Last week's winning stock
Bata India

Closing price (Jan 3)
₹1,461.05

Closing price (Jan 10)
₹1,426.35

Return:
-2.38 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 with your name, mobile number and address. One lucky winner will get a prize of ₹2,000.

Scan to know the winner selection process

Take 500

Valuation Radar: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

The Benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty 50 were down 2.3 and 2.4 per cent respectively last week. BSE IT gained the most by 1 per cent followed by BSE Tech 0.7 per cent. BSE Power and BSE Realty declined by 8.7 and 7.2 per cent respectively last week.

Company	CMP	EPS	PE	PB	Year End	Sales Qty	Profit Qty	Sales TTM	Profit TTM	Wkly Rtn	ROCE	DER	Yr-High	Yr-Low
360 ONE [1]	1129.1	25.4	44.5	7.1	202409	56.9	32.0	47.7	41.5	-12.9	14.5	2.5	1317.3	591.6
3M India [1]	29555.8	542.7	54.6	15.6	202406	-0.3	21.6	3.0	23.3	-3.4	39.8	0.0	41000.0	28424.0
A B B [2]	6406.3	79.7	80.4	21.4	202409	5.0	21.7	14.4	39.6	-5.7	30.4	0.0	9200.0	4342.2
A B Real Estate	24.2	0.5	53.9	24.1	202409	11.1	11.1	24.1	11.1	-12.8	7.4	0.0	3142.0	128.5
Aadhar Hsg. Fin.	423.0	19.4	21.9	3.1	202409	21.0	15.3	27.5	34.8	-1.1	11.4	3.2	516.7	293.4
Artii Industries [1]	421.5	12.2	34.5	2.8	202409	12.0	-45.1	12.9	-0.8	0.3	7.3	0.6	763.5	390.3
AAVAS Financiers	1667.8	62.0	26.9	3.5	202403	21.4	12.3	25.4	14.2	-1.9	9.9	3.2	1978.3	1307.1
ABT India [1]	28.2	0.2	14.3	1.6	202409	1.2	25.8	-2.3	44.7	0.0	30.883	43.0	2.3	18.4
ACC	1931.4	98.6	19.6	2.2	202409	4.0	-42.4	5.9	41.4	-6.0	18.6	0.0	2843.0	1867.2
Action Const.Eng. [2]	1341.9	30.7	43.7	11.6	202409	12.4	28.2	23.4	55.2	-11.6	42.2	0.0	1693.1	855.0
Adani Energy Sol.	729.7	15.9	46.0	4.2	202409	68.3	144.7	49.1	44.9	-11.0	9.2	2.9	1347.9	588.3
Adani Enterp. [1]	262.0	40.1	47.7	5.9	202409	11.2	7.5	7.2	22.9	-6.5	11.1	1.6	2013.0	2037.0
Adani Green	943.1	8.6	109.5	14.1	202409	37.6	-4.2	18.6	-5.5	-9.2	10.0	7.0	2173.7	870.9
Adani Ports [2]	1112.1	47.6	23.3	4.2	202409	6.3	42.2	18.6	37.7	-7.3	12.0	1.0	1608.0	969.9
Adani Power	481.9	33.0	14.6	3.3	202409	27	49.5	30.1	38.3	-7.4	30.1	1.0	896.8	430.9
Adani Total Gas [1]	679.8	4.6	106.5	19.1	202409	11.2	7.5	7.2	22.9	-6.5	11.1	1.6	2013.0	2037.0
Adani Wilmar [1]	291.6	7.6	38.6	4.2	202409	17.9	301.4	0.3	435.5	-11.2	3.2	0.3	408.7	279.2
Aditya AMC [5]	781.1	31.1	25.2	6.9	202409	26.6	36.1	20.7	34.8	-5.0	34.9	0.0	912.0	450.0
Aditya Birl. Fas.	274.3	-6.3	7.2	202409	129	-216.6	13.6	37.8	-2.2	0.0	2.2	364.5	198.5	
Aditya Birla Cap.	162.6	14.2	11.8	1.5	202409	31.5	-5.7	-8.2	-1.6	-0.6	22.8	0.1	490.9	328.2
Angs Logistics [1]	830.9	6.6	9.9	202409	41.8	-0.8	-6.8	14.7	-5.5	12.6	0.6	103.7	57.0	
Aether industry	862.6	70	123.5	5.4	202409	21.1	1.4	-3.6	-33.4	-4.8	7.5	0.1	1066.3	775.0
Affle India [2]	1600.8	24.4	65.6	8.3	202409	25.9	37.8	31.7	29.7	-9.9	15.8	0.1	1883.1	998.0
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Venkatasubramanian K
bl. research bureau

It is rare for life insurers to offer products similar to what their general insurance counterparts do. ICICI Prudential Life has come out with ‘Wish,’ a term insurance-like product with health cover rider-like features, directed specifically at women.

The company has launched two health plans that would pay the sum assured or a portion of it in case of diagnosis major/minor critical illnesses, and in instances where major/minor surgeries are required.

There is an additional maternity care benefit that also caters to childbirth related complications.

If there are no illnesses or surgeries during the entire period of policy coverage, nothing would be payable to the policyholder.

There are a few interesting features such as the premium remaining the same through the entire coverage period and a premium sabbatical while still enjoying the benefits.

Read on for more on the new ICICI Prudential Life Wish policy.

MULTIPLE COVERAGES

As mentioned earlier, there are two options offered to policyholders.

The Health Care Plan covers minor and major critical illnesses under the ‘vital care’ benefit and against surgeries under the ‘surgical care’ benefit.

The other option is the Health Care Plus Plan that provides the vital care and surgical care benefits and an additional maternity care benefit.

The vital care benefit is available for sum assured of ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh. ICICI Prudential Life Wish offers coverage for 8-30 years under the regular pay option.

The surgical care benefit carries 50 per cent of the sum assured in the vital care option. There are separate premiums charged for each benefit.

Those opting for the maternity care benefit will get 25 per cent of the surgical care sum assured additionally by paying an extra premium.

The vital care part covers 11 women-specific critical illnesses: five major and six minor ailments.

Major critical illnesses in-



clude seven cancers, myocardial infarction, rheumatoid arthritis, and a couple of other diseases.

Minor critical illnesses include urinary incontinence, thyroid disorders, uterine prolapse among others.

On diagnosis of major critical illnesses during the coverage period, 100 per cent of the vital care sum assured will be paid, and the policy would be terminated.

If a minor critical illness is diagnosed, a fixed percentage of the cover amount (10 per cent, 50 per cent or 100 per cent depending on the ailment) would be paid and the vital care cover would continue with the remaining amount (sum assured minus paid out amount).

The surgical care benefit covers nine women-specific surgeries (five major and four minor surgeries).

When diagnosed with the need for a major surgery, 100 per cent of the surgical care sum assured would be paid and this cover would cease.

But the vital care benefit would continue with premiums payable for this benefit alone.

In case of a minor surgery, 40

POLICY BRIEF

- Health Care Plan covers minor/major critical illnesses and surgeries
- Promises unchanged premiums for the entire coverage term
- Offers a sabbatical on premium for one year during the policy period

per cent of the surgical care sum assured would be paid and the cover would be terminated.

Here too, the vital care benefit would continue.

The policy has regular and limited premium payment options. Even if the policy coverage runs for 25-30 years, the insurer has stated that the premiums would remain the same for the entire period.

Also, ICICI Prudential Wish allows you a premium sabbatical.

So, you can skip one premium payment in your entire policy period and still continue to enjoy the benefits. Interestingly, if you pay all the premiums without skipping any, the last

premium to be paid when your policy enters the final year, would be waived off.

The policy covers homemakers as well, though the sum assured is reduced.

HIGH ON PREMIUM

The premium cost would be better understood with an illustration. Let's take the example of a 30-year-old working woman seeking ₹50 lakh vital care benefit (and ₹25 lakh surgical care benefit).

Further, it is assumed that she takes the regular premium payment option, and seeks a cover for a period of 30 years. There is a discount offer for the first-year premium alone.

So, her annual premium for the first year (if purchased online) works out to ₹67,823 for the vital care benefit and ₹11,085 for the surgical care benefit.

The total premium payable is thus ₹78,908. From the second year onwards till the 30th year, the total premium is ₹87,675 (₹75,358 plus ₹12,317). All figures mentioned above include 18 per cent GST. Clearly the premiums are quite expensive

for policyholders.

SHOULD YOU BUY?

ICICI Prudential Life Wish offers some unique and innovative features. However, the costly premiums are major dampeners. The coverage too is a tad narrow as it is focused on women. It is pertinent to note that riders taken with a regular health insurance policy cater to the same needs as this policy and they do so for much lower premiums, apart from being effective. For example, ICICI Lombard's Elevate health insurance, which we reviewed a few months ago, offers large covers with many unique and useful riders at lower premiums. A family of four with the eldest person being 40 years old can get a ₹3 crore cover for ₹56,235 (excluding GST) from the general insurer, while an unlimited sum assured will cost a little more with an annual premium of ₹60,781. Such large sum assured from the 'Elevate' policy, offered at lower premiums, caters to all illnesses including critical ailments for women or men, and thus offers a better alternative to policyholders.

INSURANCE QUERY.



ANAND ROY

As a 42-year-old IT professional in Mumbai with a ₹-10 lakh health insurance policy, does my plan cover home healthcare for infectious diseases like dengue or malaria? If so, what specific services are typically included (such as doctor visits, nursing care, IV fluids, and blood tests), and how does the coverage compare to hospital admission in terms of limits, co-payments, and pre-authorisation requirements?

Shyamala

As a 42-year-old IT professional in Mumbai with a ₹10 lakh health insurance policy, you are eligible for comprehensive home healthcare (HHC) services for infectious diseases like dengue or malaria, provided the treatment meets the medical necessity criteria. The coverage is specifically designed to deliver hospital-grade care within your residence, beginning with a teleconsultation where the network doctors evaluate your condition and determine the suitability of home-based treatment.

Coverage: Your coverage includes an

extensive range of medical services delivered by empanelled doctors who conduct regular home visits to monitor your condition and adjust treatment protocols. The policy covers all essential diagnostic services through NABL-accredited laboratory partners, providing home sample collection for blood tests, platelet monitoring, and other pathology tests. Medical treatments include IV fluid administration, medication delivery and prescribed therapies. When required, qualified nursing staff provide care based on the treatment protocol, including administering IV fluids, managing wound care, and assisting with recovery tasks.

Benefits: The home healthcare programme offers distinct advantages over traditional hospitalisation. It eliminates waiting times associated with hospital appointments, admissions, and discharge procedures. The team and network providers manage the entire pre-authorisation process internally, minimising administrative hassles during your illness. Significantly, there are no co-payments or non-payable charges, resulting in zero out-of-pocket expenses, provided the treatment falls within your sum insured and follows approved medical protocols.

Home-based care substantially reduces the risk of hospital-acquired infections, which is crucial when managing infectious diseases. This



GETTY IMAGES

approach allows recovery in familiar surroundings, potentially contributing to faster healing. The network providers maintain strict clinical protocols and are equipped with modern medical equipment to ensure hospital-equivalent care at home.

Quality assurance remains paramount through rigorous verification of healthcare network partners and strict adherence to medical standards. A dedicated case management team monitors each case, ensuring optimal

care delivery and prompt resolution of concerns. Throughout your recovery journey, the team ensures efficient management of all care aspects, from vital signs monitoring to follow-up consultations.

Cost-effectiveness: Home healthcare expenses are treated at par with hospitalisation charges, subject to your overall sum insured of ₹10 lakh. At Star Health insurance, India's largest retail health insurance company, we have implemented a simplified claims process specifically for home healthcare services and are now live in 100 locations to ensure smooth delivery of care. This comprehensive approach combines the convenience of home-based care with professional medical supervision, making it a cost-effective, safer, and more convenient option for treating infectious diseases.

Members can access these services through a dedicated 24/7 home healthcare helpline. The team coordinates the initial teleconsultation and arranges subsequent care based on medical requirements, ensuring a seamless healthcare experience while maintaining high standards of medical care. The entire system supports your recovery journey with prompt, efficient, and quality healthcare, eliminating the stress of hospital admission procedures.

The writer is MD & CEO, Star Health and Allied Insurance

Bank FD interest rates (%)

Bank	<1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	w.e.f
FOREIGN BANKS					
DBS Bank	6	7.5	7	6.5	Dec 11
Deutsche Bank	7	8	8	7.5	Jun 10
HSBC	4.5	7.5	7	7	Oct 03
Scotia Bank	3.7	3.9	4	4	Jan 01
Standard Chartered	7	7.5	7.2	7.1	Oct 05

INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35	7.1	7.25	6.5	Dec 11
Bank of Baroda	6.5	7.3	7.15	6.8	Oct 14
Bank of India	6	7.3	6.75	6.5	Sep 27
Canara Bank	6.25	7.3	7.4	7.4	Dec 01
Central Bank of India	6.25	7.45	6.5	6	Aug 10
Indian Bank	7.05	7.25	6.7	6.25	Jun 12
Indian Overseas Bank	5.75	7.3	6.8	6.5	Jul 15
Punjab National Bank	7.05	7.25	7	6.5	Jan 01
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.2	7.5	7.4	6.75	Jan 01
State Bank of India	6.5	7.25*	7	6.75	Jun 15
UCO Bank	7.3	7.05	6.3	6.2	Sep 24
Union Bank	6.35	7.3	6.7	6.5	Jan 01

INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS					
Axis Bank	6	7.25	7.1	7.1	Oct 21
Bandhan Bank	4.5	8.05	7.25	7.25	Sep 13
Catholic Syrian	7.25	8	5.75	7.1	Jan 02
City Union Bank	7.5	7	6.5	6.25	Sep 01
DCB Bank	7.25	8.05	7.55	7.75	Jun 07
Dhanlaxmi Bank	5	7.25	6.5	7.25	Nov 18
Federal Bank	6.5	7.35	7.4	7.4	Dec 16
HDFC Bank	6	7.25	7.35	7.4	Jul 24
ICICI Bank	6	7.25	7	7	Jan 10
IDBI Bank	7.05	7.4	7	6.5	Dec 23
IDFC First Bank	5.75	7.9	6.8	6.75	Nov 26
IndusInd Bank	6.5	7.99	7.25	7.25	Nov 26
J & K Bank	6.25	7	7	6.75	Aug 11
Karnataka Bank	6.25	7.5	6.5	6.5	Jan 02
Kotak Bank	7	7.4	7.15	7	Jun 14
Karur Vysya Bank	7.4	7.5	7.6	7	Nov 22
RBL Bank	6.05	8	7.5	7.1	Dec 15
South Indian Bank	6.55	7.4	7	7.2	Dec 21
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.6	7.5	6.75	6.5	Oct 17
TNSC Bank	6.75	7.75	6.75	6.5	NA
Yes Bank	6.35	7.75	7.25	7.25	Nov 05

SMALL FINANCE BANKS					
AU Small Finance Bank	7.25	8	7.5	7.5	Jun 07
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7	8.15	8.25	7.5	Dec 02
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6	8.25	8.25	6.75	Jan 01
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.5	8.25	8.25	8.2	Jan 02
Suryoday Small Fin Bank	7.25	8.5	8.6	8.25	04-Sep
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.5	8.25	7.75	7.2	13-Sep

*Data as on respective banks' website on January 10, 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; *w.e.f. July 15, 2024

ALERTS.

WSFx launches new forex card

WSFx, formerly 'Wall Street Finance', a forex fintech company has announced the launch of WSFx Student Pay, a forex card in collaboration with Visa. The card comes with features such as 'Tap & Pay' technology to make quick, contactless payments. Zero forex conversion charges, one free ATM withdrawal per month, lounge access and a rewards programme are other key salient features of the card. WSFx also provides the WSFx Global Pay app.

Small Savings Schemes - Interest rates

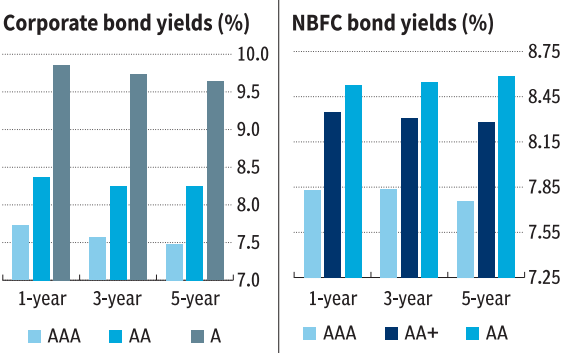
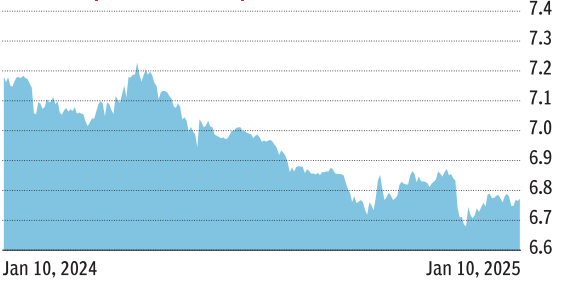
Small Savings Scheme		Interest rate (%)		Compounding frequency
		Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2025	
Post Office Savings Deposit		4.0	4.0	Annually
	1 year	6.9	6.9	Quarterly
	2 year	7.0	7.0	Quarterly
	3 year	7.1	7.1	Quarterly
	5 year	7.5	7.5	Quarterly
Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 year)		6.7	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 Samridhi Yojana		8.2	8.2	Annually

Note: Small savings rate as on the latest quarterly reset on Dec 31, 2024 #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 6.77 | Month-ago 6.71 | Year-ago 7.18



Yields on government securities of different maturities (%)



Source: Bloomberg (FIMMDA data), RBI Note: All data as on Jan 10, 2025 or latest available

Health insurance premium tracker

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

Insurer	Plan name	Key features	Premium (₹)
Niva Bupa	Health ReAssure	Unlimited restoration of cover; No room rent limit; Carry forward unutilised sum insured up to 5x	11,694
Care	Care supreme	7x sum insured in 5 years; Unlimited restoration of cover; Wellness benefit up to 30%	11,149
Star Health	Star Comprehensive	Comprehensive plan; Mid term inclusion of wife and child; Unlimited restoration of cover	11,476
Aditya Birla	Activ Health Platinum Enhanced	No room rent limit; Up to 100% discount on renewal; Premium waiver for critical illness	11,212
Bajaj Allianz General	Individual Health Guard - Gold	No room rent limit; No claim bonus; OPD up to 10K optional	12,212
Manipal Cigna	Prime - Advantage	OPD cover up to 30K; Unlimited restoration of cover; Unique switch off benefit	12,513
TATA AIG	Medicare Premier	Global coverage along with OPD and dental; Coverage for consumables	13,663
HDFC Ergo	Optima Secure	2X coverage from Day 1; Sum insured doubles after 2 years; Zero deductions on non-medical	15,132
ICICI Lombard	Health AdvantEdge Apex Plus	PED Coverage after 2 Years; Surrogacy & IVF; OPD- BeFit C(Optional)	11,831

Premium is calculated on the basis of age of insured member, location, Plan type and Sum insured; Health insurance covers medical expenses that arise due to an illness and benefits will be payable subject to the terms and conditions and exclusions of the Policy. Date: Jan 10, 2025. Source: www.policybazaar.com

Term insurance premium tracker

For a 30-year-old male/female, non smoker, living in a metro city, Sum assured ₹1 crore with coverage up to 70 yrs

Insurance company	Plan name	Max coverage up to	Max policy term	Annual premium (₹) (inclusive of GST)		Claim settlement ratio (%)
		(years)		Male	Female	
Aditya Birla Capital	Digishield Plan	85	55	15,066	12,687	98.1
Bandhan Life	iTerm Prime	70	40	14,282	11,756	99.7
Bajaj Allianz	eTouch	99*	69	11,996	10,426	99.0
Canara HSBC Life	Young Term Plan - Life Secure	99	69	12,997	10,857	99.0
Edelweiss Tokio	Zindagi Protect	100	70	15,528	12,735	99.2
HDFC Life	Click 2 Protect Super	100	70	15,863	13,484	99.4
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	69	16,286	14,365	97.8
Kotak Life	Kotak e-Term Plan	85	67	13,452	11,210	98.8
Max Life	Smart Secure Plus	85	55	14,798	11,674	99.5
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	80	50	15,930	12,980	99.1
SBI Life	eShield Next	100	70	17,495	14,654	97.1
TATA AIA Life	SRS Vitality Protect	100	70	12,510	10,634	99.0

Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer Source: www.policybazaar.com, Date: Jan 10, 2025 Max Life offers additional 5% discount for 1st year for salaried customers; *Whole life available only on limited pay option; HDFC whole is available only in limited payterm(Life Protect) & Limited+Single payterm(Income Plus); SBI eShield Next plan whole life is available only in limited pay with above age 45yrs



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 Bluechip Equity	59.4	14799	1.7	0.5	15.6	11.4	16.6	13.2	0.38
★★★★★	ICICI Pru Bluechip	102.2	63264	1.5	0.9	14.8	14.8	17.9	13.6	0.37
★★★★★	JM Large Cap	147.8	480	2.4	0.7	11.1	13.1	16.6	10.7	0.55
★★★★★	Baroda BNP Paribas Large Cap	211.8	2421	2.0	0.8	17.0	13.8	16.5	12.6	0.37
★★★★★	Edelweiss Large Cap	79.6	1110	2.2	0.6	12.8	12.3	15.9	12.5	0.34
★★★★★	Kotak Bluechip	535.7	9411	1.8	0.6	14.3	11.4	16.0	12.5	0.34
★★★★★	Nippon Ind Large Cap	84.4	35700	1.6	0.7	14.9	18.0	18.6	13.7	0.37
★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity	492.8	28786	1.7	1.0	13.4	12.0	16.1	12.1	0.33
★★★★	Bandhan Large Cap	72.2	1769	2.1	0.9	14.7	11.4	16.0	11.6	0.35
★★★★	HDFC Large Cap	1076.4	35975	1.6	1.0	9.7	15.0	16.4	12.1	0.33
★★★★	HSBC Large Cap	459.4	1906	2.1	1.2	14.4	11.4	14.9	12.0	0.32
★★★★	Invesco India Largecap	65.8	1324	2.1	0.8	17.3	12.2	16.9	12.7	0.35
★★★★	Mirae Asset Large Cap	104.9	38752	1.5	0.6	11.1	8.8	13.9	12.9	0.29
★★★★	SBI Blue Chip	86.6	49683	1.5	0.8	11.4	11.3	15.6	12.7	0.33
★★★★	Tata Large Cap	472.0	2415	2.0	1.0	10.6	11.2	15.3	11.5	0.31
★★★★	UTI Large Cap	259.2	12617	1.8	0.9	11.1	8.2	14.7	11.4	0.31
★★★★	Axis Bluechip	57.2	33127	1.6	0.7	11.7	6.1	12.2	11.4	0.28
★★★★	Franklin Ind Bluechip	971.1	7683	1.8	1.1	15.0	10.0	15.3	11.1	0.32
★★★★	LIC MF Large Cap	53.3	1448	2.1	1.0	13.4	7.7	12.6	10.3	0.28
★★★	Union Largecap	22.4	437	2.5	1.6	9.1	9.0	14.4	-	0.30
★★★	DSP Top 100 Equity	442.6	4004	2.9	1.1	18.5	14.1	14.2	11.0	0.28
★★★	Groww Largecap	40.0	129	2.4	1.0	8.9	10.2	12.0	10.8	0.25
★★	PGIM India Large Cap	319.6	587	2.4	0.9	8.1	8.3	12.1	10.2	0.25
★★	Mahi Manu Large Cap	21.6	589	2.3	0.7	12.3	10.0	14.8	-	0.31
★★	Taurus Large Cap	150.1	49	2.6	2.5	14.1	12.9	14.0	9.5	0.29
EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS										
★★★★★	HDFC Large and Mid Cap	319.4	23899	1.7	0.9	14.8	18.7	22.3	13.7	0.44
★★★★★	Quant Large & Mid Cap	114.5	3658	1.9	0.6	14.5	18.9	24.9	17.4	0.53
★★★★★	Bandhan Core Equity	125.6	7641	1.8	0.6	22.3	20.5	22.0	15.4	0.43
★★★★★	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	921.4	17680	1.7	0.9	19.4	18.9	22.4	14.6	0.45
★★★★★	Kotak Equity Opport	321.6	25784	1.6	0.5	19.5	16.9	19.8	15.1	0.42
★★★★★	Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	139.3	38335	1.5	0.6	10.5	11.2	18.9	17.4	0.40
★★★★	Canara Robeco Emerging Equities	244.6	24887	1.6	0.6	20.8	13.1	20.0	15.9	0.43
★★★★	DSP Equity Opport	584.0	13983	1.7	0.7	19.8	17.1	19.8	15.2	0.41
★★★★	Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	83.6	3796	1.9	0.4	19.5	15.6	20.2	14.4	0.43
★★★★	Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	92.1	6712	1.8	0.7	29.7	18.9	20.2	15.4	0.42
★★★★	LIC MF Large & Midcap	37.9	3142	1.9	0.6	23.6	14.3	18.4	-	0.39
★★★★	SBI Large & Midcap	576.3	29268	1.6	0.7	14.5	15.0	20.0	14.8	0.40
★★★★	Tata Large & Mid Cap	495.2	8245	1.8	0.6	11.3	13.9	17.4	13.3	0.38
★★★★	UTI Large & Mid Cap	169.8	4134	1.9	1.0	22.4	18.6	22.0	13.7	0.44
★★★★	BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	83.4	367	2.3	1.2	12.1	13.3	18.3	11.7	0.39
★★★★	Navi Large & Midcap	34.5	319	2.3	0.3	13.4	10.6	16.6	-	0.33
★★★★	Nippon Ind Vision	1385.9	5988	2.0	1.4	21.5	17.9	20.3	12.3	0.41
★★★★	Sundaram Large and Mid Cap	82.1	6913	1.8	0.7	16.6	12.5	17.2	13.9	0.34
★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage	854.9	5827	1.9	1.1	11.4	6.1	14.7	11.9	0.28
★★★★	Franklin Ind Equity Advantage	179.8	3491	2.0	1.3	17.5	12.1	17.4	11.6	0.33
★★★★	Axis Growth Opport	31.0	14099	1.7	0.6	20.2	12.9	20.9	-	0.46
★★★★	HSBC Large & Mid Cap	26.5	4310	1.9	0.9	28.5	16.5	20.1	-	0.42
EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS										
★★★★★	JM Flexicap	99.5	5338	1.8	0.6	26.0	22.8	23.2	16.8	0.50
★★★★★	Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	79.4	87539	1.3	0.6	21.0	15.7	24.0	17.3	0.55
★★★★★	Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1562.8	17947	1.7	0.9	17.5	16.2	21.1	14.0	0.43
★★★★★	HDFC Flexi Cap	1824.1	66344	1.4	0.8	19.9	21.4	21.9	14.5	0.43
★★★★★	PGIM India Flexi Cap	34.2	6330	1.8	0.4	12.4	7.3	19.3	-	0.41
★★★★★	Union Flexi Cap	48.6	2299	2.0	0.9	11.5	11.4	18.3	11.7	0.40
★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1670.4	22174	1.7	0.9	15.3	12.2	16.7	13.7	0.33
★★★★	Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	318.6	12805	1.7	0.6	14.6	10.5	17.3	13.1	0.39
★★★★	DSP Flexi Cap	97.7	11569	1.7	0.7	15.2	12.1	17.6	13.5	0.37
★★★★	Edelweiss Flexi Cap	36.5	2469	1.9	0.4	20.1	15.5	19.1	-	0.40
★★★★	HSBC Flexi Cap	211.0	5042	1.9	1.2	22.9	14.6	19.0	12.8	0.38
★★★★	Kotak Flexicap	77.5	50426	1.5	0.6	14.2	12.6	15.4	13.2	0.32
★★★★	Bandhan Flexi Cap	194.1	7181	1.9	1.2	13.2	10.6	14.8	10.9	0.30
★★★★	LIC MF Flexi Cap	97.7	1062	2.3	1.4	15.4	11.9	13.8	9.1	0.31
★★★★	SBI Flexicap	105.0	22092	1.7	0.8	11.4	10.3	15.2	13.1	0.32
★★★★	UTI Flexi Cap	313.4	26062	1.7	1.1	14.3	4.7	15.3	12.2	0.32
★★★★	Motilal Oswal Flexi Cap	60.9	13162	1.7	0.9	35.5	19.7	17.6	14.7	0.36
★★★★	Taurus Flexi Cap	222.4	368	2.6	2.6	13.5	13.7	14.5	9.4	0.29
★★★★	Axis Flexi Cap	25.4	12880	1.7	0.7	18.6	8.2	14.7	-	0.34
★★★★	Navi Flexi Cap	22.0	260	2.3	0.4	8.5	9.9	14.2	-	0.29
★★★★	Quant Flexi Cap	93.1	7185	1.8	0.6	10.2	16.2	30.1	18.0	0.60
★★★★	Shriram Flexi Cap	20.8	145	2.3	0.7	8.7	11.0	13.8	-	0.32
★★★★	Tata Flexi Cap	22.2	2902	1.9	0.7	10.7	9.9	14.4	-	0.32
EQUITY - MULTI CAP FUNDS										
★★★★	Baroda BNP Paribas Multi Cap	284.0	2850	2.0	0.9	24.5	16.2	22.9	14.0	0.48
★★★★	ICICI Pru Multicap	749.2	14019	1.8	1.0	17.8	17.5	19.9	14.5	0.39
★★★★	Invesco India Multicap	130.4	3983	1.9	0.7	24.1	16.2	21.6	14.4	0.44
★★★★	Mahi Manu Multi Cap	33.6	5011	1.8	0.5	16.9	16.3	23.1	-	0.48
★★★★	Nippon Ind Multi Cap	278.9	39385	1.6	0.7	19.8	22.9	23.1	14.2	0.42
★★★★	Quant Active	620.4	10285	1.7	0.6	7.0	13.1	26.9	17.9	0.52
★★★★	Sundaram Multi Cap	361.3	2772	2.0	0.9	15.5	13.1	20.0	14.6	0.40
EQUITY - MID CAP FUNDS										
★★★★★	Motilal Oswal Midcap	105.6	26421	1.6	0.7	43.5	30.9	31.3	19.5	0.58
★★★★★	PGIM India Midcap Opport	61.6	11285	1.7	0.5	15.2	10.8	27.2	15.4	0.56
★★★★★	Quant Mid Cap	215.5	8891	1.8	0.6	13.8	21.2	31.0	17.8	0.62
★★★★★	Edelweiss Mid Cap	96.2	8666	1.7	0.4	30.6	22.7	28.6	18.3	0.56
★★★★★	HDFC Mid-Cap Opport	182.7	77967	1.4	0.8	22.4	24.8	27.5	17.5	0.55
★★★★★	Kotak Emerging Equity	129.5	53079	1.4	0.4	28.4	20.3	25.5	17.9	0.51
★★★★★	Nippon Ind Growth	3890.0	35278	1.6	0.8	20.0	22.7	27.4	17.8	0.54
★★★★★	Axis Midcap	141.2	30829	1.6	0.5	25.0	14.9	22.0	15.7	0.51
★★★★	Baroda BNP Paribas Mid Cap	98.5	2186	2.0	0.5	22.3	18.3	23.9	15.7	0.51
★★★★	ICICI Pru Midcap	271.3	6339	1.9	1.1	18.6	17.5	23.2	14.9	0.45
★★★★	Invesco India Midcap	165.1	6150	1.8	0.6	34.6	21.9	26.6	17.4	0.56
★★★★	SBI Magnum Midcap	229.1	21818	1.7	0.8	15.9	16.3	25.8	15.6	0.51
★★★★	Tata Mid Cap Growth	410.8	4529	1.9	0.7	15.8	17.8	23.3	15.8	0.48
★★★★	Taurus Mid Cap	113.8	127	2.6	2.1	3.9	14.9	20.9	14.8	0.45
★★★★	UTI Mid Cap	292.3	11997	1.8	0.9	17.9	14.5	23.5	14.4	0.49
★★★★	DSP Midcap	141.2	19297	1.7	0.8	17.4	14.6	19.3	14.9	0.42
★★★★	Franklin Ind Prima	2651.6	12570	1.8	1.0	25.1	19.7	22.1	15.3	0.45
★★★★	HSBC Midcap	376.2	12416	1.7	0.7	27.5	21.4	22.7	16.4	0.48
★★★★	Sundaram Mid Cap	1316.2	12619	1.7	0.9	24.3	21.7	22.9	15.4	0.44
★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Midcap	73.6	5911	1.9	1.1	16.5	14.8	21.3	13.8	0.43
★★★★	LIC MF Midcap	29.0	327	2.5	1.6	25.8	16.9	22.4	-	0.43
★★★★	Mahi Manu Mid Cap	31.9	3529	1.9	0.5	22.2	20.8	26.2	-	0.56
EQUITY - SMALL CAP FUNDS										
★★★★★	Nippon Ind Small Cap	166.7	61974	1.4	0.7	19.1	22.6	33.0	21.0	0.60
★★★★★	Quant Small Cap	252.1	26670	1.6	0.7	14.6	21.1	43.3	19.9	0.74
★★★★★	AXIS Small Cap	103.2	24758	1.6	0.6	19.8	17.6	25.9	18.4	0.52
★★★★★	Kotak Small Cap	265.5	17778	1.6	0.5	20.2	15.7	28.5	18.1	0.54
★★★★	DSP Small Cap	192.4	16634	1.7	0.8	18.9	18.3	28.1	17.8	0.55

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	
★★★★	HSBC Small Cap	83.7	17386	1.7	0.7	19.8	19.9	29.1	19.5	0.53
★★★★	LIC MF Small Cap	32.5	465	2.5	1.4	30.5	20.9	28.5	-	0.54
★★★★	SBI Small Cap	170.4	33496	1.6	0.7	18.1	16.4	25.6	19.4	0.55
★★★★	Union Small Cap	48.2	1685	2.1	1.0	14.3	16.1	27.1	14.6	0.54
★★	Franklin Ind Smaller Companies	170.4	14069	1.7	0.9	14.7	21.6	27.2	16.5	0.51
★★	HDFC Small Cap	133.8	33893	1.6	0.7	14.5	19.6	27.7	18.0	0.51
★	Aditya Birla SL Small Cap	83.8	5100	1.9	1.0	13.5	13.7	21.4	13.7	0.41
★	Sundaram Small Cap	249.1	3401	1.9	0.8	14.3	16.7	25.9	13.8	0.47
-	Bank of India Small Cap	46.9	1658	2.0	0.5	22.3	18.6	34.2	-	0.71
-	Canara Robeco Small Cap	38.1	12544	1.7	0.5	15.3	16.6	30.7	-	0.62
-	Edelweiss Small Cap	43.3	4428	1.8	0.4	18.6	19.6	30.5	-	0.60
-	ICICI Pru Smallcap	83.5	8258	1.8	0.8	10.5	16.6	25.7	15.5	0.48
-	Invesco India Smallcap	40.8	6298	1.8	0.4	27.7	22.3	29.6	-	0.58
-	Tata Small Cap	40.0	9699	1.7	0.3	23.4	20.9	29.8	-	0.61
EQUITY - FOCUSED FUNDS										
★★★★★	360 ONE Focused Equity	43.9	7112	1.8	0.9	11.0	11.7	19.1	15.3	0.39
★★★★★	ICICI Pru Focused Equity	82.4	9984	1.7	0.6	21.6	17.7	22.9	13.6	0.56
★★★★	HDFC Focused 30	210.7	15642	1.7	0.6	20.2	21.6	21.9	13.6	0.43
★★★★	Quant Focused	82.8	1075	2.2	0.7	8.3	14.6	20.6	15.2	0.43
★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Focused	133.8	7581	1.8	0.9	16.6	12.2	16.0	12.2	0.34
★★★★	Franklin Ind Focused Equity	101.5	12044	1.8	0.9	14.5	14.3	18.9	13.5	0.38
★★★★	JM Focused	19.9	226	2.4	0.8	18.6	17.8	15.9	13.2	0.32
★★★★	Nippon Ind Focused Equity	111.6	8194	1.9	1.2	8.0	12.5	18.4	13.2	0.35
★★★★	SBI Focused Equity	324.2	34680	1.6	0.7	15.1	8.9	16.0	13.7	0.34
★★★★	Sundaram Focused	156.2	1104	2.3	1.3	14.3	11.1	17.5	13.1	0.39
★★	DSP Focus	51.4	2482	2.0	1.0	16.1	13.6	14.6	11.9	0.29
★★	Motilal Oswal Focused	43.0	1750	2.0	0.9	6.0	8.6	12.0	11.0	0.27
★	Axis Focused	51.4	13668	1.7	0.8	11.3	2.7	10.7	11.8	0.22
★	Bandhan Focused Equity	86.3	1837	2.1	0.8	25.2	15.0	17.5	12.3	0.37
-	Baroda BNP Paribas Focused	21.0	684	2.3	0.4	12.0	11.9	15.0	-	0.33
-	LIC MF Focused	20.2	137	2.5	1.6	10.1	8.3	14.4	-	0.32
EQUITY - VALUE FUNDS										
★★★★★	ICICI Pru Value Discovery	434.9	48308	1.6	1.1	17.8	20.2	24.8	14.9	0.56
★★★★★	JM Value	96.9	1085	2.2	1.0	16.2	22.0	23.1	16.9	0.47
★★★★	Bandhan Sterling Value	213.1	9947	1.8	0.7	13.5	14.7	23.8	14.8	0.46
★★★★	Nippon Ind Value	145.5	8564	1.8	1.1	17.8	19.6	23.2	15.4	0.42
★★★★	HSBC Value	102.6	13565	1.7	0.8	19.3	19.5	22.8	16.2	0.44
★★★★	Tata Equity P/E	333.7	8592	1.8	0.8	15.2	17.7	19.0	14.4	0.41
★★★★	Templeton India Value	681.7	2154	2.1	0.9	12.8	18.2	22.6	13.9	0.43
★★★★	UTI Value	159.4	9914	1.8	1.1	21.3	15.6	19.5	12.7	0.41
★★	HDFC Capital Builder Value	691.8	7252	1.8	1.0	16.6	15.4	19.2	13.4	0.37
★★	Quantum Long Term Equity Value	120.9	1169	2.0	1.1	19.8	16.1	17.7	12.1	0.37
★	Aditya Birla SL Pure Value	123.3	6291	1.9	1.0	14.4	17.7	21.0	12.5	0.41
-	Groww Value	24.6	46	2.3	0.9	7.9	11.8	15.7	-	0.34
-	LIC MF Value	25.2	154	2.5	1.6	23.3	15.5	18.9	-	0.41
-	Union Value	26.4	299	2.5	1.3	12.0	15.2	19.3	-	0.41
EQUITY - TAX SAVING (ELSS) FUNDS										
★★★★★	Bank of India ELSS Tax Saver	159.5	1441	2.0	0.8	15.5	15.0	23.3	15.9	0.52
★★★★★	Quant ELSS Tax Saver	340.9	10513	1.7	0.6	4.5	14.1	29.1	19.4	0.55
★★★★★	SBI Long Term Equity	417.4	27791	1.6	0.9	23.2	22.1	23.4	14.5	0.48
★★★★	Bandhan ELSS Tax Saver	143.9	6822	1.8	0.7	9.9	12.6	20.8	14.7	0.40
★★★★	Canara Robeco ELSS Tax Saver	166.6	8696	1.7	0.6	14.1	11.3	19.4	13.9	0.42
★★★★	DSP ELSS Tax Saver	131.1	16610	1.6	0.7	20.1	16.3	20.3	15.5	0.42
★★★★	JM ELSS Tax Saver	47.6	186	2.4	1.3	24.1	16.9	20.6	15.5	0.42
★★★★	Mirae Asset ELSS Tax Saver	45.2	25021	1.6	0.6	12.7	11.8	18.6	-	0.39
★★★★	Motilal Oswal ELSS Tax Saver	52.2	4415	1.8	0.6	35.0	23.5	22.4	-	0.45
★★	Baroda BNP Paribas ELSS Tax Saver	92.2	951	2.2	1.0	19.9	14.2	17.1	12.6	0.38
★★	Franklin Ind ELSS Tax Saver	1420.4	6855	1.8	1.0	18.1	16.6	19.6	13.3	0.38
★★	HDFC ELSS Tax saver	1302.9	15729	1.7	1.1	18.4	19.8	20.1	12.5	0.40
★★	ICICI Pru Long Term Equity	861.5	13847	1.7	1.1	14.7	12.0	16.8	12.5	0.35
★★	Invesco India ELSS Tax Saver	124.9	2960	1.9	0.8	21.7	12.7	18.2	14.1	0.38
★★	Kotak ELSS Tax Saver	111.4	6219	1.8	0.6	18.0	14.5	18.5	14.0	0.38
★★	Mahi Manu ELSS Tax Saver	26.6	19.9	2.2	0.6	9.6	11.0	17.4	-	0.37
★★	PGIM India ELSS Tax Saver	33.8	778	2.3	0.7	13.8	10.9	17.9	-	0.38
★★	Union ELSS Tax Saver	61.2	923	2.3	1.3	11.6	12.1	18.7	11.6	0.41
★★	UTI ELSS Tax Saver	197.6	3805	1.9	0.9	11.9	9.2	16.2	12.0	0.34
★★	Edelweiss Long Term Equity	105.2	398	2.4	0.7	15.9	12.6	16.6	12.0	0.35
★★	HSBC ELSS Tax saver	129.9	4313	1.9	1.1	25.9	15.6	18.2	13.5	0.37
★★	LIC MF ELSS Tax Saver	151.9	1150	2.1	1.0	22.8	13.6	15.6	12.2	0.32
★★	Quantum ELSS Tax Saver	120.0	213	2.0	0.9	19.4	16.1	17.7	12.1	0.37
★★	Sundaram ELSS Tax Saver	478.8	1346	2.2	1.7	13.6	12.2	18.0	13.4	0.38
★★	Tata ELSS Tax Saver	42.8	4641	1.8	0.7	16.4	13.9	17.1	14.5	0.36
★	Aditya Birla SL ELSS Tax Saver	55.9	15343	1.7	1.0	12.7	9.3	11.4	10.7	0.25
★	Axis ELSS Tax Saver	90.8	35954	1.5	0.8	14.2	6.0	12.8	12.1	0.27
★	Nippon Ind ELSS Tax Saver	118.7	15199	1.7	1.0	13.3	14.5	15.9	9.7	0.32
-	Groww ELSS Tax Saver	19.5	50	2.3	0.6	13.0	12.4	13.9	-	0.31
-	HSBC Tax Saver Equity	91.7	261	2.5	1.6	26.7	15.7	18.9	13.2	0.38
-	Navil ELSS Tax Saver	28.1	61	2.3	0.4	10.4	9.3	13.4	-	0.26
-	Shriram ELSS Tax Saver	21.7	55	2.3	0.7	9.5	10.8	14.1	-	0.34
-	Sundaram Diversified Equity	208.1	1529	2.2	1.6	10.4	10.9	15.0	11.3	0.30
-	Taurus ELSS Tax Saver	179.7	80	2.5	1.9	15.9	16.0	17.0	13.0	0.36
EQUITY - CONTRA FUNDS										
-	Invesco India Contra	129.7	18153	1.6	0.5	24.5	17.9	21.1	15.8	0.44
-	Kotak India EQ Contra	121.9	3986	1.9	0.6	17.9	18.5	20.5	15.1	0.42
-	SBI Contra	366.9	42181	1.5	0.6	14.9	20.7	28.4	15.6	0.60
EQUITY - DIVIDEND YIELD FUNDS										
★★★★★	Templeton India Equity Income	135.9	2367	2.1	1.2	18.3	17.8	23.7	15.1	0.52
★★★★	ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity	48.4	4766	1.9	0.6	18.9	20.8	24.6	14.3	0.52
★★★	Aditya Birla SL Dividend Yield	438.7	1511	2.2	1.4	15.5	19.1	21.8	11.9	0.46
★★	UTI Dividend Yield	170.2	4082	2.0	1.4	23.1	15.8	20.8	13.3	0.47
★	Sundaram Dividend Yield	132.0	929	2.3	1.0	12.5	14.1	19.1	13.8	0.44
-	LIC MF Dividend Yield	29.3	494	2.5	1.2	26.5	17.7	21.7	-	0.49
EQUITY - THEMATIC - CONSUMPTION FUNDS										
★★★★★	Canara Robeco Consumer Trends	104.5	1751	2.1	0.8	16.1	15.0	19.7	15.4	0.42
★★★★	Mirae Asset Great Consumer	90.7	4152	1.8	0.4	15.3	17.2	19.2	15.6	0.40
★★★★	SBI Consumption Opport	319.2	3100	2.0	0.9	19.3	20.1	22.4	16.0	0.45
★★★★	Aditya Birla SL India GenNext	206.5	5858	1.9	0.8	14.9	13.8	17.4	15.0	0.36
★★★	Tata India Consumer	44.4	2475	2.0	0.7	21.3	17.7	20.4	-	0.48
★★	ICICI Pru FCMG	482.4	1765	2.2	1.3	29.1	13.5	14.2	12.1	0.33
★★	UTI India Consumer	56.5	706	2.5	1.5	19.1	11.6	15.7	11.1	0.36
★	Sundaram Consumption	96.2	1584	2.2	1.3	18.1	17.7	17.5	14.2	0.36
-	Baroda BNP Pari India Consumption	31.4	1470	2.1	0.6	20.1	16.3	19.2	-	0.43
-	Mahi Manu Consumption	22.2	440	2.4	0.6	16.4	16.2	16.6	-	0.36
-	Nippon Ind Consumption	193.5	2161	2.0	0.6	18.1	19.2	22.9	13.7	0.51
EQUITY - THEMATIC - INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS										
★★★★★	Invesco India Infrastructure	62.2	1606	2.1	0.7	25.9	24.2	28.4	16.5	0.57
★★★★★	Quant Infrastructure	37.0	3536	1.9	0.7	14.3	18.8	33.2	18.1	0.56
★★★★	BOI AXA Manufacturing & Infra	53.0	537	2.3	0.8	18.2	20.6	28.1	16.0	0.61
★★★★	ICICI Pru Infrastructure	179.0	6911	1.9	1.2	21.0	29.7	28.4	15.9	0.52
★★★★	Tata Infrastructure	167.2	2331	2.1	1.1	11.3	20.3	24.3	14.9	0.51
★★★	Bandhan Infrastructure	49.0	1791	2.1	0.8	27.4	24.6	27.7	15.9	0.50
★★★	Canara Robeco Infrastructure	149.0	872	2.3	1.0	26.4	23.9	26.7	15.3	0.54
★★★	DSP India T.I.G.E.R.	305.6	5454	1.9	0.8	24.2	27.5	26.7	16.3	0.50
★★	Franklin Build India	133.2	2784	2.0	0.9	20.5	25.8	25.7	16.9	0.48
★★	Kotak Infra & Economic Reform	64.2	2430	2.0	0.6	23.4	24.0	25.6	15.7	0.50
★★	LIC MF Infrastructure	48.7	927	2.3	1.1	37.9	28.4	25.7	15.1	0.50
★★	SBI Infrastructure	47.7	4999	1.9	0.9	13.6	22.6	24.2	16.0	0.48
★	Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure	90.2	1162	2.3	1.3	15.7	21.1	24.1	13.2	0.45
★	HSBC Infrastructure	45.7	2511	2.0	1.0	19.6	22.2	23.8	16.2	0.45
★	Sundaram Infra Advantage	89.2	975	2.4	1.8	18.1	18.5	22.5	13.8	0.42
★	HDFC Infrastructure	44.3	2465	2.1	1.1	15.6	27.7	23.2	10.4	0.41
★	UTI Infrastructure	132.6	2202	2.1	1.8	12.3	18.4	19.2	12.1	0.38
-	Taurus Infrastructure	64.5	10	2.5	2.0	10.5	18.0	20.9	13.6	0.45
EQUITY - THEMATIC - MNC FUNDS										
-	Aditya Birla SL MNC	1311.2	3796	2.0	1.3	12.6	9.8	10.8	9.7	0.26
-	SBI Magnum Global	362.3	6642	1.9	1.2	5.0	6.8	15.1	11.2	0.40
-	UTI MNC	382.7	2937	2.0	1.2	14.2	10.9	14.2	10.8	0.35

bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				AA & Below
				Regular	Direct	1 Month Absolute	3 Month Absolute	6 Month Absolute	1 Year CAGR	

CASH FUNDS

LIQUID FUNDS

- 360 ONE Liquid	1948.2	846	0.3	0.2	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.1	-
- Aditya Birla SL Liquid	407.3	39883	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Axis Liquid	2813.6	30917	0.2	0.2	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- Bandhan Liquid	3054.6	13835	0.3	0.1	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.2	-
- Bank of India Liquid	2910.2	1315	0.1	0.1	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.4	-
- Baroda BNP Paribas Liquid	2907.5	8842	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.2	-
- Canara Robeco Liquid	3041.7	3197	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- DSP Liquidity	3608.6	17017	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.3	-
- Edelweiss Liquid	3232.1	5489	0.2	0.1	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Groww Liquid	2443.7	138	0.2	0.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- HDFC Liquid	4959.3	68648	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- HSBC Liquid	2520.1	16220	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- ICICI Pru Liquid	374.2	49653	0.2	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Invesco India Liquid	3474.1	11745	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- ITI Liquid	1318.0	49	0.3	0.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	-
- JM Liquid	69.0	2941	0.3	0.2	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.2	-
- Kotak Liquid	5108.8	33497	0.3	0.2	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.2	-
- LIC MF Liquid	4571.6	9444	0.2	0.2	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Mahi Manu Liquid	1645.0	1158	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- Mirae Asset Liquid	2650.9	11206	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.4	896	0.4	0.2	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.9	-
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	10.0	896	-	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	12.9	896	-	0.2	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	-
- Navi Liquid	27.6	73	0.2	0.2	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	-
- Nippon Ind Liquid	6168.9	26986	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.3	-
- Parag Parikh Liquid	1404.7	2230	0.3	0.2	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.9	-
- PGIM India Liquid	329.0	437	0.2	0.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- Quant Liquid	40.0	1756	0.5	0.3	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.0	-
- Quantum Liquid	34.0	524	0.3	0.2	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	-
- SBI Liquid	3952.3	60844	0.3	0.2	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.2	-
- Sundaram Liquid	2230.3	5946	0.3	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Tata Liquid	3980.7	23173	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Union Liquid	2432.2	3743	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- UTI Liquid	4146.2	23764	0.2	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1360.3	306	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.2	-

ARBITRAGE FUNDS

- Aditya Birla SL Arbitrage	25.8	14115	1.0	0.3	7.8	7.1	6.8	7.4	-
- Axis Arbitrage	18.1	5913	1.0	0.3	7.8	7.0	6.8	7.5	-
- Bandhan Arbitrage	31.5	7724	1.1	0.4	7.9	7.1	6.9	7.5	-
- Bank of India Arbitrage	13.4	40	0.9	0.2	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.9	-
- Baroda BNP Paribas Arbitrage	15.6	1358	1.2	0.4	7.8	6.5	6.6	7.4	0.30
- DSP Arbitrage	14.5	6132	1.0	0.4	8.1	7.2	6.9	7.4	-
- Edelweiss Arbitrage	18.8	12136	1.1	0.4	8.3	7.3	6.9	7.6	-
- HDFC Arbitrage	29.7	16867	0.9	0.4	8.3	7.4	7.0	7.6	-
- HSBC Arbitrage	18.4	2423	0.9	0.3	8.5	7.0	6.7	7.3	-
- ICICI Pru Equity-Arbitrage	33.3	24369	0.9	0.4	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.6	-
- Invesco India Arbitrage	31.0	18910	1.1	0.4	8.2	7.3	7.0	7.6	-
- ITI Arbitrage	12.6	39	0.9	0.2	7.5	6.8	6.4	7.3	-
- JM Arbitrage	31.7	195	1.1	0.4	7.0	6.9	6.5	7.1	-
- Kotak Equity Arbitrage	36.3	54913	1.0	0.4	8.0	7.4	7.0	7.8	-
- LIC MF Arbitrage	13.4	310	1.0	0.3	7.6	7.1	6.6	7.1	-
- Mahi Manu Arbitrage	12.1	110	1.2	0.4	6.7	6.0	5.5	6.2	-
- Mirae Asset Arbitrage	12.7	2931	0.9	0.2	8.1	7.1	6.7	7.4	-
- Nippon Ind Arbitrage	25.8	14739	1.1	0.4	8.0	7.0	6.8	7.4	-
- PGIM India Arbitrage	17.8	81	1.1	0.4	6.8	6.8	6.6	7.0	-
- SBI Arbitrage Opport	32.8	31141	1.0	0.4	8.0	7.2	6.9	7.5	-
- Sundaram Arbitrage	14.0	234	1.0	0.3	7.9	6.9	6.7	7.1	-
- Tata Arbitrage	13.9	12675	1.1	0.3	7.7	7.1	6.8	7.4	-
- Union Arbitrage	13.6	223	1.0	0.4	8.0	7.3	6.8	7.5	-
- UTI Arbitrage	34.0	6695	0.7	0.3	8.2	7.3	7.0	7.6	-

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

***** Nippon Ind Ultra Short Duration	3891.9	7695	1.1	0.4	7.2	7.0	6.2	6.2	7.33
***** UTI Ultra Short Duration	4097.1	3047	0.9	0.3	7.1	7.0	6.1	5.9	4.16
***** Aditya Birla SL Savings	528.2	16349	0.6	0.3	7.8	7.5	6.6	6.1	11.52
***** Baroda BNP Pari Ultra Short Dur	1488.2	1119	0.5	0.3	7.4	7.3	6.5	5.7	1.61
***** HDFC Ultra Short Term	14.6	14105	0.7	0.4	7.4	7.2	6.3	5.8	0.53
***** ICICI Pru Ultra Short Term	26.7	13502	0.8	0.4	7.4	7.2	6.3	5.9	5.61
*** Axis Ultra Short Duration	14.2	5996	1.2	0.4	6.9	6.8	5.9	5.2	3.35
*** Bandhan Ultra Short Term	14.7	3980	0.5	0.3	7.3	7.2	6.3	5.5	-
*** Invesco India Ultra Short Duration	2603.0	1424	0.8	0.2	7.4	7.0	6.1	5.2	2.60
*** Kotak Savings	41.4	13955	0.8	0.4	7.1	7.0	6.2	5.5	2.51
*** PGIM India Ultra Short Duration	33.0	231	0.9	0.3	6.8	6.7	5.9	5.3	-
*** SBI Magnum Ultra Short Duration	5766.7	12178	0.5	0.3	7.3	7.2	6.3	5.6	-
*** WhiteOak Capital Ultra Short Dur	1317.5	323	1.0	0.5	6.8	6.6	5.7	4.9	-
** BOI Ultra Short Duration	3058.3	168	0.9	0.3	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.1	-
** Canara Robeco Ultra Short Term	3673.1	583	1.0	0.3	6.7	6.6	5.7	4.8	-
** DSP Ultra Short	3287.9	2961	1.0	0.3	6.9	6.8	5.9	5.0	0.87
** Tata Ultra Short Term	13.7	3961	1.2	0.3	6.9	6.7	5.9	5.1	4.93
* Motilal Oswal Ultra Short Term	16.0	492	1.1	0.5	6.0	5.9	5.2	4.4	-
* Sundaram Ultra Short Duration	2603.4	2091	1.5	0.2	6.4	6.3	5.4	4.6	-
- Aditya Birla SL Savings	303.9	16349	0.3	0.3	7.6	7.4	6.5	6.1	11.52
- HSBC Ultra Short Duration	1306.3	2625	0.5	0.2	7.3	7.2	6.3	-	-
- LIC MF Ultra Short Duration	1278.5	215	1.0	0.3	6.8	6.4	5.7	4.9	-
- Mahi Manu Ultra Short Duration	1328.7	225	0.7	0.3	7.3	7.1	6.2	5.5	1.87
- Mirae Asset Ultra Short Duration	1261.4	1616	0.5	0.2	7.6	7.4	6.5	-	1.23

DEBT - MONEY MARKET FUNDS

***** Aditya Birla SL Money Manager	356.4	22772	0.4	0.2	7.7	7.6	6.7	6.1	-
***** Nippon Ind Money Market	3996.9	15877	0.4	0.3	7.6	7.5	6.7	6.0	-
***** ICICI Pru Money Market	365.4	25286	0.3	0.2	7.6	7.5	6.6	5.9	-
***** Tata Money Market	4547.7	24751	0.4	0.2	7.6	7.5	6.6	6.0	-
***** UTI Money Market	2969.4	15370	0.2	0.2	7.6	7.6	6.7	6.0	-
*** DSP Savings	50.8	4008	0.5	0.2	7.3	7.2	6.2	5.6	-
*** Franklin Ind Money Market	48.3	2374	0.3	0.1	7.6	7.5	6.5	5.8	-
*** HDFC Money Market	5505.9	24761	0.4	0.2	7.6	7.5	6.6	6.0	-
*** Kotak Money Market	4325.6	26728	0.4	0.2	7.6	7.5	6.6	5.8	-
*** SBI Savings	40.0	25722	0.8	0.3	7.2	7.1	6.2	5.5	-
*** Sundaram Money Market	14.4	574	0.3	0.2	7.4	7.3	6.4	5.5	-
** Baroda BNP Paribas Money Market	1328.5	422	0.4	0.2	7.3	7.1	6.1	5.0	-
** HSBC Money Market	25.4	2244	0.4	0.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	5.3	-
** Invesco India Money Market	2937.2	5569	0.5	0.2	7.4	7.2	6.1	5.5	-
* Bandhan Money Manager	38.8	8169	0.4	0.1	7.1	6.9	6.0	5.2	-
* Edelweiss Money Market	27.5	1233	0.8	0.2	6.9	6.7	5.6	5.2	-
- Axis Money Market	1378.2	15464	0.3	0.2	7.7	7.5	6.6	6.0	-
- PGIM India Money Market	1279.7	174	0.5	0.2	7.1	7.1	6.3	-	-

DEBT - SHORT DURATION FUNDS

***** ICICI Pru Short Term	57.6	19700	1.0	0.5	7.7	7.6	6.7	6.8	5.91
***** UTI Short Duration	30.4	2610	0.8	0.4	7.8	7.4	6.2	7.4	3.46
***** Aditya Birla SL Short Term	45.6	8599	1.0	0.4	7.9	7.4	6.4	6.7	2.80
***** Axis Short Duration	29.6	8879	0.9	0.4	7.9	7.4	6.2	6.4	1.97
***** HDFC Short Term Debt	30.7	14816	0.7	0.4	8.2	7.7	6.4	6.7	4.95
***** Sundaram Short Duration	42.5	218	0.9	0.3	7.8	7.3	6.1	6.3	-

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	

*** Bandhan Bond - Short Term	54.7	9728	0.8	0.3	7.8	7.3	6.0	6.1	-
*** DSP Short Term	44.7	2758	1.0	0.3	7.6	7.1	5.8	5.9	-
*** Kotak Bond Short Term	50.0	16790	1.1	0.4	7.7	7.1	5.8	6.0	-
*** Nippon Ind Short Term	50.5	7469	0.9	0.4	8.0	7.4	6.1	6.3	9.62
*** SBI Short Term Debt	30.8	13350	0.9	0.4	7.7	7.2	6.0	6.1	5.18
*** Tata Short Term Bond	46.0	2736	1.2	0.4	7.3	7.0	5.7	5.8	-
** Baroda BNP Paribas Short Duration	28.0	198	1.1	0.4	7.7	7.3	5.9	5.7	2.52
** HSBC Short Duration	25.3	3689	0.8	0.3	7.4	7.0	5.7	5.8	-
** Invesco India Short Duration	3416.8	482	1.1	0.4	7.8	7.0	5.6	5.7	1.04
** Mirae Asset Short Duration	15.1	346	1.1	0.3	7.5	6.9	5.7	5.7	2.89
* Canara Robeco Short Duration	24.4	343	1.0	0.4	7.1	6.7	5.5	5.6	-
* LIC MF Short Duration	14.0	113	1.3	0.4	7.4	6.8	5.3	5.2	-
- Bank of India Short Term Income	25.7	85	1.0	0.5	9.0	7.5	13.7	8.4	-
- Franklin Ind Short Term Income	5149.4	13	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	5.1	4.7	-
- Groww Short Duration	1995.8	60	1.6	0.4	6.7	6.1	4.9	4.6	-
- Mahi Manu Short Duration	12.2	71	1.3	0.3	7.4	7.0	5.7	-	2.12

DEBT - MEDIUM DURATION FUNDS

★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Medium Term	37.3	2004	1.6	0.9	10.6	8.7	13.9	11.3	24.99
★★★★★ Axis Strategic Bond	26.8	1986	1.1	0.5	8.6	7.9	6.6	7.0	33.67
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Medium Term Bond	42.8	5694	1.4	0.7	8.0	7.5	6.5	7.0	35.82
★★★ HDFC Medium Term Debt	54.0	3953	1.3	0.7	8.0	7.4	6.0	6.5	19.58
★★★ HSBC Medium Duration	19.5	780	1.1	0.4	8.2	7.5	6.0	6.3	10.46
★★★ Kotak Medium Term	21.8	1816	1.6	0.7	8.9	7.6	6.2	6.3	28.67
★★★ SBI Magnum Medium Duration	49.1	6567	1.2	0.7	8.1	7.6	6.3	6.9	32.44
★★ DSP Bond	78.0	375	0.8	0.4	7.7	7.3	6.0	6.2	-
★★ Nippon Ind Strategic Debt	14.8	114	1.1	0.5	8.3	7.7	5.9	1.3	39.40
★ Bandhan Bond - Medium Term	43.9	1475	1.3	0.6	7.5	6.9	5.2	5.6	-
- Sundaram Medium Duration	66.6	45	2.2	1.3	6.1	5.7	4.2	4.0	-
- Union Medium Duration	12.4	80	0.9	0.6	7.5	7.1	5.3	-	-
- UTI Medium Duration	17.6	40	1.5	0.8	7.6	7.0	5.5	4.5	21.01

Clean energy sector must become independent of govt support: Goyal

RE PUSH. Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform will enhance value chains in solar, wind, H₂, battery storage

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Product Linked Incentives (PLIs) and subsidies are detrimental to long-term growth and development of the clean energy sector, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

“PLI schemes can only help kick-start the sector, but the clean energy sector must strive to become self-sustaining and independent of the government,” he said while unveiling the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025.

The Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform is an initiative designed to enhance India’s cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen and battery storage sectors, according to a press statement issued by the Commerce Ministry on Saturday.

Goyal hoped that the participants at the Forum would be able to achieve the target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of setting up



The Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform will help India become an attractive business case and a global leader in the sustainability and cleantech sector

PIYUSH GOYAL
Commerce & Industry Minister



500 Giga Watt (GW) of clean energy sources in the country by 2030.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the PLI Scheme for National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules, for achieving manufacturing capacity of GW scale in High Efficiency Solar PV modules with outlay of ₹24,000 crore.

The scheme has provision for PLI to the selected solar PV module manufacturers for five years post commissioning, on manufacture

and sale of High Efficiency Solar PV modules.

‘THINK INNOVATIVELY’

Goyal asked the participants at the event to think innovatively, and increase manufacturing scale in the country.

He said that the launch of the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform will provide an opportunity for the Indian firms to collaborate, to co-innovate and will help provide a platform for financing, to

share ideas, technologies and resources.

“This will help India become an attractive business case and a global leader in the sustainability and cleantech sector,” the Minister added.

India has been one of the best performing countries in terms of meeting the Nationally Determined Contributions (NCDs) submitted in 2015 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, the Minister noted.

AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

“We have achieved the target of installing renewable or clean energy by 2022, eight years ahead of schedule.

“Having achieved the milestone of setting up 200 GW of clean energy, we are well poised to achieving 500 GW (by 2030),” he said.

The challenges of climate change are not new to India, the Commerce Minister said, adding that Gujarat was one of the first States to adopt solar power.

Now, hotels body flays delivery platforms for private food labels

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

After the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), another leading industry body has now raised concerns about the foray of Zomato and Swiggy into quick-commerce private-label food delivery with the launch of Bistro and Snacc, respectively.

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) has accused aggregators Zomato and Swiggy of violating “established e-commerce regulations” with the launch of private label food delivery apps. The industry body said it is set to meet the Commerce Ministry on the issue. Earlier, NRAI said it is looking at legal remedies and may also approach the Competition Commission of India on this issue.

SERIOUS ISSUE

In a statement, Pradeep Shetty, Vice-President of

● BREACH OF NORMS

FHRAI has accused Zomato and Swiggy of violating “established e-commerce regulations” with the launch of the private label food delivery apps

FHRAI, said, “We are meeting the Commerce Ministry soon and have requested an expedited appointment to discuss this serious issue. The actions of platforms like Zomato and Swiggy represent a direct violation of established e-commerce regulations. These companies were originally designed to function as neutral marketplace platforms, connecting consumers with restaurants, not as direct competitors.”

“By introducing and selling their own food products, they undermine the very essence of a marketplace model, creating an un-

even playing field that disproportionately harms restaurants,” he added.

MISUSE OF DATA

The industry body has said that it is alarming that these aggregators will be leveraging years worth of proprietary data collected from restaurants including customer preferences, order history, and sales trends to develop and promote their own branded products.

ETHICAL CONCERNS

“Restaurants are excluded from access to this data, making it even more challenging for them to compete. This creates a dangerous environment for small- and medium-size enterprises and raises significant ethical and legal concerns around the misuse of sensitive data,” Shetty added.

FHRAI has also raised concerns about whether food safety standards are being maintained to make these private label food products.

FPIs offload ₹22,194 crore of equities in Jan 1-10 ahead of Trump takeover

KR Srivats
New Delhi

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) embarked on a selling spree in Indian equities ahead of Donald Trump’s inauguration as US President on January 20. In the first ten days of January, FPIs net sold shares worth ₹22,194 crore, intensifying the pressure on the domestic equity markets.

The sell-off aligns with a broader trend of volatility in Indian equities this past week, with FPIs remaining net sellers every trading day. Concerns over potential policy shifts under the incoming US administration coupled with global economic uncertainties have heightened investor caution.

RESPIRE FROM DII BUY

However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) provided some respite to the market. Riding on robust retail inflows into equity mutual fund schemes, DIIs stepped in as net buyers, partially offsetting the FPI exodus.

Market analysts attribute FPI outflows to a combination of profit-taking, global liquidity adjustments, and apprehensions surrounding Trump’s policy directions. Retail investor participation through mutual funds remains a bright spot, reflecting growing confidence in India’s long-term growth story despite short-term market turbulence.

SHARP CONTRAST

The January FPI outflow is in sharp contrast to December when FPIs had net invested ₹15,448 crore.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said FPIs intensified their selling in January. “They have been sellers on all days except January 2. The single major reason for the relentless selling by the FPIs is the steady rise in the dollar index which is above 109 now. The 10-year bond yield surging above 4.6 per cent is ensuring capital flows from emerging markets like India,” he said.

The latest data indicate resilience of the US economy and the unemployment rate has come better-than-expected at 4.1 per cent. This means the possibility of more rate cuts by the Fed in 2025 is receding and this will further push up bond yields. “The macro construct is not favourable for the return of the FPIs in the near-term,” Vijayakumar added.

The sharp FPI outflows contributed significantly to the Indian equity market’s largest weekly decline in nearly a month. Sensex and Nifty50 registered losses of 2 per cent each during the week, while the mid-cap index plunged 6 per cent and the small-cap index declined by over 7 per cent. Market observers noted the sell-off was broad-based, with all sectoral indices, except the Nifty IT index, in the red.

FOG BLANKETS NORTH



PLUMMETING VISIBILITY. People cross a pontoon bridge on a foggy winter afternoon in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. Dense fog continued to blanket large parts of northern India on Saturday morning, with the iconic Taj Mahal also shrouded in fog

LIC beats industry, private insurers in new business premium growth

KR Srivats
New Delhi

Life Insurance Corporation of India, the nation’s largest life insurer, reaffirmed its leadership in 2024 by outpacing both the industry average and private insurers in new business premium (NBP) growth.

Data from the Life Insurance Council show that LIC recorded a 14.64 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in NBP, surpassing the industry’s 14.41 per cent growth and private life insurers’ 14.55 per cent increase. LIC’s premium collections rose to ₹2,33,073.36 crore in 2024, up from ₹2,03,303 crore in 2023. The overall life insurance industry collected ₹4,02,773.18 crore, while private life insurers garnered ₹1,69,699.83 crore.

SEGMENT-WISE

LIC’s Individual Premium segment grew by 4.92 per cent y-o-y to ₹61,365.75 crore, up from ₹58,486.69 crore in 2023. The Group Premium segment showed stronger growth, expand-

New business premium (in ₹ cr)			
	CY 2023	CY 2024	% Chg
LIC	2,03,303.00	233073.36	14.64
Life Insurance Industry	3,51,626.20	4,02,773.18	14.41
Private Life Insurer	1,48,323.21	1,69,699.83	14.55

Source: Life Insurance Council

ing by 18.22 per cent to ₹1,69,240.45 crore from ₹1,43,152.75 crore. Group Yearly Premiums also surged 48.31 per cent, reaching ₹2,46,71.4 crore compared with ₹1,663.55 crore in the previous year.

However, the number of policies issued declined to 1.96 crore in 2024, down 2.72 per cent from 2.01 crore in 2023. Individual policies fell to 1.95 crore, while Group Yearly Renewable Policies dropped to 29,968. Group Schemes and Policies bucked the trend, rising 14.57 per cent to 6,362.

DEC PERFORMANCE

LIC’s December results were mixed. The Individual Premium segment declined marginally by 0.77 per cent, collecting ₹5,150.75 crore compared to ₹5,111.52 crore in

December 2023. The Group Premium segment saw a sharp 53.75 per cent drop, falling to ₹8,238.67 crore from ₹17,812.46 crore. However, Group Yearly Premium Collections increased significantly, rising 134.67 per cent to ₹134.44 crore from ₹57.29 crore. The number of policies issued in December fell 19.85 per cent to 21.24 lakh, down from 26.50 lakh in December 2023. The Individual Category saw a steeper decline of 31.61 per cent, while Group Yearly Renewable Policies dropped 24.87 per cent. Group Schemes and Policies rose modestly by 4.13 per cent.

BIMA SAKHI

LIC’s Bima Sakhi scheme, aimed at empowering women as licensed insurance agents, gained traction in 2024. Within a month of its launch, 52,511 women registered, with 27,695 receiving appointment letters and 14,583 starting to sell policies.

This initiative aligns with LIC’s strategy to enhance penetration in rural and semi-urban markets, further solidifying its lead-

ership in India’s competitive life insurance sector.

DRIVING LEADERSHIP

LIC’s performance in 2024 underscores its dominance in India’s life insurance sector, even as competition from private insurers intensifies. Its ability to grow its NBP at a rate exceeding the industry and private peers highlights its continued appeal among policyholders, particularly in the Group Premium segment, industry observers noted.

The decline in the number of policies issued suggests LIC is focussing on high-value products rather than volumes, a strategy that aligns with its efforts to boost profitability and improve operational efficiency, they said.

Moreover, LIC’s commitment to innovation, as seen in the Bima Sakhi initiative, is helping the insurer adapt to changing customer preferences and regulatory landscapes. The emphasis on digital channels, agent empowerment, and tailored products positions LIC to maintain its edge in the evolving insurance market.

DMart Q3 net profit up 4.8% on rise in revenue

Aroosa Ahmed
Mumbai

Avenue Supermarts, which operates the DMart hypermarket chain, reported a 4.78 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December 31, at ₹723 crore compared to ₹690 crore reported during the same time last year.

The retailer reported a 17.68 per cent increase in its revenue with ₹15,972 crore during the quarter compared to ₹13,572 crore in the year ago period.

The company’s quarter-on-quarter net profit rose 9.71 per cent to ₹659 crore while a 10.57 per cent increase in consolidated revenue was witnessed with ₹14,444 crore in the September quarter.

The Q3 same-store revenue growth for 2 years and older stores was at 8.3 per cent. “We continue to see increased intensity in discounting in the FMCG category and the consequent impact to high turnover per square feet stores in metro towns,” the retailer said. “However, we stay committed to being the most preferred value retailer to customers in the vicinity of a DMart store or a fulfilment centre of DMart Ready,” it said. DMart Ready grew by 21.5 per cent in 9 months FY 2025.

E-COMMERCE MARKET

“In the rapidly evolving dynamics of the grocery e-commerce market, we are seeing



The company’s board has appointed Anshul Asawa as the CEO Designate, effective March 15, 2025

significantly more demand for home delivery compared to pick-up point and hence we continue to align our business to that extent. Our home delivery business now far exceeds our pick-up point sales contribution. We will continue to provide both channels of delivery as an option to our shoppers in select towns. In several towns, we now only operate ‘Home Delivery’ as a delivery channel,” said Neville Noronha, CEO and Managing Director.

Noronha will be stepping down from his role after the completion of his term in January 2026. The board has appointed Anshul Asawa as the CEO Designate, effective March 15, 2025. Anshul joins DMart after a 30-year stint at Unilever.

Food continued to be the major revenue contributor, increasing its share to 57.01 per cent while the share of non-fast Moving Consumer Goods, general merchandise and apparel stood at 20 and 22.99 per cent, respectively.

The company expanded its store presence and now has 387 outlets compared to 365 in FY24.

AIG Hospitals to buy cancer treatment system for ₹800 cr

G Naga Sridhar
Hyderabad

The board of AIG Hospitals has approved the acquisition of Proton Beam Therapy system for ₹800 crore. Consequently, AIG Hospitals has entered into an agreement to acquire state-of-the-art Proton Beam Therapy System including DynamicARC from IBA, a Belgium-based supplier of equipment and services in the field of proton therapy considered to be the most advanced form of radiation therapy available today.

With this new delivery technique called DynamicARC proton therapy, the system will be the first-of-its-kind installation in South-East Asia. Proton Beam Therapy is a highly precise form of radiation therapy that targets tumours with exceptional accuracy, substantially minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissues.

This technology is a game-changer in treating complex

cancers, particularly in children and adults with tumours located near critical organs.

“The acquisition of the Proton Beam Therapy System and the strategic partnership with IBA represent a transformative step forward in our mission to provide cutting-edge, compassionate care,” D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, said in a release.

“The Proteus ONE Proton Therapy System will be part of our new 300-bed dedicated Oncology Centre coming up within the existing Gachibowli campus, enabling comprehensive cancer care comparable to the best in the world,” he added.

businessline.

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