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

Regd. TN/ARD/14/2012-2014, RNI No. 55320/94



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



Why bond market turbulence will hit equities

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

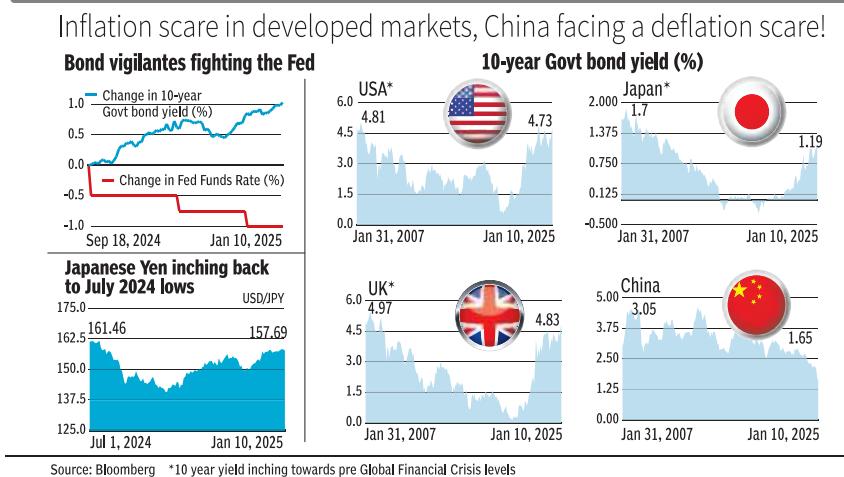
Hari Viswanath
bl. research bureau

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

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

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

This argument gains further strength given the high



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

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

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

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

Nobel economist Milton Friedman had likened central banks in haste to the 'fool in the shower'.

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

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

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

carry trades roiling global markets.

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

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

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

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

hence been demanding higher term premium for long-end bonds. As an old maxim goes 'if central banks don't do their job, the markets will do it for them.'

High fiscal deficit and resultant issuance of bonds have enhanced the pressure on yields.

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

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

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

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

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

INVESTMENT FOCUS

Sun Pharma: Accumulate

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

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

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

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

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

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

Despite SEBI tightening regulations, SME fresh issue frenzy continues

Suresh P. Iyengar
Mumbai

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

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

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

Last month, SEBI made it



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

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

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

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

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

HIGH RETURNS

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

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

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

COLOURS, CULTURE, AND KITES



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

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

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

Meenakshi Verma
Ambwani
New Delhi

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

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

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



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

'Hindi' film of all time.

Through the year, only three movies — *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, *Kalki 2898 AD*, and *Street 2* — crossed the ₹300 crore mark in 2024, setting a new record for highest-grossing

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

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

'Clean energy sector must become self-sustaining'

Our Bureau
New Delhi

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

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

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



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

Details p12

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

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

PUSHPA 2 SCORES

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

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

CH-CHE

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Macro stress in microfinance

THE HANGOVER. An aggressive push for growth and margins has left the MFI sector in trouble, and listed NBFCs with a significant exposure are feeling the pain.

Nishanth Gopalakrishnan
bl. research bureau

Do not kill the goose that lays the golden egg, goes the takeaway from the tale about a goose and its greedy owner, who eviscerated it to get hold of all the golden eggs that he thought were inside its belly. The precarious state of today's microfinance (MFI) lenders is not so different from that of the owner, the golden goose being India's lucrative MFI market. The MFI industry is in a lot of stress today owing to multiple factors. But the misery is largely brought upon by the players themselves, as a consequence of aggressive push for growth and margins with insufficient risk controls.

In our *bl.portfolio* edition dated November 3, 2024, we had given insights on warning signals from the sector following the release of Q2FY25 results and how this could impact private banks with exposure to this segment. Now as earnings season is underway, lot more insights can be gleaned from the Q3 FY25 results that will be reported by banks and NBFCs. In this edition, we take stock of the listed NBFCs that have significant exposure to the sector and what investors should watch out for.

RISK-PRONE GROWTH

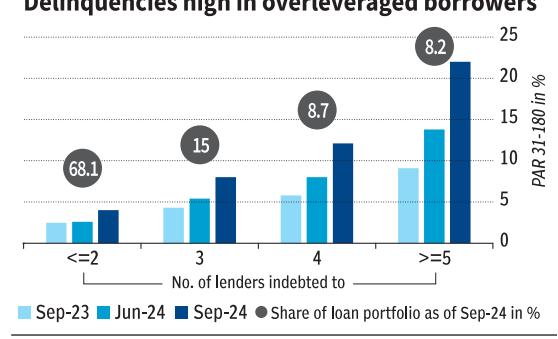
As the MFI industry largely caters to the credit-starved rural population, it is also a space that is underpenetrated by mainstream banks (excluding small finance banks), which have a market share of about 33 per cent (as per a report by CRIF High Mark, a Credit Information Company).

MFI lending, or any kind of lending for that matter, is a simple game, if one can answer three questions right – whom to lend, how much to lend and at what rate. The sector being cyclical, it could be susceptible to adverse events, including climate related too. But the fact that the gross NPA (GNPA) ratios of most of the lenders are at their peaks in over six quarters, sends a message that they may not have answered the three questions right.

Top reasons for repayment challenges, as cited by MFI lenders, include erratic trends in income, excess rainfall, heat wave and attrition affecting collections. Yet the fundamental cause seems to be the aggressive push for growth and higher margin, and throwing caution to the wind.

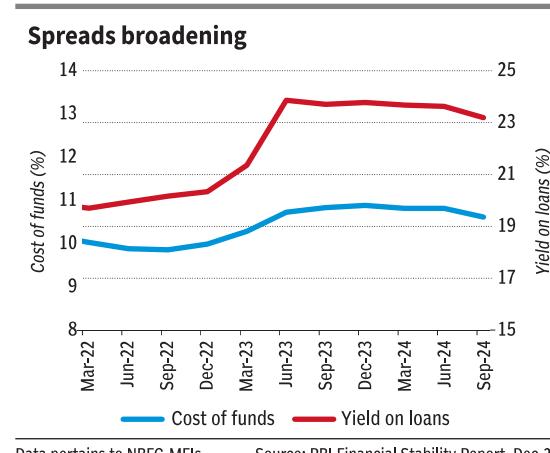
The gross loan portfolio (GLP) of all MFI lenders has grown from ₹2.32 lakh crore as of FY20 to ₹4.43 lakh crore as of FY24 at a rate of 18 per cent compounded (Source: CRIF High Mark). The growth rate for NBFC-MFIs has been at a higher 24 per cent. Such growth resulted in lending to overleveraged borrowers, meaning companies were lending fresh loans to borrowers who already had other loan(s) subsisting. As of Q2 FY25, about 8 per cent of the total MFI portfolio is represented by loans to borrowers who are indebted to five or more lenders. And this is the section that has the most delinquencies, going as high as 22 per cent on a PAR 31-180 basis (PAR – portfolio at risk; loans overdue for more than 30 days but not exceeding 180 days).

Delinquencies high in overleveraged borrowers



USURIOUS RATES

In October 2022, the RBI deregulated the interest rates that can be charged for MFI loans. This was done in good faith that the competitive forces in the space would lead to lower rates. Unfortunately, that has not transpired. Instead, the yields of NBFC-MFIs have gone up, while the cost of funds has remained largely constant. Observe the spread (yield on loans minus cost of funds) broadening in the infographic. Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das called rates of 25 per cent are usurious for people of small means and that some lenders were not transparent about the penalties in case of default. In fact, the central bank in late-October 2024, banned Asirvad Micro Finance (subsidiary of Manappuram Finance) and Arohan Financial Services from disbursing fresh loans after it found the spreads to be excessive and not in adherence with regulations. Following the lifting of ban on Arohan in early January, the ban on Asirvad was also lifted recently, after the entities made satisfactory moves to fall in line with the regulator's guidelines.



TROUBLE STATES

A key issue for which the lenders can't be faulted though, is the expectation of loan waivers among the borrowers, especially around election times. Managements contend that this discourages even those borrowers who are regular in their repayments to default.

Based on data from CRIF High Mark, we analysed and ranked States on criteria mentioned in the infographic. States such as Rajasthan, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh rank high in terms of worst delinquencies. These States witnessed Assembly Elections in the past couple of years.

They also feature in the top 10 States by size of MFI portfolio and are key geographies for the listed NBFCs we analysed.

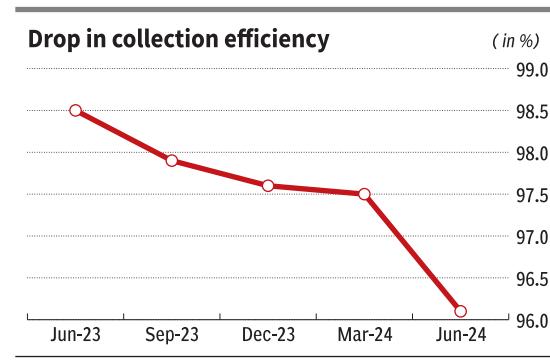
Stressed regions

State	% share in pan-India MFI GLP*	Rank in terms of	
		Worst delinquency**	Most overleveraged borrowers#
Bihar	15.0	8	5
Tamilnadu	13.3	6	1
Uttar Pradesh	10.7	5	6
Karnataka	9.9	9	3
West Bengal	9.1	10	10
Maharashtra	7.5	7	8
Odisha	5.7	3	2
Madhya Pradesh	5.6	4	9
Rajasthan	4.0	2	7
Kerala	3.0	1	4
Total	83.8		

As of Q2 FY25; *GLP – gross loan portfolio; **PAR 31-180% as of Q2 FY25 is considered; #ranked by share of borrowers indebted to 5 or more lenders
Source: CRIF High Mark

COMING HOME TO ROOST

Consequently, collection efficiency (roughly, percentage of money collected compared to instalment due) declined and so MFI players scaled back on fresh sanctions. Disbursements at the industry level during Q1 and Q2 of FY25 dropped 31 per cent and 13 per cent quarter over quarter. GLP, too, dropped 6.5 per cent from FY24 to ₹4.1 lakh crore.



As the chaos unfurled, a couple of months ago, the MFIN (Microfinance Industry Network), a self-regulatory organisation for entities in this space, introduced stricter underwriting norms, building on guardrails brought in July, to be given effect from January 1, 2025. Key ones include limiting lender associations (number of lenders the borrower is indebted to) to a maximum of three MFI entities per borrower from the current four and limiting indebtedness per borrower to a maximum of ₹2 lakh. MFIN also urged the boards of MFI entities to review the interest rates charged, to pass on efficiency gains if any, to the customer.

Now the norm about limiting lender associations to three has been deferred by three months, with the rest having been adopted. This is because of difficulties faced

WISE WORDS.

When the time comes to ask the question – 'What triggered the crash?' – remember that this is the least important question. The important question to ask is 'What drove the bubble? That's where the lessons are.'

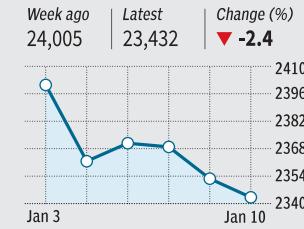
JOHN P. HUSSMAN,
President, Hussman Investment Trust

MARKET ACTION.

SENSEX



NIFTY



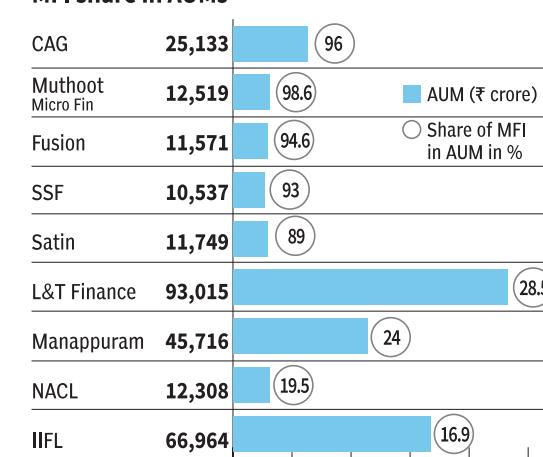
in upgrading systems in line with the new norms in little time. Whether such delays will result in further stress remains to be seen.

HOW LISTED PLAYERS ARE PLACED

We have analysed listed NBFC-MFIs and other NBFCs with a sizeable exposure to the MFI sector with a market-cap of over ₹1,000 crore. The universe includes (sorted large to small by size of MFI AUM) L&T Finance, Credit-Access Grameen (CAG), Muthoot Microfin, Fusion Finance (Fusion), IIFL Finance (IIFL), Manappuram Finance (Manappuram), Spandana Sphoorty Financial (SSF), Satin Creditcare Network (Satin) and Northern Arc Capital (NACL).

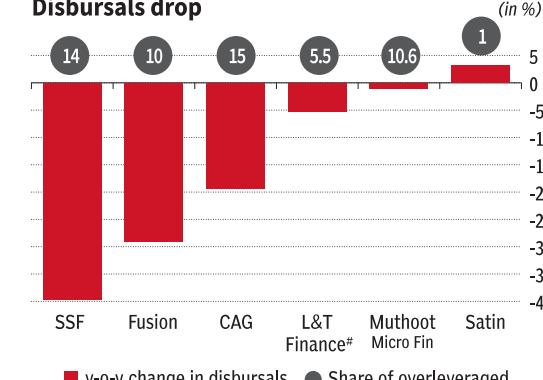
L&T Finance, IIFL, Manappuram and NACL are engaged in other businesses too such as gold loans, auto loans, mortgages and SME loans apart from MFI loans, offering diversification to the portfolio.

MFI share in AUMs



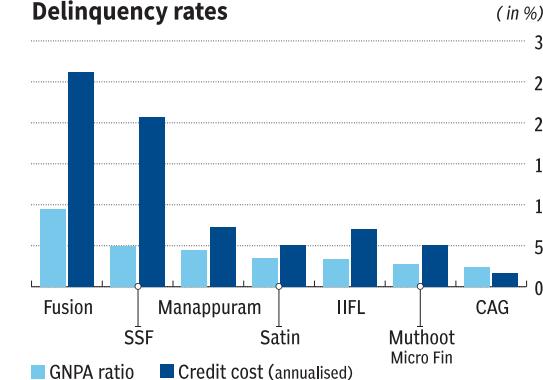
As said earlier, there has been no dearth of growth in AUM in the past. Over the five quarters spanning over Q1 FY24 to Q1 FY25, the average growth in MFI AUM of the players analysed has been about 23 per cent. L&T Finance and SSF saw the highest growth with CAGRs of 29 per cent each. The quarterly year-on-year growth in disbursements in this period has come at an average of 26.4 per cent. However, as the stress ballooned in the second quarter of FY25, the companies scaled back on disbursements during the quarter.

Disbursements drop



GNPA ratio spiked in Q2 FY25. The average GNPA ratio of players analysed grew to 4.4 per cent as of Q2 from 2.3 per cent as of Q4 FY24 (GNPA ratios of the respective MFI businesses alone are compared; MFI specific data of L&T Finance and NACL were not available; their overall GNPA ratio stood at 2.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent).

Delinquency rates



Now the norm about limiting lender associations to three has been deferred by three months, with the rest having been adopted. This is because of difficulties faced

drop in Q2 profit was 125 per cent (profit from MFI businesses alone considered; overall profit grew 17 per cent and 28 per cent for L&T Finance and NACL). Profits of Fusion, SSF and IIFL declined the most by 342 per cent, 273 per cent and 133 per cent and thereby reporting losses. Fusion was not profitable in Q1 too.

Annualised Return on Assets (overall basis), too, eroded from an average of 4 per cent for Q4 FY24 to -0.2 per cent for Q2 FY25. Return on Assets (RoA) of Fusion, SSF and IIFL turned negative during the quarter as the bottom line turned red.

OUTLOOK
There have been views on growth picking up with December being a good quarter seasonally and good Kharif and Rabi harvests expected. Reservoir levels could aid this. However, with players gradually implementing the tightened underwriting norms prescribed by MFIN, growth is expected to be impacted. Managements of CAG and Muthoot Microfin for instance, have lowered their original guidance given for FY25. Their revised guidance for AUM growth and RoA stands at roughly half the figures originally guided for and credit cost guidance has been doubled.

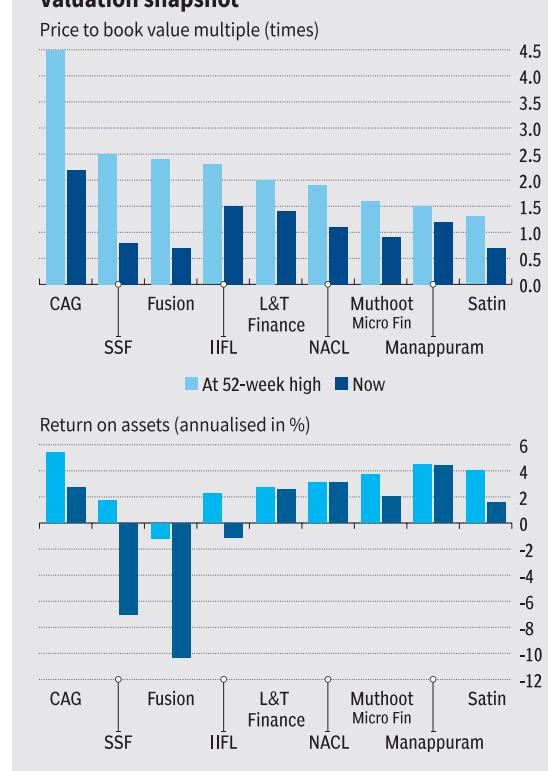
Things are expected to get better for the industry only in the next fiscal.

In the week gone by, MFI stocks rallied on the back of the industry having approached the government for Covid ECLGS-like guarantee scheme and support for low-cost funds. Given that the entities are adequately capitalised, it is unlikely that the government will oblige.

Value or value trap?

Stock prices of all players analysed have crashed by an average 44 per cent from their 52-week highs. The fall in percentage is as follows – Fusion 74, SSF 67, Satin 47, CAG 46, NACL 39, IIFL 36, Muthoot 36, L&T Finance 28 and Manappuram 22. Multiples too have fallen, making the price to book value (P/B) ratios seem optimally attractive at current levels, but not really. This has happened not on the back of earnings growth, but due to derating driven by worsening fundamentals.

Valuation snapshot



Fund to navigate choppy markets

FUND CALL. Edelweiss Large Cap has consistently outperformed peers and Nifty 100 TRI over the years



Venkatasubramanian K
bl. Research Bureau

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

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

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

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

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

SIP route for taking exposure to the fund would help average

WHY INVEST

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

costs and reduce portfolio volatility.

ROBUST OUTPERFORMER

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

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

points across timeframes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

STEADY SECTOR MIX

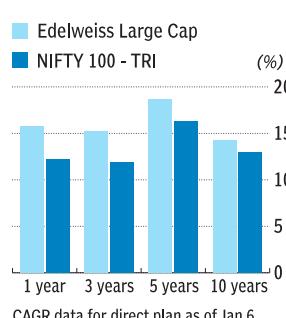
Edelweiss Large Cap invests around 85 per cent (can go higher to 89-90 per cent at times) of its portfolio in large-cap stocks. About 10-15 per cent of its holdings is in mid-caps, a strategy that most schemes in the category resort to. The mid-cap holdings have aided the fund's outperformance.

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

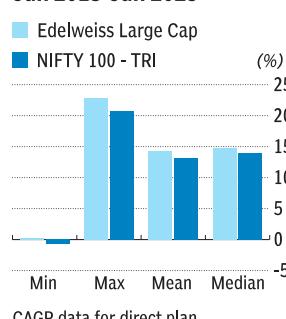
There is a slight value tilt to the fund's top holdings, though growth is also given considerable prominence. Most of the picks are from the Nifty 100 index.

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

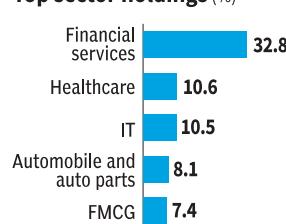
Outperformance across timeframes



5-year rolling returns from Jan 2013-Jan 2025



Top sector holdings (%)



Source: ACE MF, Fund factsheet

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

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

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

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

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

ALERTS

WhiteOak Capital MF's Quality Equity Fund

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

Kotak MF's Nifty Smallcap 250 Index Fund

The NFO of Kotak MF's Nifty Smallcap 250 Index Fund is open. An open-ended index fund tracking the Nifty Smallcap 250 Index, this scheme is designed to replicate the performance of the Nifty Smallcap 250 Index, subject to tracking errors. The Nifty Smallcap 250 Index tracks the performance of the 250 companies ranked 251 to 500 within the Nifty 500. It aims to measure the performance of small market capitalisation companies. The minimum application amount is ₹100, and

investors can invest in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. The minimum SIP amount is also capped at ₹100. There is no exit load for this fund. The fund is rated 'very high risk' on the risk-o-meter. The NFO is open for subscription until January 20.

ETF movers

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 Jan 10			
UTI Silver ETF	88.3	88.8	2.3	798
Edelweiss Silver ETF	91.7	91.6	2.2	280
ICICI Prudential Silver ETF	91.1	91.0	2.1	4,067
Kotak Nifty IT ETF	47.7	47.7	2.0	433
Axis Silver ETF	91.0	90.8	2.0	154
ICICI Prudential Nifty IT ETF	47.9	48.0	2.0	7,665
ABSL Silver ETF	91.2	90.9	2.0	832
GOLD ETFs				
Nippon India ETF Gold BE5	65.4	65.9	1.3	57,111
Axis Gold ETF	65.8	66.2	1.3	1,275
ICICI Prudential Gold ETF	67.5	67.9	1.2	7,385

Source: Bloomberg. Returns as on January 10, 2025

Best NPS plans

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

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

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

Top PMS schemes

Based on 5-year returns

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

Sun anchors its speciality business

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



Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

● ACCUMULATE ON DIPS

Sun Pharma ₹1,786

WHY

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

cent/28 per cent in H1FY25. Sun Pharma has a net cash of around ₹7,000 crore in September 2024.

Sun Pharma's speciality products are in Dermatology, Ophthalmology and Oncodermatherapies including the anchor product Ilumya (for plaque psoriasis), which generated sales of ₹580 million in FY24. Winlevi (acne), Cequa (dry eye disease) and Odomzo (basal cell carcinoma) are the other leading products.

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

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

growth and are expected to ramp up sales further.

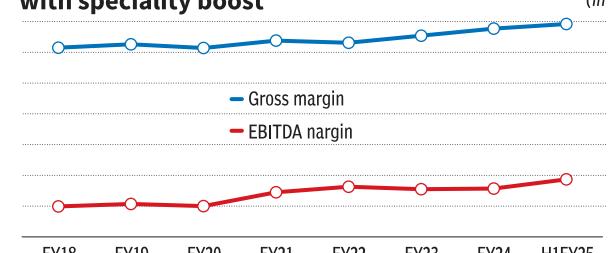
The pipeline includes several other potential products. Ilumya is in trials for Psoriatic Arthritis as well, which is an additional indication. This can potentially add 15-20 per cent to existing sales when approved. In October 2024, Sun Pharma and Philogen have announced an exclusive global licensing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

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

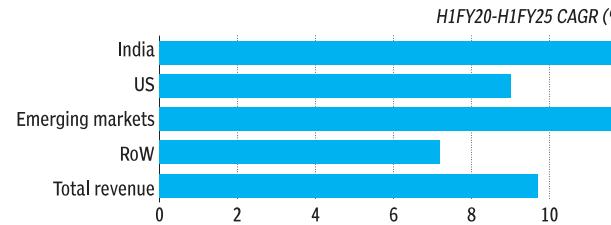
Speciality drives US and Global revenues



Consistent margin expansion with speciality boost



Branded generics continue growth



pecia areata. Assuming Sun Pharma secures 5 per cent share of the patient population by the eighth year and pricing of ₹50,000 per year (similar to peers), the product can generate peak sales of ₹500 million, which can make it the second-largest product for Sun Pharma.

While approval has been received, Incyte, a leading autoimmune player, has successfully filed an injunction based on infringement of one patent. The appeal must be monitored with the least-favourable scenario being delay for two years when the patent expires or a high royalty. Sun Pharma also has contingent payment based on milestones to erstwhile Concert Pharma shareholders of more than ₹200 million.

Sun Pharma has transitioned from one speciality product to a complete portfolio in the Oncodermatherapy space, which is now capable of self-sustaining the global speciality momentum.

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

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

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

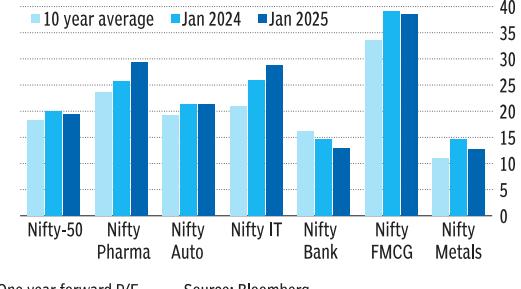
REALITY CHECK.

Banking on Pharma

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli
bl. research bureau

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

Pharma and IT valuation are rising



One year forward P/E Source: Bloomberg

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

SECTOR DRIVERS

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

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

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

SECTOR HEADWINDS

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

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

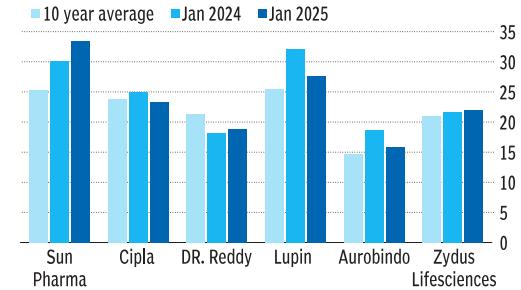
However, the industry as a whole has been downplaying the threat from trade generics in India.

COMPANY OUTLOOK

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

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

Generic diversification drives valuations



WHO AM I?

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

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

1 I have recently completed three decades of being listed, delighted to have delivered more than 100 times return to shareholders over the last two decades.

2 My revenues have grown 10 times over the last 10 financial years and during the same period, my net profits have grown more than 15 times.

3 Despite delivering more 40 per cent CAGR returns to shareholders over the last three/five/10 years, I am yet to have any material institutional holdings.

4 Half of my board members have doctorates in various fields.

5 My founder-family has been steadily increasing stake over the decades and currently own more than 70 per cent.

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

Contributed by

UNIFI CAPITAL

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

Quartz sheen at reasonable value

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

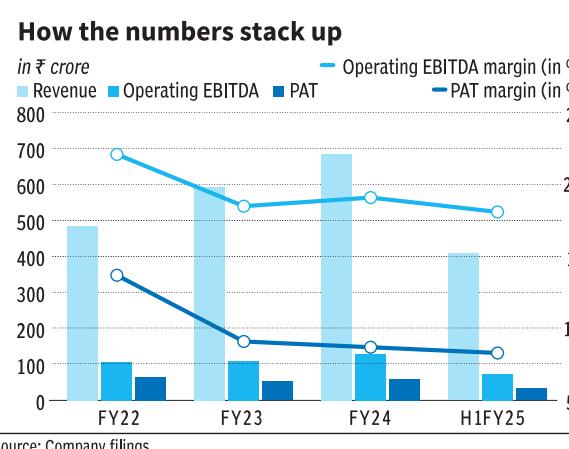
Arun K Shanmugam
bl. research bureau



Geography-wise revenue contribution



How the numbers stack up



Source: Company filings

BUSINESS SEGMENTS

Carysil used to be a one-product company until 2010, manufacturing just quartz sinks. Carysil's diversification strategy, focusing on kitchen-top fabrications, solid-surface products, kitchen and bathroom faucets.

Customer line-up includes the likes of IKEA, Home Depot, Grohe, B&Q, Menards and Lowe's. The company has consistently invested in the expansion of its manufacturing capacities and the same has more than doubled from FY20 levels. Capacity utilisation stood at 63 per cent and 90 per cent for quartz sinks and stainless-steel sinks respectively, in H1FY25. The current phase of capex is be-

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

SCHOCK TECHNOLOGY

Quartz sinks are stain-resistant, scratch-resistant and dent-resistant.

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

Schock is a German company, the inventor of, and pioneer in quartz sinks with around 21 per cent global market share and over 100 patents in this space.

Based on a quartz-acrylic composite developed by Schock, its premium quartz sinks are three times stronger than natural granite and superior in performance to sinks made from other materials and other quartz sinks.

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

OPERATING METRICS

Volume growth year on year across quartz sinks, steel sinks, and appliances and others stood at 24.5 per cent, 44 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively in H1FY25.

H1FY25 also saw a good 33 per cent increase in the topline year on year. EBITDA and PAT margin, however, dipped to 18.1 per cent and 8.1 per cent respectively, mainly owing to an



Bear it!

F&O TRACKER. With bears not giving up, market to witness a leg of downswing before stabilising

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

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

NIFTY 50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BANK NIFTY

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

BRIEF SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

F & O QUERY



AKHIL NALLAMUTHU
bl. research bureau

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

Nijenthalan

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

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

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

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

Nelson

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

That said, from the current level, the stock of United Spirits has a key support at ₹1,525. The 50-day moving average and a trendline coincide at this price level, making it a strong base. Also, as

mentioned above, the broader trend is bullish. So, the support at ₹1,525 could trigger an upmove.

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

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

Change in Open Interest (OI)

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

FII's have increased net short on index futures. Also, they've turned net short on index call options over the last week. Overall, they show bearish inclination.

Stocks that witnessed major change in OI

Company	Price (₹)	Weekly price change %	OI (in lakh)	Weekly OI change %
RISE (as on Jan 10)				
SHIRIRAMFIN	532.00	-12.7	476.0	435.9
KALYANJIL	626.75	-19.4	507.3	216.9
TATAELXSI	6,000.60	-9.7	39.9	152.8
UNIONBANK	103.62	-16.5	1221.6	103.2
CESC	162.42	-12.6	436.2	80.1
FALL (as on Jan 10)				
MANAPPURAM	180.32	-3.9	909.2	-16.8
EICHERMOT	5,058.45	-4.8	81.1	-13.0
RBLBANK	154.21	-5.3	1095.9	-12.8
MUTHOOTFIN	2,136.55	-4.5	55.6	-11.9
MARUTI	11,631.10	-2.5	78.0	-9.0

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

F&O Strategy

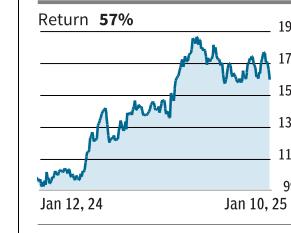
Buy Voltas put

KS Badri Narayanan

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

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

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



Open positions slipped from 75.83 lakh shares on January 3 to 72.19 lakh shares on January 10. During this time, the price fell from ₹1,829.25 to ₹1,668.20.

Strategy: Buy 1,660-put on Voltas which closed with a premium of ₹43.15 on Friday. As the market lot is 300 shares per contract, the strategy would cost ₹12,945, which would be the maximum loss if Voltas holds above ₹1,660 on expiry. The break-even point is ₹1,616.85.

Initial stop-loss can be placed at ₹38. Shift stop-loss to ₹43 when the premium rises above ₹47. Book profits at ₹58. If the stock opens sharply lower, traders can stay away from this strategy. We suggest holding the position for at least two weeks.

Follow-up: Contrary to our expectations, Adani Energy Solutions tumbled sharply last week.

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

Short Take

Understanding futures rollover

bl. research bureau

Rollover in futures means closing out the nearest expiry contract and initiating a similar position in the next month contract. Traders opt to rollover if they expect the existing trend, whether bullish or bearish, to continue. This is commonly done on the expiry day. Rollover percentage is calculated by adding the mid and far month outstanding open interests, dividing it by the sum of current, mid, and far month outstanding open interests and multiplying by 100.



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

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

Gradual uptick ahead

BULLION CUES. Participants can consider longs

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Testing a key barrier

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

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

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

FPIs SELL-OFF

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

NIFTY 50 (23,431.50)

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

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

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

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

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

**Nifty 50: Key support coming up****LONG-TERM SUPPORTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

bl.portfolio video

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

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

MOVERS & SHAKERS

AKHIL NALLAMUTHU bl. research bureau

Bharti Airtel (₹1,615.10)

About to break out



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

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

Dabur India (₹517.80)
Hovering around a strong base

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

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

Schaeffler India (₹3,324.65)
Trades at a demand zone

The stock of Schaeffler India has been in a downtrend since June last year after encountering a resistance at ₹4,950. Since then, it has lost over 30 per cent. However, the contract is now near a support. The price band of ₹3,200-3,300 is a good demand zone. We expect the stock to recover on the back of this price region. Over the next few months, the price might gradually appreciate to ₹4,200. Note that, on its way up, there might be minor corrections due to the presence of resistances at ₹3,700 and ₹3,830. Buy at ₹3,325 and on a dip to ₹3,250. Stop-loss can be at ₹3,150. When the price hits ₹3,700, revise the stop-loss to ₹3,400. On a rally to ₹3,830, alter the stop-loss to ₹3,650. Exit at ₹4,200.

Dollar rally can pause**CURRENCY OUTLOOK.** Resistance can trigger a correctionGurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

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

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

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

INFLATION WATCH

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

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

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

**● MORE WEAKNESS**

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

the dollar index up to 112.

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

STRONG DOWNTREND

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

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

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

CRUCIAL HURDLE

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

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

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

MORE FALL

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

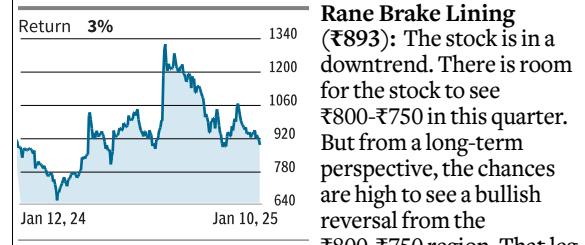
The outlook remains bearish for the rupee. Resistance is now at 85.80. Rupee can fall to 86.40-86.50 in the coming weeks. A strong rise above 85.80 is needed to see a recovery towards 85.60-85.50 again. But that looks less likely.

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

Chart-Gazing • bl • 7**TECH QUERY**GURUMURTHY K
bl. research bureau

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

Swetha, Patna



Rane Brake Lining (₹993): The stock is in a downtrend. There is room for the stock to see ₹800-₹750 in this quarter. But from a long-term perspective, the chances are high to see a bullish reversal from the ₹800-₹750 region. That leg of rally will indicate a trend reversal. It will also have the potential to take Rane Brake Lining share price up to ₹1,350-₹1,450 or even ₹1,600 by the first half next year. If you can hold the stock for the long-term, then buy more at ₹820 and ₹770. Keep the stop-loss at ₹710. Revise the stop-loss up to ₹920 when the price goes up to ₹1,170. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹1,230 when the price touches ₹1,310. Exit the stock at ₹1,440.

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

Immanuel, Kochi

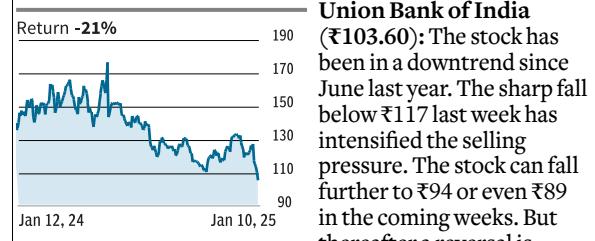


Colgate-Palmolive (₹2,831.45): The share price peaked at ₹3,893 in October last year and has declined sharply. Ideally you should have had proper stop-loss strategy and exited by this time now booking some profit. Supports at ₹2,600 and ₹2,430 can be tested now. A rise to ₹3,000 is a possibility from ₹2,430. But that may or may not be a strong rise.

Either you exit the stock now or keep a stop-loss at ₹2,640 and hold it. If you decide to hold the stock, then exit around ₹3,150. As a discipline have proper risk management strategy in place whenever you enter the stock. This will help in coming out of a position at the right time if there is a sudden volatility or a reversal.

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

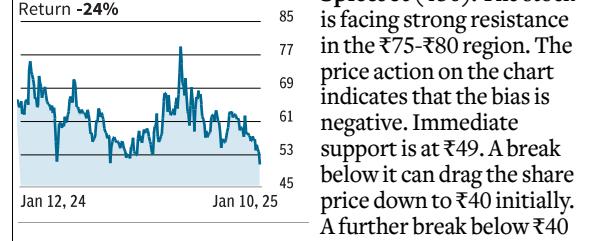
Debraj Sengupta



Union Bank of India (₹103.60): The stock has been in a downtrend since June last year. The sharp fall below ₹117 last week has intensified the selling pressure. The stock can fall further to ₹94 or even ₹89 in the coming weeks. But thereafter a reversal is possible. From a long-term perspective, that leg of rally can take Union Bank of India share price up to ₹250 over the next couple of years, with intermediate corrections. Since you are a long-term investor, buy more at ₹98 and ₹91. Keep the stop-loss up to ₹110 when the price goes up to ₹142. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹160 when the price touches ₹195. Exit the stock at ₹230.

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

Bhaskara Murthy



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

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

Send your queries to techtrail@thehindu.co.in

BANDU'S BLOCKBUSTERS.

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

Valuation Radar: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

The Benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty 50 were down 2.3 and 2.4 per cent respectively last week. BSE IT gained the most by 1 per cent followed by BSE Teck 0.7 per cent. BSE Power and BSE Realty declined by 8.7 and 7.7 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	21.6	22.5	23.2	13.2	45.2	94.0	43.6	45.3	33.8	14.8	12.5	28.1	11.8	58.8	37.5
P/BV	3.5	4.0	6.0	2.4	8.2	16.9	9.5	6.6	9.0	2.2	1.6	3.9	2.0	6.3	8.9
Dividend Yield	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.3	1.7	0.5	1.6	3.3	3.5	1.5	2.7	0.3	1.4
Weekly Return (%)	-2.4 ▼	-2.3 ▼	-4.0 ▼	-4.5 ▼	-5.8 ▼	-5.9 ▼	-1.7 ▼	-3.6 ▼	1.0 ▲	-5.2 ▼	-3.2 ▼	-8.7 ▼	-7.0 ▼	-7.2 ▼	0.7 ▲
Monthly Return (%)	-4.8 ▼	-5.1 ▼	-3.3 ▼	-9.3 ▼	-12.4 ▼	-5.7 ▼	-0.3 ▼	-1.3 ▼	-1.9 ▼	-13.4 ▼	-4.5 ▼	-15.6 ▼	-12.7 ▼	-10.8 ▼	-1.6 ▼
Annual Return (%)	8.4 ▲	8.0 ▲	23.4 ▲	3.6 ▲	13.4 ▲	23.3 ▲	2.2 ▲	33.8 ▲	24.4 ▲	4.9 ▲	10.1 ▲	5.7 ▲	13.9 ▲	10.9 ▲	25.6 ▲

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]	1129.1	25.4	44.5	7.1	202409	56.9	32.0	47.7	41.5	-12.9	14.5	2.5	1317.3	591.6	
3M India	2965.8	542.7	54.6	15.6	202409	-0.3	21.6	3.0	23.3	-3.4	39.8	0.0	41000.0	28240.0	
A															
A-BBL [2]	6406.3	79.7	80.4	21.4	202409	5.0	21.7	14.4	39.6	-5.7	30.4	0.0	9200.0	432.2	
A-B Real Estate	2081.2	25.1	83.1	5.7	202409	31.5	519	24.1	118.1	-12.8	7.6	0.0	3124.0	1284.2	
Aadhar Hsg. Fin.	423.0	19.4	21.9	3.1	202409	21.6	15.3	27.5	34.8	-1.1	11.4	3.2	516.7	293.4	
Aarti Industries [5]	4215.3	12.2	34.5	2.8	202409	12.0	-4.5	12.1	0.8	-0.3	7.3	0.6	769.5	390.3	
AASVAS Financials	1667.8	10.4	16.5	3.3	202409	12.0	15.2	25.4	14.2	-1.6	11.6	0.0	1307.0	120.2	
Abbot India	2070.1	14.6	47.6	1.3	202409	1.9	9.3	14.6	1.2	-2.3	44.7	0.0	30983.4	4240.2	
ACC	1931.4	9.6	19.6	2.2	202409	4.0	-4.2	9.4	41.4	-6.0	18.6	0.0	2840.0	1867.2	
Action Cons.Eq. [2]	1341.9	30.7	43.7	11.6	202409	12.4	28.2	23.4	55.2	-11.6	42.2	0.0	1693.1	855.0	
Adani Energy [2]	729.7	15.9	46.0	4.2	202409	68.3	147	49.1	44.9	-11.0	9.2	0.0	2347.9	583.3	
Adani Enterprises [1]	2374.0	49.8	47.7	5.9	202409	15.7	543.3	4.7	110.3	-7.4	8.9	1.6	3743.3	2030.0	
Adani Green	943.1	8.6	109.3	14.1	202409	37.6	-4.2	18.6	6.5	-9.2	10.0	7.0	2173.7	870.9	
Adani Ports [2]	2081.2	25.1	83.1	5.7	202409	31.5	519	24.1	118.1	-12.8	7.6	0.0	1608.4	993.9	
Adani Power	481.8	33.0	14.6	3.3	202409	12.0	-4.5	12.1	0.8	-0.3	7.3	0.6	976.5	430.9	
Adani Gas [1]	2191.6	7.6	18.5	1.6	202409	1.9	12.0	25.4	14.2	-1.6	20.5	0.0	30883.4	4240.2	
Adani Wilmar [2]	2916.6	7.6	38.6	4.2	202409	17.9	301.4	0.3	435.5	-11.2	9.2	0.0	407.8	279.2	
Aditya Birla [AM] [5]	781.1	31.1	25.2	6.9	202409	26.6	31	20.7	34.8	-5.0	34.9	0.0	912.0	450.0	
Aditya Birla Cap.	176.7	14.2	11.8	5.1	202409	35.7	40	30.8	39.7	-9.1	10.1	4.1	247.0	160.7	
Aegis Logistics [1]	830.9	16.6	49.9	7.1	202409	41.8	-0.8	6.8	14.7	2.5	16.1	0.0	1035.7	354.2	
Aethernal Infra [2]	862.6	17.0	12.3	2.5	202409	21.1	14	-3.6	33.4	-4.8	7.5	0.0	1078.7	775.0	
AIA Engineering [2]	3360.8	11.7	28.3	5.0	202409	15.6	-5.7	1.6	-0.6	2.8	0.1	4940.0	3282.2		
Ajanta Pharma [2]	2835.7	70.0	40.5	7.6	202409	15.4	10.1	15.1	23.6	-2.5	12.1	0.0	3488.5	2003.6	
Akzo Nobel [2]	3735.4	95.5	39.1	11.9	202409	54.3	52.3	68.5	14.2	-0.3	46.0	0.0	2656.0	225.1	
Alembic Pharma [2]	1009.0	32.4	31.1	4.1	202409	3.3	10.0	19.8	-1.4	-1.2	1.2	0.0	1296.0	440.9	
Alkem Lab [2]	5372.5	18.9	25.5	6.6	202409	-0.7	3.7	2.4	41.1	-2.3	18.2	0.0	2640.0	1712.0	
Alkyf Amines [2]	1771.0	32.9	53.3	6.0	202409	17.8	74.2	-4.4	1.8	-1.2	16.2	0.0	2512.0	100.0	
Alka-India [1]	1029.0	18.6	19.6	1.6	202409	15.0	-0.1	15.0	15.0	-0.1	15.0	0.0	383.0	100.0	
Anant Raj [2]	885.6	10.1	8.7	7.9	202409	54.3	52.3	68.5	14.2	-0.3	46.0	0.0	8167.1	2991.2	
Amber Enterprise [1]	7309.7	54.9	14.2	5.6	202409	81.7	17.7	17.3	18.1	-9.3	18.8	0.0	1789.0	816.0	
Amplus Cements [2]	511.1	11.7	43.7	2.5	202409	1.2	-29.4	5.3	21.6	-6.8	16.5	0.0	706.9	452.9	
Anupam Realtor [1]	6417.4	63.0	65.8	5.1	202409	32.8	32.4	32.6	34.4	-5.6	51.5	0.0	4640.0	2570.0	
Apna Ghar [1]	1052.0	21.0	22.0	1.0	202409	31.1	31.5	37	-24.0	-5.9	24.5	0.0	1375.0	1250.0	
Apna Hospitals [5]	7032.2	83.3	65.5	13.5	202409	15.3	63.5	14.8	68.9	-3.7	15.4	0.0	7545.1	560.8	
Appus Value Hoi [2]	281.5	13.5	20.3	3.5	202409	26.3	22.0	26.5	-5.2	-2.3	24.5	0.0	3875.0	248.0	
Aravind Eye Care [1]	1079.5	53.7	20.1	1.0	202409	-4.2	-10.9	3.8	31.7	-0.6	30.8	0.0	1079.5	202.0	
Aravind Eye Care [1]	7307.0	54.9	14.2	5.6	202409	81.7	17.7	17.3	18.1	-9.3	18.8	0.0	8167.1	2991.2	
Aravind Eye Care [1]	1079.5	53.7	20.1	1.0	202409	-4.2	-10.9	3.8	31.7	-0.6	30.8	0.0	1079.5	202.0	
Aravind Eye Care [1]	7307.0	54.9	14.2	5.6	202409	81.7	17.7	17.3							

Venkatasubramanian K
bl. research bureau

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

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

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

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

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

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

MULTIPLE COVERAGES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Major critical illnesses in-



TAKING COVER. ICICI Pru Life policy's vital care covers 11 women-specific critical illnesses, five major and 6 minor ailments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In case of a minor surgery, 40

POLICY BRIEF

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

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

Here too, the vital care benefit would continue.

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

Also, ICICI Prudential Wish allows you a premium sabbatical.

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

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

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

HIGH ON PREMIUM

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

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

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

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

for policyholders.

SHOULD YOU BUY?

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

Bank FD interest rates (%)

Bank	<1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	w.e.f
FOREIGN BANKS					
DBS Bank	6	7.5	7	6.5	Dec 11
Deutsche Bank	7	8	8	7.5	Jun 10
HSBC	4.5	7.5	7	7	Oct 03
Scotiabank	3.7	3.9	4	4	Jan 01
Standard Chartered	7	7.5	7.2	7.1	Oct 05
INDIAN: PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35	7.1	7.25	6.5	Dec 11
Bank of Baroda	6.5	7.3	7.15	6.8	Oct 14
Bank of India	6	7.3	6.75	6.5	Sep 27
Canara Bank	6.25	7.3	7.4	7.4	Dec 01
Central Bank of India	6.25	7.45	6.5	6	Aug 10
Indian Bank	7.05	7.25	6.7	6.25	Jun 12
Indian Overseas Bank	5.75	7.3	6.8	6.5	Jul 15
Punjab National Bank	7.05	7.25	7	6.5	Jan 01
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.2	7.5	7.4	6.75	Jan 01
State Bank of India	6.5	7.25*	7	6.75	Jun 15
UCO Bank	7.3	7.05	6.3	6.2	Sep 24
Union Bank	6.35	7.3	6.7	6.5	Jan 01
INDIAN: PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS					
Axius Bank	6	7.25	7.1	7.1	Oct 21
Bandhan Bank	4.5	8.05	7.25	7.25	Sep 13
Catholic Syrian	7.25	8	5.75	7.1	Jan 02
City Union Bank	7.5	7	6.5	6.25	Sep 01
DCB Bank	7.25	8.05	7.55	7.75	Jun 07
Dhanlaxmi Bank	5	7.25	6.5	7.25	Nov 18
Federal Bank	6.5	7.35	7.4	7.4	Dec 16
HDFC Bank	6	7.25	7.35	7.4	Jul 24
ICICI Bank	6	7.25	7	7	Jan 10
IDBI Bank	7.05	7.4	7	6.5	Dec 23
IDFC First Bank	5.75	7.9	6.8	6.75	Nov 26
IndusInd Bank	6.5	7.99	7.25	7.25	Nov 26
J & K Bank	6.25	7	6.75	6.5	Aug 11
Karnataka Bank	6.25	7.5	6.5	6.5	Jan 02
Kotak Bank	7	7.4	7.15	7	Jun 14
Karur Vysya Bank	7.4	7.5	7.6	7	Nov 22
RBL Bank	6.05	8	7.5	7.1	Dec 15
South Indian Bank	6.55	7.4	7	7.2	Dec 21
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.6	7.5	6.75	6.5	Oct 17
TNSC Bank	6.75	7.75	6.75	6.5	NA
Yes Bank	6.35	7.75	7.25	7.25	Nov 05
SMALL FINANCE BANKS					
AU Small Finance Bank	7.25	8	7.5	7.5	Jun 07
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7	8.15	8.25	7.5	Dec 02
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6	8.25	8.25	6.75	Jan 01
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.5	8.25	8.25	8.2	Jan 02
Suryoday Small Fin Bank	7.25	8.5	8.6	8.25	04-Sep
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.5	8.25	7.75	7.2	13-Sep

*Data as on respective banks' website on January 10, 2025; For each year range, the maximum offered interest rate is considered; interest rate is for a normal fixed deposit amount below ₹1 crore. Compiled by BankBazaar.com; *w.e.f. July 15, 2024

ALERTS.**WSFx launches new forex card**

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

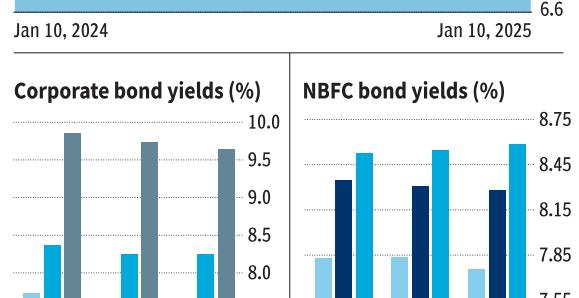
Small Savings Schemes - Interest rates

Small Savings Scheme	Interest rate (%)		Compounding frequency
	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2025	
Post Office Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually
1 year	6.9	6.9	Quarterly
2 year	7.0	7.0	Quarterly
3 year	7.1	7.1	Quarterly
5 year	7.5	7.5	Quarterly
Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 year)	6.7	6.7	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.2	8.2	Quarterly and paid
Post Office Monthly Income Scheme	7.4	7.4	Monthly and paid
National Savings Certificate	7.7	7.7	Annually
Public Provident Fund	7.1	7.1	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5*	7.5*	Annually
Sukanya Samridhi Yojana	8.2	8.2	Annually

Note: Small savings rate as on the latest quarterly reset on Dec 31, 2024
#Will mature in 115 months Source: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, GoI

Bond yields**10-year benchmark G-Sec yield (%)**

Latest 6.77 | Month-ago 6.71 | Year-ago 7.18

**Yields on government securities of different maturities (%)**

91-day Treasury Bill 6.59 | 364-day Treasury Bill 6.69 | 3-year G-Sec 6.71 | 5-year G-Sec 6.72

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

Health insurance premium tracker

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

Insurer	Plan name	Key



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

★★★★★ Canara Robeco Bluechip Equity	59.4	14799	1.7	0.5	15.6	11.4	16.6	13.2	10.3	0.38
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Bluechip	102.2	63264	1.5	0.9	14.8	14.8	17.9	13.6	0.37	
★★★★★ JM Large Cap	147.8	480	2.4	0.7	11.1	13.1	16.6	10.7	0.55	
★★★★★ Baroda BNP Paribas Large Cap	211.8	2412	2.0	0.8	17.0	13.8	16.5	12.6	0.37	
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large Cap	79.6	1110	2.2	0.6	12.8	12.3	15.9	12.5	0.34	
★★★★★ Kotak Bluechip	535.7	9411	1.8	0.6	14.3	11.4	16.0	12.5	0.34	
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Large Cap	84.4	35700	1.6	0.7	14.9	18.0	18.6	13.7	0.37	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity	492.8	28786	1.7	1.0	13.4	12.0	16.1	12.1	0.33	
★★★★★ Bandhan Large Cap	72.2	1769	2.1	0.9	14.7	11.4	16.0	11.6	0.35	
★★★★★ HDFC Large Cap	1076.4	35975	1.6	1.0	9.7	15.0	16.4	12.1	0.33	
★★★★★ HSBC Large Cap	459.4	1906	2.1	1.2	14.4	11.4	14.9	12.0	0.32	
★★★★★ Invesco India Largecap	65.8	1324	2.1	0.8	17.3	12.2	16.9	12.7	0.35	
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large Cap	104.9	38752	1.5	0.6	11.1	8.8	13.9	12.9	0.29	
★★★★★ SBI Blue Chip	86.6	49683	1.5	0.8	11.4	11.3	15.6	12.7	0.33	
★★★★★ Tata Large Cap	472.0	2415	2.0	1.0	10.6	11.2	15.3	11.5	0.31	
★★★★★ UTI Large Cap	259.2	12617	1.8	0.9	11.1	12.8	14.7	11.4	0.31	
★★★★★ Axis Bluechip	57.2	33127	1.6	0.7	11.7	6.1	12.2	11.4	0.28	
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Bluechip	971.1	7683	1.8	1.1	15.0	10.0	15.3	11.1	0.32	
★★★★★ LIC MF Large Cap	53.3	1448	2.1	1.0	13.4	7.7	12.6	10.3	0.28	
★★★★★ Union Largecap	22.4	437	2.5	1.6	9.1	9.0	14.4	-	0.30	
★★★★★ DSP Top 100 Equity	442.6	4504	1.9	1.1	18.5	14.1	14.2	11.0	0.28	
★★★★★ Groww Largecap	40.0	129	2.4	1.0	8.9	10.2	12.0	10.8	0.25	
★★★★★ PGIM India Large Cap	319.6	587	2.4	0.9	8.1	8.3	12.1	10.2	0.25	
- Mahi Manu Large Cap	21.6	589	2.3	0.7	12.3	10.0	14.8	-	0.31	
- Taurus Large Cap	150.1	49	2.6	2.5	14.1	12.9	14.0	9.5	0.29	

EQUITY - LARGE & MID CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ HDFC Large and Mid Cap	319.4	23899	1.7	0.9	14.8	18.7	22.3	13.7	0.44	
★★★★★ Quant Large & Mid Cap	114.5	3658	1.9	0.6	14.5	18.9	24.9	17.4	0.53	
★★★★★ Bandhan Core Equity	125.6	7614	1.8	0.6	22.3	20.5	22.0	15.4	0.43	
★★★★★ ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap	921.4	17680	1.7	0.9	19.4	18.9	22.4	14.6	0.45	
★★★★★ Kotak Equity Opport	321.6	25784	1.6	0.5	19.5	16.9	19.8	15.1	0.42	
★★★★★ Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	139.3	38335	1.5	0.6	10.5	11.2	18.9	17.4	0.40	
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Emerging Equities	244.6	24887	1.6	0.6	20.8	13.1	20.0	15.9	0.43	
★★★★★ DSP Equity Opport	584.0	13983	1.7	0.7	19.8	17.1	19.8	15.2	0.41	
★★★★★ Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	83.6	3796	1.9	0.4	19.5	15.6	20.2	14.4	0.43	
★★★★★ Invesco India Large & Mid Cap	92.1	6712	1.8	0.7	29.7	18.9	20.2	15.4	0.42	
★★★★★ LIC MF Large & Midcap	37.9	3142	1.9	0.6	23.6	14.3	18.4	-	0.39	
★★★★★ SBI Large & Midcap	576.3	29268	1.6	0.7	14.5	15.0	20.0	14.8	0.40	
★★★★★ Tata Large & Mid Cap	495.2	8245	1.8	0.6	11.3	13.9	17.4	13.3	0.38	
★★★★★ UTI Large & Mid Cap	169.8	4134	1.9	1.0	22.4	18.6	22.0	13.7	0.44	
★★★★★ BOI Large & Mid Cap Equity	83.4	367	2.3	1.2	12.1	13.3	18.3	11.7	0.39	
★★★★★ Navi Large & Midcap	34.5	319	2.3	0.3	13.4	10.6	16.6	-	0.33	
★★★★★ Nippon Ind Vision	1385.9	5588	2.0	1.4	21.5	17.9	20.3	12.3	0.41	
★★★★★ Sundaram Large and Mid Cap	82.1	6913	1.8	0.7	16.6	12.5	17.2	13.9	0.34	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage	854.9	5827	1.9	1.1	11.4	6.1	14.7	11.9	0.28	
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Equity Advantage	179.8	3491	2.0	1.3	17.5	12.1	17.4	11.6	0.33	
Axis Growth Opport	31.0	14099	1.7	0.6	20.2	12.9	20.9	-	0.46	
- HSBC Large & Mid Cap	26.5	4310	1.9	0.9	28.5	16.5	20.1	-	0.42	

EQUITY - FLEXI CAP FUNDS

★★★★★ JM Flexicap	99.5	5338	1.8	0.6	26.0	22.8	23.2	16.8	0.50	
★★★★★ Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	79.4	87539	1.3	0.6	21.0	15.7	24.0	17.3	0.55	
★★★★★ Franklin Ind Flexi Cap	1562.8	17947	1.7	0.9	17.5	16.2	21.1	14.0	0.43	
★★★★★ HDFC Flexi Cap	1824.1	66344	1.4	0.8	19.9	21.4	21.9	14.5	0.43	
★★★★★ PGIM India Flexi Cap	34.2	6330	1.8	0.4	12.4	7.3	19.3	-	0.41	
★★★★★ Union Flexi Cap	48.6	2299	2.0	0.9	11.5	11.4	18.3	11.7	0.40	
★★★★★ Aditya Birla SL Flexi Cap	1670.4	22174	1.7	0.9	15.3	12.2	16.7	13.7	0.33	
★★★★★ Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	318.6	12805	1.7	0.6	14.6	10.5	17.3	13.1	0.39	
★★★★★ DSP Flexi Cap	97.7	11569	1.7	0.7	15.2	12.1	17.6	13.5	0.37	
★★★★★ Edelweiss Flexi Cap	36.5	2469	1.9	0.4	20.1	15.5	19.1	-	0.40	
★★★★★ HSBC Flexi Cap	211.0	5042	1.9	1.2	22.9	14.6	19.0	12.8	0.38	
★★★★★ Kotak Flexicap	77.5	50426	1.5	0.6	14.2	12.6	15.4	13.2	0.32	
★★★★★ Bandhan Flexi Cap	194.1	7181	1.9	1.2	13.2	10.6	14.8	10.9	0.30	
★★★★★ LIC MF Flexi Cap	97.7	1062	2.3	1.4	15.4	11.9	13.8	9.1	0.31	
★★★★★ SBI Flexic										

bl.rating	Scheme Name	Latest NAV (₹)	Latest Corpus (₹ Cr)	Expense Ratio (%)		Trailing Returns (%)					AA & Below
				Regular	Direct	1 Month Absolute	3 Month Absolute	6 Month Absolute	1 Year CAGR		
★★★★★	Nippon Ind Ultra Short Duration	3891.9	7695	1.1	0.4	7.2	7.0	6.2	6.2	7.33	-
★★★★★	UTI Ultra Short Duration	4097.1	3047	0.9	0.3	7.1	7.0	6.1	5.9	4.16	-
★★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Savings	528.2	16349	0.6	0.3	7.8	7.5	6.6	6.1	11.52	-
★★★★★	Baroda BNP Pari Ultra Short Dur	1488.2	1119	0.5	0.3	7.4	7.3	6.5	5.7	1.61	-
★★★★★	HDFC Ultra Short Term	14.6	14105	0.7	0.4	7.4	7.2	6.3	5.8	5.61	-
★★★★★	ICICI Pru Ultra Short Term	26.7	13502	0.8	0.4	7.4	7.2	6.3	5.9	5.61	-
★★★★★	Axis Ultra Short Duration	14.2	5996	1.2	0.4	6.9	6.8	5.9	5.2	3.35	-
★★★★★	Bandhan Ultra Short Term	14.7	3980	0.5	0.3	7.3	7.2	6.3	5.5	-	-
★★★★★	Invesco India Ultra Short Duration	2603.0	1424	0.8	0.2	7.4	7.0	6.1	5.2	2.60	-
★★★★★	Kotak Savings	41.4	13955	0.8	0.4	7.1	7.0	6.2	5.5	2.51	-
★★★★★	PGM India Ultra Short Duration	33.0	231	0.9	0.3	6.8	6.7	5.9	5.3	-	-
★★★★★	SBI Magnum Ultra Short Duration	5766.7	12178	0.5	0.3	7.3	7.2	6.3	5.6	-	-
★★★★★	WhiteOak Capital Ultra Short Dur	1317.5	323	1.0	0.5	6.8	6.6	5.7	4.9	-	-
★★★★★	BOI Ultra Short Duration	3058.3	168	0.9	0.3	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.1	-	-
★★★★★	Canara Robeco Ultra Short Term	3673.1	583	1.0	0.3	6.7	6.6	5.7	4.8	-	-
★★★★★	DSP Ultra Short	3287.9	2961	1.0	0.3	6.9	6.8	5.9	5.0	0.87	-
★★★★★	Tata Ultra Short Term	13.7	3961	1.2	0.3	6.9	6.7	5.9	5.1	4.93	-
★★★★★	Motilal Oswal Ultra Short Term	16.0	492	1.1	0.5	6.0	5.9	5.2	4.4	-	-
★★★★★	Sundaram Ultra Short Duration	2603.2	2091	1.5	0.2	6.4	6.3	5.4	4.6	-	-
★★★★★	Aditya Birla SL Savings	303.9	16349	0.3	0.3	7.6	7.4	6.5	6.1	11.52	-
★★★★★	HSBC Ultra Short Duration	1306.3	2625	0.5	0.2	7.3	7.2	6.3	-	-	-
★★★★★	LIC MF Ultra Short Duration	1278.5	215	1.0	0.3	6.8	6.4	5.7	4.9	-	-
★★★★★	Mahi Manu Ultra Short Duration	1328.7	225	0.7	0.3	7.3	7.1	6.2	5.5	1.87	-
★★★★★	Mirae Asset Ultra Short Duration	1261.4	1616	0.5	0.2	7.6	7.4	6.5	-	1.23	-

CASH FUNDS

LIQUID FUNDS

- 360 ONE Liquid	1948.2	846	0.3	0.2	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.1	-
- Aditya Birla SL Liquid	407.3	39883	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Axis Liquid	2813.6	30917	0.2	0.2	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- Bandhan Liquid	3054.6	13835	0.3	0.1	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.2	-
- Bank of India Liquid	2910.2	1315	0.1	0.1	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.4	-
- Baroda BNP Paribas Liquid	2907.5	8842	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.2	-
- Canara Robeco Liquid	3041.7	3197	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- DSP Liquidity	3608.6	17017	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.3	-
- Edelweiss Liquid	3232.1	5489	0.2	0.1	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Groww Liquid	2443.7	138	0.2	0.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- HDFC Liquid	4959.3	68648	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- HSBC Liquid	2520.1	16220	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- ICICI Pru Liquid	374.2	49653	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Invesco India Liquid	3474.1	11745	0.2	0.2	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- ITI Liquid	1318.0	49	0.3	0.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	-
- JM Liquid	69.0	2941	0.3	0.2	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.2	-
- Kotak Liquid	5108.8	33497	0.3	0.2	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.2	-
- LIC MF Liquid	4571.6	9444	0.2	0.2	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Mahi Manu Liquid	1645.0	1158	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- Mirae Asset Liquid	2650.9	11206	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	13.4	896	0.4	0.2	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.9	-
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	10.0	896	-	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
- Motilal Oswal Liquid	12.9	896	-	0.2	0.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	-
- Navi Liquid	27.6	73	0.2	0.2	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	-
- Nippon Ind Liquid	616.9	26986	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.3	-
- Parag Parikh Liquid	1404.7	2303	0.3	0.2	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.9	-
- PGIM India Liquid	329.0	437	0.2	0.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- Quant Liquid	40.0	1756	0.5	0.3	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.0	-
- Quantum Liquid	34.0	524	0.3	0.2	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	-
- SBI Liquid	3952.3	60844	0.3	0.2	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.2	-
- Sundaram Liquid	2230.3	5946	0.3	0.1	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Tata Liquid	3980.7	23173	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- Union Liquid	2432.2	3743	0.2	0.1	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.3	-
- UTI Liquid	4146.2	23764	0.2	0.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3	-
- WhiteOak Capital Liquid	1360.3	306	0.3	0.2	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.2	-

ARBITRAGE FUNDS

- Aditya Birla SL Arbitrage	25.8	14115	1.0	0.3	7.8	7.1	6.8	7.4	-
- Axis Arbitrage	18.1	5913	1.0	0.3	7.8	7.0	6.8	7.5	-
- Bandhan Arbitrage	31.5	7724	1.1	0.4	7.9	7.1	6.9	7.5	-
- Bank of India Arbitrage	13.4	40	0.9	0.2	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.9	-
- Baroda BNP Paribas Arbitrage	15.6	1358	1.2	0.4	7.8	6.5	6.6	7.4	0.30
- DSP Arbitrage	14.5	6132	1.0	0.4	8.1	7.2	6.9	7.4	-
- Edelweiss Arbitrage	18.8	12136	1.1	0.4	8.3	7.3	6.9	7.6	-
- HDFC Arbitrage	29.7	16867	0.9	0.4	8.3	7.4	7.0	7.6	-
- HSBC Arbitrage	18.4	2423	0.9	0.3	8.5	7.0	6.7	7.3	-
- ICICI Pru Equity-Arbitrage	33.3	24369	0.9	0.4	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.6	-
- Invesco India Arbitrage	3								

Clean energy sector must become independent of govt support: Goyal

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

Our Bureau
New Delhi

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

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

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

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



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

PIYUSH GOYAL
Commerce & Industry Minister



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

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

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

and sale of High Efficiency Solar PV modules.

THINK INNOVATIVELY

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

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

share ideas, technologies and resources.

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

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

AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Now, hotels body flays delivery platforms for private food labels

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

• BREACH OF NORMS

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

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

MISUSE OF DATA

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

ETHICAL CONCERN

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

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

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

KR Srivats
New Delhi

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

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

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

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

SHARP CONTRAST

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

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

The latest data indicate resilience of the US economy and the unemployment rate has come better-than-expected at 4.1 per cent. This means the possibility of more rate cuts by the Fed in 2025 is receding and this will further push up bond yields.

"The macro construct is not favourable for the return of the FPIs in the near-term," Vijayakumar added.

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

TACC partners with Lanka's CGT to set up graphene unit

Our Bureau
Mumbai

TACC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HEG, has entered into a partnership with Ceylon Graphene Technologies (a joint venture between LOLC Advance Technologies and Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology) to establish a state-of-the-art graphene manufacturing facility at TACC's premises in India.

The partnership comes in the wake of TACC entering into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CGT to advance graphene technology and unlock its vast potential for diverse applications, per a regulatory filing by HEG (LNJ Bhilwara group).

HEG is a graphite electrode manufacturer.

The proposed facility will enable large-scale production of sustainable and innovative graphene solutions to global markets, said the regulatory filing.

STRATEGIC TIE-UP

"This MoU establishes a strategic collaboration between TACC and CGT to jointly explore the manufacturing of graphene and its derivatives, leveraging Sri Lanka's premium vein graphite and TACC's synthetic graphite expertise.

Together, the two companies aim to develop high quality graphene materials and solutions..." per HEG's regulatory filing.

Graphene is a revolutionary material made of a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice, known for its exceptional strength, conductivity, and lightweight nature.

It is widely regarded as a game-changer across industries, enabling advanced applications in electronics, energy storage, coatings, composites, construction material, textiles and more.

The company did not disclose the investment being made to set up the facility.

SEGMENT-WISE

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

stronger growth, expand-

New business premium (in ₹ cr)

	CY 2023	CY 2024	% Chg.
LIC	2,03,303.00	2,30,73.36	14.64
Life Insurance Industry	3,51,626.20	4,02,773.18	14.41
Private Life Insurer	1,48,323.21	1,69,699.83	14.55

Source: Life Insurance Council

ing by 18.22 per cent to ₹1,69,240.45 crore from ₹1,43,152.75 crore. Group Yearly Premiums also surged 48.31 per cent, reaching ₹2,46,714 crore compared with ₹1,663.55 crore in the previous year.

However, the number of policies issued declined to 1.96 crore in 2024, down 2.72 per cent from 2.01 crore in 2023.

Individual policies fell to 1.95 crore, while Group Yearly Renewable Policies dropped to 29,968. Group Schemes and Policies rose modestly by 4.13 per cent.

DEC PERFORMANCE

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

December 2023. The Group Premium segment saw a sharp 53.75 per cent drop, falling to ₹8,238.67 crore from ₹17,812.46 crore.

However, Group Yearly Premium Collections increased significantly, rising 134.67 per cent to ₹134.44 crore from ₹57.29 crore.

The number of policies issued in December fell 19.85 per cent to 21.24 lakh, down from 26.50 lakh in December 2023. The Individual Category saw a steeper decline of 31.61 per cent, while Group Yearly Renewable Policies dropped 24.87 per cent.

Group Schemes and Policies rose modestly by 4.13 per cent.

BIMA SAKHI

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

This initiative aligns with LIC's strategy to enhance penetration in rural and semi-urban markets, further solidifying its edge in the evolving insurance market.

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

Moreover, LIC's commitment to innovation, as seen in the Bima Sakhi initiative, is helping the insurer adapt to changing customer preferences and regulatory landscapes.

The emphasis on digital channels, agent empowerment,

and tailored products positions

LIC to maintain its edge in the evolving insurance market.

₹50,000-cr plan to enhance inland waterways infra unveiled

Our Bureau
Kolkata

The Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC), meeting in Assam's Kaziranga for policy deliberation on the promotion and propagation of inland waterways in India, on Friday announced a big boost to infrastructure along national waterways.

The second meeting of IWDC, organised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the nodal agency for development of waterways under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping

and Waterways (MoPSW), announced investments of more than ₹50,000 crore in the next five years. In this regard, a series of new initiatives across 21 Inland Waterway States were announced worth more than ₹1,400 crore.

The meeting was presided over by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. He said more than ₹3,000 crore will be invested for development of NW2, NW16 and the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) by 2030.

Sonowal said, "IWDC has anchored a new vista for cooperative

federalism as both the governments at Union and the States discussed, deliberated, debated and dwelt on multiple aspects for strengthening of inland waterways.

"Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are attempting at rejuvenating the support system of inland waterways so that we decongest railways and roadways and at the same time, provide a viable, economic, sustainable and efficient mode of transportation for both passengers and cargo operators," Sonowal added.

AIG Hospitals to buy cancer treatment system for ₹800 cr

G Naga Sridhar
Hyderabad

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

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

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

businessline

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