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Sector Outlook.
How will Banks,
Autos, Pharma,
FMCG and IT
fare in FY26?

BIG STORY P2

Due diligence.
Gensol Engineering
and staying safe
in the 'golden age
of fraud'

YOUR MONEY P3

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Equities face a US bond brick wall

GROWING CONCERN. Surging bond yields strain US finances, which equity investors need to be wary of**Nishanth Gopalakrishnan**

bl. research bureau

The week before last, US 10-year bonds witnessed the worst week since 2001, with yields spiking 50 basis points over the week to 4.5 per cent. Though yields cooled over the week gone by, a new drama surfaced with a brewing feud between President Trump and Fed Chair Powell.

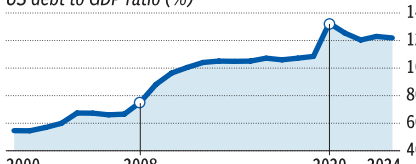
While the Trump administration is determined to bring yields on long-term bonds down, the Fed's preference to wait and watch, given tariffed upside risks to inflation, is playing a brick wall. Last week, Trump said he couldn't wait to have Powell's office terminated, while at the same time, Powell's chairmanship is legally well-guarded. The deadlock is a classic case of when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object.

The 'elephant in the room' here is the US government's massive debt pile of \$36.2 trillion. The country has been on a spending spree since the global financial crisis, which accelerated when the Covid pandemic hit.

Today, the US' debt to GDP stands at a significant 122 per cent (December 2024). Bond yields shooting up can burn a hole through the US Government's finances, thus explain-

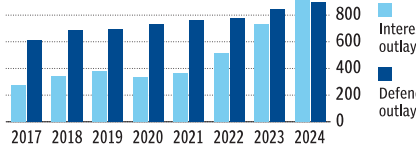
On an unsustainable path

US debt to GDP ratio (%)



Interest expenses exceed defence expenses for the first time

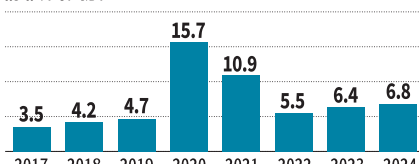
(\$ billion)



Sources: US Department of the Treasury, IMF, US Joint Economic Committee, World Bank, Treasury International Capital System of the US Department of the Treasury

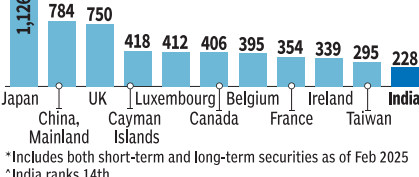
Fiscal deficit well above pre-Covid levels

as a % of GDP



Top 10 Sovereigns that hold US treasuries*

(\$ billion)



*Includes both short-term and long-term securities as of Feb 2025

*India ranks 14th

ing Trump and his administration's obsession with bond yields. In fact, it was the bond tantrum from the earlier week that pushed Trump to swiftly go slow on reciprocal tariffs.

THREE FACTORS

The debt-related problems for Trump administration stem from three factors.

First is the refinancing problem. The previous administration ducked the interest rate pressure by issuing short-term bills instead of long-term bonds. While the approach was unsustainable for long, it's the current administration's problem to

now refinance them with long-term bonds and will add further pressure on yields.

Two, the issue of the US government's addiction to spending, which of course Trump is trying to address with DOGE. While the US fiscal deficit cooled to 5.5 per cent of GDP in 2022 (calendar year) after having skyrocketed to 15.7 per cent of GDP in 2020 due to Covid stimulus, the ratio has now inched back to 6.8 per cent. Even worse, interest outlay of the US Government for 2024 surpassed the national defence outlay for the first time in the nation's history. This reminds of Ferguson's law - 'any great

power that spends more on debt servicing than on defence, risks ceasing to be a great power'.

The third factor is one that is self-inflicted. The policy of the Trump administration, going back and forth, attempts to upend global supply chains and could tarnish the safe-haven status of US Treasury securities and the global reserve currency status of the dollar. This is where trade war blows up into capital wars. Although there is no strong alternative to the US dollar yet, global central banks might turn to other currencies or gold even more. A week ago, speculations

were rife in the bond market that China could retaliate by dumping its holdings of US bonds. This was one of the key reasons for the yield to go up the week before last, although the exact reason for the tantrum is still being investigated.

US DEBT, AN EQUITY WOE

Decades earlier, Richard Nixon's Treasury Secretary famously said: The dollar is our currency, but it's your problem.

Similarly, this debt pile of the US and high yields are not only a problem for the US, but one for equity investors across the globe. First, the policies that the Trump administration is trying to implement could result in a stagnation in the US, a period of recession driven by inflated prices.

Top investment bankers have forecast a 50 per cent/60 per cent probability of a recession. In a globalised economic environment, this means a slowdown in global GDP. This combined with high US bond yields, used as benchmark to price risk assets across the globe, can be a double whammy for equity investors.

Investors across the world, including in India, must keep an eye on the US bond market.

Indian team heading to US to discuss 'early tranche' of trade deal

Amiti Sen

New Delhi

Top officials from India and the US will discuss the agenda for an "early tranche" of the India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) that can be delivered within the 90-day pause period for reciprocal tariffs in Washington DC next week.

"The Indian team led by Rajesh Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Commerce Department, will be in Washington DC next week for a three-day meeting with US counterparts aiming to move beyond the agreed terms of reference (ToRs) and also discuss US ambitions in areas such as agriculture and non-tariff barriers," a source tracking the matter said.

FORMAL TALKS

Additionally, the two sides will work on scheduling of the formal negotiations to see what all can be done in the 90-day period and what has to be pushed for later, the source added.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump announced reciprocal tariffs on most trade partners, including 26 per cent on India, stating that it was aimed at creating a level playing field for US exporters who faced high tariffs in the targeted countries. Trump, however, put the tariffs on hold on April 9 for 90-days, till July 8, to negotiate trade deals.

A 10 per cent baseline tariff on most imports, however, continues.

The US President said more than 75 countries had got in touch with US officials to start negotiations on deals to avoid the tariffs.

While India was the first country with which Trump agreed to negotiate a bilateral trade deal, as early as February 2025 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Washington DC, the Fall

2025 (September-October 2025) deadline for delivering the first tranche may not be good enough to stall the reciprocal tariffs further.

BTA PUSH

- The Indian team led by Rajesh Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Commerce Department, will be in Washington DC next week for a three-day meeting with US counterparts
- Efforts on to arrive at limited deal before Trump's 90-day pause period on reciprocal tariffs ends

FOCUS AREAS

"It seems that to avoid reimposition of reciprocal tariffs on July 9, India may have to deliver something before the Fall deadline to satisfy the US. That is exactly what the officials will discuss when they meet. They will try to develop ToRs further in the areas of tariffs, non-tariff barriers as well as regulatory barriers," the source said.

The US has been vocal about demanding tariff cuts from India in a number of areas of its interest such as automobiles, motorbikes, alcohol, including bourbon whiskey, and a range of agricultural products.

"India may be in a position to offer tariff cuts for some industrial items, it will be difficult to offer much in agriculture beyond some fruits, nuts and a few more items as it is a highly sensitive sector. The demands that the US makes in the area of non-tariff barriers and regulatory issues could also pose a problem," another source said. US continued to be India's top export destination in FY25 with exports of \$86.51 billion contributing to over 19 per cent of the country's exports. India's imports from the US were at \$45.33 billion.

Nippon India, ICICI MF top gainers in AUM in FY25

Suresh P. Iyengar

Mumbai

Nippon India MF, ICICI Prudential MF and Tata MF topped the list of mutual funds with the maximum gain in assets under management last fiscal year among the top 10 fund houses, driven by turbulence in the equity markets.

Nippon MF and ICICI MF have registered the highest growth of 29 per cent each in AUM at ₹5.57 lakh crore and ₹8.79 lakh crore against ₹4.31 lakh crore and ₹6.83 lakh crore, respectively, logged in the same period last year. Tata MF assets jumped 28 per cent to ₹1.88 lakh crore (₹1.47 lakh crore), according to the Association of Mutual Funds in India data.

However, SBI MF topped

the AUM table with a growth of 17 per cent to ₹10.73 lakh crore (₹9.14 lakh crore) while HDFC MF maintained its third position with AUM of ₹7.73 lakh crore (₹6.13 lakh crore), an increase of 26 per cent.

Motilal Oswal MF has more than doubled its assets to ₹92,988 crore (₹45,993 crore) while Zerodha MF asset jumped nearly nine fold to ₹4,854 crore (₹540 crore).

INDUSTRY AUM UP 25%

Overall, the industry AUM had grown by 25 per cent last fiscal to ₹67.42 lakh crore against ₹54.13 lakh crore logged in the same period last year. Despite the volatile market, the mop-up through new fund offers by MF industry has increased 63 per cent in FY25 to ₹1.08 lakh crore

On the rise

in ₹ lakh crore

	FY24	FY25	% change
SBI Mutual Fund	9.14	10.73	17.34
ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund	6.83	8.79	28.74
HDFC Mutual Fund	6.13	7.74	26.28
Nippon India Mutual Fund	4.31	5.57	29.19
Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund	3.81	4.82	26.63
Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund	3.32	3.81	15.08
UTI Mutual Fund	2.91	3.40	16.8
Axis Mutual Fund	2.74	3.21	17.22
Tata Mutual Fund	1.47	1.88	27.54
DSP Mutual Fund	1.48	1.87	26.56
Mirae Asset Mutual Fund	1.61	1.86	15.16
Bandhan Mutual Fund	1.37	1.67	21.85
Edelweiss Mutual Fund	1.25	1.43	14.15
HSBC Mutual Fund	1.10	1.24	13.27
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund	0.88	1.07	21.61

Source: AMFI

against ₹66,364 crore in FY24. Interestingly, the NFO on equity-oriented schemes more than doubled to ₹85,244 crore (₹39,297 crore) last

fiscal as investors were bullish on equity market till the US unleashed a tariff war which unsettled the global economy. The market has

been on a downward trend from its peak since last September.

SIP INFLOW RISES 45%

The inflow through systematic investment plan increased 45 per cent to touch a new high of ₹2.89 lakh crore (₹1.99 lakh crore) last fiscal despite the sharp increase in closure of SIP accounts.

Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI, said despite market volatility and global policy uncertainties, the MF industry has demonstrated resilience and growth.

The steady rise in SIP flows is a testament to the growing maturity of retail investors in understanding the value of disciplined investing and trust of investors in MFs as a core part of their financial planning, he added.

HDFC Bank Q4 profit rises 7% to ₹17,616 cr on lower provisions

Piyush Shukla

Mumbai

Private sector lender HDFC Bank reported Q4 net profit of ₹17,616 crore, up 7 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), led by stable growth in net interest income (NII) and lower provisions. The bank's FY25 annual profit grew 11 per cent on-year to ₹67,347 crore.

HDFC Bank has announced a final dividend of ₹22 per equity share for FY25.

HDFC Bank's overall advances were up 8 per cent on-year to ₹27.73 lakh crore as on March-end. Overall deposits, meanwhile, rose 14 per cent y-o-y to ₹27.14 lakh crore. In FY26, the bank aims to grow its loan book in-line with industry growth and lower its credit-deposit (CD) ratio to pre-HDFC merger level of 85-90 per cent by FY27, from 97

Scorecard

	Q4FY25	y-o-y change (in %)
Advances (₹ lakh cr)	27.73	8
Deposits (₹ lakh cr)	27.14	14
Net profit (₹ cr)	17,616	7
NII (₹ cr)	32,070	10
Net NPA ratio (in %)	0.43	10 bps

Source: Bank, BSE

per cent in March and 104 per cent a year ago. The competition on pricing in corporate and mortgage loans continues to be high, the management said. Net interest income (NII) grew 10 per cent on-year to ₹32,070 crore in Q4.

Net interest margin (NIM) rose slightly by 3 basis points (bps) in Q4 to 3.46 per cent. "You have to look at it (NIM) over a year or longer period, where you will see that there is a stability in margin, with a bias for upward, as we start to pare down the borrowings and replace it with deposits," said Srinivasan Vaidya-

anathan, CFO, HDFC Bank.

Asset quality improved sequentially, with gross and net non-performing asset ratio contracting by 9 bps and 3 bps on-quarter to 1.33 per cent and 0.43 per cent, respectively as on March-end. As asset quality improved, provisions fell 76 per cent on-year to ₹3,190 crore in Q4.

According to the bank management, the lender is awaiting approval from SEBI for listing its non-bank arm HDB Financial Services. Per regulatory guidelines, the NBFC arm has to be listed by September 2025.

Inflows into Indian silver ETPs soared 195% in 2024

Subramani Ra Mancombu

Chennai

Indian investments in silver exchange-traded products (ETPs) increased by 195 per cent in 2024 and made up 42 per cent of annual retail investments in the country. The Silver Institute's "World Silver Survey 2025" said.

There has been a further 10 per cent additional rise in the inflows since the beginning of 2025 driven by positive local price expectations, said the New York-based institute, a non-profit international association that draws its membership from across the silver industry.

The surge came despite the precious metal's price increasing by 23 per cent in 2024. During the weekend, silver was quoted at \$32.509 ounce, up 12.5 per cent since the beginning of 2025 and 15 per cent year-on-year.

In a special note "The growing popularity of silver ETPs in India", the survey said the ETPs were first

launched in January 2022 on the NSE and the BSE, and are physically backed by LBMA-accredited silver stored in custodian vaults.

77 M NEW ACCOUNTS

"Despite being a late entrant, silver ETPs have recently seen remarkable growth. Holdings surged by around 25 million ounces (783 tonnes) in 2024 to a record high of 38.6 million ounces (1,200 tonnes)," it said. Retail trading accounts increased sharply over the past five years from 41 million in March 2020 to 185 million by the end of 2024. "Notably, in 2023 and 2024, 77 million accounts were added," the survey said.

The number of funds offering silver ETPs, launched much later after ones for gold began in 2007, has tripled in recent years, rising from four at the end of 2022 to 12 now. The growing interest in silver ETPs is due to several factors including in the metal's inherent volatility, the convenience offered



HUGE DEMAND. In 2024, India's industrial consumption of silver was up 4 per cent

by ETPs and increasing financial awareness, the survey said.

"Finally, fuelling the surge are inflows through Fund of Funds. These are set up by mutual funds which, in turn, invest in their own ETPs," it said. Silver ETPs' appeal has increased in the absence of efficient alternative investment options for the white metal. "Building on the gains seen in 2024, we expect a further rise of 70 million ounces (2,177t) for ETPs this year," it said.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange of India, silver futures turnover was up 5 per

cent, while options trading more than doubled as high price volatility drove interest in flexible options contracts. The turnover on the India International Bullion Exchange surged to 36.2 million ounces (1,127t) in 2024, representing 16 per cent of total imports into the country.

RECYCLING DOWN

Though some companies have introduced digital silver, its growth has been limited by a lack of regulatory oversight. "Thus, considering India's appetite for silver investment, we expect ETPs

to continue attracting inflows in the coming years, driving India's share in the global ETP market beyond the current 4 per cent," the institute said.

In 2024, India's industrial consumption of silver was up 4 per cent, but recycling was restrained, the survey said. Global jewellery fabrication increased by 3 per cent in 2024, primarily due to gains in India on account of the Centre's decision to cut import duty and healthy rural economic recovery.

For 2025, the survey anticipates losses in both jewellery and silverware, as high silver prices weigh on demand. In India, the likely 15 per cent drop is expected to be driven by price-related consumption losses, as trade restocking could be constrained by record-high local prices.

Losses are also forecast for India in coin and bar demand as record high local prices induce profit-taking and outweigh new investment.

INVESTMENT.

FOCUS

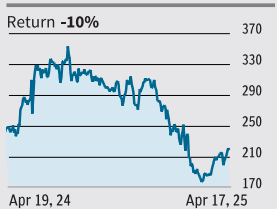
NCC: Buy

Arun K Shanmugam

bl. research bureau

After three-four years of robust growth, the infrastructure space saw traction slow down over the past year or so.

However, for FY26, contracts are coming back on stream and stuck payments are being released, presenting considerable opportunities for companies operating in the space.



We had recommended buying the stock of NCC in December 2023, given that it is a key beneficiary of the thrust in capital expenditure expansion. From our recommended price (₹167), the stock more than doubled and from there it halved in the market carnage witnessed in the mid- and small-cap spaces over the September 2024-March 2025 period. It has rebounded subsequently to around ₹217.85 now.

A track record of strong execution, diversified orderbook and a pipeline of lucrative projects to be worked on over the next few years make the prospects for NCC attractive. We reiterate our 'buy' recommendation at the current market price from a 2-3-year perspective. At ₹217.85, the stock trades at 13.5 times its likely per share earnings for FY26, making the valuations reasonably attractive.

QUICKLY.

ICICI Bank Q4 net up 18%

Mumbai: ICICI Bank reported an 18 per cent growth in the fourth quarter (Q4FY25) standalone net profit at ₹12,630 crore, supported by healthy growth in net interest income and other income even as its asset quality showed further improvement. It had recorded a standalone net profit at ₹10,708 crore in the year-ago period. **p12**

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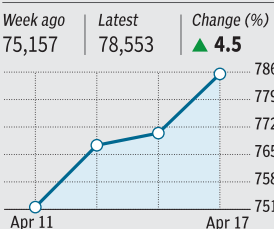
WISE WORDS.

“Speculators screaming ‘this time is different!’ are begging to be steamrolled by their own disregard for economic history

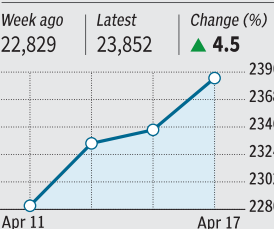
JOHN P. HUSSMAN
President, Hussman Investment Trust

MARKET ACTION.

SENSEX



NIFTY



SECTOR PLAYS IN FY26



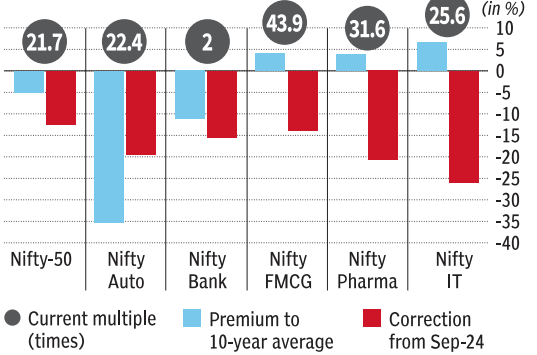
BACK TO FUNDAMENTALS.

The start of the new fiscal is witnessing a tariff-riddled world and an unprecedented churn in the markets globally. Against this backdrop, how will Banks, Autos, Pharma, FMCG and IT fare in FY26, and what should investors watch out for?

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

As Trump tariffs and trade wars impact markets, even fundamental investors may have turned into traders in the last few months; 200-day moving average gained precedence to earnings growth as support levels turned into resistance in a short span. At times of such volatility, long-term investors should stay true to the game and focus on the resources at hand; earnings momentum, valuations and outlook based on the two. We return to basic investing principles to identify sectors, which may have deserved the correction, and those that were harshly punished and provide opportunities.

Sector valuations



Nifty Bank measured in trailing Price-book. Other sectors measured in trailing PE

PHARMACEUTICALS

Pharma will be entering FY26 with a strong earnings momentum. The revenue growth has moderated, but is still strong. While India and other emerging markets have contributed, the revenue growth has gained from turnaround in the US markets. The right geographic mix led by India and branded markets and lower price erosion in the US markets are reflected in EBITDA margins, at their highest for the industry, thereby aiding the earnings momentum for the sector.

Optimism is well reflected in valuations. The pharma sector is among the few sectors with valuations still above last decade's average, despite a sharp correction from peak.

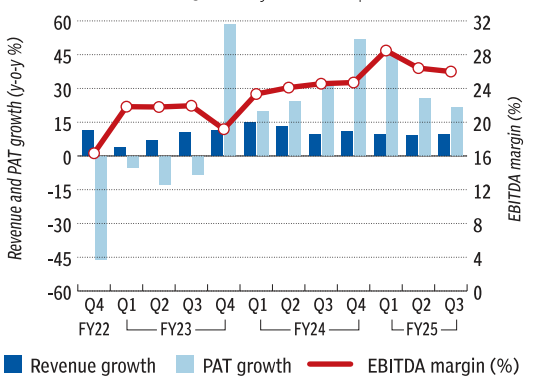
Outlook: Pharma will have its share of challenges, but the outlook is still positive in our view. First, the headwinds. With close to a third of the revenues from the US markets, the tariff threat is still looming despite a delay/pause. But as detailed in our Big Story, Trump tariffs and your stocks, in *bl. portfolio* edition dated March 23, 2025, the impact on domestic pharma will be limited to US capacity replacing Indian generics. The effect will also escalate gradually, based on US capital allocation and hence will take time to play out.

FY26 should be the last full year with generic Revlimid opportunity which has benefitted most of the leading companies in the sector and revenue gap (close to 5-10 per cent of US revenues) will impact companies.

The Indian pharma market's overall growth has declined in the recent years from 10-11 per cent yearly to high single-digits now. The companies have managed better growth rates by expanding field force, product basket and geographical reach. But the overhang might materialise in slower growth unless combated with new product launches at a faster pace. The high margins and cyclical peak of US FDA plant approvals are also a key monitorable.

The sector opportunities are plentiful too. The US generics pipeline is strong with most companies, excluding Dr. Reddy's, which does not boast a lucrative portfolio. Aurobindo, Sun, Lupin, Cipla have all lined strong op-

Pharmaceuticals: Quarterly financial performance



Source: Capital Line. All listed companies in the sector totaling 81 companies

portunities. Patent expiry of Semaglutide, the molecule for diabetes to weight loss, will be another secular opportunity for the segment across geographic markets.

The leading names also have a strong cash balance currently, which will support acquisitions in US specialty or Indian markets.

Divi's and Suven are riding the US Biosecure Act, which makes it imperative to diversify from Chinese contract manufacturing labs. The companies have been engaged in high capex and are witnessing client interest and the impact on bottom-line remains to be seen.

Branded generics markets were led by domestic consumption, but emerging markets are a strong opportunity, and most players are expanding in these segments.

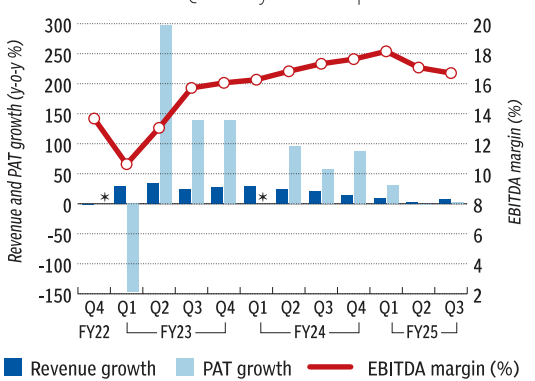
Verdict: The challenges to sector momentum may not have an outsized impact in the medium term owing to several growth levers and broadly-positive geographic opportunities. But with valuations, margins and earnings at a simultaneous peak, investors will have to scan for selective opportunities in the segment or dips to accumulate the stocks.

AUTOMOBILES

Post the strong upcycle after Covid, the sector will likely consolidate at the upper end by reporting moderate growth. Starting from BS-IV inventory liquidation prior to Covid and then the pandemic, the post-Covid period witnessed strong uptake in the automobile sector. High and pent-up demand on a weakened base made for astronomical growth numbers. The strong operating leverage further magnified the bottom line growth.

This high-volume growth has started tapering off, but on a high base. With lower scope of operating leverage, the earnings growth will also be normalised in the medium term. This is well reflected in valuations which are 35 per cent below last-decade average with tariff uncertainty on auto components further impacting valuations.

Automobile OEM: Quarterly financial performance



Source: Capital Line. All listed companies in the sector totaling 64 companies
*Measured on low base. Not meaningful

Outlook: The four-wheelers (4Ws) have reported strong growth even in Q3FY25 with both Maruti and M&M reporting mid-teens volume growth year on year. The outlook though is predicated on model launches. The segment is currently riding on the SUV sub-segment and EV adoption, both of which support premiumisation of product mix, thereby supporting growth in realisations. Overall, urban-led volume growth moderation can be expected leading to moderation of operating leverage. But price and product-mix led support to margins and softer input commodity costs should offset lower volumes and operating leverage to an extent.

The recovery in rural economy with prospects of better monsoon can support the domestic two-wheeler (2W) industry. The segments above the entry level (125 cc and above) and EV model launches are expected to drive growth in both urban and rural markets.

For both the sectors, exports have been a bright spot till now but could be impacted by a slowdown in global growth and hence need to be monitored. With end-markets across Africa, Latin America and West Asia, the impact from diverted Chinese, Asian or European automobiles is lower compared to a general economic slowdown.

The auto ancillary sector will be under the tariff overhang till resolved. The direct exposure to the US markets is varying across companies with Europe, Mexico and Canada being the other markets. But a slowdown in exports to the US will impact the other market growth too.

Verdict: The sector cannot be overweighted any further in individual portfolios. The valuation comfort must be weighed against growth opportunities in 4W and 2W segment and the correction in auto ancillary cannot be bought into till trade and tariff war issues are resolved.

BANKS

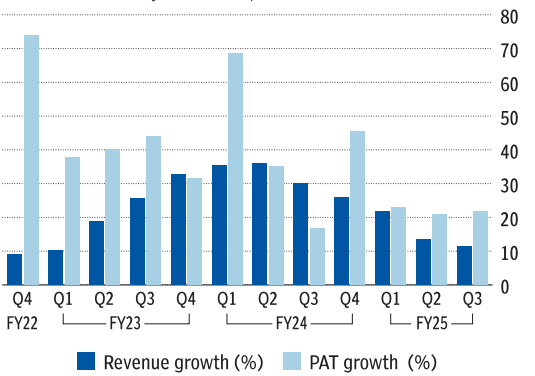
The banking industry rides into FY26 on a trifecta of positive factors. The credit demand and growth have been

strong. The asset quality has been healthy and the net interest margin (NIM) spread to the advantage of banks. The cost of funds (on deposit/CASA accounts) barely inched up even as yields on loan assets were high. This has aided strong top-and bottom-line growth for banks even as moderation shows up in recent quarters.

The banking sector valuations, which barely inflated in the previous rally, are now 11 per cent below past decade average, having corrected 15 per cent from the peaks.

Outlook: The correction in NIMs has marginally started in the last two quarters. This will further accelerate in the medium term as another rate cut was announced in the meanwhile and the RBI shifted its stance to accommodative to support growth from here on. This amplifies further rate cut expectations, beyond the 50-bps cut so far. The retail and corporate portfolio will seek to reprice their loans in this environment, pressuring bank spreads.

Banks: Quarterly financial performance



Source: Capital Line. All listed companies in the sector totaling 22 companies

On a high base of credit growth, the growth in advances is still holding up across leading banks. HDFC Bank aiming to lower loan to deposit ratio will be the exception. Corporate and SME portfolios are also supporting high credit demand, adding to the demand from retail and unsecured ones. The latter has come under marginal duress in earlier quarters, but the effect seems to be contained with tighter underwriting norms. This should limit credit growth in the unsecured segment.

While MFIs and small finance banks are facing stress, credit quality is holding up well for large banks. But being linked to macroeconomic cycles, which has run on long legs, investors will have to monitor this head. The pressure on NIMs is well anticipated and companies would have levers like MCLR repricing or asset mix to manage the rate cuts. The liquidity easing through open market actions have eased cost of funds and most banks have started reducing deposit rates as well.

Verdict: Despite the NIM pressures, investors can consider the sector owing to valuations below historical average and continued runway in growth. Any resurgence in private capex can support credit growth, but investors could consider banks with an ability to address prime credit customers, as the economic cycle is currently at a stage of a cyclical slowdown.

FMCG

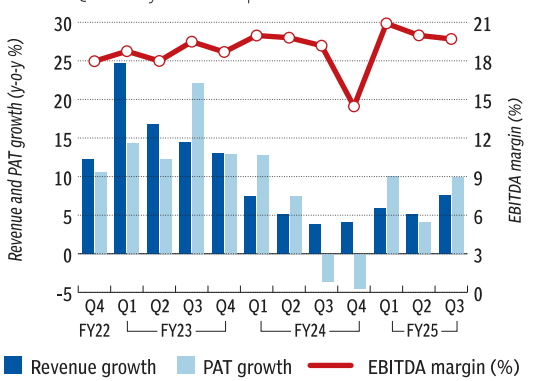
The sector experienced weak revenue and earnings growth in the last two years. The earnings growth started normalising only in the last three quarters. The weak consumption earlier was limited to the rural segment, but now the commentary extends to urban segments too, with rural reporting a gradual recovery.

The high input costs, increased competition and reorientation to modern retailers in e-commerce have impacted growth in the last two years. But weak underlying consumption, especially in the entry segment, has been persistent. The sector still trades in line with historical average valuations. From a peak valuation of 50 times in the last year, it has corrected to 43 times now.

Outlook: The sector has a mixed outlook. On one hand, urban demand is bottoming or moderating, and rural demand is gradually seen to be improving. The strong monsoons and the recovery in rural wage growth (on a weak base) are aiding a recovery of the rural segment. The urban recovery may hinge on moderating inflation and low-base effects. While the recent tax cuts can benefit big-ticket items such as consumer durables and automobiles, it remains to be seen if FMCG can also benefit from the same.

Modern retail growth is resilient too. This is reiterated by FMCG companies, which report a tailwind for prestige and premium segments from modern commerce. Pricing power seems intact as companies may go for a price hike shortly and so is the drive to premiumisation in FMCG portfolios. Raw material costs are moderating from highs along with crude, which should allow for margin expansion or at least protection.

FMCG: Quarterly financial performance



Source: Capital Line. All listed companies in the sector totaling 45 companies

The sector reports better pricing ability as inflation moderates, but volume offtake in urban and rural markets is still not out of the woods. The sector reports preference for lower pack sizes and, at the same time, reports a strong growth in premium portfolios.

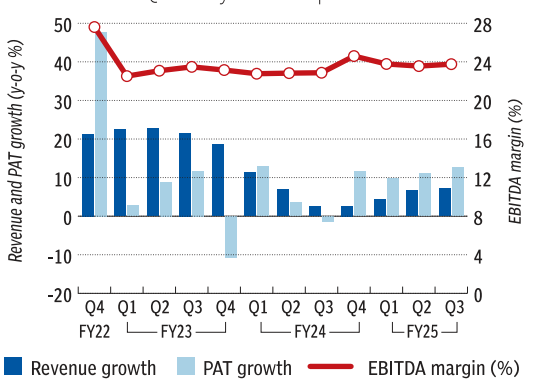
Verdict: The earlier decade may have supported high multiples as consumption growth was believed to be inevitable. But as the pockets of consumption (premium and entry levels) or the channel of consumption (modern or traditional commerce) are undergoing a shift, the high valuations leave very little room for error. Investors will have to weigh growth opportunities in select consumption segments against valuations in the segment.

IT

The IT sector did not head into the current fiscal on a strong footing. The revenue growth in INR was in mid-single digits, despite rupee depreciation. The margin improvement from cost control further aided bottom-line growth. Stock prices were buffered from the impact of weak constant currency (CC) growth in H1 of FY25, as a recovery was factored from FY26 with AI, cloud, cost-takeaway projects expected to take off gradually. This allowed valuations to hover above last-decade average despite correcting 26 per cent from peak last year.

However, in the months leading up to now when tariff announcements were flying fast and thick, it was the IT sector that witnessed a sharp correction. This, sometimes, exceeded sectors facing actual tariffs — gems, pharmaceuticals and even auto components. This was due to expectations of a weak global economic activity. With trade barriers being put up, business activity is likely to slow down, which can impact IT spends. This was the expectation going into the results season.

IT - Software: Quarterly financial performance



Source: Capital Line. All listed companies in the sector totaling 123 companies

Outlook: The first set of results has supported these expectations of slowdown. Infosys guided for a conservative 0-3 per cent CC growth in FY26, indicating caution stemming from tariff and global growth concerns. TCS also reported tariff impact in retail, auto and travel industry, but healthy demand from BFSI, manufacturing (ex-auto) and others.

A weak FY26 is likely to play out in addition to two back-to-back (FY24 and FY25) underwhelming years for IT services and hence, investor patience may get tested.

Verdict: Between expectation of recovery in business sentiment and caution, investors may side with the latter at the current juncture. The early signs of expanding business activity is still far away before IT budget expansion can come into the picture. IT companies executing current contracts without deal downsizing remain the immediate priority. Global economic concerns apart, IT services will also have to deal with AI-related disruption to its business model. The business growth for large players is near historical lows. While mid-tier IT services companies are reporting better growth, their valuation appears expensive. Investors will have to wait and watch for now as far as the sector is concerned.

Arun K Shanmugam
bl. research bureau

Famed short-seller Jim Chanos, who was one of the earliest people to call out the fraudulent accounting in mega scams like Enron and Wirecard, has termed the current period as the 'golden age of fraud.' In his view, a combination of easy money, weak regulatory oversights and unprecedented speculative frenzy with focus on short-term gains rather than long-term value have created a perfect platform for Ponzi schemes.

As far as Indian investors are concerned, focus now is on risks of frauds in the system after the Gensol Engineering fiasco that unravelled last week. After the allegations of fund diversion, promoters of Gensol, the Jaggi brothers, were barred from the securities market by SEBI. The stock continued its free fall and is down 90 per cent from its 52-week high.

Investor attention is now back to how one can detect accounting frauds. In the case of Gensol, though with the benefit of hindsight, it is easy to identify the red flags now, it is important to have a structure and a method to your analysis to spot the potential risks beforehand and stay safe with your hard-earned money.

In our *bl. portfolio* edition dated March 2, 2025, we had explained how the Beneish M-score helps identify companies fudging their numbers. Though not flawless and occasionally prone to false alarms, the screening effectiveness of this tool is well-established and it is a valuable aid for investment decisions. For example, students at Cornell University identified Enron as an accounting manipulator in 1998, three years before the giant scam unravelled and the company filed for bankruptcy.

So, we tested this out to see if investors could have applied this to Gensol and stayed away from the company before the shenanigans unfolded. The result we got was a resounding Yes!

As per this tool, if the M-score is greater than -1.78, it means that a company is likely engaged in manipulation of its earnings. And Gensol scored -1.49 here. We



Staying safe in the 'golden age of fraud'

DUE DILIGENCE. Investors caught on the wrong foot could have applied the M-score to Gensol Engineering financials and avoided investing in the company

have used Gensol's latest available information (Q3 FY25 or Q2 FY25, as appropriate). Applying this would have made investors dig further or exit the stock before the blow-up.

Here is a recap of the score and how Gensol fared.

M-SCORE AND GEN SOL

The M-score methodology was devised in a research paper by Messod D Beneish, an accounting professor at Kelley School of Business, Indiana University. He profiled a sample of companies that had engaged in earnings manipulations and studied their distinguishing characteristics. He then arrived at an equation/formula that establishes a relation between certain accounting ratios and the probability of earnings manipulation.

M-score = -4.84 + 0.92 DSRI + 0.528 GMI + 0.404 AQI + 0.892 SGI + 0.115 DEPI - 0.172 SGAI - 0.327 LVGI + 4.679 TATA

THE BREAKDOWN

DSRI: Gensol's Days Sales in Receivables Index (DSRI) was 1.17, indicating that while the revenue increased, it wasn't converted to cash at the same pace, resulting in increased receivables. Receivable days increased from 49 days in FY23 to 57 days in FY24 meaning a good chunk of revenue booked in FY24 was still stuck in receivables.

Gensol's M-score			
Ratio	Score	Ratio	Score
DSRI	1.17	DEPI	1.02
GMI	0.82	SGAI	0.76
AQI	0.96	LVGI	0.92
SGI	1.88	TATA	0.02
M-score -1.49			

How to interpret the M-score

M-score	Interpretation
Less than -2.22	Company is unlikely to have manipulated earnings
Between -2.22 & -1.78	Indicates a possible risk of manipulation. Further investigation is warranted
More than -1.78	Company is likely engaging in earnings manipulation

Companies might go lax on credit policy to inflate sales or even book fictitious sales, delaying cash flow and affecting liquidity and a ratio over 1 suggests sales could be artificially boosted. And here, the consequence of slower cash conversion was also observed in the operating cash flows of the company, which will be discussed under the TATA index.

GMI: Gensol being an EPC player, the Gross Margin Index

(GMI) doesn't hold much relevance. But reading it as it is, the company's GMI score was 0.82, meaning there wasn't pressure on gross margins even when sales doubled in the last 12 months.

AQI: Here is where Gensol, failing to convert loans availed from IREDA and PFC for buying electric vehicles (EVs) into property, plant and equipment (PPE), gets flagged.

Notably, Gensol corrected a classification with respect to leases, during Q2FY25, and recognised the existing contracts as finance lease. This essentially moved out the EV fleet leased to its ride-hailing business (BluS-mart) from Gensol's PPE to its financial assets (non-current). Making a comparabile adjustment for the same, AQI stood at 0.96, missing the trigger (more than 1 indicates manipulation) just by a whisker.

Nevertheless, with the benefit of hindsight, capital advances still pending as advances for more than 12 months and increase in loans outstanding from related parties, not to mention the slow of loans given and received (to and fro) during the last two fiscal years, could be identified as smoking guns.

SGI: Gensol showed exponential growth in revenue since FY20, with CAGR growth until FY24 at

85 per cent, explaining a high Sales Growth Index (SGI) of 1.88. And with an orderbook of around ₹7,000 crore as of Q3FY25, the company was projected to continue the exponential growth path. Its revenue, EBITDA and PAT recorded during 9MFY25 had already surpassed its FY24 numbers.

Pressure to deliver growth, per Beneish, can lead to unethical accounting practices, including earnings manipulation and in this case, it appears it did.

DEPI: While the Depreciation Index (DEPI) is 1.02 for Gensol, the company moved a chunk of its PPE (which was commercial vehicles) to other financial assets (non-current) during Q2FY24.

Companies could manipulate such estimates to bring down the depreciation charge, thereby propping up the accounting profit. And here, the reclassification limited the interpretation and is inconclusive.

SGAI: Gensol's sales, general and administrative expenses increased at just about half the pace, as of its sales, taking the Sales, General, Administration expenses Index (SGAI) to 0.76, suggesting manipulation. And in money terms, it is more questionable. Revenue earned during the last 12 months was at ₹1,385 crore, up 88 per cent year on year

Your Money • bl • 3

this, fresh debt availed from financial institutions during FY24, in particular, added ₹873 crore (roughly 70 per cent).

Though equity infusion of around ₹220 crore was made after March 2024, the company defaulted for the first time in servicing its debt on December 31, 2024. What followed was a series of defaults, which was kept under the sheets with falsified documents submitted to credit rating agencies showing a clean track record, as noted by ICRA in its credit report where it downgraded Gensol's credit rating.

TATA: Total Accruals to Total Assets (TATA) calculates the difference between a company's accounting profit and operating cash flows, divided by total assets. The ability to convert accounting profits to cash profits reflects the true quality of earnings. That is why even in calculation of intrinsic value, future cash flows are discounted. This ratio, weighted at 4.679, is crucial.

Gensol, with ballooning working capital, easily failed this test with negative operating cash flows in FY24 which partially offset the positive cash flows during H1 FY25 to drag the cash flows well below the accounting profits reported.

The company reported negative operating cash flows in three out of the last five fiscal years, which also did not help the case.

Importantly, these checks must be done periodically.

Ratios that make the model

Ratio	Formula
DSRI	(Net receivables ¹ / Sales ¹) / (Net receivables ² / Sales ²)
GMI	((Sales ² - COGS ²) / Sales ²) / ((Sales ¹ - COGS ¹) / Sales ¹)
AQI	((Non-current assets ¹ - PPE ¹) / Total assets ¹) / ((Non-current assets ² - PPE ²) / Total assets ²)
SGI	Sales ¹ / Sales ²
DEPI	(Depreciation ² / (PPE ² + Depreciation ²)) / (Depreciation ¹ / (PPE ¹ + Depreciation ¹))
SGAI	(SGA expense ¹ / Sales ¹) / (SGA expense ² / Sales ²)
LVGI	((Non-current debt ¹ + Current liabilities ¹) / Total assets ¹) / ((Non-current debt ² + Current liabilities ²) / Total assets ²)
TATA	(Income before extraordinary items ¹ - Cash from operations ¹) / Total assets ¹

1 represents the recent financial year e.g. FY24; COGS - cost of goods sold;
2 represents the year prior to the recent PPE - plant, property and equipment;
financial year e.g. FY23 SGA - selling, general and administrative

Venkatasubramanian K
bl. research bureau

Feroze Azeez, Joint CEO of Anand Rathii Wealth, is a seasoned name in the world of money management and investments. In an interaction with *bl. portfolio*, he talks about fears around small-cap investments, HNI behaviour during market falls, asset allocation and points to the potentially long runway for equity participation among investors in India. *Edited excerpts:*

What do you make of the recent concerns in some quarters over retail investors taking to small-cap funds in a significant way, with worries expressed over the risk-reward payoff? What would your advice to investors be?

Retail investors have been moving towards small-cap funds for higher growth potential in their portfolio.

Small-cap funds have a total AUM (as on Feb 2025) of ₹2.7 lakh crore, which is less than 10 per cent of the total equity mutual fund AUM (about ₹27.4 lakh crore). Over the last few years, average monthly inflows into small-cap funds have typically been around ₹3,000 crore (about 10 per cent of total inflows into equity mutual funds). While they seem to be perceived to be risky, active funds in the space have a beta less than 1, and thus are less sensitive to market movements than expected. Over long time horizons of over five years, it has been observed that small-caps have even outperformed large- and mid-caps.

It is the nature of small-cap to deliver higher returns but take much longer to revert after market corrections. The average time for recovery over the past three years after market corrections have been more than one year.

Hence, for an investor, having a 20-25 per cent small-cap exposure in the equity part of one's portfolio would be the ideal allocation.

You deal mostly with HNIs and UHNIs as your clients. How different is their behaviour towards investments in general and especially during periods of drawdowns (such as during March 2020, June 2022, September

'HNIs view corrections as opportunities to rebalance or fill allocation gaps'

MEET THE EXPERT. Feroze Azeez, Joint CEO of Anand Rathii Wealth, on concerns about small-cap funds, investors' portfolio mix in recent times, asset allocation dynamics and more



2024-March 2025 etc), compared with regular retail investors?

Clients with a clear investment strategy and goals are better equipped to handle both their return expectations and risk, staying calm even during volatile phases. This has been observed most with HNIs and UHNI clients as they also have professional financial advisors to manage their portfolios.

Double-digit percentage corrections in equity markets are quite common. Such drawdowns usually last seven-eight months, after which markets tend to recover. Investors with long-term goals are less impacted by short-term volatility as they stay invested and do not panic. Instead, they view corrections as opportunities to rebalance or fill allocation gaps.

While SIP flows have continued to remain steady, there is the issue of SIP stoppages in recent months. Do you think this is temporary or is there a cause for concern?

SIP cancellations happen for various reasons, including fund redemption due to reaching goal, switches and STPs.

Thus, focusing solely on the stoppage ratio can be misleading. The net SIP inflows, which stood at ₹25,999 crore in February 2025, marked a 35 per cent growth from ₹19,187 crore last year.

This net inflow number is the main indicator when we are looking at SIPs, and despite a higher stoppage ratio, overall in-

PLAN IS KEY

Clients with a clear investment strategy and goals are better equipped to handle both their return expectations and risk

vestor participation in SIPs remained strong. Another important point to note is that most of these cancellations have started coming on direct mutual funds which depicts that investors who are invests on their own without laying down an investment strategy tends to get more jittery in such market scenarios. Going forward, we only expect SIP participation to get stronger as SEBI is taking active Initiatives to engage more investors in the equity market via this mode.

Given that much of the interest in the market post-Covid has centred on equities, has fixed-income become a less-attractive option? More so, after the removal of indexation benefits and full taxation? Does this risk skewing investor portfolios too much in favour of equities without balancing with debt options?

After the removal of debt indexation and the taxation changes, debt has become a comparatively less-attractive option for investors. However, Indian households are still invested heavily in debt, with almost 60 per cent of their financial assets

invested in debt or debt-like instruments. Hence, to urge Indian investors to look for inflation-beating investment avenues, equity was given a favourable stance.

Investors should go for a mix of equity and debt in the right proportions, as they have low correlation with each other and provide portfolio diversification benefits. The ideal allocation for the long term would be 80:20 in equity and debt, 70:30 for medium term and 100 per cent debt in case of short term. Investors should avoid overconcentration in any certain asset class and their portfolios should be rebalanced regularly.

What is your take in the talk around mutual funds (SIPs) weaning away flows from bank deposits? Bank deposits have grown 11 per cent annually for the past five years, while mutual fund AUM has risen at 19 per cent (February 2025 data).

Though the proportion of equity and equity mutual funds have increased significantly between 2014 and 2024, from a combined share in overall financial assets of 5.3 per cent in March 2014 to 16.4 per cent in September 2024, Indian households still remain investing mostly in debt and debt-like instruments.

They have heavily allocated (with almost 60 per cent of their financial assets) in low but guaranteed returns assets, such as deposits, small savings, and pension and provident funds. However, we have noticed a shift in

households investing behaviour with allocation towards low income-generating assets reducing.

In 2011-12, bank deposits dominated household financial savings, contributing 57 per cent of the savings. For 2022-23, deposits constituted 37 per cent of the households' financial savings. Investments in mutual funds increased to 6 per cent of gross savings in 2022-23 from less than 1 per cent a decade ago. The annual flows towards mutual funds and equities which were ₹16,500 crore in FY12 have witnessed 12-fold rise to ₹2.1 lakh crore in FY23.

What is the mix of HNIs in your overall AUM? Why do you say ₹5-50 crore HNIs are most sustainable and scalable?

Our clients' breakdown: ₹50 lakh - ₹5 crore: 21.8 per cent of total AUM; ₹5-50 crore: 53.7 per cent of total AUM; and ₹50 crore and above (UHNI Segment): 24.5 per cent of total AUM.

The number of income-tax filers earning over ₹50 lakh annually is rising steadily with every passing year, indicating a growing pool of high-income individuals with investment potential. As they accumulate wealth, many will actively seek professional financial advice. This makes the ₹5-50 crore HNI segment not only highly scalable but also a key target for long-term growth.

Recommendations on investment and asset allocations are those of the interviewee and not from the *bl. portfolio* team

Interest rates on home loans (%)

Institution	Loan amount		
	Under ₹30 lakh	₹30 to 75 lakh	Over ₹75 lakh
BANKS (Floating rates)			
Union Bank of India	7.85-10.25	7.85-10.25	7.85-10.25
Bank of Maharashtra	7.85-10.40	7.85-10.40	7.85-10.40
Indian Overseas Bank	7.90-8.50	7.90-8.50	7.90-8.50
Canara Bank	7.90-10.75	7.85-10.75	7.80-10.65
State Bank of India	8.00-8.95	8.00-8.95	8.00-8.95
Punjab National Bank	8.15-9.70	8.00-9.70	8.00-9.60
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.80	8.60-9.80	8.60-9.80
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=8.65	>=8.65	>=8.65
HDFC Bank	8.70-9.95	8.70-9.95	8.70-9.95
South Indian Bank	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70
Axis Bank	8.75-9.65	8.75-9.65	8.75-9.65
ICICI Bank	8.75-9.80	8.75-9.95	8.75-10.05
BANKS (Fixed rates)			
IDBI bank	10.90-12.00	10.90-12.00	10.90-12.00
Union Bank of India	11.40	11.40-12.40	12.40-12.65
Axis Bank	14.00	14.00	14.00
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (Floating rates)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.25-10.10	8.25-10.30	8.25-10.50
Bajaj Finserv	8.25-17.00	8.25-17.00	8.25-17.00
PNB Housing	8.50-11.25	8.50-11.45	8.50-11.45
IIFL Home Finance	>=8.75	>=8.75	>=8.75
Tata Capital	>=8.75	>=8.75	>=8.75
Samman Capital	>=8.75	>=8.75	>=8.75
Sundaram Home Finance*	>=10	>=10	>=10
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (Fixed rates)			
LIC Housing Finance	10-10.25	10-10.25	10-10.25

Data as on respective banks' website on April 18, 2025; Rates that vary with tenures or credit score within the specified loan amounts are indicated as a range. Fixed interest rates may be subject to a revision after a specified tenure. Rates may also apply only for a definite period and change to floating thereafter. Compiled by BankBazaar.com; *Annual percentage rate



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FMCG. Anchored by rural consumption, Emami’s multi-pronged growth strategy makes for a good investment case

Arun K Shanmugam
bl, research bureau

With search for defensive bets intensifying, BSE FMCG index is up 5.3 per cent, a little more than two times that of BSE Sen-sex’s up-move, since the volatili-ties beginning from April 2.

Emami is a slightly differenti-ated play in this space, with re-venue being rural-led and product portfolio involving ay-urvedic healthcare. FY24 marked its 50 years of opera-tions and having grown its oper-ating revenue, EBITDA and ad-justed PAT at a strong CAGR of 35 per cent, 38 per cent and 42 per cent respectively during FY20-24, Emami has been one of the companies that emerged out of the pandemic stronger.

While the stock has rallied 19 per cent in the last 45 days, Emami is still down 26 per cent from its 52-week high in August 2024. And currently trading at 29 times its FY26 earnings, it is close to its five-year average one-year forward PE of 28 times. Comparing the same against its closest competitors — Dabur, Marico and Patanjali — trading at relatively higher multiples of 41 times, 51 times and 47 times respectively, Emami looks to hold value.

Thus, investors can consider accumulating in this counter at current price levels alongside other factors listed below.

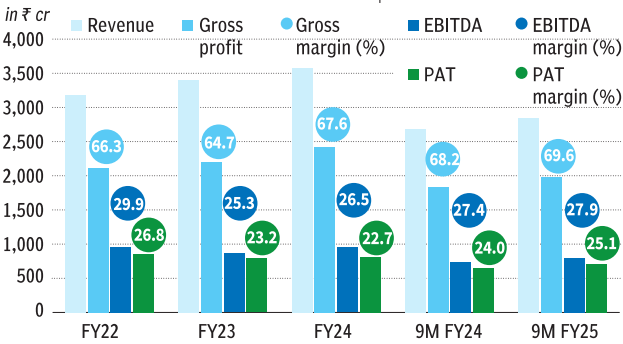
THE BUSINESS

Emami has six segments – Nav-ratna and Dermicool, pain man-agement, healthcare, BoroPlus, Kesh King and male grooming. It operates under the personal care vertical within FMCG.

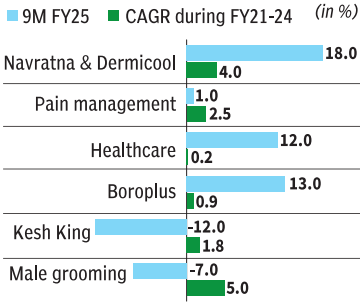
Domestic business brings in 82-85 per cent of its revenue. Rural markets contribute to 50-55 per cent of the domestic busi-ness. Emami’s international business (across 70 countries) brings in the rest.

Categorised as a seasonal play earlier, with focus on building an all-weather portfolio, the pro-

How the numbers stack up

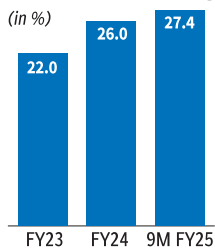


Growth across segments in 9M FY25 better than past 3 FYs



Source: Company filings

Contribution from organised channels to domestic business increasing



portion of revenues derived from non-seasonal brands has improved to 56 per cent in FY24, up from 51 per cent in FY20.

SEGMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

Emami does not share the seg-mental revenue but discloses only the year-on-year growth rates.

The Navratna and Dermicool range grew the highest, 18 per cent year on year, during the period 9M FY25. The healthcare and BoroPlus segments fol-lowed with an impressive 12 per cent and 13 per cent respec-tively, all better than their histor-ical CAGR which was in the range of -4.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent recorded during FY22-24.

The company’s comprehens-ive portfolio together with the extended winter helped stage a strong performance during 9M FY25. Launch of various new products such as shower gels, talc and soaps under the Dermi-cool brand and better offtake of

high-margin antiseptic cream and lotions from the BoroPlus segment worked for Emami.

Its efforts in the last 18 months to improve the visibility and penetration of ayurvedic products helped the growth in healthcare segment. With ay-urveda medication widely covered under health insurance policies since FY25, the health-care segment looks well-placed.

The double-digit growth above was offset partially by the other segments. The Kesh King range has been underperform-ing, mainly due to tepid offtake in value-added hair oil segment. This segment, on an industry level, has been underperforming with the market leader Marico also seeing negative growth in the last 12 months. Emami has hired management consultant firm BCG to figure out strategies to revive the segment.

Pain management and male grooming segments also played spoilsport with slowdown in

ACCUMULATE

Emami ₹614.5

WHY

- Valuation comfort and at discount to peers
- Increasing contribution from organised channels
- Focus on channel-specific SKUs

growth pulling down the overall revenue growth to 6 per cent.

ACQUISITION PLAYBOOK

Two D2C personal care brands where Emami had started with strategic investments around 2017-18 — Brillare Science, specialising in hair and skin care products, and The Man Com-pany, operating in the premium segment of men’s grooming of-fering products across fra-grances, skincare, haircare, body care — were completely bought out in FY24, becoming wholly-owned subsidiaries.

The company is also ventur-ing into beverages with a stra-tegic 26 per cent equity stake in Axiom Ayurveda, which markets beverages under the brand ‘AloFrut’.

Emami has a track record of scaling acquisitions and roughly 45 per cent of its FY24 revenue came from acquired brands, confirming the same.

FINANCIAL METRICS

Revenue for the 9M FY25 was up 5.9 per cent year on year. Rev-ue from domestic business was up 7 per cent, while the in-ternational segment rose 4 per cent (5 per cent on CG terms). Volumes for domestic business improved 5 per cent during the same period. The same number was 2 per cent for FY24.

Select price hikes, lower pack-ing material costs and better product mix helped with gross margin expansion to 69.6 per cent, up 140 bps. The same flowed down to EBITDA margin,

which was up 50 bps to 27.9 per cent. EBITDA grew 7.7 per cent during 9M FY25, despite an in-crease of 7 per cent in sales pro-motion expenses and 10.2 per cent in employee costs.

Adjusted PAT also expanded, in line, growing 10.8 per cent, thanks to lower interest costs and depreciation.

GROWTH CATALYSTS

Price hike measures in the pre-vious quarters are expected to support price growth by 150-200 bps from Q4 FY25, con-sequently aiding profit margin stability, if not expansion.

With more than half of the domestic business coming in from rural markets, Emami is currently fairly insulated against the urban slowdown im-pacting the industry. The com-pany’s focussed initiatives to ex-pand distribution has also been robust, adding 20,000 towns in rural since FY21 until FY24, tak-ing the tally to around 52,000, apart from adding around 39,000 chemists in top 100 cities till FY24 and focussing on stan-dalone modern retail outlets.

Emami’s strategy to focus on different SKUs for different sales channels also helped in-crease contribution from organ-ised channels (which include modern trade, e-commerce and sales to institutions like Canteen Stores Department) particularly, to 27.4 per cent, up from 22 per cent in FY23.

All things considered, the multi-pronged growth strategy — continued new product launches (both domestic and in-ternational) focusing on strengthening its core brands, focus on expanding its distribu-tion network while accounting for e-commerce, its acquisition playbook, alongside premi-umisation of its portfolio and cost rationalisation measures, should work in favour of Emami. Despite urban slowdown con-cerns and select segments un-derperforming for the company, valuation provides comfort and makes a case for accumulation.

Remains well positioned in the infra segment

INFRASTRUCTURE. NCC has continued to execute strongly and is available at attractive valuations post correction

Venkatasubramanian K
bl, research bureau

After three-four years of robust growth, the infrastructure space saw traction slow down over the past year or so.

A combination of multiple elections — parliamentary and assembly — over the past 12-odd months and the govern-ment’s undershooting of infra-structure-related budget spend-ing last fiscal have resulted in slower project awards and delayed payments.

However, for FY26, the gov-ernment has indicated an in-crease of more than 10 per cent in capital expenditure (₹11.21 lakh crore) from the revised es-timates of FY25. Contracts are coming back on stream and stuck payments are being re-leased.

In addition, the grant to cre-ate capital assets, at ₹4.3 lakh crore and another ₹4.3 lakh crore in capex spends for public sector enterprises, both for FY26, present considerable op-portunities for companies oper-ating in the space.

We had recommended buying the stock of NCC in December 2023, given that it is a key be-neficiary of the thrust in capital ex-penditure expansion.

From our recommended price (₹167), the stock more than doubled to ₹357-levels and from there it halved in the mar-ket carnage (₹175) witnessed in the mid- and small-cap spaces over the September 2024-March 2025 period.

It has rebounded sub-sequently to around ₹210 currently.

We reiterate our ‘buy’ recom-mendation at the current mar-ket price from a two-three-year perspective.

At ₹217.5, the stock trades at

BUY

NCC ₹217.85

WHY

- Well-diversified order book
- Operates in all key government capex segments
- Reasonable visibility on earnings and margins

13.5 times its likely per share earnings for FY26, making the valuations reasonably attractive.

NCC operates in segments ranging from building and hous-ing, roads, water and environ-ment, to irrigation, electrical works, mining and railways. These projects are executed for various State and Central gov-ernment entities, apart from a few private groups.

A track record of strong exe-cution, diversified orderbook and a pipeline of lucrative pro-jects to be worked on over the next few years make the pro-spects for the stock of NCC attractive.

In 9MFY25, the company’s revenues grew 11.9 per cent year on year to ₹16,068 crore, while net profits rose 20.2 per cent to ₹566 crore.

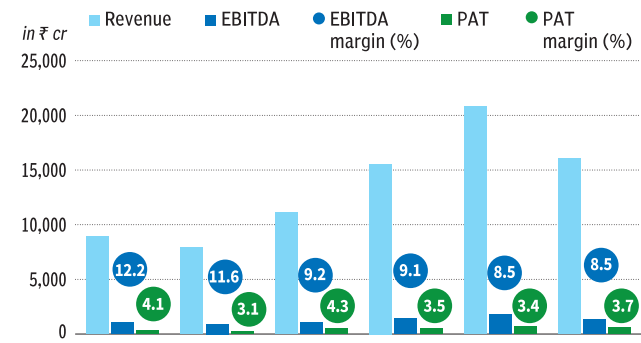
RELIABLE TRACK RECORD

NCC operates in multiple seg-ments of the infrastructure theme, as mentioned earlier.

Industrial and commercial buildings, IT Parks, shopping malls, colleges, hospitals, met-ros, highways, water treatment plants, underground drainages, electrification, transmission & distribution lines and sub-sta-tions, dams, reservoirs, tunnels, track laying, signalling and coal



Financial metrics



Source: Bloomberg

excavation are some of its areas of expertise.

Its client list includes BMC, Chennai Metro Rail, Indian Oil, Adani Group, NHAI, RVNL, ESIC, Pune Metro, Namma Metro, Coal India and Airports Authority of India. Departments of over 13 States are part of NCC’s customer base.

A sample of projects it exe-cuted includes Nagpur Metro Rail, ESIC Hospital at Gulbarga, AIIMS Guwahati, Agra-Luc-know Expressway, SVAB, ISRO Sriharikota, Water Supply Pro-ject in Odisha, Rubber Dam on Falgu river, Airport at Agartala and Nagpur-Mumbai Express-

way. Continuing large projects include smart meter orders and Jal Jeevan Mission contracts.

ORDER BOOK

As of December 2024, NCC had an order book of ₹55,548 crore to be executed in the next few years.

The order book translates to around 2.45 times its trailing 12-month revenues.

Being an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construc-tion) player with long track re-cord, the company is able to bid optimally for its projects and has generally been able to main-tain decent EBITDA margins.

In FY24/25, margin has come down a bit due to slower project awards and delayed payments especially from government cli-ents. However, over the next few quarters, most of these pay-ments are likely to come through.

This margin is still healthy given the scale at which it oper-ates. It is also increasingly tak-ing on projects that contain es-calation clauses to insulate the company from increase in input prices.

The company has constantly been able to tap into emerg-ing areas and develop expertise to win orders.

Smart metering is one such area, given the focus that many State electricity boards put into it to reduce revenue leakages and tighten subsidies.

NCC’s current order book is quite diversified with buildings (38 per cent), transportation (19 per cent), electrical trans-mission & distribution (19 per cent), water & railways (10 per cent), irrigation (9 per cent) and mining (5 per cent) being the main constituents.

Given the diversity of the or-der book, and the criticality of many projects that it is execut-ing, there is reasonable visibility on earnings and margins for the next few years.

DEBT UNDER CONTROL

NCC’s debt has risen in the past year, mainly due to the delay in payments and mobilisation ad-vances for most of FY25. While net debt is around ₹2,284 crore as of December 2024, the net debt to equity ratio is still rea-sonable at 0.3.

When payments come through on time, going forward, and project awards get back to double-digit growth phase, debt levels are expected to come down over FY26 and early FY27.

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

GLOBAL BOARDROOM CHATTER.

What they say on their India plans

With India being the fastest growing large economy, ‘what is your India plan?’ is a common topic in boardrooms of most global corporations. One important source to distil their India plans is from their quarterly earnings calls. With the March quarter having just started, we will bring to you what CXOs of global corporations are saying about India and their perspectives and plans during this earnings season in this column. Here are some from companies that reported their earnings last week.

Blackrock Inc (BLK, m-cap: \$137.7 billion)

One of the world’s largest asset management firm highlighted its strategic India entry:
“In India, we expect our joint venture with Jio BlackRock to launch later this year, subject to regulatory approvals... transform access to investing for Indians...”

Guess? (GES, m-cap: \$501.3 million)

The global apparel and lifestyle brand underscored aggressive market expansion in India by noting:
“We signed a partnership agreement with the Tata Group to represent Guess Jeans in India... closing the year with 22 new stores in the market.”

Firan Technology Group Corporation (FTGFF, m-cap: C\$221.3 million)

The Canadian manufacturer of aerospace and defence electronics outlined an aerospace facility expansion in India with an eye on cost effectiveness and policy support:
“...announced plans to open an aerospace facility in Hyderabad, India... we concluded India is a very cost-effective place for manufacturing... with Make in India policy... it would be an ideal place to operate.”

Lakeland Industries (Lake, m-cap: \$150.6 million)

The protective clothing and industrial gear manufacturer discussed on manufacturing optionality:
“...when the Vietnam tariffs were ... at 46%, India ... was in the mid-20s. ... we were also looking at options for utilizing India... and training those folks up. ... we do have some optionality here.”

R. Stahl AG (RSL2, m-cap: €115.3 million)

The German company specialising in explosion protection products and systems focused on production and sales expansion, stating:
“...we are in the process of building a new production facility in Chennai, India. ... we will have much more concentration of central services ... for our sales forces in Asia, in India...”

Contributed by **NAFA**
ASSET MANAGERS

How global indices moved

	Apr 11	Apr 18	Movement	% change
DAX	20,374	21,206	▲	4.1
FTSE 100	7,964	8,276	▲	3.9
Nikkei 225	33,586	34,730	▲	3.4
Hang Seng	20,915	21,395	▲	2.3
SSE Composite	3,238	3,277	▲	1.2
S&P 500	5,363	5,283	▼	-1.5
NASDAQ Composite	16,724	16,286	▼	-2.6
Dow Jones	40,213	39,142	▼	-2.7

How government bond yields moved (10-year yields in %)

United States	4.49	4.32	▼	-3.7
China	1.66	1.65	▼	-0.5
Germany	2.57	2.47	▼	-3.8
Japan	1.32	1.29	▼	-2.3
India	6.44	6.37	▼	-1.1
United Kingdom	4.75	4.57	▼	-3.9
France	3.35	3.24	▼	-3.3

Source: As per latest available data on Bloomberg

WHO AM I?.

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

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

- My founder is a successful entrepreneur pioneering several businesses and a well-known sports enthusiast.
- Despite continued leadership in a growth industry, I just sailed through in my IPO. Even after several years since listing, I am still trading lower than my IPO price.
- Though my revenue has doubled over the last six years, my profits have declined over the same period.
- Four of my six-member board and seven out of 12 members of the senior management team are women. I was awarded for the best workplace in India.
- Just three shareholders hold more than 90 per cent of the equity ownership.

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: Agl Greenpac
Last week’s winner: Amar Patra

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 (23,852) and Nifty Bank (54,290) posted strong gains of 4.5 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively last week.

Both indices outperformed their respective futures contract, showing good demand in the spot market. Here are the insights based on the futures and options (F&O) data.

NIFTY 50
The April Nifty futures (23,851) rallied 4.1 per cent over the last week. As this happened, the outstanding Open Interest (OI) of this contract dropped; it fell by 10 per cent and stood at 116.2 lakh contracts on Thursday. This shows considerable short covering.

On the other hand, the May Nifty futures (23,956) went up by 4 per cent and the OI, too, increased by about 50 per cent to 27.2 lakh contracts over the last week, denoting a long build-up. This indicates a potential roll-over of long positions from April to May series.

With respect to options, the Put Call Ratio (PCR) of April and May monthly expiries stood at 1.1 and 1.5 respectively on Thursday. A ratio higher than 1 is due to the comparatively higher number of put option selling. Traders sell puts if their expectations are positive.

So, broadly, the F&O data of Nifty 50 index suggests a bullish outlook.

Looking at the chart of Nifty futures, it can be stated that the current uptrend is strong and no loss of momentum is seen as yet. Hence, although there is a chance for some moderation, Nifty futures is expected to touch new highs.

For April Nifty futures, the nearest resistance is at 23,900



Bulls building ground

F&O TRACKER. Derivatives data suggest more gains ahead

GETTY IMAGES

BROAD TREND

- Long roll-over in index futures
- PCR of options shows bullish bias
- Participants can consider longs

with the subsequent one at 24,200. Support levels are at 23,500 and 23,150.

For May Nifty futures, 24,000 is the immediate barrier followed by 24,300 and 24,500. Key support can be spotted at 23,550 and 23,280.

Strategy: At the open on Monday, exit the long position on April Nifty futures suggested last week. After this, go long on May Nifty futures if it breaks out of 24,000. Target and stop-loss can be 24,500 and 23,780 respectively.

In case the price of May futures drops, buy at 23,600 with stop-loss at 23,330. When the contract breaks out of 24,000, trail the stop-loss to 23,780. Exit at 24,500.

NIFTY BANK

The April Nifty Bank futures (54,201) gained 5.9 per cent

above 1, showing a positive bias. So, overall, the derivatives data of Nifty Bank indicate bullishness.

Also, the chart of Nifty Bank futures shows that the momentum is strong. So, there are high chances for further gains.

With respect to April expiry futures, the notable support levels are at 53,200 and 52,300. Potential resistance levels are at 54,500 and 55,000.

For May expiry futures, supports can be seen at 53,320 and 52,600. Levels that can possibly resist the bulls are 54,600 and 55,200.

Strategy: Since April series is nearing expiry, we suggest considering May contracts for trading.

Buy Nifty Bank futures (May) at 54,300 and on a dip to 53,320. Target and stop-loss can be 55,200 and 53,150 respectively.

whereas the OI dropped 4 per cent last week to 20.8 lakh contracts, showing short covering.

But the May Nifty Bank futures (54,308) witnessed a long build up as its weekly gain of 5.8 per cent was accompanied by an increase in OI by 8.5 per cent. The outstanding OI as on Thursday was 6.4 lakh contracts. So, there might be roll-over of longs happening.

In options, the PCR of both April and May expiries were

volatility to implode. This means you expect the Nifty Index to move up gradually and the implied volatility to decline. This is important for two reasons. One, your view on the index allows to gain from the near one-to-one movement in the Nifty futures position even if the price target is achieved closer to expiry. And two, imploding volatility allows you to benefit from time decay on the short OTM call. Note that implied volatility is a component of time value of an option that decays to zero at expiry; a decline in implied volatility will accelerate time decay.

OPTIONAL READING

The objective of shorting the near-week OTM call is to quickly capture time decay, but the absolute time value will be low. You could alternatively short the next-week OTM call, which will have a higher time value. But the option will have more time to become in-the-money (ITM), which could work against your trade position.

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

Rolling switch trade & capital

MASTERING DERIVATIVES. You can get a cross-margin benefit despite two obligatory positions

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Previously in this column, we discussed rolling switch trade. To recap, this trade involves a long position in the near-month Nifty futures contract and a short position in a near-week out-of-the-money (OTM) call option on the Nifty Index. The position involves rolling the short call option till its expiry matches with that of the Nifty futures contract. This week, we discuss when to set up the position and the capital required for the trade.

TRADE CHARACTERISTICS

You must determine the potential reward on your trading capital before you initiate a rolling switch trade. To determine the trading capital, it is important to understand that the position will attract margin requirements. Futures contract, regardless of long or short position, is an obligation. Therefore, your broker will levy initial and mark-to-market margins on the position. Short option positions are an obligation. Therefore, you will be required to pay margin on the short OTM calls too. But you can get a



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

POINT TO PONDER

Implied volatility is a component of time value of an option that decays to zero at expiry

cross-margin benefit, despite both long futures and short call being obligatory positions. This is because a naked short call exposes you to high risk, but a short call against a long futures position controls the risk.

If you were to initiate a long position on April futures, your initial margin requirement will be approximately 1.94 lakh. A naked short position in near-week

23000 Nifty call will require a margin of approximately 1.85 lakh. But a combined position in a rolling switch trade will approximately require a margin of 2.46 lakh, a cross-margin benefit of 1.33 lakh. Note that your primary risk on the rolling switch trade comes from a decline in the Nifty Index. You must, therefore, keep a tight stop level on the futures price to manage the risk; the premium collected on the short OTM call may be not enough to cover losses on the futures in the event the Nifty Index dives.

It is optimal to set up the position when your view on the Nifty Index is positive, but you expect

A positive trend

BULLION CUES. Traders can consider longs

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Gold (\$3,327/ounce) and silver (\$32.5/ounce) gained 2.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively last week.

On MCX, gold futures (₹95,254/10 gm) and silver futures (₹95,037/kg) gained 1.6 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively last week.

MCX-GOLD (₹95,254)

Gold futures (June), backed by Wednesday's rally, posted a weekly gain. The uptrend appears intact.

Although ₹96,000 is a potential hurdle, given the current momentum, the contract is likely to surpass this, and hit ₹98,000 and then ₹1,00,000 in the near term.

But in case there is a decline from the current level of ₹95,254, it can find support at ₹93,800 and ₹92,500. So long as the contract stays above ₹91,300, there is no threat to the bull trend.

Trade strategy: Buy gold futures at ₹95,250 and accumulate at ₹93,800. Place stop-loss at ₹92,300. When the contract touches ₹97,000, alter the stop-loss to ₹95,500. On a rally to



₹98,000, raise the stop-loss to ₹96,750. Book profits at ₹99,000.

MCX-SILVER (₹95,037)

Silver futures (May) moved up to mark an intra-week high of ₹96,965 on Wednesday. But it gave up most of the gains during the following session.

Consequently, it posted a marginal gain of 0.8 per cent.

Yet, the price action shows that ₹94,300 has been acting as a good support. At this level, the 200-day moving average coincides. So, we are likely to see a rally on the back of this base.

Resistance is at ₹98,000 followed by ₹1,01,500. Support below ₹94,300 is at ₹92,000.

Trade strategy: Go long at ₹95,000. Stop-loss can be ₹93,300. On a rally to ₹98,000, modify the stop-loss to ₹96,000. Exit at ₹1,00,000.

Limited upside

CRUDE CHECK. Sell May crude futures if it rises

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices were up last week. The Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$68/barrel) was up 4.9 per cent, whereas the crude oil futures on the MCX (₹5,479/barrel) gained 3.9 per cent.

BRENT FUTURES (\$68)

Brent crude oil futures surpassed a resistance at \$66 last week. After marking an intra-week high of \$68.14 on Thursday, it closed the week slightly lower at \$68.

That said, the trend has not turned bullish. In fact, this up-move is likely to be only a corrective rally within the downtrend.

So, there is a chance that the contract can resume the decline anywhere between \$69 and \$70.70. This potential fall can drag the contract to \$61.

But in case \$70.70 is breached, the upswing can extend to \$75.

MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹5,479)

The May crude oil futures rallied above the resistance at ₹5,350, hit a high of ₹5,501 on Thursday



before ending the session at ₹5,479.

Although there is some more upside left, it is likely to be capped between ₹5,620 and ₹5,750. Only a clear breakout of the latter can turn the outlook positive, in which case, the price can move up to ₹6,500.

But as the contract has not shed the bearish inclination, we expect it to resume the fall. Crude oil futures (May) can retest the support at ₹5,000.

Trade strategy: Last week, we had suggested going short on April futures at ₹5,400. As it will expire on April 21, exit this trade on Monday at the session open.

Then sell May crude oil futures if it rises to ₹5,620 with a stop-loss at ₹5,820. When the price falls to ₹5,250, revise the stop-loss to ₹5,500. Book profits at ₹5,050.

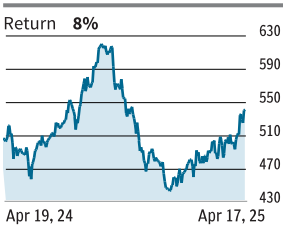
F & O QUERY



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU
bl. research bureau

I'm currently holding one lot of 550-call option on Berger Paints. I bought for ₹4.60 What is the outlook? Shall I hold for expiry?

Akshay Sharma

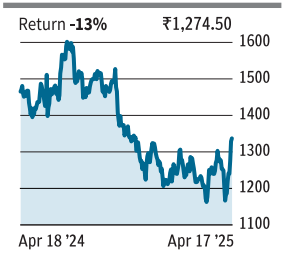


Berger Paints (₹543.60): The stock has been in a steady uptrend since early 2025. It started to rally after finding support at ₹440. But the chart shows that the stock has been struggling to get past the resistance at ₹550 for the past few sessions. A

breakout of this, which is likely to happen, can lift the stock to ₹580 and ₹600 in the near-term. However, whether this up move can happen before the expiry of April contracts is highly uncertain. And also, remember that futures and options contracts will not be available on Berger Paints from April 25. Given these factors, we suggest you exit the trade at the prevailing premium on Monday open.

I bought Reliance call option (1400-strike of May expiry) for ₹4. What is the short-term outlook for the stock?

Rahul K



Reliance Industries (₹1,274.50): Over the past two weeks, the stock has seen a sharp rise in price. This upswing looks steady and there is a good chance for it to extend the rally.

From the current level, the nearest notable resistance is at ₹1,320. On the back of this, there might

be a minor pull back, probably to ₹1,275-1,250. But eventually, the scrip is expected to break out of ₹1,320 and appreciate to ₹1,400 in the near-term.

If the stock touches ₹1,320 in the next two weeks, the premium of 1400-call of May expiry can rise to ₹7.80. A rally to ₹1,400 within a month can lift the option to ₹25 approximately.

Since there is chance for a minor dip in stock price after it touches ₹1,320, we suggest exiting your position when the premium hits ₹7.50. Post this, you can consider buying the option (at the going premium) again after the stock breaks out of ₹1,320. In this case, you can look for a target of ₹25.

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

Change in Open Interest (OI)

Scrip	FII		Retail	
	As on Apr 17	Weekly change %	As on Apr 17	Weekly change %
Future Index Long	60033	15	126867	-11
Future Index Short	143306	-7	110606	5
Net Futures	-83273	-18	16261	-57
Index Call options Long	698180	-27	1477989	-18
Index Call options Short	468658	-10	1754932	-19
Net Call options	229522	-47	-276943	-24
Index Put options Long	726542	-26	1834799	23
Index Put options Short	470026	1	2053227	3
Net Put Options	256516	-51	-218428	-56

FII has reduced net short on index futures. At the same time, they have also cut net long on both call and put options on index. There is a bullish bias.

Stocks that witnessed major change in OI

Company	Price (₹)	Weekly price change %	OI (in lakh)	Weekly OI change %
RISE (as on Apr 17)				
NBCC	98.40	10.4	856.4	58.3
WIPRO	236.90	-1.2	2903.6	49.8
HINDZINC	439.70	7.0	100.4	45.1
ANGELONE	2,356.20	4.0	115.5	44.4
INDIANB	575.20	7.4	107.9	43.2
FALL (as on Apr 17)				
DELHIVERY	281.05	13.8	350.6	-14.2
NATIONALUM	152.89	6.8	1503.5	-12.8
DRREDDY	1,163.60	4.9	365.5	-11.5
KPITTECH	1,136.20	1.5	81.0	-11.0
AUROPHARMA	1,171.60	8.2	261.0	-10.8

Stocks in F&O ban (for trade on Apr 21)

ANGELONE MANAPPURAM	HINDCOPPER NATIONALUM	IREDA
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Change in OI and market positioning

Symbol	Expiry date (2025)	Price (₹)	OI	Indication
(Weekly change %)				
COMMODITIES (as on Apr 17)				
ALUMINIUM	30-Apr	231.05 (-2.1)	2928 (-21)	Long unwinding
COPPER	30-Apr	844.95 (0.6)	3374 (-31)	Short covering
CRUDEOIL	19-May	5479 (3.9)	13773 (55)	Long build-up
CRUDEOILM	19-May	5478 (3.9)	11709 (-1)	Short covering
GOLD	5-Jun	95254 (1.6)	21432 (5)	Long build-up
GOLDGUINEA	30-Apr	76313 (1.8)	3454 (-19)	Short covering
GOLDM	5-May	94784 (1.6)	24406 (4)	Long build-up
GOLDPETAL	30-Apr	9590 (2.1)	31462 (-17)	Short covering
LEAD	30-Apr	177.1 (-0.6)	751 (-10)	Long unwinding
MENTHAOIL	30-Apr	913.8 (-1)	170 (-11)	Long unwinding
NATURALGAS	27-May	293.5 (-7)	3115 (70)	Short build-up
SILVER	5-May	95037 (0.8)	14881 (-13)	Short covering
SILVERM	30-Apr	94993 (0.7)	18229 (-18)	Short covering
SILVERMIC	30-Apr	94981 (0.7)	48023 (-14)	Short covering
ZINC	30-Apr	247.3 (-2.9)	2205 (-15)	Long unwinding
CURRENCIES (as on Apr 17)				
USDINR	28-Apr	85.45 (-0.9)	1125716 (-9)	Long unwinding
EURINR	28-Apr	97.12 (-0.7)	35248 (6)	Short build-up
GBPINR	28-Apr	113.06 (0.2)	16828 (-2)	Short covering
JPYINR	28-Apr	59.85 (-0.8)	4467 (0.1)	Short build-up

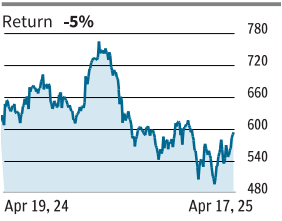
F&O Strategy

AU Bank bull call spread

KS Badri Narayanan

The stock of AU Small Finance Bank (₹586.55) is ruling at a crucial level. The short-term outlook is positive as long as it stays above ₹529.

The stock finds an immediate support at ₹563. Immediate resistance levels are at ₹633 and ₹735. A close above the latter will alter the long-term outlook also positive. We expect the stock to move in a range with positive bias.



Event: Board meeting on April 22 to consider Q4 results.

F&O pointers: AU Small Finance Bank witnessed a rollover of 23 per cent from April to May contracts. Interestingly, April futures is ruling at ₹581.60 against May value of ₹572.85 and June's ₹566.55. The backwardation indicates rollover of short positions. Options (May) hints that the stock could move in the ₹550-600 range.

Strategy: Consider a bull-call spread. Traders could consider buying 585-call and simultaneously selling 600-strike call of May series. These options closed with a premium of ₹24.95 and ₹19.20 respectively, making the total outgo as ₹5.75/contract.

As the market lot is 1,000 shares, the cost would be ₹5,750, the maximum loss. Traders would suffer maximum loss, if AU Bank is stuck at or below ₹585. Profit of ₹9.25 or ₹9,250 is possible if AU Bank hits ₹600.

Follow-up: Position on SAIL hit profit target.

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

Short Take

Exercising derivative contracts

bl. research bureau

Derivatives contracts are physically settled in India. Settlement price will be the closing price of the underlying on the expiry day.

For example, you have bought futures contract of stock A at ₹100 which expires at ₹120 (settlement price). Assuming that the lot size is 1,000 shares, you will be debited ₹1.2 lakh and 1,000 shares of stock A will be credited in you demat account. While you may have initiated the futures contract with say 15 per cent margin i.e., ₹15,000 (buy price ₹100 multiplied by lot size 1000), you should make sure to maintain a margin of ₹1.2 lakh if you plan to take delivery.



Opposite is true for futures short. That is, seller of the futures should deliver the stocks to the futures buyer. Shortage or unavailability of shares will attract penalty.

The same applies to in-the-money (ITM) options contract. At-the-money (ATM) and out-of-the-money (OTM) options will become worthless, and the physical settlement does not apply to them. For options, settlement price will be the strike price.

Buyer of the call option will take delivery of the stock whereas the seller of that option will have to deliver the stock. In case of put options, the buyer delivers the stock whereas the seller should buy the stock.



INDEX OUTLOOK. Bourses await fresh rally as Nifty 50, Sensex show trend reversal; Nifty Bank makes bullish breakout

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50, Sensex and the Nifty Bank indices surged in the truncated trading last week. Nifty 50 and Sensex were up about 4.5 per cent each.

The Nifty Bank index outperformed with a strong 6.5 per cent rally.

The strong rise over the last two weeks indicates that the Indian benchmark indices could be gearing up for a trend reversal, and a fresh rally.

All the sectoral indices closed in green last week. The BSE Realty and the BSE Bankex surged the most. They were up 7.08 per cent and 6.66 per cent respectively.

REVERSAL CHART

Nifty and Sensex are looking bullish with an inverted head and shoulder pattern on the daily line chart. The Nifty Bank index on the other hand made a bullish breakout above a crucial resistance last week. Overall, charts indicate that the long-term uptrend is beginning to resume.

We reiterate that any fall in the coming weeks will once again give an opportunity to enter the market from a long-term perspective.

FPIS BUY

Foreign Portfolio Investors bought the Indian equities last week. The equity segment saw a net inflow of about \$990 million. If the FPIs increase their purchase quantum, then that would

Nifty 50: Gains momentum



aid the Sensex and Nifty to rise further in the days ahead.

NIFTY 50 (23,851.65)

Nifty broke the crucial resistance at 23,200 and surged towards 23,900 as expected. The index touched a high of 23,872.35 before closing the week at 23,851.65, up 4.48 per cent.

Short-term view: A crucial resistance is in the 23,950-24,000 region. If this resistance holds on its first test, a pullback move to 23,400 or 23,300-23,200 is possible. However, a fall beyond 23,200 is less likely as fresh buyers can come into the market and limit the downside.

We expect the Nifty to sustain above 23,300 itself and breach 24,000 eventually. Such a break can take the Nifty up to 24,400-24,500 initially. A further break above 24,500 will

IMMEDIATE RESISTANCE

- Nifty 50: 24,000
- Sensex: 79,100
- Nifty Bank: 54,500

then clear the way for the Nifty to target 24,850-25,000 in the short term.

The short-term view will turn negative only if the Nifty declines below 23,200. If that happens, a fall to 22,700 can be seen. However, such a fall looks unlikely.

Medium-term view: Our long-term bullish view remains intact. We reiterate that a break above 24,000 can take the Nifty up to 25,000-26,000 initially. It will also strengthen the bullish case for the Nifty to target 28,000-28,500 by this year-end or early next year.

The bullish outlook will get negated only if the Nifty declines below 21,650 which looks unlikely now. In case 24,000 caps the upside for now, the broad 21,650-24,000 range can remain intact for some more time.

NIFTY BANK (54,290.20)

Nifty Bank index broke above 52,000 as expected. The index surged and indeed has risen well beyond our expected level of 54,000. It made a high of 54,407.20 on Friday and closed the week at 54,290.20, up 6.45 per cent.

Short-term view: The bullish breakout above 53,000 and a decisive weekly close indicate that the momentum is strong. The region between 53,000 and 52,500 will now act as a strong support and limit the downside. There is no major resistance ahead. A break above 54,500 will see the Nifty Bank index targeting 58,000-58,500 in the short term.

The index has to fall below 52,500 to delay the aforementioned rally. In that case, a fall to 51,500-51,400 can be seen. For this fall to happen, the Nifty Bank index has to fail to breach 54,500 immediately.

However, we do not expect a break below 52,500. In case the index fails to breach 54,500, it can consolidate in a sideways range of 52,500-54,500 for some time. Thereafter the bullish breakout above 54,500 can happen.

Medium-term view: Our broader bullish view remains intact. Indeed, the rise above

52,500 last week confirms the same. Our earlier mentioned target of 58,000-58,500 looks likely to be achieved much faster than expected. From a long-term perspective, this leg of rally has the potential to take the Nifty Bank index up to 61,000.

SENSEX (78,553.20)

Sensex surged breaking above 77,500 last week as expected. The index touched a high of 78,616.77 and closed the week at 78,553.20, up 4.52 per cent.

Short-term view: Immediate resistances are at 78,750 and 79,100. Sensex can breach 79,100 which can boost the bullish momentum. Such a break can take the Sensex up to 82,000-82,300 in the short term.

If Sensex fails to breach 79,100, a corrective dip to 77,400 or 77,200 is a possibility. A fall beyond 77,200 looks less likely.

Medium-term view: We retain our broader bullish view. As mentioned last week, the break above 79,100 will strengthen the bullish case. It will take the index up to 85,000-86,000 initially. An eventual break above 86,000 will see the Sensex targeting 90,000 and even 92,000 in the next three-four quarters.

We stress that 70,800 is the crucial support. Sensex has to decline below this level to become bearish. That looks unlikely now.

DOW JONES (39,142.24)

The first resistance level of 40,800 mentioned last week has capped the upside in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. The index rose to a high of 40,791.18 and reversed lower giving back all the gains. The Dow Jones has closed the week at 39,142.24, down 2.66 per cent.

Outlook: The view remains bearish. Resistance is at 39,650 which can cap the upside from here. Immediate support is at 38,870. The Dow Jones looks vulnerable to break this support and fall to 38,200-38,000 again.

Broadly, we expect the Dow to oscillate in a range of 38,000-41,000 for a few weeks.

The index will come under more selling pressure if it declines below 38,000. If that happens, the Dow can fall to 36,500-36,200.



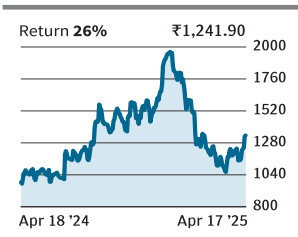
Watch bl. Guru share the Nifty and Bank Nifty technical outlook for this week



MOVERS & SHAKERS

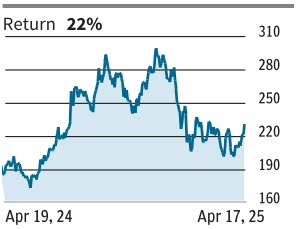
AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

CDSL (₹1,241.90)
At a strong base



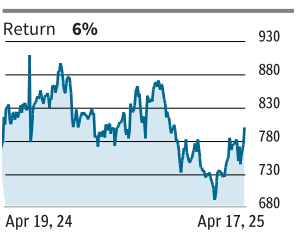
Participants can buy the stock of CDSL at ₹1,240 and buy more shares at ₹1,140. Place stop-loss at ₹1,000. When the price rallies to ₹1,360, revise the stop-loss to ₹1,200. When the stock hits ₹1,700, move the stop-loss further up to ₹1,600. Liquidate the longs at ₹1,900.

ETERNAL (₹231.75)
Signs of a rally



The stock of Eternal has been in a downtrend since December last year. But in February, the bears lost traction. Although the stock was consolidating with a bearish bias, it managed to hold on to the support at ₹200. Early this month, the stock rebounded from ₹200. Last week, it breached a trendline resistance at ₹225 and the price is now above both the 20 and 50-day moving averages. The outlook seems to have turned positive where the price can rise to ₹290. Therefore, one can consider buying the stock of Eternal at ₹230. Buy more shares if the price dips to ₹215. Place a stop-loss at ₹195. When the price moves up to ₹260, revise the stop-loss to ₹240. Exit at ₹290.

STATE BANK OF INDIA (₹797.10)
Confirms an inverted head & shoulder



The stock of State Bank of India (SBI) has been appreciating since early March. It started the recovery on the back of the support at ₹680. Last week, SBI broke out of a resistance at ₹785, which also happened to be the neckline of an inverted head & shoulder pattern. Therefore, the trend seems to have reversed and as per this chart set up, the price can rise to ₹885 in the near term.

Note that the price band of ₹885-900 is a resistance. Traders can go long on the stock of SBI at ₹795 and accumulate if the price slips to ₹775. Place stop-loss at ₹750. When the price hits ₹840, raise the stop-loss to ₹800. On a rally to ₹860, tighten the stop-loss to ₹835. Book profits at ₹885.



Dollar subdued, rupee up

CURRENCY OUTLOOK.
Greenback can fall; rupee finds room to rise

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

MORE POWER

Rupee can strengthen further towards 85 in the short term

The dollar index is struggling to rise back above the psychological mark of 100. That is very clear from the price action all through last week. It also keeps the greenback vulnerable to further fall in the coming days. Meantime, the Indian rupee recovered well last week in line with our expectation. A subdued dollar helped the rupee to gain ground.

The US Treasury yields have also come down, giving away some of the gains made in the previous week. Overall, the picture continues to remain weak for the dollar index.

INDEX OUTLOOK

The dollar index (99.23) remains bearish. The region between 100 and 100.50 is acting as a strong resistance and capping the upside very well. That keeps intact our initial bearish view of the index falling to 98.50. A break below 98.50 can drag the dollar index down to 96 over the medium term.

A strong break above 100.50 is needed to ease the

downside pressure. That will trigger a corrective rise to 102-102.50. However, the downtrend will persist. To get a trend reversal, the dollar index has to breach 102.50. But that looks unlikely at the moment.

YIELDS MIXED

The US 10Yr Treasury Yield (4.32 per cent) came down last week. This was contrary to our expectation to see a rise. The immediate outlook is mixed. Support is at 4.2 per cent and resistance is at 4.4 per cent. A breakout on either side of 4.2-4.4 per cent will determine the next move.

A break below 4.2 per cent can drag the yield down to 4.1-4.0 per cent. On the other hand, a break above 4.4 per cent will be bullish to see 4.7 per cent initially and then 4.85 per cent eventually.

EURO BULLISH

The euro (EURUSD: 1.1393)

is managing to hold well above 1.1250. Though the daily chart indicates a range, the weekly chart looks bullish. Euro can rise to 1.16 initially. A break above 1.16 will boost the bullish momentum and will take the currency up to 1.20 in the coming months.

A fall to 1.1150 will come into the picture only if the euro declines below the support at 1.1250.

RUPEE FORECAST

The Indian Rupee (USDINR: 85.38) witnessed a strong recovery last week.

The domestic currency broke the resistance at 85.85 and rose to a high of 85.35.

It has closed the week at 85.38.

The view remains positive. Support is at 85.70 which can limit the downside for now. The rupee can strengthen further towards 85.10-85 in the short term.

It is important to see if the rupee is managing to breach the crucial 85.00-84.90 resistance zone or not. If it does, then the rupee can rise to 84.60.

The price action around 85 will need a close watch in the days ahead.

Chart-Gazing • bl • 7

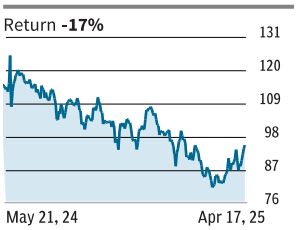
TECH QUERY



GURUMURTHY K
bl. research bureau

I have bought Canara Bank shares at ₹87.50. What is the outlook?

Dhanisa Chandran

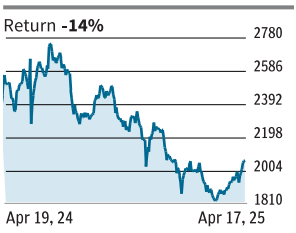


Canara Bank (₹96): The stock is in a downtrend since June last year. Immediate resistance is at ₹97. A strong rise past this hurdle will indicate a trend reversal. That in turn can take Canara Bank share price up to ₹110-120 in the coming months. But

failure to breach ₹97 and a fall below ₹90 will keep the downtrend intact. In that case, there is a danger of the stock price tumbling towards ₹70 in the coming months. Keep a stop-loss at ₹89.50 and hold the stock. Move the stop-loss up to ₹96 when the price goes up to ₹103. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹105 when the price touches ₹111. Exit the stock at ₹120. If the stock turns down below ₹90 adhere to the stop-loss and exit.

I have shares of ACC. My average purchase price is ₹2,140. I can hold it for two years. What is the outlook?

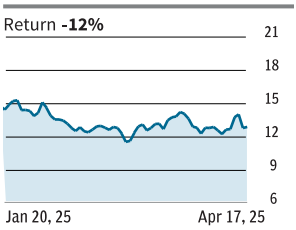
Rahamath



ACC (₹2,061.55): A crucial support is in the ₹1,850-1,750 region. The stock is managing to hold above it and attempting to bounce. Resistances are at ₹2,140 and ₹2,250. A decisive rise above ₹2,250 can take the price up to ₹2,900. From a long-term perspective, rise above ₹2,900 will clear the way for the target of ₹4,000. In case the stock fails to breach ₹2,250 and turns down, it can fall to ₹1,650, an important support. A break below it will be bearish to see ₹1,250-1,200 on the downside. You have to be very careful. Keep a stop-loss at ₹1,620. Move it up to ₹2,000 when the price goes up to ₹2,150. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹2,250 and ₹2,500 when the price touches ₹2,400 and ₹2,700 respectively. Exit the stock at ₹2,900.

What is the technical outlook for Easy Trip Planners?

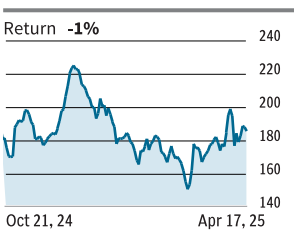
Pratap Chandra Sahoo



Easy Trip Planners (₹12.28): The stock is in a downtrend. There is no sign of a reversal. Resistances are at ₹14, ₹16 and ₹17. As long as the stock stays below these resistances, the downtrend will remain intact. Any rise from current levels can be capped. There is room on the downside for a fall to ₹8.50. Support is at ₹10.50. A break below it can trigger this fall. Ideally, Easy Trip Planners share price has to rise above ₹17 decisively to indicate a trend reversal. Only then the sentiment will become positive. For now, it is better to stay out of this stock. Low-prices stock will always be tempting to buy. The psychology behind that is, you can buy in huge quantity. But that can get you into a trap. So, be careful.

What is the outlook for Godavari Power and Ispat?

Sultan Mohideen, Chennai



Godavari Power and Ispat (₹190.70): The stock is in a corrective fall since February last year. Cluster of supports are there in the broad ₹160-130 region. The stock touched a low of ₹145.50 earlier in March this year and has bounced from there. But this bounce seems to lack momentum. So, there are chances to see a fall back to ₹150 and lower again. For now, stay out of this stock. A sustained rise above ₹240 is needed to strengthen the bullish case for a rise to ₹300. You can buy on dips at ₹155 and ₹140. Keep the stop-loss at ₹110. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹200 when the price goes up to ₹235. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹245 when the price touches ₹270. Exit the stock at ₹300.

Send your queries to techtrail@thehindu.co.in

BANDU'S BLOCKBUSTERS.

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

These days, Bandu picks five stocks each Sunday, which he believes will be blockbusters over the next week	
BANDU'S PICKS	1 Anupam Rasayan India
	2 Axis Bank
	3 KFin Technologies
	4 Mankind Pharma
	5 CreditAccess Grameen

Last week's prize winner
Shailesh Kumar

Last week's winning stock
Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals

Closing price (Apr 11)
₹1,205.35

Closing price (Apr 18)
₹1,293.55

Return:
7.32 per cent

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



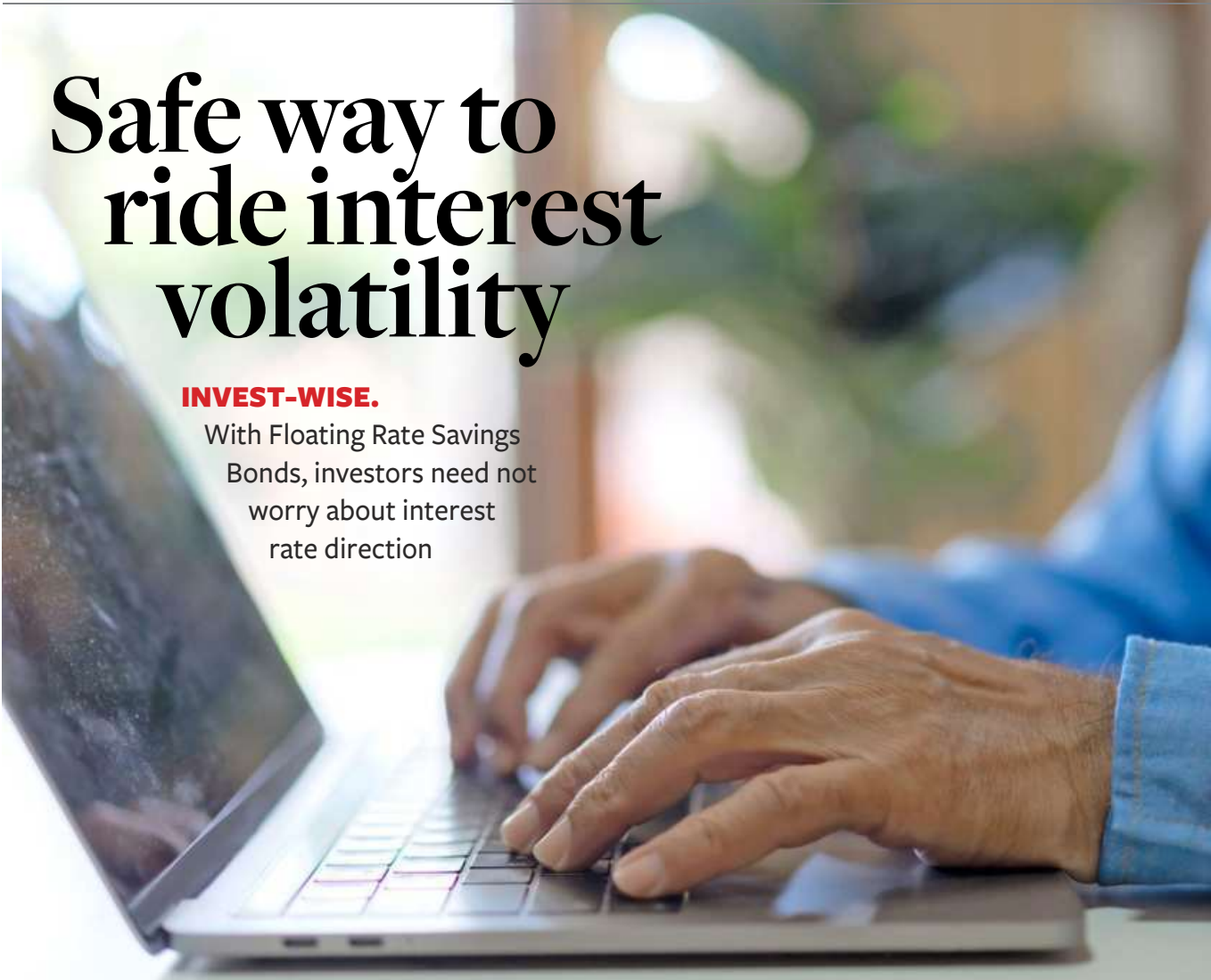
Scan to know the winner selection process

The Benchmark indices, Sensex and

The sector indices are disseminated by S&P BSE.

The sector indices are disseminated by S&P BSE.

CLIQUE



GETTY IMAGES

Nishanth Gopalakrishnan
bl. research bureau

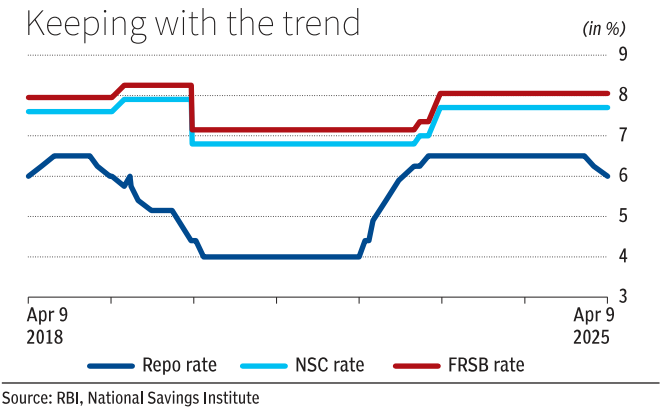
The volatility of past couple of weeks has brought to fore the importance of asset allocation. Capital protection and diversification play a paramount part in one's successful investing journey. And what better way to do it than with a sovereign backed instrument? Here we take a look at Government of India's Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) and guide if you should go for it.

INTEREST RATE

FRSBs are interest bearing bonds issued by the Government of India, repayable after 7 years. Interest is paid half-yearly on January 1 and July 1 of every year. As these are floating rate bonds, the interest rate is reset every six months (on January 1 and July 1), at a premium of 35 basis points (bps) to the prevailing rate for NSCs (National Savings Certificates). Currently, the interest rate on NSCs is 7.7 per cent and hence, the applicable rate for FRSBs is 8.05 per cent.

The NSC is also a government-backed instrument that matures after five years. There are a couple of things that fundamentally differentiate the FRSB from NSC.

First, the interest rate on NSC is fixed for the entire tenor



Source: RBI, National Savings Institute

of five years unlike the FRSB and therefore, investors can lock-in the rate of return at the time of opening the NSC account. The interest rate for NSCs is reviewed quarterly, based on the average yield on the 5-year government security.

Secondly, the interest accrued year after year on the NSC is repaid cumulatively only on maturity.

HOW YOU CAN BUY

A cool feature that differentiates FRSBs is that they are available on tap as against dated securities, whose issues follow a fixed schedule. Investors can approach their banks or use the RBI Retail Direct platform to purchase FRSBs.

A few banks also take applications on their net banking

WHY FRSBs?

- Risk-averse investors, senior citizens can consider
- Available on tap as against dated securities
- Interest paid half-yearly on January 1/July 1 every year

portals. The minimum investment required is ₹1,000, which also happens to be the face value of a bond and can be increased in multiples of ₹1,000. There is no cap on the maximum amount you can invest.

TAXATION & OTHER TERMS

Interest from FRSBs is taxed as per applicable tax slabs. TDS is

applicable. However, one can get an exemption from TDS on submitting Form 15G or 15H. Only resident individuals and HUFs are eligible to invest in FRSBs. There is no bar on age except, in case of minors, guardians can invest on their behalf.

Nomination and joint holding are permitted. FRSBs are neither transferable nor can be used as collateral for loans.

PREMATURE ENCASHMENT

Premature encashment is allowed. Investors who are aged 80 and above can withdraw after a lock-in of four years, those who are between 70 and 80 can withdraw after 5 years and those aged 60 to 70 can withdraw after 6 years. Age on the date of premature encashment is relevant and not the age as on the date of investment. In case of joint holding, at least one of the investors should meet the age criteria.

However, a point to be noted is that the redemption amount (principal with interest calculated after deducting penalty) will be paid only on the interest payment date following the date of premature encashment.

For instance, if the premature encashment is applied for on August 31, then the redemption proceeds will be credited only on January 1. Penalty is calculated as half of the interest due

and payable for the last six months of the holding period. In the example given above, penalty will be 50 per cent of the interest payable for the period of July 1 to December 31.

Partial premature encashment is possible, had the investment amount been divided and invested in multiple applications. Meaning, if say ₹1 lakh is invested in two applications of ₹50,000 each, then you can apply for premature encashment of bonds under any one of the applications, while the other continues to maturity.

OUR TAKE

The 7-year tenor of the bond is long enough to accommodate multiple interest rate cycles. Cycles have become shorter and in the past seven years, we had a rate (repo rate) hike cycle from August 2017 to August 2018 (6 to 6.5 per cent), a period of constant rates until January 2019, a rate downcycle till May 2020 (6.5 to 4 per cent), constant rates until April 2022, a rate hike cycle from May 2022 to February 2023 (4 to 6.5 per cent), constant rates until January 2025 and the ensuing rate downcycle since February (6.5 to 6 per cent so far). Given this observation, it would be safe to assume that the ongoing rate cut cycle may not last an FRSB's entire tenor of seven years.

The money market is influenced by a lot of variables and is quite difficult to time the rate hike cycles and downcycles. In this context, a key limitation of a term deposit or any product that allows you to lock-in the interest rate for the tenor of the investment is that such products suffer from reinvestment risk – the risk that rates might be lower when you want to reinvest the maturity proceeds. Currently, banks offer higher rates on FDs for tenors exceeding one year and not more than 3 years. Interest rates could be lower when such an FD matures. With FRSB, you can rest easy as the rates get reset every six months, enabling you to enjoy rate upcycles as and when they occur.

The interest rate on FRSB relies on the rate government pays the NSC. An analysis of NSC rates over the last 10 years reveals an average spread of 62 bps over the 5-year G-sec yield, with a range between -35 bps and 163 bps. With a further 35 bps spread over the NSC rate, the FRSB could deliver inflation beating returns, while the capital remains secured by a sovereign guarantee.

Risk-averse investors and senior citizens of course, can consider FRSBs to supplement income from other investments such as NPS annuity, bank FDs, Post Office Monthly Income Scheme and the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme.

Bank FD interest rates (%)

Bank	<1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	w.e.f
FOREIGN BANKS					
Deutsche Bank	7	8	8	7.5	Jun 10
Standard Chartered	7	7.5	7.2	7.1	Oct 05
DBS Bank	6	7.5	7	6.5	Dec 11
HSBC	4.5	7	6	6	Apr 08
Scotia Bank	3.7	3.9	4	4	Apr 01
INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					
UCO Bank	7.3	7.3	6.3	6.2	Feb 19
Indian Bank	7.05	7.3	6.7	6.25	Jun 12
Bank of Maharashtra	6.9	7.45	6.5	6.5	Apr 17
Bank of Baroda	6.5	7.3	7.15	6.8	Oct 14
Punjab National Bank	6.5	7.1	6.75	6.25	Apr 10
State Bank of India	6.5	7.05	6.9	6.75	Apr 15
Union Bank	6.35	7.3	6.7	6.5	Jan 01
Canara Bank	6.25	7.25	7.2	7.2	Apr 10
Central Bank of India	6.25	7.3	7.15	6.75	Apr 10
Punjab & Sind Bank	6	7.25	6.5	6.5	Apr 01
Bank of India	5.75	7.05	6.75	6.5	Apr 15
Indian Overseas Bank	5.75	7.3	6.8	6.5	Jul 15
INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS					
Karur Vysya Bank	7.4	7.5	7.6	7	Nov 22
CSB Bank	7.25	8	5.75	7.1	Jan 02
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.25	7.25	6.5	7.25	Apr 07
DCB Bank	7.05	8	7.5	7.85	Mar 05
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	6.75	7.3	6.75	6.5	Apr 18
TNSC Bank	6.75	7.75	7	6.75	NA
South Indian Bank	6.55	7.4	7	7.2	Apr 11
City Union Bank	6.5	7.25	7	6.25	Apr 15
Federal Bank	6.5	7.3	7	7	Apr 17
IndusInd Bank	6.5	7.75	7.25	7.25	Feb 24
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.5	7.3	7.15	7	Apr 09
Yes Bank	6.5	7.75	7.25	7.25	Apr 01
IDBI Bank	6.25	7.3	7	6.5	Apr 17
J & K Bank	6.25	7.25	7.3	6.75	Apr 11
Karnataka Bank	6.25	7.25	6.5	6.5	Apr 09
RBL Bank	6.05	8	7.5	7.1	Dec 15
Axis Bank	6	7.25	7.1	7.1	Apr 11
HDFC Bank	6	7.25	7	7	Apr 01
ICICI Bank	6	7.05	6.9	6.9	Apr 18
IDFC First Bank	5.75	7.5	6.5	6.25	Apr 16
Bandhan Bank	4.5	8.05	7.25	7.25	Sep 13
SMALL FINANCE BANKS					
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.5	8.1	8.25	8.2	Apr 05
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.25	8.25	8.25	8.6	Feb 01
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.2	7.9	8.05	7.5	Apr 07
AU Small Finance Bank	7	7.75	7.5	7.5	Apr 16
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7	8.25	7.75	7.2	Feb 21
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	Jun 07

Data as on respective banks' website on April 18, 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.

DigiLocker integrated with CDSL, NSDL

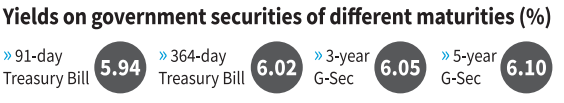
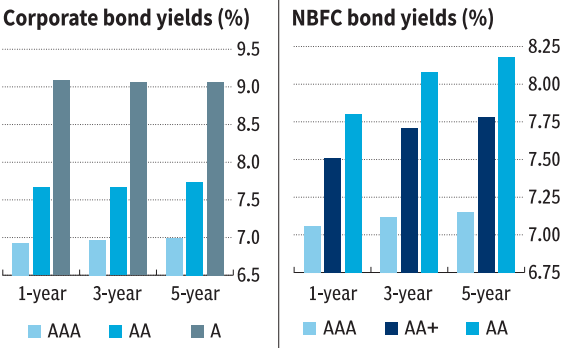
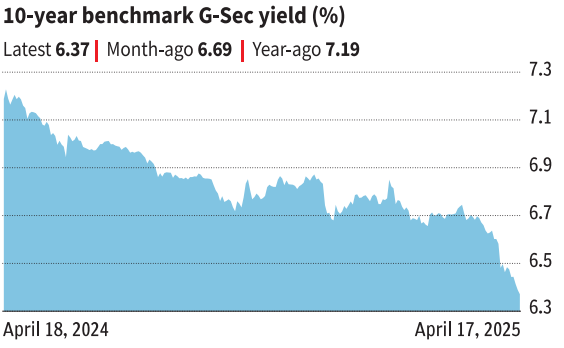
DigiLocker users can now access/store their shareholding and mutual fund unit details from demat accounts alongside consolidated account statement, integrated with CDSL and NSDL. The government-backed digital platform, already allows users to obtain and securely store key documents such as Aadhaar, PAN, driving licence, and death certificates. As per IT Act, any document issued and stored in DigiLocker is equivalent to an original physical document.

Small Savings Schemes - Interest rates

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

Note: Small savings rate as on the latest quarterly reset on March 28, 2025
#Will mature in 115 months Source: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India

Bond yields



Source: Bloomberg (FIMMDA data), RBI Note: All data as on April 18, 2025 or latest available

INSURANCE QUERY.



PANKAJ GOENKA

I have an endowment policy that will mature in 5 years. Can you explain how the maturity benefits are calculated? Will I receive just the sum assured, or will there be any bonuses or additional benefits included?

Mayur

The maturity value in an endowment policy normally is calculated as sum assured (guaranteed value at maturity) + bonuses declared + terminal bonus (If any, as per the policy terms).

If your policy bond says bonuses are included, then you will receive the sum assured + bonuses.

Bonuses are only available if it's a "participating plan", and it can vary every year, based on the company's profits.

In a "non-participating" plan, there may be no bonuses.

Bonuses are not guaranteed, and depending on the type of policy, the rates are declared in the company websites, and as an intimation to the policyholder, every year or as and when it's declared.

Bonuses are normally based on, the insurance company, type of policy, how long the policy is in force. It's not guaranteed, and rates can change every year. Bonuses normally are of the following types.

A policy can have a combination of the bonuses mentioned or only one of them. Reversionary bonus, paid at the end of a policy year; compounded reversionary bonus, paid at the end of the year, with a compounding



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multiple on the previous bonuses; terminal bonus, as the name suggests, paid at the end of the year, normally as a loyalty reward for paying the premium regularly and staying the term of the plan; interim bonus, paid for the in-between period of the occurrence of an event (death payout, surrender, or policy maturity) and the previous bonus date; cash bonus,

typically calculated as a percentage of the annual premium paid, and added to the total fund every year.

How bonus is calculated is explained here citing two methods:

METHOD 1

Nitin has purchased a participating endowment plan with a sum assured of ₹10

lakh. Let's say, this plan announced a simple reversionary bonus at the rate of 2 per cent of the sum assured for a particular year.

Sum assured: ₹10,00,000
Reversionary bonus rate: 2 per cent

Bonus payable: ₹20,000 (10,00,000 X 2 per cent)

METHOD 2

Nitin has purchased a participating endowment plan with a sum assured of ₹10 lakh. Let's say, this plan announced a simple reversionary bonus at the rate of ₹30 per ₹1000 of the sum assured for a particular year.

Sum assured: ₹10,00,000
Reversionary bonus rate: 30 per 1000

Bonus payable: ₹30,000 (10,00,000/1000 X 30)

The author is Vice-President and Head of B2B2C at InsuranceDekho

Health insurance premium tracker

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

Insurer	Plan name	Key features	Premium (₹)
Niva Bupa	Health ReAssure 2.0	No Room Rent Limit, Unlimited Restoration of Cover, Day Care Treatments, Hospitalization at Home	10,835
CARE	Care Supreme	No Room Rent Limit, Mid-Year Member Addition, Air Ambulance Cover, No claim bonus	11,546
Star Health	Super Star	No Room Rent Limit, Unlimited Restoration of Cover, Mid - Year Member Addition	8,667
Aditya Birla Health	Activ One	2X Cover from Day 1, No Room Rent Limit, Unlimited Restoration of Cover, Day Care Treatments	8,528
Bajaj Allianz	My Health Care	Unlimited Restoration of Cover, Day Care Treatment only 2hr Hospitalisation, Ambulance Charges	8,645
TATA AIG	Medicare	No Room Rent Limit, Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage, Mid Year Member Addition	12,366
ICICI Lombard	Elevate	Unlimited Restoration, Renewal Bonus, Pre & Post Hospitalization coverage	8,309

Premium is calculated on the basis of age of insured member, location, Plan type and Sum insured; Health insurance covers medical expenses that arise due to an illness and benefits will be payable subject to the terms and conditions and exclusions of the Policy.
Date: April 18, 2025, Source: www.policybazaar.com

Term insurance premium tracker

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

Insurance company	Plan name	Max coverage up to	Max policy term	Annual premium (₹) (inclusive of GST)		Claim settlement ratio (%)
		(years)		Male	Female	
Aditya Birla Capital	Digishield Plan	85	55	15,859	13,367	98.4
Bandhan Life	iTerm Prime	70	40	14,282	11,756	99.7
Bajaj Allianz	eTouch	99	69	13,100	11,385	99.2
Canara HSBC Life	Young Term Plan - Life Secure	99	69	13,387	11,183	99.2
HDFC Life	Click 2 Protect Super	85	70	15,863	13,484	99.5
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	69	14,651	12,454	99.2
Max Life	Smart Total Elite Protection	85	55	13,544	11,360	99.7
SBI Life	eShield Next	100	70	17,494	14,653	98.3
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorna Raksha Promise	100	70	12,909	10,955	99.1

Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer
Source: www.policybazaar.com, Date: April 18, 2025



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

EQUITY - LARGE CAP FUNDS

*****	Canara Robeco Bluechip Equity	60.0	14965	1.7	0.5	11.5	13.7	21.0	12.9	0.79
*****	ICICI Pru Bluechip	104.4	64963	1.4	0.9	9.7	16.4	24.5	13.3	0.98
*****	JM Large Cap	145.1	491	2.4	0.7	1.3	13.9	18.6	9.9	0.62
*****	Baroda BP Large Cap	208.7	2432	2.0	0.8	5.7	14.4	21.0	11.7	0.76
*****	Edelweiss Large Cap	79.8	1157	2.2	0.6	7.0	13.7	21.5	11.7	0.81
*****	Kotak Bluechip	537.4	9424	1.7	0.6	9.8	13.2	22.2	12.0	0.82
*****	Nippon Ind Large Cap	84.5	37546	1.6	0.7	7.8	18.1	26.1	13.2	0.93
***	Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity	498.3	28106	1.7	1.0	10.7	13.6	22.4	11.7	0.84
***	Bandhan Large Cap	72.2	1766	2.1	0.9	9.5	13.6	21.4	11.1	0.74
***	HDFC Large Cap	1095.0	36109	1.6	1.0	7.0	15.6	23.8	12.1	0.88
***	HSBC Large Cap	449.5	1785	2.1	1.2	6.2	12.8	20.3	11.5	0.68
***	Invesco India Largecap	64.8	1329	2.1	0.8	9.2	14.0	22.1	11.8	0.73
***	Mirae Asset Large Cap	106.3	37778	1.6	0.7	10.4	10.7	20.2	12.5	0.76
***	SBI Blue Chip	87.5	49394	1.5	0.8	9.7	12.9	21.9	11.8	0.86
***	Tata Large Cap	477.9	2453	2.1	1.0	6.7	12.8	22.2	11.2	0.82
***	UTI Large Cap	261.0	12180	1.8	0.9	8.9	10.4	20.2	10.9	0.73
***	Axis Bluechip	58.5	32349	1.6	0.7	7.6	9.4	16.6	11.5	0.54
**	Franklin Ind Bluechip	963.2	7343	1.9	1.2	9.7	11.9	20.5	10.4	0.75
**	LIC MF Large Cap	53.8	1379	2.1	1.0	10.3	10.0	18.2	10.0	0.60
**	Union Largecap	22.3	432	2.5	1.3	3.1	10.9	20.1	-	0.72
**	DSP Top 100 Equity	456.8	5070	1.9	1.0	16.0	17.5	21.8	11.0	0.87
**	Groww Largecap	40.0	120	2.4	1.0	3.1	11.8	18.3	10.4	0.62
*	PGIM India Large Cap	323.7	569	2.4	0.9	6.4	10.9	18.5	9.7	0.65
*	Mahi Manu Large Cap	22.2	611	2.4	0.7	9.2	12.3	21.3	-	0.77
*	Taurus Large Cap	149.4	47	2.6	2.3	5.5	12.5	19.8	8.9	0.62

EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS

*****	HDFC Large and Mid Cap	314.0	23380	1.7	1.0	7.5	18.1	28.6	13.1	0.96
*****	Quant Large & Mid Cap	110.6	3519	1.9	0.7	-3.7	15.6	26.2	15.8	0.80
*****	Bandhan Core Equity	124.3	7967	1.8	0.6	11.4	21.4	28.7	14.2	0.96
*****	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	944.9	19353	1.7	0.9	12.6	19.7	29.7	14.4	1.09
*****	Kotak Equity Opport	314.2	24913	1.6	0.6	6.6	16.0	24.9	14.2	0.86
*****	Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	137.3	36507	1.6	0.7	4.6	12.4	24.0	16.5	0.81
***	Canara Robeco Emerging Equities	239.9	23163	1.6	0.6	12.6	14.4	24.3	14.9	0.80
***	DSP Equity Opport	586.0	13784	1.7	0.7	13.7	18.8	25.9	14.6	0.90
***	Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	79.8	3608	1.9	0.4	8.6	15.0	24.3	13.3	0.80
***	Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	89.6	6432	1.8	0.7	17.5	20.2	25.3	14.2	0.75
***	LIC MF Large & Midcap	36.2	2859	1.9	0.6	13.3	13.8	23.3	13.6	0.97
***	SBI Large & Midcap	575.4	29416	1.6	0.8	10.3	15.4	26.2	13.9	0.75
***	Tata Large & Mid Cap	499.9	8058	1.7	0.6	6.5	15.6	23.5	12.7	0.88
***	UTI Large & Mid Cap	167.0	1101	1.9	0.9	12.5	19.4	28.5	12.8	0.99
**	BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	81.3	362	2.3	1.1	2.6	14.3	22.3	11.0	0.71
**	Navi Large & Midcap	33.1	295	2.3	0.4	9.4	10.4	22.6	-	0.74
**	Nippon Ind Vision	1370.7	5681	2.0	1.4	12.1	18.2	27.1	11.7	0.91
**	Sundaram Large and Mid Cap	79.7	6387	1.8	0.9	8.5	13.2	23.2	13.1	0.74
**	Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage	832.5	5410	1.9	1.2	5.5	8.6	20.4	11.0	0.58
*	Franklin Ind Equity Advantage	174.2	3723	2.1	1.4	9.8	12.6	24.3	10.7	0.81
-	Axis Growth Opport	30.0	13321	1.7	0.6	7.9	13.2	24.2	-	0.73
-	HSBC Large & Mid Cap	24.0	3769	1.9	0.9	5.9	14.9	23.5	-	0.61

EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS

*****	JM Flexicap	93.7	5263	1.8	0.6	7.6	21.9	27.5	15.7	0.84
*****	Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	79.0	93441	1.3	0.6	12.6	17.0	27.5	16.8	1.13
*****	Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1553.5	17394	1.8	1.0	10.6	16.9	27.6	13.3	0.94
*****	HDFC Flexi Cap	1887.9	69639	1.4	0.8	17.1	21.6	30.1	14.7	1.12
*****	PGIM India Flexi Cap	34.0	5967	1.8	0.4	7.9	9.2	23.8	12.9	0.80
*****	Union Flexi Cap	47.6	2159	2.1	1.0	5.5	13.0	23.0	11.1	0.79
***	Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1671.6	21668	1.7	0.9	10.6	13.4	23.0	13.1	0.79
***	Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	314.9	12194	1.7	0.6	8.6	12.3	21.1	12.3	0.75
***	DSP Flexi Cap	97.4	11154	1.7	0.7	13.4	15.1	22.6	13.0	0.72
***	Edelweiss Flexi Cap	35.5	2419	2.0	0.5	9.3	15.8	24.4	13.5	0.80
***	HSBC Flexi Cap	200.3	4547	2.0	1.2	8.7	14.7	23.8	11.8	0.71
***	Kotak Flexicap	78.3	49130	1.5	0.6	8.5	14.0	21.8	13.0	0.76
**	Bandhan Flexi Cap	194.2	6886	1.9	1.2	8.6	12.7	20.3	10.0	0.71
**	LIC MF Flexi Cap	89.3	920	2.3	1.3	2.7	10.9	16.8	7.9	0.52
**	SBI Flexicap	102.8	21035	1.7	0.9	5.6	10.0	20.5	12.0	0.76
**	UTI Flexi Cap	306.5	24532	1.7	1.1	13.3	7.3	19.8	11.5	0.60
*	Motilal Oswal Flexi Cap	56.3	12267	1.7	0.9	15.5	19.5	21.8	12.7	0.64
*	Taurus Flexi Cap	213.6	338	2.6	2.6	3.9	11.6	19.9	8.5	0.65
-	Axis Flexi Cap	249.9	12040	1.7	0.7	11.1	10.6	18.3	-	0.54
-	Navi Flexi Cap	21.1	241	2.3	0.4	3.8	10.1	19.6	-	0.67
-	Quant Flexi Cap	93.7	6712	1.8	0.6	-3.0	15.6	34.1	18.2	0.95
-	Shriram Flexi Cap	19.5	133	2.4	0.8	-3.9	10.3	17.2	-	0.49
-	Tata Flexi Cap	23.0	2967	2.0	0.7	12.2	13.3	19.9	-	0.72

EQUITY - MULTI CAP FUNDS

-	Baroda BP Multi Cap	268.3	2616	2.0	1.0	9.0	15.5	26.7	13.0	0.78
-	ICICI Pru Multicap	748.4	13938	1.8	1.0	9.4	18.5	26.5	14.0	0.93
-	Invesco India Multicap	121.7	3651	1.9	0.7	10.2	16.4	24.9	13.0	0.74
-	Mahi Manu Multi Cap	32.6	4883	1.8	0.4	7.1	15.0	27.7	-	0.81
-	Nippon Ind Multi Cap	273.1	38637	1.6	0.8	8.9	20.8	30.1	13.7	0.95
-	Quant Active	595.0	9389	1.8	0.6	-7.6	10.3	30.4	16.8	0.83
-	Sundaram Multi Cap	351.8	2615	2.0	1.0	9.0	13.6	25.2	13.8	0.82

EQUITY - MID CAP FUNDS

*****	Motilal Oswal Midcap	90.9	26028	1.6	0.6	13.6	24.5	35.1	16.5	0.91
*****	PGIM India Midcap Opport	59.3	13032	1.7	0.5	8.6	11.3	29.6	14.1	0.92
*****	Quant Mid Cap	208.3	8356	1.8	0.6	-4.2	16.8	33.3	16.1	0.97
*****	Edelweiss Mid Cap	91.1	8634	1.7	0.4	15.5	21.4	32.8	16.7	0.95
*****	HDFC Mid-Cap Opport	174.1	72610	1.4	0.9	9.2	22.8	32.4	16.5	1.07
*****	Kotak Emerging Equity	118.3	48129	1.5	0.5	11.2	16.9	29.7	16.2	0.90
*****	Nippon Ind Growth	3761.3	33175	1.6	0.8	12.7	21.9	32.6	16.6	0.98
***	Axis Midcap	102.0	28063	1.6	0.6	10.4	14.7	23.8	14.7	0.72
***	Baroda BP Mid Cap	93.2	1982	2.0	0.6	7.3	16.1	27.3	14.3	0.85
***	ICICI Pru Midcap	257.6	5966	1.9	1.3	4.9	16.7	29.5	13.7	0.90
***	Invesco India Midcap	154.6	5779	1.8	0.7	18.4	21.1	29.2	16.0	0.82
***	SBI Magnum Midcap	223.2	20890	1.7	0.8	7.8	16.3	31.3	14.3	0.86
***	Tata Mid Cap Growth	391.7	4333	1.9	0.7	4.0	16.8	27.1	14.1	1.06
***	Taurus Mid Cap	110.8	114	2.5	2.2	-2.0	13.4	23.5	13.7	0.67
**	UTI Mid Cap	269.9	10649	1.8	0.9	4.7	13.2	26.5	12.8	0.78
**	DSP Midcap	130.1	17204	1.7	0.7	8.1	13.7	21.8	13.3	0.66
**	Franklin Ind Prima	2537.3	11443	1.8	1.1	13.7	20.1	27.5	14.3	0.82
**	HSBC Midcap	340.8	10362	1.7	0.7	5.4	18.1	25.9	14.5	0.69
**	Sundaram Mid Cap	1249.5	11333	1.7	0.9	11.8	20.5	28.5	13.9	0.85
*	Aditya Birla SL Midcap	174.5	5502	1.9	1.1	7.2	14.5	27.5	12.7	0.83
*	LIC MF Midcap	26.4	302	2.5	1.3	10.1	16.0	25.5	-	0.72
-	Mahi Manu Mid Cap	30.4	3398	1.9	0.5	7.4	19.6	29.6	-	0.85

EQUITY - SMALL CAP FUNDS

*****	Nippon Ind Small Cap	154.0	55491	1.5	0.7	5.4	20.0	38.3	19.9	0.98
*****	Quant Small Cap	235.9	24893	1.6	0.7	-2.8	18.4	47.3	18.8	1.07
*****	AXIS Small Cap	97.5	22736	1.6	0.6	10.4	16.1	29.6	17.2	0.91
*****	Kotak Small Cap	238.1	15706	1.7	0.6	5.3	12.4	33.1	16.4	0.91
*****	DSP Small Cap	172.3	14269	1.7	0.9	4.8	13.8	32.0	15.3	0.85

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

★★★	HSBC Small Cap	73.4	14493	1.7	0.7	1.6	16.4	34.3	17.4	0.82
★★★	LIC MF Small Cap	28.4	494	2.4	1.0	9.8	16.6	31.8	-	0.79
★★★	SBI Small Cap	160.7	30829	1.6	0.7	4.1	14.8	29.4	17.8	0.90
★★★	Union Small Cap	43.2	1444	2.2	1.0	3.1	13.0	29.3	13.0	0.75
★★	Franklin Ind Smaller Companies	156.9	11970	1.8	1.0	1.4	19.8	33.4	14.9	0.86
★★	HDFC Small Cap	122.7	30223	1.6	0.9	0.1	17.8	33.6	16.5	0.92
★	Aditya Birla SL Small Cap	77.3	4416	1.9	1.0	2.9	13.2	27.6	12.2	0.72
★	Sundaram Small Cap	232.3	2955	2.0	0.9	3.0	16.1	31.7	12.3	0.83
-	BOI Small Cap	43.2	1574	2.0	0.5	9.3	17.5	34.9	-	0.84
-	Canara Robeco Small Cap	35.3	11087	1.7	0.5	3.8	12.5	34.0	-	0.93
-	Edelweiss Small Cap	39.8	4064	1.8	0.4	6.2	17.2	33.9	-	0.95
-	ICICI Pru Smallcap	78.7	7392	1.8	0.9	2.1	15.1	32.5	13.9	1.01
-	Invesco India Smallcap	37.6	5885	1.8	0.4	12.7	21.2	32.7	-	0.85
-	Tata Small Cap	36.7	9203	1.7	0.3	7.9	19.5	33.9	-	0.93

bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				AA & Below
				Regular	Direct	1 Month Ann.	3 Month Ann.	6 Month Ann.	1 Year CAGR	
CASH FUNDS										
LIQUID FUNDS										
-	360 ONE Liquid	1986.0	1017	0.3	0.2	8.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	-
-	Aditya Birla SL Liquid	415.5	41051	0.3	0.2	9.0	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	Axis Liquid	2871.2	32609	0.2	0.1	8.9	7.6	7.4	7.3	-
-	Bandhan Liquid	3115.7	10409	0.3	0.1	8.7	7.5	7.2	7.2	-
-	Bank of India Liquid	2970.3	1524	0.1	0.1	8.8	7.6	7.3	7.4	-
-	Baroda BNP Paribas Liquid	2965.7	7880	0.3	0.2	8.7	7.5	7.2	7.2	-
-	Canara Robeco Liquid	3104.1	4032	0.2	0.1	9.0	7.7	7.3	7.3	-
-	DSP Liquidity	3681.5	15829	0.2	0.1	8.7	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	Edelweiss Liquid	3297.2	5243	0.2	0.1	8.7	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	Groww Liquid	2493.6	130	0.2	0.1	9.1	7.7	7.4	7.3	-
-	HDFC Liquid	5060.4	50517	0.3	0.2	9.1	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	HSBC Liquid	2571.1	14211	0.2	0.1	8.8	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	ICICI Pru Liquid	381.8	42293	0.3	0.2	8.8	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	Invesco India Liquid	3544.4	10945	0.2	0.2	8.9	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	ITI Liquid	1343.4	48	0.3	0.1	8.4	7.2	7.0	7.0	-
-	JM Liquid	70.4	2806	0.3	0.2	8.4	7.4	7.2	7.2	-
-	Kotak Liquid	5212.4	31251	0.3	0.2	8.9	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	LIC MF Liquid	4662.5	9367	0.3	0.2	8.6	7.4	7.2	7.3	-
-	Mahi Manu Liquid	1678.5	1026	0.3	0.2	8.4	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	Mirae Asset Liquid	2704.1	8684	0.2	0.1	8.7	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.7	989	0.4	0.2	7.6	6.9	6.7	6.8	-
-	Navi Liquid	28.1	63	0.2	0.2	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.9	-
-	Nippon Ind Liquid	6293.5	28241	0.3	0.2	8.9	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	Parag Parikh Liquid	1431.4	2494	0.3	0.2	7.8	7.0	6.8	6.9	-
-	PGIM India Liquid	335.7	366	0.2	0.1	9.2	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	Quant Liquid	40.8	1536	0.5	0.3	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.0	-
-	Quantum Liquid	34.6	521	0.3	0.2	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.9	-
-	SBI Liquid	4031.3	54569	0.3	0.2	8.6	7.5	7.2	7.2	-
-	Sundaram Liquid	2275.2	5477	0.4	0.1	8.7	7.5	7.2	7.3	-
-	Tata Liquid	4061.7	19074	0.3	0.2	9.0	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	Union Liquid	2482.2	3206	0.2	0.1	8.7	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	UTI Liquid	4230.6	23383	0.2	0.2	8.9	7.6	7.3	7.3	-
-	WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1387.9	382	0.3	0.2	8.7	7.5	7.2	7.2	-

ARBITRAGE FUNDS										
-	Aditya Birla SL Arbitrage	26.3	14236	1.0	0.3	11.6	7.8	7.4	7.2	-
-	Axis Arbitrage	18.5	5746	1.0	0.3	11.2	7.6	7.3	7.2	-
-	Bandhan Arbitrage	32.1	7955	1.1	0.4	11.2	7.7	7.4	7.3	-
-	Bank of India Arbitrage	13.7	44	0.9	0.5	9.8	7.1	6.9	6.8	-
-	Baroda BNP Paribas Arbitrage	15.9	1061	1.1	0.3	10.6	7.2	6.7	7.0	1.20
-	DSP Arbitrage	14.8	5964	1.0	0.3	10.5	7.4	7.2	7.1	-
-	Edelweiss Arbitrage	19.2	14003	1.0	0.4	10.6	7.6	7.5	7.3	-
-	HDFC Arbitrage	30.3	18350	1.1	0.4	10.8	7.4	7.4	7.3	-
-	HSBC Arbitrage	18.8	2245	0.9	0.2	10.4	7.4	7.1	7.0	-
-	ICICI Pru Equity-Arbitrage	33.9	25727	0.9	0.4	11.3	7.8	7.5	7.4	-
-	Invesco India Arbitrage	31.5	19675	1.1	0.4	10.3	7.5	7.3	7.3	-
-	ITI Arbitrage	12.8	48	0.9	0.2	9.9	7.7	7.2	7.1	-
-	JM Arbitrage	32.3	187	1.1	0.4	9.2	6.8	6.8	6.8	-
-	Kotak Equity Arbitrage	37.1	60373	1.1	0.4	10.8	7.7	7.6	7.4	-
-	LIC MF Arbitrage	13.7	329	1.0	0.3	10.0	7.4	7.1	6.9	-
-	Mahi Manu Arbitrage	12.2	104	1.2	0.4	8.7	6.0	6.0	5.9	-
-	Mirae Asset Arbitrage	12.9	3111	0.9	0.1	9.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	-
-	Nippon Ind Arbitrage	26.3	13733	1.1	0.4	10.5	7.4	7.2	7.1	-
-	PGIM India Arbitrage	18.2	97	1.1	0.4	12.2	7.9	7.3	7.2	-
-	SBI Arbitrage Opport	33.4	30592	0.9	0.4	11.0	7.7	7.5	7.3	-
-	Sundaram Arbitrage	14.3	290	1.0	0.3	10.1	7.3	7.1	7.0	-
-	Tata Arbitrage	14.2	12790	1.1	0.3	11.2	7.6	7.3	7.2	-
-	Union Arbitrage	13.9	303	1.1	0.5	9.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	-
-	UTI Arbitrage	34.7	6614	0.8	0.3	11.4	7.9	7.6	7.4	-

bl rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				AA & Below (%)
				Regular	Direct	1 Year CAGR	2 Year CAGR	3 Year CAGR	5 Year CAGR	
DEBT FUNDS										
DEBT - ULTRA SHORT DURATION FUNDS										
*****	Nippon Ind Ultra Short Duration	3975.6	6498	1.1	0.4	7.3	7.1	6.6	6.5	10.15
*****	UTI Ultra Short Duration	4184.4	3143	0.9	0.4	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.1	6.58
*****	Aditya Birla SL Savings	540.3	13294	0.6	0.3	7.9	7.7	7.0	6.3	14.77
*****	Baroda BP Ultra Short Duration	1521.3	1073	0.5	0.3	7.6	7.5	7.0	5.8	0.75
*****	HDFC Ultra Short Term	15.0	13225	0.7	0.4	7.5	7.3	6.7	5.9	2.45
*****	ICICI Pru Ultra Short Term	27.3	12674	0.8	0.4	7.5	7.4	6.7	6.0	6.92
*****	Axis Ultra Short Duration	14.5	4801	1.2	0.4	7.1	6.9	6.3	5.3	4.60
***	Bandhan Ultra Short Term	15.0	3556	0.5	0.3	7.5	7.3	6.7	5.6	-
***	Invesco India Ultra Short Duration	2661.8	859	0.7	0.2	7.4	7.3	6.5	5.4	3.97
***	Kotak Savings	42.3	11873	0.8	0.4	7.3	7.1	6.6	5.6	2.53
***	PGIM India Ultra Short Duration	33.6	204	0.9	0.3	7.0	6.8	6.3	5.4	-
***	SBI Magnum Ultra Short Duration	5895.1	12470	0.5	0.3	7.5	7.4	6.7	5.7	-
***	WhiteOak Capital Ultra Short Duration	1344.8	395	1.0	0.4	7.0	6.8	6.2	5.1	-
**	BOI Ultra Short Duration	3122.3	155	0.9	0.3	6.9	6.6	6.2	5.2	-
**	Canara Robeco Ultra Short Term	3751.5	514	1.0	0.4	7.0	6.8	6.2	5.0	-
**	DSP Ultra Short	3363.4	3349	1.0	0.3	7.3	7.1	6.4	5.2	1.54
**	Tata Ultra Short Term	14.0	3938	1.1	0.3	7.1	6.9	6.3	5.2	6.49
*	Motilal Oswal Ultra Short Term	16.3	517	1.1	0.5	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.4	-
*	Sundaram Ultra Short Duration	2654.8	1723	1.5	0.2	6.5	6.4	5.8	4.7	-
-	HSBC Ultra Short Duration	1335.7	2260	0.5	0.2	7.5	7.4	6.8	5.7	-
-	LIC MF Ultra Short Duration	1305.0	307	1.0	0.3	7.0	6.6	6.1	5.1	-
-	Mahi Manu Ultra Short Duration	1357.7	217	0.7	0.3	7.5	7.3	6.6	5.6	1.94
-	Mirae Asset Ultra Short Duration	1290.1	1415	0.4	0.2	7.8	7.6	6.9	-	3.11

DEBT - LOW DURATION FUNDS										
*****	ICICI Pru Savings	536.2	21474	0.5	0.4	8.2	8.1	7.3	6.7	3.68
*****	UTI Low Duration	3499.2	2735	0.5	0.4	8.1	7.7	7.0	6.2	7.52
*****	Axis Treasury Advantage	3050.8	5830	0.7	0.3	8.0	7.6	6.9	6.2	0.95
*****	HDFC Low Duration	57.0	18185	1.0	0.5	7.8	7.5	6.8	6.2	7.36
*****	Nippon Ind Low Duration	3692.7	6876	1.0	0.4	7.7	7.4	6.6	6.0	7.18
*****	Tata Treasury Advantage	3879.1	2324	0.6	0.3	7.8	7.4	6.7	6.0	-
***	Aditya Birla SL Low Duration	647.9	11919	1.2	0.4	7.4	7.1	6.5	6.0	4.70
***	Bandhan Low Duration	38.1	5531	0.6	0.3	7.7	7.4	6.7	5.9	-
***	Canara Robeco Savings	41.6	992	0.6	0.3	7.7	7.4	6.7	5.7	-
***	DSP Low Duration	19.6	4196	0.6	0.3	7.8	7.4	6.7	5.9	-
***	HSBC Low Duration	28.0	538	1.1	0.4	7.8	7.6	6.7	5.9	5.57
***	Invesco India Low Duration	3732.1	1431	0.6	0.3	7.8	7.4	6.7	5.9	2.32
***	Kotak Low Duration	3299.2	11266	1.2	0.4	7.7	7.3	6.5	6.0	6.34
***	SBI Magnum Low Duration	3447.7	14392	0.9	0.4	7.7	7.3	6.6	5.7	-
**	Baroda BP Low Duration	39.6	274	1.1	0.3	7.4	7.1	6.4	5.6	1.83
**	LIC MF Low Duration	39.1	1450	1.0	0.3	7.5	7.1	6.4	5.9	-
**	Mirae Asset Low Duration	2228.9	1415	0.9	0.2	7.7	7.3	6.6	5.7	2.12
**	Sundaram Low Duration	3416.7	342	1.2	0.4	7.6	7.1	6.5	5.4	2.93
*	JM Low Duration	36.6	224	0.7	0.4	7.7	7.3	6.5	9.5	4.48
*	Mahi Manu Low Duration	1613.7	557	1.1	0.3	7.5	7.2	6.4	5.5	7.02

DEBT - MONEY MARKET FUNDS										
*****	Aditya Birla SL Money Manager	365.2	25581	0.4	0.2	7.9	7.8	7.2	6.2	-
*****	Nippon Ind Money Market	4096.1	15230	0.4	0.3	7.9	7.8	7.2	6.1	-
*****	ICICI Pru Money Market	374.6	24184	0.3	0.2	8.0	7.8	7.1	6.1	-
*****	Tata Money Market	4660.8	26844	0.4	0.2	7.9	7.8	7.2	6.2	-
*****	UTI Money Market	3043.4	16265	0.2	0.1	8.0	7.8	7.2	6.2	-
***	DSP Savings	52.0	4325	0.4	0.2	7.4	7.4	6.7	5.7	-
***	Franklin Ind Money Market	49.5	2547	0.3	0.1	8.0	7.7	7.0	5.9	-
***	HDFC Money Market	5642.2	2603	0.4	0.2	7.9	7.7	7.1	6.1	-
***	Kotak Money Market	4432.7	25008	0.4	0.2	7.9	7.7	7.1	6.0	-
***	SBI Savings	40.9	24003	0.7	0.3	7.5	7.3	6.7	5.7	-
***	Sundaram Money Market	14.8	1292	0.5	0.2	7.8	7.5	6.9	5.7	-
**	Baroda BP Money Market	1360.6	1219	0.4	0.2	7.7	7.4	6.7	5.2	-
**	HSBC Money Market	26.1	2536	0.4	0.2	7.7	7.5	6.7	5.5	-
**	Invesco India Money Market	3007.7	5446	0.5	0.2	7.6	7.4	6.7	5.7	-
*	Bandhan Money Manager	39.8	10048	0.4	0.1	7.6	7.2	6.5	5.4	-

Rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)				AA & Below
				Regular	Direct	1 Year CAGR	2 Year CAGR	3 Year CAGR	5 Year CAGR	
★	Edelweiss Money Market	28.1	1371	0.8	0.2	7.3	7.0	6.2	5.0	-
-	- Axis Money Market	1412.3	14611	0.3	0.2	8.0	7.8	7.1	6.1	-
-	- PGIM India Money Market	1310.4	161	0.5	0.2	7.6	7.3	6.8	5.4	-
DEBT - SHORT DURATION FUNDS										
*****	ICICI Pru Short Term	59.4	20428	1.0	0.5	9.0	8.2	7.6	7.1	6.47
*****	UTI Short Duration	31.3	2566	0.8	0.4	8.8	8.0	7.1	7.6	3.53
*****	Aditya Birla SL Short Term	47.0	8068	0.9	0.4	9.2	8.0	7.2	7.2	3.42
*****	Axis Short Duration	30.5	9024	0.9	0.4	9.3	8.0	7.1	6.6	0.83
*****	HDFC Short Term Debt	31.6	14208	0.8	0.4	9.3	8.3	7.3	6.9	3.43
*****	Sundaram Short Duration	43.8	202	1.1	0.3	9.2	7.9	6.9	6.5	-
*****	Bandhan Bond - Short Term	56.5	9674	0.8	0.3	9.4	8.0	6.9	6.3	-
*****	DSP Short Term	46.1	3061	1.0	0.3	9.0	7.7	6.7	6.1	-
*****	Kotak Bond Short Term	51.6	16681	1.1	0.4	9.1	7.9	6.8	6.3	-
*****	Nippon Ind Short Term	52.2	6232	0.9	0.4	9.3	8.1	7.0	6.6	4.13
*****	SBI Short Term Debt	31.7	13959	0.9	0.4	9.1	7.9	6.9	6.3	4.96
*****	Tata Short Term Bond	47.4	2834	1.2	0.4	8.8	7.5	6.6	6.0	-
★★	Baroda BP Short Duration	28.9	204	1.1	0.4	9.0	7.9	6.8	6.0	2.45
★★	HSBC Short Duration	26.1	3683	0.8	0.3	9.2	7.7	6.6	6.0	-
★★	Invesco India Short Duration	3524.2	715	1.1	0.4	8.9	7.7	6.5	5.9	2.39
★★	Mirae Asset Short Duration	15.6	347	1.1	0.3	9.0	7.6	6.7	5.9	4.61
★	Canara Robeco Short Duration	25.1	334	1.0	0.4	8.4	7.3	6.3	5.8	-
★	LIC MF Short Duration	14.4	111	1.3	0.4	8.8	7.4	6.2	5.5	-
-	- BOI Short Term Income	26.5	114	1.0	0.5	10.3	8.0	9.3	8.2	-
-	- Franklin Ind Short Term Income	5489.5	13	0.0	0.0	6.6	5.1	5.4	7.4	-
-	- Groww Short Duration	2056.1	67	1.1	0.4	8.3	6.8	5.8	4.9	-
-	- Mahi Manu Short Duration	12.6	75	1.3	0.3	8.8	7.6	6.6	-	2.00

