THE ECONOMIC TIMES
wealth

GLOBAL INVESTING ROUTES DRYING UP
P8

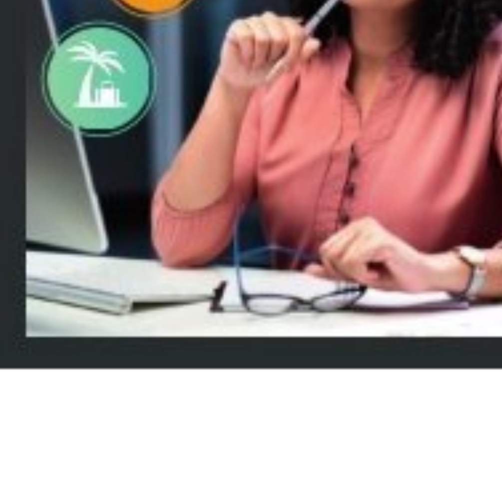
www.etwealth.co | Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune | Volume 11 No. 18 | April 29-May 5, 2024 | 24 pages | ₹8

5 REASONS TO INVEST IN NPS

The NPS for the general public completes 15 years this week. Here are five reasons why you should invest in it. P2

AN EPIDEMIC OF DIGITAL SCAMS
P7

SHOULD YOU INVEST IN METAL STOCKS?
P10



WHY WOMEN REFUSE TO MARRY
P12

5 REASONS TO INVEST IN NPS

The NPS for the general public completes 15 years this week. Here are five reasons why you should invest in it.

By **Babar Zaidi**

When the National Pension System (NPS) was opened to the general public 15 years ago, it managed to get less than 5,000 voluntary investors. The investment rules were not very clear, the structure was quite complicated and there was also no clarity on the tax treatment of the income.

But over the years, the NPS has undergone many changes and become more investor friendly. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has made the scheme more flexible and introduced new features. It has also made it easier to open an NPS account. If you have the necessary documents, the account can be opened online within minutes. The Finance Ministry has done its bit by introducing tax benefits on contributions, including tax deductions that are exclusive to the NPS and making 60% of the maturity corpus tax free.

As a result, the NPS is slowly gathering pace. In 2023-24, some 8.73 lakh voluntary investors joined the scheme. That's an average 2,391 investors joining per day, almost 100 every hour. But the NPS is still not the preferred investment vehicle for retirement. With only 55 lakh voluntary investors, it has tapped only 10% of the total investing population in the country.

There are many reasons for this, including low awareness about the scheme, aversion to locking up money for the long term and the compulsory annuitisation of 40% of the maturity corpus. However, investors who stay away from NPS may be missing out on a great investment opportunity. "The NPS offers everything that one looks for in a retirement savings product. It is a long-term investment with very low costs and a low risk profile," says Rahul Bhagat, CEO of DSP Pension Fund (*see interview on page 4*). Here are five reasons why you should consider joining the scheme.

1 Very low charges mean higher returns for you

The fund management charges of the NPS are very low compared to what mutual funds and insurance companies charge. "The NPS is the cheapest product available in the Indian market," says Bhagat. The investor pays just ₹30-90 per lakh in a year. That is comparable to what ETFs floated by mutual funds charge, but is a fraction of the nearly 2-2.5% you pay for actively managed equity funds.

Though a fund management charge of 2% a year appears low, it adds up to a substantial sum in the long run due to compounding. Here's a perspective: If you do an SIP of ₹5,000 in a mutual fund that charges 2% per year, over 25 years you will shell out about ₹19 lakh in fund management fees. The same amount invested in

Use NPS tier II to earn more

NPS Tier II debt funds have done better than similar fund categories.

Fund	1-year returns (%)
Best NPS Tier II Gilt fund	7.92
Best long-duration debt fund	7.85
Average NPS Tier II Gilt fund	7.48
Average long-duration debt fund	6.77
Best NPS Tier II Corp bond fund	7.71
Best corp bond mutual fund	7.71
Average NPS Tier II Corp bond fund	7.27
Average corp bond mutual fund	6.5

Data as on 24 Apr 2024. **Source:** Value Research.

Low costs, high returns

Low charges helped NPS equity funds beat large-cap mutual funds.

	Returns (%)		
	3-year	5-year	10-year
Flexi-cap equity funds	19.57	16.47	15.54
NPS equity funds	19.36	15.97	14.03
Large-cap equity funds	19.06	15.58	13.82

the NPS will cost you only ₹1 lakh over 25 years, assuming the maximum 0.09% fund management charge of the NPS. We have assumed compounded annual returns of 9% in this calculation.

The low charges translate into higher returns for the investor. This is why NPS equity funds have consistently beaten the large-cap mutual fund category in the past 10 years and even the flexi-cap category is ahead by a slim margin (*see table*).

Don't want to lock up your money in the NPS till the age of 60? Investors can go for the NPS Tier II option where there are no tax benefits on contributions but also no restrictions on withdrawals. You can invest today and withdraw the money the next day. There is also no exit charge.

At 0.5-1.25%, the fund management charges of debt funds are lower than those of equity funds, but they still can't match the ultra-low costs of NPS funds. This is why NPS debt funds have done better than debt schemes of mutual funds. In the past one year, the NPS Tier II Gilt and Corporate Bond funds have delivered higher returns than the average long-duration debt fund and corporate bond fund (*see tables*).

You can invest in the NPS Tier II only if you have the regular Tier I account. All one has to do is activate the NPS Tier II option and start investing in the scheme. Readers should note that investing in Tier II works well for the gilt and corporate bond funds, but not so much for equity funds because there is ambiguity in the tax rules. Some tax experts point out that the capital gains arising from investments in the NPS Tier II funds may not be eligible for the favourable tax treatment that investments in stocks and equity-oriented mutual funds enjoy. Long-term capital gains of up to ₹1 lakh are tax free in a financial year. Beyond ₹1 lakh, the long-term gains are taxed at 10%. Short-term capital gains are taxed at 15%.

However, since there is no securities transaction tax paid on NPS transactions, the investment will not get these benefits. The capital gains will be added to the income of the individual and taxed at the marginal rate applicable to him. "This will not suit taxpayers in the 20% tax bracket and above," says Chartered Accountant Nishant Khemani. "The higher tax on capital gains from equity investments will take away any advantage accruing from the lower costs," he adds.

2 NPS investments get exclusive tax benefits

Though investments in the NPS Tier II don't get any tax benefit, the Tier I option is loaded with tax incentives. There are three ways to save tax with NPS. Firstly, contributions to the scheme are eligible for deduction in the overall ₹1.5 lakh limit under Section 80C. Then there is an additional deduction of ₹50,000 for contributions under Section 80CCD(1b). This is over and above the Section 80C deduction and exclusive only to the NPS. Taxpayers in the 30% bracket can save up to ₹15,600 by investing ₹50,000 in the scheme. If one factors in the tax savings, the net outflow for the investor will be only ₹34,400 (or ₹2,866 per month).

The third way to save tax through the NPS has a potentially bigger impact on the tax outgo of the individual. Under Section 80CCD(2), up to 10% of the basic salary put in NPS is tax free. For example, if a person has a basic salary of ₹50,000, his company can reduce some other taxable emolument by ₹5,000 and put that amount in the NPS on his behalf every month. The ₹60,000 thus contributed to the NPS will reduce the annual tax of the employee by ₹18,720. However, this NPS contribution should be a part of the emoluments of the individual and can be done only through the company. Incidentally, this deduction under Section 80CCD(2) is available under the new tax regime as well.

At the same time, experts say one should not look at retirement planning through the prism of tax savings. "The PFRDA is encouraging NPS as a complete retirement planning tool. We have to move away from projecting NPS as just a tax-saving instrument," says PFRDA Chairman Deepak Mohanty. "The fresh branding attempts with the tagline NPS#ZaruriHai is an attempt in this direction," he adds.

Put your NPS on auto mode

Investors not sure about the asset mix can go for Lifecycle funds of the NPS

CONSERVATIVE
Equity exposure is 25% at start and reduces by 1% every year after 35 years.

MODERATE
Equity exposure is 50% at start and reduces by 2% every year after 35 years.

AGGRESSIVE
Equity exposure is 75% at start and reduces by 4% every year after 35 years.

3 Choices have increased for investors

With DSP Pension Fund starting operations last year, investors in NPS can now choose from 11 pension fund managers. They are also allowed to change their pension fund manager once a year. Till last year, an NPS investor could invest in schemes of only one pension fund manager. The performance of pension fund managers varies across the four categories. If you look at 10-year returns, the equity funds of Kotak Pension Fund and HDFC Pension Fund are the top performers. But LIC Pension Fund scores in the gilt category while UTI Retirement Solutions and HDFC Pension Fund are best performers in corporate bond fund category. In November 2024, the PFRDA changed the rules and allowed investors to invest across three pension funds. They can now cherry pick the best performing pension funds across different asset classes and invest accordingly.

4 Flexibility has also increased significantly

The NPS has also become more flexible. Investors can alter their asset mix up to four times in a year. The best part is that switching from one asset class to another or changing your pension fund manager will have no tax implications. In mutual funds, switching from one fund to another is treated as a sale and any gain is taxable.

The apart, NPS equity funds used to invest in only index based stocks. But in 2021, the PFRDA allowed investments in the top 200 stocks. This gives pension funds a bigger universe and allows them to take exposure in stocks with long-term potential.

Also, there is greater freedom in deciding your asset mix. The 50% cap on equity investments, which was a sore point for many investors, has been raised to 75%. This will suit younger investors as well as those with a higher appetite for risk. Subscribers who are not very investment savvy can go for any of the three Lifecycle funds that continuously change the asset mix as the person ages (*see graphic*). These funds are the only true asset allocation product that automatically changes the allocation with age. "Lifecycle funds suit investors who don't have the time or the knowledge to decide their asset allocation," says Bhagat.

Investors are also allowed to continue contributing to the NPS up to the age of 70. They can also defer the withdrawal of the 60% tax-free portion up to the age of 75. This means an investor can continue to benefit from the low-cost structure of the NPS well into his retirement even as he keeps withdrawing from the corpus.

5 There is greater liquidity with changes in rules

Investing in the NPS does not always mean the money is locked up till retirement. Like in case of the Provident Fund, withdrawals are allowed for specific reasons, including medical emergencies, marriage or education of children, and purchase or construction of a house. But withdrawals are allowed only if you have been an NPS subscriber for at least three years and only three times during the entire tenure of the NPS account. One can withdraw up to 25% of the contribution in NPS at any time, excluding those made by one's employer.

Can variable annuities be game changers?

Some portion of the annuity will be invested in equity to earn more than fixed income avenues

WHEN THEY RETIRE, NPS investors have to put 40% of the maturity corpus in an annuity that gives them pension for life. For many investors, this is the deal breaker that keeps them away from the NPS. That's because annuity rates are not very high and most people feel they can earn better returns by investing the money in other avenues.

Investors are also psychologically uncomfortable with the idea of giving away control of a big chunk of their retirement savings. Even those who agree to buy annuities, go for the return of purchase price option which gives back the principal to their legal heirs after the investor's death.

The introduction of variable annuities could change that. The insurance regulator has given the go-ahead to variable annuity plans. These variable annuity plans follow complex investment strategies that use derivatives to provide enhanced returns while controlling the risk of investing in equities.

According to news reports, the first variable annuity products could be launched within the next 2-3 months. To start with, variable annuity products are likely to focus on plain vanilla options with equity-linked returns. The benchmark for these returns can vary, ranging from the benchmark indices such as Nifty or Sensex to specific equity funds offered by insurers.

Under these variable annuity plans, 60-80% of the purchase price would be invested in fixed income instruments and offer a guaranteed minimum pension. The remaining 20-40% of the corpus would be invested in equities and equity-linked instruments to earn higher returns. Customers can choose how much they want to allocate to equity investments.

The regulator has asked insurers to explicitly state the variation of annuity payouts in relation to the benchmark in their filing documents. They are also required to provide illustrations of annuity rate variability along with associated risks, which would help customers in making an informed choice.

However, variable annuities that invest in equity instruments is a double-edged sword. If equity markets don't perform well, the expected high return may not happen. Then the pension of the retiree will be even lower than what a fixed annuity pays right now.

"NPS offers everything one needs in a retirement product"

It is a long-term investment, has very low costs and comparitively low risk. Investors should look beyond tax and invest more than the deduction limit, Rahul Bhagat tells **Babar Zaidi**

Rahul Bhagat
CEO, DSP Pension Fund

DSP has returned to the NPS after several years. What made you come back?
The pension market has matured and the regulatory framework is more robust now. Instead of applying for a licence every five years, we now have a perpetual licence. The very low charges have also been revised. The charges are still quite low, but enough to make the business viable in the long term. All this gives us confidence to stay in the business for the long term.

What makes the NPS a better product than other retirement options?
The NPS offers everything that one looks for in a retirement savings product. It is a long-term investment with very low costs and a low risk profile. The investor can start at 18 and remain invested in the scheme till the age of 75. The NPS is also the cheapest product available in the Indian market. The investor pays 0.03-0.09% per year, which is very low compared to what mutual funds and insurance companies charge.

NPS is also low risk because of the tightly regulated environment and the investment approach of the pension fund managers. Pension funds have to declare their portfolios to the PFRDA on a monthly basis.

That apart, the NPS equity funds invest in the top 200 companies, which is a safer universe than the broader market. The gilt funds invest in government bonds where there is no risk of default. Corporate bond funds have a higher risk profile than gilts, but the PFRDA allows funds to invest only in bonds with a minimum rating of AA, though DSP Pension Fund doesn't go below AA+.

NPS equity funds can now invest in stocks beyond the Nifty. Would this enhance the risk or deliver higher returns for investors?
Looking beyond the index stocks Also, NPS is a long-term product and unlike mutual funds, the pension funds do not face the possibility of redemption pressure. Pension fund managers can therefore invest in very long-term bets in which they have conviction.

> Some part of the retirement portfolio should generate assured income for the retiree. That is exactly what the 40% put in the annuity does.

The top five stocks in the equity portfolios of all pension funds are very large-cap stocks. But your equity fund also has Coramandel International among the top five stocks.
We follow a strategy of a concentrated portfolio. If we have conviction in a stock, we will invest in it and hold it for the long term. We generally prefer companies with zero debt, because such stocks tend to do well in the long term.

NPS offers several advantages to investors, yet very few people (barely 10% of the total investing population in India) have invested in it. Why are people staying away from the NPS?
The commitment for a long term investment is not there. Investors seek liquidity in investments and a window for withdrawal. The NPS is a very good product and will benefit the investor, but people are psychologically averse to putting money in a scheme that they can't touch till retirement. Just like *Mutual Funds Sahi Hai*, we need a campaign saying *NPS Zaruri Hai*.

Also, there is a serious lack of awareness about the NPS. For instance, not many people know about the tax benefits offered by the NPS. One can withdraw 33% of the superannuation fund and the remaining 66% is annuitised. But if you transfer the superannuation corpus to the NPS, you can withdraw 60% tax-free and only 40% will go into annuity.

Similarly, one can build a big corpus using the NPS Tier II. If there is a shortfall in the retirement savings, the NPS Tier II can be transferred to the NPS Tier I account.

We note that many investors invest only ₹50,000 a year in NPS to avail tax deduction. That won't build a sufficient corpus. Should the deduction limit be raised to encourage people to invest more?
It is true that ₹50,000 a year will not create a big enough corpus. But even if the limit is raised to ₹2 lakh, that won't help build a sufficient corpus. People must look beyond taxes when saving for their retirement. We are going to live longer than earlier generations and expenses will be higher in the future. Longevity will rise to about 85 years in the future, so a person must save to sustain 20-25 years in retirement.

The compulsory annuity of 40% of the corpus is a sore point for many investors. What are your views on this?
Annuity should not be a sore point, because it offers a fixed and assured income for life. It is like a fixed deposit for the rest of your life. An annuity does away with the reinvestment risk and the risk of longevity. At least some part of the retirement portfolio should generate a fixed and assured income. That is exactly what the 40% portion put in the annuity does for you.

There is another positive point about annuities. Indian parents tend to get sentimental when it comes to children and spend their retirement savings on their goals. As a result they often are left to fend for themselves in their old age. An annuity ensures that the retiree gets a fixed income for life.

Please send your feedback to
etwealth@timesgroup.com

How NPS funds have performed

Don't base your decision on short-term perfromance but look at the long-term returns.

Equity funds

PENSION FUND MANAGER	6-MONTH	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR	10-YEAR
		Returns (%)			
Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension	17.49	33.57	18.16	15.96	--
AXIS Pension Fund	17.83	33.52	--	--	--
HDFC Pension Fund	18.19	32.86	18.55	16.29	14.43
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	19.70	37.21	19.88	16.60	14.21
Kotak Pension Fund	17.61	35.03	19.56	16.60	14.19
LIC Pension Fund	17.75	32.86	19.20	15.74	13.29
Max Life Pension Fund	18.57	34.85	--	--	--
SBI Pension Fund	16.94	32.54	18.20	15.04	13.61
Tata Pension Fund	21.97	39.30	--	--	--
UTI Retirement Solutions	20.86	37.05	19.51	15.96	14.34
Average	**18.69**	**34.88**	**19.01**	**16.03**	**14.01**

NPS equity funds are large-cap oriented, though some also hold stocks that are not in the Nifty. The long-term returns are fairly decent and comparable with the returns of large-cap and flexi-cap diversified equity funds.

Gilt funds

PENSION FUND MANAGER	6-MONTH	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR	10-YEAR
		Returns (%)			
Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension	5.69	7.91	6.03	8.33	--
AXIS Pension Fund	5.68	7.48	--	--	--
HDFC Pension Fund	5.65	7.70	5.61	8.30	9.22
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	5.40	7.79	5.74	8.10	9.18
Kotak Pension Fund	5.52	7.92	5.87	8.24	9.24
LIC Pension Fund	5.47	7.74	5.73	8.40	9.80
Max Life Pension Fund	5.42	7.86	--	--	--
SBI Pension Fund	5.66	8.04	5.70	8.13	9.30
Tata Pension Fund	5.48	7.74	--	--	--
UTI Retirement Solutions	5.64	8.08	5.72	8.04	8.99
Average	**5.56**	**7.83**	**5.77**	**8.22**	**9.29**

NPS gilt funds tend to have a long-duration orientation, so they will be very sensitive to interest rate movements. Their long-term returns are higher than what long-term bond funds have earned during the same period.

Corporate bond funds

PENSION FUND MANAGER	6-MONTH	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR	10-YEAR
		Returns (%)			
Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension	4.38	7.59	5.96	8.23	--
AXIS Pension Fund	4.08	7.27	--	--	--
HDFC Pension Fund	4.42	7.77	6.17	8.41	9.17
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	4.29	7.65	5.92	8.01	9.06
Kotak Pension Fund	4.16	7.47	5.75	7.43	8.59
LIC Pension Fund	4.21	7.16	5.72	8.20	8.85
Max Life Pension Fund	4.11	7.15	--	--	--
SBI Pension Fund	4.28	7.39	5.80	8.06	8.94
Tata Pension Fund	4.43	7.37	--	--	--
UTI Retirement Solutions	4.16	7.38	5.67	7.78	8.62
Average	**4.25**	**7.42**	**5.86**	**8.02**	**8.87**

Corporate bond funds have a shorter maturity profile than gilt funds, but are also sensitive to interest rate movements. The short- and long-term returns are slightly lower that what NPS gilt funds have earned.

Alternative investment funds

PENSION FUND MANAGER	6-MONTH	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR	7-YEAR
			Returns (%)		
Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension	6.66	8.55	7.14	6.10	--
AXIS Pension Fund	3.36	6.85	--	--	--
HDFC Pension Fund	7.43	9.51	8.73	8.47	8.64
ICICI Prudential Pension Fund	6.70	7.19	6.65	6.43	6.80
Kotak Pension Fund	9.08	10.01	6.06	6.94	7.03
LIC Pension Fund	5.91	7.50	6.81	7.45	7.61
Max Life Pension Fund	3.66	7.10	--	--	--
SBI Pension Fund	7.92	11.08	7.55	9.19	8.91
Tata Pension Fund	5.02	8.61	--	--	--
UTI Retirement Solutions	6.83	6.51	6.58	5.80	6.20
Average	**6.26**	**8.29**	**7.07**	**7.20**	**7.53**

There is a very high degree of variation in the returns of NPS alternative investment funds. Going by the overall average returns generated by the category, the risk of investing in these funds does not seem worthwhile.

Data.as on 22 Apr 2024; returns of over one year are annualised; DSP Pension Fund not included because it started operations five months ago **Source:** Value Research

RBI bars Kotak Bank for tech outages

The RBI has barred Kotak Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels, and from issuing new credit cards. The move came after complaints of deficiencies and compliance issues in the bank's technology platforms. However, existing customers will not be impacted by the RBI decision. "We want to reassure our existing customers of uninterrupted services, including credit card, mobile and Netbanking," Kotak Bank said in a statement. Similar restrictions were imposed on HDFC Bank in 2020. They were lifted in 2022 after the RBI was satisfied with the corrective actions taken by HDFC Bank.

"Serious deficiencies and non-compliances were observed in the areas of IT inventory management, patch and change management, user access management, vendor risk management, data security and data leak prevention strategy, business continuity and disaster recovery rigour and drill, etc. For two consecutive years, the bank was assessed to be deficient in its IT Risk and Information Security Governance, contrary to requirements under regulatory guidelines," said RBI.

Relief for taxpayers with TDS shortfall

Only for inactive PANs due to Aadhaar non-linkage.

By **Neelanjit Das**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has given a relief to taxpayers who got tax demand notices because they deducted less TDS from taxpayers whose PAN had become inoperative. Several deductors and collectors of TDS, TCS respectively had received notices asking them to deposit the shortfall in TDS and TCS. They had deducted TDS/TCS at the normal rate instead of the higher penal rate applicable to deductees/collectees whose PAN had become inoperative due to non-linkage with Aadhaar. Their contention was that they not aware that the deductee's PAN had become inoperative and that, therefore, a higher penal TDS rate was applicable.

The CBDT said there shall be no liability on the deductor/collector to deduct/collect the higher tax. Deductors/collectors of TDS/TCS will get relief if transactions (which are subject to TDS or TCS) were entered into up to 31 March 2024, and the deductee's/collectee's PAN should become operative (as a result of linkage with Aadhaar) on or before 31 May 2024.

"It is specified that if both the conditions as mentioned above are satisfied then only there would be no liability on the TDS deductor or TCS collector. However it needs to be seen what would happen in those cases where the individual has already paid the penal interest due to short deduction of TDS/TCS. Most likely the penal interest already paid would not be refunded back," says Mihir Tanna, Associate Director-Direct Tax of chartered accountancy firm S.K Patodia LLP.

For example, suppose an individual bought a property on 15 February 2024 from a seller whose PAN was inoperative PAN. He deducted 1% TDS on this date but failed to file TDS return or deposit the TDS. He would not get a tax demand notice for not deducting TDS at higher rate, but would get penalised for failing to file TDS return and interest under section 201 for late deposit of TDS.

When will EPF interest credit for 2023-24?

EPFO had increased the interest rate to 8.25% for 2023-24 from previous year's rate of 8.15%.

By **Sneha Kulkarni**

In February 2024, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) announced the interest rate for 2023-24 for provident fund deposits. The EPFO increased the interest rate to 8.25% for 2023-24 from the previous year's rate of 8.15%. Understandably many EPF members are curious to know when they will receive the EPF interest for 2023-24.

This is what EPF said in response to a query from a member on social media platform X: "Dear member, the process is in pipeline and may be shown there very shortly. Whenever the interest will be credited, it will be accumulated and paid in full. There would be no loss of interest."

The interest for 2022-23 has been provided to 28.17 crore members accounts

of EPFO as on March 2024. According to the post on social media by EPFO: "Dear member, the interest for Financial Year 2022-23 has been provided to 28.17 crore members accounts of EPFO as on date. Member may please check their EPF passbook."

How to check EPF balance?

OFFLINE: Give a missed call to 9966044425 from your registered mobile number linked to your UAN. You will get an SMS showing EPF balance details.

Send an SMS to 7738299899 in the format EPFOHO UAN ENG.

ONLINE:

EPFO Member Passbook portal: Visit the portal, log in with UAN and enter your password, Choose the PF account, and select 'View PF Passbook' to see your current balance and transaction history.

For UMANG App: download the app, go to the EFPO section, login with UAN, and enter the password.

PRODUCT LAUNCHES

MUTUAL FUNDS

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund will launch the Aditya Birla Sun Life Nifty PSE ETF, an exchange traded fund that will invest in constituents of the Nifty PSE index in the same proportion as their weight in the index. The benchmark of the fund is the Nifty PSE. The minimum investment is ₹500. **The NFO is open from 2 May to 16 May.**

Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund will launch the Baroda BNP Paribas Retirement Fund, an equity-oriented hybrid fund that will invest in a mix of stocks and fixed income securities. The benchmark of the fund is the Crisil Hybrid 35+65 Aggressive Index. The minimum investment is ₹1,000. **The NFO is open from 8 May to 22 May.**

HDFC Mutual Fund has launched the HDFC Manufacturing Fund, an open-ended thematic equity fund that will invest in stocks of companies engaged in the manufacturing sector. The benchmark of the fund is the Nifty India Manufacturing. The minimum investment is ₹100. **The NFO is open till 10 May.**

Samco Mutual Fund will launch the Samco Special Opportunities Fund, an open-ended thematic equity fund that will invest in stocks of companies involved in special situations such as restructuring, turnarounds, mergers and acquisitions, digitisation and other special corporate actions. The benchmark of the fund is the Nifty 500 TRI. The minimum investment is ₹5,000. **The NFO is open from 17 to 31 May.**

JM Financial Mutual Fund will launch the JM Small Cap Fund, an open-ended diversified equity fund that will invest in small-cap stocks. The benchmark of the fund is the Nifty Smallcap 250 TRI. The minimum investment is ₹5,000. There is a 1% exit load for redemptions within 180 days. **The NFO is open from 27 May to 10 June.**

Edelweiss Mutual Fund has launched the Edelweiss Nifty Alpha Low Volatility 30 Index Fund, an equity fund that will invest in constituents of the Nifty Alpha Low Volatility 30 Index in the same proportion as their weight in the index. The benchmark of the fund is the Nifty Alpha Low Volatility 30. The minimum investment is ₹100. **The NFO is open till 10 May.**

Epidemic of digital scams

Stay one step ahead of the sophisticated scamsters, says **Dhirendra Kumar**.

DHIRENDRA KUMAR
CEO, VALUE RESEARCH

MONEY MYSTERIES

The obvious choke point is the banking system. Digital fraud, by its very nature, has to route the loot through digital transfers between bank accounts. This is what enables this type of crime. If dealt with properly, this is also its weak link. While there is some news about banks' proposal to link with MHA's cybercrime system, a lot more needs to be done.

Though I typically focus on investment topics, I'm shifting gears to discuss a different aspect of finance: digital financial security. There have been numerous instances, where senior citizens have been primarily targeted in digital thefts. Are we going through a spate of financial frauds, wherein someone calls you with a story, and if you are gullible, you end up giving money digitally? Apparently, there have been crores of attempted frauds in the past few months. I believe this because I don't know anyone, family, friend or colleague, who hasn't faced such an attempt in recent months. If we have wall-to-wall coverage of such frauds, and if practically every person with a phone is facing this, surely there must have been crores, maybe tens of crores, of such attempts in the past few months. There's no real data, but this is the impression I've gathered from everyone I've spoken to.

There are other clues to the mass targeting nature of these frauds. Some people have reported getting recorded messages that seek an automated response. It goes something like: "There is a legal problem with a courier package that you have sent. Please press 1 to know more details." This is a clever way for the criminals to increase their footprint. Those who have heard of this so-called Fedex scam hang up, while susceptible victims press 1. The automated system appears to function as a pre-filter to increase the success rate. This shows that the people running these scams are highly organised and use the same technology as legitimate businesses that use IVR systems.

There are countless other methods that are being used by scamsters. The 'classic' method is of an older person getting calls and being asked to give the OTP received by him. The senior then discovers that Net banking transactions have been conducted from his account. The transactions are generally for something that is easily encashable or sellable. In recent times, fear has been used as a trigger by many scamsters. The victim is told that a child has been arrested or drugs have been found in a courier addressed to him or sent by him. These things make it hard for people to react calmly, and with equanimity. The scamsters have had a lot of experience manipulating victims, but the victims have no such equivalent experience.

GETTYIMAGES

How can these be stopped? The obvious choke point is the banking system. Digital fraud, by its very nature, has to route the loot through digital transfers between bank accounts. This is what enables this type of crime. If dealt with properly, this is also its weak link. While there is some news about banks' proposal to link with MHA's cybercrime system, it's clear that a lot more needs to be done and, in fact, can be done.

In an all-electronic, fully KYC system, there should be no way for funds to become untraceable. Even if a scamster quickly distributes the loot to a large number of bank accounts and then withdraws cash, there is no reason for this not to be traceable. What stands in the way is old, slow systems that simply can't handle this type of crime. There is some talk that that a new system will eventually be built, but I'm not holding my breath.

As a better system evolves, we must protect ourselves and the elderly in our families from falling prey to these scams. Educating ourselves about common tactics used by scamsters, never sharing sensitive information over phone or e-mail, hanging up on suspicious calls, setting up two-factor authentication, and regularly monitoring our financial statements can go a long way in preventing these crimes. Until systemic changes are implemented, vigilance and caution remain our best defence against these increasingly sophisticated scams. All these measures seem like the obvious things to do, but the interesting point is that this is all it takes. If you know of someone who was scammed in this manner, these simple and obvious steps would have saved them.

Please send your feedback to
etwealth@timesgroup.com

TCS, Infosys, Wipro see exit of 64K staff

In a significant shift, TCS, Infosys, and Wipro, have witnessed a substantial decrease in their combined workforce by almost 64,000 employees in the fiscal ending in March.

The outlook for the current fiscal year also appears bleak, with Infosys projecting a modest revenue growth of 1-3% for the entire year, while Wipro anticipates a potential revenue decline of 1.5% in the June quarter, with a slim chance of a 0.5% rise. These developments raise concerns for engineering graduates seeking opportunities in the sector.

Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO of IT consulting firm Everest Group, said that the reduction in headcount is a result of the industry's corrective measures following the excessive hiring spree during the Covid pandemic and the ongoing contraction in demand. Despite the robust US economy, TCS CEO K Krithivasan highlights US firms' concerns over potential economic downturns, affecting their IT investment decisions.

Saurabh Govil, Wipro's chief of HR, has attributed the decline in headcount to both the demand environment and improved operational efficiency, necessitating fewer personnel.

Similarly, Infosys CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka pointed to shifting demand dynamics over the past year as a contributing factor.

Phil Fersht, CEO of US-based IT advisory HfS Research, emphasises the impact of Gen AI on IT staffing, citing a major US enterprise's use of large language models for testing, which could reduce routine-based roles in the future.

Despite these challenges, there is a glimmer of hope as global capability centres (GCC) of MNCs continue to expand their presence in India, contributing to job opportunities in the tech sector. New GCCs in the country has been a significant driver of hiring in the industry, a trend that is expected to persist in the coming year.

—ET Online

Global investing routes dry up

After the RBI curbs on international investments, mutual fund investors are left with very few avenues.

by **Sanket Dhanorkar**

The once popular mutual fund route to foreign markets has largely closed due to the RBI restrictions on overseas investments. Many international funds have shut down or restricted inflows, only allowing investments to the extent of fund redemptions. Some accept SIP contributions, while others permit bullet investments. Additionally, the fund of funds route for investing in overseas ETFs has ceased, with funds halting fresh inflows from 1 April.

Initially, when funds reached the RBI's investment limit in 2022, it was believed to be temporary, with the cap expected to increase soon. However, the cap continues to remain unchanged, having deprived investors of overseas exposure for over two years now.

Of the 69 international funds, 26 have been closed in some capacity. Some have been toggling flows intermittently due to limited capacity. The ₹7,500 crore Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 ETF initially paused flows for 3-4 months two years ago, but now remains open, providing liquidity daily based on demand. However, it uses outflows to manage limits and may close at any time. Pratik Oswal, Head, ETFs and Index Funds, Motilal Oswal AMC, points out, "We have some headroom to invest abroad, but we are not encouraging large investors and are giving preference to retail SIP contributions."

With MF investors mostly shut out, an important lever of portfolio construction is now broken, insist experts. The 2011-2023 period proved rewarding for overseas investing, particularly in the US-dedicated equity funds. Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 ETF, the biggest such fund, has led the way with a stunning 22% annualised return since inception in March 2011. Franklin India Feeder Franklin US Opportunities and ICICI Prudential US Bluechip, both launched in 2012, have yielded 15.8% since inception. DSP US Flexible Equity, another 2012 launch, has also clocked 14.9%. While returns have been great, the real utility of global funds lies in their lower correlation with the Indian markets, say experts. Vidya Bala, Head, Research, *Primeinvestor.in*, asserts, "International markets, specifically the US, not only provides diversification in the nature of businesses, but also has increasingly lower correlation with the Indian market, thus providing market diversification as well. Hence, a reduction does impact the benefit of having this segment in one's portfolio." Vivek Banka, Co-Founder, GoalTeller, says, "Along with the unfavourable shift in taxation of international funds, this investment restriction has taken the sheen off this space. It has left investors with a void in achieving diversification and participating in themes like tech and AI, which aren't available as freely in India."

Until the cap was reached, domestic funds increasingly looked to global stocks for diversification. It was the central plank of Parag Parikh Flexi Cap's 'go anywhere' style, with foreign exposure at roughly 30% of its corpus in 2021. It proved highly beneficial. Several other domestic funds, including a focused fund, value fund, ESG fund and a hybrid fund, started making provisions for allocation to foreign stocks. However, after the curbs, these funds are no longer making incremental bets in foreign stocks. Parag Parikh Flexi Cap's overseas positions now comprise 15% of its portfolio. Raunak Onkar, Fund Manager, PPFAS Mutual Fund, says the fund will continue to allocate incremental inflows to domestic stocks only. However, given a chance to invest more in foreign holdings, the co-fund manager of this flagship scheme would like to hike exposure to foreign stocks as it will help diversify geographically.

Newer multi-asset funds provide exposure to foreign equities, but they have reduced their overseas allocation. The diversification once offered by these funds is now diminished. "One can invest in funds like Parag Parikh Flexi Cap and others, which still have some offshore exposure. However, the diversification would be minimal in the overall context of things," remarks Banka.

With more and more funds clocking out, investors are finding it tough to navigate this space. SIP commitments have either been ended or will get shuttered soon. Apart from Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 ETF, other big offerings currently open include Franklin India Feeder Franklin US Opportunities Fund, ICICI Prudential US Bluechip Equity Fund, Edelweiss US Technology Equity FoF, ICICI Prudential Nasdaq 100 Index Fund, Kotak Global Innovation FoF, etc. For now, investors can continue with their SIP commitments or make lump-sum investments.

Investors have limited choices beyond these. While they can still invest in local ETFs tracking global indices, these units are only available for purchase on stock exchanges. AMCs cannot create new units in these ETFs, posing a risk of tracking error. Although some less liquid ETFs have shown divergence between fund NAV and market price since the curbs, investors could still consider a few ETFs offering liquidity. "The direct ETF route is still available and though the deviation between NAV and market price has increased since the RBI regulations, it may be worth taking some exposure through the ETF route," suggests Bala.

The only other option is to invest directly in global stocks, using individual limits under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) of the RBI. However, experts caution against this route due to steep costs and tax compliance hassles. The new 20% TDS cuts a fifth of remitted money, while high charges for remittance and forex conversion reduce investible capital. Paperwork and tax compliance add to the inconvenience. "We don't advocate more than 10% to global investments due to tax inefficiencies, paperwork and lack of understanding," adds Banka.

Funds still open for both SIP and lump sum

Fund	AUM (₹ cr)
Motilal Oswal NASDAQ 100 ETF	7,554
Franklin India Feeder Franklin US Opportunities Fund	3,616
ICICI Prudential US Bluechip Equity Fund	3,192
Edelweiss US Technology Equity FoF	2,293
Edelweiss Greater China Equity Off-shore Fund	1,243
ICICI Prudential NASDAQ 100 Index Fund	1,150
Kotak Global Innovation FoF	956
Axis Global Equity Alpha FoF	922
SBI International Access - US Equity FoF	903
DSP US Flexible Equity Fund	889

The list is not exhaustive. It only includes the top 10 funds by asset size. **Source:** Value Research

Funds temporarily suspended

Fund	AUM (₹ cr)	Lump sum	SIP
Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 FoF	4,786	No	Yes
Motilal Oswal S&P 500 Index Fund	3,290	No	Yes
Kotak Nasdaq 100 FoF	3,008	No	No
Mirae Asset NYSE FANG+ ETF	2,079	No	No
PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund	1,444	Yes	No
Mirae Asset NYSE FANG+ ETF FoF	1,441	No	No
HDFC Developed World Indexes FoF	1,253	No	No
Navi NASDAQ 100 FoF	940	No	No
Navi US Total Stock Market FoF	932	No	No
Nippon India US Equity Opportunities Fund	699	No	No

The list is not exhaustive. It only includes the top 10 funds by asset size. **Source:** Value Research

Please send your feedback to
etwealth@timesgroup.com

Should you fund your wedding with a loan?

GETTY IMAGES

Surbhi is planning her wedding in the next few months. She has a stable job at the middle-management level with a multi-national bank. She intends to take a personal loan as she wants to take care of a few of her personal expenses at the time of her wedding. She has some investments in fixed deposits, PPF and tax-saving mutual funds. But she is unwilling to liquidate them, since she is wary of being able to rebuild them again. She also worries about how her expenses and savings would be after her marriage. How should Surbhi manage her current financial needs?

Surbhi should have a fair estimate of her expenses first. She should also ensure that she would be able to use her income even after her marriage, in a manner that she decides. If it is expected that she should contribute to the new household's expenses soon after her marriage, she may find it tough to repay her loans as well as keep up her savings. If she and her husband decide to buy a house in their joint names after their marriage, Surbhi's existing loans may reduce her ability to take on more loans. While it is tough to estimate everything accurately in advance, she should try and ascertain how her financial life is likely to be after her marriage.

Surbhi must check if her employer bank is willing to offer her a loan against her existing assets. Loan against a deposit is cheaper than a personal loan, since the former is a secured loan, while the latter is unsecured. She can take a loan against her other investments too, from her bank, at better rates than a personal loan. The advantage here would be that her assets are in tact, while the repayment in EMI is similar to what she would have done with a personal loan.

Surbhi should also assess how taking out a loan will affect her ability to continue saving from her income, a practice she wishes to maintain even after getting married. This will help her plan her repayment strategy effectively. Investments in SIPs, RDs, or specific contributions to PPF can all be set up to run for a long period of time, so that she is able to generate the surplus to continue her saving plan even after her marriage. Attitudes towards money can be very different, and couples need time to hone their own approach. It is only after they have gotten comfortable with their relationship and their monetary situations that they will be able to find more common ground, and better understanding about the financial aspects of life.

Content courtesy Centre for Investment Education and Learning (CIEL). Contributions by Girija Gadre, Arti Bhargava and Labdhi Mehta.

SMART THINGS TO KNOW — Liquidity in mutual funds

1 Mutual fund liquidity refers to the ease of buying or selling fund units without significant impact on its NAV or market value.

2 A mutual fund is deemed more liquid if its investments include assets that are easy to buy or sell such as money market instruments, govt bonds, and large-cap stocks.

3 If the fund has investments that are less commonly traded, it might impact the liquidity of the fund.

4 Fund managers ensure liquidity by managing cash inflows from new purchases, prepayments, interest, dividends, and maintaining highly liquid investments.

5 Since open-ended mutual funds offer a feature of any-day redemption it is important to meet all redemptions without significantly diluting the interests of remaining unit holders.

PAPER WORK

Reviewing mutual fund investments

Regular review ensures alignment with financial goals and risk appetite. By evaluating performance, asset allocation, and scheme suitability, investors can optimise their strategy. Here's how:

Establishing clear objectives

Periodically review investment objectives and financial goals. Assess whether goals have changed and if current mutual fund holdings still align with these objectives. Adjust holdings accordingly.

Evaluating performance against benchmarks

Compare each mutual fund's performance against relevant benchmarks like market indices or peer group averages. Identify consistent outperformance or underperformance relative to these benchmarks across different time periods.

Assessing risk and volatility

Assess the risk and volatility of each mutual fund in your portfolio. Consider factors such as standard deviation, beta, and downside risk to gauge fund's sensitivity to market fluctuations and its impact on overall portfolio risk.

Monitoring fund manager changes

Stay updated about any changes in the fund manager or investment team overseeing mutual fund schemes. New management can influence investment strategy and performance. So, evaluate the capabilities and confidence in the new team.

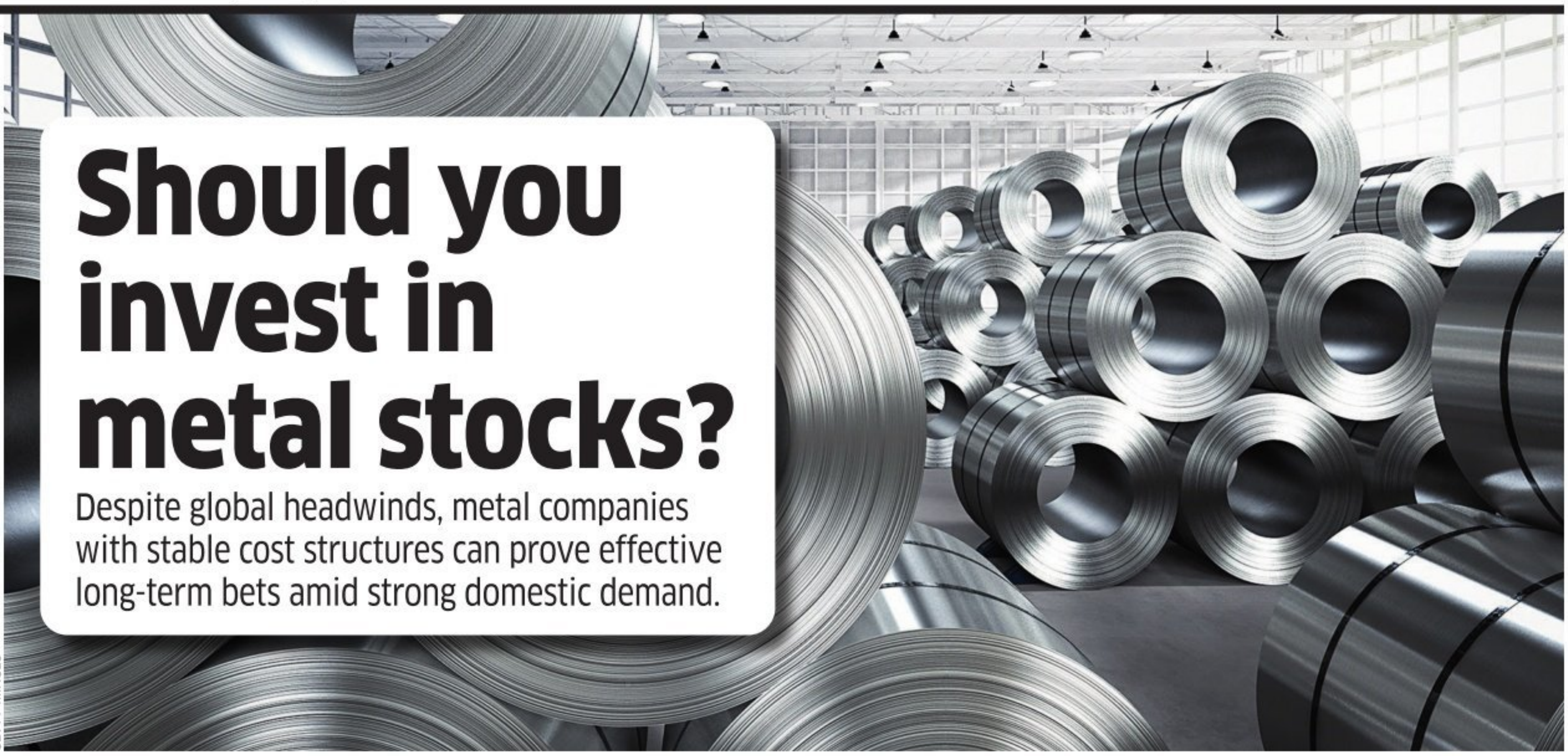
Rebalancing portfolio

Based on review findings, rebalance the mutual fund portfolio to match asset allocation with goals and risk tolerance. Sell funds that no longer meet criteria and reallocate proceeds to funds that offer better prospects or opportunities.

Points to note

- Point to note

Investors can seek professional advice if they are unsure about how to review mutual fund portfolio or make investment decision.



GETTY IMAGES

Should you invest in metal stocks?

Despite global headwinds, metal companies with stable cost structures can prove effective long-term bets amid strong domestic demand.

by **Sameer Bhardwaj**

The ongoing improvement in the manufacturing activity in the US and China, and a reasonable jump in the metal prices is supporting the performance of the metals sector. The Nifty Metal Index has surged significantly since November, delivering 11.6% year-to-date returns. In comparison, the Nifty 50 and Nifty 500 have yielded 2.7% and 5.7%, respectively.

Expectations for March 2024 quarter

The earnings preview reports from ICICI Securities, Axis Securities, Elara Capital, Phillip Capital and Nuvama suggest that non-ferrous companies are expected to outperform ferrous companies in the March 2024 quarter.

The performance of ferrous companies is expected to be impacted by a decline in net sales realisation due to higher steel imports and rising input costs, including coking coal and iron ore. Domestic hot-rolled coil (HRC) and steel rebar prices saw a year-on-year decrease of 9.4% and 14%, respectively, while NMDC iron ore prices increased by 13.6% in the March quarter.

On the other hand, stability in base metal prices and improvement in volumes will support the performance of non-ferrous companies. While the aluminium prices remained stable, LME (London Metal Exchange) prices of nickel, copper, silver and tin jumped by 1.2-9.2% during the March quarter, according to the Reuters-Refinitiv data.

What to expect in the June quarter?

The prices of coking coal have declined significantly in the past few weeks, which is expected to support the margins of steel companies in the June quarter. Also, the likely improvement in demand after the Lok Sabha elections will support the performance of ferrous companies.

In April 2024 (up to 19 April), the average price of Australia premium coking coal was $208.1 per metric tonne, down from the March 2024 quarter's average of $266.2/MT. Domestically, NMDC reduced lump prices by ₹200/tonne and fine prices by ₹250/tonne on 21 March 2024, following price hikes between October 2023 and January 2024.

On the other hand, the anticipated strength in base metal prices and consistent production costs are likely to bolster the performance of non-ferrous stocks in the first quarter of 2024-25. Copper, aluminium, nickel, and tin prices on the LME have surged by 10.8-26.1% in April 2024 (up to 22 April). Additionally, international silver prices have risen by over 9.8% during the same period. The data on LME prices and Nifty indices have been sourced from Reuters-Refinitiv and are based on 22 April 2024 closing values.

While the recent sanction on Russian aluminium on the LME and the CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange) is fuelling aluminium prices, greater demand from the energy sector and supply constraints in Panama, Congo and Chile are supporting copper prices, says Parthiv Jhonsa, Lead Analyst (Metal and Mining), Anand Rathi Institutional Equities.

What is the medium- to long-term outlook?

While the short-term outlook is positive for both ferrous and non-ferrous players, the medium- to long-term outlook favours the non-ferrous segment.

Increasing demand from new end-user industries, advancement in technology, changing consumer preferences, and increased demand for environmentally sustainable and eco-friendly products are some of the factors that will help the non-ferrous segment to outperform the ferrous segment in the future, says Yash Doshi, Senior Manager, Research, Equentis — Research & Ranking.

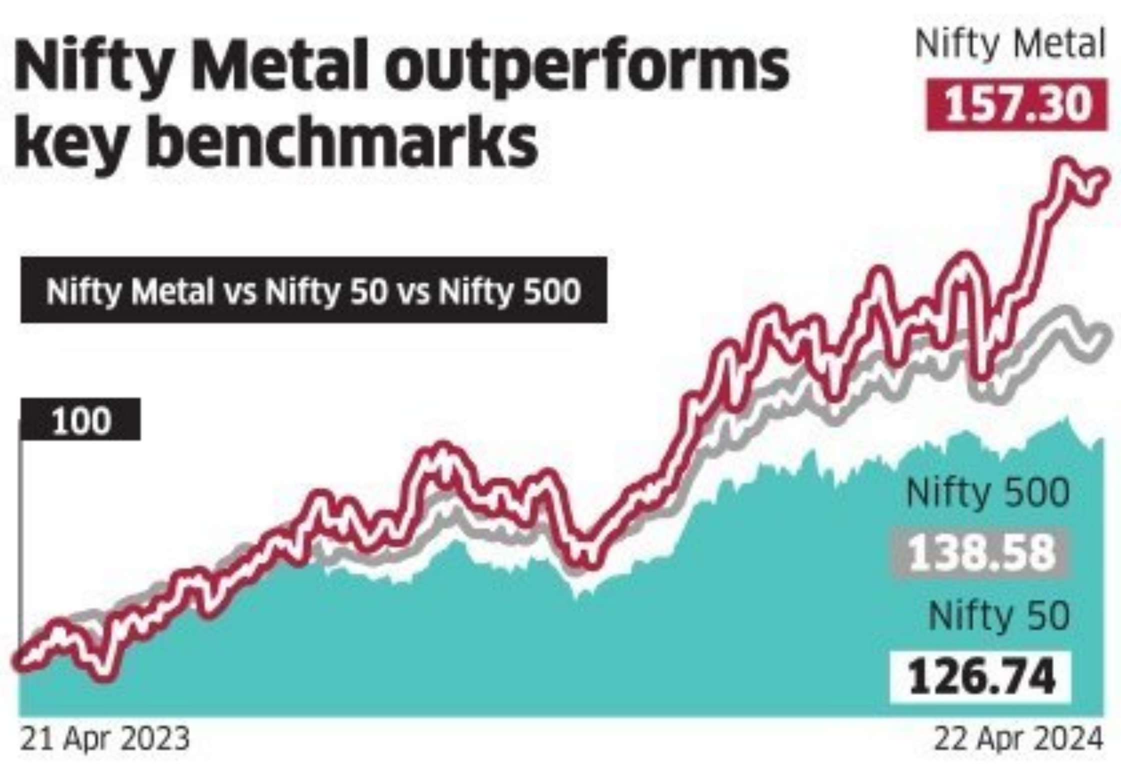
ICRA's March 2024 report expects demand for domestic non-ferrous metal to remain healthy at 10% in 2024-25 and would significantly outpace the expected growth of around 2% in global demand. The government's thrust on infrastructure development and favourable demand from the renewables/electric vehicle sectors will be the key demand drivers. In addition, the moderation in coal costs, if sustained, will relieve input cost pressures.

Non-ferrous players will also benefit from supply-side catalysts. The likely extension of Chinese emissions trading scheme to aluminium and power shortage in Yunnan, and expectations of interest rate cuts by the US Fed are expected to support aluminium prices in the future.

On the other hand, steel companies will continue to face headwinds due to higher steel exports from China, softness in domestic steel prices and volatility in coking coal prices. ICRA expects domestic steel consumption to decelerate to 7-8% in 2024-25 after three consecutive years of double-digit growth.

Experts believe that there is earnings downgrade risk in steel stocks as there are no visible green shoots that could support any significant rebound in spreads. However, they are confident about the steel's long-term growth. "These companies are positioned to realise 20-30% incremental RoCE through 2030 and EBITDA CAGR of 10-15%. This return/growth profile is not evident even in cement and utilities. Hence, multiple upgrades should continue," states a

Nifty Metal outperforms key benchmarks



Base metal prices surge as US-China's manufacturing improves

Based on LME prices. As of 22 April 2024. **Source:** Reuters-Refinitiv

Fall in iron ore prices to help margins in June quarter

recent Ambit Capital report.

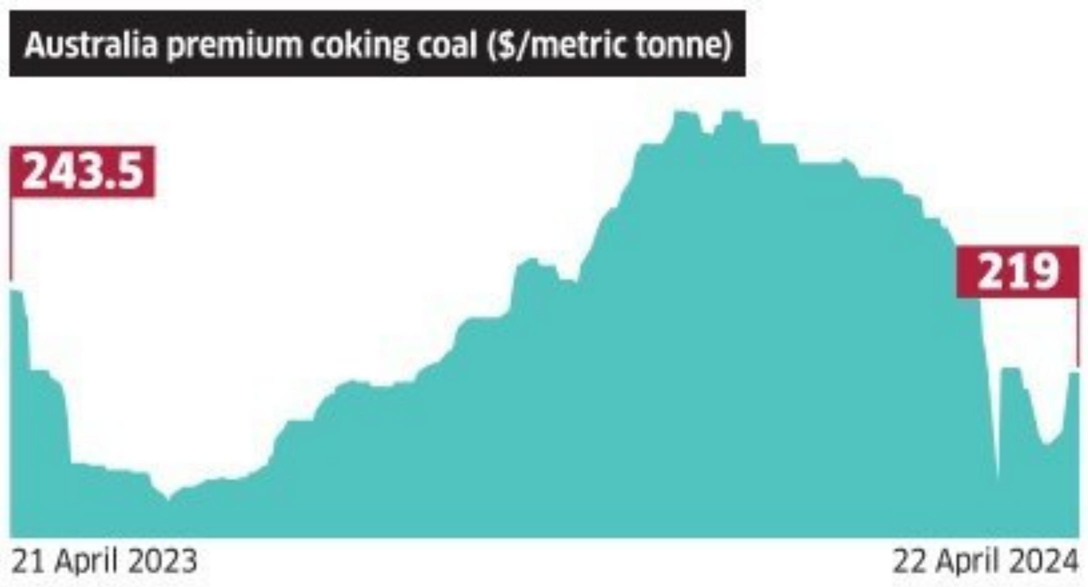
Overall, the domestic demand for metals will remain strong, supported by healthy GDP growth, rising standard of living and greater public/private capex. "India is now at an inflection point, like Japan in the 1950s and China in the 1980s. As it enters a multi-year nation-building phase, demand for metals is expected to grow rapidly," adds Jhonsa.

Will the current metal rally sustain?

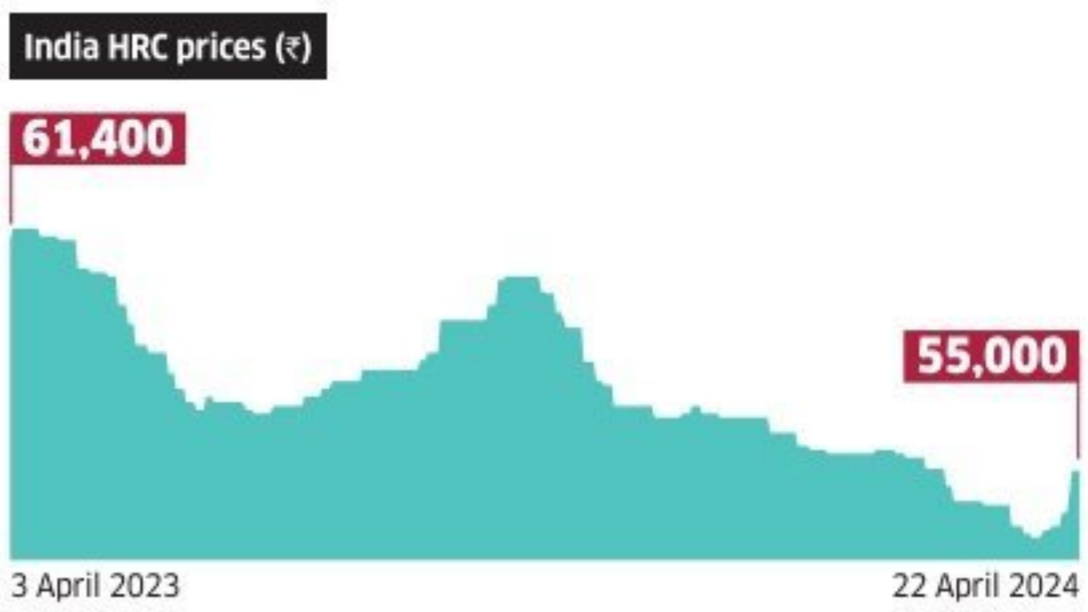
The recent surge in metal prices was triggered by simultaneous global events, leading market experts to view the current rally as short-term. Weak demand in Europe and China, coupled with delays in the US Fed rate cut, are expected to introduce uncertainty in base metal prices.

"Expectations of rate cuts in the US had supported base metal demand at the outset of the year. Any delay in these cuts by the Fed could potentially stall the ongoing rally in base metal prices," says Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities. Moreover, strength in the US dollar could lead to a cut in the prices, and vice versa, of commodities, including metals.

Falling coking coal prices to support ferrous companies



Rising exports from China continue price pressure



Tushar Chaudhari, Research Analyst, Institutional Equities, Prabhudas Lilladher, says that the price rally may fizzle out as Russia will continue to sell metals to other countries at a discount, which will offset the impact of recent ban on deliveries of Russian metals on LME and CME.

How should investors approach metal stocks?

Out of 139 stocks from the metals and mining industry (with a market cap higher than ₹100 crore), 114 (or 82%) have delivered positive returns in the past month. Of these, 67 stocks (48.2% of the total) have delivered returns of over 10% in the past month.

The substantial jump in the prices has drained the upside price potential of most of the known names in the sector. Such upside price potential is based on the target prices that are derived from the consensus estimates of analysts compiled by Reuters-Refinitiv.

Experts anticipate a correction in metal stocks in the near term. "Stock prices of metal companies seem to be headed higher over the next few quarters. However, in the near term, these appear to be due for a correction, going by the speed and strength of rise in the stock prices," says Jasani.

However, given the strong domestic demand, a buy-on-dips strategy is advised for metal stocks. Also, stocks with stable cost structures and those that have their businesses concentrated in the domestic market are better bets given the current sector conditions.

"Investors/traders should be aware of the fact that metals are a cyclical play and, hence, it is important to time the entry and exit well. They may buy metal stocks on dips for riding the next up move," adds Jasani.

Doshi believes that steelmakers with captive iron ore mines are better placed than their peers. Due to stable costs, they are unlikely to face any production constraints due to the lower availability of low-cost iron ore.

Hindalco, Vedanta, NALCO, JSW Steel, Jindal Stainless and Jindal Steel and Power are some of the companies that are favoured by market experts in the metals sector.

Please send your feedback to etwealth@timesgroup.com

How new rule will impact flight ticket prices

by **Neelanjit Das**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has come out with a direction which has the potential to make the base fare of a flight more affordable for flyers.

"The airfares so established by the airlines also include charges for some of the services rendered by them. On the basis of various feedback received, it is felt that many a times these services provided by the airlines may not be required by the passengers while travelling. Considering the fact that unbundling of services and charges thereto has the potential to make basic fare more affordable and provides consumers an option of paying for the services which he/she wishes to avail.The unbundled services must be provided on 'opt-in' basis and not on 'opt-out' basis..," said DGCA on 23 April.

In the opt-in process, you must pick the various services with your tickets and in the opt-out process all these are bundled unless you actively opt out of a service.

Which are these services?

DGCA has mentioned seven such services:

- Preferential seating.
- Meal/snack/drink charges (except drinking water).
- Charges for using airline lounges.
- Check-in baggage charges.
- Sports equipment charges.
- Musical instrument carriage.
- Fee for special declaration of valuable baggage (allow for higher unit on carrier liability).

"The aviation sector might witness a minor shift in fare structures. It's not necessarily the case that airfares will decrease significantly across the board, but consumers now have more autonomy to choose a travel experience that aligns with their budget and preferences, potentially lowering their overall travel costs," said Nilesh Tribhuvann, Managing Partner, White & Brief - Advocates & Solicitors.

Provision that may hike airfare for some

TheDGCA circular said, "Airlines shall ensure that children up to the age of 12 years are allocated seats with at least one of their parents/guardians, who are travelling on the same PNR and a record of the same shall be maintained."

According to Gauri Subramanium, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, "When the Air Corporations Act was repealed in March, 1994, tariff fixation was deregulated, and airlines have since then been free to fix reasonable tariffs. The Notification dated April 23, 2024, contains no restriction on increasing tariffs for the child, and the mandate is only that the child is always seated with the parent. It is therefore very much possible that a cost is levied through the seat selection option which is still an add-on feature and now can be sold as pairs in future especially since the notification has a caveat that the booking of the child should be on the same PNR."

What will be the impact of this circular in the medium term?

Subramanium highlights revenue management's importance in aviation, emphasizing a new ticket pricing opportunity amid regulatory changes. Airlines have shifted to fee-based ancillary services, charging for once-complimentary offerings like check-in baggage and seat selection.. "Aviation companies are now met with a unique opportunity, to either build in the cost of the seat selection into the ticket price or use forecasting techniques to maintain the price and still allocate the seats when necessary for a parent and child. Undoubtedly, when price points are close, it is more difficult to forecast the demand against each segment," she said.

According to Tribhuvann, for airlines this circular requires operational adjustments and hence, airlines must try to balance the directives mentioned with innovative revenue management strategies.

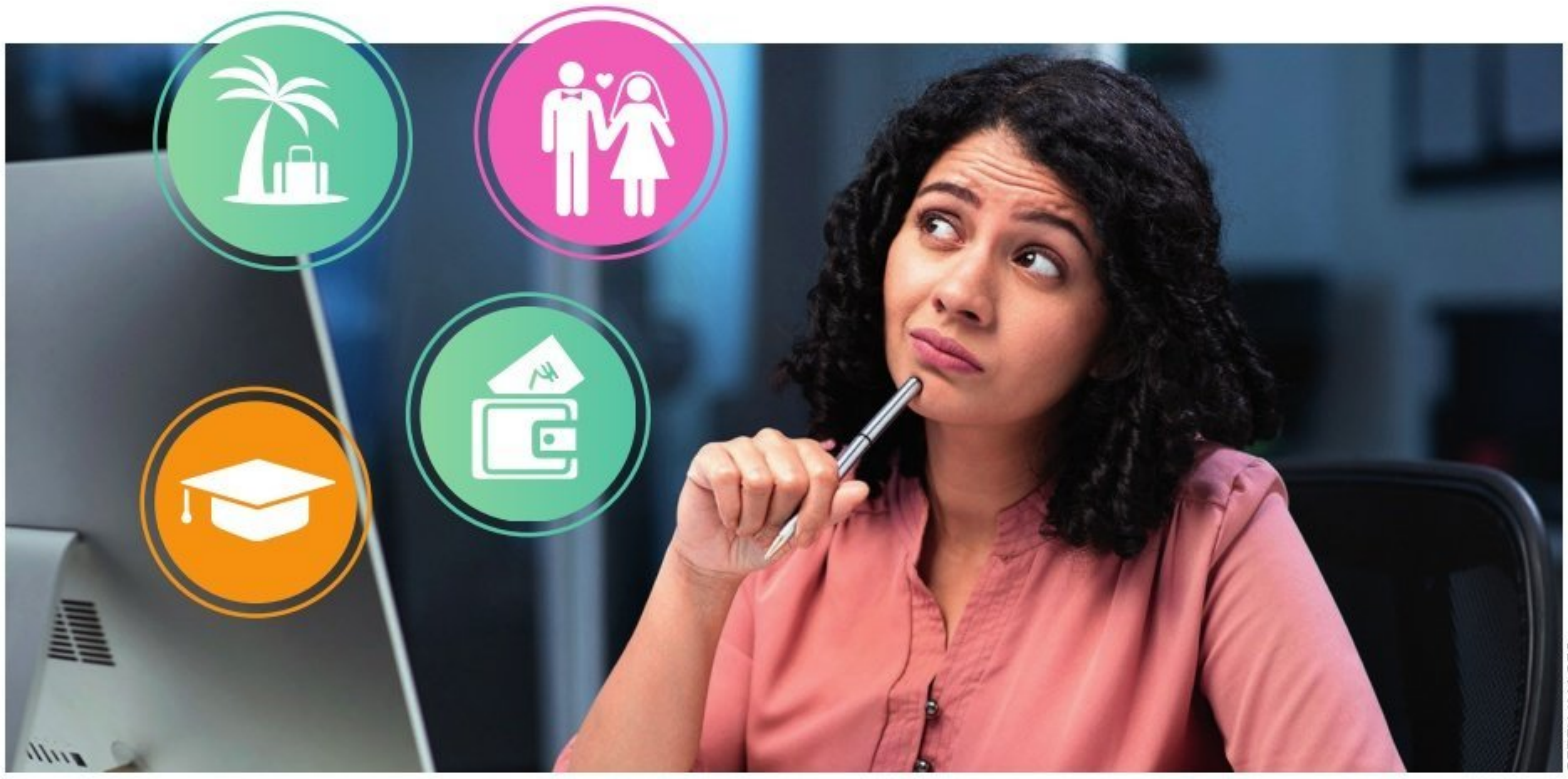
"While some might argue it could lead to marginal revenue dips from seat selection fees, the directive aligns with a customer-centric approach, which is invaluable for long-term brand reputation. The aviation industry must now balance this directive with innovative revenue management strategies to maintain profitability while adhering to regulatory expectations," says Tribhuvann.

Child below 12 to be seated with at least one parent

"Mandatorily getting a seat reserved beside a parent may force the aviation companies to put restrictions on the availability of web-check in seats for other passengers. This may also prompt aviation companies to increase the price of the child's ticket by building in that cost at the purchase stage and circumventing the add-on process altogether," says Subramanium.

Why women refuse marriage

Today's young women know that this patriarchal arrangement will take away their power, forcing them to share responsibility disproportionately and render them financially unequal, says **Uma Shashikant**.



GETTY IMAGES

UMA SHASHIKANT
IS CHAIRPERSON, CENTRE FOR INVESTMENT EDUCATION AND LEARNING

We were a group of women chatting about our lives. The changing landscape, where young women refuse to get married, turned out to be the most engaging, as the young women represented their point of view. They articulated how it made little sense to give up and compromise when marriage disproportionately burdened women with more responsibilities.The older women in their 80s argued that they had compromised and made adjustments in the larger interest of the family, and that younger women were more selfish. However, the resentment evident in the conversation made it clear that those compromises were made unwillingly. Money lies at the bottom of it all, I surmised.

There was a time when women did not have a share in ancestral property. The bias against the girl child arose from this unfair provision of law. Before it could be changed, customs and rituals that were rooted in patriarchy had created enough social conditioning in the minds of men and women. So women accepted men in their lives as some kind of saviours, who gave them status, wealth and security. Much has changed since the agriculture- and business-based joint family system, but men and women continue to suffer from that conditioning about family, marriage, life and the role of men and women in the household. Many brothers still bear the burden of having to support their sisters; many wives continue to remain powerless in the household; and many families still seek a male child even if the economic advantage has ceased to exist.

The argument about being powerless caught my attention. Does education and financial capability bring power to women? I recounted my conversation with a popular film actress on a long flight from Sydney. To the outside world, she was an acclaimed star, beautiful and talented. In her house, she was merely a money-making machine. She returned home from long hours of film shooting schedules to find her house filled with strangers, eating elaborate meals and ordering fancy stuff. They were enjoying her money, but she could not say anything. She would retire to the quiet of her room. As she woke up, the make-up crew would arrive and begin work on her looks for that day's schedule, while her father and brother would place cheques and contracts in front of her for signatures. She was scared of marriage because the men in her life were exploitative and she could not trust that a stranger would be somehow better. She was earning in crores, but remained powerless.

The middle-aged women in the group said they did not feel powerless. Some of them were working, while others chose not to. The working women felt confident about their contribution to the household. They were able to participate in money decisions and insist that their preferences be taken into account. The ones who did not work said that their husbands gave them a free hand in making financial decisions. They did not feel inferior or powerless, but were able to independently make decisions about money since the husband was busy with work. I could identify the common, underlying thread when I heard these stories of empowerment. I asked the women if they knew what their net worth was, or if they participated in the investment decisions of the household. The unanimous answer was 'no'.

This has been my experience in most conversations with women about money. There is a simplistic narrative that masquerades as empowerment. The power to spend seems to offer so much satisfaction that women do not see the earning and investment components of household finance as equally important. It is a good compromise when the woman chooses to manage the household and bring up children in a traditional role division. As long as she is not questioned about the spending, she keeps her circle of power within that independence. If this includes large-ticket spending on jewellery or property, they feel even better. They believe that they have enabled asset and wealth creation with their power over allocation of household income. I would risk a generalisation that this orientation keeps household finances predominantly in physical assets.

While men might complain that women do not get involved with financial decisions, women see these activities as process- and detail-oriented. Balancing the bank book, filing tax returns, making investment choices, evaluating financial assets, recording financial transactions are all seen as tasks for men. Women do not associate power with these tasks. A generation of working women, who were empowered by education and financial independence, willingly subjected themselves to this diminished role in family finances, where they participated only in spending decisions. The younger generation does not subscribe to this view.

We now have young girls in their thirties, who have had the experience of managing money holistically. They understand that their incomes must fund their spending as well as saving. They see that assets they build will help fund their long-term goals and secure their future. They know that housing is only a security for bad times, and do not want to overdo this investment. They understand financial assets and know to make choices, and are willing to make the effort to learn and implement. They are also able to influence their cohorts and peers to take charge of their personal finances. They continue to be influenced by their indulgent parents, who persuade them to save, invest, buy homes and get married. This is where the dissonance begins.

Young women see marriage as a patriarchal arrangement that takes power away from them. They insist on keeping their jobs and do not cede control over their finances. They know that child-bearing will be a responsibility that will fall disproportionately to them, and will need a career break and setback in their earning capability. They also like seamless sharing of household responsibilities, where the man steps in to take on daily chores. They would like to care for the parents of both partners, and make big decisions jointly. They see these terms of engagement as fair and equitable. What they expect from marriage has drastically changed. If marriage calls for moving them from a position of power to one of relative powerlessness, it is unlikely to hold any appeal for the modern woman.

Young women see marriage as a patriarchal arrangement that takes power away from them. They insist on keeping their jobs and do not cede control over their finances. They know that child-bearing will be a responsibility that will fall disproportionately to them, and will need a career break and setback in their earning capability.

Please send your feedback to
etwealth@timesgroup.com

SMART STATS

ET WEALTH TOP 50 STOCKS

Every week we put about 3,000 stocks through four key filters and rate them on a mix of factors. The end result of this is the listing of the top 50 stocks based on the composite rating to help ease your fortune hunt.

	RANK		PRICE ₹	GROWTH%*		VALUATION RATIOS				RATING	
	Current Rank	Previous Rank	Stock Price	Revenue	Net Profit	PE	PB	PEG (5-year)	Div Yield (%)	No. of funds	Value Research Stock Rating
Can Fin Homes	1	2	745.40	32.2	22.3	14.0	2.4	0.3	0.5	45	★★★★★
Gujarat State Petronet	2	4	293.30	12.3	35.2	10.6	1.6	1.1	1.7	52	★★★★★
Manappuram Finance	3	3	194.35	29.0	51.9	8.0	1.5	0.4	1.6	12	★★★★★
Bajaj Finance	4	5	7,294.90	35.8	27.1	32.8	6.2	0.5	0.4	126	★★★★★
Indraprastha Gas	5	6	453.05	9.7	14.8	16.1	3.3	1.1	2.9	42	★★★★★
PI Industries	6	8	3,756.05	14.9	43.0	35.7	6.8	1.4	0.3	70	★★★★★
Aavas Financiers	7	7	1,605.40	27.3	13.4	26.8	3.5	0.8	0.0	33	★★★★★
Nesco	8	10	860.75	34.7	32.1	17.7	2.8	1.4	0.5	7	★★★★★
Mahanagar Gas	9	11	1,449.25	9.1	98.0	11.0	2.8	0.9	1.8	16	★★★★★
LIC Housing Finance	10	45	661.25	24.3	73.2	7.5	1.2	1.7	1.3	42	★★★★★
Repco Home Finance	11	#N/A	520.85	17.3	44.7	8.4	1.1	1.3	0.5	10	★★★★★
Godfrey Phillips India	12	12	3,449.70	22.8	36.9	21.9	4.5	0.9	1.3	7	★★★★★
Kotak Mahindra Bank	13	1	1,642.45	36.0	22.3	18.7	2.6	1.3	0.1	136	★★★★★
Akzo Nobel India	14	15	2,444.05	6.0	31.5	27.1	7.7	1.9	2.6	13	★★★★★
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories	15	17	6,218.75	14.2	43.3	19.5	3.8	0.9	0.7	52	★★★★
Infosys	16	#N/A	1,438.45	4.7	9.8	22.8	6.8	2.0	3.2	224	★★★★★
Narayana Hrudayalaya	17	18	1,266.55	17.0	53.7	33.7	9.7	0.5	0.2	24	★★★★★
Persistent Systems	18	35	3,430.35	17.6	17.9	48.5	10.7	1.1	0.8	87	★★★★★
Zensar Technologies	19	25	574.70	2.0	80.5	21.4	3.8	2.7	0.9	20	★★★★★
HCL Technologies	20	20	1,504.15	10.9	8.6	26.0	5.8	2.7	3.2	132	★★★★★
Gulf Oil Lubricants India	21	22	1,043.15	13.3	22.8	17.8	3.9	2.0	2.4	8	★★★★★
Sun TV Network	22	23	634.95	9.6	7.5	13.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	19	★★★★★
Chambal Fertilisers and Chem.	23	13	408.85	-31.1	15.3	12.9	2.2	0.7	1.8	9	★★★★★
Cholamandalam Investment	24	21	1,155.35	46.9	27.7	30.1	5.2	1.0	0.2	120	★★★★
Muthoot Finance	25	44	1,655.05	20.8	14.4	16.0	2.8	1.2	1.3	49	★★★★★
Jamna Auto Industries	26	28	134.50	4.5	17.5	26.4	6.0	5.2	1.4	11	★★★★★
Arman Financial Services	27	27	1,992.90	72.7	106.2	13.2	2.5	0.3	0.0	8	★★★★★
Avanti Feeds	28	26	521.10	-2.8	28.5	20.4	3.1	6.0	1.2	11	★★★★★
Amara Raja Energy & Mobility	29	19	1,106.05	7.4	19.8	24.8	3.4	2.3	0.6	9	★★★★★
ITC	30	30	437.55	1.0	14.0	26.6	7.3	2.4	3.6	147	★★★★★
Hero MotoCorp	31	31	4,498.30	10.1	42.2	24.8	4.8	18.9	2.2	105	★★★★★
Cipla	32	33	1,406.20	13.8	40.5	30.5	4.4	1.6	0.6	106	★★★★
Asian Paints	33	32	2,861.45	5.8	46.1	50.4	15.2	3.3	0.9	37	★★★★
Alkem Laboratories	34	34	4,867.65	13.0	54.1	36.5	5.5	2.5	1.0	71	★★★★
Abbott India	35	38	25,674.45	9.4	23.3	47.4	15.9	2.7	1.3	58	★★★★
Natco Pharma	36	37	1,021.15	59.1	233.5	14.5	3.4	2.8	0.5	10	★★★★
NMDC	37	39	252.25	11.1	26.1	11.4	2.8	2.7	2.6	40	★★★★★
Garware Technical Fibres	38	52	3,280.30	1.7	20.2	32.9	5.6	3.6	0.1	7	★★★★★
3M India	39	41	29,975.60	7.9	25.1	62.1	17.2	11.0	3.2	40	★★★★
L&T Technology Services	40	47	5,182.85	12.3	12.2	43.2	10.7	4.0	0.9	28	★★★★
Praj Industries	41	53	517.75	2.9	33.5	34.0	8.0	1.1	0.9	21	★★★★★
Esab India	42	46	5,300.10	14.4	39.5	49.8	23.0	2.2	1.5	7	★★★★
Tata Consultancy Services	43	97	3,852.20	6.8	9.5	30.4	15.4	3.6	1.9	156	★★★★
Just Dial	44	36	1,075.95	23.5	120.9	25.2	2.3	4.7	0.0	5	★★★★★
Eicher Motors	45	40	4,615.20	16.3	46.4	32.4	7.4	4.0	0.8	55	★★★★
Avenue Supermarts	46	43	4,657.10	18.4	2.7	124.8	16.8	5.5	0.0	91	★★★★
City Union Bank	47	24	157.10	13.0	5.3	11.9	1.4	2.0	0.6	29	★★★★★
Hawkins Cookers	48	49	6,401.40	-2.2	5.5	34.4	11.3	2.7	1.6	6	★★★★★
HUDCO	49	109	203.05	9.2	13.6	19.8	2.5	2.1	1.9	17	★★★★
Nucleus Software Exports	50	48	1,377.55	41.5	164.1	17.8	5.1	1.3	0.7	8	★★★★★

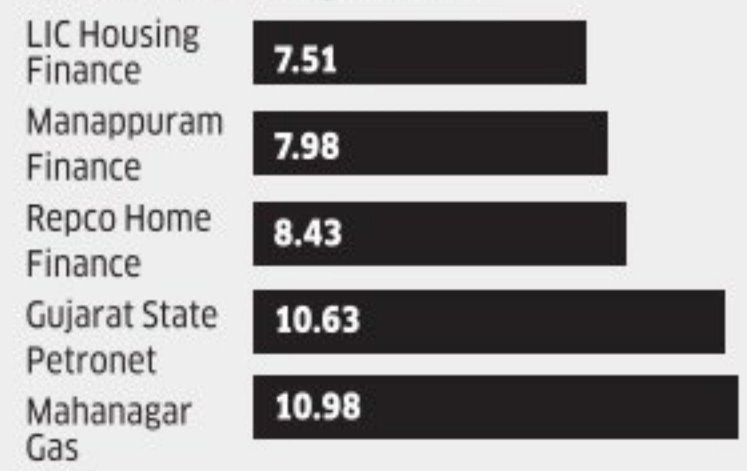
*REVENUE AND EPS FIGURES BASED ON ONE-YEAR GROWTH. DATA AS ON 25 APRIL 2024. **SOURCE:** VALUE RESEARCH

1 Fast growing stocks

Top 5 stocks with the highest revenue growth (%)

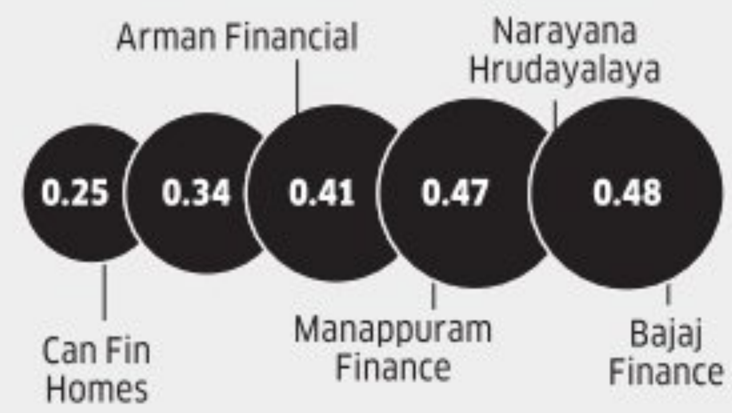
2 Least expensive stocks

Top 5 stocks with the lowest price-earnings ratio



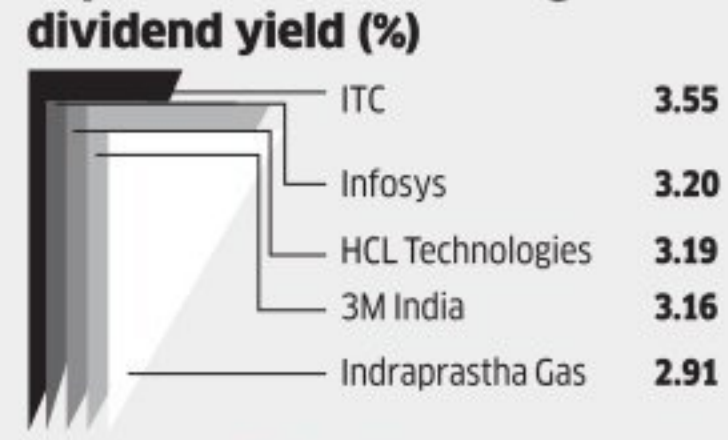
3 Best PEGs

Top 5 stocks with the least price earnings to growth ratio



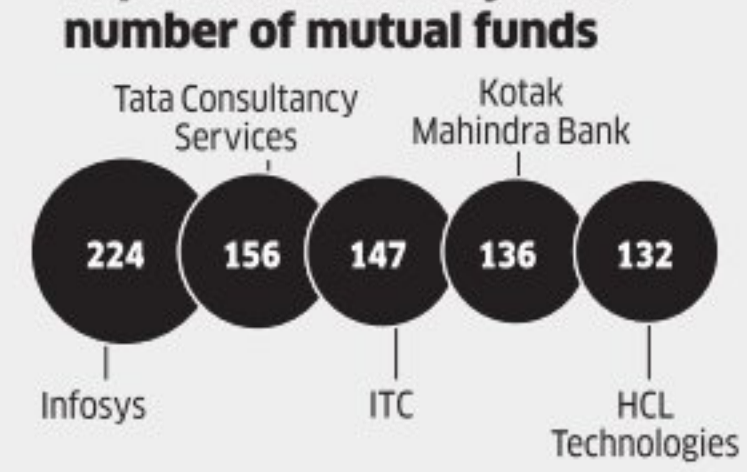
4 Income generators

Top 5 stocks with the highest dividend yield (%)



5 Most widely held

Top 5 stocks held by most number of mutual funds



SEE NUMBER OF MUTUAL FUNDS HOLDING THE STOCKS IN THE ADJACENT TABLE.

ETW FUNDS 100

BEST FUNDS TO BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO

ET Wealth collaborates with **Value Research** to identify the top-performing funds across categories. Equity funds and equity-oriented hybrid funds are ranked on 3-year returns while debt-oriented hybrid and income funds are ranked on 1-year returns.

	Value Research Fund Rating	Net Assets (₹ Cr)	RETURNS (%) 3-Month	6-Month	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Expense Ratio (%)
EQUITY: LARGE CAP								
Nippon India Large Cap Fund	★★★★★	24,378.39	9.01	23.87	43.91	26.34	17.54	1.63
Quant Focused Fund	★★★★★	809.10	12.21	37.34	56.13	23.35	22.24	2.27
HDFC Top 100 Fund	★★★★	32,355.19	5.11	21.34	37.31	22.57	15.61	1.63
ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund	★★★★★	53,505.33	6.98	23.74	40.83	22.47	17.8	1.45
DSP Nifty 50 Equal Weight Index Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	1,195.37	5.52	21.1	39.24	21.41	16.96	0.98
Baroda BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund	★★★★	1,863.39	10.07	25.86	40.34	20.13	17.87	2.08
Kotak Bluechip Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	7,901.40	5.55	18.78	31.13	17.39	16.04	1.76
SBI Bluechip Fund	★★★★	44,819.48	5.49	15.05	27.37	16.94	15.56	1.54
Canara Robeco Bluechip Equity Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	12,577.55	6.28	19.25	31.96	16.64	17.06	1.69
EQUITY: LARGE & MIDCAP								
ICICI Prudential Large & Mid Cap Fund	★★★★★	12,307.24	9.8	26.7	47.43	28.10	21.24	1.74
Motilal Oswal Large and Midcap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	3,663.46	11.96	30.98	56.98	27.55	–	1.87
HDFC Large and Mid Cap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	17,313.86	6.67	25.48	50.1	27.42	21.09	1.69
SBI Large & Midcap Fund	★★★★	21,270.03	5.75	20.36	34.46	22.90	18.97	1.67
Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	19,861.46	10.84	24.66	44.19	22.71	19.95	1.62
Mirae Asset Large & Midcap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	33,618.78	5.71	20.84	39.68	19.62	19.94	1.57
EQUITY: FLEXI CAP								
ICICI Prudential Retirement Fund - Pure Equity Plan	★★★★★	649.09	12.66	37.14	61.55	31.34	21.7	2.29
HDFC Focused 30 Fund	★★★★	10,432.98	7.88	24.01	41.61	29.80	19.55	1.72
JM Flexicap Fund	★★★★★	1,773.87	13.19	32.78	62.95	29.56	23.38	1.98
Bank of India Flexi Cap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	743.44	13.29	39.14	62.62	28.41	–	2.33
HDFC Flexi Cap Fund	★★★★	50,839.90	7.69	24.97	43.88	28.14	19.46	1.48
HDFC Retirement Savings Fund Equity Plan	★★★★★	4,830.28	5.95	21.26	39.31	26.24	21.32	1.82
ICICI Prudential Focused Equity Fund	★★★★	7,582.58	10.04	26.9	46.23	24.54	19.53	1.78
Franklin India Flexi Cap Fund	★★★★	14,623.45	6.86	23.48	45.36	24.08	18.8	1.75
Franklin India Focused Equity Fund	★★★★	11,160.20	7.82	22.17	40.31	23.17	18.18	1.78
360 ONE Focused Equity Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	6,794.35	8.65	21.56	39.01	22.31	21.89	1.79
Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	60,559.43	7.47	21.89	38.81	22.26	22.84	1.32
Union Flexi Cap Fund	★★★★	1,986.67	6.12	20.29	39.72	20.45	18.51	2.1
EQUITY: MID CAP								
Motilal Oswal Midcap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	8,986.69	10.94	33.7	62.75	37.62	26.58	1.73
Quant Mid Cap Fund	★★★★★	5,873.25	15.08	39.98	70.73	35.70	31.66	1.81
Nippon India Growth Fund	★★★★★	24,796.00	6	26.01	58.38	30.41	24.96	1.65
HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund	★★★★	60,417.99	5.78	25.55	56.28	30.16	23.82	1.42
Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	5,114.61	7.94	29.54	54.4	27.09	24.92	1.81
SBI Magnum Midcap Fund	★★★★	16,856.01	7.47	18.81	42.1	25.12	23.18	1.7
Kotak Emerging Equity Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	39,684.91	7.48	19.39	41.47	23.46	22.73	1.47
EQUITY: SMALL CAP								
Nippon India Small Cap Fund	★★★★★	45,749.06	7.93	25.93	60.03	35.93	30.29	1.52
Tata Small Cap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	6,236.38	9.13	22.56	47.06	32.25	27.09	1.74
ICICI Prudential Smallcap Fund	★★★★	7,172.70	3.98	18.59	45.58	29.89	25.85	1.75
Axis Small Cap Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	19,029.59	4.02	17.96	42.32	26.67	26.51	1.63
EQUITY: VALUE ORIENTED								
SBI Contra Fund	★★★★★	26,776.87	9.67	28.22	50.07	32.41	25.45	1.6
JM Value Fund	★★★★	580.51	6.54	30.11	64.12	30.35	22.77	2.36
Templeton India Value Fund	★★★★	1,819.76	8.47	25.04	44.67	29.12	20.31	2.09
ICICI Prudential Value Discovery Fund	★★★★★	41,281.57	6.68	23.68	43.37	27.52	22.12	1.59
Bandhan Sterling Value Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	8,569.07	7.15	23.76	43.75	27.02	21.15	1.76
EQUITY: ELSS								
Quant ELSS Tax Saver Fund	★★★★★	8,341.96	13.11	39.93	61.85	30.89	31.67	1.76
SBI Long Term Equity Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	21,976.26	12.11	34.33	60.81	28.81	21.54	1.64
Bank of India ELSS Tax Saver Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	1,210.15	12.87	36.4	55.36	25.35	25.46	2.17
Bandhan ELSS Tax Saver Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	6,252.84	6.12	19.76	39.05	22.94	19.83	1.75
Parag Parikh ELSS Tax Saver Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	3,174.82	5.35	17.1	32.79	22.3	–	1.79
DSP ELSS Tax Saver Fund	★★★★	14,075.56	6.79	24.03	42.78	21.76	19.33	1.62
Kotak ELSS Tax Saver - Regular Plan	★★★★	5,294.79	11.24	22.84	39.42	21.53	18.93	1.78
Union ELSS Tax Saver Fund	★★★★	846.64	6.15	19.79	38.28	21.08	18.75	2.35
HYBRID: EQUITY SAVINGS								
HSBC Equity Savings Fund	★★★★	230.16	7.29	14.23	24.1	13.23	10.76	1.51

26.34%
THE 3-YEAR RETURN OF NIPPON INDIA LARGE CAP FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

31.34%
THE 3-YEAR RETURN OF ICICI PRU RETIREMENT FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

37.62%
THE 3-YEAR RETURN OF MOTILAL OSWAL MIDCAP FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

30.89%
THE 3-YEAR RETURN OF QUANT ELSS TAX SAVER FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

LAGGARDS & LEADERS

Taking a long-term view of fund returns, here is a list of 10 funds in each category—five leaders (worth investing) and five laggards (that may be a drag on your portfolio).

LAGGARDS | LEADERS

Equity: Large cap 5-year returns

LAGGARDS		LEADERS	
PGIM India Large Cap Fund	12.99	BHARAT 22 ETF	22.58
Groww Large Cap Fund	13.01	ICICI Prudential BHARAT 22 FOF	22.48
Nippon India ETF Nifty 50	13.29	Quant Focused Fund	22.24
Franklin India Bluechip Fund	13.41	UTI Nifty Next 50 ETF	18.60
LIC MF Focused 30	13.74	ICICI Prudential Nifty Next 50 ETF	18.44

Equity: Flexi cap 5-year returns

LAGGARDS		LEADERS	
ABSL Bal Bhavishya	10.87	Quant Flexi Cap Fund	30.32
ABSL Retirement Fund	10.91	JM Flexicap Fund	23.38
Axis Focused 25 Fund	12.44	Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund	22.84
Taurus Flexi Cap Fund	13.10	360 ONE Focused Equity Fund	21.89
Nippon India Retirement Fund	13.49	ICICI Prudential Retirement Fund	21.70

Equity: Mid cap 3-year returns

LAGGARDS		LEADERS	
DSP Midcap Fund	17.33	Motilal Oswal Midcap Fund	37.62
Axis Midcap Fund	20.15	Quant Mid Cap Fund	35.70
LIC MF Midcap Fund	20.25	Nippon India Growth Fund	30.41
PGIM India Midcap	20.74	HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund	30.16
UTI Mid Cap Fund	21.68	Mahindra Manulife Mid Cap Fund	29.38

Equity: Small cap 3-year returns

LAGGARDS		LEADERS	
Aditya Birla Sun Life Small Cap	22.21	Quant Small Cap Fund	39.82
ABSL Nifty Smallcap 50	22.56	Nippon India Small Cap Fund	35.93
Kotak Small Cap Fund	24.69	Franklin India Smaller Companies	33.67
UTI Small Cap Fund	24.90	HSBC Small Cap Fund	33.47
ITI Small Cap Fund	25.06	HDFC Small Cap Fund	32.39

Hybrid: Aggressive 5-year returns

LAGGARDS		LEADERS	
ABSL Retirement Fund	9.88	Quant Absolute Fund	24.43
PGIM India Hybrid Equity Fund	10.84	Bank of India Mid & Small Cap Equity	21.69
Nippon India Equity Hybrid Fund	10.92	ICICI Prudential Equity & Debt Fund	20.41
LIC MF Aggressive Hybrid Fund	11.31	JM Aggressive Hybrid Fund	18.88
Navi Aggressive Hybrid Fund	11.39	ICICI Prudential Retirement Fund	16.81

ANNUALISED RETURNS IN % AS ON 24 APRIL 2024.

ETW FUNDS 100

	Value Research Fund Rating	Net Assets (₹ Cr)	RETURNS (%) 3-Month	6-Month	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Expense Ratio
HDFC Equity Savings Fund	★★★★	3,994.01	3.64	11.17	18.44	12.31	10.38	1.93
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	4,813.24	4.01	11.4	19.39	12.26	10.6	1.85
UTI Equity Savings Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	340.79	3.3	9.65	17.98	11.81	10.34	1.54
SBI Equity Savings Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	4,543.83	2.84	8.35	20.68	11.14	10.56	1.18
Mirae Asset Equity Savings Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	930.11	3.26	9.81	17.8	11.05	11.55	1.26
ICICI Prudential Equity Savings Fund	★★★★	9,663.46	1.55	4.8	11.17	8.35	8.06	0.97
HYBRID: AGGRESSIVE (EQUITY-ORIENTED)								
ICICI Prudential Equity & Debt Fund	★★★★★	33,502.19	8.25	22.45	41.13	26.58	20.41	1.62
JM Aggressive Hybrid Fund	★★★★	222.76	9.15	28.2	54.18	24.67	18.88	2.31
Quant Absolute Fund	★★★★★	1,868.85	11.35	31.01	40.09	23.13	24.43	2.05
Edelweiss Aggressive Hybrid Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	1,440.35	6.33	19.16	34.15	20.14	16.57	2.04
HDFC Children's Gift Fund	★★★★★	8,499.16	3.32	15.67	27.89	19.49	16.62	1.77
UTI Aggressive Hybrid Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	5,306.20	5.86	17.67	32.65	19.48	15.57	1.95
Mahindra Manulife Aggressive Hybrid Fund	★★★★	1,070.68	6.91	19.32	34.83	18.84	–	2.16
HDFC Retirement Savings Fund - Hybrid Equity Plan	★★★★	1,352.06	3.83	15.49	28.97	17.59	15.56	2.12
Baroda BNP Paribas Aggressive Hybrid Fund	★★★★	997.29	8.43	20.24	33.79	17.20	16.61	2.17
HDFC Hybrid Equity Fund	★★★★	22,697.38	3.83	13.04	21.98	16.61	14.33	1.7
Kotak Equity Hybrid Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	5,160.84	4.98	15.18	26.91	16.16	16.41	1.82
HYBRID: CONSERVATIVE (DEBT-ORIENTED)								
SBI Magnum Children's Benefit Fund - Savings Plan	★★★★★	107.61	3.58	9.09	18.77	12.97	10.92	1.17
HDFC Hybrid Debt Fund	★★★★	3,102.59	3	9.48	16.11	11.42	10.37	1.77
Kotak Debt Hybrid Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	2,330.73	2.51	10.07	16.08	10.7	11.21	1.72
ICICI Prudential Regular Savings Fund	★★★★	3,417.40	3.5	8.13	14.82	9.7	9.59	1.71
SBI Conservative Hybrid Fund	★★★★★	9,642.13	3.11	7.42	14.49	10.7	10.51	1.12
Aditya Birla Sun Life Regular Savings Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	1,399.82	2.58	6.28	11.12	8.71	8.71	1.91
DEBT: MEDIUM TO LONG TERM								
ICICI Prudential Bond Fund	★★★★	2,936.92	1.66	4.26	6.85	5.19	7.04	1.03
SBI Magnum Income Fund	★★★★	1,746.15	1.6	3.75	6.30	5.12	7.4	1.46
UTI Medium to Long Duration Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	299.56	1.64	4.12	5.51	9.32	4.65	1.63
DEBT: MEDIUM TERM								
Axis Strategic Bond Fund	★★★★	1,985.48	1.99	4.38	6.92	5.83	6.73	1.09
SBI Magnum Medium Duration Fund	★★★★	6,391.33	1.79	3.75	6.70	5.46	7.45	1.22
ICICI Prudential Medium Term Bond Fund	★★★★	6,408.55	1.69	3.86	6.61	5.76	7.27	1.4
Aditya Birla Sun Life Medium Term Plan - Regular Plan	★★★★★	1,863.18	1.68	3.82	6.28	12.22	8.56	1.58
Nippon India Strategic Debt Fund	★★★★★	119.93	1.8	3.9	6.05	9.17	-0.98	1.98
DEBT: SHORT TERM								
ICICI Prudential Short Term Fund	★★★★	16,875.68	1.84	3.87	7.23	5.82	7.12	1.07
HDFC Short Term Debt Fund	★★★★	12,914.99	1.94	4.06	7.13	5.46	6.96	0.62
UTI Short Duration Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	2,689.14	1.96	4.01	7.07	6.97	5.07	0.84
Aditya Birla Sun Life Short Term Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	6,767.47	1.73	3.85	6.62	5.46	6.86	0.97
Axis Short Term Fund	★★★★	7,797.42	1.81	3.94	6.56	5.21	6.63	0.9
Sundaram Short Duration Fund	★★★★★	239.48	1.68	3.72	6.45	7.36	5.16	0.85
DEBT: DYNAMIC BOND								
360 ONE Dynamic Bond Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	715.94	2.09	5.12	7.28	6.03	6.41	0.52
Quantum Dynamic Bond Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	98.57	1.83	5	7.00	5.55	7.07	0.96
ICICI Prudential All Seasons Bond Fund	★★★★★	11,882.75	1.55	3.86	6.93	5.8	7.57	1.31
SBI Dynamic Bond Fund	★★★★	3,069.97	1.73	4.08	6.38	5.16	7.18	1.45
Aditya Birla Sun Life Dynamic Bond Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★★	1,732.05	1.5	3.96	6.11	6.12	5.65	1.23
DEBT: CORPORATE BOND								
ICICI Prudential Corporate Bond Fund	★★★★★	26,229.81	1.91	3.77	7.48	5.9	7.15	0.55
HDFC Corporate Bond Fund	★★★★	28,499.19	2.09	3.98	7.35	5.53	7.16	0.55
Aditya Birla Sun Life Corporate Bond Fund	★★★★	21,135.36	1.89	4.05	7.21	5.65	7.24	0.51
Nippon India Corporate Bond Fund	★★★★★	2,818.43	1.94	4.02	7.03	5.84	6.58	0.77
Kotak Corporate Bond Fund - Standard Plan	★★★★	11,583.86	1.88	3.92	6.90	5.4	6.57	0.66
Axis Corporate Debt Fund - Regular Plan	★★★★	5,363.14	1.83	3.82	6.61	5.21	6.19	0.95

All equity funds ranked on 3-year returns. Debt funds ranked on 1-year returns.

26.58% THE 3-YEAR RETURN OF ICICI PRU EQUITY & DEBT FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

18.77% THE 1-YEAR RETURN OF SBI MAGNUM CHILDREN'S BENEFIT FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

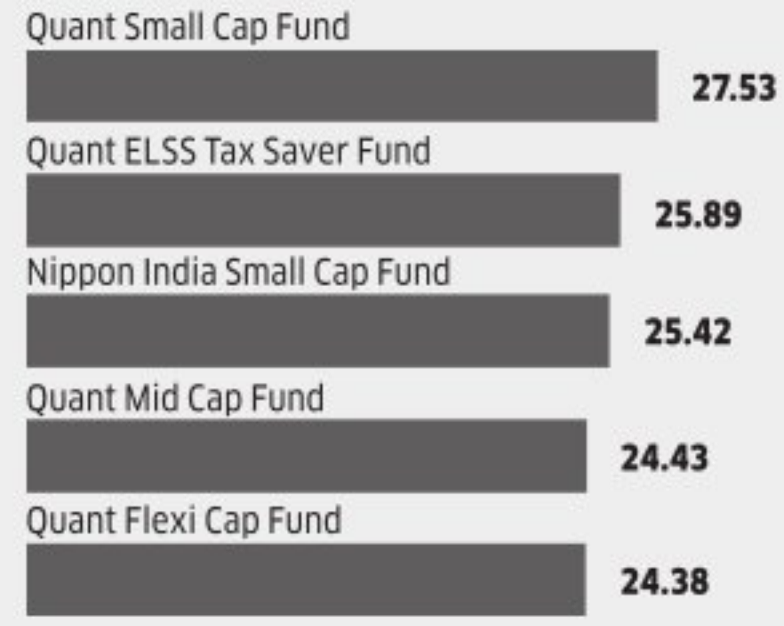
7.23% THE 1-YEAR RETURN OF ICICI PRU SHORT TERM DEBT FUND IS THE HIGHEST IN ITS CATEGORY.

Expense as on 31 March 2024
*:Expense as on before 31 Mar 2024
Returns as on 24 April 2024
Assets as on 31 March 2024
Rating as on 31 March 2024

Did not find your fund here?
Log on to www.wealth.economictimes.com for an exhaustive list.

1 Top 5 SIPs

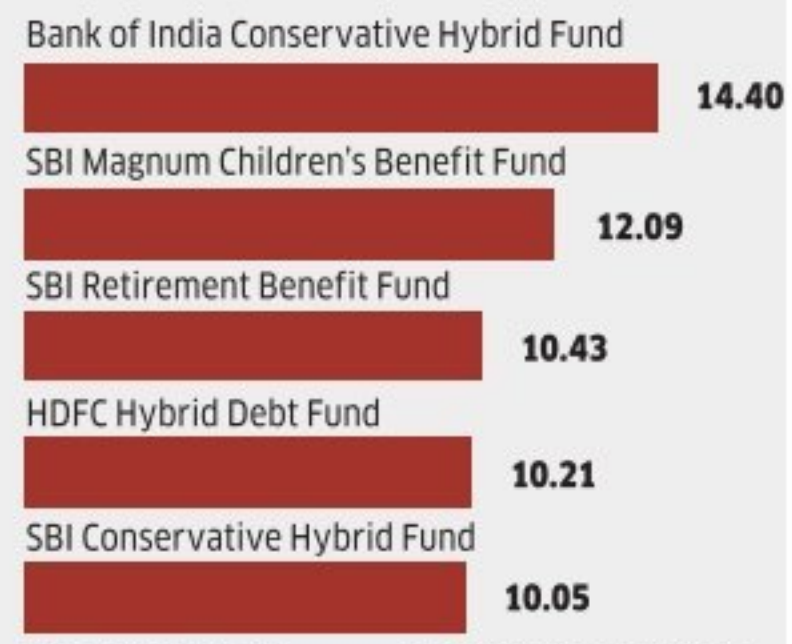
Top 5 equity schemes based on 10-year SIP returns



SIP: SYSTEMATIC INVESTMENT PLAN — % ANNUALISED RETURNS AS ON 24 APRIL 2024

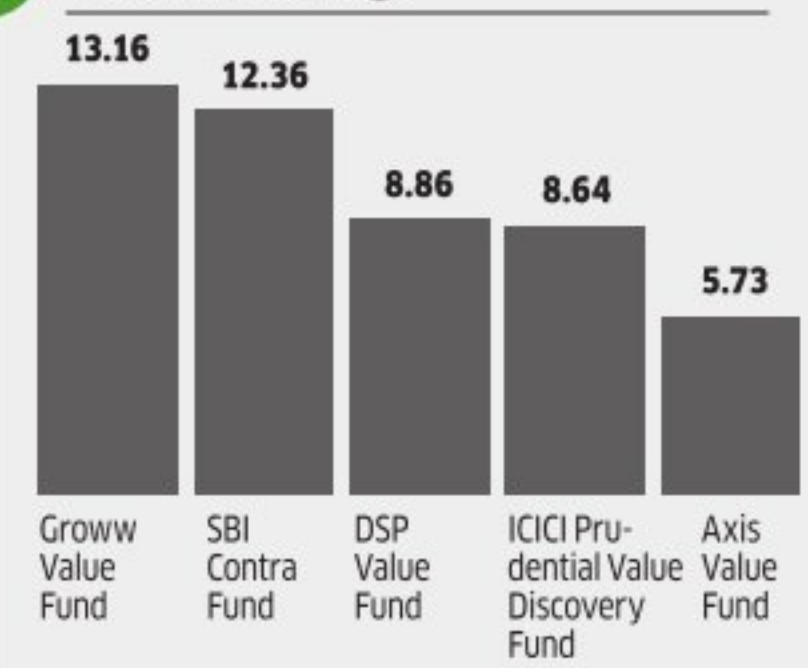
2 Top 5 MIPs

Top 5 MIP schemes based on 3-year SWP returns



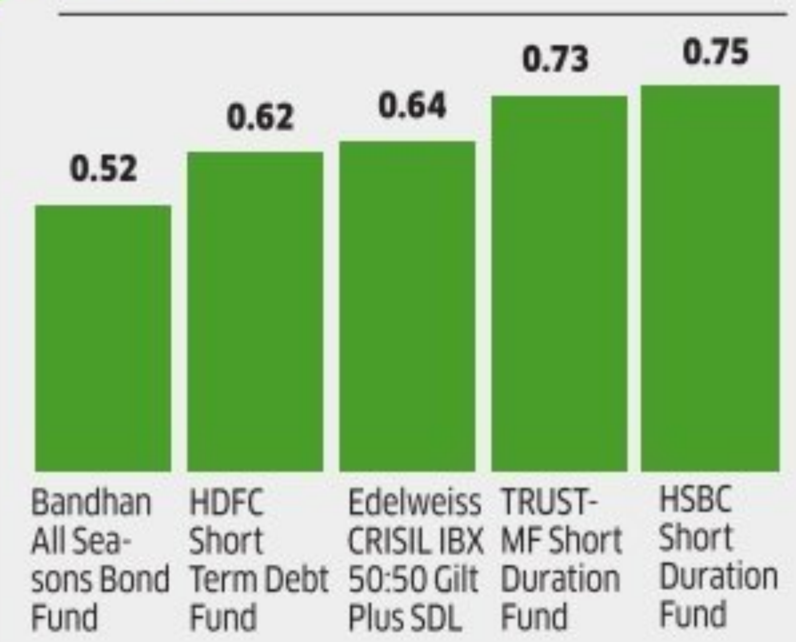
SWP: SYSTEMATIC WITHDRAWAL PLAN — % ANNUALISED RETURNS AS ON 24 APRIL 2024

3 Value Oriented : Cash holdings



% OF ASSETS AS ON 31 MAR 2024

4 Debt: Short duration



% AS ON 31 MAR 2024
% EXPENSE RATIO IS CHARGED ANNUALLY.
METHODOLOGY OF TOP 100 FUNDS ON WWW.WEALTH.ECONOMICTIMES.COM

FUND RAISER

19.53%

Cash holdings (in terms of % of AUM) of Quantum Small Cap Fund. It's the highest among 178 equity-diversified funds in March 2024.

AVERAGE CASH HOLDINGS OF ALL EQUITY-DIVERSIFIED FUNDS: 3.75%; FOR SMALL-CAP FUNDS: 6.04%. **SOURCE:** ACE MF

Methodology

The Top 100 includes only those funds that have a 5- or 4-star rating from Value Research. The rating is determined by subtracting a fund's risk score from its return score.
The result is assigned stars according to the following distribution:

- ★★★★★ Top 10%
- ★★★★ Next 22.5%
- ★★★ Middle 35%
- ★★ Next 22.5%
- ★ Bottom 10%

(Not covered in ETW Funds 100 listing)

Fixed-income funds less than 18 months old and equity funds less than three years old have been excluded. This ensures that all the funds have existed long enough to be tracked for consistency of performance. Given the focus on long-term investing, liquid funds, short-term funds and FMPs are not part of the list. For the same reason, we have considered only the growth option of funds that reinvest returns instead of offering dividends that increase the NAV of funds.

Despite these rigorous filters, the list includes 2/3 funds of each category to maximise choice from the best funds. The fund categories are:

EQUITIES (figures over the past one year)

Large-cap: Mostly invested in large-cap companies.

Multi-cap: Mostly invested in large- and mid-cap companies.

Mid-cap: Mostly invested in mid-cap companies.

Small-cap: Mostly invested in small-cap companies.

Tax planning: Offer tax rebate under Section 80C.

International: More than 65% of assets invested abroad.

Income: Average maturity varies according to objective.

Gilt: Medium- and long-term; invest in gilt securities.

Equity-oriented: Average equity exposure more than 60%.

Debt-oriented aggressive: Average equity exposure between 25-60%.

Debt-oriented conservative: Average equity exposure less than 25%.

Arbitrage: Seek arbitrage opportunities between equity and derivatives.

Asset allocation: Invest fully in equity or debt as per market conditions.

LOANS & DEPOSITS

ET WEALTH collaborates with **ETIG** to provide a comprehensive ready reckoner of loans and fixed-income instruments. Don't miss the information on investments for senior citizens and a simplified EMI calculator.

Top five bank FDs

	Interest rate (%) compounded qtrly	What ₹10,000 will grow to
TENURE: 1 YEAR		
Bandhan Bank	7.85	**10,808**
IndusInd Bank	7.75	**10,798**
RBL Bank	7.50	**10,771**
DCB Bank	7.25	**10,745**
YES Bank	7.25	**10,745**
TENURE: 2 YEARS		
RBL Bank	8.10	**11,740**
IDFC First Bank	7.75	**11,659**
IndusInd Bank	7.75	**11,659**
DCB Bank	7.55	**11,614**
YES Bank	7.25	**11,545**
TENURE: 3 YEARS		
DCB Bank	7.60	**12,534**
RBL Bank	7.50	**12,497**
IDFC First Bank	7.25	**12,405**
IndusInd Bank	7.25	**12,405**
YES Bank	7.25	**12,405**
TENURE: 5 YEARS		
DCB Bank	7.40	**14,428**
IndusInd Bank	7.25	**14,323**
YES Bank	7.25	**14,323**
RBL Bank	7.10	**14,217**
Karur Vysya Bank	7.00	**14,148**

Top five senior citizen bank FDs

	Interest rate (%) compounded qtrly	What ₹10,000 will grow to
TENURE: 1 YEAR		
Bandhan Bank	8.35	**10,862**
IndusInd Bank	8.25	**10,851**
RBL Bank	8.00	**10,824**
YES Bank	7.75	**10,798**
DCB Bank	7.65	**10,787**
TENURE: 2 YEARS		
RBL Bank	8.60	**11,855**
IDFC First Bank	8.25	**11,774**
IndusInd Bank	8.25	**11,774**
DCB Bank	8.05	**11,728**
Bank of India	7.75	**11,659**
TENURE: 3 YEARS		
DCB Bank	8.10	**12,720**
RBL Bank	8.00	**12,682**
YES Bank	8.00	**12,682**
IDFC First Bank	7.75	**12,589**
IndusInd Bank	7.75	**12,589**
TENURE: 5 YEARS		
YES Bank	8.00	**14,859**
DCB Bank	7.90	**14,787**
Axis Bank	7.75	**14,678**
IndusInd Bank	7.75	**14,678**
RBL Bank	7.60	**14,571**

Top five tax-saving bank FDs

TENURE: 5 YEARS AND ABOVE	Interest rate (%)	What ₹10,000 will grow to
DCB Bank	7.40	**14,428**
IndusInd Bank	7.25	**14,323**
YES Bank	7.25	**14,323**
City Union Bank	7.10	**14,217**
RBL Bank	7.10	**14,217**

ALL DATA SOURCED FROM ECONOMIC TIMES INTELLIGENCE GROUP (ETIGDB@TIMESGROUP.COM)

HOME LOAN RATES

With effect from October 2019, all banks have made the transition to external benchmarks for pricing new home loans. Most banks have picked the RBI repo rate as the external benchmark.

REPO RATE: 6.50%

BANK		FOR SALARIED		FOR SELF-EMPLOYED (%)		
	RLLR (%)	FROM (%)	TO (%)	FROM (%)	TO (%)	WEF
Bank of Maharashtra	**9.30**	**8.35**	**10.40**	**8.45**	**10.90**	**9 Feb 2024**
Union Bank of India	**9.25**	**8.35**	**10.75**	**8.35**	**10.75**	**11 Dec 2023**
Indian Bank	**9.20**	**8.40**	**9.80**	**8.80**	**10.20**	**3 April 2024**
Punjab National Bank	**9.25**	**8.40**	**10.10**	**8.90**	**10.60**	**9 Feb 2023**
IndusInd Bank	--	**8.40**	**10.50**	**8.40**	**10.50**	**Not Given**
Indian Overseas Bank	**9.35**	**8.40**	**10.50**	**8.50**	**10.60**	**13 Oct 2023**
Bank of Baroda	**9.15**	**8.40**	**10.60**	**8.40**	**10.60**	**14 Feb 2023**
Bank of India	**9.35**	**8.40**	**10.70**	**8.40**	**10.85**	**1 April 2024**
IDBI Bank	**9.10**	**8.40**	**10.75**	**8.50**	**12.25**	**12 Feb 2023**
Canara Bank	**9.25**	**8.50**	**11.20**	**8.55**	**11.25**	**12 April 2024**
Punjab & Sind Bank	**8.45**	**8.55**	**10.00**	**8.55**	**10.00**	**16 Feb 2024**
UCO Bank	**9.30**	**8.55**	**10.30**	**8.55**	**10.30**	**15 Mar 2023**
Karnataka Bank	--	**8.60**	**10.62**	**8.60**	**10.62**	**1 April 2024**
Kotak Mahindra Bank	--	**8.70**	**9.35**	**8.75**	**9.60**	**Not Given**
Federal Bank	--	**8.80**	**10.25**	**10.20**	**10.30**	**16 Feb 2024**
Karur Vysya Bank	**10.00**	**9.00**	**11.05**	**9.00**	**11.05**	**12 Feb 2024**
J & K Bank	**9.45**	**9.10**	**10.20**	**9.10**	**10.20**	**10 April 2024**
SBI Term Loan	**9.15**	**9.15**	**9.65**	**9.15**	**9.65**	**1 Feb 2024**
Bandhan Bank	--	**9.16**	**13.33**	**9.16**	**13.33**	**Not Given**
ICICI Bank	--	**9.25**	**9.90**	**9.40**	**10.05**	**Not Given**
Dhanlaxmi Bank	**8.50**	**9.35**	**10.00**	**9.85**	**10.50**	**10 Jan 2024**
HDFC Bank	--	**9.40**	**9.95**	**9.40**	**9.95**	**Not Given**
DCB Bank	**9.75**	**9.75**	**9.95**	**9.75**	**9.95**	**31 Jan 2024**

Your EMI for a loan of ₹1 lakh

TENURE	5 YEARS	10 YEARS	15 YEARS	20 YEARS	25 YEARS
@ 7%	**1,980**	**1,161**	**899**	**775**	**707**
@ 8%	**2,028**	**1,213**	**956**	**836**	**772**
@ 9%	**2,076**	**1,267**	**1,014**	**900**	**839**
@ 10%	**2,125**	**1,322**	**1,075**	**965**	**909**

FIGURES ARE IN ₹. USE THIS CALCULATOR TO CHECK YOUR LOAN AFFORDABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE, A ₹5 LAKH LOAN AT 10% FOR 15 YEARS WILL TRANSLATE INTO AN EMI OF ₹1,075 X 5 = ₹5,375

Post office deposits

	Interest (%)	Minimum investment (₹)	Maximum investment (₹)	Features	Tax benefits
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	8.25	250	₹1.5 lakh p.a.	One account per girl child	80C
Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme	8.20	1,000	₹30 lakh	5-year tenure, minimum age 60 yrs	80C
Public Provident Fund	7.10	500	₹1.5 lakh p.a.	15-year tenure, tax-free returns	80C
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.50	1,000	No limit	Can be encashed after 2.5 years	Nil
5-year NSC VIII Issue	7.70	1,000	No limit	No TDS	80C
Time deposit	6.9-7.50	1,000	No limit	Available in 1, 2, 3, 5 year tenures	80C#
Post Office Monthly Income Scheme	7.40	1,000	Single ₹9 lakh	5-year tenure, monthly returns	Nil
			Joint ₹15 lakh	5-year tenure, monthly returns	Nil
Recurring deposits	6.70	100	No limit	5-year tenure	Nil
Savings account	4.00	500	No limit	₹10,000 interest tax-free	Nil

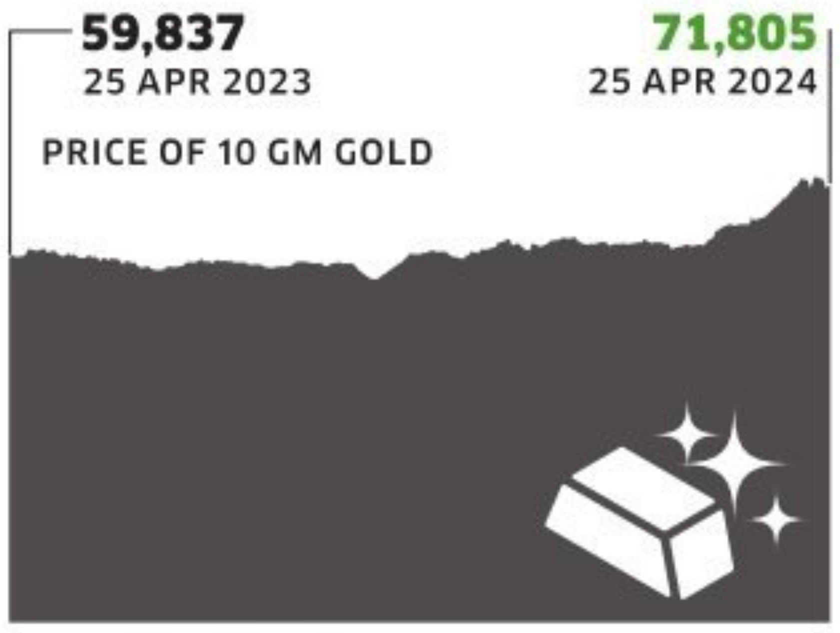
Data as on 24 April 2024

#Benefit available only for 5-year deposit

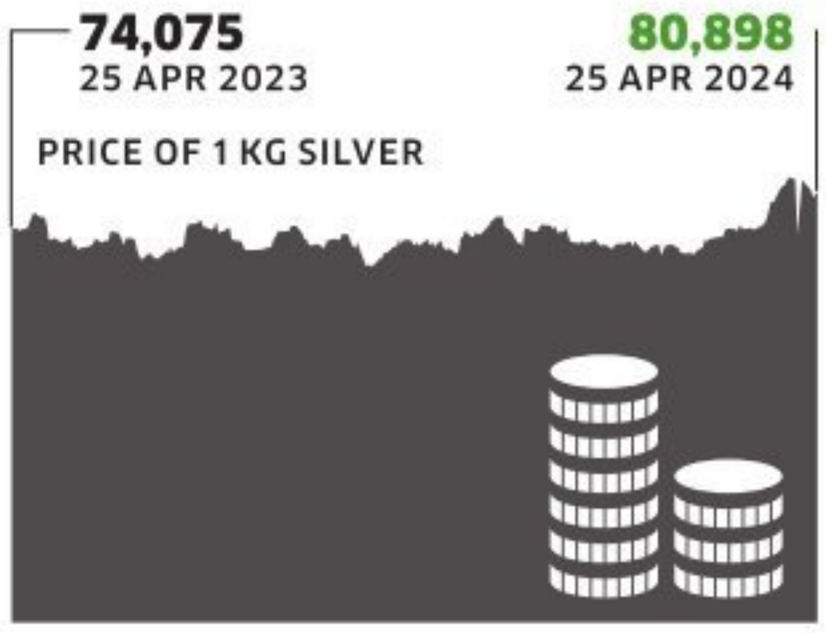
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT RETURNS MONITOR

The scope and attractiveness of alternative investments is increasing. Here's a weekly tracker of returns from such investments. But don't compare these with returns from traditional investments since the proportion and purpose of alternative investments is vastly different.

Gold (995) (₹)



Silver (₹)



Platinum ($/troy ounce)

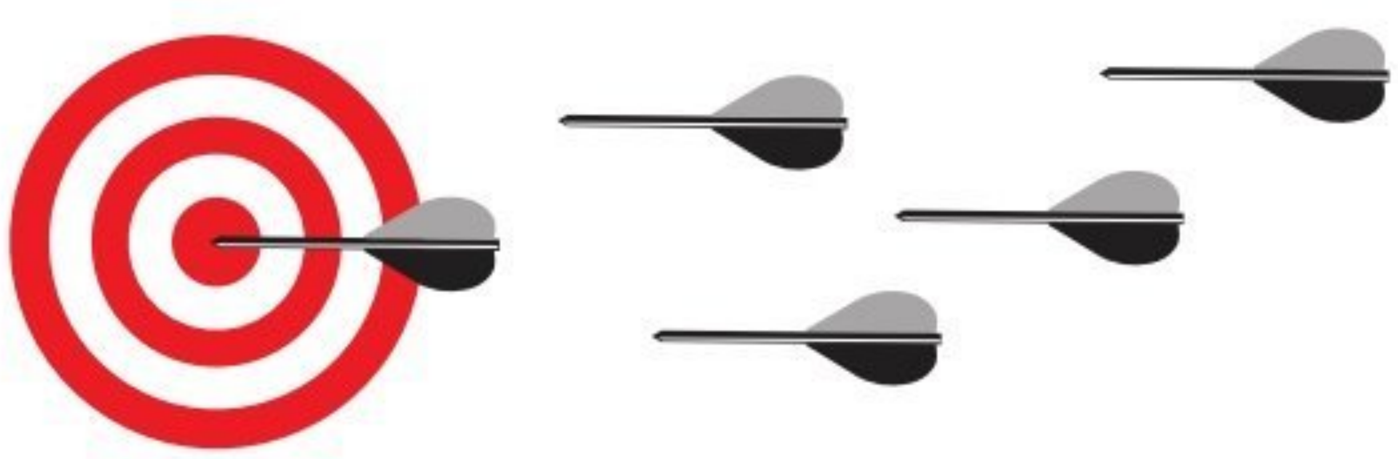
WTI Crude ($/barrel)

CHANGE

	Gold (995) (₹)	Silver (₹)	Platinum ($/troy ounce)	WTI Crude ($/barrel)
1 WEEK	-1.88%	-2.92%	-3.06%	0.42%
1 YEAR	20%	9.21%	-17.03%	7.91%

PENNY STOCKS UPDATE

Penny stocks as a recommended non-traditional investment? Not exactly. **ET WEALTH** neither has the expertise nor does it recommend investing in such stocks. But since the relatively 'low' cost of investment attracts some investors to penny stocks, we provide a weekly snapshot of this most volatile and uncertain type of stock investing.



Top price gainers

STOCK	MARKET PRICE (₹)	1-WEEK (%) CHANGE	1-MTH (%) CHANGE	1-MONTH AVG VOL (LAKH)	1-MONTH AVG VOL CHG (%)	MKT CAP (₹ CR)
Tahmar Enterprises	7.17	13.27	**120.62**	0.02	-36.2	22.37
Rollatainers	2.84	26.22	**72.12**	4.91	165.36	71.03
Nila Spaces	9.4	25.84	**63.48**	6.24	185.22	370.27
Yogi Infra Projects	6.65	4.72	**54.65**	0.16	72.03	11.21
Millennium Online	2.53	2.85	**51.50**	0.63	457.86	12.65
Alps Industries	2.86	17.21	**50.53**	0.59	392.71	11.19
Gemstone Investments	1.75	1.74	**48.31**	6.57	655.49	13.07
Mid India Industries	9.84	32.97	**47.09**	0.11	140.81	16.04
Restile Ceramics	4.35	-8.23	**46.96**	0.17	478.23	42.75
Satra Properties (India)	0.89	23.61	**45.90**	0.48	33.92	15.87

Top price losers

STOCK	MARKET PRICE (₹)	1-WEEK (%) CHANGE	1-MTH (%) CHANGE	1-MONTH AVG VOL (LAKH)	1-MONTH AVG VOL CHG (%)	MKT CAP (₹ CR)
Atal Realtech	9.75	-29.25	**-37.62**	1.52	96.76	72.15
Avance Technologies	0.92	-12.38	**-33.33**	323.3	545.46	182.33
MEP Infrastructure	8.42	-5.71	**-30.76**	2.78	160.09	154.89
Maharashtra Corporation	0.93	-7	**-20.51**	102.89	35.4	57.74
Sumeet Industries	2.22	6.22	**-19.57**	3.29	387.08	23.01
Empower India	2.6	14.54	**-18.75**	139.16	344.25	302.59
IEL	7.55	-5.39	**-16.94**	3.45	-61.68	25.22
Quadrant Televentures	1.68	5.66	**-16.83**	2.98	-76.5	102.87
Kenvi Jewels	5.98	2.05	**-16.13**	10.28	158.23	75.59
Pressure Sensitive	7.5	-4.94	**-14.68**	16.46	-29.5	111.3

Top volume gainers

STOCK	MARKET PRICE (₹)	1-WEEK (%) CHANGE	1-MTH (%) CHANGE	1-MTH AVG VOL (LAKH)	1-MONTH AVG VOL CHANGE (%)	MKT CAP (₹ CR)
Reliance Communicat.	1.67	-5.65	-8.24	32.46	**2,925.11**	461.85
Housing Development	4.8	8.84	4.12	3.14	**2,212.79**	227.52
Vivanza Biosciences	8.03	-6.08	26.66	10.89	**1,722.86**	32.12
Pulsar International	9.75	4.84	17.61	0.88	**1,253.36**	63.28
Sunshine Capital	3.72	9.09	1.92	9.82	**905.15**	387.51
Prime Urban Develop.	9.75	-11.28	19.19	0.18	**772.55**	25.98
Monotype India	0.8	21.21	31.15	8.48	**661.84**	56.25
Gemstone Investments	1.75	1.74	48.31	6.57	**655.49**	13.07
Teamo Prodyction HQ	1.25	-8.76	3.31	21.94	**596.95**	107.65
Avance Technologies	0.92	-12.38	-33.33	323.3	**545.46**	182.33

Top volume losers

STOCK	MARKET PRICE (₹)	1-WEEK (%) CHANGE	1-MTH (%) CHANGE	1-MTH AVG VOL (LAKH)	1-MONTH AVG VOL CHANGE (%)	MKT CAP (₹ CR)
Garment Mantra Lifestyle	5.74	-8.74	-13.94	1.77	**-88.98**	57.63
Adcon Capital Services	0.75	-3.85	-11.76	3.4	**-86.79**	14
Quadrant Televentures	1.68	5.66	-16.83	2.98	**-76.50**	102.87
GACM Technologies	1.3	-4.41	0.78	1.51	**-75.31**	37.22
Rajnish Wellness	6.95	-3.07	8.42	21.18	**-73.75**	534.11
Madhav Infra Projects	9.75	4.28	-11.76	1.39	**-72.65**	249.8
Tuni Textile Mills	1.85	-2.12	-2.63	3.64	**-70.01**	24.16
Orchasp	3.73	-1.84	-1.58	1.37	**-69.26**	42.13
Sharanam Infraproject	0.85	3.66	6.25	3.15	**-68.35**	10.2
Scanpoint Geomatics	6.2	-4.91	24.25	1.86	**-67.74**	104.22

STOCKS HAVE BEEN SELECTED USING THE FOLLOWING FILTERS: PRICE LESS THAN ₹10, ONE-MONTH AVERAGE VOLUME GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 1 LAKH, AND MARKET CAPITALISATION GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO ₹10 CRORE. DATA AS ON 25 APR 2024. **SOURCE:** ETIG DATABASE AND BLOOMBERG.

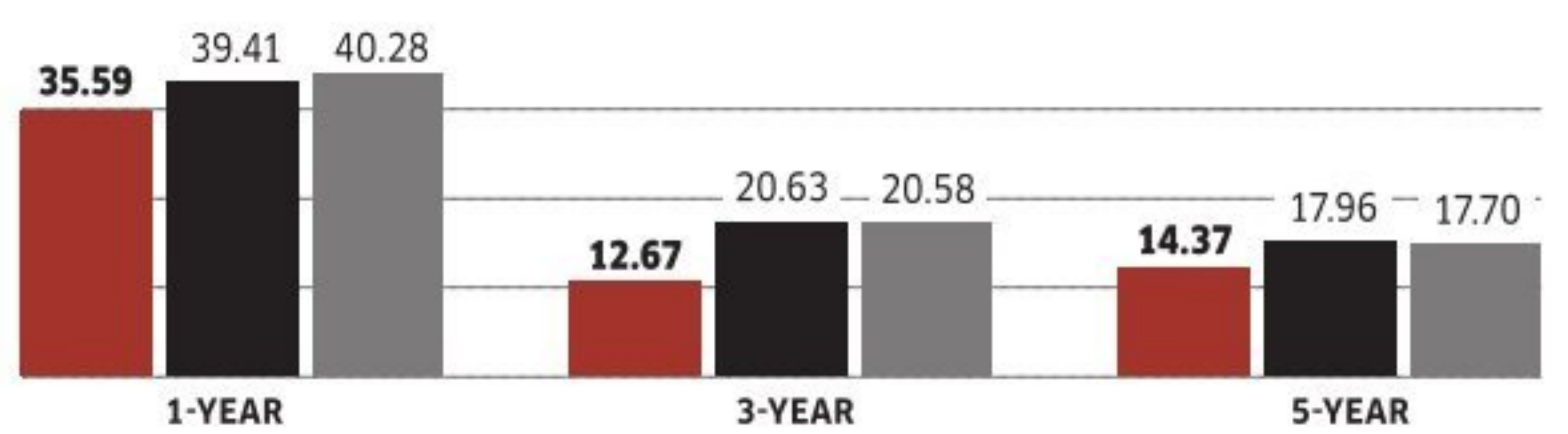
AXIS ELSS TAXSAVER

Needs to regain lost ground

ET Wealth collaborates with **Value Research** to analyse top mutual funds. We examine the key fundamentals of the fund, its portfolio and performance to help you make an informed investment decision.

HOW THE FUND HAS PERFORMED

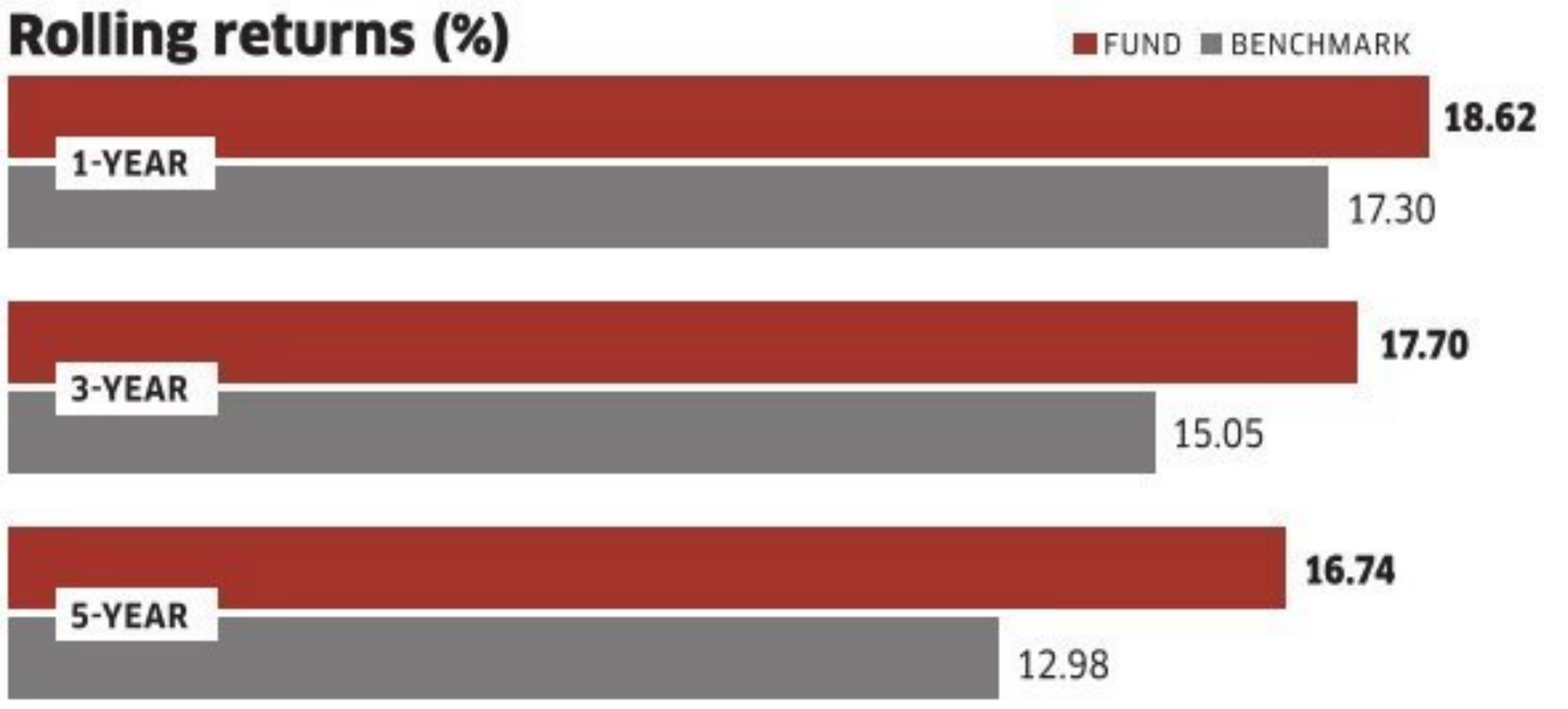
Point-to-point returns (%)



AS ON 23 APR 2024

The fund has lagged behind the index and its peers over the past few years.

Rolling returns (%)



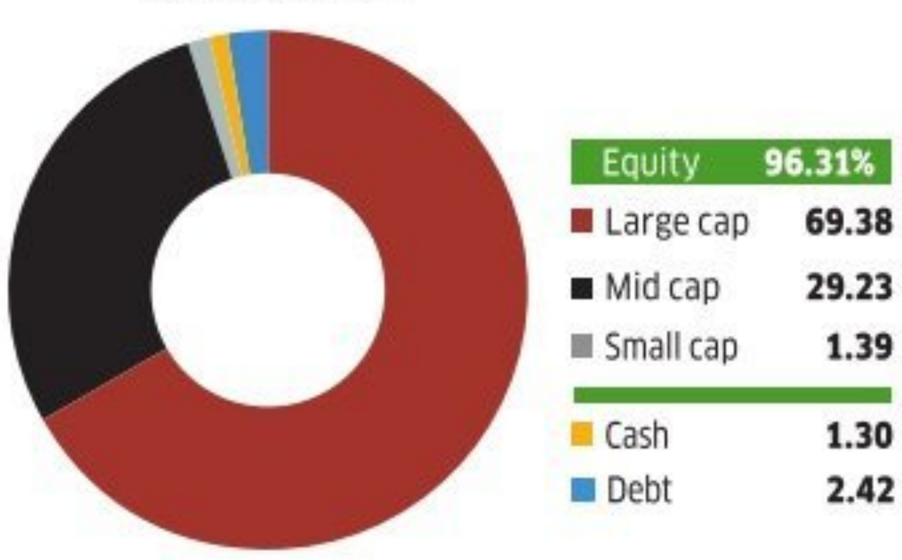
AS ON 23 APR 2024

The fund's long-term track record indicates healthy outperformance across time frames.

Note: Different benchmark (S&P BSE 500 TRI) has been used due to non-availability of stated benchmark data. Returns have been rolled daily over the past decade for relevant time frames.

WHERE THE FUND INVESTS

Portfolio asset allocation



Fund style box

The fund continues to take a large-cap tilt, but has hiked its mid-cap exposure considerably.

AS ON 31 MAR 2024

BASIC FACTS

DATE OF LAUNCH
29 DEC 2009

CATEGORY
EQUITY

TYPE
ELSS

AUM*
₹35,474 crore

BENCHMARK
NIFTY 500 TOTAL RETURN INDEX

WHAT IT COSTS

NAV**
GROWTH OPTION
₹85.73

IDCW**
₹24.95

MINIMUM INVESTMENT
₹500

MINIMUM SIP AMOUNT
₹500

EXPENSE RATIO# (%)
1.52

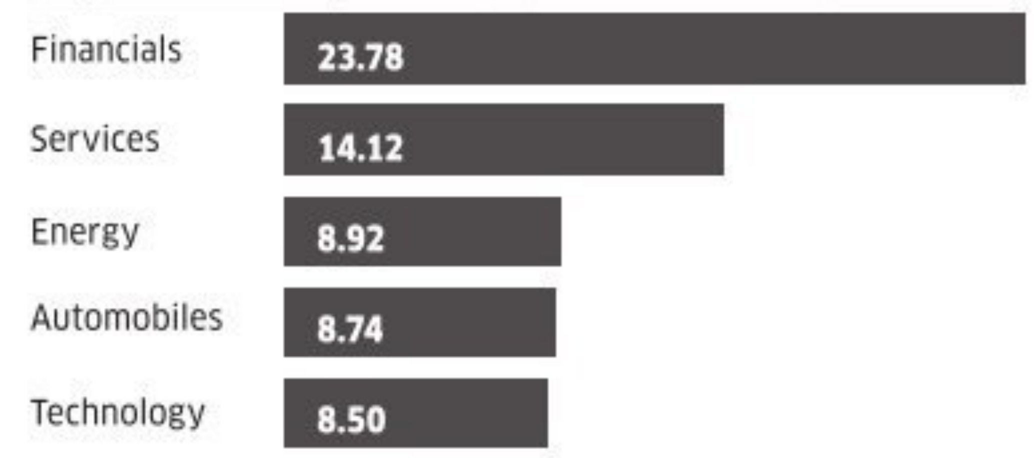
EXIT LOAD
Nil

*AS ON 31 MAR 2024
**AS ON 23 APR 2024
#AS ON 31 MAR 2024

FUND MANAGER

SHREYASH DEVALKAR (PIC) / ASHISH NAIK
BOTH 7 MONTHS

Top 5 sectors in portfolio (%)



Financials and services companies are the fund's biggest sectoral positions.

AS ON 31 MAR 2024

Top 5 stocks in portfolio (%)

The fund is more diversified compared to its earlier compact portfolio.

AS ON 31 MAR 2024

Recent portfolio changes

New entrants

Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Cipla, Interglobe Aviation, NTPC, SBI Life Insurance Company, State Bank of India, Varun Beverages (Feb).
Bharat Electronics, Dixon Technologies (India), Max Healthcare Institute, PB Fintech (Mar).

Complete exits

Hindalco Industries, TTK Healthcare, Vijaya Diagnostic Centre (Feb).

How risky is it?

	Fund	Category	Index
Standard Deviation	15.55	12.69	13.18
Sharpe Ratio	0.46	1.04	1.02
Mean Return	12.27	18.26	18.61

BASED ON 3-YEAR PERFORMANCE.

The fund's risk-return profile is inferior to many of its peers.

AS ON 31 MAR 2024
Source: Value Research

Should You Buy

This fund has undergone a shift in its investing stance in recent years. The big change is in the form of a more diversified portfolio (currently around 60 stocks), against the earlier preference for a compact portfolio of around 40 stocks. This has also reduced the heavy concentration at the top end of its portfolio, with the fund diluting positions in its top bets. It has also sizeably hiked its presence in mid-cap stocks, even as it retains a large-cap tilt. However, the preference for quality businesses exhibiting high growth remains. The revised stance was prompted by a sharp dip in its return profile, which was the outcome of a shift in market preference towards value, but exacerbated by its aggressive tilt. The fund needs to find its feet quickly to regain lost ground.

Angel One: Riding the broking wave

Robust client acquisition, strong tech platform, geographical expansion and tailwinds to drive performance.

The retail stock broking company reported a healthy performance in the March 2024 quarter with 65% and 27% year-on-year growth in the total income and PAT, respectively. The net profit surpassed Reuters-Refinitiv estimates by 6.7%. The performance was aided by strong order growth in both cash and F&O segments. The total orders jumped by 79% y-o-y to 47.1 crore.

The company provides broking and advisory services, margin funding and distribution of third-party financial products to its clients. It has a client base of 2.22 crore that grew 14.3% q-o-q and 61% y-o-y in the March quarter. The share in the retail segment equity turnover stood at 18.1%, which improved by 83 basis points on a sequential basis.

The company enjoys healthy client loyalty as its vintage clients (more than five years old) continue to provide a steady contribution to the revenues. The net broking revenue is expected to grow in the future aided by stability in the existing clients and the continuous influx of new clients.

Angel One stands to gain from India's booming broking industry, fueled by factors like rising income, increased awareness of financial assets, smartphone penetration, digitisation, regulatory protection for retail investors, and household savings' financialisation. India's robust capital market, driven by strong corporate earnings and investor confidence, will propel the sector's expansion.

The company is taking several strategic steps to sustain its growth momentum. These include expanding the addressable market through channel and product diversification, strengthening the channel partner network, enhanced geographical reach, and improving operational efficiencies. Additionally, leveraging its proprietary technology platform NXT, the company aims to enhance partner engagement for client acquisition and service delivery.

The company's digital business model facilitates deeper market penetration. Through its AI-enabled Super App, it enables seamless account opening and order placement while providing personalised services. The app also educates users about investing and trading across various asset classes. The company is expanding its offerings by introducing new products such as consumer credit and fixed-income products on the app to foster long-term customer engagement.

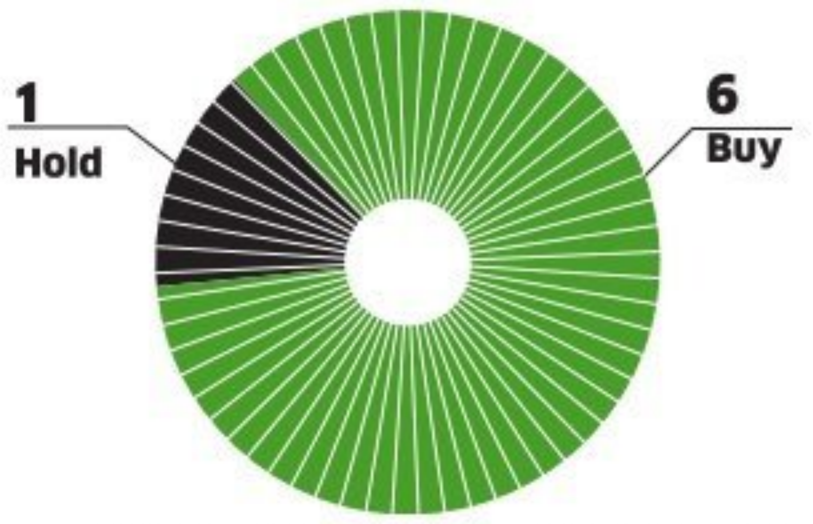
The recent ₹1,500-crore fund raise through QIP (qualified institutional placement) is anticipated to bolster growth in the broking business. These funds will primarily be allocated for margin monies with the stock exchange and to expand the MTF (margin trading facility) book. Additionally, promising growth prospects are evident in the AMC and Wealth businesses.

The stock has significantly outperformed the market benchmark in the last year, delivering 129.9% returns compared to the BSE Sensex's 23%.

Selection methodology: We pick the stock that has shown the maximum increase in 'consensus analyst rating' during the past month. The consensus rating is arrived at by averaging all analyst recommendations after attributing weights to each of them (1 for strong buy, 2 for buy, 3 for hold, 4 for sell, 5 for strong sell). An improvement in consensus analyst rating indicates that the analysts are getting bullish on the stock. Only stocks with at least 10 analysts covering them are considered. You can see similar consensus analyst rating changes during the past week in ETW 50 table.

—Sameer Bhardwaj

Analysts' views



Angel One stands to gain from India's booming broking industry, fueled by rising income, digitisation and household savings' financialisation.

Fundamentals

	ACTUAL		CONSENSUS ESTIMATE	
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Revenue (₹ cr)	3,001.60	4,271.70	4,777.60	5,707.50
EBITDA (₹ cr)	1,289.60	1,691.50	2,039.90	2,404.00
Net profit/loss (₹ cr)	890.00	1,125.50	1,456.10	1,727.80
EPS (₹)	105.09	131.81	164.98	195.96

Valuations

	PBV	PE	DIVIDEND YIELD (%)
Angel One	7.80	21.20	1.50
Motilal Oswal	5.60	22.80	0.40
ICICI Securities	6.03	13.90	0.00
360 One Wam	9.20	38.00	2.05
Nuvama Wealth	8.40	31.70	1.52

Brokerage calls

RECO DATE	RESEARCH HOUSE	ADVICE	TARGET PRICE (₹)
19 Apr 2024	HDFC Securities	Add	3,580
19 Apr 2024	ICICI Securities	Buy	3,469
19 Apr 2024	Investec	Buy	3,850
18 Apr 2024	Motilal Oswal	Buy	4,200
18 Apr 2024	Yes Securities	Buy	3,750

Relative performance

Angel One is compared with ET NBFC and Sensex. Stock price and index values normalised to a base of 100. **Source:** ETIG and Bloomberg

WHAT EXPERTS ADVISE

BUY

STOCK	RESEARCH HOUSE	ADVICE	STOCK PRICE (₹)	1-YEAR TARGET PRICE (₹)	POTENTIAL UPSIDE (%)	COMMENT
Tejas Networks	Emkay	Buy	907	1,100	21.3	Retain buy as it will benefit from its cost-competitive R&D compared with peers, asset-light model, PLI scheme benefits and strong revenue visibility due to BSNL and BharatNet projects execution.
HDFC Bank	ICICI Securities	Buy	1,531	1,850	20.8	Upgrade to buy due to robust RoA (both reported and adjusted) and uptick in NIMs in the March quarter. Also, comfortable asset quality and expectations of strong deposit growth and healthy loan to deposit ratio are other positives.
Adani Ports & SEZ	Motilal Oswal	Buy	1,321	1,590	20.4	Reiterate buy due to continuing momentum in volume growth, market share gain driven by operational efficiencies and cargo diversification, improving balance sheet and strong cash flow generation.
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	Antique Stock Broking	Buy	593	710	19.7	Maintain buy due to growth in retail protection plans and annuities, improvement in distribution mix, expectations of stable margins in the future and focus on industry leading APE growth.
Tata Consumer Products	Nuvama	Buy	1,171	1,400	19.6	Retain buy amid strong performance in the March quarter led by improvement in EBITDA, PAT and margins. Also, innovation, distribution expansion and foray into new segments will continue to drive growth in the future.
Reliance Industries	Centrum Broking	Buy	2,960	3,481	17.6	Maintain buy due to healthy operating performance in 2023-24. Also, ongoing telecom and retail growth, increased energy sector investment and 5G monetisation will drive future growth.

SELL

STOCK	RESEARCH HOUSE	ADVICE	STOCK PRICE* (₹)	1-YEAR TARGET PRICE (₹)	POTENTIAL DOWNSIDE (%)	COMMENT
Tata Elxsi	Kotak Securities	Sell	7,395	5,400	-27.0	Maintain sell due to muted performance across verticals in the March quarter. Also, increasing dependence on the top-5 clients, demand challenges in telecom vertical and stretched valuations are other negatives.

Q&A

Our panel of experts will answer questions related to any aspect of personal finance. If you have a query, mail it to us right away.

I've retired at 50. My monthly expenses are ₹50,000, with no outstanding loans. My financial portfolio includes equity in PMS and mutual funds totalling ₹2.6 crore, along with ₹50 lakh in the EPF and ₹55 lakh in restricted stock units (RSUs). I also own gold worth ₹50 lakh and land worth ₹60 lakh. With a monthly pension scheme of ₹30,000 for 10 years, can this corpus sustain me for 30 years?

Suppose you live till 85, withdrawing ₹50,000 per month via SWP (systematic withdrawal plan), from a portfolio of ₹2.6 crore, over the next 35 years. Assuming 7% annual inflation and return of 10-12% CAGR in equity, it would leave you with a closing balance of ₹45-100 crore after withdrawals, estimated at around ₹8.34 crore (pre-tax). These projections indicate that your financial corpus should adequately sustain you throughout your lifetime. However, these are theoretical calculations and actual numbers may fluctuate due to factors such as taxation and market dynamics.

Given your diversified portfolio and age, consolidating investments may be wise. If you are not using your land, reallocating it to fixed-income products could be beneficial. Liquidating RSUs and opting for dynamic asset allocation mutual funds managed by professionals could balance risk. Given the current peak of interest rate cycle and attractive yields, exploring investments in corporate bonds, and banking and PSU funds for your fixed-income portfolio could also be advantageous.

Rushabh Desai
Founder, Rupee With Rushabh Investment Services

I'm 64 and have a consultancy income that ranges from ₹25,000 to ₹2 lakh a month. I have a self-occupied house valued at ₹30 crore, and another worth ₹10 crore, in which my son resides. I have mutual funds worth ₹16 crore, fixed deposits and bonds worth ₹5 crore, and startup investment of ₹3 crore. My monthly expenses are ₹4 lakh, which are mostly met via SWPs from consultancy earnings' corpus. Should I consider restructuring my portfolio?

Your current portfolio of mutual funds and FDs should be more than adequate to cover your monthly expenses, given the following assumptions: lifespan of 90 years, annual inflation rate of 6%, and an average return of 7% from mutual funds and FDs. We presume that a significant portion of the SWP corpus is in debt. If you hold some equity as well, a higher return can be expected. However, your wealth is predominantly tied up in illiquid assets, namely real estate. This is manageable as long as you reside in the property, but if you choose to relocate, perhaps to a retirement facility or with your son, it may be better to avoid maintaining a rented property. Instead, consider converting it into a financial asset. Although the investment in startups represents a small fraction of your overall portfolio, it constitutes a significant proportion of your financial assets. Exercise caution to avoid increasing risk. It's advisable to rotate the sum if you opt to invest more in startups on exit opportunities instead of deploying fresh capital.

Vidya Bala
Co-Founder, PrimeInvestor.in

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

I'm a 42-year-old father of two daughters, aged nine and one. My monthly take-home salary is ₹2 lakh. I invest ₹80,000 in a multi-cap mutual fund and ₹40,000 in stocks every month. I also make an annual contribution of ₹50,000 to the PPF and pay ₹29,000 as premium of an LIC scheme. My ₹15 lakh health insurance costs ₹18,000 a year, and I have a ₹1.5 crore term plan. I plan to invest ₹2 lakh in the NPS (₹50,000 personally and the rest from employer). My assets include ₹38 lakh in stocks, ₹55 lakh in mutual funds, a flat worth ₹80 lakh, and a ₹50 lakh plot in Bengaluru. I also have ₹10 lakh in the PPF, ₹27 lakh in the EPF, and ₹14 lakh in the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana. My monthly expenses are ₹50,000. My goals include building a corpus for my daughters' education and weddings, and my retirement. How should I plan for this?

You've outlined five key financial goals: your daughters' education, their weddings, and your retirement. You will first have to calculate the amounts required for education and wedding expenses in today's terms, which will then be adjusted for inflation. For instance, education inflation is about 10-12% in India. If the current college expense for your older daughter is ₹25 lakh, you will need around ₹60 lakh in nine years, factoring in 10% inflation. This corpus can be built through a SIP of ₹31,000, assuming a 12% return. Similarly, plan for other goals and map appropriate investments to each. Calculating your retirement corpus will primarily involve household expenses, inflation, and post-retirement returns. Assuming ₹50,000 as household expenses, 6% inflation, and an average of 6% post-retirement returns, your monthly expenses at 60 would be ₹1.4 lakh. This sets your target corpus at around ₹5.2 crore, achievable through current mutual fund investments and the EPF. However, if monthly expenses increase over time, the goal will have to be adjusted accordingly.

It's essential to establish two things. One, while your current investments are a healthy mix of equity and fixed-income instruments, quantifying goals is necessary to assess their adequacy. Two, conduct yearly reviews of goals to stay aligned with lifestyle, income and other changes. Evaluate the adquacy of your term plan and prioritise education and retirement goals. Ensure your spouse is informed about investments and all nominee names are up to date. Consult a financial adviser for guidance based on comprehensive information.

Prableen Bajpai
Founder, FinFix Research and Analytics

My retired parents receive pensions of ₹4,000 and ₹3,000, respectively. They also own properties that generate ₹23,000 in monthly rent. They hold SCSS investments worth ₹30 lakh each and FDs worth ₹10 lakh. They have mutual funds in regular schemes worth ₹51 lakh and stocks valued at ₹1 crore. They have a health cover of ₹15 lakh. To plan for their retirement, with one domestic and one international vacation every year for the next 10 years, how should I invest this corpus?

Your parents' monthly income sources include a pension of ₹7,000, rental income of ₹23,000, SCSS interest of about ₹40,000, and ₹10,000 in dividend income from stocks (calculated at about 1.25% based on Nifty 50 dividend yield). This amounts to about ₹80,000 a month. We haven't factored in FD interest income, assuming it serves as an emergency fund. Let's assume ₹1 lakh for domestic and at least ₹2-3 lakh for foreign vacations. It's difficult to assess whether ₹80,000 monthly income (or ₹10 lakh annually) will suffice for regular expenses and vacations. They can dip into savings or assets, if needed. Their current portfolio includes SCSS of ₹60 lakh, FD of ₹10 lakh, stocks of ₹1 crore, and equity funds of ₹51 lakh, totalling ₹2.21 crore, with an equity:debt asset allocation ratio of 68:32. Given their post-retirement phase, they should manage asset allocation focusing on capital preservation, income generation and inflation-beating growth. Adjust expectations of future returns accordingly and consider reducing equity allocation if they are uncomfortable with volatility. Avoid heavy allocation within non-large-cap equity. Health insurance coverage of ₹15 lakh should suffice as a base, but consider a higher super top-up for bigger bills.

Dev Ashish
Founder, StableInvestor, and Sebi-registered investment adviser

On 24 January this year, I sold a flat, which was purchased in December 2014. To compute long-term capital gains or loss, please clarify if transfer and documentation expenses are eligible for indexation. Do expenses incurred for property improvement qualify for indexation?

As per the Income-tax Act, 1961, while computing long-term capital gains on property, both transfer and documentation expenses qualify for indexation. The year of property purchase determines the indexation year. The expenses related to the property's improvement also qualify for indexation benefits, with indexation applying from the year these expenses were incurred. Ensure you retain proof of payment, such as invoices and bank entries, to substantiate expense claims. While income-tax returns may not require annexures, queries may arise, necessitating justification for claims.

Shubham Agrawal
Senior Taxation Adviser, TaxFile.in

Ask our experts
Have a question for the experts?
etwealth@timesgroup.com

PORTFOLIO DOCTOR

Not many investors know whether they have invested in the right funds and if their fund portfolio is on track. The Portfolio Doctor assesses the health of the fund portfolio, examines the schemes and their suitability with regard to the goals and, if required, recommends corrective measures. The advice given is based on the performance of the funds, the risk profile of the investor as well as his financial goals.

Use current rally to get rid of underperformers

Deepak Kumar is saving for multiple goals. Here's what the doctor has advised him:

PORTFOLIO CHECK-UP

- Investing in equity funds for past 7-8 years. Holds a good mix of small-, mid- and large-cap funds.
- Early start has helped build a sizeable corpus.
- Holds too many funds. Need to get rid of laggards and overlapping schemes.
- Education goal can be reached with 10% hike in SIPs.
- Portfolio is equity heavy. Add fixed income investments to give stability to portfolio.
- Retirement goal of ₹40,000 was low. Hiked to ₹60,000 per month.
- Retirement goal can be raised further to ₹75,000 if SIPs are increased by 5% every year.

Note from the doctor

- Portfolio has small and midcap skew, be ready for volatility.
- Don't buy too many funds. Just 6-7 funds are enough.
- Opt for 100% allocation to debt funds in the NPS.
- Take life insurance cover of at least ₹2 crore to safeguard goals.
- Review investments and rebalance at least once in a year.
- Reduce risk when goal is near so that you don't miss the target.

GOALS	1	2	3	4
	DOWNPAYMENT FOR CAR: 6 months	**SON'S EDUCATION: 18** years	**SON'S MARRIAGE: 26** years	**RETIREMENT INCOME: 25** years
	PRESENT COST: ₹**3 lakh**	PRESENT COST: ₹**30 lakh**	PRESENT COST: ₹**30 lakh**	CURRENT NEED: ₹**1.5 crore** (₹60,000 a month)
	FUTURE COST: ₹**3.1 lakh**	FUTURE COST: ₹**1.66 lakh**	FUTURE COST: ₹**1.74 crore**	CORPUS NEEDED: ₹**8.15 cr**

Goal	INVESTMENT	AMOUNT INVESTED (₹)	EXISTING SIP (₹)	RECOMMENDED ACTION	NEW SIP (₹)
1	ICICI Pru Short Term	1,25,000	0	Start SIPs of ₹30,000 in this short term debt fund to save for car downpayment	30,000
2	ICICI Pru Bluechip	2,71,400	6,000	Continue SIPs in this stable large cap fund. Increase amount by 10% every year.	6,000
2	Aditya Birla Flexicap	1,45,000	4,000	This flexi-cap fund has not done well. Shift corpus and SIPs to ICICI Pru Value Discovery for better returns.	0
2	ICICI Pru Value Discovery	0	0	Start SIPs of ₹4,000 in this oustanding value fund. Increase amount by 10% every year.	4,000
3	Mirae Asset Large & Midcap	3,09,000	4,000	Continue SIPs in this outperforming large and mid cap fund. Increase by 5% every year.	4,000
4	Kotak Bluechip	1,51,000	6,000	Continue SIPs in this outperforming large-cap fund.	6,000
4	Axis Flexicap	1,12,500	0	Both funds have underperformed. Consider moving corpus to Parag Parikh Flexicap to consolidate portfolio.	0
4	Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage	76,078	0		0
4	Nippon India Small Cap	1,67,900	0	Continue holding this promising small-cap fund.	0
4	Parag Parikh Flexicap	29,500	6,000	Continue SIPs in this outstanding flexicap fund with overseas exposure.	6,000
4	Quantum Long Term Equity Value	1,49,021	4,000	This value fund is down. Stop SIPs and move to Tata Focused Equity to streamline portfolio.	0
4	SBI Magnum Midcap	2,90,000	6,000	Continue SIPs in this stable midcap fund.	6,000
4	Tata Focused Equity	3,21,000	0	Continue holding this stable flexi-cap fund.	0
4	Stock investments	2,55,000	0	Direct stock investments can be volatile. Coinsider moving to mutual funds instead.	0
4	Provident Fund and PPF	31,95,000	19,000	Keep contributing to these tax advantaged schemes.	19,000
4	NPS	52,000	0	Start SIPs of ₹4,000 in the scheme for tax benefits.	4,000
	TOTAL	**₹56,52,399**	**₹55,000**	The goals can be reached using the mutual funds marked in the same colour.	**₹85,000**

Assumptions used in the calculations

INFLATION

Education expenses	For all other goals
10%	7%

RETURNS

Equity funds	Debt options
12%	8%

PORTFOLIOS ANALYSED BY

RAJ KHOSLA, Managing Director and Founder, MyMoneyMantra

WRITE TO US FOR HELP

If you want your portfolio examined, write to etwealth@timesgroup.com with 'Portfolio Doctor' as the subject. Mention the following information:

- Names of the funds you hold.
- Current value of the investment.
- If you have SIPs running in any of them.
- The financial goals for which you invested.
- How much you need for each financial goal.
- How far away is each goal.

Readers' response, online and in print, to ET Wealth stories has been enlightening. We pick some that add information and perspective to our articles from previous issues.

I agree with the cover story 'Is the NRI dream fading?'. I have two children living in Europe, one in France and the other in Italy. While Europe is much cheaper than the Anglo-Saxon countries, finding work after getting a degree is incredibly challenging.
Ganesh Narayanan

Apropos of the cover story on Indians going abroad for jobs and education, the current situation has been correctly portrayed. Many of my batchmates are returning to India because there are no jobs abroad. I chose not to go to the US and eventually all the big companies came to India. There is no need to pressurise the family for expensive higher education just for social acceptance when one can easily go anywhere after a few years.
Rutika More

The cover story on the NRI dream was very informative. After completing my MBA from Canada, in 2018, I've seen the cost of living and inflation soar. Many people have paid high tuition fees and now feel trapped due to the rising inflation and living costs.
Robin Bhan

Those who idealised working abroad for a better quality of life should take note of this cover story. The opposition in India must also reassess the nation's employment challenges and recognise the global unemployment crisis.
C. Raghuram

Growing economies have more jobs

The cover story 'Is the NRI dream fading?' was an interesting read. The Indian public's desire to work anywhere but in their own country is beginning to have consequences. There are more opportunities in the growing economies, while the economies of the countries where Indian students are migrating are shrinking, including the US. Moreover, the influx of refugees and illegal immigrants to these countries has led to growing concerns about radicalism and crime.
Pavan Joshi

The cover story acurately lists the pros and cons of pursuing higher education abroad with the aim of securing jobs and settling overseas. It correctly shed light on the widespread practice of parents making sacrifices to send their children abroad, and also highlighted the pitfalls.
Hemanth D. Pai

This is with reference to Uma Shashikant's column on 'Personal financial decisions'. The write-up could have elaborated more on the distinction between relational and transactional dynamics. This is relevant in situations where parents may expect one sibling to support another as a matter of entitlement, often leading to resentment. The responsible sibling may realise this too late, after being unfairly maligned by a manipulative parent in front of the entitled sibling. However, I appreciate Shashikant's clear and insightful tone in all her columns.
P.P.

MORE INDIANS OPTING FOR FAMILY, SPIRITUAL VACATIONS

While travellers are favouring tier 2 and tier 3 cities in the country, they are also trying out new foreign destinations, reveals a recent MakeMyTrip report.

More trips per year

25% Is the rise in the number of people taking more than three trips a year in 2023, compared to 2019.

Ayodhya, Ujjain new favourites

97% Is the increase in searches for destinations around religious spots in the past two years. The maximum searches in 2023 were for Ayodhya, which grew by 585%, followed by Ujjain by 359% and Badrinath by 343%, compared to 2022.

131% Is the rise in search for Jim Corbett in 2023 versus 2022. Other preferred weekend getaways included Ooty (35%), Munnar (33%) and Wayanad (29%).

Hong Kong, Almaty, Paro, Baku, Da Nang, Tbilisi
These are the emerging international destinations, with searches for these cities growing multi-fold in 2023.

Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore
Almost **30%** of all international travel searches from India are for these short-haul locations, while London, Toronto and New York are the most searched long-haul destinations.

Family trips gaining favour

64% Is the surge in family bookings year on year in 2023, followed by solo traveller booking growth at 23%, while 50% of all bookings are by two people travelling together.

9 to 6 preferred flight time

46% Of domestic flights are booked less than a week before travel date, while half of all international bookings are made at least two weeks in advance.

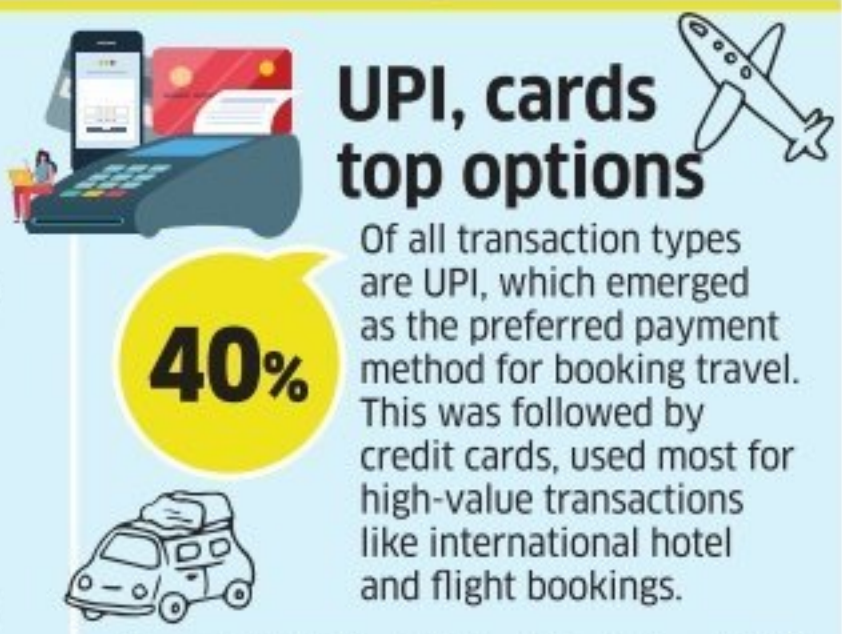
56% Of all domestic leisure hotel bookings are made less than a week before the day of travel, while 33% of all international hotel bookings are made at least 30 days before the date of travel.

May & December
Most people prefer to travel during these two months.

50% Of domestic flyers pick flights between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., irrespective of destination or origin.

Over ₹10,000
This is the per night tariff of properties searched by close to 20% of family travellers. For hostels and apartments, the preference is for less than ₹2,500 per night.

UPI, cards top options



40% Of all transaction types are UPI, which emerged as the preferred payment method for booking travel. This was followed by credit cards, used most for high-value transactions like international hotel and flight bookings.

Source: MakeMyTrip India Travel Trends Report 2023.

The Economic Times Wealth is available at an invitation price of ₹8/issue. To book your copy, contact your newspaper vendor or call **022-39898090**; Email: crm.mumbai@timesgroup.com; **SMS ETWS to 58888**

Published for the proprietors, Bennett, Coleman & Co Ltd by R.Krishnamurthy at The Times of India Building, Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai 400001. Tel. No.: (022) 6635 3535, 2273 3535. Fax: (022) 2273 2544 and printed by him at (1) The Times of India Suburban Press, Akurli Road, Western Express Highway, Kandivli (E), Mumbai-400101. Tel. No.: (022) 28872324, 28872931, Fax: (022) 28874231. (2) The Times of India Print City, Plot No.4, T.T.C. Industrial Area, Thane Belapur Road, Airoli, Navi Mumbai-400708. Tel No.: (022) 2760 9999, Fax: (022) 2760 5275.
Editor: Babar Zaidi (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act). RNI No.: MAHENG/2014/57046.