

FAQs for Investors: Understanding SEBI Registered Research Analysts

1. Why should I read this document?

If you already invest in stocks in Indian equity market or you want to, but do not know which stocks or mutual funds to invest and seek someone to advice you, this is a document to set you into right direction.

You would have seen so many youtube channels, famous (or claiming so) personalities, stock tips coming to you via sms, telegram and all various mediums – solicited or unsolicited. The so called “finfluencers”. Many of them offer services to educate you about stock markets or even further, just make you filthy rich by telling you the stock names. But have we bothered to check if they are genuine or do they themselves have the knowledge they claim to have or is anybody certifying them or in case of falling into hands of one of the wrong ones, who can you turn to with your grievances? Getting no answer to these questions results in either not being able to start at all in absence of trustworthy advice or falling into wrong hands and losing money.

Many investors in the Indian market, even those who are educated, are not fully aware of the role and benefits of a **SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA)** or the importance of professional financial advisory services. This document aims to address common questions and clarify misconceptions, helping you make informed decisions about your investments.

2. What is the role of SEBI?

SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is regulator for Indian securities market which includes equities. It is like RBI for Banks, IRDAI for Insurers and so on. All these regulators ensure that the respective institutions/ intermediaries work within certain rules and regulations. They safeguard interests of common people such as RBI for depositors, IRDAI for insurance buyers, SEBI for investors. This becomes our starting point. Most of the “finfluencers” referred to earlier are not SEBI registered and are not regulated.

3. Who is a SEBI Registered Research Analyst (RA)?

SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA) is a professional who specializes in analysing financial securities, such as stocks, bonds, and other investment products, to provide insights, recommendations, and research reports to investors.

There is a widespread misconception that all financial advice is the same, regardless of who provides it. This is a dangerous thought. Indian market has many unregulated entities offering financial 'tips' or 'calls' without proper registration or accountability.

SEBI registration for RAs ensures that these professionals meet specific qualification and ethical standards. They are bound by a code of conduct and are subject to regulatory oversight, providing a layer of protection and credibility that unregulated sources cannot offer. Always verify the SEBI registration of any individual or entity providing financial advice or research.

4. How can I verify if an analyst is SEBI registered?

There are 1720 SEBI registered Research Analysts (governed by SEBI RA Regulations, 2014) pan India as on 10th Sep 2025 and one doesn't need to look beyond them. The list along with contact details are publicly available and thus easily verifiable on:

<https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=14>

5. What services do RAs offer?

The offerings will vary for each specific RA and can be checked on website of corresponding RA or getting in touch with them. As per regulations, an RA is primarily responsible for one or many of the following services:

- Making 'buy/sell/hold' recommendations on stocks, mutual funds or any such securities.
- Giving price targets.
- Recommending portfolio of stocks (model portfolios).
- Preparing or publishing the content of a research report.
- Providing a research report.

6. I can decide stock ideas on my own with all public information and AI? Why do I need an RA?

Just to draw an analogy, when we fall sick or need a medical issue to be attended, we rely on finding the best doctor with best of education and experience. We do that even though there is infinite literature available on how to treat any symptoms. There is no reason to be any less responsible with the health of our finances and investments than the health of our bodies.

In today's dynamic and often volatile Indian financial markets, making informed investment decisions can be challenging. The sheer volume of information, coupled with market noise and unregulated advice, can be overwhelming for individual investors. This is where the services of a SEBI Registered Research Analyst become invaluable. Even more so during turbulent times, when professional guidance can help you stay calm, stick to your investment goal and preventing emotional decisions that could harm your portfolio.

An individual investor, especially one with limited time or expertise, may find it difficult to:

- **Filter reliable information**
- **Conduct in-depth analysis**
- **Stay updated**

A Research Analyst provides an objective, data-driven perspective, helping you with following:

- **Avoid impulsive decisions**
- **Stick to a disciplined approach**
- **Unbiased and Objective Research**
- **Expert Analysis and Insights**
- **Time-Saving**
- **Risk Mitigation**
- **Access to Structured Information**
- **Regulatory Protection**

7. Does RA provide me guaranteed return?

Anyone who promises you a guaranteed return in equity markets is a red flag. Equity markets or any investment is an exercise in money management involving maximising the probability of getting returns and mitigating risks. An RA with his expertise offers to bring value by increasing this probability over longer periods. SEBI registration doesn't tantamount to guaranteed returns.

8. My broker already sends me stock ideas to invest? Why do I need an RA?

Most large known brokers have RA registration with SEBI as an add on service to recommend stocks. But they do not charge for it as their main business is broking and they make money when you trade more. Thus, there is inherent bias in brokers recommending you stocks. For instance, they are unlikely to tell you

to hold cash when we have a bear market. On the other hand, standalone RA is likely to have stock recommendations as the primary service and hence, has your best interests in mind in picking right stock.

9. How do I pick one RA over another?

There are both individual RAs and corporate RAs to choose from. One can visit their website or contact them individually to know more about them and their offerings. Each of them has a profile – **education, experience** generally available on website. One should additionally look for the RA's **investment philosophy** (e.g., value, growth, technical) and check for **sample reports** to assess the quality of research. RA services generally include different packages meant for different investment temperament and investor requirement. These packages can accordingly be weighed as per one's needs.

10. Wouldn't RA charge an exorbitant fee?

There are several RAs at very affordable subscription rates. Fees for SEBI RAs are transparent and vary based on the provider and the services offered. They typically involve a subscription model for specific packages. The cost should be seen as an investment in professional, accountable, and unbiased research, which can help avoid costly mistakes. Putting it into perspective, one must also appreciate the fact that a SEBI registered RA is not likely to cost any more than dealing with an unregistered finfluencer.

11. Does RA also provide me a customised tailor-made offering?

No, RA doesn't provide customised offering. SEBI has different class of intermediaries for such client specific financial advisory. RA provides stock recommendations with well-defined stoploss and targets. These recommendations are common to all subscribers to a specific package under which that stock recommendation is made.

RA doesn't also handhold any individual client for execution of a specific trade or portfolio. Individual client can reach out to RA for operational queries or grievances or any such queries (subject to discretion of RA) which do not involve direct or indirect recommendation of a stock. In essence, a Research Analyst provides the 'what' to invest in.

Therefore, you should **not expect**:

- **Individualized Financial Planning**
- **Portfolio Management**
- **Handholding or Execution Support**

12. What is the difference between a SEBI Research Analyst (RA) and a SEBI Investment Adviser (IA)?

An RA provides generalized research and recommendations (e.g., stock reports, model portfolios) to many clients simultaneously. An IA provides customized financial advice tailored to an individual client's financial situation, goals, and risk profile. Think of an RA as a specialist analyst and an IA as a personal financial doctor

13. What if I have a complaint against a SEBI Registered RA?

SEBI provides a dedicated platform for investors to file complaints called the SEBI Complaint Redressal System (SCORES) accessible at www.scores.sebi.gov.in. This provides a formal and regulated channel for grievance redressal, a protection you do not have with unregistered entities.

One can also raise grievance on ODR Portal - <https://smartodr.in/login>

In conclusion, partnering with a SEBI Registered Research Analyst can bring discipline, expertise, and regulatory protection to your investment journey. It is crucial to perform your own due diligence when selecting an RA that aligns with your financial goals.

If you would like to see how a professional RA service operates, you can explore our offerings or follow our market commentary for a trial period.

14. How can I know more specific details about investkaps and its offerings?

Here are the key links:

- a. About investkaps: <https://investkaps.com/about-us>
- b. Offerings: <https://trade.investkaps.com/checkout>
- c. Contact details for specific queries: <https://investkaps.com/contact-us>

15. How can I follow investkaps for some time before deciding to subscribe any of the offerings?

You may choose trial plan on <https://trade.investkaps.com/checkout> or just follow us on any or all of the following:

- a. Whatsapp - https://chat.whatsapp.com/FiBsnseWfMe8Cub2Gt3r9I?mode=ems_copy_c
- b. Telegram - https://t.me/join_investkaps
- c. Stocktwits - <https://stocktwits.com/investkaps>

16. What is the process to subscribe and how will I get recommendations once I subscribe?

Once you choose a plan, suited to your requirements and investment objective and style, on the link <https://trade.investkaps.com/checkout>, it is a smooth self-explanatory process & involves the following mandatory (some being regulatory requirement) steps:

- Creating login using email/ mobile number
- Verifying PAN and providing basic identity details
- Valid KYC verification
- E-signing of agreement between RA and subscriber
- Payment for the plan

Post completion of all these steps and as per the offerings under the package you have subscribed to, you will get recommendations in your login account on investkaps platform, registered e-mail id as well as registered whatsapp number as well and if you choose for it, telegram account as well.