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# Aviation experts slam Air India crash report, allege pilot scapegoating

**RIPPLE EFFECT.** AI 171 preliminary findings will have 'global ramifications' on all 787 operators; pilots body seeks transparency in probe

**Rohit Vaid**  
**Aneesh Phadnis**  
New Delhi/Mumbai

Aviation experts as well as pilots have cast "serious doubts" on the preliminary findings of the Air India Flight 171 crash investigation, especially surrounding the role of pilots in allegedly causing the mishap.

Speaking to *businessline*, the Indian aviation industry stakeholders have warned against premature assumptions insinuating procedural lapses in the cockpit.

Experts have cited the potential for critical mechanical failures in the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The preliminary report released on the early morning of Saturday IST revealed that both engines shut down seconds after take-off.

The report prepared by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's (AAIB) stated that just three seconds after reaching its peak speed of 180 knots, both fuel control switches were found to have



**MECHANICAL FAILURE.** The preliminary report released on the early morning of Saturday IST revealed that both engines shut down seconds after take-off

transitioned from 'run' to 'cutoff' mode, causing both engines to shut down mid-air.

However, the report did not cite the cause of this occurrence. The crew had tried to restart the engines, moving both fuel cutoff switches back to "run" positions.

This move allowed 'engine 1' to begin the recovery process; however, 'engine 2', while relighting, couldn't ar-

rest its core speed deceleration. The aircraft failed to gain altitude and crashed into the BJ Medical College hostel compound, less than a nautical mile from the runway.

The report issued no immediate safety recommendations, noting the aircraft was airworthy, certified, and had no major defects.

Veteran aviator Captain Shakti Lumba said the AAIB may have misread critical

flight data. Lumba noted that the aircraft's flight data recorder only monitors fuel valve position and not the cockpit switch position, suggesting that the report may have wrongly inferred cockpit actions.

Besides, Lumba challenged the report's 'clean chit' being given to Boeing and GE and stated that a more thorough investigation needs to be conducted,

preferably by a Judicial Court of Inquiry.'

Martin Consulting CEO Mark D Martin, called the notion of a pilot manually cutting fuel to both engines during take-off "unthinkable" and emphasised the absence of any mention of cockpit camera footage that could validate crew behaviour.

He said the AI 171 preliminary report will have a 'global ramifications' on all 787 operators. Furthermore, he asserted that the 787 Dreamliner is a comprehensively digitally controlled and software-driven aircraft that constantly needs patches and system updates.

#### PILOTS BODY REACTS

Meanwhile, the Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA-India) has pointed out opacity in the investigation and sidelining of qualified flight crew from the probe.

It has raised alarm over the serviceability bulletin referenced in the preliminary report, which highlighted a po-

tential malfunction related to the aircraft's fuel control switch gates.

The association also warned that without answers to several of its fundamental questions, the integrity of the investigation as well as the safety of ongoing operations remained in doubt.

Other industry stakeholders said the investigation needed to synchronise data from the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder with the exact timing.

The preliminary report has not released the entire cockpit voice recorder transcript. Pilots say it's not possible that only two sentences were uttered and then the 'May Day' message relayed.

"If there is a loss of thrust in aircraft during take-off, the pilot who is monitoring the parameters would call out that and the same would get recorded," a senior captain said.

As of now, the investigation is ongoing and is expected to yield a final report within 12 months.

## INVESTMENT FOCUS

### Tech Call: Ambuja Cements - Buy

**Gurumurthy K**  
bl. research bureau



the next important supports.

An intermediate dip to ₹570 and ₹540 is a possibility in the near term. A fall below ₹540 is less likely. Even if the stock falls below ₹540, which will be a worst-case scenario, the downside will be limited to ₹470.

Ambuja Cements share price has the potential to target ₹780 over the next one year.

#### TRADE STRATEGY

Long-term investors can accumulate the stock on dips at ₹540. Keep the stop-loss at ₹410.

Trail the stop-loss up to ₹610 when the price goes up to ₹660. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹680 and ₹720 when the price touches ₹700 and ₹740, respectively. Exit the stock at ₹770.

## + Families of British victims to move court against Boeing

**Aneesh Phadnis**  
Mumbai

Families of Air India passengers who died in the air crash in Ahmedabad on June 12 will take action against Boeing in the US courts very soon, to obtain evidence and answers about the role of the fuel control switches in the accident, James Healy-Pratt, partner of UK law firm Keystone Law, said on Saturday.

Keystone Law has been engaged by the families of UK-based victims of the accident. The crash resulted in the death of 260 persons, including passengers, crew and persons on ground. These included 53 British citizens.

"The preliminary investi-

rules out a number of theories and focuses on the design, installation, maintenance and use of the fuel control switches.

#### QUESTIONS REMAIN

"The specific inclusion of a Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) from December 2018 that highlights the defective fuel control switches is of real significance. Both Air India and Boeing have serious questions to answer arising out of this preliminary report," Healy-Pratt said in a statement.

Apart from moving courts in the US, the law firm is also assisting families in securing compensation from Air India as per the Montreal Convention. In its preliminary investi-

gation report, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) said the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had issued a SAIB regarding potential disengagement on the fuel control switch locking feature.

The bulletin was based on reports from Boeing 737 operators that these switches were installed with locking features disengaged.

"The airworthiness concern was not categorised as an unsafe condition that would warrant an airworthiness directive by the FAA," the AAIB noted. Air India also informed AAIB that inspections as suggested by the FAA bulletin were not carried out because those were not mandatory.

In its preliminary investi-

## Govt extends IT exemptions for SWFs, PFs by 5 years

**Shishir Sinha**  
New Delhi

To avail tax exemption, the Finance Ministry has notified extension of date by another five years for investments made by 40 sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and pension funds (PFs).

Earlier, this exemption ended on March 31, 2025, but now the sunset date will be March 31, 2030.

In other words, the income earned on investment made till March 31, 2030 will get tax exemption.

Clause (23FE) of Section 10 of the I-T Act provides for the exemption to specified persons from the income in the nature of dividend, interest, long-term capital gains or certain other incomes arising from an investment made by the funds in India.

#### SOME BENEFICIARIES

- Abu Dhabi-based MIC Redwood 1 RSC Ltd
- Dagenham Investment Pte Ltd, Singapore
- AIMCo India Infrastructure Ltd
- Canada pension plan investment Board Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec
- Singapore-based Bricklayers Investment Pte Ltd
- Norfund, Govt of Norway

#### RIDERS AHEAD

Specified persons include sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and pension funds (PFs) that meet certain conditions and are notified by the Union government.

One condition requires the assessee to file I-T returns for all relevant years from the date of investment to its liquidation, within the prescribed due dates.

Another condition mandates that the assessee must

not engage in any commercial activity in or outside India, apart from the specified or similar investments.

The assessee must also have a monitoring mechanism to safeguard the investments.

One condition requires the assessee to file I-T returns for all relevant years from the date of investment to its liquidation, within the prescribed due dates.

The mechanism was introduced through the Fin-

ance Act, 2020 to encourage investments of SWFs and PFs in the infrastructure sector made on or after the April 1, 2020 but on or before March 31, 2025.

#### LONG-TERM NATURE

According to the explanatory memorandum of FY26 Budget, given the long-term nature of infrastructure investments and the role of foreign SWFs and PFs in financing such projects, it has been suggested that the deadline for investment under clause (23FE) of Section 10 be extended.

This will provide stability and the time frame necessary for global investors to make substantial contribution to India's infrastructure development.

Further, the Finance Act 2024 has reclassified all capital gains from unlisted debt securities as short-term, re-

gardless of the holding period.

This will result in the long-term capital gains from investment in unlisted debt investments to be taxable in the hands of SWFs and PFs.

Prior to the said amendments, notified SWFs or PFs were eligible for exemptions on long-term capital gains from unlisted debt securities under clause (23FE) of Section 10.

The Finance Act 2025 prescribes that long-term capital gains arising from an investment made by the funds in India will not be included in the total income of a specified person under clause (23FE) of Section 10.

Also, the date of investment under the said clause will be extended to March 31, 2030 from March 31, 2025. These amendments have been made effective from April 1, 2025.

## Coming soon, 2 coins to commemorate Aatmanirbharta

MS Swaminathan, father of Green Revolution and Make in India to be etched in coinage

**Shishir Sinha**  
New Delhi

The government will issue two commemorative coins to honour two icons of Aatmanirbharta — Prof MS Swaminathan and Make in India. While late Swaminathan is known as Father of Green Revolution and one who piloted self-reliance on agriculture, Make in India aims to bring self-reliance in manufacturing.

Though commemorative coins are considered legal tender, they are not released for general circulation. One can source them from the specified agencies. According to two separate notifications, dimensions of both the coins will be similar.

The shape will be circular with outside diameter of 44 mm. The number of serrations will be 200. The metal composition will be a qua-



MS Swaminathan

It shall also bear the rupee symbol '₹' and denominational value of '100' and '75' in the international numerals below the lion capital.

On the reverse face of the first coin, the image of Prof MS Swaminathan will be at the centre.

#### AGRI ICON

Prof. Swaminathan, popularly known as Father of India's Green Revolution, is credited with saving millions of people from starvation through his landmark work on enhancing productivity and production of wheat and rice crops during the 1960s-70s.

He also provided a concept of transforming the 'Green Revolution' into an 'Evergreen Revolution,' which might allow agriculture to withstand the consequences of climate change and sustainably

feed the world's population. He founded the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in 1988 and worked there till his last breath to develop and promote strategies for economic growth that directly targeted increased employment of poor farmers, especially women in rural areas.

#### MAKE-IN-INDIA

The reverse face of the second coin will feature an image of a 'lion' in relief at the centre, surrounded by eight-coloured icons representing science, technology, agriculture and computer technology.

The inscription '10 YEARS OF MAKE IN INDIA' will be written in Devanagari script along the upper periphery of the coin, while the inscription in English shall be depicted on the lower periphery of the coin.

## Going by past downturns, gold could face short-to-medium term pressure: WGC expert

**Subramani Ra Mancombu**  
Chennai

A World Gold Council (WGC) expert has said that if historical perspectives were put in today's context, gold could face short-to-medium term pressure.

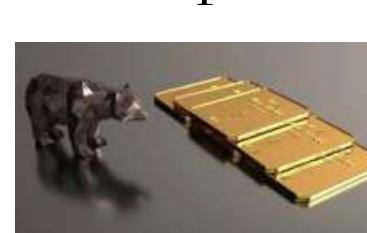
"...going by past downturns in gold, some events may slow the rally in gold witnessed over the past few years, while others could fuel a prolonged decline," said Ray Jia, Research Head, China, WGC, in an analysis, "What's a bear case for gold?"

The decline is likely if the geopolitical or trade risks ease, the dollar strengthens, or the momentum in gold investment demand via central bank purchases, ETF buying and retail demand weakens.

"...a sustained drop in gold would require a major structural change," he said. This is unlikely, but three scenarios could push gold into a 'longer-term downturn,' he said.

#### 3 SCENARIOS

The three scenarios are: the drying up of central banks' demand, intense competition from other assets, waning consumer affection for the yellow metal and



a significant rise in gold supply, said Jia.

"And the likelihood of the above-mentioned factors which may drive gold into bear runs is low," the WGC China research head said, adding that all markets rise and fall, and "gold's recent ease in momentum has made some investors wary."

Currently, global government debt is ballooning, especially in the US, and competition among major powers may continue to spark risks — economic or geopolitical.

#### 68 NEW HIGHS

"Against this backdrop, we believe that gold's role as a strategic asset that diversifies portfolio risk and improves performance will continue to shine," he said.

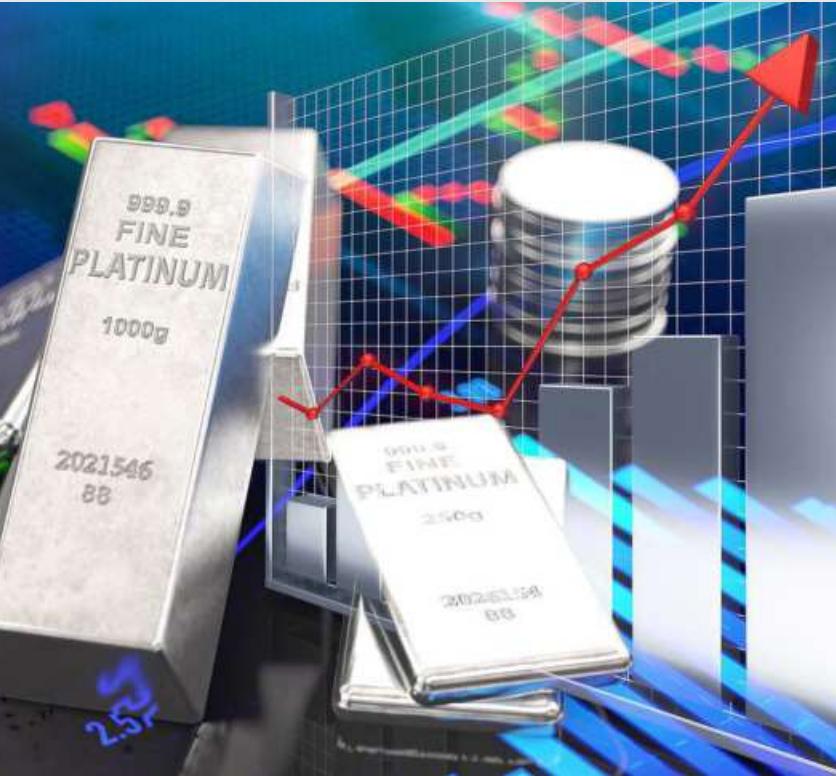
Jia said gold has experienced a prolonged bull run in recent years. "After bottoming at \$1,429/oz on November 3, 2022, the gold price has more than doubled as of June 30, 2025 — it stood at \$3,287/oz, having refreshed its historical record 68 times over that period."

Such impressive strength was mainly driven by consistent central bank purchases as well as soaring geopolitical and, more recently, trade risks. However, since the start of the second quarter this year, gold's bullish momentum has softened.

"During the entire second quarter, gold rose by 5.5 per cent. While this represents decent growth by any measure, it's well below Q1's 1

# bl.portfolio

# From dull to dazzling



**PLATINUM PLAY.** The recent rise in prices is an above-average show, driven by favourable shifts in supply and demand. Here's why the shine in the metal this time around can last longer

Akhil Nallamuthu  
bl. research bureau

**P**latinum reached an 11-year high of \$1,435.22 per ounce on June 27. Currently priced at \$1,398, this rare metal has surged 55 per cent so far this year, outperforming gold (\$3,355.70/ounce) with a 28 per cent increase and silver (\$38.40/ounce), which also rose 33 per cent. This marks a remarkable rebound for platinum after more than a decade of stagnation.

Like gold and silver, platinum belongs to the precious metals category, with jewellery being one of the key drivers of its demand. However, platinum is more closely aligned with silver than gold, as a significant portion of its demand comes from industrial applications. This trend is evident from the price movements over the past 25 years. The correlation coefficient between platinum and silver is 0.64, while the correlation between platinum and gold is only 0.34.

Although platinum is classified as a precious metal, gold remains the benchmark. Since the beginning of 2016, gold has seen an absolute gain of 216 per cent, while silver has risen 178 per cent. In comparison, platinum's return during this period stands at a lower 58 per cent.

While platinum prices have stayed higher than gold prices in the past, since 2015, gold has consistently remained above platinum.

The ratio of platinum to gold prices has been steadily declining since 2008, and similarly, the ratio of platinum to silver has been falling since 2003. Thus, platinum has been losing ground relative to both gold and silver.

That said, the recent rise is an above-average performance, which was driven by favourable shifts in both supply and demand. In this piece, we explore the factors behind this rally and analyse whether it can be sustained.

## THE TRIGGER

The recent sharp surge in platinum prices was driven by a supply deficit of 816 koz (816,000 ounces) in Q1 2025, the largest single quarterly deficit in six years. This shortfall resulted from both a reduction in supply and a rise in demand, as seen from the data released by World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC).

Total supply decreased 10 per cent year on year for the quarter, totalling 1,458 koz. South Africa, the world's largest platinum producer (accounting for around half of global output), faced disruptions due to heavy rainfall and power outages. So, the country's production dropped 10 per cent to 715 koz for the quarter.

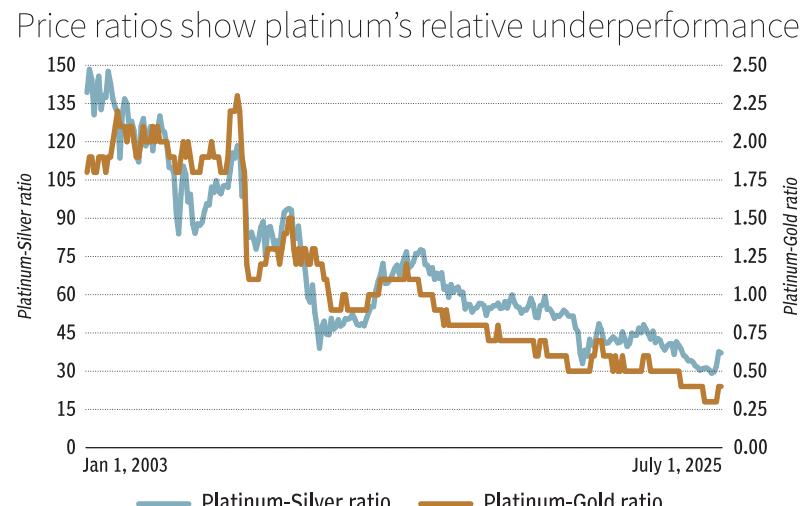
On the demand side, there was a notable increase. Total platinum demand grew 10 per cent, reaching 2,274 koz in Q1 2025, compared with 2,059 koz in Q1 2024. This led to the supply deficit of 816 koz (1,458 koz of supply minus 2,274 koz of demand). While industrial consumption fell 22 per cent to 527 koz, this decline was more than compensated by a massive increase in investment demand, which quadrupled to 461 koz. Notably, platinum stocks held by trading exchanges rose 372 koz, driven by tariff-related uncertainties that led to higher platinum inflows into the US.

Platinum jewellery demand remained strong across most regions, with a 9 per cent increase to 533 koz.

Despite these supply deficits, which have occurred in five out of the last seven years, platinum prices had remained stagnant. Thus, the recent uptick has been long overdue, and as in typical inefficient markets, it took some time for the price to reflect the fundamentals.

## THE YEAR 2025...

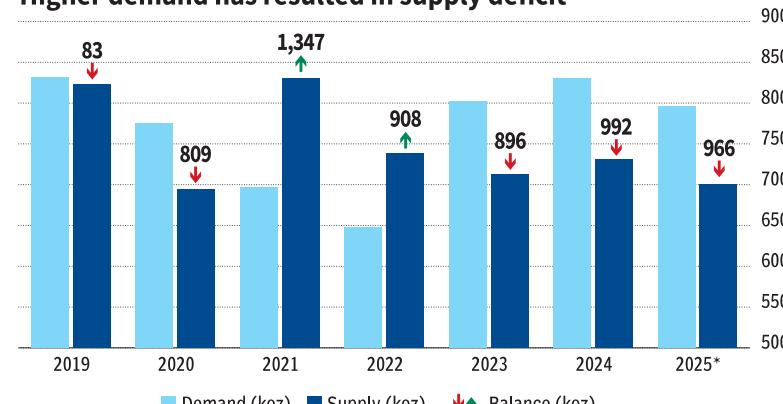
For the full year of 2025, both supply and demand are expected to decrease 4 per cent, with supply projected at 6,999 koz and demand at 7,965 koz. Recycling,



## Platinum market balance

	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Change (%)	2024	2025*	Change (%)
Total supply (koz)	1,613	1,458	-10	7,311	6,999	-4
Total demand (koz)	2,059	2,274	10	8,303	7,965	-4
Automotive (koz)	784	753	-4	3,106	3,052	-2
Jewellery (koz)	488	533	9	2,008	2,114	5
Industrial (koz)	673	527	-22	2,487	2,111	-15
Investment (koz)	113	461	308	702	688	-2

## Higher demand has resulted in supply deficit



which accounts for nearly a quarter of total platinum supply, could see a slight increase to 1,573 koz. However, mining output is anticipated to fall 6 per cent, dropping to 5,426 koz, mainly due to reduced activity in South Africa.

On the demand side, industrial demand is expected to remain weak throughout the year, with a 15 per cent decline to 2,111 koz, largely driven by a 58 per cent drop in demand from the glass industry, a significant consumer of platinum. In contrast, jewellery demand is forecast to grow 5 per cent, reaching 2,114 koz, fuelled by platinum's price discount relative to gold.

Since March 2015, platinum has consistently traded at a discount to gold. At its peak in April 2025, the price of gold was 3.4 times (based on monthly closing price) higher than platinum.

Thanks to the relatively lower price, strong gains in jewellery demand are expected in China, with an anticipated 15 per cent increase to 474 koz. Demand in Europe and North America is expected to grow 7 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. However, demand in India is forecast to fall 10 per cent to 240 koz.

In conclusion, while supply is projected to remain in deficit for the third consecutive year, the 50 per cent price increase for platinum so far in 2025 seems justified. While a sharp price decline is unlikely in the near term, platinum is expected to stabilise at current levels through 2025, barring any significant fluctuations in the dollar, which could impact all commodities. Since all commodities are priced in the dollar in the global market, a rise in greenback can weigh on their prices.

## ... AND BEYOND

Platinum's major consumption comes from industrial sectors, which are closely

linked to the performance of the global economy. According to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report released in June, the growth forecast for real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has been revised down.

For 2025, global real GDP growth is projected to slow to 2.3 per cent, down from 2.8 per cent in 2024, followed by a modest recovery in the next two years. Growth for 2026 and 2027 are expected to be 2.4 per cent (a reduction of 0.4 per cent from earlier projections) and 2.6 per cent (also revised down 0.3 per cent) respectively.

Given these challenges, platinum faces some headwinds. However, the likelihood of a significant price decline remains low, as platinum has remained relatively stable over the past decade before recently experiencing a sharp rally, much

from the current level of \$1,398, there might be a price correction, possibly to \$1,250-1,200 price range.

However, a decline below this level is less likely, as this region will henceforth act as a strong base. A continuation of a rally from the current level or a rally after seeing a temporary dip, can take platinum to \$1,800 over the next one year or so. Over the next three years, the upside might even extend to \$2,000-2,150 levels.

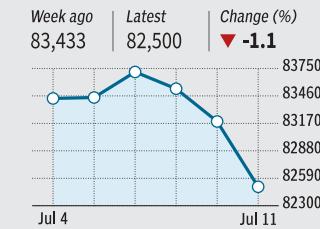
## WISE WORDS.

“For most investors absolute returns are the only ones that really matter; you cannot, after all, spend relative performance.”

SETH KLARMAN,  
Value investor

## MARKET ACTION.

### SENSEX



### How sectoral indices moved

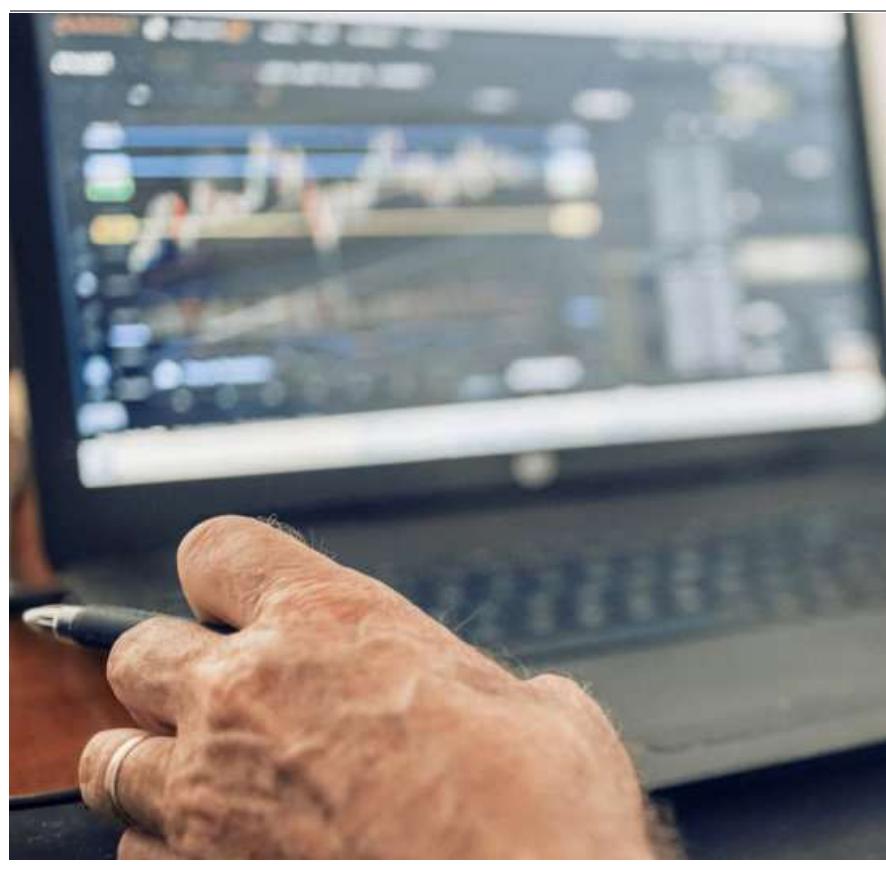
	Jul 4	Jul 11	Movement	% change
FMCG	20,176	20,571	▲	2.0
POWER	6,848	6,890	▲	0.6
BANKEX	63,662	63,599	▼	-0.1
REALTY	7,540	7,482	▼	-0.8
PSU	19,994	19,781	▼	-1.1
HC	44,896	44,330	▼	-1.3
CAPITAL GOODS	72,322	70,967	▼	-1.9
OIL&GAS	28,357	27,803	▼	-2.0
AUTO	53,619	52,562	▼	-2.0
METALS	31,855	31,218	▼	-2.0
CONSUMER DURABLES	61,125	59,491	▼	-2.7
IT	38,317	37,028	▼	-3.4
TECK	18,839	18,092	▼	-4.0

### How other indices moved

	BANK NIFTY	NIFTY NEXT 50	NIFTY 100	NIFTY 500	NIFTY 200
57,032	56,755	67,966	25,761	23,283	14,037
68,608	67,966	25,761	23,283	14,037	14,037
26,067	25,761	23,283	14,037	14,037	14,037
23,562	23,283	14,037	14,037	14,037	14,037
14,217	14,037	14,037	14,037	14,037	14,037

### Sensex ups & downs

	Price ₹	Movement	% change
HUL	2,340	2,520	▲ 7.7
Kotak Mahindra Bank	2,128	2,220	▲ 4.3
NTPC	336	343	▲ 2.1
Power Grid	294	299	▲ 1.5
Bajaj Finserv	1,994	2,016	▲ 1.1
ITC	413	417	▲ 1.1
Bajaj Finance	925	933	▲ 0.9
Asian Paints	2,425	2,440	▲ 0.6
Nestle India	2,392	2,402	▲ 0.4
IndusInd Bank	856	859	▲ 0.3
UltraTech Cement	12,506	12,494	▼ -0.1
Sun Pharma	1,677	1,673	▼ -0.2
HDFC Bank	1,989	1,984	▼ -0.3
Axis Bank	1,178	1,174	▼ -0.3
JSW Steel	1,041	1,037	▼ -0.4
SBI	812	809	▼ -0.4
Maruti Suzuki	12,649	12,578	▼ -0.6
Tata Motors	689	682	▼ -1.1
ICICI Bank	1,443	1,422	▼ -1.4
L&T			



# How to approach equities after retirement

**REAL RETURNS.** Here's why most Indians will need an equity allocation in their portfolio even after entering their second innings

**Arati Krishnan**

When you are employed, and salary credits land regularly in your bank account, you can afford to make quite a few investing blunders. You can punt on options or buy micro-cap stocks and if you lose capital, brush it off as tuition fees to the market. But if this happens after retirement, the capital loss can be tough to recoup. This is why you need a different approach to equities after you retire.

But first, why do retirees need equity investments at all? Can't they just make do with safe post office schemes, fixed deposits and RBI bonds? No, most Indians will need an equity allocation in their portfolio even after retirement, for the following reasons.

#### TOUGH TARGETS

Most Indian employees outside the government sector are likely to be under-funded for retirement because of a late start. To meet their living expenses, their investments at retirement must deliver a post-tax return that is higher than inflation. In India, unlike in the developed economies, long-term inflation rates average 6 per cent and debt returns struggle to match this on a post-tax basis. An allocation to equities thus becomes essential to boost your corpus during your non-working years.

To illustrate, the NISM retirement calculator (<https://tinyurl.com/retire>

ment returns) tells us that if you are retiring at 60 today with annual expenses of ₹12 lakh, and earn a 6 per cent post-tax return that just matches inflation, then you will need a sum of ₹3.6 crore to fund your lifestyle until age 90. If that post-tax return can be bumped up to 10 per cent, then the sum you need to fund your retired years falls to ₹2.15 crore. Only an equity allocation can help you bump up your returns to levels well above inflation.

#### SUFFICIENT HORIZON

Retirement farewell parties lull you into believing that at 60, you are at the fag end of your life. Terms like "sunset years" reinforce the impression. But in reality, retirement may just be the start of a glorious new chapter in your life that lasts another 25-30 years.

World Bank data tells us that an average person who reaches 60 in India can expect to live for another 18 years. Higher income folk need to budget for higher life expectancy than this average. This means that retirees at 60, have another 25 or 30 years to invest and grow their wealth. Rolling return analysis shows that, in India, Nifty50 investors almost never made a loss if they held their portfolio for 10 plus years. Those retiring at 60 can therefore very well afford to make equity investments with a 10-year plus horizon in mind.

#### WEALTH CREATION

Investments in fixed deposits or post-

#### EQUITY ESSENTIALS

- Equity helps beat inflation during long post-retirement years
- Conservative allocation cushions portfolio from sharp market falls
- Hybrid and passive funds suit most retirees better than stocks

fice schemes may be good at protecting your capital and generating income. But if you dream of building real wealth in your lifetime and leaving behind a legacy, you cannot do it without an equity allocation. Of the wealth-creating assets, real estate can deliver bumper gains, but returns are dependent on luck and location. Gold almost matches equity in returns, but is a volatile asset that performs in fits and starts.

The decline in interest rates in India over the last two decades suggests that debt instruments will struggle to keep up with inflation. This underlines equities as the main asset you can rely on for wealth creation.

#### HOW TO APPROACH IT

Having said this, the way you manage your equity portfolio after retirement and the instruments you choose to do this, may need to change quite a bit from your working years. Here are four things to keep in mind.

**Conservative asset allocation:** In equity investing, there are no guarantees. A spell of spectacular returns can be followed by a market crash that wipes out 30-40 per cent of capital. Or you can have a 10-year period, where your equity portfolio gives savings bank returns. The one way to ensure that the ups and downs in equity returns don't hurt you too much, is to set your asset allocation conservatively.

Rolling return analyses are useful to gauge the losses you can experience in worst-case scenarios in stock markets. For instance, a rolling return analysis spanning the last two decades shows that the Nifty 100 lost 57 per cent of its value in the worst year for stock markets in this period. The Nifty Midcap 150 lost 67 per cent and the Nifty Smallcap250 tanked 70 per cent in that year.

Simple arithmetic tells us that a portfolio with a 50-50 allocation between large-cap equity and debt (assuming debt returns of 7 per cent) would have suffered a 25 per cent capital loss in the worst bear year. With mid-caps or small-caps making up the equity portion, the losses would have been 30-31 per cent. But if you had a portfolio with only 30 per cent in equity and 70 per cent in debt, you could have contained portfolio losses to just 12-15 per cent even in the worst bear year.

**Funds or stocks:** Many retirees take the view that as they will have time on their hands post-retirement, they should try their hand at trading or DIY

investing in stocks. Unless you were already a seasoned stock-picker before you retired, the mutual fund route may serve you better. The main objective of your post-retirement equity exposure is to fetch you a good return, not to pass time or double up as a hobby. Getting a few stock picks right is a very different proposition from managing a full portfolio, which delivers market-beating returns.

All this suggests that it would be better to use vehicles like mutual funds for the bulk of your equity portfolio, while managing a smaller portion yourself.

**Hybrid mutual funds,** in fact, solve not just your stock and bond selection problem, but also help you manage asset allocation. They automatically track and rebalance your portfolio at appropriate times. This saves you a packet on the capital gains tax as well, that you would incur every time you rebalance your portfolio.

**Passive funds versus active:** If you find fund selection as troublesome as stock selection, there's a large menu of passive equity funds to construct a sound long-term portfolio. A simple combination of index funds tracking the Nifty100, Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty Smallcap250 can serve you very well for your equity exposure after retirement. Apart from low costs, the advantage of taking the passive route is that you need not frequently juggle your funds based on performance and shell out capital gains tax each time.

**Risk over returns:** The most important mindset change you will need post-retirement is to focus on downside protection over return maximisation. If you chose stocks or funds for their high returns during your working life, it is important that you pay more attention to risk metrics when constructing your portfolio after retirement.

There are three distinct ways to reduce the risks in your mutual fund or stock portfolio. One, you may like to take higher allocation to large-cap and mid-cap stocks over micro-caps and small-caps — as the latter come with higher earnings and stock price volatility.

Two, fund strategies such as momentum and alpha which chase outperforming stocks, can deliver stellar returns in trending bull markets but suffer large losses when the tide turns. Avoiding such funds in favour of strategies such as value, dividend yield or low volatility can offer you more predictable returns with lower risk.

Three, stocks or fund portfolios with steep valuations can be more susceptible to valuation de-rating on earnings disappointments. Using valuation or dividend yield filters while selecting stocks or funds can help your portfolio deliver returns with lower downside. While filtering funds, you can use online resources such as value research online or advisorkhoj to compare each fund's standard deviation and downside capture with the category or benchmark to filter out the riskier candidates.

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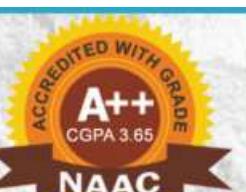
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F I G O T W I T H C H E



# Taking care of healthcare

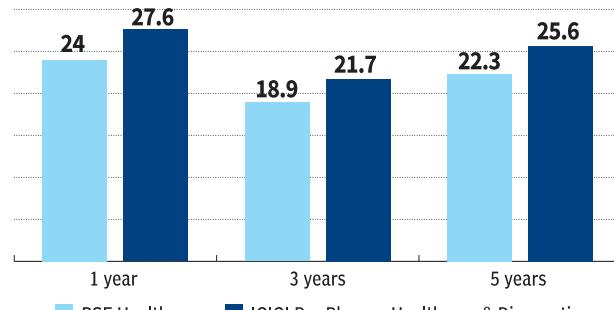
**FUND CALL.** ICICI Prudential Pharma Healthcare & Diagnostics Fund has delivered benchmark beating returns



GETTY IMAGES

Consistently beating the index

Rolling return average since inception in percentage



Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli  
bl. research bureau

Markets are near historic highs as all positives have been factored into share prices with only a small margin for error. In the broader market, investors must monitor earnings growth (which is only modest) and price-to-earnings ratios, amidst an uncertain and volatile global environment.

At this point, defensive earnings growth offered by the healthcare sector should interest investors. But even within healthcare, pharmaceuticals are again under a cloud with Trump tariffs hitting a feverish pitch recently. Despite having long-term drivers firmly in place, pharma investors will have to deal with the short-term noise.

The current dynamics in the sector may present a better entry point for long-term investors with a risk appetite that tides over the impending tariff volatility in the near term.

Among mutual funds operating in healthcare, ICICI Prudential's Pharma Healthcare & Diagnostics Fund has delivered strong benchmark-beating returns, and can be considered for sector exposure.

#### SECTOR NOISE

Firstly, US President Donald Trump's tariff announcements have been targeting pharmaceuticals again.

Trump stated that unless companies start producing pharmaceuticals in the US in a year's time or more, imports to the US will have to face 200 per cent tariffs.

India primarily exports generics to the US; close to half of the generics consumed in the US are sourced from India.

Given the dependency on imported generics, the lower size

#### WHY INVEST

- Rolling 5-year returns beat benchmark
- Holds up well when compared across healthcare funds
- Good entry point for long-term investors

of the market (generics are 90 per cent by volume and 20 per cent by value), and a probable uniform impact on all importers, except the ones based in the US, the impact of tariffs will largely be borne by consumers and partially by manufacturers.

Nifty Pharma index has gained 8 per cent in the last one year, a period marked by tariff discussions, as investors have assessed the impact of the same.

The sector could be in for a volatile period on the product front. Generic Revlimid opportunity comes to a halt in early January 2026, a product which benefitted several players in India. Diabetes opportunity could open around the same time; it will have to be monitored which player is geared to leverage it.

The other sectors in the segment such as hospitals and diagnostics, offer diversification benefits. Hospitals have re-rated to higher valuations.

As healthcare is increasingly a private service in India as opposed to a government-provided service, the industry can expand volumes and maintain pricing growth.

Listed diagnostic chains are benefitting from the unorganised to organised transition, which is driving volumes, but price-based competition is pressuring the sector.

#### FUND PERFORMANCE

The fund has an average rolling

five-year returns of 25.6 per cent against BSE Healthcare index returns of 22.3 per cent since its inception in 2018. Even in one- and three-year periods, the fund outperformed the index as shown in the table. The fund holds up well when compared across healthcare funds as illustrated.

Investors must note that while ICICI Prudential, DSP Healthcare or Mirae have higher returns compared to Nippon, SBI and UTI, it can be attributed to the fund legacy period. The former three have started operations in the 2018-19 period, when pharma stocks turned around negative growth and valuations started increasing, while the other three funds have been operating for nearly 20 years.

The fund is overweight on pharmaceuticals with 77 per cent as on May 2025 compared to the segment average of 69 per cent. Hospitals and labs are underweighted at a combined 6.7 per cent compared to sector weight of 15 per cent which could be attributed to higher valuations in the segments.

Within pharmaceuticals, Sun Pharma holds the biggest weight at 12.7 per cent and has come off from 16 per cent in January 2024. In the period thereafter, Divi's Labs' weight increased from 2 per cent to 9 per cent now.

The prospects of contract research and manufacturing that Divi's is into have improved on the back of US Bio Secure Act; this is reflected in fund holdings. The funds are also overweight on Dr Reddy's at 9 per cent compared to the sector average of 4 per cent. This could be attributed to impending diabetes franchise the company is aiming at, which has been the basis of our hold call on the stock recently.

#### ALERTS

##### ICICI Pru MF launches Active Momentum Fund

ICICI Prudential Active Momentum Fund is an open-ended equity scheme following the momentum theme. The NFO closes on July 22, 2025. No entry load is charged. The exit load will be 1 per cent of applicable Net Asset Value if redeemed or switched out within 12 months from allotment, and nil if redeemed or switched out after 12 months. The minimum subscription amount is ₹5,000 plus in multiple of ₹1. The performance will be benchmarked with Nifty 500 TRI; the fund managers are Manasvi Shah and Sharmila D'Silva.

The investment objective is to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing in equity & related instruments of firms reflecting momentum factors.

##### Bandhan Mutual Fund's Multi-Factor Fund

Bandhan Multi-Factor Fund is an open-ended equity scheme investing based on adaptive and evolving multi-factor quantitative model theme. The NFO closes on July 24, 2025. No entry load is charged. The exit load will be 0.50 per cent of the applicable NAV if redeemed/switched out on or within 30 days from the date of allotment and nil if redeemed/switched out after 30 days. The minimum subscription amount is ₹1,000 and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. The

performance will be benchmarked with BSE 200 TRI; the fund managers are Rishi Sharma (equity) and Brijesh Shah (debt).

#### ETF movers

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

ETF	NAV (₹)	Price (₹)	Weekly change in price (%)	Volume traded in the last week (in '000s)
	as on Jul 11			
Edelweiss Silver ETF	111.3	111.7	2.9	761
DSP Silver ETF	107.1	107.5	2.9	2,947
Tata Silver ETF	10.8	10.8	2.9	16,789
ICICI Prudential Silver ETF	110.9	111.2	2.8	23,649
HDFC Silver ETF	106.8	107.0	2.8	5,134
360 One Silver ETF	109.8	109.9	2.7	38
Kotak Silver ETF	107.9	108.0	2.7	1,618
<b>GOLD ETFs</b>				
Invesco India Gold ETF	8510.1	8536.4	0.6	2
Axis Gold ETF	81.7	81.8	0.5	2,052
DSP Gold ETF	95.1	95.3	0.4	627

Source: Bloomberg. Returns as on July 11, 2025

#### Best NPS plans

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

Name of the fund	NAV (₹) as on Jul 11	Returns (% CAGR) 1-year	Assets (₹ cr) 3-year	5-year
<b>TIER I: EQUITY PLANS</b>				
UTI Pension Fund	73.2	2.3	19.9	22.0
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	73.9	2.5	20.2	21.8
Kotak Pension Fund	69.0	4.7	20.5	21.6
<b>TIER I: GOVERNMENT BOND PLANS</b>				
ABSL Pension Scheme	19.0	9.1	9.3	6.5
LIC Pension Fund	30.5	9.1	9.3	6.4
SBI Pension Fund	40.9	9.0	9.3	6.3
<b>TIER I: CORPORATE DEBT PLANS</b>				
HDFC Pension Fund	29.1	10.6	8.8	7.3
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	43.9	10.3	8.6	7.0
SBI Pension Fund	44.0	10.5	8.6	6.9
<b>TIER I: ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS</b>				
HDFC Pension Fund	21.3	13.4	9.6	9.7
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	19.3	15.1	8.9	8.8
SBI Pension Fund	21.9	14.5	8.9	8.7

Source: NPS Trust. Returns as on July 11, 2025

#### Top PMS schemes

Based on 5-year returns

AMC	Strategy	AUM (in ₹ cr)	Returns (% CAGR)		
			1-year	3-year	5-year
<b>LARGE CAP</b>					
Tulisan PMS	Tulisan PMS	NA	3.8	29.5	37.1
Renaissance Investment	Opportunities Portfolio	NA	6.4	23.4	28.4
Standard Chartered Securities India	Long Term Value Compounder	NA	16.3	27.1	26.5
ICICI Pru	Largecap	832	5.7	29.0	26.3
<b>MULTI CAP</b>					
Negen Capital Services	Special Situ Tech Fund	1,202	22.1	33.5	47.0
Bonanza Portfolio	Multicap	NA	1.7	34.9	40.9
Bonanza Portfolio	Edge	NA	-1.6	31.5	39.6
Invasset	Growth Pro Max	NA	-10.1	39.6	39.4
Renaissance Investment	Indianext Portfolio	NA	10.0	28.9	39.1
Shepherd's Hill Financial Advisors	Value Magno	119	14.6	36.7	37.9
<b>MID-CAP</b>					
NAFA Asset Managers	Emerging Bluechip	NA	0.4	25.7	33.4
Master Portfolio Services	Master Trust India Growth	NA	8.5	26.8	33.3
Unifi Capital	APJ 20	NA	7.4	26.4	33.2
Right Horizons	Super Value	NA	5.4	25.8	30.7
<b>SMALL CAP</b>					
Counter Cyclical Investments	Diversified Long Term Value	770	15.3	39.7	74.5
Equitree Capital Advisors	Emerging Opportunities	792	13.6	41.7	48.0
Aequitas Invest. Consultancy	India Opportunities	3,356	15.4	44.1	47.2
Accuracap	Dynamo	NA	11.2	39.2	38.5

\*Source: PMS Bazaar. Returns as on June 30, 2025

Bloomberg

US Treasuries registered a second week of losses, with long bonds leading Friday's slump as concerns about inflation re-emerged.

Yields have risen across the curve since the start of the month, with the benchmark 10-year's up nearly 20 basis points over that period to settle at 4.42 per cent on Friday afternoon in New York. The 30-year yield jumped nine basis points in the session.

While the Federal Reserve is expected to resume cutting interest rates later this year, investors have grown increasingly cautious over inflation due to President Donald Trump's tariff threats and rising oil prices.

"The sell-off seems to be largely inflation-concern driven," said Molly Brooks, US rates strategist, TD Securities. "We still think rates should move lower by the end of the year as we expect the Fed to react to growth concerns and cut in October."

**BEST FIRST HALF**  
While government bonds posted their best first half in five years, they have seen big swings at times this year as Trump ramped up his threats on trading partners and amid concerns over increased fiscal spending.

Trump this week said he would impose a 35 per cent tariff on some Canadian goods and raised the prospect of increasing levies on most other countries.

Volatility in the Treasuries

# Pharma outsourcing, at a premium

**IPO WATCH.** Anthem Biosciences' prospects appear strong, but at 71 times FY25 earnings it is priced to perfection

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli  
bl. research bureau

The IPO of Anthem Biosciences, a CDMO operator (Contract Research Development and Manufacturing Organisation) will be open from July 14 to 16. The issue, amounting to ₹3,395 crore, is entirely an offer for sale by the promoters and other investors. The firm was established in 2006 by promoters who now have 40 years of experience in Pharma R&D. It serves both small molecules and biologics clients with 242 projects (FY25) that includes 10 molecules that are commercialised by their clients.

The company's runway for growth is supported by early-/late-stage projects turning commercial, the existing commercialised molecules of clients gaining traction and new capacity addition.

On the structural front, trends like China +1 and the US Biosecure Act are working in the company's favour. On the technology side, it is running active projects across key biological platforms, with capabilities spanning from lab-scale development to full commercial production. Thus the company has many positives. However, the issue priced at 71 times FY25 earnings is at a premium and prices the business prospects to perfection, leaving investors with a low margin of safety. We recommend investors to wait and watch for now and look for better opportunities to enter post-listing at lower valuations.

While the CDMO/CRO space trades at an average of 81 times FY25 earnings as well, the space is expensively valued.

**BUSINESS SCOPE**  
Anthem Biosciences provides services to clients from drug discovery to commercialisation. When the client gets regulatory approval for the molecule, the company handles commercial-stage manufacturing or "fulfils commercial supply contracts, which may span for six-eight years as it will be patent-protected."



## Peer comparison

	Revenue (FY25) (₹ cr)	FY20-25 revenue CAGR (%)	FY25 EBITDA margin (%)	FY25 PE (x)
Anthem Biosciences	1,845	24.8	36.8	70.9
Syngene	3,642	12.1	28.6	51.5
Sai Lifesciences	1,695	18.4	23.9	92.2
Cohance Lifesciences	1,198	8.1	31.3	97.3
Divi's Labs	9,360	12.0	31.7	83.2

## Strong portfolio of projects

	FY23	FY24	FY25
Commercial molecules	8	10	10
Late Phase molecules	7	9	10
Early phase development projects	161	157	145
Discovery projects	72	56	68

The company operates in small molecules (chemical synthesis) and biologics (living organism-based) products. This allows the company to address both segments and the intersection of the two.

## GROWTH DRIVERS

As with any CDMO, the primary growth driver will be commercialisation of the client molecules, which are in early- to late-stage of development. If and when molecules get regulatory approval for launch, Anthem can be assured of a near-certain six-eight year supply relationship to the patented molecule in the highly-lucrative regulated markets. Even assuming a conservative success rate, its 155

support for drug development to the US biopharma industry. Anthem has onboarded 89 customers in the US through the partnership. While there is no profit-sharing with Davos, there may be a tripartite agreement or Davos Pharma acts as the front-end.

Partly in anticipation and partly from existing demand, the company has expanded facilities at a cost of ₹800 crore, which should be commercialised in FY26. The custom synthesis capacity will increase from 270 kL to 425 kL and fermentation capacity, crucial for peptides and biologics will increase from 142 kL (highest in India) to 182 kL. The company has commenced construction of another facility for further expansion.

The current commercial basket includes 10 molecules which contributed to 54 per cent of FY25 revenues. These molecules are patented, which ensures exclusivity to the client. Anthem should expect increasing market share and increasing

## IPO rating

### Anthem Biosciences

Business	★★★★★
Financials	★★★★★
Management	★★★★★
Valuation	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★

Rankings 1 to 5, 1 denoting lowest and 5 highest

Offer period July 14 - 16, 2025  
Price band ₹540-570  
Market cap ₹30,326-32,011 cr

pipeline projects should ensure steady additions to the commercial basket.

Partly in anticipation and partly from existing demand, the company has expanded facilities at a cost of ₹800 crore, which should be commercialised in FY26. The custom synthesis capacity will increase from 270 kL to 425 kL and fermentation capacity, crucial for peptides and biologics will increase from 142 kL (highest in India) to 182 kL. The company has commenced construction of another facility for further expansion.

The current commercial basket includes 10 molecules which contributed to 54 per cent of FY25 revenues. These molecules are patented, which ensures exclusivity to the client. Anthem should expect increasing market share and increasing

realisations at the client end, which translates to revenue growth from the current commercialised basket to tune of low teens.

Anthem derived 18 per cent revenues from speciality ingredients, which are complex fermentation-based APIs including peptides and enzymes. From January 2026, GLP-1 (glucagon like peptides) class of products for diabetes and weight loss will lose patent exclusivity across the world opening up \$30-billion innovator market for generic competition. The management indicates that it will partake in the opportunity as supplier to domestic or international generics.

On a broader scale, the CDMO industry in India is likely to scale up based on China +1 and the US Biosecure Act, which prohibits business from certain Chinese companies. If the supply chain diversification persists, India should be among the leading beneficiaries of the shift. The company's comprehensive presence in biologics is also a tailwind. Biologics' share in new product approvals have increased from 29 per cent in 2018 to 44 per cent in 2024, supporting the company's technical capabilities.

## FINANCIALS

The company reported revenue growth of 32 per cent CAGR in FY23-25, driven by a 43 per cent CAGR growth in commercial development and manufacturing segment that benefitted from addition to the commercial basket. Anthem sustaining a high growth rests on its early- to late-stage assets getting the green light. The company also has a high EBITDA margin of 36.4 per cent in FY25 (FY23-25 CAGR of 25 per cent), which drives its strong balance sheet with net cash of ₹208 crore apart from mutual fund investments of ₹416 crore in March 2025. The company in its RHP indicates that inorganic expansion could be a driver of growth with the cash position and is looking at targets that complement technically or near shoring of capacities from Europe.

# Taking Stock • bl • 5

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

## REALITY CHECK.

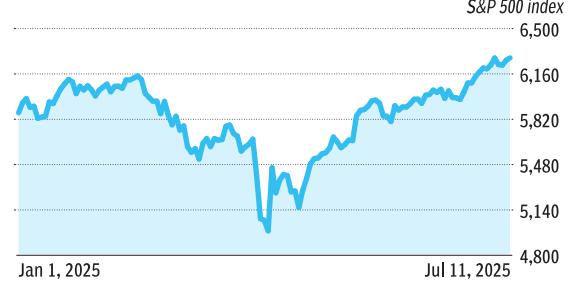
### The V-shaped recovery in US markets

Dhuravel Gunasekaran  
bl. research bureau

The US markets have had one of their wildest rides this year. With the S&P 500 initially hitting what was at that time an all-time high of 6,144 on February 19 (closing high), it plunged 19 per cent to a low of 4,983 on April 8 (closing low).

Since then, it has recovered remarkably, defying the expectations of many to hit a new all-time closing high of 6,260 last week.

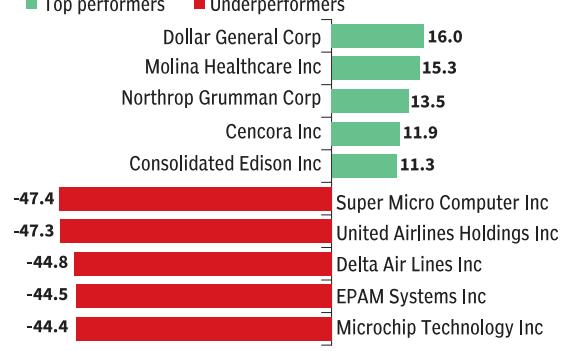
#### Correction and recovery in Trump 2.0



While many over-hangs remain and valuations are expensive at a PE of 26.6, the current earnings season and the August 1 deadline for tariffs are key factors for investors to monitor.

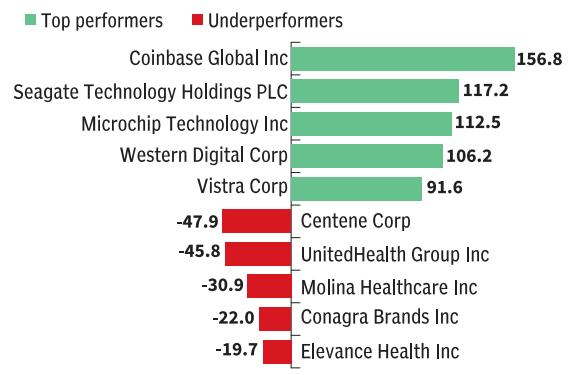
Here, we analyse the winners and losers from S&P 500 in the V-shaped journey this year.

#### Correction phase (Feb 19, 2025 - April 8, 2025)



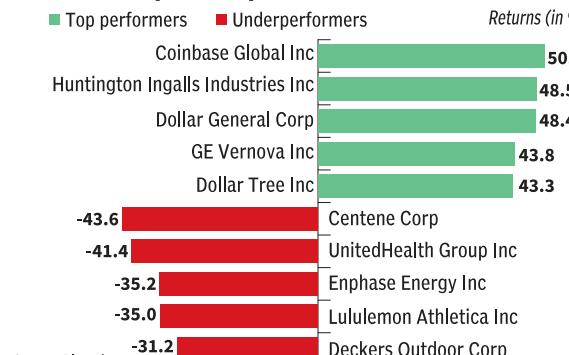
During market uncertainty, select names in healthcare, utilities and retail outperformed, while technology, semiconductor and airline stocks underperformed.

#### Recovery phase (April 8, 2025 - July 11, 2025)



Gains were driven by tech sectors such as semiconductors and crypto-linked firms, while defensives such as healthcare and consumer staples fell behind.

#### From last peak to present (Feb 19, 2025 - July 11, 2025)



Select names in defence, retail and energy stocks led the rally, whereas healthcare, renewable energy and consumer discretionary sectors underperformed.

## WHO AM I?

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

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

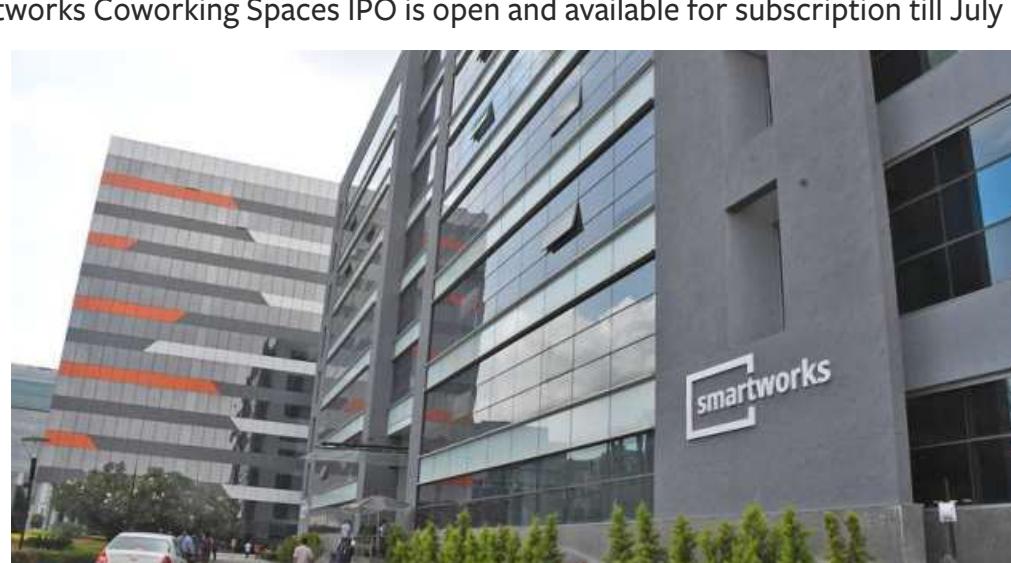
- My founder began his career as an accounts assistant and rose to become a CEO, after which he turned entrepreneur by acquiring a defunct unit.
- Though I am yet to complete 30 years since inception, I am already a national leader in my business with over 25 per cent market share.
- Despite a sharp decline in my stock price recently, I remain a multi-bagger over the last few years. The number of shareholders has more than tripled during this period.
- My founder family entered the growing list of Indian billionaires last year, but dropped off the list this year.
- I have undertaken global acquisitions and joint ventures that received wide media coverage, but only the domestic business is contributing materially to my growth.

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

Last week's stock: Vishal Mega Mart

Last week's winner: Jayati Chakraborty



**IPO WATCH.** The Smartworks Coworking Spaces IPO is open and available for subscription till July 14

Venkatasubramanian K  
bl. research bureau

The requirement for office space has been robust over the past several years. It has even defied the otherwise general slowdown in overall domestic demand scenario. Many start-ups, small and medium enterprises, large companies looking for spaces to accommodate bigger teams are all taking the coworking route or are taking dedicated lease spaces from firms that specialise in this area.

Such specialised companies offer coworking spaces, customised office areas or even manage to lease out entire mid-sized campuses based on client requirements. And they are tapping the markets for raising funds to repay loans and for capital expenditure directed towards business expansion.

After Awfis Space Solutions in May last year, managed campus platform Smartworks Coworking Spaces has come out with an initial public offering (IPO) of shares. The issue is open and available for subscription till July 14. The company is looking to raise about ₹583 crore at the upper end of the price band (₹387-407). From the total funds raised, ₹445 crore is a fresh issue and around ₹138 crore is an offer for sale. The fresh issue is for repaying a portion of its debt, capital expenditure and general corporate purposes.

At ₹407, Smartworks would trade at an EV-to-sales multiple of around 3.5 times and an EV-to-EBITDA multiple (enterprise value to EBITDA) of 5.6 times based on FY25 numbers. In comparison, Awfis trades at EV-to-sales of close to 3.8 times and an EV-to-EBITDA multiple of over 11 times.

Smartworks is currently loss-making. For perspective, Awfis, too, was loss-making at the time of its IPO in May 2024, but has turned profitable at the net level in FY25, apart from becoming net-debt free. But Smartworks enjoys a higher EBITDA margin – 62.4 per cent in FY25, com-

pared with 33.3 per cent for Awfis – and scores on a few operational metrics (lease tenure, lock-in periods, occupancy, seats etc.) as well. A diversified client base, surge in super built-up areas to be offered to customers, rise in occupancy and longer tenures of leases and lock-ins are positives for the company.

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 (25,150) lost 1.2 per cent last week whereas Nifty Bank (56,755) was down by a lower 0.5 per cent. While the structure of the broader uptrend is undisturbed, some weakness has crept in. Here's an analysis of the futures and options (F&O) data of both indices.

**NIFTY 50**  
Nifty futures (Jul) (25,223) dropped 1.2 per cent over the past week. There was not much change with respect to the outstanding open interest during this time and it stood at nearly 135 lakh contracts on Friday.

Over the past week, the selling of call options was seen higher than that of the puts in weekly as well as monthly expiries. Thus, the Put Call Ratio (PCR) dropped – for weekly from 0.80 to 0.50; for monthly from 1.20 to 1.10. So, the weakness might stay, at least during the coming week. In line with this, the chart of Nifty futures indicates that there might be some more correction.

From the current level of 25,223, Nifty futures might drop to the 25,100-25,000 price band, its nearest support. Subsequent support is at 24,750.

The outlook will turn bearish if Nifty futures breaches the support at 24,750. In such a scenario, the contract can drop further to 24,500 and 24,000, notable support levels.

On the other hand, if there is a recovery from the current level, it can face a hurdle at 25,400. A rally past this can bring back the bullishness. Nearest resistance above 25,400 is at 25,650.

**Strategy:** Stay out for now. Go long on Nifty futures (Jul) if it



## Momentum slows

**F&O TRACKER.** However, the broader uptrend is still intact; downside can be limited

softens to 25,100. Place stop-loss at 24,900. When the contract rises to 25,400, tighten the stop-loss to 25,200. Book profits at 25,600.

**NIFTY BANK**  
Nifty Bank futures (Jul) (56,918) slipped nearly 0.7 per cent last week. As this occurred, the open interest of the contract saw a slight increase – it went up from 20 lakh contracts on July 4 to 20.3 lakh contracts on July 11. However, it is too small to call it a short build-up.

Over the past week, the PCR of weekly and monthly options dropped as a result of relatively greater call option selling when compared to put options. The PCR of weekly options decreased from 1 to 0.80 whereas the ratio for monthly options declined

### BROAD TREND

- F&O data suggest temporary weakness
- Traders can buy the dip in Nifty futures
- Retain Nifty Bank futures long

from 1.50 to 1.30.

So, as per the futures and options data, there is a chance for further moderation in Nifty Bank futures from the current level.

That said, the chart shows that Nifty Bank futures (Jul) has a trendline support nearby at 56,700. Also, the 23.6 per cent Fibonacci retracement level coincides. Immediate support below 56,280 is at 55,800.

If there is a rebound on the back of this level, the contract can rise and retest the resistance at 57,800. Note that the 57,800-58,000 range is a supply zone. A breakout of 58,000 can intensify the rally. Resistance levels above 58,000 are at 59,000 and 60,000.

But in case Nifty Bank futures (Jul) breaches the support at 56,700, it can see a swift drop to 56,280 where the 50-day moving average and the 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement level coincides. Immediate support below 56,280 is at 55,800.

**Strategy:** As there is a support ahead, we suggest retaining the long position on Nifty Bank futures (Jul) initiated at 57,000. Maintain the stop-loss at 56,300. When the contract rallies past 58,000, trail the stop-loss to 57,000. Book profits at 60,000.

## ITM options are less preferred

**MASTERING DERIVATIVES.** Loss will be more than gains for same magnitude change in underlying

**Venkatesh Bangaruwaswamy**

American options are more valuable than European options, even though traders do not typically exercise their long option positions. This week, it is in this context that we discuss why traders do not prefer in-the-money (ITM) European options.

### INTRINSIC VALUE HURTS

Option price consists of two components- intrinsic value and time value. Only ITM options have intrinsic value whereas all options have time value. The time value of an option declines with each passing day and becomes zero at expiry. Importantly, time value of an option is a residual factor. Hence, the demand for a strike will impact its time value- higher the demand, greater the option price and greater the time value.

Intrinsic value of an option moves one to one with the underlying. Unlike time value, there is no ambiguity in intrinsic value.

If intrinsic value is precisely calculable, there is no mispricing of the factor. That is, if an option has an intrinsic value of 80 points, then that is what you must pay your counterparty when you buy the option. And that is the issue. What is the



### QUICK TIP

Typically, ITM options have lower liquidity than OTM options

value of 80 points, the difference between the spot price of the underlying and the strike price.

If intrinsic value is precisely calculable, there is no mispricing of the factor. That is, if an option has an intrinsic value of 80 points, then that is what you must pay your counterparty when you buy the option. And that is the issue. What is the

point in paying full price to acquire a factor? True, you can gain from the one-to-one movement in the intrinsic-value-component of the option with the underlying. But there is a huge downside to buying an ITM strike. If the underlying declines, then the call option will lose its intrinsic value through the declining delta. The issue is that the delta of an ITM call option is large, greater than 0.5 tending towards one. So, the loss in ITM call price when the underlying declines will be large. Add time decay to this and the total loss will be greater. Importantly, the loss will

be more than the gains for the same magnitude change in underlying price. This is because delta and time decay (theta) will work against the long position when the underlying declines whereas the delta works in favour of the position when the underlying moves up. Then, there is the trading capital. The absolute value of an ITM option is greater than that of an out-of-the-money (OTM) option. This requires allocating large capital for each trade. Traders prefer to buy out-of-the-money (OTM) strikes that require smaller capital.

### OPTIONAL READING

Typically, ITM options have lower liquidity than OTM options. A long OTM call may become deep ITM if the underlying gaps up or climbs up sharply during its option's life. You may then find it difficult to get a counterparty to buy the option at the last traded price. That is when exercising an option before expiry becomes a valuable right, which only an American option can provide.

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

## Uptrend to persist

**BULLION CUES.** Traders can initiate longs

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

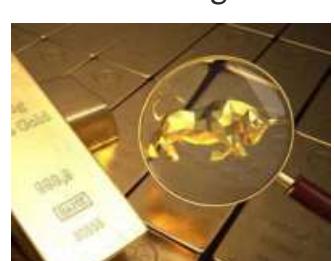
Silver outperformed gold last week. Gold (\$3,356/ounce) was up 0.6 per cent and silver (\$38.40/ounce) rallied 4 per cent. Similarly, in the domestic market, gold futures (₹97,818/10 gm) appreciated 0.9 per cent and silver futures (₹1,13,001/kg) was up 4.2 per cent.

**MCX-GOLD (₹97,818)**  
Gold futures (Aug), which saw a decline during the first half of last week, rebounded in the second half. It has closed marginally above the resistance at ₹97,800. Though not a decisive breakout, the price action is bullish, leaving the probability for a rise higher.

From the current level, the nearest resistance is the price band of ₹1,00,000-1,00,600. A rally past ₹1,00,600 can result in a quick upswing to ₹1,03,000.

But in case there is a decline from the current level, gold futures can find support at ₹96,000 and ₹95,000.

**Trade strategy:** Buy on gold futures (Aug) at ₹97,800. Target and stop-loss can be ₹1,00,000 and ₹96,500 respectively.



### MCX-SILVER (₹1,13,001)

Silver futures (Sep), which was largely flat in the first half of last week, saw considerable rally over the last two sessions. This resulted in the breakout of a resistance at ₹1,10,000 and the contract has also formed higher high. This has opened the door for more upside.

The nearest potential barriers are at ₹1,15,000 and ₹1,20,000. If silver futures falls from the current level, it can find support between ₹1,11,000 and ₹1,10,000.

**Trade strategy:** Buy silver futures (Sep) at ₹1,13,000 and on a dip to ₹1,11,000. Keep initial stop-loss at ₹1,08,000.

**MCX-CRUISE OIL (₹5,881)**  
Crude oil futures, after opening with a gap-down on Monday, regained strength quickly and ral-

lied. It opened at ₹5,580 versus previous Friday's close of ₹5,690.

The recovery led to the contract marking an intra-week high of ₹5,914 on Tuesday. But the contract was unable to move past this level as it faced 21-day moving average (DMA) resistance, which is currently at around ₹5,900. Immediate resistance above this is at ₹6,000.

On the other hand, crude oil futures has a support at ₹5,500 where the 50-DMA lies. We expect the contract to trade within ₹5,500 and ₹6,000 for some time before establishing a trend.

Resistance above ₹6,000 is at ₹6,500; support below ₹5,500 is at ₹5,150.

**Trade strategy:** Stay out and initiate trade along the direction of the break of the ₹5,500-6,000 range.

## Bulls to lose steam

**CRUDE CHECK.** Further decline likely

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices rallied for a second week in a row. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$70.40/barrel) was up 3 per cent and the crude oil futures on the MCX (₹5,881/barrel) gained 3.4 per cent.

### BRENT FUTURES (\$70.40)

Brent crude oil futures extended the rally and marked an intra-week high of \$70.71 on Friday. While this appears positive, it should be noted that there is a resistance at \$71. Only a clear breakout of this can turn the outlook positive.

A breach of \$71 can trigger a rally to \$75, a notable resistance.

On the other hand, if there is a decline from the current level of \$70.40, Brent crude oil futures can find support at \$66.

Broadly, as it stands, there is a good chance for the contract to stay within the \$66-71 range.

**Trade strategy:** Buy silver futures (Sep) at ₹1,13,000 and on a dip to ₹1,11,000. Keep initial stop-loss at ₹1,08,000.

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Resistance above ₹6,000 is at ₹6,500; support below ₹5,500 is at ₹5,150.

**Trade strategy:** Stay out and initiate trade along the direction of the break of the ₹5,500-6,000 range.

**Stocks that witnessed major change in OI**

## F & O QUERY



**AKHIL NALLAMUTHU**  
bl. research bureau

I'm holding long on following July expiry options: Havells 1600-call bought for ₹44.15 and CONCOR 624-call bought for ₹9.36. I've a target of ₹57 and ₹15 respectively. How long should I hold this trade?

Anish Das

**Havells India (₹1,527.80):** The stock saw a decline in price in the recent sessions. But it continues to stay within the range of ₹1,500-1,600, within which it has been trading since early May. Therefore, until the stock moves within this price band, the path of the next leg of trend will remain uncertain.

That said, ₹1,500-1,515 is a good support and a rebound on the back of this cannot be ruled out. Even though it may not break out of the resistance at ₹1,600, there could be a rally towards this level in the near term.

In case the stock appreciates to ₹1,600 over the next two weeks, the premium of 1600-call can go up to ₹40. Further upside depends on whether the barrier at ₹1,600 is breached or not. Also remember that the time value of the option will keep dropping.

Our suggestion would be to exit this trade at ₹40. Post this, you can consider buying call again, in August series, once the underlying stock breaks out of ₹1,600. Such a move can lift the price to ₹1,670 quickly.

**CONCOR (₹614.95):** The stock bounced off the 50-day moving average last week and surpassed a barrier at ₹612. So, it has formed a higher high in the daily chart.

Although the price dropped on Friday, the prevailing chart set-up shows a positive outlook and the stock can rise to ₹650 before the end of this expiry.

A rally to ₹650 over the next couple of weeks means the price of the 624-call option can rally to ₹28-30 level. Therefore, you can retain this trade and look for a target of ₹28.

We suggest holding the trades until July 25. If you did not get an exit by that time, liquidate the positions. Do not carry to the final week of expiry where time decay can be faster, potentially eroding the remaining premium quickly.

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

## F&O Strategy

### Buy Bank of Baroda put

**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

The stock of Bank of Baroda (₹237.44) has lost 4.5 per cent so far this month. The chart shows that since mid-April, the stock has fallen off the resistance at ₹250 thrice. Thus, the bears have a good presence at the moment.

The latest decline, which began early this month, appears to be steady and is likely to drag the stock further lower. From the current level, the nearest support can be seen at ₹225. A breach of this can turn the outlook more bearish, possibly dragging the price to ₹210.



On the other hand, if there is a recovery from the current level, there is an immediate resistance at ₹242 which is important from a short-term trading perspective. Given the aforesaid factors, traders can buy a put option.

**Strategy:** We suggest buying 235-put of July expiry, which closed at ₹3.95 on Friday. As the market lot for Bank of Baroda derivative contracts is 2,925 shares, this trade would cost ₹11,553.75, the maximum loss in this trade.

When the underlying stock falls to ₹225, the premium of 235-put can rise to ₹10, which can be the target. Consider holding the put until expiry. Alternatively, traders with higher risk-appetite can go short on Bank of Baroda July futures, which closed at ₹238.22 on Friday. Target and stop-loss can be ₹227 and ₹243.20 respectively.

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

## Short Take

### F&O adjustments

Gurumurthy K  
bl. research bureau

Nifty 50 and Sensex fell breaking below their key intermediate supports last week. Both indices were down over a per cent each. Indeed, they were stable and range-bound till Thursday. The major breakdown on Friday following the weak results of TCS Thursday evening, has turned the short-term outlook negative.

Nifty Bank index fell too, but only about 0.5 per cent. Similarly, the Nifty Smallcap 250 index fell relatively lesser compared to that of the Nifty Midcap 150.

**FPI'S BUY**  
Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) continue to buy Indian equities. Last week, there was a net inflow of about \$613 million into the equity segment. July has seen a net inflow of about \$447 million so far. Continuing foreign money flows can aid in limiting the downside on the Indian benchmark indices.

**NIFTY 50 (25,149.85)**

Nifty failed to get a strong follow-through rise above 25,500 and fell sharply in the second half of the week. It touched a low of 25,129 before closing the week at 25,149.85, down 1.22 per cent.

**Short-term view:** The fall below 25,300 has turned the outlook negative. The region between 25,300 and 25,400 will act as a good resistance now.

Nifty can fall to 24,800-24,700 from here. But after this fall, a strong reversal can take the Nifty back up to 25,300-25,500 again in the coming weeks.

So, the fall to 24,800-24,700 should be considered as a good buying opportunity.

In case the Nifty breaks below 24,700, a steeper fall to 24,200-24,000 is possible. But such a fall may require some strong negative trigger.

**Medium-term view:** The broader picture however continues to be bullish. Strong support is in the 24,000-23,500 region. So, even if a fall extends to 24,000, that can be a good buying opportunity.

We retain our bullish view of the Nifty targeting 28,000-28,500 in the coming months. Thereafter a corrective fall to 26,000 is possible before the Nifty surges to 31,000 over the long term.

**NIFTY BANK (56,754.70)**

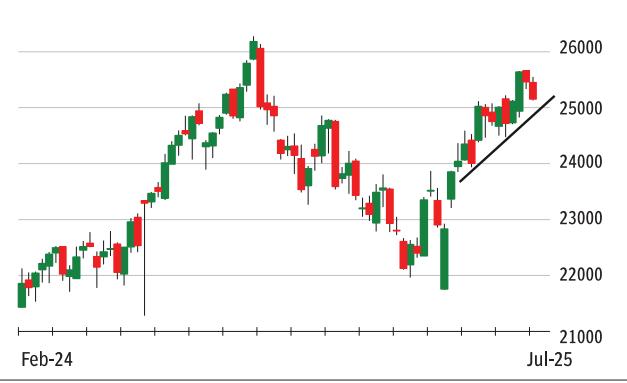
The Nifty Bank index fell but at a slower pace. The index closed the week at 56,754.70, down



# Spread your net

**INDEX OUTLOOK.**  
Nifty 50, Sensex & Nifty Bank likely to provide a good buying opportunity

GETTY IMAGES

**Nifty 50: On a corrective fall****KEY SUPPORTS**

- Nifty 50: 24,800-24,700
- Sensex: 81,000-80,900
- Nifty Bank: 55,900-55,800

before a fresh leg of rise takes it up to 91,000-92,000 over the long term.

**NIFTY MIDCAP 150 (21,636.40)**

Nifty Midcap 150 index remained under pressure and fell all-through the week. It touched a low of 21,588.75 and closed the week at 21,636.40, down 1.53 per cent.

**Short-term view:** The outlook is negative. Resistance is around 21,900. The Nifty Midcap 150 index can fall to 21,350-21,300 from here. The price action thereafter will need a close watch.

A bounce from the 21,350-21,300 region can take the index back up to 21,600-21,700 again. That will give some relief and keep the door open to revisit 22,000 levels.

But a break below 21,300 can see an extended fall to 21,100-21,000. Thereafter the reversal can happen.

**Medium-term view:** The broader trend is up and the index is now consolidating within it. The range of consolidation is 20,900-22,100. So, the aforementioned fall to 21,000 will be well within the range and is going to be a good buying opportunity.

The bias is bullish to see an upside breakout above 22,100.

Such a break can take the Nifty Midcap 150 index up to 23,000 first and then 25,000-25,500 eventually.

**NIFTY SMALLCAP 250 (17,645.45)**

Nifty Smallcap 250 index is stuck in a narrow range of 17,560-17,860 over the last couple of weeks. Within this range, it has closed the week at 17,645.45, down 0.66 per cent.

**Short-term view:** The immediate outlook is unclear. Key support below the range is at 17,440. If that is broken, we can get a fall to 17,100-17,000.

A decisive break above 17,860 is needed to go up towards 18,200 in the short term. The broader bias is bullish to see this rise to 18,200. But whether it will happen from here itself or after a fall to 17,100-17,000 is not very clear.

**Medium-term view:** The broader trend is up. Strong support is around 17,000. Intermediate resistance is around 18,300. The Nifty Smallcap 250 index can breach this hurdle eventually in the coming weeks. Such a break can take it up to 20,000-21,000 in the coming months.

0.49 per cent.

**Short-term view:** Immediate support is at 56,600. A break below it can drag the Nifty Bank index down to 55,900-55,800.

**Short-term view:** The outlook has turned negative after the fall below 83,000. Resistances are now at 82,800 and 83,050. Sensex can fall to 81,850 this week. A break below 81,850 will see an extended fall to 81,000-80,900 in the short term.

Sensex can reverse higher either from 81,850 itself or from 81,000-80,900. That can take it back up to 83,000-84,000 again in the coming weeks.

**Medium-term view:** The big picture continues to remain positive. Strong supports are at 55,000 and 54,500. Bullish view is intact to see 58,500-59,000 on the upside. Thereafter a corrective fall to 56,000 is possible. From a long-term perspective, after this corrective fall, the Nifty Bank index can rise back again and target 61,000.

**Medium-term view:** The broader picture is positive. Strong support is in the 81,000-80,500 region. Sensex can rise to 88,000-89,000 initially in the coming months. After that a corrective fall to 86,000 is possible

port level of 83,000 last week. It touched a low of 82,442.25 and closed the week at 82,500.47, down 1.12 per cent.

**Short-term view:** The outlook is negative. Resistance is around 83,000. Resistances are now at 82,800 and 83,050. Sensex can fall to 81,850 this week. A break below 81,850 will see an extended fall to 81,000-80,900 in the short term.

Sensex can reverse higher either from 81,850 itself or from 81,000-80,900. That can take it back up to 83,000-84,000 again in the coming weeks.

**Medium-term view:** The broader trend is up and the index is now consolidating within it. The range of consolidation is 20,900-22,100. So, the aforementioned fall to 21,000 will be well within the range and is going to be a good buying opportunity.

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

The Benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty 50 were down 1.1 and 1.2 per cent respectively last week. BSE FMCG gained the most by 2 per cent, followed by BSE Power 0.6 per cent. BSE Teck and BSE IT declined by 4 and 3.4 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	22.6	23.6	25.6	15.0	58.6	68.3	40.0	40.0	28.0	19.6	13.1	27.3	12.2	52.9	28.3
P/BV	3.6	4.4	6.1	2.7	11.8	15.3	8.8	6.6	7.8	2.7	1.7	4.0	2.1	6.2	8.2
Dividend Yield	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.8	0.6	2.2	2.1	3.1	1.4	2.6	0.3	1.8
Weekly Return (%)	-1.2 ▼	-1.1 ▼	-2.0 ▼	-0.1 ▼	-1.9 ▼	-2.7 ▼	2.0 ▲	-1.3 ▼	-3.4 ▼	-2.0 ▼	-0.6 ▲	-1.1 ▼	-0.8 ▼	-4.0 ▼	-4.0 ▼
Monthly Return (%)	0.0 ▲	0.0 ▲	-1.6 ▼	-0.2 ▼	-0.3 ▼	1.6 ▲	0.3 ▲	0.7 ▲	-3.2 ▼	-0.9 ▼	-0.4 ▼	-0.5 ▼	-1.5 ▼	-6.2 ▼	-1.6 ▼
Annual Return (%)	3.4 ▲	3.3 ▲	-8.6 ▼	5.9 ▲	-5.9 ▼	0.3 ▲	-4.6 ▼	15.3 ▲	-3.0 ▼	-5.6 ▼	-10.2 ▼	-15.0 ▼	-12.2 ▼	-13.7 ▼	3.0 ▲

The sector indices are disseminated by S&P BSE.

Company	CMP	EPS	PE	PB	Year End	Sales Qty	Profit Qty	Sales TTM	Profit TTM	Wkly Rtn	ROCE	DER	Yr/High	Yr/Low
360 ONE [1]	1193.0	26.6	44.8	5.9	202503	3.7	2.9	29.5	33.9	-4.1	14.5	2.5	1317.3	766.1
3M India	2969.1	542.7	54.7	15.6	202406	-0.3	21.6	3.0	23.3	2.5	39.8	0.0	41000.25714.4	
A B [2]	5751.9	89.1	64.5	17.2	202503	2.5	3.2	10.2	29.2	-1.9	38.4	0.0	89415.45901.0	
A B Real Estate	2199.5	1.0	6.4	2.0	202503	-42.6	-10.3	-16.2	-104.0	-4.3	-2.0	1.0	3142.0	1638.0
Adhaar Hsg. Fin.	452.0	21.1	21.4	3.1	202503	20.4	21.4	20.1	21.6	-1.5	11.4	2.8	516.7	340.5
Aarti Industries [5]	441.1	9.1	48.6	2.9	202503	9.9	-27.3	14.2	-21.1	-7.4	7.3	0.6	7671.3	347.4
AAVAS Financials	204.0	1.0	18.4	1.5	202503	21.4	12.3	25.4	14.2	5.2	0.0	2224.0	1600.2	
Abbott India	6410.0	695.6	51.7	17.3	202503	1.5	2.2	9.7	1.7	0.1	447.7	0.0	60292.62602.2	
ACC [1]	1891.4	12.6	16.0	2.0	202503	12.2	-11.6	9.0	9.4	0.9	17.7	0.0	2743.5	1775.1
Action Const. Eq. [2]	1196.0	34.4	34.8	8.8	202503	15.0	20.4	14.2	24.7	6.6	4.2	0.0	1599.4	917.1
Adani Energy Sol [2]	873.7	20.2	43.2	4.8	202503	35.4	79.0	43.1	113.5	-0.3	1.0	2.2	1347.9	588.3
Adani Enterp. [1]	2562.4	36.3	70.4	6.0	202503	-7.6	4.1	1.5	20.1	-1.4	9.0	1.8	3258.2	2026.9
Adani Green [2]	994.6	10.5	94.4	11.5	202503	22.1	79.5	22.6	35.6	-0.3	9.4	0.6	2919.8	758.0
Adani Ports [2]	1430.7	52.3	27.3	5.0	202503	23.1	28.5	14.1	34.0	4.4	0.0	1604.0	993.9	
Adani Total Gas [2]	33.6	3.3	18.4	4.3	202503	-1.1	-3.1	-0.1	-3.1	-0.1	0.0	1.0	320.0	180.0
Aditya Birla Fin. [2]	5751.9	89.1	64.5	17.2	202503	2.5	3.2	10.2	29.2	-1.9	38.4	0.0	89415.45901.0	
Aditya AMC [5]	445.0	1.0	16.4	2.0	202503	14.9	8.0	11.7	-2.0	-2.3	7.4	0.4	9411.5	530.0
Aditya Birla Fin. [2]	464.8	32.2	6.6	2.0	202503	9.5	24.5	19.2	5.1	3.5	0.0	9120.0	562.5	
Aditya Birla Cap. [2]	76.7	-5.2	16.4	1.4	202503	9.2	-16.5	-9.6	2.0	0.2	1.2	132.8	70.0	
Aditya Birla Cap. [2]	269.2	12.7	21.3	2.3	202503	13.3	-2.6	18.6	-0.1	-2.1	1.0	41	282.8	148.8
Aegis Logistics [1]	738.2	18.9	39.1	5.4	202503	7.2	43.5	4.0	16.5	-2.1	16.1	0.6	1035.7	610.5
Aether Industri. [2]	778.1	2.6	61.7	4.7	202503	44.4	10.6	47.4	47.5	40.2	0.0	1062.0	724.6	
AFC Infrastr. [2]	492.2	27.1	73.4	3.2	202503	19.2	-24.4	-5.4	8.2	-0.2	0.0	1670.0	301.1	
AFC Infrastr. [2]	198.2	27.1	73.4	3.2	202503	19.2	-24.4	-5.4	8.2	-0.2	0.0	1670.0	301.1	
AIA Engineering [2]	2355.3	11.6	29.8	4.6	202503	0.5	-2.0	11.0	7.1	2.3	0.0	1.0	4900.2	2051.1
Ajanta Pharma [2]	2628.1	73.7	35.7	8.7	202503	11.0	1.1	10.4	12.8	-2.2	32.0	0.0	3485.8	2025.1
Akzo Nobel [2]	3643.4	94.3	38.5	12.5	202503	5.0	-0.3	3.3	0.7	6.1	39.1	0.1	4649.0	275.0
Alembic Pharm. [2]	976.5	29.2	33.3	3.7	202503	16.7	-2.7	4.4	-2.5	0.0	12.2	0.0	1156.5	275.6
Além Lekha [2]	4807.0	18.1	26.4	8.2	202503	7.1	0.9	23.3	14.5	-1.6	18.3	0.0	2640.0	1499.9
Alfa Industr. [1]	2233.4	36.4	61.4	8.2	202503	8.3	1.0	25.0	1.1	0.2	1.0	0.0	2409.0	1509.0
Alka Industries [2]	108.0	2.1	10.0	0.5	202503	-36.1	-1.8	-0.2	-3.7	-3.4	0.0	0.0	150.0	15.0
Alma Raja Enterp. [1]	977.5	41.4	20.6	2.4	202503	5.2	-2.9	7.7	-7.1	1.0	18.8	0.0	1689.0	805.1
Amber Enterp. [1]	7465.3	10.9	11.1	2.0	202503	33.8	2.6	-3.0	-0.1	-0.1	10.9	0.3	584.7	368.0
Amelia Comp. [2]	158.6	16.9	34.6	2.7	202503	11.6	0.3	3.0	23.5	-1.5	12.7	0.0	694.9	452.9
Anand Rath Wea. [5]	2211.5	10.5	10.5	4.6	202503	27.8	0.5	5.6	5.0	1.1	0.0	2.0	2320.0	1361.1
Anant Raj [2]	561.3	12.4	45.3	6.6	202503	22.2	51.5	38.9	6.1	2.5	1.0	0.9	1943.7	366.2
Angel One [2]	2463.5	1.0	16.4	2.0	202503	4.6	-8.1	-1.7	-0.4	-0.4	1.1	0.0	2740.0	194.0
Anglo American [2]	606.2	5.6	9.1	8.1	202503	2.7	40.9	11.9	-0.3	-0.3	4.8	0.0	315.5	155.0
Antara Rasayan [1]	113.2	13.4	13.4	2.0	202503	4.5	-24.7	-2.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	115.0	11.0
Apex Industr. [2]	8664.1	204.5	42.4	7.7	202503	17.1	1.8	2.0	0.5	4.8	0.0	0.0	476.0	47.0
API Apollo Tubes [2]	17016.2	27.3												

Venkatasubramanian K  
bl. research bureau

After a lull over a 6-7-month period, markets have gained back their momentum since the middle of April this year. Chances are your mutual fund portfolio value would have surged over this rallying phase. On the debt side, gilt and long duration funds have done quite well delivering double-digit returns over the past couple of years.

However, if you haven't been prudent enough in saving for contingencies separately and need cash on an urgent basis, you can make use of your corpus for raising debt.

For those seeking cash for any emergency or to bridge a relatively short-term liquidity crunch, many banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) offer loans against mutual fund units.

From the eligibility, margin percentage, rate of interest, documentation, operational aspects and repayment tenure, there are some key factors to consider before opting for these loans.

There are processing fee, penalties and charges related to sale of securities (in certain cases) that you must be aware of. Read on to get a clear picture of whether a loan against mutual funds fits your needs.

**FUND INVESTMENTS**

All categories of mutual funds – equity, debt and hybrid – are eligible for loans. Equity (and equity-oriented hybrid) funds are treated differently from debt (and debt-oriented hybrid funds) by the lenders. The processing fee can range from as low as 0.35 per cent of the loan amount to as high as 2 per cent.

Top banks such as ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda offer 50 per cent of the value of mutual funds as loans. In the case of debt funds, the proportion of loan offered goes up to 75-80 per cent. Thus, there is a 50 per cent margin requirement for equity funds and 20-25 per cent for debt funds.

Note that this margin must be maintained all through the tenor of the loan on the outstanding amount. If there is a shortfall, you will have to pay up and bring the deficit to the allowed level. In case you do not have the money to bridge the margin deficit, units of your mutual fund would be sold by the lender. This will involve addi-

# Pros & cons of loans against mutual funds

**CREDIT-WISE.** Know the limits, charges & interest rates



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tional charges and penalties that can go up to ₹5,000.

Delays in paying the loan instalments can result in penalty charges of 2.5 per cent of the withdrawn loan amount from the total sum sanctioned.

The minimum loan amount varies from ₹25,000 to ₹50,000. There is also a maximum limit for the amount sanctioned as loans. In the case of loan against equity funds, the maximum amount allowed is ₹10-20 lakh. In the case of debt funds or fixed maturity plans, the amount can go up to as much as ₹5 crore.

Despite being secured, loans against mutual funds do not come cheap. The interest rates charged are typically north of 11 per cent and could go up to 11.75 per cent in the case of the top banks.

Many banks also take notice of the credit scores of borrowers to finalise the risk premium on interest rates.

Typically, the loan tenor is for a period of 12 months. It can be extended by paying additional charges, usually ranging from

**QUICK TIPS**

- Best to be cautious about taking loans against MFs
- Borrower must be a savings bank account holder
- Lenders sanction loans against MFs that have CAMS as RTA

₹1,000 to ₹5,000. When any of these extra charges are levied, there is also a GST component to be paid additionally.

**WADING THROUGH**

The primary requirement of the aforementioned top few banks have is the borrower must be a savings bank account holder before applying for these loans.

Also, the mode of operation of the bank account must be single.

The mutual fund holdings must also be single and not in joint mode. Joint bank or mu-

tual fund accounts are not preferred by lenders, with some of them specifying separate conditions and procedures in such cases.

You can apply for these loans via apps or internet banking facilities of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda and SBI if you already have a savings accounts with these lenders.

Typically, the sanctioning of the loan is completely online (done within minutes usually) unless the loan requirement runs to several crores of rupees, in which case a branch visit may be required. All usual documents such as PAN, Aadhaar, proof of address, proof of identity are required. You must also present your mutual fund holding statement to the lender. The FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) forms and KYC details have to be filled.

Once you map your account to the mutual funds against which you are looking to borrow, your loan eligibility amount is decided.

Finally, lenders do not lend

against schemes of all mutual fund houses. Most lenders have a designated list.

Typically, lenders sanction loans against mutual funds that have CAMS as their registrar and share transfer agent.

ICICI Bank has a detailed approved list of mutual fund schemes in its website. HDFC Bank specifies the top 10 fund houses in terms of assets under management and registered with CAMS for its lending activities. In the case of SBI, the list includes the top 20 asset management companies that have CAMS as their transfer agent.

As an investor, it is best to be very cautious about taking loans against mutual funds. Equity schemes, especially, are meant to be long-term investments and not to be treated as leverage instruments.

You must certainly avoid taking loans against mutual funds for applying to IPOs hoping for a listing pop, and definitely not for indulging in speculative activities with futures and options.

**SIMPLY PUT.**

## Anchor investors

Dhuraivel Gunasekaran  
bl. research bureau

**Nirmal:** Hey Rahul, I saw a news headline about HDB Financial Services raising over ₹3,300 crore from anchor investors before its IPO opened. Who, in fact, are anchor investors?

**Rahul:** Anchor investors are a special class of institutional investors that SEBI introduced in 2009. They invest in IPOs one day before it opens to the public. Think of them as early movers who help build trust in the IPO.

**Nirmal:** Oh! So, they get early access before everyone else?

**Rahul:** They don't just get in early, but they also invest big. Only qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) like mutual funds, insurance firms, pension funds, and foreign investors that can put in at least ₹10 crore qualify as anchor investors.

Their presence can strongly influence pricing and create a buzz. For example, in the HDB IPO, top names like BlackRock, LIC, and Goldman Sachs came in as anchors that boost confidence for others.

**Nirmal:** How does this affect me as a retail investor?

**Rahul:** When big institutions back an IPO, it signals quality. Also, SEBI



serious and long-term participants.

**Nirmal:** And you said they play a role in price discovery too?

**Rahul:** Yes. Because they put large sums into the IPO, their valuation acts as a benchmark.

**Nirmal:** But have they ever gone wrong?

**Rahul:** Good question. Not every IPO with anchor participation is a winner. Paytm, LIC, and SBI Cards had strong anchor backing but struggled on listing. Also, some SME IPOs like Wagons Learning failed due to poor anchor and public interest.

**Nirmal:** Then why should I care about them?

**Rahul:** Because unlike analyst reports or hype videos, anchor investors actually buy the shares. If serious institutions stay away, it might be a red flag. They help validate or question the company's valuation.

**Nirmal:** So, the anchor response tells me how trustworthy or overpriced an IPO might be?

**Rahul:** Exactly! While it's not the only factor, strong anchor participation is one of the key signals to consider when evaluating an IPO. Investing in IPOs is all about informed decisions. Anchor investors give you a useful clue.

**Nirmal:** Got it! Thanks, Rahul.

## 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 Hospitalization, Ambulance Charges	8,645
TATA AIG	Medicare	No Room Rent Limit, Pre and Post Hospitalization 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: March 14, 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)	Max policy term	Annual premium (₹) (inclusive of GST)		Claim settlement ratio (%)
				Male	Female	
Aditya Birla Capital	DigiShield Plan	85	55	15,859	13,367	98.4
Bandhan Life	iTerm Prime	70	40	14,282	11,756	99.7
Bajaj Allianz	eTouch	99	69	13,100	11,385	99.2
Canara HSBC Life	Young Term Plan - Life Secure	99	69	13,387	11,183	99.2
HDFC Life	Click 2 Protect Super	85	70	15,863	13,484	99.5
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	69	14,651	12,454	99.2
Max Life	Smart Total Elite Protection	85	55	13,544	11,360	99.7
SBI Life	eShield Next	100	70	17,494	14,653	98.3
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorna Raksha Promise	100	70	12,909	10,955	99.1

Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer

Source: www.policybazaar.com, Date: July 11, 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	6.55	6.4	6.4	Jul 04
Deutsche Bank	5	7.35	6.25	6.25	Jun 13
HSBC	4.1	6.5	5.35	5.5	Jun 05
Scotiabank	3.7	3.9	4	4	Jun 01
Standard Chartered	5.75	6.6	6.5	6.5	Jul 05
<b>INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>					
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	6.7	6.2	6.1	Jun 27
Bank of Baroda	6	6.6	6.5	6.4	Jun 12
Bank of India	5.5	6.7	6.4	6.25	Jun 16
Canara Bank	6	6.6	6.5	6.5	Jun 09
Central Bank of India	5.5	6.7	6.7	6.5	Jul 10
Indian Bank	4.75	6.9	6.4	6.25	Jun 09
Indian Overseas Bank	5.5	7.1	6.6	6.3	Jul 01
Punjab National Bank	6	6.7	6.4	6.5	Jun 18
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.5	7.05	6.35	6.35	Jun 16
State Bank of India	6.05	6.6	6.45	6.3	Jun 15
UCO Bank	6.85	6.9	6.3	6.2	Jun 23
Union Bank	6.15	6.6	6.6	6.4	Jul 07
<b>INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS</b>					
Axis Bank	5.75	6.6	6.5	6.5	Jun 12
Bandhan Bank	4.25	7.4	7.4	7.25	Jul 02
CSB Bank	6.75	7.4	7	5.75	May 03
City Union Bank	6.25	6.75	6.65	6.25	Jun 13
DCB Bank	6.5				

# 10 • bl • Star Track MF Ratings

CHENNAI  
businessline.portfolio  
SUNDAY - JULY 13 - 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 Large Cap	63.2	16617	1.7	0.5	5.1	18.3	19.4	13.5	0.73
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Large Cap	110.4	72336	1.4	0.9	4.4	21.1	22.8	14.2	0.90
★★★★★ JM Large Cap	153.3	540	2.4	0.7	-6.4	18.5	17.8	10.7	0.62
★★★★★ Baroda BNPP Large Cap	221.5	2719	2.0	0.8	-0.7	19.1	19.6	12.3	0.71
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large Cap	84.1	1322	2.1	0.6	1.2	18.7	19.8	12.4	0.74
★★★★★ Kotak Large Cap	574.3	10516	1.7	0.6	3.3	18.1	20.3	12.7	0.75
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Large Cap	90.8	43829	1.5	0.7	3.4	22.9	25.7	14.0	0.91
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Large Cap	530.1	30927	1.6	1.0	4.4	18.6	21.0	12.4	0.78
★★★★★ Bandhan Large Cap	76.6	1928	2.0	0.9	2.6	18.8	19.6	12.1	0.68
★★★★★ HDFC Large Cap	1139.3	38905	1.6	1.0	1.1	19.4	22.2	12.8	0.81
★★★★★ HSBC Large Cap	471.1	1888	2.1	1.3	0.4	17.2	18.4	12.1	0.61
★★★★★ Invesco India Largecap	69.6	1558	2.1	0.8	3.4	19.9	20.5	12.7	0.69
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large Cap	113.0	40725	1.5	0.5	4.2	15.4	18.5	13.2	0.69
★★★★★ SBI Large Cap	93.3	53959	1.5	0.8	4.9	17.4	20.5	12.5	0.78
★★★★★ Tata Large Cap	503.9	2702	2.0	1.0	0.6	17.8	20.5	11.7	0.76
★★★★★ UTI Large Cap	274.1	13074	1.7	0.9	2.2	15.1	18.6	11.7	0.67
★★★★★ Axis Large Cap	60.4	34374	1.6	0.7	2.7	14.2	15.3	12.0	0.51
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Large Cap	1026.0	7984	1.8	1.1	4.8	16.3	19.8	11.1	0.68
★★★★★ LIC MF Large Cap	56.4	1505	2.1	1.0	1.4	15.0	16.8	10.3	0.58
★★★★★ Union Largecap	23.6	465	2.5	1.5	-0.3	15.8	18.2	-	0.64
★★★★★ DSP Large Cap	475.8	6323	1.9	1.0	6.6	20.9	20.0	11.5	0.78
★★★★★ Groww Largecap	42.9	130	2.5	1.3	-1.0	16.8	17.2	11.3	0.59
★★★★★ PGIM India Large Cap	340.0	620	2.4	0.9	2.4	15.0	16.7	10.3	0.59
★★★★★ Mahi Manu Large Cap	23.3	730	2.3	0.7	1.5	16.9	19.7	-	0.71
★★★★★ Taurus Large Cap	157.0	51	2.6	2.4	-0.5	17.8	18.4	9.3	0.57

## EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ HDFC Large and Mid Cap	342.5	26849	1.7	0.9	2.5	24.1	27.9	14.2	0.92
★★★★★ Quant Large & Mid Cap	116.7	3840	1.9	0.6	-9.9	21.7	24.2	16.5	0.71
★★★★★ Bandhan Large & Mid Cap	132.9	9735	1.7	0.6	3.0	26.9	27.7	15.3	0.91
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	100.0	22857	1.7	0.8	6.1	24.4	28.3	15.8	1.04
★★★★★ Kotak Large & Midcap	342.4	28294	1.6	0.6	1.2	22.7	23.8	15.2	0.80
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	150.7	41202	1.5	0.6	1.6	18.8	22.8	17.3	0.76
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Large and Mid Cap	256.2	26118	1.6	0.6	3.3	19.6	22.9	15.5	0.76
★★★★★ DSP Large & Mid Cap	620.8	15663	1.7	0.7	2.1	23.3	24.1	15.3	0.83
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	86.8	4139	1.8	0.5	2.5	21.1	23.9	14.2	0.78
★★★★★ Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	100.6	7887	1.8	0.7	12.4	28.1	25.4	15.6	0.75
★★★★★ LIC MF Large & Midcap	38.9	3169	1.6	0.6	-0.5	19.5	23.3	14.6	0.74
★★★★★ SBI Large & Midcap	625.9	33031	1.6	0.7	5.5	21.8	25.4	14.7	0.92
★★★★★ Tata Large & Mid Cap	529.3	8887	1.7	0.6	1.3	19.0	21.6	13.4	0.80
★★★★★ UTI Large & Mid Cap	180.8	4866	1.1	1.4	4.4	24.6	27.3	13.8	0.93
★★★★★ BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	87.9	418	2.3	1.1	-2.7	19.9	21.9	12.3	0.70
★★★★★ Navi Large & Midcap	35.4	328	2.3	0.4	1.1	16.1	20.9	-	0.69
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Vision Large & Mid Cap	1463.3	6198	1.9	1.3	3.1	24.1	25.6	12.6	0.87
★★★★★ Sundaram Large and Mid Cap	84.9	6893	1.8	0.8	1.1	19.1	22.1	13.9	0.70
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Large & Mid Cap	906.3	5939	1.9	1.1	0.2	17.5	19.2	11.7	0.54
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Large & Mid Cap	192.8	3684	2.0	1.3	7.0	18.6	23.8	11.9	0.78
★★★★★ Axis Large & Mid Cap	32.7	14954	1.7	0.6	3.7	21.0	23.1	-	0.69
★★★★★ HSBC Large & Mid Cap	26.4	4365	1.9	0.8	-2.4	22.1	23.4	-	0.61

## EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ JM Flexicap	97.9	6144	1.8	0.5	-7.7	26.0	25.9	15.7	0.81
★★★★★ Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	84.5	110392	1.3	0.6	8.9	22.6	24.4	17.6	1.00
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1645.7	19365	1.7	0.9	3.5	22.3	25.8	13.9	0.86
★★★★★ HDFC Flexi Cap	1983.2	79585	1.4	0.7	8.1	26.0	29.2	15.5	1.07
★★★★★ PGIM India Flexi Cap	36.2	6392	1.8	0.4	4.3	15.6	20.9	13.4	0.70
★★★★★ Union Flexi Cap	51.4	2401	2.0	0.9	3.1	18.7	21.6	12.3	0.73
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1793.0	23606	1.7	0.9	5.9	20.2	21.9	14.0	0.74
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	340.3	13588	1.7	0.5	4.4	18.3	20.3	13.4	0.72
★★★★★ DSP Flexi Cap	103.3	12818	1.7	0.7	2.9	20.6	21.4	14.1	0.68
★★★★★ Edelweiss Flexi Cap	37.9	2802	1.9	0.4	0.6	21.4	23.4	14.1	0.77
★★★★★ HSBC Flexi Cap	220.0	5169	1.9	1.2	2.7	23.0	23.0	12.9	0.68
★★★★★ Kotak Flexicap	85.8	54841	1.5	0.6	3.4	20.8	20.8	14.0	0.72
★★★★★ Bandhan Flexi Cap	208.2	7607	1.9	1.2	2.8	21.0	20.5	11.1	0.70
★★★★★ LIC MF Flexi Cap	98.4	1021	2.3	1.3	-2.4	17.1	17.0	9.5	0.51
★★★★★ SBI Flexicap	108.9	22500	1.7	0.9	0.4	15.6	19.6	12.7	0.71
★★★★★ UTI Flexi Cap	325.3	26235	1.7	1.0	6.2	13.6	18.0	12.2	0.55
★★★★★ Motilal Oswal FlexiCap	62.2	13894	1.7	0.9	9.9	26.4	20.7	1	

bl.rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)					AA & Below
				Regular	Direct	1 Month Ann.	3 Month Ann.	6 Month Ann.	1 Year CAGR		
★★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Liquid	2014.1	883	0.3	0.2	5.6	6.1	6.8	6.9	-	
★★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Liquid	421.6	49486	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Axis Liquid	2913.0	33529	0.2	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.1	7.2	-	
★★★★★	Bandhan Liquid	3159.9	12298	0.3	0.1	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.0	-	
★★★★★	Baroda BNPP Liquid	3007.8	9252	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.1	-	
★★★★★	BOI Liquid	3012.9	2088	0.1	0.1	5.9	6.4	7.1	7.2	-	
★★★★★	Canara Robeco Liquid	3149.0	5383	0.2	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.1	7.2	-	
★★★★★	DSP Liquidity	3735.0	16926	0.2	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.2	-	
★★★★★	Edelweiss Liquid	3345.5	7826	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.4	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Growth Liquid	2530.1	246	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.2	-	
★★★★★	HDFC Liquid	5133.1	63548	0.3	0.2	5.9	6.2	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	HSBC Liquid	2608.7	18693	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.4	7.1	7.1	-	
★★★★★	ICICI Pru Liquid	387.3	49517	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Invesco India Liquid	3595.9	12320	0.2	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.2	-	
★★★★★	ITI Liquid	1362.4	62	0.3	0.1	5.7	6.1	6.8	6.9	-	
★★★★★	JM Liquid	71.4	1909	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.3	6.9	7.0	-	
★★★★★	Kotak Liquid	5287.9	34687	0.3	0.2	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	LIC MF Liquid	4729.3	10377	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Maha Manu Liquid	1702.3	1018	0.3	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Mirae Asset Liquid	2743.3	11238	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.8	1112	0.4	0.2	5.4	5.8	6.4	6.6	-	
★★★★★	Navi Liquid	28.4	1062	0.2	0.2	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.8	-	
★★★★★	Nippon Ind Liquid	6385.1	34490	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Parag Parikh Liquid	1451.4	3697	0.2	0.1	5.6	6.1	6.7	6.8	-	
★★★★★	PGBM India Liquid	340.6	357	0.2	0.1	5.7	6.3	7.1	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Quant Liquid	41.4	1496	0.5	0.3	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.9	-	
★★★★★	Quantum Liquid	35.1	534	0.3	0.2	5.4	5.9	6.5	6.7	-	
★★★★★	SBI Liquid	4089.4	62208	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.3	7.0	7.0	-	
★★★★★	Sundaram Liquid	2307.5	5649	0.3	0.1	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Tata Liquid	4120.5	23368	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.1	-	
★★★★★	Union Liquid	2517.2	3359	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	UTI Liquid	4291.9	23273	0.2	0.2	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
★★★★★	WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1407.2	517	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.2	6.9	7.0	-	

## CASH FUNDS

### LIQUID FUNDS

- 360 ONE Liquid	2014.1	883	0.3	0.2	5.6	6.1	6.8	6.9	-	
- Aditya Birla SL Liquid	421.6	49486	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- Axis Liquid	2913.0	33529	0.2	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.1	7.2	-	
- Bandhan Liquid	3159.9	12298	0.3	0.1	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.0	-	
- Baroda BNPP Liquid	3007.8	9252	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.1	-	
- BOI Liquid	3012.9	2088	0.1	0.1	5.9	6.4	7.1	7.2	-	
- Canara Robeco Liquid	3149.0	5383	0.2	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.1	7.2	-	
- DSP Liquidity	3735.0	16926	0.2	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.2	-	
- Edelweiss Liquid	3345.5	7826	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.4	7.0	7.1	-	
- Growth Liquid	2530.1	246	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.2	-	
- HDFC Liquid	5133.1	63548	0.3	0.2	5.9	6.2	7.0	7.1	-	
- HSBC Liquid	2608.7	18693	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.4	7.1	7.1	-	
- ICICI Pru Liquid	387.3	49517	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- Invesco India Liquid	3595.9	12320	0.2	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.2	-	
- ITI Liquid	1362.4	62	0.3	0.1	5.7	6.1	6.8	6.9	-	
- JM Liquid	71.4	1909	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.3	6.9	7.0	-	
- Kotak Liquid	5287.9	34687	0.3	0.2	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- LIC MF Liquid	4729.3	10377	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.1	-	
- Maha Manu Liquid	1702.3	1018	0.3	0.1	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- Mirae Asset Liquid	2743.3	11238	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.8	1112	0.4	0.2	5.4	5.8	6.4	6.6	-	
- Navi Liquid	28.4	1062	0.2	0.2	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.8	-	
- Nippon Ind Liquid	6385.1	34490	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- Parag Parikh Liquid	1451.4	3697	0.2	0.1	5.6	6.1	6.7	6.8	-	
- PGBM India Liquid	340.6	357	0.2	0.1	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.8	-	
- Quant Liquid	41.4	1496	0.5	0.3	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.9	-	
- Quantum Liquid	35.1	534	0.3	0.2	5.4	5.9	6.5	6.7	-	
- SBI Liquid	4089.4	62208	0.3	0.2	5.7	6.3	7.0	7.0	-	
- Sundaram Liquid	2307.5	5649	0.3	0.1	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.1	-	
- Tata Liquid	4120.5	23368	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.1	-	
- Union Liquid	2517.2	3359	0.2	0.1	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- UTI Liquid	4291.9	23273	0.2	0.2	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.1	-	
- WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1407.2	517	0.3	0.2	5.8	6.2	6.9	7.0	-	

## DEBT FUNDS

### DEBT - ULTRA SHORT DURATION FUNDS

bl.rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)
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# Too early to draw conclusions: Naidu on AI crash investigation report

**TWO VIEWS.** Initial findings indicated deliberate action by cockpit crew, say experts; Minister urges caution

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and his deputy Murlidhar Mohol said it was premature to draw conclusions from Air India Boeing 787 accident investigation report.

The preliminary accident investigation report was released by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau on Saturday.

Data from enhanced airborne flight recorders showed that immediately after getting airborne and achieving maximum speed aircraft's fuel control switches transitioned to cut off mode.

While some experts suggested that this indicated deliberate action by cockpit crew, both the Ministers urged caution.

#### CAUTIOUS APPROACH

"We can't draw any conclusions because it is only a preliminary report."



It would be better if we comment on it when the final report comes in.

**RAM MOHAN NAIDU**  
Civil Aviation Minister

Inquiry is still ongoing," Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said.

"AAIB has been carried out a good investigation. It has been an impar-

tial investigation. AAIB is an autonomous authority and there is no interference from the Ministry," he added. Naidu also appreciated the work carried out by AAIB investigators.

"I would like to appreciate the job done by AAIB. For the first time, the black box was safely recovered, and decoding the data was done. This is a preliminary report. We are analysing it from the Ministry."

"It would be better if we comment on it when the final report comes in. We are coordinating with AAIB and we will help with all the resources they need," Naidu said.

The accident investigation is led by Sanjay Kumar Singh who has been appointed as investigator in charge.

Other team members include Jasbir Singh Largha (chief investigator), Vipin Venu Varakoth, Veeraraghavan K and Vaishnav Vijaykumar.

Currently, the downloaded en-

hanced aircraft flight recorder (EAFR) data is being analysed in detail. Components of interest for further examination have been quarantined. Analysis of post mortem reports of passengers and crew too is being carried.

While AAIB has not issued any immediate safety recommendations, it said will review additional evidence and records sought from stakeholders.

In a statement, Boeing said, "Our thoughts remain with the loved ones of the passengers and crew on board Air India Flight 171, as well as everyone affected on the ground in Ahmedabad. We continue to support the investigation and our customer."

We will defer to the AAIB to provide information about AI171, in adherence with the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization protocol known as Annex 13.

With inputs from PTI

08:07:33 GMT - Take-off clearance issued.  
08:08:39 GMT - Aircraft lifted off.

08:08:42 GMT - Aircraft reached max airspeed of 180 knots. "Immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches almost simultaneously flipped from run to cutoff, starving the engines of fuel.

Here is the sequence of events - by the seconds - on June 12, as detailed by Indian investigators in their preliminary report released on Saturday:

05:47 GMT (11:17 a.m. IST)

- Air India Dreamliner VT-ANB landed in Ahmedabad from New Delhi at AI423.

07:48:38 GMT - The aircraft was observed departing from Bay 34 at the airport.

07:55:15 GMT - The aircraft requested taxi clearance, which was granted by air traffic control; a minute later the aircraft taxied from the bay to Runway 23 via Taxiway R4, backtracked and lined up for take-off.

08:02:03 GMT - The aircraft was transferred from ground to tower control.

supplying hydraulic power.  
08:08:52 GMT - Engine 1 fuel cutoff switch transitioned from CUTOFF to RUN.

08:08:56 GMT - Engine 2 fuel cutoff switch also transitions from CUTOFF to RUN.

"When fuel control switches are moved from CUTOFF to RUN while the aircraft is in flight, each engines full authority dual engine control (FADEC) automatically manages a relight and thrust recovery sequence of ignition and fuel introduction."

"Engine 1's core deceleration stopped, reversed and started to progress to recovery. Engine 2 was able to relight but could not arrest core speed deceleration and re-introduced fuel repeatedly to increase core speed acceleration and recovery immediately after lift-off."

"The aircraft started to lose altitude before crossing the airport perimeter wall."

08:08:47 GMT - both engines' values "passed below minimum idle speed", and the RAT hydraulic pump began

08:09:05 GMT - One of the pilots transmitted "MAYDAY MAYDAY".

08:09:11 GMT - Data recording stopped.

08:14:44 GMT - Crash fire tender left the airport premises for rescue and firefighting.

## Taiwan's CTBC Bank to set up IBU in GIFT City

**Avinash Nair**  
Ahmedabad

The largest privately owned bank in Taiwan, CTBC Bank, is the latest to apply to the International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA) for setting up a IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City.

In an application filed with IFSCA a few days ago, the bank has proposed to take up over 3,100 sq ft of space in Brigade Towers located in GIFT SEZ area. In January 2025, the Financial Supervisory Commission in Taiwan had granted formal approval to CTBC Bank to apply for setting up a branch in GIFT City.

**A 'GIFT' FOR MANY**  
CTBC Bank is not alone. Earlier this month, Taipei Fubon Bank also received a formal approval from authorities in Taiwan for setting up an IBU in GIFT City. This branch in Gujarat will not only serve as a door to the Indian market for the bank, but will also serve Taiwanese businessmen and local enterprises in South Asia. "The overall growth seen in some of the sectors like electronics and semiconductors could possibly be a reason why the Taiwanese banks are setting up IBUs," a senior official from IFSCA told businessline.

Earlier this month, Mashreq Bank became the first UAE-based bank to receive an in-principle approval for opening an IBU. CTBC Bank is not alone. Earlier this month, Taipei Fubon Bank also received a formal approval from authorities in Taiwan for setting up an IBU in GIFT City. This branch in Gujarat will not only serve as a door to the Indian market for the bank, but will also serve Taiwanese businessmen and local enterprises in South Asia. "The overall growth seen in some of the sectors like electronics and semiconductors could possibly be a reason why the Taiwanese banks are setting up IBUs," a senior official from IFSCA told businessline.



that will offer a suite of services, including foreign currency loans, trade finance solution and treasury and risk management products. Another bank from West Asia, First Abu Dhabi Bank, has also made a formal application for setting up an IBU in GIFT City. Meanwhile, businessline has already reported that financial entities from France, including Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Natixis, Societe Generale have made similar applications for an IBU.

As of March 2025, the IBUs have a cumulative asset of around \$88,500 million, which includes investments, trade finance, commercial loans, retail loans and interbank placements. Till March 2022, there were only 15 IBUs in GIFT City. The numbers have more than doubled in the last three years to 29 as of March 2025. The recent approvals to Natixis and Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank have taken the total number of IBUs to 31. Some of the early movers have expanded their operations in GIFT City.

### CREATING RIPPLES



**MAJOR FEAT.** Containers being handled from a ship at Adani's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala. It was a year ago that the first container ship was handled at the port on a trial basis, and commercial operations began in December. The port now handles over a lakh containers a month. BIJOY GHOSH

## Indian Bank, IOB strengthen digital footprint

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Public sector banks are upping their game on the digital front with increased focus on launching more digital tools for better operations and customer service.

Public sector lenders Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank on Friday launched a series of digital tools and tech-powered initiatives with the Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary M Nagaraju of the Finance Ministry launching these tools in Chennai.

#### SERVICES, BRANCH FOR ELDERLY

Indian Bank introduced several digital apps and services, including the



INDI-UPI - a UPI-based payment solution developed by the bank - an Agentic AI tool for collection and recovery, the Ind-SMART Biz platform for corporate and MSME clients and a tech stack for the KCC loans for the agricultural sector.

The bank also opened 51 branches

including an exclusive branch for senior citizens called Senior Connect, in Chennai.

#### SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Indian Overseas Bank launched a QR-based real-time feedback system for customers to instantly share their service experience.

Senior officials are alerted in real-time on any adverse feedback to enable swift corrective action.

The bank also launched WhatsApp Banking - a simplified and multilingual banking channel for customers to check balances, obtain mini statements, and locate bank branches through WhatsApp.

The respective MDs of the bank, along with other officials, were part of the launch events.

## FSSAI warns food business operators of penalties for false info in annual returns

**Meenakshi Verma Ambwani**  
New Delhi

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has warned food business operators (FBOs) that furnishing false or misleading information in annual returns will attract penalty. It said licensing authorities which includes States must verify the credibility of the information filed in the return and take necessary action if discrepancies are found.

From the perspective of the food safety compliance, the annual returns filed by food business operators are critical in capturing key information about them holding FSSAI licenses including mandatory production information.

In its latest advisory, the Food Safety Authority noted that in December, 2020 it had mandated the filing of annual returns from FY21 onwards exclusively through the online FoSCoS portal (Food Safety Compliance System).

"Since then, the submission rate has significantly improved. These returns capture key information, including mandatory production details and currently non-mandatory compliance-related data. To verify the credibility of the information, all licensing authorities must scrutinise the annual returns submitted by eligible FBOs under their respective jurisdictions," the advisory added.

"Further, in case of detection of any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or false declarations upon scrutiny, necessary actions shall be initiated as per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and applicable regulations," the advisory +

The FSSAI noted that a provision has also been introduced on the portal for FBOs to revise and update information submitted in annual returns

jurisdictions," the advisory added.

"Further, in case of detection of any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or false declarations upon scrutiny, necessary actions shall be initiated as per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and applicable regulations," the advisory +

The FSSAI noted that a provision has also been introduced on the portal for food business operators to revise and update information submitted in annual returns if they want to rectify inadvertent mistakes.

"All FBOs eligible for filing annual return are hereby reminded that submission of accurate and complete information in the annual return is mandatory," the advisory stressed.

"In cases where any correction or update is required, FBOs are advised to avail the revision/update facility at the earliest as per the timelines and fee structure prescribed in the said order," FSSAI's advisory added.

## Roadmap for use of AI in tapping potential of traditional systems of medicine

**PT Jyothi Datta**  
Mumbai

Artificial intelligence (AI) and centuries-old healing systems may be at two distant ends of time, but AI can support traditional systems of medicine with evidence and research, "to deliver safe, personalised, effective and accessible care", said the World Health Organization (WHO), International Telecommunication Union, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in a recent technical brief.

The brief provides a roadmap to tap the potential of these systems of medicine, responsibly, "while safeguarding cultural heritage and data sovereignty", it said. India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) and the Virtual Health Library in the Americas, among others, found a mention in the report, for its use of AI "to preserve indigenous knowledge, promote collaboration and prevent biopiracy." Traditional, comple-



analyse traditional medicine compounds to treat blood disorders in the Republic of Korea, the note said.

"Our Global Initiative on AI for Health aims to help all countries benefit from AI solutions and ensure that they are safe, effective, and ethical," said Seizo Onoe, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau.

#### DRIVEN BY DATA

The brief stressed the importance of good-quality and inclusive data, besides AI systems that reflected the diversity and complexity of traditional medicine. Besides strengthening evidence and the research, AI application for TCIM could also prevent biopiracy, among other things, it said. Biopiracy is "the unauthorised extraction of biological resources and/or associated traditional knowledge from developing countries or the patenting of spurious inventions based on such knowledge or resources without compensation," it

explained. "Intellectual property is an important tool to accelerate the integration of AI into traditional medicine," said WIPO Assistant Director-General, Edward Kwakwa.

**INFORMED CONSENT** The document also calls for action to uphold indigenous data sovereignty and ensure that AI development is guided by free, prior, and informed consent principles, the note said.

Showcasing community data governance models from Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, it urges governments to adopt legislation that empowers Indigenous Peoples to control and benefit from their data."

"AI must not become a new frontier for exploitation," said Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Systems, calling for the protection and collaboration of indigenous peoples and local communities, while transforming traditional medicine with AI.

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