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through the year
YOUR MONEY P3

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8 of 10 BSE stocks did not beat 'boring' SBI FD

THIN BREADTH. In 2025, equity returns concentrated in a small set of winners leaving investors with muted gains in most stocks

Kumar Shankar Roy
bl. research bureau

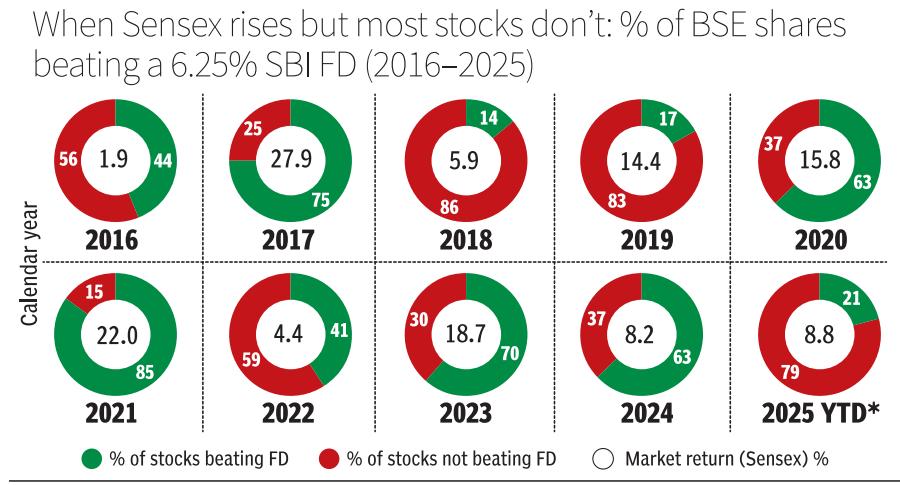
With just three trading sessions left this year, the Sensex is up 8.8 per cent in 2025. Yet, many investor portfolios have not felt that cheer. This is because nearly 79 per cent of actively-traded BSE stocks failed to beat SBI's fixed deposit return of 6.25 per cent (for one year or under two-year duration).

Yes, this year the market's toughest rival was not some global shock or a mysterious quant signal. It was the old faithful your parents and grandparents swear by: The risk-free SBI FD.

That is why the year feels confusing. The benchmark is green and maybe just a good day's away from all-time highs. But stock picking, and sometimes even casual investing outside the biggest names, has been a grind in 2025.

It is not that equities stopped rewarding risk. It is that rewards got concentrated, and the rest of the market was left trying to explain itself.

The contrast is sharp because the recent past trained



investors to expect an easier equity game. In 2023 and 2024, 70 per cent and 63 per cent of stocks beat the same 6.25 per cent hurdle. In 2021, 85 per cent did. Simply put, you could throw a dart, miss the board, and still end up with a return that looked respectable next to a fixed deposit. In 2025, the market reverted to an older lesson — reminiscent of 2018 and 2019 — that bull markets can be selective, even unforgiving.

This also lands at an awkward moment for how

households are allocating money. RBI data on the flow of financial assets shows bank deposits at ₹11.86-lakh crore in FY25, down from ₹14.22-lakh crore in FY24. Over the same period, household investment in equities almost tripled from ₹29,080 crore to ₹73,566 crore. In short, households moved some confidence away from deposits and towards equities.

The index did not punish that shift, but individual stock performance certainly did not make it feel wise.

MARKET CAP BUCKETS

If this was a year of narrow leadership, market-cap tells you where the narrowness lived.

Among the large-caps, that is, top 100 companies by market capitalisation, 55 stocks, including RIL, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel and SBI, beat the FD hurdle. In the next 150, called the mid-caps, 68 stocks (45 per cent) beat the age-old FD. This list includes the likes of Ashok Leyland, Mazagon Dock, HPCL, BHEL, Marico, SRF. Beyond that, the success rate

drops hard. Among companies ranked 251 and below by market-cap, only 18.5 per cent (610 of 3,297) beat the FD, and 81.5 per cent did not.

That is the punchline for anyone who thought the rally was a democracy.

In 2025, the vote belonged to the heavyweight table. For the rest of the market, it was like watching a speech on television.

INDUSTRY WISE

On a broad classification, banks were among the better pockets, with about 58.5 per cent (24 of 41) banking stocks beating the FD hurdle. That is not surprising in a year when large financial names held up better and investors stayed closer to the familiar.

Steel, electronics and auto ancillaries had mixed outcomes — enough winners to matter, but not enough to lift the sector's mood.

Then come the sectors where the FD comparison becomes awkwardly one-sided. Sugar (3 per cent), hotels (8 per cent) and entertainment (8 per cent) show very low hit rates. You can still find stories, expansion plans, and confident man-

agement commentary, but 2025 was not in a storytelling mood.

The about 30-stock transport sector is a perfect metaphor this year. Only 10 per cent of transport stocks beat the FD, yet 85 per cent of the sector's market value did.

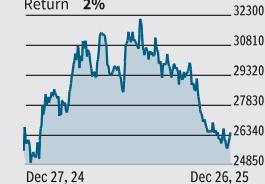
Which is a polite way of saying a couple of stocks, such as Blackbuck and Interglobe, did the hauling, while the rest of the sector was stuck behind a slow-moving truck.

TAKEAWAYS

Winners existed in 2025, but the flashy ones were few. Only 97 stocks doubled and 130 delivered 51 to 100 per cent. The bigger bucket of 'winners' was the more ordinary kind: 352 stocks returned 15 to 50 per cent.

The FD yardstick is not an argument that equities should behave like fixed income. It is a reality check on how dispersed equity outcomes can be, even when the index is positive.

Year 2025 did not reject equities, it trashed casual optimism. The fixed deposit did not suddenly become exciting. It simply became, for one year, uncomfortably competitive.



company aims to expand capacity to 80 mtpa.

While this target is planned for FY28, management has indicated that timelines could shift to FY29 depending on the demand-supply environment.

Given this backdrop, investors should track how the new capacities translate into sales growth and accordingly accumulate the stock on dips. Shree Cement currently trades at 15.7x one-year forward EV/EBITDA, about a 15 per cent discount to its five-year average.

Despite its strong fundamentals, the stock has seen a prolonged time-based correction, returning just 9 per cent over the past five years, compared with nearly 90 per cent gains for the Nifty 50.

INVESTMENT FOCUS

Shree Cement: Accumulate on dips

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

Shree Cement is an operationally focussed cement manufacturer that stands apart in a commodity-driven industry.

Unlike peers that chase aggressive volume growth, the company prioritises value over volume — emphasising pricing discipline, brand strength, low financial leverage and operational efficiency.

While this strategy has supported margin expansion, the broader cement industry still hinges on scale and capacity-driven growth.

Shree Cement currently has an installed capacity of 6.2 mtpa, which is expected to rise about 10 per cent to 6.8 mtpa by FY26-end. It recently commissioned a 3 mtpa clinker unit in Rajasthan and is set to operationalise a 3 mtpa cement plant shortly. An integrated 3 mtpa facility in Karnataka is also nearing completion.

In the longer term, the

'Electronics production rose 6x and exports jumped 8 times since 2014'

Asian News International
New Delhi

India saw a ramp-up of electronics production by 6 times and exports increasing 8 times

in the last 11 years, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Electronic goods production rose from ₹1.9-lakh crore in 2014-15 to ₹11.3-lakh crore in 2024-25. Exports during

Read more p12

FPI outflows hit record ₹94,976 crore in 2025 amid rupee woes, US tariff uncertainty

Anupama Ghosh
Mumbai

India will need to address key diplomatic challenges like the US' 50 per cent tariffs to reduce its economic vulnerabilities, according to C Rangarajan, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and ex-Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

Rangarajan was speaking at the 108th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association at Vels University in Chennai.

In terms of the fall in the rupee, Rangarajan attributed it to the capital outflow that has happened in the last few months driven by a lack of confidence among international investors due to tense India-US relations.

Details p12

FPI net investment data						
Date	Equity	Debt (General)	Debt (VPR)	Debt (FAR)	Hybrid	Mutual Funds
Dec 22	2,167.34	389.31	389.33	-348.91	-760.39	46.96
Dec 23	187.65	179.24	56.28	-1,792.98	-23.27	-119.04
Dec 24	-1,347.67	-809.61	-951.96	-236.17	-29.81	12.91
Dec 26	-1,556.99	-312.55	-508.09	-728.65	-29.81	10.42
Weekly total	-550.67	-553.61	-1,014.44	-3,106.71	-859.17	-48.75
<small>Note: All amounts are in ₹ crore, per NSDL data; Market Close: Dec 25</small>						

total net sell figure for 2025, so far, to ₹1,58,407 crore. This is the worst selling by FIIIs since they started investing in India."

SELLING INTENSIFIES

While March (₹32,981 crore) and May (₹30,950 crore) saw inflows, selling accelerated mid-year on August witnessed outflows of ₹20,505 crore, followed by ₹12,539 crore in September. January was the worst month with ₹77,211 crore pulled out. December is also ending weak with ₹29,494 crore already withdrawn.

Calling the sell-off historic, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said: "FIIs have bought/invested equity for ₹73,583 crore through the primary market taking the

final trading week of 2025. FIIs withdrew ₹3,141.56 crore on Friday alone — ₹1,556.99 crore from equities and ₹1,584.68 crore from debt, NSDL data showed.

In equities, FIIs sold for ₹6,891.44 crore and bought for ₹5,334.45 crore on Friday, resulting in net secondary market sales of ₹1,751.98 crore.

RUPEE WORRIES

"Uncertainty around the US trade deal and the rupee has clearly hurt sentiment. The rupee is the worst-performing Asian currency this year," said Abhishek Goenka, Founder

of CIO, Billionz. "Indian equities may start to look attractive after this year's underperformance, but rupee risks may keep FIIs jittery."

Debt markets also saw broad-based selling on Friday, with outflows of ₹312.55 crore (general limit), ₹508.95 crore (VRR) and ₹728.65 crore (FAR). Hybrid instruments saw net sales of ₹45.70 crore, while mutual funds drew a modest ₹10.42-crore inflow.

The sharp reversal stands out against 2024, when FIIs — despite selling ₹1,21,210 crore through exchanges — posted net positive flows due to primary-market investments of ₹1,21,637 crore. "FII selling has significantly contributed to the rupee's steep depreciation this year," Vijayakumar said.

In derivatives, FIIs maintained hedges with index options open interest at ₹4,14,049.66 crore and stock futures at ₹4,13,677.21 crore.

Chennai's long wait for a polo tourney to continue

The revival of the royal sport in the city has been reined in, as the comeback fixture in Jan has been cancelled

Shakthi H

Chennai

Polo enthusiasts in Chennai have to hold their horses. The much-awaited Chennai season scheduled by the Indian Polo Association in January, which would have brought back the royal sport to the city after 28 long years, now stands cancelled due to equine infection in some horses.

Back in the 1960s and 1970s, polo was fairly popular in Chennai, but it gradually rode out into the sunset. With polo engagements being minimal, the grounds were put to other use and the sport vanished.

As Irshaad Mecca, a polo enthusiast and a passionate equestrian who has played an important hand in rebuilding the sport in Chennai, says,



EXPANDING HORIZONS. Why Chennai's inclusion in the IPA calendar matters is that India's polo ecosystem remains too concentrated, and increasingly repetitive

"The absence of a ground effectively removed Chennai from the polo map." **THE REVIVAL.** A chance encounter between industrialist AC Muthiah, a patron of the sport, and Mecca set things going. A phone call from the industrialist led to an invitation to his farm and a gift of 20 horses to Mecca. Mecca hired a national player Bhawani Kalvi as the team coach and started training the horses and equestrian enthusiasts.

Things picked up at a trot, with the Army giving approval for a ground to be set up near

the military hospital in the city. Mecca credits senior polo player NV Ravi with playing a key role in securing the approval. The city's first official polo match after nearly three decades would have been hosted here.

Why Chennai's inclusion in the IPA calendar matters is that India's polo ecosystem remains concentrated and repetitive. The same players, teams and patrons cycle through Jaipur, Delhi and Jodhpur, limiting audience growth, sponsorships and player intake. Expanding into Chennai and other southern centres can revitalise the sport — but only with a broader pipeline of riders, horses and venues.

Beneath the thundering hooves, and the thrill of the chase, there is a lot afoot to keep the game going.



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Dhuravel Gunasekaran
bl. research bureau

The year 2025 marked a notable shift from the broad-based gains of 2024, delivering an uneven experience for Indian mutual fund investors, with returns ranging from -20 per cent to 178 per cent. Equity performance diverged sharply, with large-cap funds displaying relative resilience, while small-cap strategies struggled amid heightened volatility. Thematic funds reflected sector-specific cycles rather than broad market momentum. Debt funds saw early gains fade as the year progressed, compressing returns in longer-duration categories, while short-term funds provided stability comparable to bank deposits. Global funds recovered well, and gold and silver ETFs emerged as the strongest-performing asset classes.

This round-up evaluates equity, debt, hybrid, commodity and international funds through the lens of returns, flows and portfolio trends in 2025, using data compiled from ACEMF. Regular plans are considered for calculating average category returns. This round-up is a snapshot of 2025 category trends and is not an investment recommendation.

EQUITY FUNDS

The Indian equity market offered limited cheer in 2025. After peaking on September 26, 2024, the Nifty 500 corrected sharply before staging a V-shaped recovery from the March 2025 lows. While the Nifty 100 Total Return Index (TRI) gained about 10 per cent year-to-date (YTD) ended December 23, 2025, gains were concentrated in select large-cap stocks, supported by relative stability in banking and industrials. Persistent global uncertainty and sustained foreign institutional investor outflows capped broader upside.

Mid- and small-cap indices experienced significantly higher volatility. The Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty Smallcap 250 delivered returns of 6.3 per cent and -5.8 per cent, respectively. Mid-caps entered a consolidation phase after a prolonged multi-year rally, while small-caps witnessed meaningful drawdowns, as overheated segments underwent valuation resets.

For the YTD period ending December 23, 2025, large-cap funds led with returns of 7.5 per cent, ahead of flexi-cap (3.4 per cent), mid-cap (2.4 per cent) and small-cap funds (-4.1 per cent). This marked a sharp contrast to 2024, when the respective categories delivered 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 29 per cent and 27 per cent.

SIP performance: Systematic investment plans (SIPs) once again demon-



strated their structural advantage in volatile markets by accumulating more units during corrections. SIP XIRRs stood at 13.4 per cent for large-cap funds, 12.8 per cent for mid-cap funds, 11.3 per cent for flexi-cap funds and 6.4 per cent for small-cap funds.

Among large-cap funds, DSP MF (18.5 per cent), Mirae Asset MF (16 per cent) and Bank of India MF (16 per cent) delivered the highest SIP returns. In the mid-cap segment, ICICI Prudential MF (23 per cent), Mirae Asset MF (21 per cent) and WhiteOak Capital MF (19.6 per cent) led performance. Small-cap SIP leaders included Trust MF (16 per cent), DSP MF (11.8 per cent) and Quantum MF (11 per cent).

Sector and thematic funds: Performance of these funds in 2025 reflected a clearly cyclical outcome. Transportation (18 per cent) and Banks & Financial Services (16 per cent) led returns, supported by a capex revival and strong credit growth. In contrast, defensive and export-oriented themes struggled. Technology (-1.9 per cent) and Pharma & Health Care (-3.2 per cent) were weighed down by weak global growth, pricing pressures and earnings downgrades. Overall, sectors aligned with domestic economic momentum were rewarded, while globally-linked themes underperformed.

Drawdowns: Large-cap funds contained the correction relatively well during the market trough on March 4, 2025, when the Nifty 500 hit its low following the decline that began on September 26, 2024. From the start of the year to March 4, large-cap funds fell less than 9 per cent, compared with declines of about 13 per cent in flexi-cap funds, 16 per cent in mid-cap funds, and nearly 20 per cent in small-cap funds.

Active fund underperformance: Data from 2025 highlighted growing challenges for active fund managers, with widespread benchmark underperformance across equity categories. Considering the overall actively-managed equity fund universe, transportation (83 per cent), small-cap (72 per cent) and technology (67 per cent) categories saw relatively higher proportions of schemes beating their benchmarks, reflecting stock-picking opportunities amid volatility.

However, core market-cap based categories painted a stark picture: Only 6 per cent of large-cap funds outperformed their benchmarks, while multi-cap, flexi-cap and mid-cap categories hovered near 20 per cent. Meanwhile, contra, ESG, manufacturing, MNC, PSU and quant categories recorded zero out-performance, underscoring shrinking alpha potential and the rising relevance of passive strategies. For the study, returns of regular plans are compared with their respective benchmarks.

Portfolio trends: Among widely-held large-cap stocks, Shriram Finance, TVS Motor Company and Eicher Motors delivered YTD gains of 67 per cent, 52 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively. Conversely, Siemens, Trent and REC declined 53 per cent, 39 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively.

In the mid-cap segment, L&T Fin-

MF hits & misses in 2025

RETURN ROUND-UP. We evaluate equity, debt, hybrid, commodity and international funds through the lens of returns, flows and portfolio trends

Top-performing SIPs across major categories

	Fund	1-year SIP	3-year SIP	5-year SIP	Return (XIRR %)
Large-cap fund	DSP Large Cap	18.5	15.6	15.2	
	Mirae Asset Large Cap	16.0	13.4	12.7	
	Bank of India Large Cap	15.9	13.1	-	
Mid-cap fund	ICICI Pru Midcap	23.2	21.4	20.6	
	Mirae Asset Midcap	21.0	17.8	18.3	
	WOC Mid Cap	19.6	22.3	-	
Multi-cap fund	Kotak Multicap	18.9	19.5	-	
	Growth Multicap	18.7	-	-	
	Bank of India Multi Cap	18.6	-	-	
Small-cap fund	TRUSTMF Small Cap	16.0	-	-	
	DSP Small Cap	11.8	14.8	17.7	
	Quantum Small Cap	11.2	-	-	
Flexi-cap fund	Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	19.0	17.2	15.9	
	ICICI Pru Flexicap	19.0	17.6	-	
	Mirae Asset Flexi Cap	17.6	-	-	
Large- & mid-cap	Helios Large & Mid Cap	19.5	-	-	
	Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	18.5	15.4	15.1	
	BOI Large & Mid Cap	17.5	14.4	15.2	
Aggressive hybrid fund	Bandhan Aggressive Hybrid	15.1	15.2	14.2	
	ICICI Pru Equity & Debt	15.0	16.8	18.3	
	Mirae Asset Aggressive Hybrid	14.1	12.9	12.5	
Balanced advantage	ICICI Pru BAF	14.5	13.3	12.8	
	Baroda BNP Paribas BAF	13.2	12.8	12.7	
	SBI BAF	13.0	12.5	-	
Multi asset allocation	Kotak Multi Asset	35.9	-	-	
	DSP Multi Asset	28.7	-	-	
	Union Multi Asset	27.5	-	-	

SIP commenced on Jan 1, with monthly instalments invested over the 12, 36 and 60-month period ending Dec 23, 2025

ance, Aditya Birla Capital and Laurus Labs surged 120 per cent, 94 per cent and 76 per cent, while Keynes Technology, Oracle Financial Services Software and IREDA fell 46 per cent, 39 per cent and 37 per cent. Among small-caps, Force Motors, Gabriel India and RBL Bank gained 177 per cent, 109 per cent and 94 per cent.

Net flows: In 2025, flexi-cap, small-cap and mid-cap funds recorded net AUM increases of ₹70,960 crore, ₹48,497 crore and ₹45,763 crore, respectively. Within flexi-caps, PPFAFS alone added ₹42,243 crore, taking its corpus to ₹1.3 lakh crore by November.

DEBT FUNDS
In 2025, the RBI decisively pivoted to an easing cycle, cutting the repo rate by 125 bps—from 6.5 per cent to 5.25 per cent. This move was supported by benign inflation, with CPI staying well below the 4-per cent target for most of the year and hitting historic lows in October-November, giving the central bank ample room to reduce rates without fuelling price pressures. Concurrently, GDP growth expectations strengthened, with the RBI projecting around 7.3 per cent for FY26.

G-Sec yields generally softened on policy easing and liquidity support, though supply pressures occasionally pushed them higher. The 10-year bench-

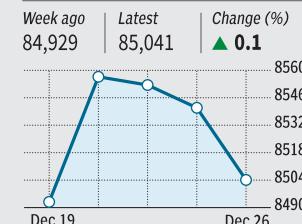
WISE WORDS.

If you knew what was going to happen in the economy, you still wouldn't necessarily know what was going to happen in the stock market

WARREN BUFFETT

MARKET ACTION.

SENSEX



NIFTY



about 16.4 per cent in 2025. These funds benefited from diversified exposure across equities, debt and commodities—particularly gold and silver—which played a crucial role in cushioning volatility and enhancing returns. Top-performing schemes such as DSP, Invesco, Kotak and Mahindra Manulife Multi Asset funds delivered returns of 20-23 per cent, highlighting the payoff from disciplined rebalancing and commodity allocation in a year when pure equity returns were uneven.

In contrast, aggressive hybrid funds, which typically maintain 65-80 per cent equity exposure, delivered a modest category average return of around 5.7 per cent. Performance dispersion was wide.

Balanced advantage funds, designed to adjust equity exposure based on valuation and market indicators, also delivered subdued outcomes, with an average return of about 5.4 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

International funds in 2025 reinforced their role as strategic diversifiers rather than tactical return-chasing tools for Indian investors. Performance across the category was widely dispersed, with returns ranging from 9 per cent to an exceptional 178 per cent, underscoring sharp regional and thematic divergences.

US equity funds remained the backbone of international allocations, with returns broadly ranging between 13 per cent and 34 per cent during the year.

Diversified US market exposures—such as S&P 500 and total market strategies—delivered returns of 20-28 per cent. Funds tracking the NASDAQ 100 and FANG+ indices benefited from sustained leadership in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and semiconductor ecosystems, even as valuations remained elevated.

For instance, the Mirae Asset NYSE FANG+ ETF delivered about 28 per cent, while the Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 ETF gained 27 per cent.

Within US-focused funds, the DSP US Specific Equity Omni FoF led with returns of about 34 per cent, followed by the SBI US Specific Equity Active FoF at 29 per cent. In contrast, broad-based active funds such as Nippon India US Equity Opportunities and Franklin US Opportunities Equity Active FoF lagged, delivering returns of 13-17 per cent.

The DSP Global Emerging Markets Fund and Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore returned 41.0 and 39.3 per cent, respectively. The Nippon India Taiwan Equity Fund delivered 45.8 per cent, while the HSBC Brazil Fund gained 54.0 per cent.

Gold mining funds such as DSP World Gold Mining Overseas Eq Omni FoF delivered 178.4 per cent.

Oil and gold funds like ICICI Pru Strategic Metal and Energy Equity FoF delivered 70.4 per cent. The HSBC Global Clean Energy Overseas Eq Omni FoF returned 40.5 per cent.

Artificial intelligence funds such as Mirae Asset Global X AI & Technology ETF FoF delivered 39.7 per cent. The Mirae Global Electric & AV Equity Passive FOF returned 41.1 per cent.

*Year-to-date period ending Dec 23, 2025

Source for tables/charts: ACEMF

shifting inventories and speculative flows combined with expectations of Fed rate cuts.

Gold also delivered an extraordinary year as investors sought a hedge against macro uncertainty, weaker US dollar expectations and prospective rate cuts, lifting gold ETF returns and pushing domestic premiums higher during India's festival season.

Silver ETFs' trading volumes outpaced gold ETFs in 2025: Silver ETFs witnessed an explosive surge in trading activity across both the BSE and NSE in 2025, overtaking gold ETFs. YTD to December 23, 2025, total traded value in silver ETFs stood at ₹1.3 lakh crore—up 560 per cent from ₹18,948 crore a year earlier. In comparison, gold ETFs recorded a traded value of ₹1.13 lakh crore during YTD 2025, marking a 329 per cent increase year on year.

Within silver ETFs, Nippon India Silver ETF led the category with an average daily trading volume of ₹282 crore in 2025, followed by ICICI Prudential Silver ETF at ₹59 crore and HDFC Silver ETF at ₹37 crore.

Among gold ETFs, Nippon India ETF Gold BeES topped the charts with an average daily volume of ₹228 crore, followed by SBI Gold ETF at ₹47 crore and ICICI Prudential Gold ETF at ₹45 crore.

HYBRID FUNDS

Performance of hybrid funds diverged sharply in 2025, both within and across categories, reflecting differences in equity exposure, dynamic allocation models and the use of commodities such as gold and silver.

At the category level, multi-asset allocation funds emerged as standout performers, delivering an average return of

Silver ETFs deliver nearly 2x gold ETF returns in 2025



*YTD returns up to Dec 23, 2025, measured against corresponding benchmarks
Regular plans are considered for calculating average category returns

bl.portfolio in 2025: Your sound and sober voice

LOOKING BACK. Prudence over popularity, rationalism over exuberance has been our guiding philosophy in 2025, just as it has always been

Hari Viswanath
bl. research bureau

As we publish our last edition of the year, the team at bl.portfolio would like to sincerely thank you —‘The Readers’ — for your support through the year. The great Italian astronomer, physicist and polymath Galileo Galilei once said, *Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world.* In our profession, our reputation with you and the trust and faith you place upon us is the fulcrum.

The lever is the long-entrenched commitment that we have to deliver the very best of completely-unbiased insights and analysis to you, week after week. So, in order to have a meaningful and positive impact in your investment journey, both the fulcrum and the lever must function well. We aim and toil to preserve that every single day.

As we pen this, reflecting on the year gone by, we are specifically reminded of one feedback we received from a former RBI Governor in January, to an article published in bl.portfolio. The feedback to us, in response to the article read: *businessline is a very sound and sober voice.* We instantly realised it resonated with what we always want to be defined by at bl.portfolio.

When we give you financial insights, analysis and suggestions, we want it to be sound and sober. That is the only way to respect your hard-earned money, which is an outcome of your hard work and sacrifices. So, in giving suggestions and insights on how to deploy it, we need to show utmost diligence and seriousness. Jazzing or hyping it up, getting influenced by crowd behaviour, mixing entertainment and financial advice etc all distract and defeat the core purpose.

All-time highs, mega IPOs and fantasy stories of future riches can grab attention, but to us it is just jarring noise, unless we feel you can benefit from it in some way.

Due to this, prudence over popularity, rationalism over exuberance has been our guiding philosophy in 2025, just as it has always been.



DEEP DIVES

While high-flying Sensex and Nifty targets were the standard at the start of the year, our outlook on equities has remained cautious right through, in continuation of our stance in the prior year as well.

Hence in 2025, we enhanced focus beyond our normal coverage — on other options for investors to park their funds in — be it gold, silver, platinum or debt/hybrid/multi-asset mutual funds via detailed analysis in our *Big Story* section.

While it has been the norm at bl.portfolio to give actionable insights in every article, this time when it came to few articles — like our deep dive on the IT sector — we stopped short of recommendations. This is because in past years, we had already cautioned investors and recommended them

to exit the stocks. While the others were caught up in buybacks and dividends, we were questioning the growth prospects, given the lack of investments by the IT companies and the threat of AI. We felt validated when this line of questioning got subsequently picked by the rest during the course of this year.

Post the severe correction in the sector since, they are kind of in no man's land. Doing nothing is better in such instances. It is key to build deep insights during such times to act effectively at a later date — that was the intent behind some of those articles.

In working on many of the deep dives, we too learnt a lot, and more so from your feedback. For example, the feedback we received to our *Big Story* articles, on online

gaming and recovering your unclaimed money, gave us more perspectives on the severity of the issues. We will continue actively playing our part to bring more such issues to light.

RISK VS REWARD

With a majority of the listed universe underperforming even fixed income this year, we feel validated; although, in retrospect, we wish we had given more book profit/sell calls.

During the year, we published 119 calls across primary and secondary markets. Out of the 70 secondary market calls, only 19 were buys, 28 were accumulate on dips, and 23 were hold or book profit calls. A few weeks ago, we received a query from a reader asking us why we were giving more accumulate-on-dips calls than

buy. He wanted to know if investors wouldn't benefit by buying right away rather than waiting for corrections to accumulate.

Our response to that reader and to others with similar doubts is that when valuations are expensive and there are global macroeconomic issues, the investing approach has to be cautious. During such times, the risk is not in missing opportunities, but in making wrong investments.

Entering a stock is easy, exiting is not, as your mind gets hacked with anchoring bias — anchored by the price at which you entered, and the circumstance and assumptions upon which you entered.

The year 2025 (and probably 2026 too) was no 2020, 2021 or 2023, where anyone with a demat

account had the Midas touch! In such times, it's better to slow down, and gradually add to positions with a long-term horizon that will extend into the next market cycle.

When it comes to IPOs, out of the 49 that we covered, based on our analysis we suggested that investors avoid 32 of them and subscribe to only 17. Our recent *Big Story*, covering IPOs of the last five years, also indicated that in many IPOs, you get a chance to buy at a price lower than the issue price at some time in the future.

NEW STEPS

When it comes to mutual funds, we took a step further to highlight poor performing funds that you can clean out of your cupboard. Traditionally, we had been fo-

cused on recommending good funds based on our analysis and leaving it to readers to make their own exit call based on their financial goals and circumstances. This step was taken as given market valuations and other risks, we felt some guidance to investors was required on this aspect as well.

Except in rare instances via SIPs, we remain cautious on small-cap funds. Hence, you would not have seen much suggestions from us on this front over the last one year.

This year, following reader requests, we added weekly outlook on the US markets in our Technical Analysis section. Our weekly video series by our in-house technical analyst BL Guru is nearing its 200th episode. We are grateful to the ardent followers, who call us if uploading of the video is delayed even by a few hours due to unavoidable circumstances! Because of this, rain or shine, Guru never gets an off on a Saturday!

INVESTING APPROACH

As we conclude this note, we would like to leave you with this story that we heard from legendary investor of Big Short fame — Steve Eisman, in one of his podcasts. To a question on why he invests only in US stocks and not in international markets including in countries like India, he shared his experience as a fund manager when he was investing in markets globally. He narrated how whenever he had a nocturnal awakening, he would be tempted to check the performance of his investments in a country where markets were open at that time. Once he checked, whether the book was at a loss or a profit that day, and he could never get back to sleep again!

His message from his experience: *Investing can be a passion and an occupation, but if it becomes a pre-occupation, it's time to tweak your style. There is no need to be a hero.* So, if your investments are not allowing you to sleep well (whether you have made or lost money in 2025), take a pledge to tweak your style to a level that will allow you a peaceful and sound sleep in 2026.

Wishing you a very happy and prosperous 2026!

Securing a flashy retirement

FINANCIAL PLANNING. Here's how a single earner can ensure a rich lifestyle for his family through a well thought-out plan

Sridevi V

Nirmal and Payal, a couple living in Bengaluru, wanted to plan their finances. Nirmal, aged 42, and Payal aged 38, have two daughters aged 14 and 7.

Nirmal is working as a legal consultant in an IT firm. Apart from this primary employment, he has taken up consulting assignment for a few firms in Singapore and the UK. His earning post-tax from all the sources is ₹4.5 lakh per month. Payal is a home-maker. Both prefer a comfortable life and do not want to reduce their lifestyle for saving towards their goals. Nirmal wanted to check if he needs to increase income to support his family's goals. He bought a flat in Pune where his mother lives and she gets her own pension, is not financially dependent on Nirmal.

The family is contemplating shifting to a new house in the same locality, as Payal prefers to have a 3 BHK, considering enough space for a four-member family. They look forward to spending around ₹70,000 per month towards rent in the preferred locality. Nirmal wanted to check if they can buy a house instead of renting. Both Nirmal and Payal plan to go back to Pune when Nirmal retires. Their first daughter, Sana, will need ₹30 lakh towards her undergraduate course in the next four years. She may opt for higher studies in Australia. They wanted to allocate the same level of funding for their second daughter, Rima.

Payal wanted to ensure their savings are enough to fund the daughters' education, wedding expenses and a comfortable retirement. Nirmal is not in a hurry to retire at a specific age; he may continue to work as long as he gets suitable opportunities. He is planning to commit for the next 20 years of consistent savings / investments. As he wants to opt for high-growth investments to fund all his goals, it



• TAKE NOTE

Financial planning provides clarity to those looking for a structured approach to their goals

was agreed to move the accumulated corpus to safe avenues three years prior to the goal post. He also preferred not to invest after the Safe Zone point with an expected return of 6 per cent per annum, for each goal.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fixed deposits will be considered towards emergency needs. The family is covered adequately for life and health contingencies through suitable insurance products.

* MF Portfolio was reviewed and ₹33 lakh was allocated for Sana's education from his MF investments. The balance was apportioned to other goals.

* It was advised to allocate ₹15 lakh from his accumulated MF investments towards Rima's undergraduate goal and additionally invest ₹25,000 per month for the next eight years.

* Payal wanted to ensure the same lifestyle continues after

Inflows and outflows

	(in ₹)	
Income	Monthly	Annual
Consulting income	4,50,000	54,00,000
Expenses		
Rent	45,000	5,40,000
Kids education	60,000	7,20,000
Living expenses	60,000	7,20,000
Lifestyle expenses	40,000	4,80,000
Annual travel and other expenses	6,00,000	
	2,05,000	30,60,000
Savings and investments		
Public Provident Fund	1,50,000	
National Pension Scheme	50,000	
Mutual Funds	1,00,000	12,00,000
		14,00,000
Liabilities		
H/L current outstanding	33,00,000	
Repayment		
H/L EMI	48,000	5,76,000
Annual surplus		
		3,64,000

retirement and insisted on having ₹1 lakh as retirement expenses at current cost. If the inflation and lifestyle cost escalation are assumed to be 6 per cent per annum, they need ₹9 crore to retire when Nirmal retires at 65. It was advised to allocate ₹40 lakh from the accumulated MF corpus towards this goal and invest ₹45,000 per month aggressively for the next

20 years. This will help him have enough corpus at the Safe Zone point and retire comfortably.

* It was agreed that they will fund 50 per cent of the higher education in Australia for the girls. They require ₹56 lakh from the investments if they assume the current cost of ₹75 lakh with an expected cost escalation of 7.5 per cent per annum.

* Nirmal and Payal were explained about not getting tax benefits under new tax regime by continuing with housing loan repayment and the costs associated with the same. They would be better off with interest savings of around ₹13 lakh if they close the loan. This will free up ₹48,000 monthly.

* After closing the housing loan, they would be in a position to commit investment of ₹55,000 per month towards their daughters' wedding expenses. Both agreed that the wedding expenses will be limited from this savings. With this, their total monthly investment will be ₹1.25 lakh without housing loan repayment.

* This allowed them to rent a bigger space at ₹70,000 per month without compromising on the goals and lifestyle. It was suggested to buy a house after considering the comfort and other aspects of staying in a bigger house in Bengaluru.

* The investments, that were not mapped for any goals, in mutual funds, PPF and other investments would be retained for long term and incremental income was advised to be invested towards wealth accumulation towards a more comfortable retirement either in Pune or in Bengaluru.

Financial planning provides clarity to those who want a structured and well-thought-out approach to providing for goals be it short-, medium- or long-term ones.

The author is the Principal Officer at Ploutos Asset Services LLP, a SEBI registered investment advisory firm. <https://ploutos.in>

ALERTS

Axius Bank, Google Pay launch co-branded credit card

Axius Bank and Google Pay have unveiled the 'Google Pay Flex Axis Bank Credit Card', a UPI-powered co-branded

credit card built on the RuPay network. It is the first launch as part of Flex by Google Pay, Google's latest offering aimed at making credit simpler and more accessible for everyone, marking its foray into the co-branded credit card space. The card enables users to pay at millions of offline merchants or in apps, and earn and redeem reward points instantly. Additionally, the card offers repayment options via the Google Pay app, allowing users to convert credit card bills into EMIs.

RuPay SIB Paytag

South Indian Bank has announced the launch of the RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker. This is NFC (Near Field Communication) enabled payment instrument designed to deliver a faster, secure and frictionless payment experience to customers. The NFC-enabled sticker can be affixed to personal accessories such as mobile phones, wallets or cardholders, enabling customers to make quick tap-and-pay transactions at contactless Point-of-Sale (POS) terminals without the need to carry a physical debit card. SIB Paytag Sticker supports contactless payments for everyday transactions, with no PIN required for purchases up to ₹5,000. For higher-value POS transactions above ₹5,000, PIN authentication is mandatory, ensuring enhanced security. SIB Paytag can be used at all contactless POS terminals.

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Venkatasubramanian K
bl. research bureau

While the recovery in the front-line large-cap indices seems firm after the corrective and sideways phase of the past 15 months, the broader benchmarks and lower market cap constituents are still considerably in the red.

Despite the correction, valuations aren't in the inexpensive zone for mid and small-caps, though, there are pockets of attractive opportunities available. With a resurgent and reasonably valued large-cap space, the time may be ripe to go with a flexicap fund from a long-term perspective.

Canara Robeco Flexicap (Canara Robeco Equity Diversified earlier) is a fund with a strong track record of over 22 years.

Over time, it has demonstrated consistently healthy performances over the longer investment terms of five years or more.

Investors can buy units of the fund with a 7-10-year perspective. Taking the systematic investment plan (SIP) route may be advisable, by directing proceeds to specific financial goals.

OUTPERFORMANCE

Canara Robeco Flexicap's performance over the past decade has been healthy with point-to-point returns of 15.5 per cent compounded annually over this period.

When five-year rolling returns over the period January 2013 to December 2025 are considered, the fund has delivered mean returns of 15.8 per cent. The Nifty 500 TRI gave 14.7 per cent average returns over the aforementioned timeframe.

On a 5-year rolling returns basis over the 13-year period indicated earlier, Canara Robeco Flexicap has beaten the Nifty 500 TRI over 76 per cent of the times.

The scheme has given more than 12 per cent for nearly 82 per cent of the time and in excess of 15 per cent for nearly 59 per cent of the time on 5-year rolling basis over the 13-year period (Jan 2013-Dec 2025).

Canara Robeco Flexicap's returns (XIRR) on monthly SIPs over the past 10 years are fairly robust at 16.5 per cent. A similar SIP in the Nifty 500 TRI would have returned 15.7 per cent over this period.

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

The fund has an upside capture ratio of nearly 97.5, indicating that its NAV rises less than the benchmark during rallies.

More importantly, it has a

Cruising on bluechips

FUND CALL.

Canara Robeco Flexicap's performance over the past decade has been healthy with point-to-point returns of 15.5 per cent compounded annually



downside capture ratio of 85.9, indicating that the scheme's NAV falls a lot less than the benchmark during corrections.

A score of 100 indicates that a fund performs in line with its benchmark. This inference is based on data from December 2020-December 2025.

LEANING ON LARGE-CAPS

Canara Robeco Flexicap has stuck to keeping its portfolio heavy on large-cap stocks across market cycles.

In fact, it has increased large-cap exposure from 70-odd per cent a year or so ago to around 75 per cent in the recent portfolio. Mid-cap exposure is kept in

WHY INVEST

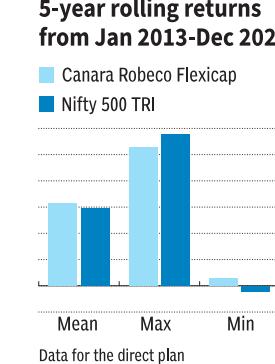
- Strong track record of over 22 years
- Healthy performance over longer investment terms of 5 years or more
- XIRR on monthly SIPs over 10 years fairly robust at 16.5%

the early to mid-teen percentages, while small-caps generally account for low single digits, making the portfolio reasonably moderate on risks.

This large-cap bias has helped the fund remain resilient during the broader market falls and also in the early recovery in many bluechips over the past 12-15 months. The fund takes cash positions of only about 3 per cent and does not go too defensive during corrections.

Canara Robeco Flexicap has a mix of both value and growth styles of investing in its choice of sectors and stocks.

Banks have always been the top sector holdings across market phases. Like with its large-cap bias, a higher exposure to banks has helped the fund's performance given the sector's sound run in the last 18 months.

**5-year rolling returns from Jan 2013-Dec 2025****Top five holdings**

Allocation (%)	
Banks	19.5
Software	7.3
Retailing	6.4
Automobiles	5.9
Pharma & biotech	5.6

as of Nov 2025

Source: ACE MF, Factsheet

Surprisingly, software companies have also figured prominently in the portfolio despite the underperformance from the larger names in the space in the last couple of years. However, in the past year, it has taken exposure in mid-tier IT companies that have done well.

Retailing is a segment that the fund has upped stakes in after the correction in the space. It has expanded the scope for the sector with investments in e-commerce and physical retail firms.

Automobiles also occupy a significant portion in Canara Robeco Flexicap's holdings. Exposure is restricted to the top car and two-wheeler companies in the segment.

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms are other important holdings across timeframes.

The fund is suitable for investors with an above-average risk appetite looking for steady long-term outperformance.

Taking the SIP route would be useful in averaging costs, especially during volatile market phases.

Brutal year spurs trillion-dollar fund exodus

GLOBAL VIEW. A small, tightly linked group of tech super stocks accounted for an outsize share of returns in 2025

Bloomberg

The last thing a diversified fund manager wants is to run a portfolio dominated by just seven technology companies — all American, all megacap, clustered in the same corner of the economy. Yet as the S&P 500 pushed to fresh records this week, investors were again forced to confront a painful reality: keeping pace with the market has largely meant owning little else.

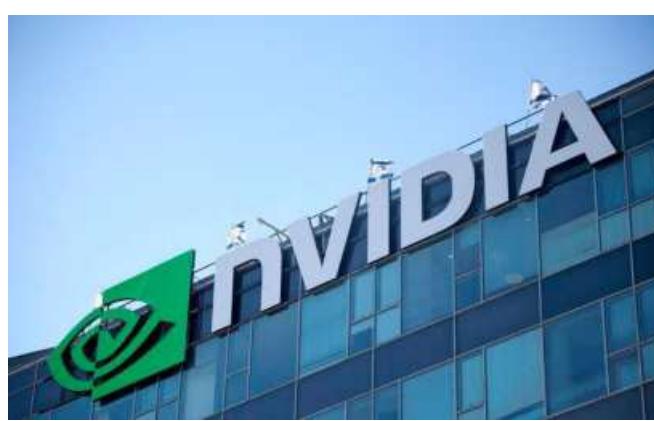
A small, tightly linked group of tech super stocks accounted for an outsize share of returns in 2025, extending a pattern in place for the better part of a decade. What stood out wasn't simply that the winners remained largely the same, but the degree to which the gap started to seriously strain investor patience.

Frustation dictated how money moved. Around \$1 trillion was pulled from active equity mutual funds over the year, according to estimates from Bloomberg Intelligence using ICI data, marking an 11th year of net outflows and, by some measures, the steepest of the cycle. By contrast, passive equity exchange-traded funds got more than \$600 billion.

The exits happened gradually as the year progressed, with investors reassessing whether to pay for portfolios that looked meaningfully different from the index, only to be forced to live with the consequences when that difference didn't pay off.

"The concentration makes it harder for active managers to do well," said Dave Mazza, chief executive officer of Roundhill Investments. "If you do not benchmark weight the Magnificent Seven, then you're likely taking risk of underperformance."

Contrary to pundits who



year, outpacing not only its benchmark but also the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq 100.

The structure of that portfolio is telling. It holds roughly 1,800 stocks, almost all outside the US, with heavy exposure to financials, industrials and materials. Rather than trying to navigate around the US large-cap index, it largely stepped outside it.

"This year provides a really good lesson," said Joel Schneider, the firm's deputy head of portfolio management for North America. "Everyone knows that global diversification makes sense, but it's really hard to stay disciplined and actually maintain that. Choosing yesterday's winners is not the right approach."

One manager who stuck with her convictions was Margie Patel of the Allspring Diversified Capital Builder Fund, which has returned some 20 per cent this year thanks to bets on chipmakers Micron Technology Inc and Advanced Micro Devices Inc.

"A lot of people like to be closet or quasi indexers. They like to have some exposure in all sectors even if they're not convinced that they are going to outperform," Patel said on Bloomberg TV. In contrast, her view is that "the winners are go-

● STEEPEST CYCLE

Around \$1 trillion was pulled from active equity mutual funds over the year, marking an 11th year of net outflows

ing to stay winners."

The propensity of big stocks to get bigger made 2025 a banner year for would-be bubble hunters. The Nasdaq 100 trades at more than 30 times earnings and around six times sales, at or near historical highs.

Dan Ives, the Wedbush Securities analyst who started an AI-focused ETF (IVES) in 2025 and saw it swell to nearly \$1 billion, says valuations like those may test nerves, but are no reason to bail on the theme.

"There are going to be white-knuckle moments. That just creates the opportunities," he said in an interview. "We believe this tech bull market goes for another two years. To us, it's about trying to find who the derivative beneficiaries are, and that's how we're going to continue to navigate this fourth industrial revolution from an investing perspective."

THEMATIC INVESTING

Other successes leaned into

concentration of a different kind. VanEck's Global Resources Fund returned almost 40 per cent this year, benefiting from demand linked to alternative energy, agriculture and base metals. The fund, launched in 2006, owns companies such as Shell Plc, Exxon Mobil Corp and Barrick Mining Corp, and is run by teams that include geologists and engineers alongside financial analysts.

"When you are an active manager, it allows you to pursue big themes," said Shawn Reynolds, who has managed the fund for 15 years, a geologist himself. But that approach, too, demands conviction and tolerance for volatility — qualities that many investors have shown less appetite for after several years of uneven results.

By the end of 2025, the lesson for investors was not that active management had stopped working, nor that the index had solved the market.

It was simpler, and more uncomfortable. After another year of concentrated gains, the price of being different remained high, and for many, the willingness to keep paying it had worn thin.

Still, Osman Ali of Goldman Sachs Asset Management believes there is "alpha" to be found not just in Big Tech. The global co-head of quantitative investment strategies relies on the firm's proprietary model, which ranks and analyses roughly 15,000 stocks worldwide on a daily basis. The system, built around the team's investment philosophy, has helped deliver gains of some 40 per cent across its international large-cap, international small-cap and tax-managed funds on a total return basis.

"The markets will always give you something," he said. "You just have to look in a very dispassionate, data-driven way."

ALERTS.**Grow MF launches Nifty Chemicals ETF**

Grow Nifty Chemicals ETF is an open-ended scheme tracking the Nifty Chemicals Index - TRI. The NFO closes on January 9, 2026. There is no entry or exit load. Minimum subscription amount is ₹500 and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. Performance is measured against Nifty Chemicals Index - TRI; its fund managers are Nikhil Satam, Akash Chauhan and Shashi Kumar. The objective is to generate long-term capital growth investing in securities of the Nifty Chemicals Index in the same proportion/weightage with an aim to provide returns before expenses that track the total return of Nifty Chemicals Index, subject to tracking errors.

Zerodha MF launches Nifty Short Duration G-Sec Index Fund

Zerodha Mutual Fund has launched Zerodha Nifty Short Duration G-Sec Index Fund, an open-ended scheme replicating/tracking the Nifty Short Duration G-Sec Index with moderate interest rate risk and relatively low credit risk. The NFO closes on January 9, 2026. No entry and exit load will be charged under the scheme. The minimum subscription amount is ₹100 and in multiples of any amount thereafter. The performance of the scheme is measured against Nifty Short Duration G-Sec Index TRI; the fund manager is Kedarnath Mirajkar.

ETF movers

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

ETF	NAV (₹)	Price (₹)	Weekly change in price (%)	Volume traded in the last week (in '000s)
	as on Dec 26			
Growth Nifty Ind Railways	36	36	10	12,400
Growth Nifty India Defence	78	78	3	1,599
Mirae NYSE FANG+ ETF	142	170	3	1,161
Mirae S&P 500 Top 50	60	72	3	647
ICICI Nifty Metal ETF	11	11	3	1,631
ABSL Nifty PSE ETF	10	10	3	4,340
CPSE ETF	91	91	2	7,356
Silver ETFs				
Growth Silver ETF	223	231	17	5,253
Bandhan Silver ETF	228	230	15	144
Tata Silver ETF	22	22	15	502,265

Source: Bloomberg. Returns as on Dec 26, 2025

Best NPS plans

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

Name of the fund	NAV (₹) as on Dec 26	Returns (% CAGR)			Assets (₹ cr)
		1-year	3-year	5-year	
TIER I: EQUITY PLANS					
Kotak Pension	71	10	17	17	4,136
ICICI Pru Pension	77	9	17	17	25,913
UTI Pension	75	7	17	17	5,307
TIER I: GOVERNMENT BOND PLANS					
ABSL Pension	19	5	8	6	2,351
LIC Pension	31	5	8	6	

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

Shree Cement is a operationally-focused cement manufacturer. Unlike other commodity manufacturers, the company follows value over volume strategy, focusing on pricing, branding, nil financial leverage and operational efficiency. While these strategies have delivered margin growth, the commodity industry does operate on volume growth. The company is likely to deliver a high single-digit capacity expansion for the next three years on the existing efficient base of operations.

Investors should monitor the sales growth from the capacity expansion and accordingly accumulate the stock on dips, which is trading at an EV/EBITDA of 15.7 times one-year forward EBITDA – a 15 per cent discount to the last five-year average. The stock has undergone a time-wise correction, delivering only 9 per cent returns in the last five years compared to 90 per cent returns for Nifty 50.

With peers nearing the end of their aggressive expansion stage, the calibrated approach of Shree Cement could work in its favour only if sales growth plays out in the next three years.

CAPACITY EXPANSION

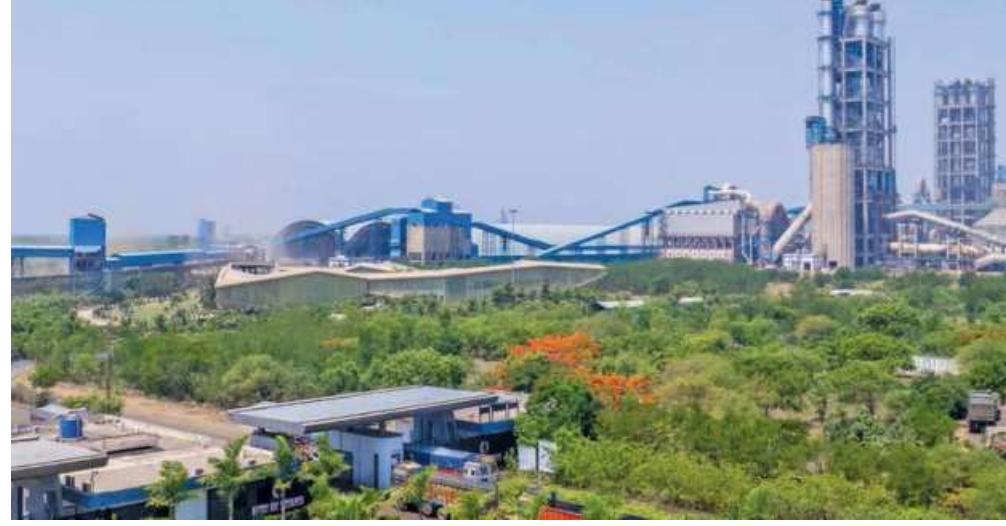
Shree Cement has a current capacity of 62.8 mtpa (million tonnes per annum), which should increase 10 per cent to 68.8 mtpa by FY26-end. It has commissioned a 3-mtpa clinker capacity in Rajasthan and will commission a 3-mtpa cement plant shortly. An integrated 3-mtpa cement plant in Karnataka is also nearing completion.

In the long term, the company intends to increase the total capacity to 80 mtpa. This is planned for FY28, but this could be delayed to FY29. The company will assess the demand-supply situation for the expansion, as per the management. Overall, it is planning to deliver 8-10 per cent capacity growth in the next three-four years.

On the other hand, sales ramp-up can be gradual. The company has a current utilisation rate of 60-65 per cent compared with peers operating in

Volume to follow value-based growth

CEMENT. Shree Cement's calibrated approach to higher capacities should deliver on an efficient base of operations



● ACCUMULATE ON DIPS

Shree Cement ₹26,421.05

WHY

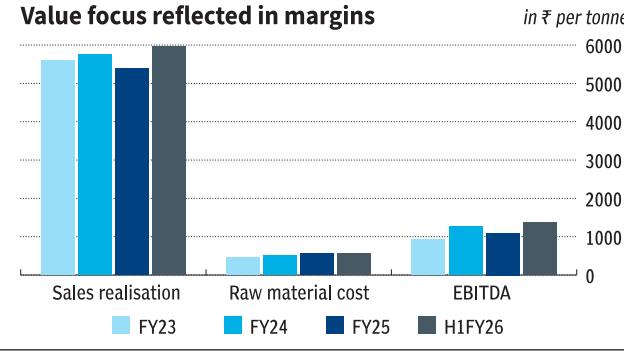
- Efficient base of operations with low debt
- Capacity expansion on the cards
- Valuations are lower than long-term averages

70-75 per cent range despite higher capacities. While the utilisation of new plants will improve only gradually, the company prioritising value over volume could also restrict utilisation rates if cement pricing or demand turn weak.

The cement demand in India, though, is expected to grow strong along with pricing. Post-rationalisation, GST rate has come down from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. This should be reflected post-monsoon (H2 FY26), especially from afford-

Peer comparison

	One year forward EV/EBITDA (x)	5-Year average (x)	FY23-25 revenue CAGR (%)	FY23-25 EBITDA CAGR (%)	H1FY26 Net debt to EBITDA (x)
UltraTech Cement	18.1	16.9	9.6	8.7	1.43
Ambuja Cements	14.6	15.2	3.9	27.1	0.11
Shree Cement	15.7	18.5	3.9	19.2	-1.16



able housing and rural sectors. The infrastructure push continues and the lower interest rates are an additional tailwind for the same. The cement pricing has only recently recovered and the higher consolidation in the industry should aid cement

price growth as well. The company has a strong presence in Dubai as well, which reported sales of 1.3 mtpa in Q2FY26, which is 33 per cent year-on-year growth. The company is assessing a 3-mtpa capacity in Dubai with AED 110-million

lion investment, if strong demand persists.

MARGIN LEVERS

The company has focused on value generation, which is profit and cash-flow generation and is evident from the 53 per cent growth in H1FY26 EBITDA per tonne albeit on a low base.

Premium product mix has increased from 15 per cent to 21 per cent in the last one year. The company aims to drive this shift in mix, which is a primary margin lever. In Q2FY26, 63 per cent of the electricity consumed by the company has been derived from renewable sources, including solar, and this has lowered the power and fuel consumption cost from ₹1,800 per tonne in FY23-24 to ₹1,500 per tonne in H1FY26. Along with this, the company is investing in railway sidings to reduce logistics costs by about ₹100 per tonne in the next two-three years.

The company is improving its brand positioning to reduce the gap to industry leader pricing. It has benefited from these measures in improved margins and should fetch incremental gains on further implementation of these measures.

FINANCIALS, VALUATION

The capacity expansion plan is built on ₹3,000-crore capex in FY26 and FY27. More importantly, the company intends to fund the expansion based on internal accruals. The company has a net debt to EBITDA of 1.2 times in H1FY26, which implies a net cash position.

It reported revenues and PAT of ₹10,042 crore and ₹953 crore in H1FY26, which is a 10 per cent revenue growth and 170 per cent PAT growth on a low base. The lower cost of fuel, green energy mix, premium portfolio and improved cement prices have aided in H1FY26.

The company should deliver strong earnings growth based on the expanded capacity and efficient base of operations, if the utilisation and sales growth are not hampered by weak market conditions as it prioritises value over volume even in a commodity industry. The GST rate cut and other strong macroeconomic indicators are supportive of strong growth though.

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

Sensex ups & downs

	Price ₹		Movement	% change
	Dec 19	Dec 26		
Trent	4061.8	4283.8	▲	5.5
UltraTech Cement	11497.2	11794.9	▲	2.6
Tata Motors PV	352.8	358.8	▲	1.7
Titan	3930.3	3991.7	▲	1.6
Bharat Electronics	392.8	398.4	▲	1.4
NTPC	319.9	324.1	▲	1.3
HCL Tech	1642.5	1661.2	▲	1.1
Maruti Suzuki	16425.2	16589.8	▲	1.0
Infosys	1639.6	1655.6	▲	1.0
ITC	401.1	404.3	▲	0.8
Power Grid	263.6	265.5	▲	0.7
HDFC Bank	986.0	992.4	▲	0.7
M & M	3602.9	3621.2	▲	0.5
Bharti Airtel	2096.3	2105.7	▲	0.4
Tata Steel	168.7	169.2	▲	0.3
Kotak Mahindra Bank	2159.5	2163.7	▲	0.2
HUL	2281.8	2285.6	▲	0.2
Tech Mahindra	1612.9	1613.2	▲	0.0
TCS	3282.6	3279.8	▼	-0.1
Axis Bank	1230.6	1228.1	▼	-0.2
ICICI Bank	1354.2	1350.6	▼	-0.3
Reliance Industries	1565.1	1559.0	▼	-0.4
Adani Ports & SEZ	1496.0	1487.3	▼	-0.6
L&T	4074.2	4045.1	▼	-0.7
Bajaj Finance	1008.0	999.8	▼	-0.8
Bajaj Finserv	2043.9	2019.1	▼	-1.2
SBI	980.2	966.4	▼	-1.4
Sun Pharma	1745.1	1719.2	▼	-1.5
Eternal	286.0	281.6	▼	-1.5
Asian Paints	2798.9	2746.2	▼	-1.9

How sectoral indices moved

	Dec 19	Dec 26	Movement	% change
METALS	34,843	35,659	▲	2.3
PSU	19,915	20,265	▲	1.8
CAPITAL GOODS	66,534	67,142	▲	0.9
FMCG	20,100	20,225	▲	0.6
POWER	6,452	6,488	▲	0.5
AUTO	61,533	61,610	▲	0.1
TECK	18,750	18,771	▲	0.1
OIL&GAS	27,930	27,935	▲	0.0
IT	37,448	37,420	▼	-0.1
HEALTHCARE	43,947	43,871	▼	-0.2
BANKEX	66,141	65,991	▼	-0.2
REALTY	6,870	6,851	▼	-0.3
CONSUMER DURABLES	60,340	59,933	▼	-0.7

How other indices moved

	NIFTY NEXT 50	NIFTY 500	NIFTY 100	NIFTY 200	BANK NIFTY
	68,379	68,961	▲	0.9	
	23,678	23,780	▲	0.4	
	26,488	26,589	▲	0.4	
	14,436	14,482	▲	0.3	
	59,069	59,011	▼	-0.1	

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
- Though I have completed 20 years of listing, I have been around for almost 50 years. I carry the name of my home city in my corporate identity.
 - My founder is well qualified in my industry with IIT Kanpur credentials and continues to serve as my MD.
 - I am a small-cap stock despite being a global leader in my niche, with a presence in more than 100 countries across five continents.
 - I earn more than ₹1-crore profit before tax per employee, unusual for a manufacturing business. Less than 1 per cent of my 1,300 employees and 2,200 workers are women.
 - I have 50,000-plus shareholders, yet over 98 per cent of ownership is held by fewer than 300 shareholders, even after my stock delivering 15-plus per cent CAGR over three, five and 10 years.

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: Dr Agarwal Health Care

Last week's winner: Dr Kishor Kumar Shetty



● HOLD Chalet Hotels ₹867.20

WHY

- Valuations not inexpensive after 4.5x rally in five years
- Leasing risks in the near term as activity muted
- Next two years hinge on project execution

RECENT PERFORMANCE

The company's core performance, excluding residential handovers, has remained firm through FY26 so far. In H1FY26, consolidated core revenue grew 24 per cent year on year and EBITDA rose 31 per cent, with margins improving 238 basis points to 43.9 per cent.

The hospitality segment recorded about 46 per cent of H1FY26 revenue and 84 per cent, if we exclude residential sales. Segmental topline was up 16 per cent, with an EBITDA margin of 40.9 per cent. While average daily rates rose 16 per cent to ₹12,188, its occupancy, however, slipped to about 67 per cent.

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 (26,042) posted a gain of 0.3 per cent last week whereas Nifty Bank (59,011) was down by a marginal 0.1 per cent. Here's our analysis of the derivatives data of both indices:

NIFTY 50

Nifty futures (January) (26,235) was up 0.2 per cent last week. But, while it gained in the first half of last week, it fell during the second half. It has also slipped below the 21-day moving average, which is now at 26,288.

However, this has not altered the trend. There is a chance for further dip from the current level but only to some extent. As long as the support at 26,000 stays valid, the bulls will have an edge over the bears.

A resumption in the rally, either from the current level or after some more correction, can eventually lift Nifty futures (January) to 27,000. Although the price band between 26,500 and 26,600 is a potential resistance, we expect the contract to surpass this level.

Substantiating the bullish inclination, the Put Call Ratio (PCR) of both December (1.1) and January (1.6) expiry options stood above 1. A ratio greater than 1 is because of the relatively higher number of put option selling. Traders sell puts when they are positive.

Also, last week, along with a positive close in Nifty futures (January), the open interest of the contract saw an increase from 17.2 lakh contracts to 56.6 lakh contracts, implying long build-up on a weekly basis.

Overall, even though there is a possibility for Nifty futures (January) to witness some more

Rebound on the cards



F&O TRACKER. Key support holds for Nifty futures and Nifty Bank futures

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

decline, the broader trend remains bullish.

Strategy: We had suggested buying Nifty futures (December) at 26,145. As the contract is nearing expiry, traders can roll-over the long to January contract.

That is, sell the December contract at 26,060 and buy the January contract at 26,235. Target and stop-loss can be 27,000 and 25,900 respectively.

Traders who bought 26000-call option (December) (purchasing price is ₹158.85) can exit the contract at the current price of ₹100. Post this, consider buying 26500-call of January expiry (₹152.65). Go long at ₹150 with a stop-loss at ₹70. Exit at ₹380.

NIFTY BANK

Nifty Bank futures (January) (59,439) was down 0.3 per cent last week. It dropped in the last three sessions, indicating a good selling momentum. However, it is now trading in a key demand

BROAD TREND

- Long build-up in Nifty futures
- PCR of Nifty options is bullish
- Fresh shorts arrive in Nifty Bank futures

zone between 59,300 and 59,500. Until this level holds, the outlook will not turn bearish.

A recovery from the current level can lift the contract to 60,000. A breakout of 60,000, which is likely to occur, can take Nifty Bank futures (January) to 60,750. On the other hand, if the support at 59,300 is breached, the near-term outlook can turn bearish. In this scenario, the contract can see a quick drop to 58,500, a support. Subsequent support is at 58,250.

The futures and options data do not give a definite signal. While the open interest of January futures shot up from 2.8 lakh contracts to 6.2 lakh contracts over the last week, indicating a short build-up, the PCR of December options stands at 1. Also, the PCR of January options is currently at 1.8, showing a positive bias. Since the support band of 59,300-59,500 remains valid now, we stay inclined for a rebound.

Strategy: Exit Nifty Bank futures (December) long (initiated at 59,784) at the current level of 59,065. And then, buy Nifty Bank futures (January) at 59,430. Place stop-loss at 59,250.

When the contract rises to 60,000, trail the stop-loss to 59,500. Exit at 60,750.

Instead of futures, traders can buy January 60000-call (₹452.55). Buy at ₹450 with a stop-loss at ₹250. When the price goes up to ₹750, revise the stop-loss to ₹600. Exit at ₹900.

The futures and options data

do not give a definite signal. While the open interest of January futures shot up from 2.8 lakh contracts to 6.2 lakh contracts over the last week, indicating a short build-up, the PCR of December options stands at 1. Also, the PCR of January options is currently at 1.8, showing a positive bias. Since the support band of 59,300-59,500 remains valid now, we stay inclined for a rebound.

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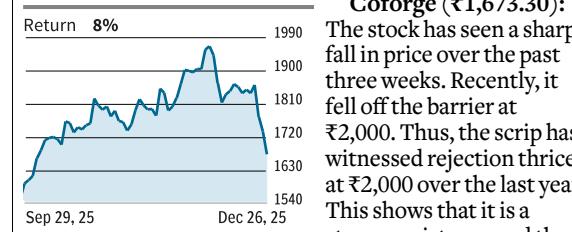
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F & O QUERY

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU
bl. research bureau

I have bought Coforge January futures for ₹1,810. Should I hold or exit?

Palani Shanmugam



Coforge (₹1,673.30): The stock has seen a sharp fall in price over the past three weeks. Recently, it fell off the barrier at ₹2,000. Thus, the scrip has witnessed rejection thrice at ₹2,000 over the last year. This shows that it is a strong resistance and the stock is unlikely to break out of this anytime soon.

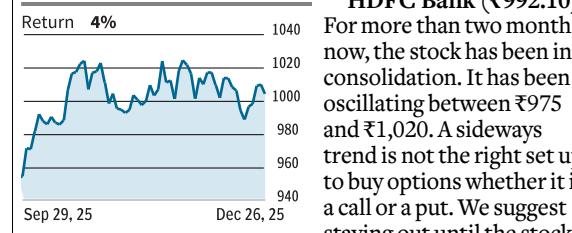
Adding to the bearishness, the price has now slipped below both 50- and 200-day moving averages.

The prevailing price action suggests that the stock is likely to decline from the current market price to the nearest support levels at ₹1,600 and ₹1,525. The equivalent support for Coforge January futures can be ₹1,605 and ₹1,535 respectively. Even if there is a rebound from one of the support levels, whether the contract can reach ₹1,800 again before the expiry of January contracts is uncertain. Worse, if the support at ₹1,535 is breached, the fall can extend to ₹1,400 quickly. Considering the aforementioned factors, we suggest exiting your long position on Coforge January futures at the current level.

We strongly recommend placing a stop-loss for all trades so that potential losses due to unexpected sharp movements can be minimised.

Shall I buy a call option on HDFC Bank?

Tarun Dutta



HDFC Bank (₹992.10): For more than two months now, the stock has been in consolidation. It has been oscillating between ₹975 and ₹1,020. A sideways trend is not the right set up to buy options whether it is a call or a put. We suggest staying out until the stock moves out of the ₹975-1,020 price band.

Given the current price action, short strangle can be the ideal strategy. However, it involves high risk and high margin requirements.

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

F&O Strategy

Buy Jio Fin put

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

The stock of Jio Financial Services (₹296.95) has been on a decline since mid-November. It fell off the resistance at ₹315. While there is a support ahead at ₹290, the broader price action shows a bearish inclination as the scrip has been forming lower highs and lower lows since August.

The 21-day moving average coincides with the nearest barrier at ₹300, making it a strong one. So long as this hurdle stays valid, the probability for a decline will remain high.



In the near term, we expect the stock to decline to ₹283, the nearest notable support below ₹290. Therefore, traders can consider going short on the stock.

Short Jio Financial Services: Short Jio Financial Services January futures (₹298.75) when it inches up to ₹300. When the underlying stock drops to ₹283, the January futures is expected to touch ₹285. So, ₹285 can be the target for the trade. Initial stop-loss can be ₹307. Revise it down to ₹295 when the contract slips to ₹290.

Options: Alternatively, one can consider buying a put option. We suggest buying 290-strike put (₹4.70) of January expiry. Buy when the premium moderates to ₹4 and place a stop-loss at ₹2.50. When the option price rises to ₹8, trail the stop-loss to ₹5. Book profits at ₹10.

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

Short Take

MCX F&O contract adjustments

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) (₹11,052), on December 23, announced a share split (January 2, 2026, is the record date) with a ratio of 5:1. The split will lead to necessary adjustments in the futures and options (F&O) contracts. The adjustment factor will be 5.

On January 2, the stock price and all derivatives contracts on MCX will be adjusted appropriately.



Stocks in F&O ban (for trade on Dec 29)

SAMMAANCAP

Change in Open Interest (OI)

Scrip	FII		Retail	
	As on Dec 26	Weekly change %	As on Dec 26	Weekly change %
Future Index Long	19756	16	174852	-1
Future Index Short	158909	-10	76145	-4
Net Futures	-139153	-12	98707	2
Index Call options Long	645748	13	3067194	22
Index Call options Short	659701	19	2940065	14
Net Call options	-13953	-184	127129	-264
Index Put options Long	703783	-2	1918515	-23
Index Put options Short	428888	-13	2433331	-15
Net Put Options	274895	23	-514816	39

FII's have reduced net short on index futures. But they have turned net short on index call options. Overall, there is no clear indication.

Stocks that witnessed major change in OI

Company	Price (₹)	Weekly price change %	OI (in lakh)		Weekly OI change %
			As on Dec 26	Dec 26	
RISE (as on Dec 26)					
IRFC	133.64	17.2	1970.4	79.2	
COFORGE	1,673.30	-9.3	403.6	67.4	
RVNL	387.95	21.6	1124.0	44.2	
COALINDIA	402.15	4.3	1344.6	43.3	
IRCTC	705.50	4.7	506.1	34.9	
FALL (as on Dec 26)					
TATAELXSI	5,348.00	-1.2	42.6	-29.0	
HFCL	61.47	-4.1	1496.6	-28.3	
CYIENT	1,119.40	-3.3	39.9	-26.9	
NCC	158.11	1.4	440.9	-19.6	
ANGELONE	2,495.80	-0.9	93.5	-17.9	

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

Stocks that witnessed major change in OI

Symbol	Expiry date (2025)	Price (₹)	OI		Indication
			(Weekly change %)	(Weekly change %)	
COMMODITIES (as on Dec 26)					

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 and Sensex made the bullish breakout last week as expected, but, it did not sustain. They reversed lower in the second half of the week giving away most of the gains. However, the broader bias remains bullish. Supports are there to limit the downside from here. We expect the Sensex and Nifty to reverse higher again and retain the broader uptrend.

The Nifty Bank index, on the other hand, has been stable and range-bound over the last couple of weeks. Bias remains positive. But there is a chance to see a dip first and then a fresh rise ahead.

NIFTY 50 (26,042.30)
Short-term view: The break above 26,060 happened as expected. But Nifty fell back from the high of 26,236. Supports are at 26,000, 25,850 and 25,800. A fall below 25,800 is less likely. Nifty can reverse higher either from 26,000 itself or from the 25,850-25,800 region. That rise can take it up to 26,450 initially. An eventual break above 26,450 will be bullish to see 27,000-27,200 in the short term.

Nifty has to break 25,800 to turn the short-term picture negative. Such a break can drag it down to 25,400-25,300.

Medium-term view: The broader bullish view of the Nifty targeting 28,000 in the medium term remains intact. From a long-term perspective, there is potential to see 31,000-32,000 on the upside.

Supports are at 25,000 and then in the 24,000-23,500 region. A fall below 23,500 will only turn the outlook bearish.

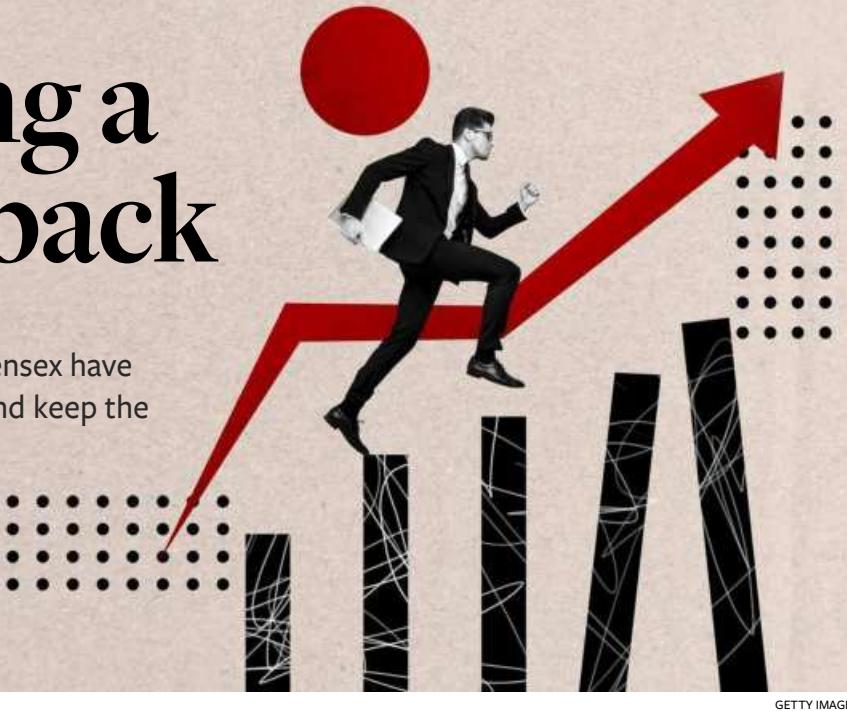
NIFTY BANK (59,011.35)

Short-term view: The index has been stable and range-bound over the last couple of weeks. That continues to keep the immediate picture unclear. The overall bias is positive. However, the daily chart indicates that a near-term dip first to 58,600-58,300 is still possible. Thereafter, a fresh rise can breach the resistance at 59,800. That in turn will clear the way for a rise to 61,000-61,500 in the short term.

The index will come under pressure for more fall only if it

Expecting a bounce-back

INDEX OUTLOOK. Nifty and Sensex have supports to limit the downside and keep the bullish bias intact

**SUPPORTS TO WATCH**

- Nifty 50: 26,000, 25,800
- Sensex: 84,800, 84,500
- Nifty Bank: 58,600, 58,300

term. From a long-term perspective, there is potential to target 95,000.

NIFTY MIDCAP 150

(22,190.75)
As expected, the index broke 22,200 and rose towards 22,500. It made a high of 22,425.85 and has come down from there. Supports are at 22,180, 22,120 and 22,090. A break below 22,090 will turn the near-term outlook negative. That can drag the Nifty Midcap 150 index down to 21,750-21,700.

On the other hand, if the index manages to sustain above 22,090 and moves higher, then it will strengthen the bullish case. It will increase the chances of breaking above 22,500 and touch 22,600 initially. An eventual break above 22,600 will then confirm the bullish inverted head and shoulder pattern on the chart.

It will take the index up to 22,900 first. That will clear the way for the Nifty Midcap 150 index to target 24,500-25,000 in

the medium term and 27,000-28,000 in the long term.

NIFTY SMALLCAP 250

(16,614.05)
The crucial resistance level of 16,700 was tested last week. The index made a high of 16,710.95 and came down slightly from there.

An important support is in the 16,470-16,450 region. If the index manages to sustain above this support, then there is a good chance to see a bullish breakout above 16,700. Such a break will take the index up to 16,850-16,900 initially. A further break above 16,900 will then see the rise extending towards 17,350-17,400.

But, if the index fails to sustain above 16,450 and declines below it, then it can come under pressure. If that happens, the Nifty Smallcap 250 index can fall back to 16,100-16,160.

So, the price action in the 16,470-16,450 region will need a close watch this week.

bl.portfolio
video

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

NIFTY BANK (59,011.35)

Short-term view: The index has been stable and range-bound over the last couple of weeks. That continues to keep the immediate picture unclear. The overall bias is positive. However, the daily chart indicates that a near-term dip first to 58,600-58,300 is still possible. Thereafter, a fresh rise can breach the resistance at 59,800. That in turn will clear the way for a rise to 61,000-61,500 in the short term.

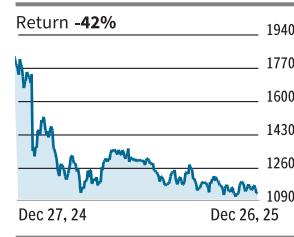
The index will come under pressure for more fall only if it

MOVERS & SHAKERS

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

Cyient (₹1,119.85)

Bear trend intact



regain traction in the coming days and drag the stock below the support at ₹1,100. This can lead to a decline to ₹1,000. Hence, traders can consider going short on the stock if the price inches up to ₹1,150. Place stop-loss at ₹1,225. When the price declines to ₹1,050, move the stop-loss lower to ₹1,100. Liquidate the trade at ₹1,000.

Nuvama Wealth Management (₹1,494.05)

Breaks out of a resistance



current level, the price might drop to ₹1,460. But then, we expect it to resume the uptrend and hit ₹1,700 in the near term. So, traders can buy the stock now at ₹1,494 and accumulate at ₹1,460. Place initial stop-loss at ₹1,380. When the price rises to ₹1,600, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,500. Tighten the stop-loss to ₹1,590 when the stock touches ₹1,650. Exit at ₹1,700.

Hyundai Motor India (₹2,320.75)

Forms a base



So, the probability of a rally is high. In the short term, we forecast the price to hit ₹2,600. Therefore, participants can go long now at ₹2,320 and place stop-loss at ₹2,220. When the scrip reaches ₹2,500, move the stop-loss up to ₹2,350. Raise the stop-loss further to ₹2,490 when the price touches ₹2,550. Book profits at ₹2,600.

Santa rally still in play

US MARKET OUTLOOK. The S&P 500 index looks strong with an inverted head and shoulder pattern

Gurumurthy K

bl. research bureau

The stock of Cyient has been on a decline since June after it faced a barrier at ₹1,350. While it has been moving in a sideways direction in the recent weeks, i.e., between ₹1,100 and ₹1,200, the broader downtrend appears intact. We expect the bears to

DOW JONES (48,710.97)

The rise and close above the intermediate resistance level of 48,400 keeps the bullish bias intact. The upside is open to test 49,200 and 49,500 in the coming weeks. The upside can extend even to 50,000 in the medium term.

The region between 50,000 and 50,500 is a strong resistance zone. We can expect the upmove to halt there. A corrective fall to 49,500 and even lower is possible thereafter.

Cluster of supports are there in the 48,000-47,500 region. The Dow Jones has to break 47,500 in order to turn bearish.

S&P 500 (6,929.95)

The bullish breakout above 6,910 happened last week. A strong follow-through rise from here can take the S&P 500 index up to 7,000-7,100 in the coming weeks. Such a rise will also confirm the inverted head and shoulder pattern on the chart. That in turn will have the potential to take the S&P 500 index higher to 7,300-7,350 in the coming months.

DOLLAR OUTLOOK

The dollar index (97.65) continues to remain under pressure. The index is facing strong resistance at

98.35 over the last two weeks. That keeps the bias negative for the index. A fall to 97 looks likely now.

The price action on the charts leaves the index vulnerable to break below 97 as well. Such a break can drag the dollar index down to 96-95.80 in the coming weeks.

Cluster of resistances are between 98 and 99. The dollar index has to surpass 99 to bring back the bullishness of revisiting 100 and higher levels. But such a rise looks less likely.

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

(23,593.10)
The NASDAQ Composite index got a good follow-through rise last week. Crucial resistance is in the 23,750-23,800 region. Above that, 24,000 is the next important resistance. The index has to breach 24,000 decisively in order to turn the sentiment positive convincingly. A strong rise above 24,000 will also confirm a bullish inverted head and shoulder pattern on the chart. It will then open the doors for a fresh rally to 25,000 and even 26,000 in the coming months.

But, a failure to breach 24,000 and a downward reversal from the 23,800-24,000 region will keep the index under pressure. In that case, the NASDAQ Composite index can fall back to 23,500-23,000 again.

TREASURY YIELDS

The US 10Yr Treasury Yield (4.13 per cent) oscillated between 4.1 per cent and 4.2 per cent for the third consecutive week. That continues to keep the near-term picture unclear. As such, there is no major change in the outlook for now. We will have to wait for a breakout on either side of the 4.1-4.2 range.

A break above 4.2 per cent will be bullish. It can take the US 10Yr Treasury Yield higher towards 4.3-4.35 per cent thereafter.

On the other hand, if the yield declines below 4.1 per cent, it can fall to 4 per cent and even 3.95-3.9 per cent. From a long-term perspective, 3.9 per cent is a strong support for the US 10Yr Yield. So, there is a good chance for the yield to reverse higher from this support and rise back above 4 per cent eventually.

So, even if the yield declines below 4.1 per cent down, the downside can be limited to 3.95-3.9 per cent.

TECH QUERY

I have bought Vodafone Idea shares at ₹12.45. What is the long-term outlook?

Pradeep Kabra, West Mumbai

Vodafone Idea (₹11.95): The stock has been in a strong uptrend since mid-August this year. The recent rise has happened after forming a strong base between ₹8 and ₹6. So, this upmove is strong and remains intact for now. Cluster of supports are there in the ₹11-₹9.50 region. There is potential for the stock to target ₹19-₹20 in the coming months. However,

this rise may not happen in a straight line and there will be intermediate short-lived correction. You can accumulate on dips at ₹11.50. Keep the stop-loss at ₹9.10. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹12.3 as soon as the stock goes up to ₹14.4. Revise the stop-loss up to ₹14.5 and ₹17 when the price touches ₹16.5 and ₹18 respectively. The bullish view will go wrong only if the stock falls below ₹9.50.

I would like to invest in Engineers India for the short term. Please advise.

Ashish Pathrabe

Engineers India (₹205.35): The short-term outlook is unclear. The stock has been stuck inside a sideways range since August this year. The trading range has been ₹188-₹218. The range remains intact for now. A breakout on either side of ₹188-₹218 will determine the next leg of move. A break above ₹218 can take the share price higher to ₹227 initially. A decisive break above ₹227 is needed to boost the momentum

and turn the sentiment positive. Only then the upside will open up for a rise to ₹260-₹265 and higher. On the other hand, if the stock breaks the range below ₹188, a fall to ₹175-₹174 can be seen. Since the direction of move is not clear, it is better to stay out of this stock.

I have bought shares of Praj Industries at ₹460. What is the outlook for the stock?

Dibyajyoti

Praj Industries (₹332.85): The trend is down and strong since the beginning of this year. There is no sign of a reversal. Support is around ₹270 which can be tested in the near term. A bounce from there and a subsequent rise past ₹345

can take the share price higher to ₹440 in the next six months or so. To indicate a bullish trend reversal, the stock has to rise past ₹440. Only then the chances of revisiting ₹600 and ₹800 levels will come into the picture

again. On the other hand, if the stock fails to bounce from around ₹270 and breaks below it, the downside pressure can increase. In that case, the share price can fall to ₹190. We suggest you accept the loss and exit the stock now.

I have Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company shares. My purchase price is ₹82. What is the outlook?

Swadesh Majumdar

Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company (₹75.25): The stock is consolidating above a key support level of ₹72 over the last two months. As long as the stock stays above ₹72, the bias is positive to make a bullish breakout of this consolidation. A decisive break above ₹79 can take the share price higher to ₹86 in the coming months.

If you have the risk-appetite, you can accumulate on dips at ₹73. Keep the stop-loss at ₹71. Move the stop-loss higher to ₹77 when the price goes up to ₹81. Revise the stop-loss higher to ₹80 and ₹83 when the price touches ₹82 and ₹85 respectively. Exit the stock at ₹86. If you do not wish to accumulate, then you can exit the stock now and accept the loss.

Send your queries to techtrader@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 IRFC**2 NBCC (India)****3 Graphite India****4 Force Motors****5 APL Apollo Tubes**

Closing price (Dec 19) ₹376.70

Closing price (Dec 26) ₹393.85

Valuation Radar: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

The Benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty 50, were up 0.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively last week. BSE Metal and BSE PSU were the top movers, delivering 2.3 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively. BSE Consumer Durables and BSE Realty declined the most by 0.7 and 0.3 per cent, respectively last week.

	Nifty 50	Sensex	Auto	Bankex	Capital Goods	Consumer Durables	FMCG	Healthcare	IT	Metal	Oil & Gas	Power	PSU	Realty	Tec
P/E	22.7	23.5	32.1	15.8	53.4	66.0	38.7	38.7	28.2	19.7	10.2	29.4	11.6	43.7	30.0
P/BV	3.5	4.6	6.8	2.3	13.3	16.4	8.5	6.6	7.8	3.1	1.7	4.1	2.2	5.5	9.4
Dividend Yield	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.5	1.5	3.2	1.3	2.6	0.3	1.8
Weekly Return (%)	0.3 ▲	0.1 ▲	0.1 ▲	-0.2 ▼	0.9 ▲	-0.7 ▼	0.6 ▲	-0.2 ▼	-0.1 ▼	2.3 ▲	0.0 ▼	0.5 ▲	1.8 ▲	-0.3 ▼	0.1 ▲
Monthly Return (%)	0.6 ▲	0.5 ▲	1.1 ▲	0.0 ▼	-2.1 ▼	-2.3 ▼	0.0 ▼	-1.0 ▼	4.7 ▲	6.9 ▲	-1.0 ▼	-1.1 ▼	-0.1 ▼	-2.1 ▼	2.9 ▲
Annual Return (%)	9.7 ▲	8.4 ▲	19.0 ▲	13.4 ▲	-2.1 ▼	-6.7 ▼	-1.6 ▼	-0.9 ▼	-14.0 ▼	20.7 ▲	7.0 ▲	-7.9 ▼	6.0 ▲	-18.3 ▼	-4.3 ▼

The sector indices are disseminated by S&P BSE.

Company	CMP	EPS	PE	PB	Year End	Sales	Profit	Sales	Profit	Wkly Rtn	ROCE	DER	Yr/High	Yr/Low
360 ONE [1]	1178.5	27.8	42.4	5.1	2025/09	28.9	28.5	15.0	14.2	-3.2	14.3	2.0	1317.3	766.1
3M India	3458.7	54.7	63.7	18.2	2024/06	-0.3	21.6	3.0	23.3	-0.7	39.8	0.0	36958.0	25171.4
A [2]	5180.4	83.4	62.1	42.2	2025/09	13.7	-7.2	49.0	120.6	0.1	9.8	0.1	7005.2	4590.1
A B Real Estate [3]	1680.4	14.2	5.0	2025/09	-63.0	-4772.4	63.4	-168.3	-3.4	-2.0	1.0	2555.0	1564.8	
Adhaar Hsg. Fin. [4]	484.4	22.8	21.3	3.1	2025/09	17.4	17.1	18.8	18.5	-0.6	11.4	2.8	547.8	340.5
Aartt Industries [5]	376.1	7.4	50.7	2.4	2025/09	29.0	68.0	8.3	-39.3	1.8	6.2	0.7	494.0	345.2
ACC [6]	2887.1	10.1	40.7	3.3	2025/09	1.6	1.4	25.4	14.6	1.0	22.2	0.2	1432.0	1425.2
ACM Solar Hold. [2]	231.0	8.4	27.7	2.9	2025/09	80.1	631.6	51.7	1058.0	-4.4	2.8	32.3	167.6	
Action Const. Eq. [1]	949.8	35.1	27.1	6.3	2025/09	-1.6	-5.0	5.0	14.3	2.4	40.2	0.0	1599.9	909.3
Adani Energy Sol [1]	1015.3	18.8	54.1	2.5	2025/09	6.7	-20.9	23.0	18.4	2.7	10.1	2.2	1050.0	639.4
Adani Enterprise [1]	2231.9	19.0	117.4	4.2	2025/09	-6.0	-7.2	-6.1	-6.8	-0.3	9.0	1.8	2612.0	1564.8
Adani Green [1]	1017.9	13.6	74.4	8.2	2025/09	-5.3	81.3	13.7	64.8	-0.4	9.4	11.7	297.2	758.0
Adani Power [2]	1497.2	4.8	42.2	1.8	2025/09	29.4	28.2	24.1	28.0	0.0	1599.0	1500.0		
Adani Total Gas [1]	142.2	5.2	22.8	1.7	2025/09	0.9	11.4	1.5	5.4	0.3	1.2	0.7	182.8	89.1
Adani Total Health Care [1]	570.2	5.7	100.2	13.9	2025/09	81.1	-11.9	16.6	-10.9	0.2	17.4	2.8	547.3	340.5
Aditya Diversified [2]	770.0	33.6	22.9	6.2	2025/09	87	-0.4	17.4	8.4	1.2	35.5	0.0	911.6	562.5
Aditya Birla Fin. [2]	76.6	-6.1	1.5	2025/09	12.6	-20.2	-15.7	2.1	0.2	1.3	107.7	72.0		
Aditya Birla Cap. [2]	348.1	12.5	27.8	2.8	2025/09	2.6	-14.1	8.1	-11.7	-0.2	9.5	4.4	368.9	148.8
Aegis Logistics [1]	721.0	24.0	35.4	4.2	2025/09	31.1	42.6	5.1	22.8	-2.4	14.5	0.9	1035.7	610.5
Aerotel Infrastr. [2]	804.0	15.5	52.4	4.8	2025/09	36.4	50.3	119.1	10.0	0.7	1.1	0.0	1070.0	566.0
Afcons Infrastr. [2]	399.0	13.7	26.6	5.6	2025/09	1.6	-0.4	4.6	2.5	1.6	2.0	0.0	170.0	125.2
Afcons Infrastr. [2]	1784.8	39.8	29.0	7.7	2025/09	181.1	20.1	19.5	23.3	3.8	0.1	3186.8	1231.1	
AIA Engineering [2]	3882.6	12.8	32.2	4.9	2025/09	-0.1	8.1	-7.3	0.6	2.1	19.1	0.0	3996.0	1250.0
Ajanta Pharma [2]	2688.0	7.9	34.4	7.8	2025/09	14.1	2.2	10.7	2.2	3.2	0.0	3115.0	2022.1	
Akzo Nobel [2]	3126.9	8.6	34.6	6.3	2025/09	-15.0	-14.7	-3.0	-10.0	-0.3	39.1	0.0	3942.4	3040.0
Alembro Pharma [2]	852.3	32.3	26.4	3.2	2025/09	15.9	28.8	11.4	-0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1212.4	725.6
Alka Muthuram [2]	5535.9	19.6	28.2	5.2	2025/09	17.2	11.1	9.3	8.1	0.0	2588.0	1564.0		
Alka Muthuram [2]	151.0	35.4	44.4	5.2	2025/09	1.6	-1.5	-0.3	-1.1	0.2	0.0	2448.0	1252.0	
Allied Blenders [2]	613.4	3.2	66.8	11.0	2025/09	14.1	35.2	15.8	36.0	-1.7	2.0	1.0	270.0	278.9
Alok Industries [1]	16.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	2025/09	63.3	-16.0	-20.0	11.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	23.5	13.9
Amara Rajah Enter. [1]	9204.4	20.1	22.2	2.2	2025/09	67	-2.10	5.9	-25.2	-0.7	15.6	0.0	1240.0	805.1
Amber Enterpr. [1]	6647.4	6.3	104.9	6.4	2025/09	-2.2	-27.1	34.0	2.0	-0.6	13.5	0.0	8625.0	267.0
Ambuja Cement [2]	554.4	23.3	23.4	2.0	2025/09	21.5	24.0	15.5	9.8	2.7	1.2	0.0	625.0	455.0
Anglo American [1]	507.8	5.0	20.0	3.0	2025/09	23.0	30.0	13.5	42.5	0.0	10.0	0.0	1070.0	360.0
Anglo American [1]	247.6	1.1	1.1	0.1	2025/09	20.0	-5.0	0.0	-25.6	0.0	32.8	0.0	1070.0	360.0
Apar Inds. [1]	8611.0	23.9	36.8	7.1	2025/09	23.2	29.8	21.4	10.5	-1.8	32.6	0.0	11179.4	4270.0
API Apollo Tubes [2]	1885.7	37.8	49.9	11.4	2025/09	89	460.4	14.5	79.9	3.6	22.0	0.0	1935.0	1273.3
Apollo Hospitals [5]	1517.4	11.6	61.3	11.5	2025/09	12.8	26.0	13.7	41.3	2.6	17.5	0.6	8090.0	602.2
Apollo Tyres [1]	505.6	20.7	24.4	2.1	2025/09	61.1	25.6	4.4	-13.4	-0.4	10.9	0.0	1007.0	479.0
Applus Value Hous. [2]	281.0	16.8	37.0	2.0	2025/09	29.1	29.6	24.9	-0.9	1.5	1.1	0.0	1240.0</td	



Is this term cover right for you?

POLICY-WISE. LIC Bima Kavach's key aspects, premiums involved and suitability for policyholders explained

Venkatasubramanian K
bl. research bureau

Even before planning your investments, three important aspects are generally emphasised from a financial planning perspective.

A medical cover, a term insurance policy, and finally, an emergency fund, are prerequisites to insulate your portfolio from various risks.

As a means to compensate for the loss of income that your family needs in the unfortunate event of your death, the term insurance policy becomes a crucial risk cover.

Often, many policyholders end up underestimating the term insurance amount that they need and end up taking covers for smaller sums, jeopardising their family's future goals.

In this regard, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) recently came out with a new term policy called Bima Kavach, where the coverage starts at a minimum of ₹2 crore.

There are multiple features available with LIC's Bima Kavach.

These include constant sum assured, increasing cover, life stage-based increases to coverage amount, regular and limited

payment terms, and so on. Read on for more on the key aspects of the term policy, premiums involved and the suitability for policyholders:

HIGHER COVER

As mentioned, the minimum cover on offer is ₹2 crore. There is no upper limit on the sum assured that you could opt for.

The minimum age of entry is 18, while the maximum age of entry is 65.

Coverage can be taken till you reach the age of 100. The maximum policy term is 82 years.

The regular premium payment terms mean that you have to pay premiums till the time you want to have the cover.

There are limited pay options as well.

Limited premium payment options are available for 5 years, 10 years and 15 years if the minimum policy terms are 10 years, 15 years and 20 years, respectively.

The level sum assured means that the policy amount payable upon death does not change.

For those with increasing liabilities (home loan, car/personal loan and so on), and wanting a higher cover, another option is a rising sum assured. From year six through year 15 of the policy term, there is an op-

OVERVIEW

- Level and rising coverage available
- Life stage-based enhancement possible
- Regular and limited premium payment options

tion to increase your sum assured by 10 per cent every year (simple rate). At the end of year 15, you would have 2x of your initial cover.

Another option available for policyholders is to increase their cover based on life stage events.

You are allowed to increase your cover by 50 per cent after marriage, by another 25 per cent after your first child, and a further 25 per cent after you have a second child.

The life stage-based request for additional cover must be made within six months of these events.

PREMIUM OFFERING

LIC's Bima Kavach does not come cheap. Take the case of a 40-year-old male who is a non-smoker and wants a 20-year term policy till the age of 60.

It is assumed that he chooses

the regular premium paying option on an annual basis.

The policy cover is assumed to have a sum assured of ₹2 crore.

The premium for the above specifications is ₹43,600 per annum.

ICICI Prudential Life's iProtect Smart Plus (₹26,312), HDFC Life's Click 2 Protect Supreme (₹30,524), Axis Max Life's Smart Term Plan Plus (₹23,616), Tata AIA's Maha Raksha Supreme Select (₹23,520) and Bajaj Life's eTouch II (₹22,670) are priced cheaper for the same specifications. These quotes are taken from Policybazaar.

However, when single premiums are considered, the prices become a bit more favourably comparable with those of peers. LIC's Bima Kavach charges ₹475,800 as single premium for the above specifications.

The single premium rates from private life insurers range from ₹3.89 lakh to ₹5.36 lakh.

For the regular payment option, there is a 7.5 per cent discount on premiums offered for payment periods of five years to 82 years, if the policy is purchased directly online from LIC's website.

In single premiums, there is a 3 per cent discount offered.

SHOULD YOU BUY POLICY?

It is clear that LIC's Bima Kavach is priced at higher levels than comparable term policies from many other private insurers for the regular premium payment option. Given the flexible features that the cover offers, it may still be worth a look, especially as LIC has a long and sturdy track record in settling claims.

For those with higher earnings (₹35 lakh or more) and who do not have a term cover in their 30s, this still appears reasonable for securing future financial risks.

Take the regular premium paying option and keep the policy operational only till your intended period of working. If you intend to retire by 50-55, for example, run the policy only till that age.

Another point to note is that the single premium option is reasonably priced for Bima Kavach.

Those who have the surplus and can afford to make a large payment, can opt for this option. If medical tests are insisted upon by the insurer, you must undertake those to ensure that there is complete transparency on your health situation, which is critical for smooth settlement.

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	6.6	6.4	6.4	Nov 14
Deutsche Bank	5	7	6.25	6.25	Jul 25
HSBC	4.1	5.5	5.35	5.5	Jul 17
Scotiabank	3.7	3.9	4	4	Dec 01
Standard Chartered	5.75	6.6	6.5	6.5	Aug 29
INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	6.65	6.2	6.1	Oct 29
Bank of Baroda	6	6.6	6.5	6.4	Jun 12
Bank of India	5.5	6.7	6.3	6.25	Dec 01
Canara Bank	5.5	6.15	5.9	5.9	Dec 08
Central Bank of India	5	6.2	6.25	6	Dec 10
Indian Bank	4.75	6.6	6.3	6.25	Nov 01
Indian Overseas Bank	5.5	6.6	6.4	6.1	Dec 15
Punjab National Bank	5.6	6.5	6.4	6.25	Dec 01
Punjab & Sind Bank	4.85	6.6	6	5.95	Dec 15
State Bank of India	5.9	6.45	6.4	6.3	Dec 15
UCO Bank	6.3	6.45	6.1	6	Dec 11
Union Bank	6	6.3	6	5.9	Dec 05
INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS					
Axis Bank	5.75	6.45	6.45	6.45	Dec 26
Bandhan Bank	4.20	7.2	7.2	7	Sep 12
CSB Bank	6.75	7	6.5	5.75	Sep 10
City Union Bank	6.25	6.75	6.5	6.25	Dec 15
DCB Bank	6.5	7	7	7.1	Dec 11
Dhanlaxmi Bank	6.6	6.95	6.5	6.5	Nov 28
Federal Bank	6	6.6	6.75	6.5	Dec 15
HDFC Bank	5.75	6.45	6.45	6.4	Dec 17
ICICI Bank	5.5	6.4	6.6	6.6	Dec 19
IDBI Bank	5.8	6.5	6.55	6.35	Dec 18
IDFC First Bank	5.5	7	7	7	Nov 04
IndusInd Bank	6.25	7	6.9	6.65	Sep 25
J & K Bank	6	6.75	7	6.75	Dec 11
Karnataka Bank	5.75	6.65	6.15	6.15	Aug 01
Kotak Bank	6	6.7	6.4	6.4	Dec 05
Karur Vysya Bank	6.65	6.55	6.55	6.55	Sep 26
RBL Bank	6.05	7.2	7.2	7	Sep 24
South Indian Bank	5.9	6.6	6.2	6.2	Oct 24
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	6.4	6.9	6.6	6.6	Oct 04
TNSC Bank	6.6	7.5	6.85	6.6	NA
Yes Bank	6.5	7	7	7	Dec 01
SMALL FINANCE BANKS					
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.35	7.1	7.3	7	Nov 03
ESAF Small Finance Bank	4.75	7.6	7.25	6	Jun 18
Jana Small Finance Bank	7	7.25	7.5	8	Dec 11
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	6.75	7.5	7.25	8	03-Dec
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6	7.5	7.5	7.25	Dec 01
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6	7.45	7.25	7.2	05-Aug

*Data as on respective banks' website on 26 Dec, 2025; For each year range, the maximum offered interest rate is considered; interest rate is for a normal fixed deposit amount below ₹1 crore. Compiled by BankBazaar.com

ALERTS.

PNB Housing Finance facilitates PMAY-U 2.0 in Maharashtra

PNB Housing Finance has sanctioned ₹1,530 crore to over 10,000 eligible beneficiaries under PMAY and will now intensify mass-outreach campaigns across Maharashtra to boost awareness and encourage wider adoption of the scheme. It said this reaffirms its commitment to supporting homeownership in Maharashtra, with a continued emphasis on enabling customers to benefit from the PMAY.

Small Savings Schemes - Interest rates

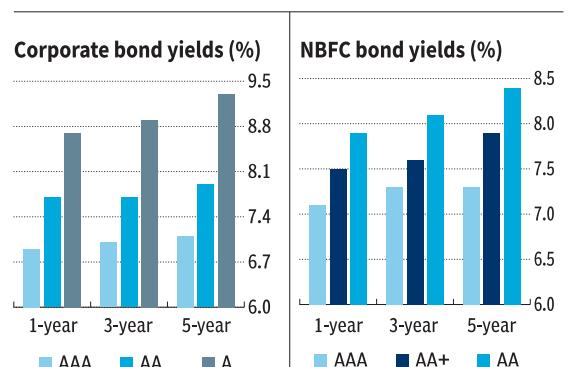
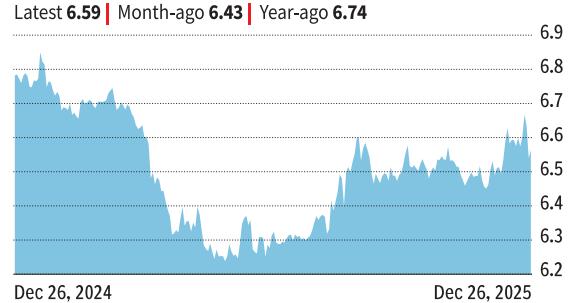
Small Savings Scheme	Interest rate (%)		Compounding frequency
	July 1 - Sep 30, 2025	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2025	
Post Office Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually
1 year	6.9	6.9	Quarterly
2 year	7.0	7.0	Quarterly
3 year	7.1	7.1	Quarterly
5 year	7.5	7.5	Quarterly
Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 year)	6.7	6.7	Quarterly
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 ^a	7.5 ^a	Annually
Sukanya Samridhi Yojana	8.2	8.2	Annually

Note: Small savings rate as on the latest quarterly reset on September 30, 2025
^aWill mature in 115 months Source: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, GoI

Bond yields

10-year benchmark G-Sec yield (%)

Latest 6.59 | Month-ago 6.43 | Year-ago 6.74





bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)	Regular	Direct	Trailing Returns (%)	1 Year CAGR	3 Year CAGR	5 Year CAGR	10 Year CAGR	Sortino Ratio (%)
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EQUITY - LARGE CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ Canara Robeco Large Cap	64.7	17527	1.6	0.5	6.7	15.7	14.5	14.4	0.55			
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Large Cap	115.0	78160	1.4	0.8	10.2	18.4	18.3	15.0	0.73			
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Large Cap	93.8	50312	1.5	0.7	8.2	19.6	20.4	14.9	0.77			
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Large Cap	545.9	31451	1.6	1.0	8.5	15.9	15.9	13.2	0.58			
★★★★★ HDFC Large Cap	1175.2	40618	1.6	1.0	7.3	16.1	17.6	13.8	0.67			
★★★★★ Kotak Large Cap	592.6	11081	1.7	0.6	7.8	15.9	15.4	13.4	0.56			
★★★★★ SBI Large Cap	95.8	55637	1.5	0.8	8.6	14.7	15.1	13.0	0.57			
★★★★★ Bandhan Large Cap	80.0	2051	2.0	0.9	7.7	17.8	15.3	13.5	0.52			
★★★★★ Baroda BNP Paribas Large Cap	225.6	2781	2.0	0.8	3.7	16.1	15.1	13.1	0.54			
★★★★★ DSP Large Cap	485.7	7187	1.8	0.8	8.0	18.2	15.3	12.3	0.59			
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large Cap	86.6	1445	2.1	0.6	6.9	15.6	14.7	13.4	0.54			
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Large Cap	1064.6	8061	1.9	1.1	8.0	15.4	15.1	12.0	0.53			
★★★★★ Invesco India Largecap	71.0	1723	2.0	0.7	5.7	17.6	16.1	13.3	0.54			
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large Cap	117.6	41864	1.5	0.5	9.4	13.9	14.1	13.8	0.51			
★★★★★ Tata Large Cap	522.9	2827	2.0	1.0	8.1	15.3	16.2	12.6	0.60			
★★★★★ UTI Large Cap	282.7	13399	1.7	0.9	8.0	13.4	13.5	12.6	0.47			
★★★★★ HSBC Large Cap	492.8	1919	2.1	1.3	4.0	15.3	13.9	13.2	0.45			
★★★★★ JM Large Cap	158.4	482	2.4	0.8	2.4	15.9	14.7	11.8	0.50			
★★★★★ LIC MF Large Cap	57.2	1503	2.1	1.0	5.1	12.3	11.8	11.5	0.39			
★★★★★ Union Largecap	23.9	479	2.5	1.7	3.5	12.8	13.2	- 0.46				
★★★★★ Axis Large Cap	61.9	34072	1.6	0.7	5.8	12.5	10.4	12.7	0.33			
★★★★★ Groww Largecap	44.1	133	2.5	1.2	6.4	13.9	12.8	11.7	0.41			
★★★★★ PGM India Large Cap	349.4	605	2.4	0.8	6.9	12.1	11.8	11.1	0.40			
★★★★★ Mahi Manu Large Cap	23.8	749	2.3	0.6	8.4	14.6	14.9	- 0.54				
★★★★★ Taurus Large Cap	161.9	52	2.6	2.4	4.7	15.5	14.0	10.2	0.43			

EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ HDFC Large and Mid Cap	347.3	28892	1.6	0.8	5.6	20.6	22.1	15.3	0.75			
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	1043.2	26939	1.6	0.8	13.0	21.4	23.2	16.1	0.90			
★★★★★ Bandhan Large & Mid Cap	139.3	12784	1.7	0.6	7.1	23.8	22.2	16.2	0.74			
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Vission Large & Mid Cap	1493.7	6866	1.9	1.2	4.5	21.3	19.7	13.5	0.68			
★★★★★ SBI Large & Midcap	645.1	37045	1.6	0.7	9.4	18.1	19.9	15.1	0.75			
★★★★★ UTI Large & Mid Cap	187.1	5498	1.9	1.0	6.8	22.7	22.2	14.8	0.77			
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Large and Mid Cap	253.4	26170	1.6	0.6	-0.3	16.2	16.3	14.9	0.54			
★★★★★ DSP Large & Mid Cap	639.8	17215	1.7	0.6	6.7	20.8	19.4	15.8	0.67			
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	89.8	4460	1.8	0.4	3.6	19.0	18.7	15.1	0.61			
★★★★★ Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	100.7	9406	1.8	0.6	4.1	24.1	20.0	16.1	0.62			
★★★★★ Kotak Large & Midcap	350.8	29961	1.6	0.5	5.2	19.4	18.9	15.9	0.64			
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	157.0	43542	1.5	0.6	7.9	17.8	17.7	14.9	0.59			
★★★★★ Quant Large & Mid Cap	114.8	3512	1.9	0.7	-0.8	16.0	18.8	15.9	0.57			
★★★★★ Tata Large & Mid Cap	522.8	8753	1.8	0.7	1.6	13.2	15.9	13.3	0.57			
★★★★★ BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	91.6	449	2.3	0.8	5.4	17.5	17.2	13.2	0.53			
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Large & Mid Cap	196.4	3703	2.0	1.3	7.6	17.8	17.4	12.6	0.57			
★★★★★ LIC MF Large & Midcap	39.0	3141	1.9	0.6	-0.4	17.7	16.4	15.0	0.54			
★★★★★ Sundaram Large & Mid Cap	87.8	7047	1.8	0.8	2.9	16.9	17.6	14.6	0.56			
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Large & Mid Cap	911.7	5836	1.9	1.1	3.1	15.1	13.1	12.2	0.36			
★★★★★ Navi Large & Midcap	35.7	320	2.3	0.5	1.0	13.3	16.2	13.4	0.53			
★★★★★ Axis Large & Mid Cap	33.3	15605	1.7	0.6	3.5	19.9	17.9	- 0.54				
★★★★★ HSBC Large & Mid Cap	27.3	4664	1.9	0.8	-3.3	20.9	18.1	-	0.47			

EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ HDFC Flexi Cap	2060.8	94069	1.4	0.7	10.7	21.6	23.8	16.6	0.95			
★★★★★ Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	87.0	129783	1.3	0.6	7.9	22.2	20.0	17.4	0.80			
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1663.3	20022	1.7	0.9	3.3	18.2	19.8	14.6	0.68			
★★★★★ JM Flexicap	97.0	6015	1.8	0.6	-6.7	20.5	20.4	16.8	0.66			
★★★★★ PGM India Flexi Cap	36.8	6400	1.8	0.4	4.2	13.4	14.7	13.8	0.47			
★★★★★ Union Flexi Cap	51.9	2412	2.0	0.9	2.7	15.4	16.0	13.3	0.55			
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1884.5	24815	1.7	0.9	10.5	18.5	16.7	14.9	0.56			
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	349.2	13926	1.7	0.5	6.8	15.9	15.4	14.2	0.54			
★★★★★ DSP Flexi Cap	104.8	12371	1.7	0.7	4.4	18.0	15.9	14.5	0.51			

bl.rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)	Regular	Direct	1 Month *Ann	3 Month *Ann	6 Month *Ann	1 Year CAGR	AA & Below
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CASH FUNDS

LIQUID FUNDS

- 360 ONE Liquid	2065.3	1023	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.6	5.6	6.3	-	
- Aditya Birla SL Liquid	432.6	55408	0.4	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- Axis Liquid	2989.5	37358	0.2	0.1	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.6	-	
- Bandhan Liquid	3241.7	17409	0.2	0.1	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- Bank of India Liquid	3092.4	1426	0.1	0.1	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.6	-	
- Baroda BNP Paribas Liquid	3086.2	10643	0.3	0.1	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- Canara Robeco Liquid	3231.3	6250	0.2	0.1	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.6	-	
- DSP Liquidity	3832.8	21344	0.2	0.1	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.5	-	
- Edelweiss Liquid	3434.4	10214	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.6	-	
- Groww Liquid	2596.4	176	0.2	0.1	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.6	-	
- HDFC Liquid	5266.8	63737	0.3	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- HSBC Liquid	2676.3	17011	0.2	0.1	5.5	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- ICICI Pru Liquid	397.4	47726	0.3	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- Invesco India Liquid	3690.9	17793	0.2	0.2	5.7	5.8	5.8	6.6	-	
- ITI Liquid	1398.1	54	0.3	0.1	5.5	5.6	5.7	6.4	-	
- JM Liquid	73.2	2851	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.4	-	
- Kotak Liquid	5425.4	34798	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- LIC MF Liquid	4852.3	11543	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.5	-	
- Mahi Manu Liquid	1747.4	1190	0.3	0.2	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.5	-	
- Mirae Asset Liquid	2815.1	18005	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	14.2	1156	0.4	0.2	5.5	5.5	5.4	6.1	-	
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.7	1156	-	0.2	5.7	5.7	5.6	6.3	-	
- Navi Liquid	29.2	62	0.2	0.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	6.1	-	
- Nippon Ind Liquid	6552.0	32355	0.3	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.5	-	
- Parag Parikh Liquid	1488.6	5075	0.2	0.1	5.5	5.6	5.6	6.3	-	
- PGM India Liquid	349.5	557	0.2	0.1	5.5	5.8	5.7	6.6	-	
- Quant Liquid	42.4	1709	0.5	0.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	6.3	-	
- Quantum Liquid	35.9	548	0.3	0.2	5.4	5.4	5.4	6.1	-	
- SBI Liquid	4194.7	69048	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.5	-	
- Sundaram Liquid	2366.7	6763	0.3	0.1	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.5	-	
- Tata Liquid	4228.9	21673	0.3	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.5	-	
- Union Liquid	2583.9	7052	0.2	0.1	5.7	5.8	5.8	6.5	-	
- UTI Liquid	4404.3	24570	0.3	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.6	-	
- WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1443.1	544	0.3	0.2	5.5	5.7	5.6	6.4	-	

ARBITRAGE FUNDS

- Aditya Birla SL Arbitrage	27.3	25267	1.0	0.3	5.6	5.9	5.6	6.4	-	
- Axis Arbitrage	19.2	8084	1.0	0.3	5.7	5.8	5.6	6.3	-	
- Bandhan Arbitrage	33.3	8882	1.1	0.4	5.4	5.6	5.4	6.2	-	
- Bank of India Arbitrage	14.2	49	0.9	0.4	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.9	-	
- Baroda BNP Paribas Arbitrage	16.5	1314	1.1	0.3	5.5	5.7	5.6	6.1	0.00	
- DSP Arbitrage	15.3	6663	1.0	0.4	5.4	5.7	5.5	6.2	-	
- Edelweiss Arbitrage	19.9	16720	1.1	0.4	5.8	5.9	5.6	6.4	-	
- HDFC Arbitrage	31.5	23551	0.9	0.4	5.7	5.9	5.7	6.3	-	
- HSBC Arbitrage	19.5	2327	0.9	0.3	5.6	6.0	5.7	6.2	-	
- ICICI Pru Equity-Arbitrage	35.3	32623	0.9	0.4	5.8	5.8	5.6	6.4	-	
- Invesco India Arbitrage	32.8	27562	1.1	0.4	5.8	6.0	5.8	6.4	0.40	
- ITI Arbitrage	13.3	50	0.9	0.2	5.4	5.8	5.6	6.4	-	
- JM Arbitrage	33.5	373	1.1	0.4	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.9	-	
- Kotak Arbitrage	38.5	72774	1.1	0.4	5.6	5.8	5.6	6.4	-	
- LIC MF Arbitrage	14.2	282	1.0	0.3	5.0	5.4	5.3	6.0	-	
- Mahi Manu Arbitrage	12.7	87	1.0	0.2	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.3	-	
- Mirae Asset Arbitrage	13.4	3805	0.9	0.2	5.9	5.8	5.5	6.1	-	
- Nippon Ind Arbitrage	27.3	16259	1.1	0.4	5.8	5.9	5.6	6.2	1.70	
- PGM India Arbitrage	18.8	98	1.1	0.4	4.2	5.5	5.0	6.0	-	
- SBI Arbitrage Opport	34.8	41083	0.9	0.4	5.7	5.9	5.7	6.5	-	
- Sundaram Arbitrage	14.8	335	1.0	0.2	5.3	5.7	5.4	6.1	-	
- Tata Arbitrage	14.8	20154	1.1	0.3	6.5	6.0	5.7	6.4	-	
- Union Arbitrage	14.4	273	1.1	0.5	5.0	5.7	5.4	6.0	-	
- UTI Arbitrage	36.0	10720	0.8	0.3	5.8	6.0	5.8	6.5	-	

DEBT FUNDS

DEBT - ULTRA SHORT DURATION FUNDS

★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Savings	565.8	23785	0.6	0.3	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.2	11.23	
★★★★★ Baroda BNP Paribas Ultra Short Dur	1588.1	1071	0.5	0.3	7.1	7.2	7.2	6.0	1.41	
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Ultra Short Duration	4145.6	13682	1.1	0.4	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.6	18.78	
★★★★★ HDFC Ultra Short Term	15.6	18875	0.7	0.4	7.0	7.2	7.1	5.9	4.44	
★★★★★ HSBC Ultra Short Duration	1393.8	4059	0.4	0.2	7.0	7.2	7.1	5.9	-	
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Ultra Short Term	28.6	19711	0.8	0.4	7.1	7.3	7.2	6.0	9.84	
★★★★★ UTI Ultra Short Duration	4358.6	4788	1.0	0.3	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.2	6.56	
★★★★★ Axis Ultra Short Duration	15.1	6924	1.2	0.4	6.6	6.8	6.7	5.5	8.91	
★★★★★ Bandhan Ultra Short Duration	15.7	4483	0.5	0.3	7.0	7.2	7.1	5.8	-	
★★★★★ DSP Ultra Short	3500.1	4250	1.0	0.3	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.		

'India must address US tariffs to reduce economic vulnerabilities'

UNCERTAINTIES. Ex-RBI chief attributed the rupee's fall to capital outflows due to tense India-US relations

Our Bureau
Chennai

India will need to address key diplomatic challenges like the US' 50 per cent tariffs to reduce its economic vulnerabilities, according to C Rangarajan, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and ex-Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

Rangarajan was speaking at the 108th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association at Vels University in Chennai.

"Unless we address the problem of diplomacy and bring about a solution, we are going to be in a difficult situation. We cannot afford to be heavily dependent on our supply of exports to the US. We will need to push our economic skills in order to bring about a big change in terms of diplomacy," he said.

RUPEE ISSUE
In terms of the fall in the rupee,



Ishari K Ganesh, Chairman, Vels Group of Institutions, presents a plaque to C Rangarajan, former RBI Governor and ex-Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, as S Mahendra Dev, Chairman, PM's Economic Advisory Council looks on. BUJOY GHOSH

Rangarajan attributed it to the capital outflows that has happened in the last few months driven by a lack of confidence among international investors due to tense India-US relations.

"The fall in the value of the rupee cannot be ignored as it has an effect on the sentiments of the people who are investing," he said.

On GDP growth, he said the recent numbers must be viewed in the context of the Covid pandemic.

MORE NEEDED

"While we averaged 6.1 per cent growth between 2012-13 and 2023-24, we still need around 1.3 per cent more to get to where we want to be. The recent expansion of about 7.3

per cent is partly to offset the losses that we had during the Covid period," he said. He added that India will need to push up its current growth by 1-2 percentage points per year to achieve its development targets by 2047.

Rangarajan believes that such exponential growth will depend on a combination of a multitude of factors, including increased investment by the private sector by at least 2 per cent. While higher public capital expenditure has driven recent gains, this cannot continue indefinitely and there is a need for a revival in private investment beyond interest-rate cuts, he said.

Technology adoption, including cutting edge technologies like AI, he added, is unavoidable for competitiveness.

"Unlike earlier industrial innovations, AI affects all sectors simultaneously and while it could disrupt many jobs, it might also provide substantial productivity gains if deployed effectively," he said.

India's electronics production has risen 6-fold, exports jump 8-times since 2014'

Asian News International
New Delhi



Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw

India saw a ramp-up of electronics production by 6 times and exports increasing 8 times in the last 11 years, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said, lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Electronic goods production rose from ₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15 to ₹11.3 lakh crore in 2024-25. Exports during the period rose from ₹0.38 lakh crore to ₹3.3 lakh crore. PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM) attracted over ₹13,475 crore worth of investment, with a production of ₹9.8 lakh crore achieved, the Union Minister reported through a series of posts on X.

According to the Minister, the growth in electronics manufacturing in India should be credited to PM Modi's vision of developing a

comprehensive ecosystem. Electronics manufacturing created 25 lakh jobs in the last decade. "This is the real economic growth at the grassroots level. As we scale semiconductors and component manufacturing, job creation will accelerate," one of the X posts read.

GROWTH STORY

PLI (LSEM) is driving manufacturing, jobs, and exports in the electronics sector.

Over 1.3 lakh jobs have been created in the last 5 years, the Minister said, noting that both global and Indian manufacturers participated in the

Mobile phone production rose from ₹0.18 lakh crore to ₹5.5-lakh crore, while its exports rose from negligible ₹0.01 lakh crore to ₹2 lakh crore, reflecting the 'Make in India' initiative.

The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme is supporting this shift. As many as 249 applications represented ₹1.15-lakh crore investment, ₹10.34 lakh crore production, and created 1.42 lakh jobs.

According to the Minister, it is the highest-ever investment commitment in India's electronics sector. "This shows industry confidence," he asserted. In his X posts, he also mentioned the ten semiconductor units had been approved to date.

Govt Helpline settles 6,200 consumer plaints in Apr-Dec, refunds ₹45 cr

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

The National Consumer Helpline addressed over 62,700 grievances facilitating refunds of ₹45 crore during April 25-December 26, according to data released by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The top five sectors that accounted more than 85 per cent of the refunds included e-commerce, travel and tourism, agency services, electronic products and airlines.

"The National Consumer Helpline (NCH), a flagship initiative of the Department of Consumer Affairs, continues to play a crucial role in effective, timely and pre-litigation redress of consumer grievances across the country," an official statement noted.

The NCH enables speedy, inexpensive and amicable resolution of disputes, thereby reducing the burden on Consumer Commissions, it added.

E-COMM REFUNDS
Nearly 39,965 grievances resulting in refunds of ₹32 crore were from the e-commerce sector. The Ministry



Over 1,027 companies and organisations have joined as convergence partners

said that grievances related to e-commerce refunds were received from all parts of the country, ranging from major metro cities to remote and less populated regions, highlighting the nationwide reach. In the travel and tourism sector 4,050 grievances were registered and refunds amounting to ₹3.5 crore facilitated.

The Ministry also added that the number of convergence partners has also increased enabling effective resolution of consumer grievances. Over 1,020 companies and organisations have joined as convergence partners.

Consumers can register their grievances in 17 languages through a toll-free number '1915', WhatsApp, SMS, email and online portal among others.

CAPITAL HAZE



SMOG BLANKET. A haze screens the Narayana flyover area of New Delhi on Saturday morning. Air quality in the capital remains in the 'very poor' category with the Air Quality Index at 355. A combination of cold weather, calm winds, and dense fog is trapping pollutants, leading to haze and smog. The Commission for Air Quality Management has invoked Stage III measures under the Graded Response Action Plan, including restrictions on construction and industrial activities. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Aryaman Financial Services arm gets NBFC licence

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Aryaman Financial Services Ltd (AFSL) said its wholly owned subsidiary Aryaman Finance (India) Ltd has received a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India to commence the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution.

Mumbai-based AFSL is a SEBI registered Category-I merchant banker involved in the business of lead management and syndication of small and medium sized (₹10 crore to ₹200 crore) IPOs, FPOs, Rights Issues, Composite Issues, QIPs, PIPE (Private Investment in

Public Equity) deals, VC funding and other forms of fund raising.

AFSL, in a regulatory filing, said its subsidiary has received the registration certificate to commence/

carry on the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (Category: Type II NBFC-Non-Deposit taking-Investment and Credit Company).



VOC Port Authority re-tenders again for outer harbour project; shifts to Hybrid Annuity Mode

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

V.O. Chidambaran Port Authority, Tuticorin, has floated a tender for the Outer Harbour Development Project for the third time. However, this time it has shifted to the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), adopted from the road sector. The project cost has increased by over ₹2,000 crore to ₹9,859 crore against the previous ₹7,056 crore.

Earlier, the project was planned under the 'Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer' basis. However, this time, the major port has issued a tender under HAM for better attraction from the private sector.

Under the HAM model, the government contributes 40 per cent of the project cost during the construction phase, while the private developer finances the remaining 60 per cent. This model aims to balance risk-sharing between the public and private sectors, ensuring efficient project

execution and long-term sustainability, said sources.

The ₹18,998-crore dredging, offshore reclamation and shore protection works for Vadhvan Port in Maharashtra was the first project in the port sector to be taken up under the HAM model, said sources.

DE-RISKING INVESTOR
Rajesh Menon, a maritime expert, said that HAM de-risks the investor. There will be a viability gap funding up to 40 per cent of project cost. Hence, the probability of eliciting investor interest is high. HAM will be used when there is no investor interest. Suppose there are 10 parties ready to compete, then HAM is not required, he said.

In 2013, the Congress government announced in the Union Budget the development of the project at a cost of ₹7,500 crore. However, when the BJP formed the government in 2014, the focus shifted to the development of a transshipment container terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala and the possibility of exploring a sim-

ilar transhipment port at Inayam in Kanyakumari — the latter, however, did not take off.

ROAD AHEAD
The latest tender by the VOC Port Authority said that the project seeks bids for two deep-draft terminals, each featuring a 1,000-metre quay and 18-metre draft. The tender also includes construction of breakwater, rock bund, wharf and capital dredging and reclamation for backup yard and allied onshore facilities.

Two breakwaters —

Northern Breakwater of about 2,000 metre and Southern Breakwater of about 3,650 metre — are to be constructed, as indicated in the drawings.

Offshore reclamation area is required for storage of containers, in-port rail yard and port operations, said the tender.

The project is set to significantly enhance cargo handling capacity, facilitate the berthing of larger vessels, strengthen global trade connectivity, and further advance India's maritime and logistics ambitions.

The VOC Port Authority tender includes construction of breakwater, rock bund, wharf and capital dredging and reclamation for backup yard and allied onshore facilities.

Wow! Momo raises ₹75 cr from Madhusudan Kela

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

Quick service restaurant chain Wow! Momo Foods has raised ₹75 crore from serial investor Madhusudan Kela, Founder of Singularity AMC.

The capital infusion is expected to support Wow! Momo which runs 4 strong national brands, has a footprint of over 800 outlets across 80 cities. The company looks to enter 100 more cities and have a footprint of over 1,500 stores in the next two years.

Madhusudan Kela's belief in our journey strengthens our conviction to scale faster, innovate deeper, and continue building a brand that Indians love and trust," stated the founding team in a statement.

Wow! Momo closed fiscal FY25 with a revenue of over ₹640 crore growing over 30 per cent y-o-y. In FY26, the company looks to achieve ₹850-crore revenue mark.

No discharge of hazardous effluents from Maharashtra unit: Laxmi Organic

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Laxmi Organic Industries Ltd (LOIL), a diversified chemicals producer, has stated that its Lote facility at the Lotte Parshuram Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) zone, operates in compliance with environmental, safety and regulatory requirements and has received all statutory approvals since inception.

The announcement was in response to various allegations by political parties regarding its path to profitability.

Wow! Momo, which runs 4 strong national brands, has a footprint of over 800 outlets across 80 cities. The company looks to enter 100 more cities and have a footprint of over 1,500 stores in the next two years.

The company stated that the recent media reports drawing comparisons between its Lote operations and those of erstwhile Italian company Miteni S.p.A. (Miteni) are inaccurate and misleading from perspectives of effluent treatment and disposal practices and product portfolio.

In 2018, Miteni shut operations in Italy after decades of producing PFAS (forever chemicals), and its management was brought to trial for contaminating water resources in an area where 3,50,000 people lived. Laxmi Organic said all emissions and effluents are scientifically treated and disposed at a State government approved facility. The company confirmed that there is no discharge of hazardous effluents into the environment from the Lote facility.

The Miteni incident involved the direct discharge of wastewater into rivers over several decades, leading to significant en-

vironmental and health impacts, said the company. Such practices are not permissible under India's stringent regulatory framework, which mandates rigorous environmental clearances, monitoring and strict compliance standards, it added.

DIGITAL TRACEABILITY
Laxmi Organics Lote manufacturing facility at Chiplun operates closed-loop systems that prevent the release of any harmful substances into the environment. The company said it adheres to standardised procedures for hazardous waste management with full digital traceability, supported by advanced safety systems, high-capacity effluent treatment infrastructure, and containment measures.

The Lote is a multi-technology, multi-product site encompassing fluorinated and non-fluorinated products. These products are essential inputs for several new-age and traditional industries like semiconductors, defence, power grids, electric vehicles, medical devices, electronics, agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals.

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