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**TIME TO REJIG.** Rate cuts are here, but a pause may follow. As bond yields adjust and deposit rates fall, investors must act — lock onto FDs, rebalance debt funds and reassess duration bets

## Aarati Krishnan

In a rare fit of generosity, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided in its June meeting to cut the repo rate by 50 basis points and slash the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for banks by 100 basis points. The CRR cut will be phased out over four tranches from September to November.

Both repo rate and CRR cuts, as everybody knows, will reduce interest rates on loans and deposits, as banks and NBFCs pass on their cost savings to their customers.

This is why many investors found it puzzling that market yields on bonds actually spiked up after the MPC announcement. For instance, between June 5 (the day ahead of the MPC meeting) and June 12, the market yield on the five-year Indian government bond has edged up from 5.78 per cent to 5.98 per cent and that on the 10-year bond has risen from 6.18 per cent to 6.35 per cent.

**MARKET RATES ROSE** There's a good explanation for why market interest rates went up and down after the policy review on June 6. Bond markets, like stock markets, are forward-looking and try to factor in events before they unfold. With the MPC signalling its intention to cut rates right from the beginning of 2025, bond markets have been running ahead of the MPC. Consequently, bond yields across tenures have been falling for the last 18 months or more.

The accompanying table shows us that yields on government securities (G-Secs) have been declining from early October 2023. From January 1 2025, yields on G-Secs have fallen by between 43 and 123 basis points, depending on the tenor.

After running on the expectation that the MPC would go on with its rate-cutting cycle for many more months, the market was caught unawares by the signal on June 6 that the MPC may now pause and take stock before trimming rates any further. The Governor's statement on June 6 said that having reduced the repo rate by 100 basis points quickly, monetary policy was left with "very little space" to support growth further. Therefore, the MPC would "carefully assess" incoming data for future rate actions. The MPC changing its policy stance from "accommodative" to "neutral" also underlined this message.

These are strong hints that further rate actions by the MPC will now be on pause, unless there are surprises from incoming GDP or inflation data. It is this signal that has prompted the bond markets to back-track after the policy. Before marking down rates any further, they will now be looking for cues from monthly inflation numbers, quarterly GDP prints and future MPC meetings to get a fix on the direction of interest rates from here. These mixed signals from

the latest MPC meeting call for a pivot in your debt investment strategy. Here are the changes you need to make in your debt portfolio.

**CLOSING FD WINDOW** While the MPC has cut policy rates by 100 basis points so far in 2025, banks and NBFCs have not reduced their fixed deposit rates by as much. This is because intense competition for deposits forced them to hang on to their FD rates to woo depositors. But this situation has been changing in the last couple of months. With the RBI making ample liquidity available to banks through Open Market Operations (OMOs) and other avenues, the scramble for deposits has lessened for the large banks. Systemically important banks have, thus, sharply slashed their FD rates. As the CRR cut puts more easy money in the hands of banks from September, further cuts in bank FD rates are in the offing.

Systematically important banks, which are the go-to banks for large depositors, are usually the first to transmit rate cuts, as they find it the easiest to garner deposits. Therefore, post-policy, HDFC Bank's interest rates on one-year, three-year and five-year FDs have fallen to 6.25 per cent, 6.40 per cent and 6.15 per cent respectively. Even before the policy, HDFC Bank had trimmed its savings bank rate to 2.75 per cent. SBI's rates are now at 6.5 per cent, 6.55 per cent and 6.30 per cent. Other public sector banks are likely to see equally prompt FD rate cuts.

**WHAT TO DO** While systemically important banks are usually the first to slash rates, private banks with weaker financials such as IndusInd Bank (6.85-7.35 per cent on one-three year FDs), RBL Bank (7.1-7.5 per cent) and small finance banks such as Equitas (7.6-7.8 per cent) and AU SFB (7.1-7.35 per cent) are likely to continue to offer higher FD rates. This is because these banks usually have a harder time garnering deposits. (The rates mentioned are at the time of writing this article and could change).

FDs with smaller private banks and small finance banks clearly carry higher risks than systemically important banks or PSU Banks.

Depositors can take selective advantage of their higher rates, by capping their FDs in them at ₹5 lakh per bank. This is because account balances (deposits plus savings account balances) of up to ₹5 lakh with scheduled banks are protected by deposit insurance. However, these banks offer their best rates for upto three-year tenures. It would be best for depositors to stick to these shorter maturities with these FDs. Among these choices, small finance banks currently seem to offer better reward for risks.

Because NBFCs depend on banks and markets for their funds, FD rate cuts in NBFCs

usually kick in after banks have slashed FD rates, in a falling rate cycle. This time around, NBFCs have already begun to cut rates. However, AAA-rated NBFCs such as Sundaram Finance (7.5 per cent for three years), Sundaram Home Finance (7.65 per cent for three-five years) still offer a good deal.

Though NBFC deposits don't carry deposit insurance, the pedigree and long track of these NBFCs in underwriting and deposit servicing, makes them good bets. With NBFCs, investors should use the current window of opportunity to lock into current rates for four-five years.

Post office or small savings schemes, where the Central government resets rates at the end of every quarter, are usually the last to adjust to a falling rate cycle. Despite the 50-basis point cut in repo rates, schemes such as the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (8.2 per cent), Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (7.4 per cent) and National Sav-

ings Certificates (7.7 per cent) still offer healthy rates. Investors and seniors need to grab the opportunity to lock into such instruments before rates get reset from July 1.

The combination of the sovereign guarantee and high rates currently make these instruments better than bank or NBFC deposits on risk-reward.

**FIXED VS FLOATING** Theoretically, in a falling rate cycle, investors should prefer fixed rate instruments over floating rate ones. Therefore, the time would appear to be ripe for bond investors to now prefer fixed rate instruments over floating rate ones. However, the actual decision today is not so straightforward.

With gilt yields in the market pre-empting rate cuts (as the table shows), floating rate bonds (which are pegged to G-Sec yields) have already factored in a good bit of the decline in interest rates. There may, therefore, be limited logic to exiting

## WISE WORDS.

“Compounding doesn't rely on earning big returns. Merely good returns sustained uninterrupted for the longest period of time—especially in times of chaos and havoc—will always win.”

MORGAN HOUSEL  
Author

## MARKET ACTION.

### SENSEX

Week ago	Latest	Change (%)
82,189	81,119	-1.3
82,550	82,260	-
81,970	81,680	-
81,390	81,100	-
Jun 6	Jun 13	

### NIFTY

Week ago	Latest	Change (%)
25,003	24,719	-1.1
25,150	25,060	-
24,970	24,880	-
24,790	24,700	-
Jun 6	Jun 13	

### How sectoral indices moved

	Jun 6	Jun 13	Movement	% change
IT	36,837	37,839	▲	2.7
HC	43,222	43,995	▲	1.8
TECK	17,940	18,195	▲	1.4
OIL&GAS	27,080	27,162	▲	0.3
POWER	6,821	6,725	▼	-1.4
AUTO	53,094	52,324	▼	-1.5
CAPITAL GOODS	70,798	69,767	▼	-1.5
BANKEX	63,556	62,570	▼	-1.6
METALS	31,268	30,747	▼	-1.7
PSU	19,902	19,557	▼	-1.7
FMCG	20,475	20,066	▼	-2.0
CONSUMER DURABLES	58,400	57,110	▼	-2.2
REALTY	8,069	7,821	▼	-3.1

### How other indices moved

	NIFTY 500	22,906	▼	-1.1
NIFTY 100	25,639	25,331	▼	-1.2
NIFTY 200	13,996	13,825	▼	-1.2
NIFTY NEXT 50	67,993	66,979	▼	-1.5
BANK NIFTY	56,578	55,527	▼	-1.9

### Sensex ups & downs

	Price ₹		Movement	% change
	Jun 6	Jun 13		
Tech Mahindra	1,571	1,659	▲	5.6
Wipro	249	260	▲	4.7
HCL Tech	1,637	1,695	▲	3.5
Infosys	1,564	1,602	▲	2.4
Kotak Mahindra Bank	2,072	2,111	▲	1.9
TCS	3,386	3,447	▲	1.8
Bajaj Finserv	1,989	2,011	▲	1.1
Axis Bank	1,195	1,206	▲	0.9
Sun Pharma	1,680	1,689	▲	0.5
Tata Motors	711	712	▲	0.1
UltraTech Cement	11,246	11,221	▼	-0.2
NTPC	333	332	▼	-0.3
Maruti Suzuki	12,460	12,411	▼	-0.4
Bajaj Finance	9,373	9,334	▼	-0.4
IndusInd Bank	823	817	▼	-0.8
Reliance Industries	1,444	1,428	▼	-1.1
Asian Paints	2,245	2,215	▼	-1.3
Bharti Airtel	1,869	1,842	▼	-1.5
ITC	421	414	▼	-1.7
Nestle India	2,417	2,377	▼	-1.7
JSW Steel	1,005	987	▼	-1.7
L&T	3,654	3,588	▼	-1.8
SBI	813	792	▼	-2.5
HUL	2,389	2,319	▼	-2.9
ICICI Bank	1,460	1,416	▼	-3.0
HDFC Bank	1,979	1,917	▼	-3.1
M&M	3,105	3,006	▼	-3.2
Tata Steel	158	152	▼	-3.4
Power Grid	296	286	▼	-3.4
Titan	3,561	3,424	▼	-3.9

### How global indices moved

	June 6	June 13	Movement	% change
Hang Seng	23,792.5	23,892.6	▲	0.4
Nikkei 225	37,741.6	37,834.3	▲	0.2
FTSE 100	8,837.9	8,850.6	▲	0.1
SSE Composite	3,385.4	3,377.0	▼	-0.2
S&P 500	6,000.4	5,977.0	▼	-0.4
NASDAQ Composite	19,530.0	19,406.8	▼	-0.6
Dow Jones	42,762.9	42,197.8	▼	-1.3
DAX	24,304.5	23,516		



# Pulling your financial strings

**MONETARY POLICY EXPLAINED.** Here we strip the RBI's moves off the jargon and explain what they mean for your investments

Nishanth Gopalakrishnan  
bl. research bureau

Every time the RBI clears its throat, markets perk up their ears, like they did when the RBI slashed policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) last week. Before the day of the announcement, big-ticket investors and institutions spend time working on models and simulations that give them an idea of how the central bank's actions would impact their portfolios.

While such investors hang on every word in the monetary policy statement, it is with equal rigour that retail investors, too, should take cues from RBI's moves. Whether you are betting on stocks, eyeing a property purchase, or just parking money in humble FDs – the RBI is quietly shaping your returns. But central bank actions such as OMO, CRR, VRR and so on can be daunting. Fret not. Here we strip them off the jargon and simplify them, while also explaining what they mean for your investments.

## REPO RATE

Policy repo rate or simply repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks. The RBI uses the repo rate to communicate its monetary policy stance – whether expansionary (a repo cut), contractionary (a repo hike) or status quo (pause in the rate cycle).

Do note that the repo rate (currently 5.5 per cent) is just a signal and the actual borrowing/depositing takes place through RBI's liquidity corridor – via the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Standing Deposit Facility (SDF). Banks, if faced with liquidity deficit, can tap the MSF, wherein they can borrow from the RBI at repo rate plus 25 bps (currently 5.75 per cent). If they have excess liquidity, they

can deposit the excesses with the RBI via the SDF, earning repo minus 25 bps (currently 5.25 per cent). Thus, MSF and SDF create a 50-bp corridor around the repo rate, ensuring that the call money market rates (explained later) stay close to the benchmark repo rate.

Repo rate influences borrowing and lending rates, economic growth and inflation. When the RBI hikes the repo rate, banks have to pay more interest to borrow from it. To maintain profitability, they pass on this higher cost to borrowers, making loans more expensive. At the same time, since banks earn more on loans, they tend to offer higher interest on deposits, benefiting depositors.

Conversely, when the RBI cuts the repo rate, banks pay less to borrow and can afford to lower lending rates. This makes loans cheaper for both consumers and businesses. Credit-hungry sectors such as infrastructure, power and real estate borrow more to expand, while consumers are incentivised to spend. This easy access to credit fuels demand and helps boost economic growth. If the RBI raises the repo rate instead, the opposite occurs. Loans become costlier, demand slows and economic growth takes a hit.

How does it impact inflation? Inflation occurs as a result of too much cheap money floating around (liquidity) chasing too few goods (and services). A hike in the repo rate arrests surplus liquidity, bringing prices down.

Now, how does it impact your portfolio? Your debt investments (treasury bills, government and corporate bonds, debt mutual funds, etc.) will be the immediate beneficiaries (or casualties) of repo movements. You see, banks depend on the call money market (market where one bank lends to another) to borrow for their very

## ACTION-REACTION

- RBI's moves affect all asset classes except gold
- CRR eases cost of funds for banks
- VRR and VRRA address very short-term liquidity deficit/ surplus

short-term needs (overnight and up to 14 days) and any change in the repo rate impacts call market rates.

A repo hike means higher call market rates and vice-versa. Yields of short-term debt instruments take cues from the call market rates. If rates in the call market fall, most likely your 91-day T-bills will earn less. Similarly, yields of longer-term instruments (such as G-Secs, corporate bonds) also will fall, as their yields are a function of short-term yield plus a spread for holding the securities longer, known as term premium. The fall in long-term yields may not be proportionate though.

For equities, a repo rate cut brings down the cost of equity used to discount future cash flows and thus, can take the value of shares upwards and vice-versa. This is so, provided the rate cut is not happening as a response to a shock to the economy, in which case value of equities will depend more on the impact to economy and less on the cost of equity.

## CASH RESERVE RATIO

Cash reserve ratio or CRR determines how much of a bank's deposits it needs to keep as reserves with the RBI. It acts as a protective buffer for the banking system against liquidity risks. This balance that banks keep with the RBI doesn't earn interest.

In a surprise move, the RBI announced that there will be a 100-bp cut to the CRR over four fortnights starting September 6, making it 3 per cent from the current 4 per cent. As banks are mandated to keep less money with the RBI when this takes effect, this is expected to free up liquidity worth ₹2.5 lakh crore, which banks can put to productive use (advancing loans). This is positive for banks and investors in banks. How so? Because, with this additional liquidity in hand, banks need not hustle for deposits and be aggressive with deposit rates. Thus, this will ease their cost of funds. As a result, banks would charge lower interest rates on loans across tenors.

Short-term yields (duration up to one year) which have cooled from levels seen late 2024 to early 2025, thanks to RBI's measures to infuse liquidity, would go even lower when the 100-bps CRR cut completes in December 2025.

## OMO AUCTIONS

Open Market Operations (OMOs) are tools used by the RBI to manage liquidity in the banking system by buying or selling G-Secs via auctions. When there's surplus liquidity, the RBI sells G-Secs to banks, effectively pulling money out of the system and tightening liquidity. On the other hand, when there's a shortage of funds in the system, the RBI buys G-Secs from banks. This pumps money into the system, easing liquidity conditions and increasing the money supply.

As regards your portfolio, your short-term debt instruments' (duration up to one year) yield will come down as the RBI buys bonds off banks and vice-versa. It is to be noted that the RBI conducts OMOs to address short-term liquidity crunches/excesses. Thus, there

may not be any meaningful impact on longer-duration debt instruments and equities, nevertheless it can influence sentiment around assets as well.

## VRR AUCTIONS

Like OMOs, VRR or variable rate repo auctions are one of RBI's tools to inject short-term liquidity. Whenever the central bank perceives a liquidity crunch in the call market, it calls a VRR auction for an amount it assesses to be adequate to bridge the liquidity gap. Banks can participate and bid for an advance from the RBI at a rate higher than the repo rate.

The RBI will specify the tenor of the advance when it announces the auction – for example, a 14-day VRR auction. This means that the bank borrowing through this window has to repay the RBI after 14 days. The RBI often uses the one-day (overnight) VRR auction and hence quite short-term in nature. This can take yields on short-term debt instruments downward, while longer-term debt securities and equities remain unaffected.

While both VRR and buying G-Secs in an OMO are meant to infuse liquidity, the VRR is used to address very short-term, often transient liquidity deficits, while OMOs, in general, address slightly longer-term deficits.

## VRRA AUCTIONS

VRRR, or Variable Rate Reverse Repo auctions, are very similar to VRR auctions, except that the RBI uses VRRR to absorb excess liquidity in the system, as opposed to addressing liquidity deficits with VRR auctions. Here, banks can bid for an interest rate which the RBI should pay them for parking excess funds with it. VRRR, too, is a short-term tool and can have an impact on yields of short-term debt securities. Debt securities at the longer end and equities largely remain immune.

## IMPACT ON GOLD

Gold, being a safe haven asset, competes with US treasuries. Consequently, actions by US' Federal Reserve are more relevant for its price moves rather than actions by the RBI. As a rule of thumb, when US Treasury yields go up, gold gets less attractive and thus its price falls. Gold prices rise when US Treasury yields cool down. However, this historical trend has been broken in recent years with both gold and US treasury yields going up.

Similarly, the link between long-term rates and short-term rates is also usually linear. However, if investors are worried that a central bank is cutting interest rates even when inflation risks persist, while short-term rates decline, the long-term rates can increase due to higher term premium.

Technologies, Paradeep Phosphates, Solar Industries India, Carysil and Bharat Dynamics delivered exceptional returns of 80-107 per cent.

Portfolio analysis and AMFI data from September 2024 reveal several noteworthy trends.

**Rising investor interest:** Small-cap fund folios surged 29 lakh to 2.5 crore between September 2024 and May 2025, mirroring trends across equity categories. Risk-seeking retail investors are propelling this growth, attracted by the large recent returns. However, small-cap allocations should align with the individual's risk profile.

**Shift toward micro-caps:** Micro-cap allocation within small-cap fund portfolios expanded by 2 percentage points to 32 per cent from September 2024. Current category average allocations stand at 7 per cent for large-cap, mid-cap (12 per cent) and small-cap (48 per cent) as of May. LIC MF Small Cap (56 per cent), Tata Small Cap (53 per cent) and DSP Small Cap (53 per cent) maintain the highest micro-cap exposure.

Popular micro-cap holdings include Equitas Small Finance Bank, JK Lakshmi Cement, Kirloskar Pneumatic Company, Rolex Rings and TeamLease Services, held by at least 10 small-cap funds.

**Broadening the stock universe:** The biggest funds in the category navigated this period by expanding their holdings. Nippon India Small Cap, with assets of ₹63,007 crore, added 18 stocks to reach 237 holdings. Quant Small Cap (AUM of ₹28,205 crore) incorporated 20 new positions totalling 92, Bandhan Small Cap (₹11,743 crore) added 17 to reach 187 and SBI Small Cap (₹34,028 crore) included six additional stocks for 63 total holdings.

Despite market turbulence, small-cap funds attracted net inflows of ₹36,372 crore from September 2024 to May 2025, compelling fund managers to expand their portfolios.

While diversification offers benefits, excessive stock additions risk creating index-like portfolios that may compromise alpha.

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Benchmarks across the board have recovered sharply over the past couple of months. After a six-month correction that lasted till early April, key indices are up 15-28 per cent from their recent lows.

After a period marked by weak consumption, slowing corporate earnings and geopolitical tensions, there has been a revival of sorts on multiple fronts.

GDP growth has been positive in the fourth quarter, the RBI has cut interest rates steeply, inflation is under control, monsoon is on course and FPI investors are getting back to buying mode.

Though the possibility of a weak global demand, slowing US economy and the adverse impact of reciprocal trade tariffs lay ahead, the domestic scenario seems fairly healthy on the macro front.

Therefore, a multi-cap approach would be suitable for investors with a high-risk appetite, looking for better long-term returns.

Nippon India Multi Cap (Nippon India India Opportunities Series A earlier), with a track record of over 20 years, can be a good addition to your portfolio, as the fund has delivered strong and consistent performance over the past 10 years.

Using the systematic investment plan (SIP) mode for a time period of 7-10 years would help ride out volatility reasonably and average costs.

**ABOVE-AVERAGE**  
The multi-cap category itself has a relatively shorter track record, only from 2021. However, Nippon India Multi Cap has a mixed market-cap approach all through its years of existence. It is benchmarked to the Nifty 500 Multicap 50:25:25 TRI. However, since data on this index is not readily available, we have taken the Nifty 500 TRI for comparison with the scheme's performance.

When five-year rolling returns over the past 12-odd years (January 2013-June 2025) are considered, the fund has delivered mean returns of 15.1 per cent, which is reasonably

# Gaining from broader markets

**FUND CALL.** Nippon India Multicap has a track record of over 20 years and can be a good addition to your portfolio



lies. But more importantly, it has a downside capture ratio of just 72.2, suggesting that the scheme's NAV falls much less than the benchmark during corrections. A score of 100 indicates that a fund performs in line with its benchmark. This inference is based on data from June 2022 to June 2025.

## MIX OF STYLES

Nippon India Multi Cap fund spreads its bets across market segments, in keeping with its mandate. The proportion is usually a function of market dynamics among a few other considerations.

Large-caps form about 40-45 per cent of the portfolio at most times, while the proportion of mid- and small-caps totals to 54 per cent or more. Going heavy, especially on small-caps, has helped the fund in its outperformance over the past few years.

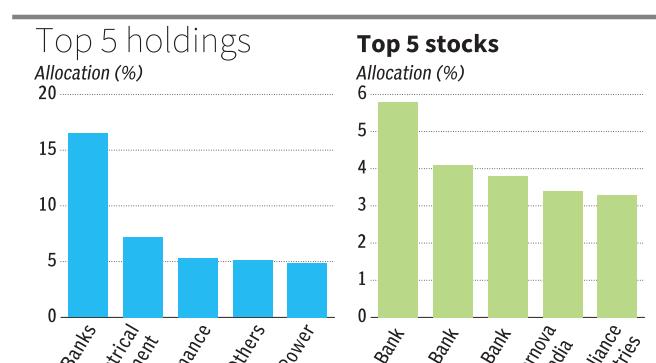
When key indices turned volatile late last year and early this year, the fund upped stakes in large-caps within the portfolio and trimmed exposure to other market cap segments.

The overall portfolio is highly diffused and individual stocks barring the top one or two account for less than 5 per cent of the portfolio. In the May 2025 portfolio, the fund held as many as 129 stocks in its portfolio, thus managing to keep concentration risks at bay.

Banks have always been the top holdings of the fund across market cycles. Interestingly, electrical equipment companies also figure in prominence, as do power firms during most times.

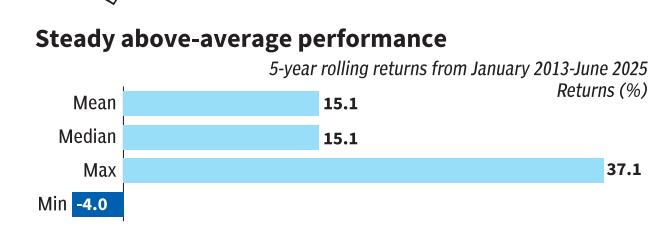
The fund was able to get into hotels and leisure companies early on and gained from their rally, before clipping exposure over the last one year. It was able to time the entry and exit into pharma and biotech stocks as well. Nippon India Multi Cap has always had low exposure to FMCG and IT stocks, which helped it avoid the underperformance in these segments.

Overall, the fund's choices are governed by mix of momentum, value and growth styles, with a diffused portfolio to keep risks manageable. The scheme remains invested for most part with hardly any significant cash positions taken even during volatile phases.



## WHY INVEST

- In five-year rolling returns over past 12-odd years, delivered mean returns of 15.1 per cent
- Large-cap biased, but churns mid and small-caps smartly depending on markets
- Mix of momentum, value and growth styles



Source: ACE MF; May 2025, data for direct plan

per cent nearly half the time and more than 12 per cent for almost 73 per cent of the time.

The fund's SIP returns (XIRR) over the past 10 years are fairly robust at 20.4 per cent. An SIP in the Nifty 500 TRI would have returned 16.4 per cent over this period.

All return figures pertain to the direct plan of Nippon India Multi Cap fund.

The fund has an upside capture ratio of 105.7, indicating that its NAV rises a bit more than the benchmark during volatile phases.

Over the January 2013-June 2025 period, on a five-year rolling return basis, Nippon India Multi Cap has beaten the Nifty 500 TRI 62 per cent of the time. It has delivered more than 15

## GLOBAL VIEW.

# Hybrid small-, mid-cap play

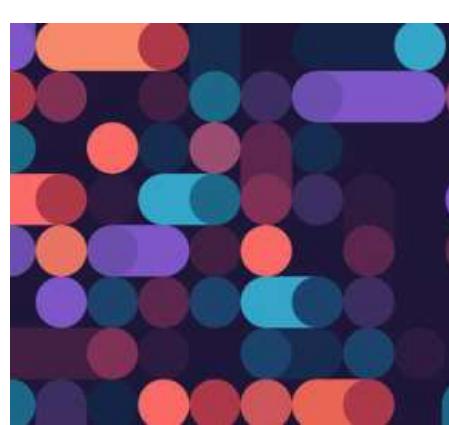
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Bank of India Mid & Small Cap Equity & Debt Fund (BOIEDF) differentiates itself within the aggressive hybrid fund category through its unconventional equity strategy. While most aggressive hybrid funds lean heavily on large-cap stocks, BOIEDF avoids large-caps and focuses on mid and small-cap equities. This helps to capitalise on the higher growth potential of smaller companies, delivering a compounded annualised return of 16.5 per cent since its launch in July 2016. However, its concentrated exposure to this volatile segment increases risk, making it less suitable for conservative investors or those seeking a more stable hybrid allocation.

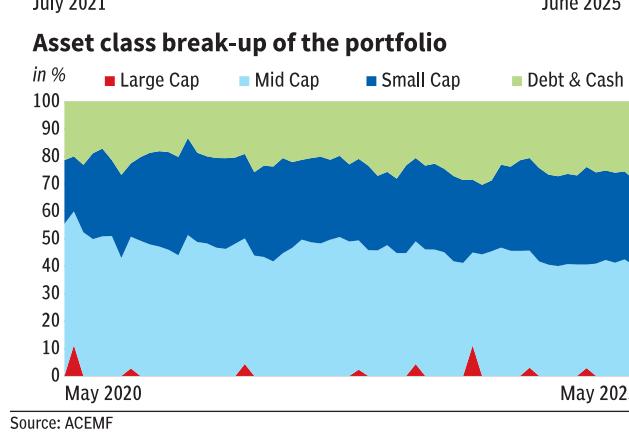
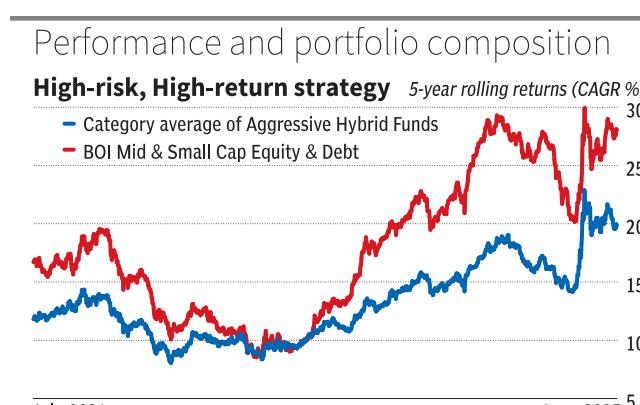
**HIGH-RISK, HIGH-RETURN**  
Funds in the aggressive hybrid category invest 65-80 per cent in equities and the rest in debt, aiming to balance growth and stability. They suit investors seeking equity-like returns with lower volatility than pure equity funds.

In the past five years, BOIEDF has consistently maintained an equity exposure between 70-78 per cent, targeting growth prospects of mid and small-cap stocks. It employs its debt allocation as a stabilising mechanism to counterbalance equity volatility. The fund exits any stock that transitions into the large-cap space, staying true to its mid and small-cap mandate. On average, it has allocated 46 per cent to mid-caps and 31 per cent to small-caps. It applies strict quality filters in small-cap selection, preferring companies with sound business models. To manage liquidity risk, it ensures that 80 per cent of its portfolio can be liquidated within six working days, even under the assumption of just 20 per cent market participation, which limits individual small-cap exposure to 3 per cent.

BOIEDF's stock picking is based on financial parameters such as return on equity, cash flow strength, and a qualitative analysis of business sustainability and competitive edge. Currently, the portfolio leans towards domestic themes, in alignment with government-led



**FUND-WISE.** Bank of India Mid & Small Cap Equity & Debt Fund focuses on mid- and small-caps & debt serving as key buffer against volatility



Source: ACEMF

capital expenditure. The fund favours infrastructure, power, and consumer discretionary sectors.

Managed by Alok Singh, who oversees both the equity and debt sides, the fund adopts a conservative debt strategy. It prefers short-duration instruments with tenures of 1-2 years, largely in AAA and AA+ rated securities, deliberately avoiding high-yield credit bets. The debt allocation is passively held but tactically deployed to manage liquidity and reduce volatility. This structure allows the fund to absorb market shocks better and take advantage of opportunities without needing to sell equity holdings under pressure.

The fund delivered commendable performance during bull phases such as August 2020 to December 2021 and August 2022 to December 2024. However, it lagged behind peers during market corrections, notably in the downturn between December 2024 and March 2025, when it posted a return of -17 per cent compared to the category average of -13 per cent. Despite this, its long-term performance remains robust, with five-year rolling returns averaging 18 per cent annually, well above the category average of 13 per cent. These returns have varied between 9 per cent and 30

per cent. However, this outperformance comes with higher volatility; the fund's annualised standard deviation of 15.7 per cent is the second highest in the category, compared to the average of 11.7 per cent.

The expense ratio for the regular plan is 2.08 per cent, close to the category average of 2.03 per cent, while the direct plan is slightly cheaper at 0.77 per cent, below the category norm of 0.83 per cent.

## WHO SHOULD CONSIDER

Peers such as LIC MF, HSBC, and JM Aggressive Hybrid, also maintain notable mid and small-cap allocations, with exposures of up to 35 per cent. BOIEDF, with its significantly higher 71 per cent exposure, stands out as a high-risk, high-reward option. Despite its eye-popping returns during market rallies, the fund is not suitable for investors with a low-risk appetite. For those hesitant to commit fully to mid and small-cap funds due to volatility, this fund offers a middle path: growth potential with some stability. It can also serve long-term investors aiming for better risk-adjusted returns keeping mid and small-cap exposure at a manageable level.

But more importantly, it has a downside capture ratio of just 72.2, suggesting that the scheme's NAV falls much less than the benchmark during corrections. A score of 100 indicates that a fund performs in line with its benchmark. This inference is based on data from June 2022 to June 2025.

## MIX OF STYLES

Nippon India Multi Cap fund spreads its bets across market segments, in keeping with its mandate. The proportion is usually a function of market dynamics among a few other considerations.

Large-caps form about 40-45 per cent of the portfolio at most times, while the proportion of mid- and small-caps totals to 54 per cent or more. Going heavy, especially on small-caps, has helped the fund in its outperformance over the past few years.

When key indices turned volatile late last year and early this year, the fund upped stakes in large-caps within the portfolio and trimmed exposure to other market cap segments.

The overall portfolio is highly diffused and individual stocks barring the top one or two account for less than 5 per cent of the portfolio. In the May 2025 portfolio, the fund held as many as 129 stocks in its portfolio, thus managing to keep concentration risks at bay.

Banks have always been the top holdings of the fund across market cycles. Interestingly, electrical equipment companies also figure in prominence, as do power firms during most times.

The fund was able to get into hotels and leisure companies early on and gained from their rally, before clipping exposure over the last one year. It was able to time the entry and exit into pharma and biotech stocks as well. Nippon India Multi Cap has always had low exposure to FMCG and IT stocks, which helped it avoid the underperformance in these segments.

Overall, the fund's choices are governed by mix of momentum, value and growth styles, with a diffused portfolio to keep risks manageable. The scheme remains invested for most part with hardly any significant cash positions taken even during volatile phases.

## ALERTS.

### NAFA Asset Managers unveils maiden CAT III AIF

NAFA Asset Managers has launched its first Category III Alternative Investment Fund, marking a strategic entry into the flexi-cap AIF space. The fund aims to tap opportunities across Indian listed equities, unlisted entities, IPOs, and debt instruments, offering investors a diversified play on India's growth story. With a minimum investment of ₹1 crore and an option of both fixed & performance-linked fee

structure, the fund is benchmarked against the S&P BSE 500 Index, aligning its strategy with a broad representation of the Indian equity market. The fund managers are N Balaji Vaidyanath and KR Senthilnathan.

### ITI MF's Diviniti Specialised Investment Fund

ITI AMC has announced the launch of Diviniti SIF, a new platform focused on the Specialised Investment Fund (SIF) business. Diviniti SIF will offer innovative investment solutions across equity, hybrid, and fixed income categories, designed to address the evolving preferences of investors. SIF is a new category of investment product introduced by SEBI to bridge the gap between Mutual Funds (MFs) and Portfolio

Management Services (PMS). The minimum investment requirement is ₹10 lakh per investor.

## ETF movers

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

	NAV (₹)	Price (₹)	Weekly change in price (%)	Volume traded in the last week (in '000s)
	as on Jun 13			
<b>ETF</b>				
Nippon India Nifty IT ETF	41.8	41.9	3.6	59,109
Kotak Nifty IT ETF	41.6	41.8	3.3	10,271
SBI IT ETF	417.6	418.1	3.3	38
Mirae Asset Nifty IT ETF	39.8	39.9	3.2	2,982
ABSL Nifty IT ETF	40.8	40.9	3.2	150
HDFC Nifty IT ETF	40.2	40.2	3.2	308
ICICI Pru Nifty IT ETF	41.8	41.7	3.0	4,023
<b>GOLD ETFs</b>				
ABSL Gold ETF	87.4	88.5	2.8	7,059
LIC MF Gold ETF	9035.6	9070.7	2.5	13
Axis Gold ETF	83.1	83.8	2.5	10,286

Source: Bloomberg. Returns as on June 13, 2025

## Best NPS plans

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

Name of the fund	NAV (₹) as on Jun 13	Returns (% CAGR) 1-year	Returns (% CAGR) 3-year	Returns (% CAGR) 5-year	Assets (₹ cr)
<b>TIER I: EQUITY PLANS</b>					
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	72.3	4.4	20.7	23.1	20,603
UTI Pension Fund	71.4	4.8	20.6	23.0	4,464
Kotak Pension Fund	67.0	6.0	20.8	22.8	3,011
<b>TIER I: GOVERNMENT BOND PLANS</b>					



# Premium liquor play gets stronger

**ALCOBEV.** United Spirits' premiumisation gains, UK FTA lever and structural reforms support a medium-term investment case

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

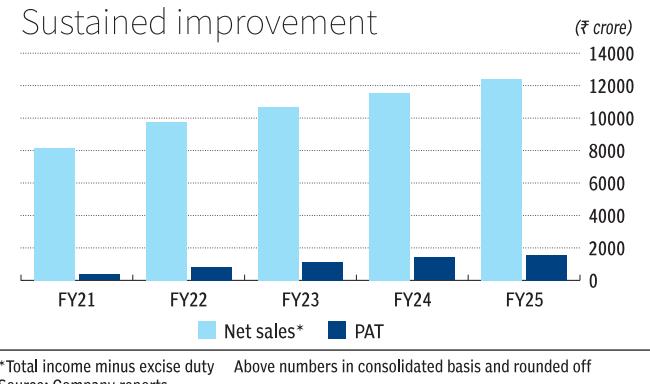
**Kumar Shankar Roy**  
bl. research bureau

In July 2023, we had initiated coverage on world's top spirits maker Diageo Plc-owned United Spirits Ltd (USL) with a 'hold' rating. Since then, while the stock has rallied to current levels of ₹1,452, earnings visibility, margin gains and structural drivers have improved significantly. So, there is a good case now for continued upside even from current levels. Investors with perspective of three-five years can look to accumulate the stock gradually on dips.

Based on Bloomberg consensus estimates, the company's adjusted consolidated EPS is expected to grow at around 15 per cent annually over FY26 and FY27. This brings the FY27 forward Price/Earnings (PE) down to 51x from a current trailing 68x. While not cheap, it is not out of bounds as well for a compelling play on India's liquor industry. The five-year median PE of the stock is 71 times.

The stock is now backed by clearer visibility on premium product momentum, a strong earnings growth runway, anticipated benefits from the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on Scotch whisky duties, and improved capital return metrics. These, along with a leaner portfolio, clean balance sheet and dividend payouts, make USL a good investment opportunity, as over 100 million individuals enter the legal drinking age over the next five years.

There's speculation around a potential stake-sale in USL's RCB IPL franchise, valued by some at ₹10,000-17,000 crore.



While USL denied any ongoing talks, future monetisation of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Royal Challengers Sports Pvt Ltd, could unlock non-core value.

#### ABOUT THE COMPANY

USL manufactures and markets some of the most iconic alcohol brands, including Johnnie Walker, Black Dog, McDowell's No.1, Smirnoff and Tanqueray in India. It is the clear leader in both Scotch and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

Three brands — McDowell's, Royal Challenge and Johnnie Walker — now contribute over ₹1,000 crore in annual net sales value (NSV) each. Another three — Signature, Black Dog and Black & White — exceed ₹500 crore in NSV.

Over the last few years, USL has undergone a transformation by cutting debt, exiting low-margin brands and sharpening focus on premiumisation.

Additionally, operational controls, distribution reforms and brand renovation strategies introduced under Diageo's stewardship have turned USL into a margin-accretive, cash-generat-

ing business (free cash flow about ₹1,400 crore in FY25). USL's strong premium portfolio also gives it pricing flexibility.

#### INVESTMENT THESIS

There are five key reasons to be positive on USL.

First, the company is entering a multi-year earnings upcycle. Estimates peg adjusted EPS growth at about 15 per cent annually over FY26 and FY27. This is backed by stable volume growth and margin tailwinds.

Margins, under pressure in FY23 due to Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) and glass inflation, have now rebounded.

Adjusted consolidated EBITDA margin, according to Bloomberg estimates, is expected to more than double from 9.5 per cent to 19 per cent by FY27.

Going into FY26, commodity costs are largely stable.

Second, USL's success in expanding its premium portfolio is central to its structural story. Luxury and upper-prestige brands have consistently contributed to net sales growth in recent years. Newer launches like Godawan (single malt) and

#### ● ACCUMULATE ON DIPS

#### United Spirits ₹1,452

#### WHY

- Multi-year earnings growth visibility
- Strong brand-led volume traction
- Improving capital return, resumes dividend

overhaul, the company is showing better capital discipline. USL exited a major chunk of the declining 'Popular' segment market through a slump sale of 32 brands and franchise agreement for some brands in 2022. The company's ongoing manufacturing footprint optimisation is three-fourths done, with remaining to be over next two-three years. Similarly, cost optimisation initiatives are 63 per cent done. Operating leverage is kicking in, and dividend payouts (although small at ₹12/share in FY25) have resumed, reflecting confidence in future cash flows.

Last, some key States present opportunities for USL to capitalise on. It recommended business in Andhra Pradesh in September 2024, after a five-year hiatus, enabled by policy changes. Some States have begun making changes to support the industry, starting with Uttar Pradesh in 2025-26 excise policy. Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh's excise slab rationalisation moves are also positives.

#### VALUATION, RISKS

While the stock trades at a rich trailing multiple (about 68x), the FY27 forward P/E of 51x appears justifiable given 15 per cent growth in earnings, margin expansion and premiumisation-led durability. This valuation is also rational in the context of USL being the only large-cap, scalable play in India's spirits market.

USL faces risks from excise hikes, raw material swings, and evolving ethanol policy. Execution and state-level regulatory clarity, especially around market access, remain key watchpoints.

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

## REALITY CHECK.

### MobiKwik fumbles: What lies ahead

**Nishanth Gopalakrishnan**

bl. research bureau

After a stellar debut, shares of the fintech firm One MobiKwik Systems (MobiKwik) saw a sharp rally, hitting a high of ₹698 within just a few trading sessions post-listing in December, delivering gains of 150 per cent at that peak. However, the momentum didn't last. The stock has since declined steadily and is now trading in a narrow range close to its issue price of ₹279. A bittersweet performance in FY25 underpins this underperformance. What are the key takeaways? What should you do about the shares? Read on to find out.

We had recommended that high-risk investors subscribe to the IPO because: One, the company has a scalable business model. Two, it had demonstrated profitability in FY24, while its listed peer Paytm hadn't. Three, its valuation on the basis of EV/revenue at 1.8 times FY24 revenue was way cheaper than Paytm's at 5.6 times. Considering MobiKwik's modest scale and the crowded fintech landscape, we viewed its valuation as a fair entry point. That said, its FY25 performance was mixed. Here's what worked in its favour.

#### SILVER LININGS

For MobiKwik and for any other similar fintech platform, the payment processing business forms the primary funnel for other lucrative businesses such as lending. The metric 'payments gross merchandise value' or 'payments GMV' effectively captures the value of payments processed. Payments GMV grew 203 per cent in FY25 on an annual basis. About 20.5 million new users registered on MobiKwik's platform during FY25, taking the registered user base to 176.4 million users, growing at 13 per cent during the year. This translated to a revenue growth of 34 per cent to ₹1,170 crore, following high growth of 62 per cent posted in FY24.

Payment services business (66 per cent of FY25 revenue), the first of the company's two businesses, grew at a staggering 142 per cent. However, its other business, financial services (lending), declined 28 per cent. This primarily drove the company back into red, as profit dropped from ₹14 crore in FY24 to a ₹122-crore loss in FY25.

#### FINSERV BIZ DISAPPOINTS

Three factors, in particular, weighed on performance. One, since MobiKwik only originates credit while actual disbursements are made by lending partners (NBFCs), its financial services revenue depends directly on how aggressively these partners choose to grow. Given that macroeconomic variables were not encouraging enough in FY25, especially in the unsecured loans segment (the kind MobiKwik originates), its lending partners cut back on disbursements. This had a telling impact on MobiKwik's digital credit GMV – the metric that tracks the value of loans disbursed. The metric fell 41 per cent in FY25. Consequently, the commission MobiKwik earns also declined, explaining the contraction in revenue for the most part.

Two, the company has discontinued its 30-day loan product, as it did not find favour with lending partners. The product, which formed two-thirds of digital credit GMV for FY24, fell 52 per cent to account for a little over 50 per cent of a lower digital credit GMV in FY25. This left the company to focus on its other offering in the financial services business – a personal loan with EMI option of a higher ticket size of up to ₹2 lakh.

Three, during the year, MobiKwik adopted the DLG (default loss guarantee) model to adhere to regulatory requirements. Under this model, MobiKwik must upfront set aside up to 5 per cent of each loan it originates for its NBFC partner, to cover potential borrower defaults. Here, costs are upfronted, but revenue trails the cost, creating a timing difference.

#### PAUSE OR PARE?

This timing difference can normalise over a few quarters. However, would the lending partners get confident enough to re-start lending? This is the more pertinent question that MobiKwik faces. The company believes that things will get better in H2 FY26. It is also banking on traction from its new launches — a credit card backed by an FD, and a loan against mutual funds. Its nascent payment gateway business, too, has headroom for growth.

Given that the stock has already factored in these developments and trades at a trailing EV/revenue multiple of 1.15x (vs Paytm's 6.3x), high-risk investors may continue to hold the stock, while closely monitoring the financial services business.

## WHO AM I?

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

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

1 My corporate identity carries a word every adult Indian knows and uses frequently. I've had this identity since inception, about 15 years ago.

2 A change in control a few years ago saved me from a dubious parentage and brought me into a highly respected group—one that now holds the maximum permissible stake, even after having recovered nearly all of its original investment.

3 Despite strong institutional interest in my IPO, I got listed with no premium to the offer price. Even now, markets value me at only a marginal premium.

4 Though public ownership is just 10 per cent of the company, I manage to retain over two lakh shareholders, each holding on average less than ₹1 lakh worth of equity.

5 My profits have grown at over 20 per cent CAGR over the last 1, 3, and 5 years in a highly competitive business, without diluting margins.

Send your answers by Wednesday 6 p.m. to [who-am-i@thehindu.co.in](mailto: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: ITD Cementation India  
Last week's winner: Hena Jabeen

# Riding on PM-KUSUM

**IPO WATCH.** The government scheme powering transition to solar pumps is critical to Oswal Pumps' prospects

**Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli**  
bl. research bureau

Oswal Pumps is a manufacturer of solar- and grid-connected motors that are primarily used in agriculture and also industrial and residential segments. The company is in the middle of a rapid growth phase, aided by PM-KUSUM — a government scheme to drive the usage of solar pumps that will last till March 2026. This will help Oswal Pumps sustain its growth momentum till FY26-end.

We recommend long-term investors with a high-risk appetite to subscribe to the IPO. The issue at the upper band trades at 24 times annualised 9MFY25 earnings. While the valuations are modest, investors must monitor the scheme (PM-KUSUM) and its continuation beyond March 2026, which is critical to the stock.

Employment, PLI towards solar cells and modules, carbon credits, State electricity costs are factors that support continuation of the scheme. But the scheme and its prospects will be an overhang on the stock till continuation is announced.

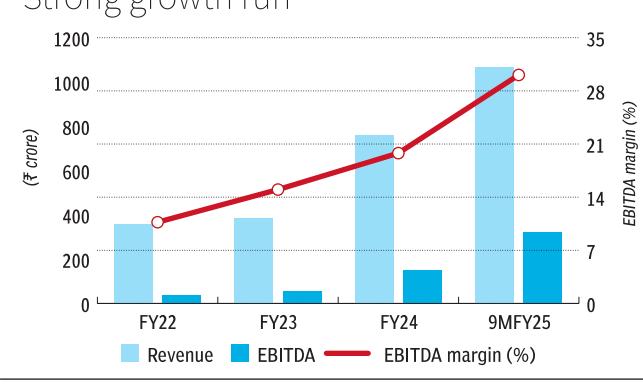
The IPO consists of an offer-for-sale (₹497 crore) and a fresh issue (₹890 crore). The fresh issue will be directed to debt repayment (₹311 crore), making it debt free, and capacity expansion in solar modules (₹270 crore) and backward integration for motors (₹90 crore). The promoters will continue to hold 80 per cent stake post-issue.

#### PM-KUSUM SCHEME

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan or PM-KUSUM was launched in March 2019. The scheme aims to install 14 lakh solar agricultural pumps as part of component B of the scheme — a segment which has found reasonable success. Component A aims to set up 10 GW of solar modules on barren/ cultivable



#### Strong growth run



Oswal Pumps, established in 2003, had been operating in all variants of motors in 2019, when the scheme was announced. The company initially supplied to players operating in PM-KUSUM. By 2021, the company offered solar pumps comprising pumps, solar modules, mounting structures, pump controllers and their installations. The company is currently the most integrated player, according to the Red Herring Prospectus. It is manufacturing solar modules under its subsidiary Oswal Solar Structure that started operations in January 2024, the company has supplied 2.3 lakh pumps by December 2024, which is a 38 per cent share in the scheme. This is clearly reflected in the financial performance of Oswal Pumps, which reported Revenue/EBITDA/PAT growth of 58 per cent/123 per cent/157 per cent CAGR in the period FY22 to annualised 9MFY25. The higher realisations of solar pumps have aided margin expansion as well as shown in the figure.

**FINANCIAL BOOST** By December 2024, an estimated seven lakh pumps were empanelled and ready for tenders under the scheme and 6.1 lakh solar pumps were installed. Of the 6.1 lakh installed, Oswal Pumps, directly or through its clients, has supplied 2.3 lakh pumps by December 2024, which is a 38 per cent share in the scheme. This is clearly reflected in the financial performance of Oswal Pumps, which reported Revenue/EBITDA/PAT growth of 58 per cent/123 per cent/157 per cent CAGR in the period FY22 to annualised 9MFY25. The higher realisations of solar pumps have aided margin expansion as well as shown in the figure.

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Many States gain from lower electricity costs supplied to the farm sector; and utilise the cost

savings for industrial sectors, which provide higher realisations. In some States, electricity is largely subsidised for the farmer, which the States can save on.

The Centre gains from contributions to climate change and eventually carbon targeting. The Centre has also pushed solar cell/module manufacturing through PLI schemes, which need downstream applications such as solar pumps to support the industry.

The current scheme itself is halfway through and the management expects it to continue till Q1FY27, which should support short-term growth for Oswal Pumps.

As mentioned, the company will expand Oswal Solar Structure from the current capacity of 600 MW to 1.2 GW, with fresh issue proceeds. This includes EVA (Ethylene Vinyl Acetate) and aluminum brackets, which are ancillary products to solar module and pumps installation. The company is also investing in improving its backward integration in pumps with the issue proceeds.

**FINANCIALS, VALUATION** The company has a net debt of ₹339 crore or 1x net debt to EBITDA on account of Oswal Solar commencement in January 2024. The issue proceeds will be used to clear debt, which should cushion valuations further.

The trade receivable days though have increased from 40 days in FY22 to 123 days in 9MFY25 owing to a higher exposure to government payments. The current year receivable days have also been impacted by elections last year and the management expects it to improve going forward.

The company prospects are strong and the valuation reasonable for growth. Investors subscribing to the issue should monitor PM-KUSUM, which is applicable in non-grid areas as well, increasing its application.

Many States gain from lower electricity costs supplied to the farm sector; and utilise the cost

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 (24,719) and Nifty Bank (55,272) depreciated by 1.1 per cent and 1.9 per cent last week. But this might not have turned the outlook bearish. Here's an analysis.

**NIFTY 50**

Nifty futures (Jun) (24,727) lost 1.5 per cent over the last week.

As it happened, the open interest dropped by 3 per cent and it stood at 118 lakh contracts on Friday. This denotes some long unwinding.

The Put Call Ratio (PCR) of the nearest weekly expiry options stood at 0.70 on Friday. A ratio less than 1 is due to the relatively higher number of call option selling.

Traders sell calls when their outlook is bearish.

Also, the PCR of June monthly options was at 1 on Friday, dropping from 1.15 a week ago. So, the option positioning indicates a clear bearish bias.

However, the price action shows that the bears have not gained complete control. Although Nifty futures (Jun) declined on Friday, there was a recovery on the back of the support at 24,650.

Therefore, the price range of 24,650-25,250, within which the contract has been trading over the past month, remains valid. Until either of these levels are taken out, we cannot be certain about the next leg of trend.

Yet, the broader trend is bullish.

In case Nifty futures (Jun) recovers and breaks out of 25,250, it can rally to 26,000. Resistance above 26,000 is at 27,000.

On the other hand, if bears



# Future tense

**F&O TRACKER.** Traders should be cautious about geopolitical uncertainties

**BROAD TREND**

- Long unwinding in index futures
- Options indicate short-term weakness
- Tighten stop-loss for Nifty futures long

tions fell from 1 on June 6 to 0.70 on June 13, indicating addition of more call short positions when compared to puts. This is a bearish sign.

While the futures and options data gives Nifty Bank futures (Jun) a bearish bias, the chart shows that the contract remains above key support levels.

The 23.6 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of the prior upturn lies at 55,400, which is the nearest support.

Other notable supports are at 55,000 and 54,000. So long as the base at 54,000 stays valid, Nifty Bank futures (Jun) will retain positive inclination.

The contract is likely to resume the upturn from the current level or after a decline to 55,000 or 54,000.

This upward move can take Nifty Bank futures (Jun) to 57,800-58,000 price band. Nearest barrier above 58,000 is at 60,000.

**Strategy:** Given the uncertainty in the market, triggered by the geopolitical developments, and that there is a chance for Nifty Bank futures (Jun) to extend the current dip further before resumption of rally, we recommend traders stay out for now.

Buy Nifty Bank futures (Jun) if it drops to 55,000. Target and stop-loss can be 57,500 and 54,000 respectively.

gain more traction and drag Nifty futures (Jun) below 24,650, the downtrend will most likely extend to 24,200 and 24,000, potential support levels.

**NIFTY BANK**  
Nifty Bank futures (Jun) (55,614) declined 2 per cent over the past week. There was also a drop in open interest – it decreased by 7 per cent and stood at 19.6 lakh contracts on Friday. This shows long unwinding.

Option traders can consider buying June expiry 24,800-call op-

tion, which closed at ₹228.40 on Friday. But this is a short term trade. Target and stop-loss can be ₹500 and ₹100 respectively.

**Strategy:** Hold Nifty futures (Jun) buy trade initiated at 24,970. But revise the stop-loss upwards from 24,450 to 24,550 to reduce the risk of loss due to geopolitical uncertainties. Retain the target at 26,000.

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**MASTERING DERIVATIVES.** Traders roll options to adjust positions or repair them

**Venkatesh Bangarawamy**

Previously in this column, we discussed what rollover means in relation to futures contracts and how to determine the economics of a rollover. But what about options? This week, we discuss why rollover is typically referred to in the context of futures and not options. That said, we also discuss what rolling options refers to.

**ZERO VALUE**

Options can expire worthless. This makes for a good case to argue that rollover is typically referred to in the context of futures, not options. Options that are out-of-the-money (OTM) will have zero value at expiry. In contrast, futures contract moves nearly one-to-one with its underlying. Therefore, with the underlying price above zero, futures will have a positive value at expiry. Note that rollover of futures refers to closing the near-month contract and opening the same position (long or short) in the next-month contract.

But why not rollover options? If a strike is in-the-money (ITM) before the near-dated expiry,

**THE CONTRAST**

Traders roll options to extend trading horizon of existing position, considering the economics of rollover. In contrast, they roll options to adjust existing position

why would you rollover the position? You may just as well capture the gains; longer you hold the strike, the lesser the gains you generate because of time decay (options lose time value with each passing day), unless the underlying continues to move up sharply. Also, rolling an ITM strike of the next expiry may not be gainful for two

reasons. One, you must pay for the intrinsic value, which makes the absolute option premium large. And two, ITM strikes are less liquid. So, selling them later will be difficult.

What about rollover of OTM strikes? The maximum loss on an option position is the premium you pay, unlike in the case of the futures where losses can be large. So, what is the motivation to rollover an OTM strike that expires (or is likely to expire) worthless? Also, given the number of strikes available, it is moot if closing a near-dated expiry OTM strike and initiating the same position using a different OTM strike of the next expiry is gainful for two

Traders typically "rollover" futures to extend the trading horizon of their existing position, after considering the economics of rollover. In contrast, traders "roll" options to adjust an existing position. Suppose an OTM call you hold becomes ITM, as the underlying subsequently moves up. Calls and puts gradually lose liquidity as they move from OTM to ITM. So, you close the position, take profits and move to a higher strike (OTM) call of the same or next expiry if you believe the underlying trend remains strong.

**OPTIONAL READING**

Rolling options are also helpful in repair strategies. Suppose you have a long call position and the underlying moves down. Your call loses value, but you believe that the downturn will stop soon. What if you expect the price to move up but not to the original price target? You can decide to roll from a long call into a bull call spread. You can likewise roll from a bull call spread to a ratio spread.

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

# More room for gain

**BULLION CUES.** Consider long positions

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Gold (\$3,433/ounce) rallied 3.7 per cent and silver (\$36.3/ounce) was up nearly 1 per cent last week. Similarly, in the domestic market, gold futures (₹1,00,276/10 gm) appreciated 3.3 per cent and silver futures (₹1,06,493/kg) rose by 1 per cent.

**MCX-GOLD (\$1,00,276)**

Gold futures (Aug) hit a high of ₹1,00,681 on Friday, which is a record peak, before moderating a little to ₹1,00,276.

The momentum looks strong, and the probability of further rise is high. The nearest potential barriers are at ₹1,03,500 and ₹1,05,000.

In case there is change in direction and gold futures falls, it can find support at ₹1,00,000. Below this, notable support levels are at ₹98,500 and ₹97,600.

**Trade strategy:** Buy gold futures (Aug) now at ₹1,00,276 and accumulate at ₹98,500.

Place initial stop-loss at ₹97,600. When the contract rises to ₹1,02,000, tighten the stop-loss to ₹1,01,000.

On a rally to ₹1,03,000, alter the stop-loss to ₹1,02,250. Exit at ₹1,03,500.

**MCX-SILVER (₹1,06,493)**

Although silver futures (Jul) posted a gain, apart from a rally on Monday, the contract was largely trading in a band. It was held between ₹1,05,000 and ₹1,07,200.

Nevertheless, the outlook is bullish, and the contract can rally anytime.

Even though ₹1,07,200 can be a hurdle, we expect silver futures (Jul) to surpass this level and touch ₹1,10,000. Subsequent resistance is at ₹1,11,000.

On the other hand, if silver futures (Jul) drops from the current level, it can find support at ₹70 and ₹68.

Overall, the next move could be a minor correction to ₹70, and then Brent futures can resume the rally, which can potentially take it to ₹82.

**MCX-CRUISE OIL (₹6,161)**

Crude oil futures (Jul) saw a strong rally last week, and hit a

# Upside potential

**CRUDE CHECK.** Participants can go long

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices surged considerably last week. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$74.20/barrel) gained 11.7 per cent and the crude oil futures on the MCX (₹6,161/barrel) was up 12.6 per cent.

**BRENT FUTURES (\$74.20)**

Brent crude oil futures went past resistances at ₹68, ₹70 and ₹75 last week and marked a five-month high of ₹78.50 on Friday. But it saw some moderation and closed the week at ₹74.20.

Note that the price band of ₹80-82 is a resistance. If the current uptrend lifts the contract above ₹82, it can extend the rally to ₹90. Subsequent resistance is at ₹95.

In case there is a drop in price, the contract can find support at ₹70 and ₹68.

Overall, the next move could be a minor correction to ₹70, and then Brent futures can resume the rally, which can potentially take it to ₹82.

**MCX-CRUISE OIL (₹6,161)**

Crude oil futures (Jul) saw a strong rally last week, and hit a



high of ₹6,311 on Friday. After the initial uptick, the contract softened through the session and closed at ₹6,161.

A close above ₹6,000 is a bullish sign and keeps the probability of further rally high. But note that outstanding open interest dropped on Friday to 5,623 contracts compared to 6,782 contracts on Thursday, despite a substantial price gain.

So, there is an indication that traders booked profits at higher levels.

This might continue, which can drag the price lower. But it can be limited to either ₹6,000 or ₹5,800.

A resumption in the rally can lift crude oil futures to ₹7,000, a barrier.

**Trade strategy:** Buy crude oil futures (Jun) at ₹5,800. Target and stop-loss can be ₹6,800 and ₹5,600 respectively.**MCX-CRUISE OIL (₹6,161)**

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# F & O QUERY

**Akhil Nallamuthu**

bl. research bureau

I bought the June series 50,000-call on Page Industries for ₹150. Will the stock touch ₹49,000 or ₹50,000 by this month end? Kindly advise

TC Rajasekharan

**Page Industries (₹46,165):** Since early March, this stock has been in an upward trajectory. For the past three weeks, though, there has been some moderation in price as ₹48,800 acted as a barrier.

However, the chart shows that the stock has formed a considerable base at ₹45,750. The 50-day moving average lies at ₹45,600, thus making the price band of ₹45,600-45,750 a good support. In addition, Friday's candlestick denotes a bullish pin bar.

The aforesaid factors show that the stock is likely to resume the rally and align with the broader upturn soon. Once the upward movement starts, we can expect the scrip to appreciate to ₹49,300, a resistance. Above this, ₹50,000 is a potential barrier.

While the probability for a rally to ₹49,300 is high, whether that will happen before the end of the current expiry is uncertain. The option chain of June expiry shows that 48,000-call has the highest open interest; therefore, the broader expectation is that the stock might not surpass this level before expiration of June contracts.

That said, we can expect one leg of rally to ₹48,200 before June expiry. If such a move happens, and assuming that it occurs before the final week of expiry, the option premium of 50,000-call of June expiry can touch ₹100-110 price band.

So, we suggest holding the option contract and exit as and when the premium goes up to ₹100 and minimise the loss.

Post this, you may consider buying July expiry call options as the outlook is positive for the stock. The trend will turn bearish for the near-term only if the stock breaches the support at ₹45,600. As we move near the expiry of June contracts, the liquidity in the July series will improve. We suggest buying an at-the-money option.

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

# Change in Open Interest (OI)

Scrip	FII		Retail	
As on Jun 13	Weekly change %	As on Jun 13	Weekly change %	
<

Gurumurthy K  
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50, Sensex and the Nifty Bank index failed to sustain higher after opening the week with a wide gap-up. The benchmark indices fell all through the week. The fall intensified on Friday after Israel's attack on Iran.

Although the Israel-Iran conflict can continue to keep the market under pressure, Friday's price action indicates that the downside in the Indian benchmark indices could be limited. We will have to wait and watch the price action this week to see how the markets behave.

Also from a big picture, the fall last week has not changed the structure on the charts. The broader uptrend continues. We also retain our overall bullish view. So, any further fall from here should be considered as a good buying opportunity from a long-term perspective.

Among the sectors the BSE IT rose the most by 2.72 per cent. On the other hand, the BSE Reality index was beaten down the most last week. The index was down 3 per cent.

**FPIS BUY**

The Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) were net buyers of Indian equities last week. The equity segment saw a net inflow of about \$390 million last week.

**NIFTY 50 (24,718.60)**

Nifty failed to sustain the break above 25,100 last week. It touched a high of 25,222.40 and then tumbled to a low of 24,473 on Friday. The index has closed the week at 24,718.60, down 1.14 per cent.

**Short-term view:** The outlook is slightly mixed. The expected rise to 25,600-25,800 that we have been mentioning for some time has not got negated but is just getting delayed.

Immediate support is at 24,600. If Nifty manages to sustain above this support, a rise to 25,000-25,100 can be seen in a week or two.

Important support to watch will be 24,450. Nifty will come under pressure for a fall to 24,200-24,000 if it breaks below 24,450. However, a fall beyond 24,000 is unlikely.

**Medium-term view:** The overall bullish view is intact. The region between 24,000 and 23,500 can be a strong support which can limit the downside. As such we retain our bullish view of seeing 28,000-28,500 on the upside over the medium term. A corrective fall is possible thereafter.

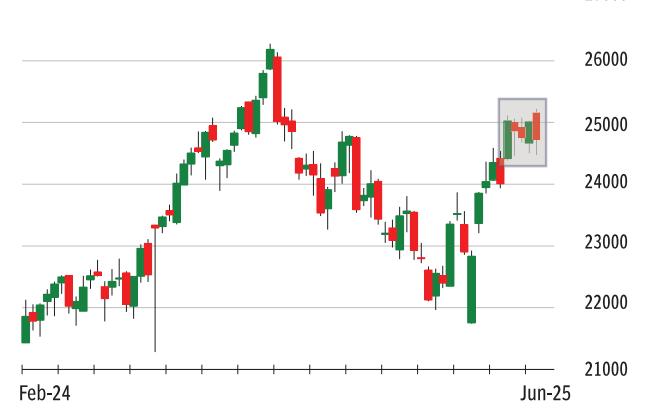
From a long-term perspect-

# Buy the dip

**INDEX OUTLOOK.** Nifty 50, Sensex and Nifty Bank have supports which can hold well and keep broader uptrend intact



.GETTY IMAGES

**Nifty 50: Range remains intact****SUPPORTS TO WATCH**

- Nifty 50: 24,600, 24,450
- Sensex: 80,500, 79,800
- Nifty Bank: 54,500, 53,900

after a reversal is possible again.

**Medium-term view:** There is no change in the broader bullish view; 79,000 will continue to act as a strong support and limit the downside. We retain our bullish view of seeing a rise to 86,000 over the medium-term. The long-term view of seeing 90,000-92,000 also remains intact.

**US MARKET OUTLOOK**

Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500 and the NASDAQ Composite index remained higher and stable until Thursday. The Israel-Iran conflict triggered a sharp fall on Friday wiping out all the gains made during the week. The Dow Jones, down 1.32 per cent, fell the most. The S&P 500 and NASDAQ Composite index were down 0.39 and 0.63 per cent respectively.

However, this fall has not altered our earlier bullish view. This could just be a temporary blip before the rise resumes.

**DOW JONES (42,197.79)**

Support is at 41,800. While that holds, the Dow Jones can rise back to 42,000 and 43,000 again. It will also keep intact our broader bullish view of seeing a rise to 45,000 over the medium term.

The Dow will come under pressure for more fall only if it breaks below 41,800. Such a break can drag it down to 41,000, the next important support. A break below 41,000 will turn the outlook bearish and will completely negate our bullish view of seeing 45,000 on the upside.

**S&P 500 (5,976.97)**

Support is at 5,940 which can limit the downside. A rise from there can take the index up to 6,050 again. An eventual break above 6,050 will then clear the way for the rise to 6,200 and 6,300. In case the index declines below 5,940, it can fall to 5,800-5,770.

**NASDAQ COMPOSITE**

Immediate support is at 19,270. Below that, 19,000-18,950 is the next important support. We expect the NASDAQ Composite index to reverse higher from either of these two supports and rise back. That will keep intact our bullish view of seeing 20,000-20,100 on the upside.

The bullish view will go wrong only if the index declines below 18,950. If that happens, a fall to 18,500 can be seen.

**bl. portfolio video**

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

**MOVERS & SHAKERS**

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

**Nava (₹554.85)**

Exhibits good momentum



The stock of Nava has posted a gain for three weeks straight indicating a strong upward momentum. Thus, the uptrend, which began in mid-February, appears to be retaining the strength. That said, there is a chance for the stock to witness a temporary price drop from the current level. Such a corrective decline is likely to be arrested by the ₹500-520 support band.

On the upside, the stock can rise to ₹660. We recommend buying at ₹550. Accumulate if the price dips to ₹520. Keep a stop-loss at ₹480. When the price rises to ₹600, trail the stop-loss to ₹550. Tighten the stop-loss further to ₹600 when the stock rallies to ₹630. Liquidate the longs at ₹660.

**Oil India (₹477.85)**

Recovery steady



Oil India's stock has been in an uptrend since early April after finding support at ₹325. The latest leg of the rally has been in place since past two weeks as it bounced off ₹420. The chart appears positive. Although there might be some moderation in price from the current level, it is likely to be limited. So, going ahead, we expect the stock to soften to ₹450 and resume the rally. This

upsurge can lift Oil India's share price to ₹600. While moving up, there might be some consolidation at around ₹550, a minor hurdle. Buy at ₹475 and ₹450. Place the stop-loss at ₹400. Revise the stop-loss up to ₹470 when the stock hits ₹520. Move the stop-loss further higher to ₹520 when the price touches ₹570. Exit at ₹600.

**RHI Magnesita (₹504.60)**

Forms a higher base



The stock of RHI Magnesita has seen a notable uptick in price since June 5. Thus, it has now rebounded from the ₹430-435 support band twice since early May, indicating that the scrip has formed a good base. Following this, the stock broke out of the resistance at ₹475 last week. This has opened room for further rally. Although there is a hurdle at ₹525, we expect the stock to rise past this level and appreciate to ₹700 over the medium-term. So, traders can go long at ₹500 and buy more shares at ₹475. Place the stop-loss at ₹420. When the stock touches ₹600, alter the stop-loss to ₹550. Move the stop-loss higher to ₹600 when the price hits ₹650. Book profits at ₹700.

# Dollar downtrend intact

**CURRENCY OUTLOOK.** Rupee looks vulnerable to weaken more

Gurumurthy K

bl. research bureau

The dollar index continued to fall last week thereby keeping the overall downtrend intact. Indeed, the long-awaited fall to 98 also happened last week. The index touched a low 97.60, and then managed to bounce back slightly from there to close the week at 98.18. The US Treasury Yields also fell last week. The 10Yr Yield fell to a low of 4.31 per cent before closing the week at 4.4 per cent.

On the domestic front, the Indian rupee inched higher initially. But the escalating Israel-Iran conflict triggered a sharp fall in the rupee on Friday. The rupee fell about 0.6 per cent on Friday, giving away all the gains made during the week.

**GREENBACK OUTLOOK**

The downturn continues to remain intact on the dollar index (98.18). Immediate resistance is around 99. Above that, a cluster of resistances are there in the 99.50-100 region. We expect the dollar index to remain below 99 and fall back again. A break below 98 will then drag it down to 96.

But it is important to note is that 96 is a very strong long-term support which can halt the downturn. The dollar index can reverse higher from around 96, and rise to 100 over the medium term.

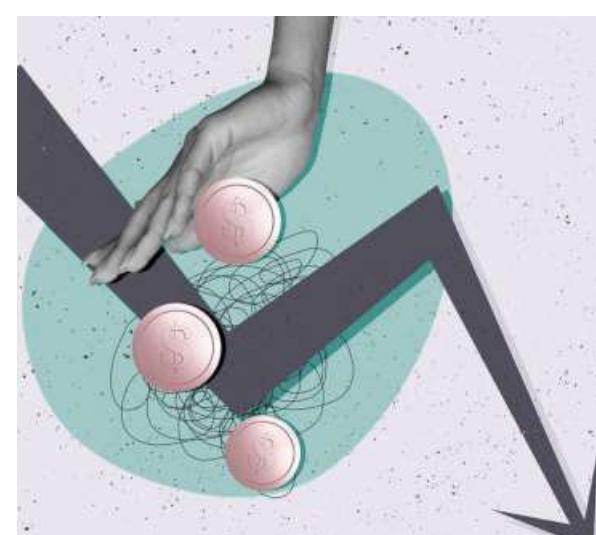
**YIELDS: RANGE-BOUND**

The 10Yr Treasury Yield (4.4 per cent) has been stuck between 4.3 per cent and 4.52 per cent over the last couple of weeks. That leaves the outlook mixed. Support is the 4.3-4.25 per cent region. Resistance is in the 4.55 per cent zone.

**EURO: GAINS STRENGTH**

As expected, the euro (EURUSD: 1.1549) rose to 1.16 breaking above 1.14.

The currency touched a high of 1.1631 and then fell back from there to close the week at 1.1549.

**● MORE FALL**

Resistance is in the 85.80-85.70 and the rupee can fall to 86.60 against the dollar in the coming weeks.

The outlook remains positive. Support will now be in the 1.14-1.1350 region which is likely to limit the downside.

We expect the euro to breach 1.16 and rise to 1.18. An extended rise to 1.20 is also a possibility which cannot be ruled out.

**RUPEE: BEARISH BIAS**

The Indian rupee (USDINR: 86.09) inched higher initially. It touched a high of 85.42 against the dollar. But the domestic currency fell sharply on Friday on the back of the Israel-Iran conflict. It made a low of 86.20, and recovered slightly from there to close the week at 86.09.

The bias is turning negative. A recovery to 85.80 is a possibility in the near term. But 85.80-85.70 is a strong resistance which can cap the upside going forward. As long as the rupee stays below 85.70, there are good chances to see a fall to 86.60 in the coming weeks.

# Chart-Gazing • bl • 7

**TECH QUERY**GURUMURTHY K  
bl. research bureau

I have bought Indian Bank shares around ₹450. Shall I hold or book profits?

Preetha, Kochi

**Indian Bank (₹625):** The stock is looking quite bullish from a long-term perspective. The breakout above ₹600 made in June this year marks the end of the year-long consolidation. It also indicates that the broader uptrend is intact. From a long-term perspective, Indian Bank share price has the potential to target ₹900 and even higher. This rise can happen over the next one or two years. Hold the stock and keep a stop-loss at ₹570 to protect some profits. Revise the stop-loss up to ₹620 when the price touches ₹740. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹780 when the share price moves up to ₹840. Exit the stock at ₹900.

I have shares of Authum Investment & Infrastructure at ₹1,887. What is the outlook?

Anil Kuyilath

**Authum Investment & Infrastructure (₹2,449):** The stock is in a strong uptrend. But there is a strong trendline resistance coming up in the ₹2,750-2,800 region. This resistance zone can halt the current rally. There are good chances to see a reversal from here. So, that leaves the stock with limited upside from here and you may have to be careful. Support is at ₹2,280. As long as the stock stays

above this support, there are chances to see a rise to ₹2,750-2,800 first, and then a reversal can happen. Keep a stop-loss at ₹2,260, and hold the stock. Move the stop-loss up to ₹2,480 when the price goes up to ₹2,620. Exit the stock at ₹2,730.

I have shares of Restaurant Brands Asia at ₹155. Can the price go up again? Should I exit now?

R Srikanth, Chennai

**Restaurant Brand Asia (₹78.80):** The stock is in a strong downtrend. The recent bounce from the low around ₹60 made in April this year is just a corrective rise within it. Support is at ₹74. If the stock manages to sustain above it, then a rise to ₹100 is possible. A strong and sustained break above ₹100 is needed to indicate a trend reversal, and take the share price up to ₹125-130.

But such a rise beyond ₹100 will need some strong trigger. The downturn resumption from around ₹100 can drag the price down to ₹60, and even ₹50, in the coming months. So, it is better to accept the loss and exit stock.

What is the outlook for CreditAccess Grameen?

Ruben Thomas

**CrediAccess Grameen (₹1,180.35):** The downturn that was in place since January 2024 has been reversed. Support is in the ₹1,085-1,050 region. Below that, ₹900-850 is the next strong support zone. A break above the immediate resistance at ₹1,285 can take the price up to ₹1,400 initially. A further break above ₹1,400 can take the stock up to ₹1,600, and even ₹1,800, again. If

you are a long-term investor, you can buy the stock at ₹1,120 and ₹1,080. Keep the stop-loss at ₹820. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹1,180 when the price goes up to ₹1,380. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹1,450 and ₹1,650 when the price touches ₹1,600 and ₹1,700 respectively. Exit the stock at ₹1,800.

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

## BANDU'S BLOCKBUSTERS.

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

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

**1 Narayana Hrudayala**

Last week's prize winner

**2 Biocon**

Last week's winning stock

**3 Max Healthcare Institute**

Laurus Labs

**4 Glenmark Pharmaceuticals**

Closing price (Jun 6) ₹641.80

## 8 • bl • Take 500

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

The Benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty 50 were down 1.3 and 1.1 per cent respectively last week. BSE IT gained the most by 2.7 per cent followed by BSE Healthcare 1.8 per cent and BSE Teck 1.4 per cent. BSE Realty and BSE Consumer Durables declined by 3.1 and 2.2 per cent respectively last week.

	Nifty 50	Sensex	Auto	Bankex	Capital Goods	Consumer Durables	FMCG	Healthcare	IT	Metal	Oil & Gas	Power	PSU	Realty	Teck
P/E	22.2	22.7	23.0	14.2	46.4	81.2	41.0	42.2	29.7	15.8	12.9	27.1	12.0	54.9	31.6
P/BV	3.6	4.2	6.0	2.6	8.7	15.2	8.6	6.5	7.9	2.4	1.7	4.0	2.1	6.4	8.3
Dividend Yield	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.4	1.8	0.5	2.1	3.3	3.1	1.4	2.8	0.3	1.7
Weekly Return (%)	-1.1 ▼	-1.3 ▼	-1.5 ▼	-1.6 ▼	-1.5 ▼	-2.2 ▼	-2.0 ▼	1.8 ▲	2.7 ▲	-1.7 ▼	0.3 ▲	-1.4 ▼	-1.7 ▼	-3.1 ▼	1.4 ▲
Monthly Return (%)	0.6 ▲	0.0 ▽	0.8 ▲	0.0 ▽	5.8 ▲	-2.4 ▽	-2.2 ▽	4.8 ▲	3.1 ▲	2.2 ▽	1.8 ▲	4.0 ▲	16.5 ▲	2.3 ▲	16.5 ▲
Annual Return (%)	5.6 ▲	5.6 ▲	-9.2 ▼	10.3 ▲	-3.2 ▽	-2.7 ▽	-3.0 ▽	18.8 ▲	5.8 ▲	-8.0 ▽	-7.8 ▽	-14.1 ▼	-7.9 ▽	-10.5 ▼	9.1 ▲

The sector indices are disseminated by S&P BSE.

Company	CMP	EPS	PE	PB	Year End	Sales	Profit	Wkly Rtn	ROCE	DER	Yr/High	Yr/Low			
360 ONE [1]	1140.3	27.3	41.7	6.4	202503	3.7	2.9	29.5	6.9	14.5	2.5	1317.3	766.1		
3M India	29185.3	542.7	53.8	15.3	202406	-0.3	21.6	3.0	-0.7	39.8	0.0	41000.0	25714.4		
<b>A</b>															
A B B [2]	5996.9	89.1	67.3	18.0	202503	2.5	3.2	10.2	29.2	-0.9	38.4	0.0	9200.0	4500.1	
A B Real Estate	2449.8	1.1	7.0	202503	-4.2	-10.3	-16.2	-10.4	3.8	7.5	3.0	1242.8	1638.0		
Aadhar Hsg. Fin.	437.8	21.1	20.7	3.0	202503	20.4	21.0	21.6	-2.7	11.4	3.2	516.7	340.5		
Aarti Industries [5]	463.0	9.1	51.0	3.0	202503	9.9	-2.7	14.2	-2.1	-2.9	7.3	0.6	767.1	347.4	
ACC [2]	474.4	1.5	15.9	1.5	202503	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	152.0	152.0	
Action Consol.(Eq.) [2]	1202.3	34.4	35.0	8.9	202503	15.0	20.4	14.2	-3.2	3.2	0.0	1601.0	917.1		
ADANIPOLIS [2]	861.6	20.2	47.4	202503	35.4	79.0	43.1	11.5	-2.6	10.1	2.2	1347.9	588.3		
Adani Energy [1]	2506.7	36.3	69.1	6.2	202503	7.6	41.2	1.5	20.1	-1.1	9.0	1.8	3351.0	2026.9	
Adani Green [1]	989.7	10.7	92.1	18.7	202503	22.1	79.5	22.9	35.6	-2.8	9.4	6.4	2091.9	758.0	
Adani Ports [2]	1405.3	52.3	26.9	4.9	202503	23.1	28.5	14.1	34.0	-4.5	14.0	9.0	1604.2	939.9	
Adani Power [1]	571.3	33.5	17.8	4.4	202503	6.5	-3.7	11.6	2.5	21.2	0.7	769.4	430.9		
Adani Gas [1]	360.1	11.0	17.4	2.0	202503	14.9	-0.5	1.0	-3.0	3.0	2.5	12.0	1292.4	533.0	
Aditya Birla Fin. [1]	766.7	32.2	23.8	5.9	202503	1.7	17.2	1.5	-0.5	1.5	2.0	12.2	1120.0	562.0	
Aditya Birla Finc. [2]	1202.3	15.3	20.3	9.2	202503	16.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.2	13.8	12.0	172.0	12.0	
Aditya Birla Cap [2]	240.4	12.7	19.0	2.1	202503	13.3	-2.6	18.6	-0.1	3.1	10.1	4.1	251.0	148.8	
Aegis Logistics [1]	790.0	16.5	48.0	7.6	202412	-8.9	-5.5	1.2	-1.5	1.6	10.6	317.5	610.5		
Aether Industri. [2]	792.0	12.6	62.8	4.7	202503	104.4	4765.7	40.2	86.5	0.3	7.5	0.0	202503	8.7	
Affla [3]	1927.4	27.2	70.8	2.2	202503	17.9	23.0	28.5	7.1	15.8	0.1	1986.3	1212.1		
AIA Engineering [2]	3443.4	11.6	35.4	7.7	202503	1.0	-2.0	1.1	-1.7	2.5	0.2	4940.0	3050.1		
Ajanta Pharma [2]	2635.7	19.0	75.7	35.4	202503	11.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	2320.0	2024.0	
Akzo Alumin. [2]	102.3	1.5	14.3	1.5	202503	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	1230.0	516.0	
Alembic Pharma [2]	999.3	29.2	34.3	3.8	202503	16.7	-12.0	7.1	-6.9	1.2	12.9	0.1	1292.6	726.5	
Alkem Lab. [2]	4848.1	18.1	26.0	4.8	202503	7.1	0.9	2.3	14.5	-0.3	18.3	0.2	6440.0	4498.9	
Alkyl Amines [2]	1990.0	36.4	54.7	7.3	202503	8.3	19.7	9.1	25.0	0.5	18.0	0.0	2498.0	1500.0	
Alok Industries [1]	20.2	-1.8	-0.5	202503	-35.1	-17.0	-32.7	-7.5	4.0	0.0	30.0	13.9	0.0	120.0	120.0
Amara Rajya Ene. [1]	1002.7	47.4	21.1	2.5	202503	52.5	-2.9	7.7	-0.1	2.2	18.8	0.0	1774.9	4270.0	
Amber Enterprise [2]	543.3	19.8	92.9	5.0	202503	33.6	24.2	16.5	40.7	-0.3	18.8	0.0	1817.0	368.0	
Amriti Enterprises [2]	543.3	19.8	92.9	5.0	202503	33.6	24.2	16.5	40.7	-0.3	18.8	0.0	1817.0	368.0	
Anand Rathi Wea. [5]	2014.2	36.1	55.8	24.8	202503	20.4	28.8	29.7	-0.1	1.8	56.8	0.1	2320.0	1586.1	
Anant Raj [2]	545.0	12.4	44.0	5.5	202503	22.2	51.5	38.9	6.3	-5.2	8.2	0.3	947.3	366.2	
Angel One [2]	2952.9	12.5	22.6	4.7	202503	-22.2	-48.7	22.6	4.1	-9.0	25.8	0.0	2704.0	180.0	
Anupam Rasayan [2]	1120.2	8.5	131.6	4.3	202503	24.7	-4.2	-2.5	-27.4	7.6	9.4	0.0	1151.0	601.0	
Aprl Inds. [2]	7888.4	20.5	38.6	7.3	202503	17.1	5.8	15.2	-0.5	-2.6	4.9	0.1	1179.7	4270.0	
APPL Apollo Tubes [2]	1846.1	27.3	62.2	12.0	202503	15.6	3.4	-3.6	24.5	0.1	1930.0	1250.0			
Applo Infra. [2]	6959.0	69.6	12.2	1.5	202503	15.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	1974.0	1200.0	
Apollo Tyres [1]	462.1	19.5	23.2	9.0	202503	2.6	-2.6	-0.3	-0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	1870.0	1870.0	
Appus Value Investors [2]	218.0	15.8	21.3	3.0	202503	29.2	26.2	28.2	11.1	1.7	1.1	4.0	2017.0	267.8	
Archean Chemicals [2]	637.3	15.8	40.2	4.2	202503	21.7	-7.0	-21.7	-38.8	-0.1	1.				

Venkatasubramanian K  
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One of the common modes of raising loans amongst the relatively lower income sections of the population in India is through pledging gold to banks or NBFCs (and, of course, informal lenders).

For perspective, as of FY25, the outstanding gold loan book size in India was as much as ₹2.1 trillion, an increase of over 103 per cent year-on-year. Silver, too, is another metal that is used to avail loans.

Given the importance of the yellow metal, and silver in shortening up the finances of many borrowers, the RBI recently came out with a new set of directions on some key aspects of these transactions.

Specifically, on the collateral (gold in various forms), valuation, loan repayment terms, auction details, communication of terms and conditions, prior intimations to customers, damages during custody and penalties for returning the pledged gold are some aspects covered in the new RBI directions.

The new norms will have to be complied with latest by April 1, 2026. Gold loans sanctioned till that date will continue to follow the present rules.

Here are the key details that gold loan borrowers must understand before pledging their wares:

**VALUING THE PLEDGED**

The RBI has clearly specified what can be pledged with banks or NBFCs. Only gold jewellery, ornaments and coins can be pledged for getting loans from lenders. Gold ETFs and mutual funds are expressly prohibited by the regulator from being offered as collaterals.

The gold loan rules stated here are for consumption loans: for short-term financing needs of borrowers by placing gold as collateral.

For gold loans of up to ₹2.5 lakh, lenders are not to seek a detailed assessment of the borrower's repayment capacity or credit history. This helps new-to-credit persons or those off the formal lending grid to avail loans. But, for amounts above the aforesaid threshold, a thorough check of the credit history is required.

The next important aspect is the loan-to-value (LTV) calcula-

# New RBI norms add glitter to gold loans

**LOAN-WISE.** For gold loans of up to ₹2.5 lakh, lenders need not seek detailed assessment of the borrower's repayment capacity or credit history



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

**KEY POINTS**

- Loan to value of 85% for up to ₹2.5 lakh
- Only ornaments, jewellery allowed as collateral, not gold ETFs or funds
- Bullet repayments to be done within a year

tion. For gold loans of up to ₹2.5 lakh, the LTV is as high as 85 per cent. For ₹2.5 lakh to ₹5 lakh, the LTV is 80 per cent, and for amounts greater than ₹5 lakh, the loan-to-value is 75 per cent.

While valuing the gold, only the gold or silver contained in the collateral is to be considered.

Precious stones or gems added to the jewellery or ornaments should not be added to the gold portion's value.

When ornaments are pledged, the maximum weight that can be pledged in the case of gold is 1 kg, and for silver, it is 10 kg.

In the case of coins, the total weight allowed is 50 gm for gold and 500 gm for silver.

**AIDING BORROWERS**

When borrowers apply for gold loans, all the terms and conditions must be clearly explained either in the regional language

or that of the person availing the loan. The procedures must be standardised across all the branches of a lender throughout the country.

Bullet repayments, where the principal and interest are repaid together at the end of the tenor, must be done within one year.

If there are any damages in the ornaments/jewellery during the tenor of the loan, the repair charges are to be borne by the lender, so is any loss of the collateral (gold) during the pen-

dency of the loan or during auctions.

The lender is expected to return the pledged collateral to the borrower on the same day of loan settlement. The maximum period allowed in this regard is seven working days. Any delay in returning the gold to the borrower beyond this timeframe will mean payment of ₹5,000 per day in penalty. All delays must be promptly communicated to the borrower with the associated reasons.

When a borrower defaults, the lender is allowed to auction the pledged gold, after giving due notice.

Now, there are specific norms laid out for conducting the auction as well. The lender should set the reserve price for the auction at not less than 90 per cent of the value of the pledged gold's current value.

In case the auction fails to generate bidding interest twice,

the reserve price can be set at a lower 85 per cent of the current value.

The first auction must be conducted in the physical format in the district where the branch that gave the loan is located. Subsequent auctions can be conducted either online or in nearby districts. Related parties to the bank cannot participate in the gold auction process to avoid conflict of interest.

Any surplus amount generated from the auction, which is above the loan value, must be handed over to the borrower within seven working days from the receipt of full auction proceeds. In case there is a deficit after the auction, the lender can recover the dues in keeping with the loan agreement.

Overall, the processes of taking the loan, repayment and auction have been streamlined and made customer-friendly by the RBI via these directions.

**SIMPLY PUT.**

## What is factor investing?

Factor investing targets return-driving traits like value, momentum and quality. Friends Paramesh & Niranjan discuss

Dhuravel Gunasekaran  
bl. research bureau

**Paramesh:** Hey Niranjan, I read in the newspaper recently that BSE has launched some new indices, something called "factor indices".

**Niranjan:** Ah, yes! BSE launched four new smart beta indices based on factors: value, momentum, quality, and low volatility. These are part of something called factor investing. Mutual funds are launching schemes that track these indices.

**Paramesh:** I thought investing just meant picking good stocks or investing in mutual funds like the Nifty 50 index fund.

**Niranjan:** Factor investing is a slightly advanced method. Instead of blindly following market-cap-based indices like Nifty 50 or Sensex, factor investing builds a portfolio based on specific "factors" that have historically delivered better returns.

**Paramesh:** So these "factors" are like special powers of stocks?

**Niranjan:** In a way, yes! Factors are characteristics being undervalued, showing strong



momentum, having high quality, or showing low volatility. These help in picking stocks expected to perform well in different market conditions.

**Paramesh:** Can you explain

one or two in simple words?

**Niranjan:** Sure. Take the value factor. It picks stocks that are cheap compared to their actual worth, like those with low price-to-earnings or price-to-book ra-

tios. It tends to do well during economic recoveries or when interest rates are rising. But it may underperform in fast-moving bull markets.

Then there's momentum. It chooses stocks that have been rising recently, expecting the trend to continue. It performs well in strong rallies but can fall hard when the market turns.

**Paramesh:** Sounds interesting! But, what if I don't like taking too much risk?

**Niranjan:** Then look at low volatility and quality factors. Low volatility includes stocks that don't fluctuate much; very helpful during market crashes. Quality focuses on companies with strong profits, low debt, and stable fundamentals. It gives steady returns and cushions downside risk.

Just like Nifty 50 index funds, these factor indices can be tracked through mutual funds and ETFs. Earlier, most tracked NSE indices, but now with BSE joining in, you've got more variety.

**Paramesh:** But do these really perform better than regular index funds?

**Niranjan:** In many cases, yes.

In 2024, momentum-based smart beta funds gave returns of 35 per cent, while the Nifty 50 returned only 13 per cent. Single-factor strategies can underperform for long periods. The value factor started performing well only in 2022 after a dull phase from 2017 to 2021.

**Paramesh:** So, I can jump from one factor to another based on results, right?

**Niranjan:** No, no! Frequently switching between factors can ruin your returns. You need to stay invested in a chosen factor for at least 7-10 years to see the full benefit.

**Paramesh:** Alright, last question: how do I choose the right one?

**Niranjan:** If you're conservative, start with low volatility or quality. If you're okay with moderate risk, try value or even equal weight.

And if you're aggressive, go for momentum or alpha; but be prepared for sharp ups and downs. Multi-factor funds are also available. Start slow, stay disciplined and always think long-term.

**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: June 13, 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 (years)	Annual premium (₹) (inclusive of GST)		Claim settlement ratio (%)
			Male	Female	
Aditya Birla Capital	DigiShield Plan	85	55	15,859	98.4
Bandhan Life	iTerm Prime	70	40	14,282	91.75
Bajaj Allianz	eTouch	99	69	13,100	91.385
Canara HSBC Life	Young Term Plan - Life Secure	99	69	13,387	91.183
HDFC Life	Click 2 Protect Super	85	70	15,863	91.484
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	69	14,651	91.454
Max Life	Smart Total Elite Protection	85	55	13,544	91.360
SBI Life	eShield Next	100	70	17,494	91.653
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorna Raksha Promise	100	70	12,909	91.955

Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer

Source: www.policybazaar.com, Date: June 13, 2025

**Bank FD interest rates (%)**

Bank	<1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	w.e.f
<b>FOREIGN BANKS</b>					
DBS Bank	6	6.65	6.45	6.45	Jun 12
Deutsche Bank	5	7.35	6.25	6.25	Jun 13
HSBC	4.1	6.5	5.35	5.5	Jun 05
Scotia Bank	3.7	3.9	4	4	May 01
Standard Chartered	6.5	7.2	7	7	May 03
<b>INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>					
Bank of Maharashtra	6.5	7.15	6.3	6.25	Jun 10
Bank of Baroda	6	6.6	6.4	6.4	Jun 12
Bank of India	5.75	7	6.65	6.5	Jun 01
Canara Bank	6	6.6	6.5	6.5	Jun 09
Central Bank of India	5.5	7	6.75	6.75	Jun 10
Indian Bank	4.75	6.9	6.4	6.25	Jun 09
Indian Overseas Bank	5.5	7.1	6.6	6.3	Jun 12
Punjab National Bank	6.25	6.9	6.7	6.5	Jun 01
Punjab & Sind Bank	6	7.25	6.5	6.5	Apr 01
State Bank of India	6.3	6.85	6.7	6.55	May 16
UCO Bank	6.85	6.9	6.3	6.2	Jun 05
Union Bank	6.15	6.85	6.6	6.4	Jun 12
<b>INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS</b>					

# 10 • bl • Star Track MF Ratings

CHENNAI  
businessline.portfolio  
SUNDAY - JUNE 15 - 2025



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

★★★★★ Canara Robeco Bluechip Equity	62.2	16027	1.7	0.5	7.5	19.0	20.5	14.0	0.78	
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Bluechip	108.5	69763	1.4	0.9	6.8	21.5	24.0	14.5	0.95	
★★★★★ JM Large Cap	150.1	526	2.4	0.8	-3.8	19.5	18.5	10.9	0.65	
★★★★★ Baroda BNPP Large Cap	217.7	2614	2.0	0.8	2.3	19.9	20.8	12.8	0.76	
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large Cap	83.0	1271	2.1	0.6	3.7	19.4	21.1	12.7	0.80	
★★★★★ Kotak Bluechip	563.1	10138	1.7	0.6	5.2	18.9	21.7	13.1	0.81	
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Large Cap	89.1	41750	1.5	0.7	5.9	24.4	26.6	14.6	0.97	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity	518.9	29859	1.7	1.0	6.2	19.3	22.2	12.7	0.83	
★★★★★ Bandhan Large Cap	75.3	1862	2.0	0.9	6.0	20.2	20.6	12.4	0.72	
★★★★★ HDFC Large Cap	117.0	37716	1.6	1.0	3.1	19.9	23.2	13.2	0.87	
★★★★★ HSBC Large Cap	461.2	1826	2.1	1.3	2.8	18.5	19.6	12.4	0.66	
★★★★★ Invesco India Largecap	68.3	1488	2.1	0.8	6.8	20.8	21.5	13.0	0.72	
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large Cap	110.7	39530	1.5	0.5	7.3	16.1	19.9	13.6	0.76	
★★★★★ SBI Blue Chip	91.1	52251	1.5	0.8	5.8	18.3	21.5	12.9	0.85	
★★★★★ Tata Large Cap	494.6	2611	2.0	1.0	2.4	18.6	21.7	12.1	0.82	
★★★★★ UTI Large Cap	270.8	12720	1.8	0.9	5.4	16.3	19.8	12.1	0.72	
★★★★★ Axis Large Cap	59.4	33413	1.6	0.7	3.7	15.1	16.3	12.4	0.55	
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Bluechip	1004.7	7692	1.8	1.1	7.0	17.0	20.1	11.3	0.73	
★★★★★ LIC MF Large Cap	55.6	1469	2.1	1.0	5.6	15.9	18.0	10.8	0.62	
★★★★★ Union Largecap	23.1	449	2.5	1.5	0.9	16.4	19.4	-	0.70	
★★★★★ DSP Large Cap	471.6	6036	1.9	1.0	11.3	22.8	21.4	12.1	0.85	
★★★★★ Groww Largecap	41.9	128	2.5	1.3	0.3	17.5	18.4	11.9	0.63	
★★★★★ PGM India Large Cap	335.2	600	2.4	0.9	4.8	15.9	18.0	10.8	0.64	
★★★★★ Mahi Manu Large Cap	22.8	675	2.3	0.7	4.8	17.5	20.7	-	0.76	
★★★★★ Taurus Large Cap	154.8	49	2.6	2.4	2.1	19.0	19.5	9.8	0.61	

## EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ HDFC Large and Mid Cap	334.8	25412	1.7	0.9	4.0	25.0	28.9	14.4	0.97	
★★★★★ Quant Large & Mid Cap	115.9	3739	1.9	0.6	-8.1	23.0	25.4	17.1	0.74	
★★★★★ Bandhan Large & Mid Cap	131.4	9107	1.7	0.6	7.7	28.8	28.7	15.7	0.96	
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	992.1	21657	1.7	0.8	9.0	25.5	29.4	15.8	1.08	
★★★★★ Kotak Equity Opport	334.7	27046	1.6	0.6	1.4	23.6	24.8	15.6	0.85	
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	147.3	39459	1.5	0.6	3.7	19.6	24.4	17.9	0.81	
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Emerging Equities	253.9	25092	1.6	0.6	6.3	21.0	24.3	16.3	0.80	
★★★★★ DSP Large & Mid Cap	611.5	15013	1.7	0.7	6.1	25.0	25.4	15.8	0.89	
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	85.8	3914	1.9	0.5	6.6	22.8	25.2	14.8	0.81	
★★★★★ Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	98.0	7274	1.8	0.7	14.4	28.8	26.0	15.8	0.78	
★★★★★ LIC MF Large & Midcap	38.7	3055	1.9	0.6	6.1	20.9	23.6	15.1	0.77	
★★★★★ SBI Large & Midcap	606.0	31296	1.6	0.7	6.4	22.0	25.9	15.0	0.97	
★★★★★ Tata Large & Mid Cap	524.2	8546	1.8	0.6	3.3	20.9	23.1	14.0	0.85	
★★★★★ UTI Large & Mid Cap	176.8	4544	1.9	1.1	8.0	25.9	28.2	14.2	0.98	
★★★★★ BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	87.6	399	2.3	1.1	0.9	22.0	23.6	12.8	0.73	
★★★★★ Navi Large & Midcap	35.1	314	2.3	0.4	4.1	17.3	22.1	-	0.74	
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Vision	1434.1	5897	1.9	1.3	6.0	24.8	27.0	13.0	0.92	
★★★★★ Sundaram Large and Mid Cap	83.2	6671	1.8	0.8	2.9	20.2	23.2	14.4	0.74	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage	893.2	5737	1.9	1.2	3.1	18.5	20.8	12.3	0.58	
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Equity Advantage	188.7	3491	2.0	1.3	9.2	20.0	24.7	12.1	0.83	
★★★★★ Axis Large & Mid Cap	32.1	14349	1.7	0.6	5.8	20.8	24.2	-	0.73	
★★★★★ HSBC Large & Mid Cap	26.0	4173	1.9	0.8	1.4	23.8	24.5	-	0.64	

## EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ JM Flexicap	96.2	5917	1.8	0.5	-3.1	27.6	27.2	16.3	0.85	
★★★★★ Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	83.3	103868	1.3	0.6	11.8	23.5	26.3	17.6	1.06	
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1626.0	18679	1.7	0.9	7.2	23.5	26.6	14.3	0.92	
★★★★★ HDFC Flexi Cap	1944.4	75784	1.4	0.7	10.5	26.6	30.0	15.9	1.12	
★★★★★ PGIM India Flexi Cap	35.6	6262	1.8	0.4	7.2	16.4	22.9	14.0	0.75	
★★★★★ Union Flexi Cap	50.4	2310	2.0	0.9	4.6	19.4	22.9	12.6	0.78	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1763.5	22826	1.7	0.9	8.3	21.1	22.9	14.4	0.79	
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	334.4	13057	1.7	0.5	6.0	19.0	21.3	14.0	0.76	
★★★★★ DSP Flexi Cap	102.3	11837	1.7	0.7	7.3	22.6	22.6	14.7	0.73	
★★★★★ Edelweiss Flexi Cap	37.3	2642	1.9	0.4	3.9	22.7	24.7	14.7	0.81	
★★★★★ HSBC Flexi Cap	216.0	4940	1.9	1.2	5.8	23.8	24.4	13.2	0.72	
★★★★★ Kotak Flexicap	84.1	52533	1.5	0.6	5.5	21.6	21.9	14.4	0.77	
★★★★★ Bandhan Flexi Cap	205.4	7357	1.9	1.2	5.7	20.1	21.1	11.4	0.73	
★★★★★ LIC MF Flexi Cap	94.4	980	2.3	1.3	-2.1	17.1	17.3	9.4	0.53	
★★★★★ SBI Flexicap	106.3	21747								

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

### LIQUID FUNDS

- 360 ONE Liquid	2005.3	796	0.3	0.2	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.0	-	
- Aditya Birla SL Liquid	419.6	44546	0.3	0.2	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- Axis Liquid	2899.7	36089	0.2	0.1	6.7	7.3	7.3	7.3	-	
- Bandhan Liquid	3145.8	13626	0.3	0.1	6.6	7.1	7.1	7.1	-	
- Bank of India Liquid	2999.0	1849	0.1	0.1	6.9	7.3	7.2	7.3	-	
- Baroda BNPP Liquid	2994.4	11384	0.3	0.2	6.6	7.2	7.1	7.2	-	
- Canara Robeco Liquid	3134.7	4692	0.2	0.1	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.3	-	
- DSP Liquidity	3717.9	17752	0.2	0.1	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.3	-	
- Edelweiss Liquid	3330.4	7716	0.2	0.1	6.9	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- Groww Liquid	2518.7	212	0.2	0.1	6.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	-	
- HDFC Liquid	5109.8	64398	0.3	0.2	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- HSBC Liquid	2596.8	21894	0.2	0.1	6.9	7.4	7.2	7.2	-	
- ICICI Pru Liquid	385.6	50000	0.3	0.2	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.3	-	
- Invesco India Liquid	3579.6	14737	0.2	0.2	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.3	-	
- ITI Liquid	1356.4	70	0.3	0.1	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.9	-	
- JM Liquid	71.1	2196	0.3	0.2	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	-	
- Kotak Liquid	5263.9	36088	0.3	0.2	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- LIC MF Liquid	4708.1	11165	0.3	0.2	6.7	7.2	7.1	7.2	-	
- Mahi Manu Liquid	1694.6	1198	0.3	0.1	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.2	-	
- Mirae Asset Liquid	2731.0	14285	0.2	0.1	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.8	1117	0.4	0.2	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.7	-	
- Navi Liquid	28.3	121	0.2	0.2	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	-	
- Nippon Ind Liquid	6356.2	36125	0.3	0.2	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- Parag Parikh Liquid	1445.0	3426	0.1	0.1	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.9	-	
- PGIM India Liquid	339.1	472	0.2	0.1	6.8	7.4	7.2	7.2	-	
- Quant Liquid	41.2	1679	0.5	0.3	6.5	6.8	7.0	7.0	-	
- Quantum Liquid	34.9	558	0.3	0.2	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.8	-	
- SBI Liquid	4071.2	65172	0.3	0.2	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	-	
- Sundaram Liquid	2297.2	6288	0.3	0.1	6.6	7.2	7.1	7.2	-	
- Tata Liquid	4101.7	18156	0.3	0.2	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- Union Liquid	2505.8	4208	0.2	0.1	6.7	7.2	7.2	7.2	-	
- UTI Liquid	4272.4	23623	0.2	0.2	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.2	-	
- WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1400.9	452	0.3	0.2	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.1	-	

### ARBITRAGE FUNDS

- Aditya Birla SL Arbitrage	26.5	18204	1.0	0.3	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.1	-	
- Axis Arbitrage	18.7	6767	1.0	0.3	7.6	7.2	7.1	6.9	-	
- Bandhan Arbitrage	32.4	9042	1.1	0.4	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.0	-	
- Bank of India Arbitrage	13.8	43	0.9	0.5	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.6	-	
- Baroda BNPP Arbitrage	16.0	1193	1.1	0.3	7.7	6.9	6.8	6.8	2.90	
- DSP Arbitrage	14.9	6474	1.0	0.3	7.5	6.8	7.0	6.9	-	
- Edelweiss Arbitrage	19.4	15137	1.1	0.4	7.6	7.1	7.2	7.0	-	
- HDFC Arbitrage	30.6	20685	1.0	0.4	7.4	7.0	7.1	7.0	-	
- HSBC Arbitrage	18.9	2272	0.9	0.2	7.3	6.7	6.9	6.8	-	
- ICICI Pru Equity-Arbitrage	34.2	28444	1.0	0.4	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.1	-	
- Invesco India Arbitrage	31.8	22341	1.1	0.4	7.4	6.9	7.1	7.0	-	
- ITI Arbitrage	12.9	48	0.9	0.2	7.2	6.9	7.2	6.8	-	
- JM Arbitrage	32.5	195	1.1	0.4	6.5	6.0	6.4	6.4	-	
- Kotak Equity Arbitrage	37.4	67362	1.1	0.4	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.2	-	
- LIC MF Arbitrage	13.8	168	1.0	0.3	6.6	6.7	6.9	6.7	-	
- Mahi Manu Arbitrage	12.3	97	1.2	0.4	6.3	5.5	5.6	5.6	-	
- Mirae Asset Arbitrage	13.0	3364	0.9	0.2	7.1	6.3	6.9	6.8	-	
- Nippon Ind Arbitrage	26.5	14511	1.1	0.4	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.8	-	
- PGIM India Arbitrage	18.3	125	1.1	0.4	6.5	7.2	7.0	6.8	-	
- SBI Arbitrage Opport	33.8	33759	0.9	0.4	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.1	-	
- Sundaram Arbitrage	14.4	299	1.0	0.2	8.2	6.9	7.0	6.8	-	
- Tata Arbitrage	14.3	14982	1.1	0.3	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.0	-	
- Union Arbitrage	14.0	263	1.1	0.5	7.1	6.4	6.8	6.8	-	
- UTI Arbitrage	35.0	7308	0.8	0.3	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.2	-	

## DEBT FUNDS

### DEBT - ULTRA SHORT DURATION FUNDS

★★★★★ Nippon Ind Ultra Short Duration	4021.3	8772	1.1	0.4	7.5	7.2	6.8	6.6	10.97	
★★★★★ UTI Ultra Short Duration	4230.5	4351	0.9	0.4	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.1	3.62	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Savings	547.3	18981	0.5	0.3	8.1	7.8	7.3	6.2	11.59	
★★★★★ Baroda BNPP Ultra Short Duration	1539.3	1595	0.5	0.3	7.7	7.5	7.3	5.8	0.50	
★★★★★ HDFC Ultra Short Term	15.1	16573	0.7	0.4	7.6	7.4	7.0	5.8	4.44	
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Ultra Short Term	27.7	16269	0.8	0.4	7.7	7.4	7.0	6.1	5.42	
★★★★★ Axis Ultra Short Duration	14.7	6211	1.2	0.4	7.2	7.0	6.6	5.4	4.28	
★★★★★ Bandhan Ultra Short Term	15.2	4562	0.5	0.3	7.6	7.4	7.0	5.6	-	
★★★★★ Kotak Savings	42.8	15401	0.8	0.4	7.5	7.2	6.9	5.6	1.95	
★★★★★ PGIM India Ultra Short Duration	34.0	198	0.9	0.3	7.1	6.9	6.5	5.3	-	
★★★★★ SBI Magnum Ultra Short Duration	5963.9	16434	0.6	0.4	7.7					

# Magnet curb: India may ease value-add rule, allow import of full assemblies

**TINA FACTOR.** Supply squeeze forces rethink on rules amid China's visa and approval bottlenecks

**Abhishek Law**  
New Delhi

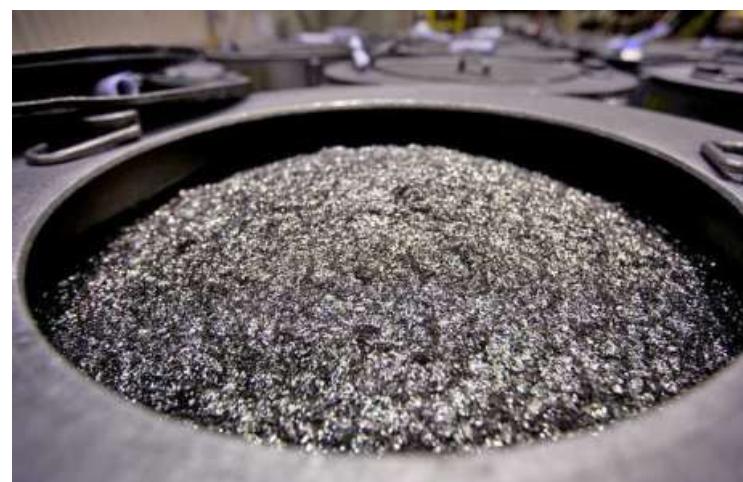
If China does not ease its stranglehold on supply of rare earth magnets, a critical component in EV-making, over the next few days, India may water down its domestic value-addition norms and greenlight import of full assemblies in the sector. Sources said this would be a last-ditch fall-back option, if things don't go according to plan.

At a recent high-level meeting, line ministries discussed the possibility of the import bill rising if full assembly imports are allowed. Even flagship manufacturing schemes can see delays.

**AUTO-MAKERS IN LIMBO**  
Sources told *businessline* that auto-makers are stuck — their visas are yet to be cleared, no meetings have been finalised with China's Commerce Ministry, and approvals for a dozen-odd companies that want to bring in the rare earth magnets, are yet to be cleared by the Chinese.

Redesigning components could take six months to a year, it was told during the meeting.

"The industry will be constrained to import complete assemblies of components from China in the short term. This may lead to local manufacturers (of auto components) of



**TIME RUNNING OUT.** According to government analysis, rare earth magnet stocks could last till the end of this month, but private consultancy firms estimate that these could last till July 15.

motors, sensors and other components, which use rare earth magnets, losing business to the Chinese, and/or the auto industry seeing a rise in higher-cost imports. But this would be an extreme last option," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Over 35 companies in India, including Brakes India, Kyocera Avx Components, Hitachi Astemo Chennai Private Ltd, Continental Automotive, Minda Instruments, Sona Comstar, Uno Minda, and Varroc Engineering, source rare earth mag-

nets from China and supply them to OEMs (original equipment makers). Some 10-12 of these companies have "commenced the process of seeking end-user certificates," while end-user certificates have been "endorsed by the Chinese Embassy" for some possibly including Bosch India, Brose Automotive Systems, Continental, Hitachi Astemo, and Yantai Dongxing Magnetic Material.

Sona Comstar is the only company whose application was rejected, sources said.

Rare earth magnet stocks, according to government analysis, could last till the end of this month; private consultancy firms estimate these could last till July 15.

## EXPORT CURBS

In April, China imposed export curbs on rare earth magnets, seeking guarantees that the material will be used for civilian usage and not in defence equipment. Restrictions were also placed on seven key minerals that are required to make rare earth magnets.

The certification process, post-approval from the DGFT and the MEA, will include verification and stamping of the end-user certificate by the Chinese Embassy in India. The importer would send certificates to the exporter in China.

India's rare earth magnet imports stand at 3,600 tonnes (as a country); the auto industry imports approximately 870 tonnes. According to line ministries, companies such as Tata, Mahindra, Maruti, Kia, Hyundai, Toyota, Bajaj, TVS, Hero Motocorp, Volvo Eicher and Ashok Leyland could see disruptions. Rare earths are used in making e-axes for EVs, position detection engines, wheel speed sensors, brake stroke sensors, automatic gear shifting kits, oxygen sensors (exhaust), audio speakers and speedometers, ignition coils, electric water pumps (for engine cooling), and power steering.



**DEADLY ATTACK.** Smoke billows after a missile hit in Tel Aviv on Saturday and (right) rescuers work at the site of a damaged building, in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, in Tehran REUTERS



## Iran, Israel trade missiles and airstrikes

**Reuters**  
Tel Aviv/Dubai/Washington

Iran and Israel traded missiles and airstrikes on Saturday, the day after Israel launched a sweeping air offensive, killing Iranian commanders and scientists and bombing nuclear sites in a stated bid to stop it from building an atomic weapon.

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In Israel, air raid sirens sent residents into shelters as waves of missiles streaked across the sky and interceptors rose to meet them. At

least three people were killed. An Israeli official said Iran had fired around 200 ballistic missiles in four waves.

US President Donald Trump lauded Israel's strikes and warned Iran of much worse to come unless it quickly accepts the sharp downgrading of its nuclear programme that the US has demanded in talks that were to resume on Sunday.

But with Israel saying its operation could last weeks, and urging Iran's people to rise up against their Islamic clerical rulers, fears have grown of a regional conflagration dragging in outside powers, with global economic and financial repercussions.

The US, Israel's main ally, helped shoot down Iranian missiles, two American officials said. Iranian fire still struck residential districts

in Israel, however, and Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran's leadership had crossed a red line. "If (Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei continues to fire missiles at the Israeli home front, Tehran will burn," he said in a statement.

**NIGHT OF BLASTS**  
Iran has vowed to avenge Friday's Israeli onslaught, which gutted Iran's nuclear and military leadership and damaged atomic plants and military bases, killing 78 people including civilians, according to Iran's UN envoy.

Iran's overnight barrage included hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones, an Israeli official said.

The Israeli military said it had intercepted missiles as well as drones, and that two rockets had been fired from Gaza.

## Don't deny or delay claims of crash victims: IRDAI to insurers

**G Naga Sridhar**  
Hyderabad

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has advised insurers to relax norms and to work with 'utmost efficiency' in supporting the June 12 Air India crash victims and their family members without any denial or delay in settlement of claims. "It is with deep pain and anguish that IRDAI expresses its condolences to all the families of the victims of this accident."

"The insurance sector, as always, given its purpose to support through insurance during such incidents, will remain committed and serve the families of the victims with the quickest possible support through settlement of claims," the regulator said in a circular.

The insurers were advised to immediately obtain the authenticated list of the victims of the crash — passengers and persons in the affected buildings of the crash area — from relevant

authorities and verify the details, as available in the respective database of the insurers on issuance of the overseas medical insurance policies, personal accident policies and life insurance policies and initiate fast-track processes for claim settlement relating to this incident.

**WAIVE REQUIREMENTS**  
The IRDAI also asked insurers to waive requirements such as FIR or post-mortem reports where official confirmations are available and settle the claim to the nominee as recorded in the policy.

"Ensure that no claim is denied or delayed on account of procedural formalities in the case of confirmed deceased individuals from the passenger list and persons at the affected buildings of the crash area," the circular said.

Meanwhile, LIC, SBI Life and Bajaj Allianz Life already began the process to expedite the claim settlement process.

## SpiceJet posts record Q4 net of ₹319 cr on high load factor, cost optimisation

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

tranche of ₹294.09 crore, in Q4.

### FULL-YEAR PROFIT

Furthermore, for the full fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the airline posted a net profit of ₹48 crore from a loss of ₹404 crore in FY24. The revenue for FY25 stood at ₹6,736 crore, and the airline achieved a positive net worth of ₹683 crore at the end of this period.

SpiceJet has delivered a strong set of results, marking a significant turnaround in our operational and financial performance," said Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh.

"Posting a profit for the second consecutive quarter and for the full financial year after seven years is a reflection of the tireless efforts of our team, the continued trust of our passengers, and the resilience of our brand. With a strengthened balance-sheet, renewed investor trust, and continued network expansion, SpiceJet is well-positioned for sustainable growth," he said.

**REVENUE UP 17.6%**  
Accordingly, the airline's revenue for Q4 rose 17.6 per cent on quarter to ₹1,942 crore, while the EBITDA increased to ₹527 crore from ₹209 crore in Q3. The passenger load factor stood at 88.1 per cent, showing "strong demand".

SpiceJet said that the Promoter Group completed an equity infusion of ₹500 crore, including the final

## Axiom-4 now scheduled for June 19 launch: ISRO

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

The launch of the Axiom-4 space mission carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station is, as of now, rescheduled for June 19, space agency ISRO said on Saturday.

ISRO also noted that the SpaceX team has confirmed

that all issues observed in the Falcon 9 launch vehicle, which had led to postponements, have been addressed.

Initially targeted for June 11 launch, the mission was put off due to a liquid oxygen leak in its launch vehicle Falcon 9.

On Saturday night, ISRO said in a social media post on X that the liquid oxygen leak on Falcon-9 has been

resolved by SpaceX, and Axiom Space was coordinating with NASA on the ISS Zvezda module anomaly. "The earliest possible launch date for Axiom-4 is being worked out," it said.

NASA and Axiom Space had said on Thursday that they are postponing the launch and a new launch date will be provided once available.

"During a follow-on co-

ordination meeting between ISRO, Axiom Space and SpaceX, it was confirmed that the liquid oxygen leak in Falcon 9 has been successfully resolved. Separately, Axiom Space informed that they are working closely with NASA to assess the pressure anomaly in the Zvezda Service Module onboard the International Space Station," an ISRO announcement said.

## UNEP pat for Tamil Nadu's 'Cool Roof' project that can lower heat in buildings

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Tamil Nadu's 'Cool Roof' initiative has found mention in a recent United Nations (UN) report as an innovation that helps counter climate change in urban settings. The global body is also working on replicating such cool roof technologies in Delhi, the report notes.

As part of the Urban Heat Mitigation Project, the Environment and Climate Change Department of the TN government in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme, had implemented a 'cool roof' technology in a residential area of Chennai.

**TEMPERATURE DROP**  
A recent note by UNEP on passive cooling solutions notes that this intervention led to a temperature reduction of 5 to 8°C inside the buildings during peak summer months. We are now scaling up the initiative," she said.

The UN report says that as a major industrial hub with high-rise buildings and shortage of green spaces, Chennai is prone to punishing heat waves. "To reduce this so-called heat-island effect, UNEP's Cool Coalition



**ROOF RELIEF.** A pilot of the Cool Roof in an affordable housing project in a Chennai suburb UNEP

was chosen as the pilot location. "Silka cool roof paint, with a high Solar Reflective Index (SRI) of 102, was applied to two residential blocks comprising 200 houses.

This passive cooling intervention led to a temperature reduction of 5 to 8°C inside the buildings during peak summer months. We are now scaling up the initiative," she said.

**FUNDING MECHANISMS**  
UNEP is also partnering with several agencies in TN to develop financing mechanisms to support the integration of passive cooling into govern-

ment-supplied social housing. Passive cooling solutions ranging from reflective roofs to cool pavements to shade-providing tree cover are cited as a few ways cities can tackle rising heat.

"India has emerged as a global champion of passive cooling, integrating these approaches into national policies and city planning, often with the support of UNEP," the report said.

It also cites other examples in India wherein UNEP's interventions along with those of other stakeholders have helped beat the heat.

To help give commuters relief from the heat in Delhi, the UNEP-led Cool Coalition in partnership with national and local government bodies is installing a "cool roof" on the Kashmere Gate inter-State bus terminal.

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## Bengaluru Ranks #14 in Global Startup Ecosystem 2025



### Bengaluru Global Recognition

**Top 5**  
Global AI Cities

**Top 15**  
Global Ecosystem in Performance

**Top 15**  
Global Ecosystem in Funding

**Top 15**  
Asia's Ecosystem in Knowledge

### Bengaluru Ecosystem at a Glance

16,000+ Startups driving innovation

40% of India's Unicorns

40% of India's Global Capability Centers

1,500 Venture Capital firms

2,200 Corporate venture investors

17,000 Angel investors

The Department of E, IT & Bt extends heartfelt gratitude to our vibrant startup ecosystem-entrepreneurs, policymakers and enablers who made this extraordinary achievement possible.

\*Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2025