EQUITY ANNUAL OUTLOOK 2025



YEAR GONE BY 2024

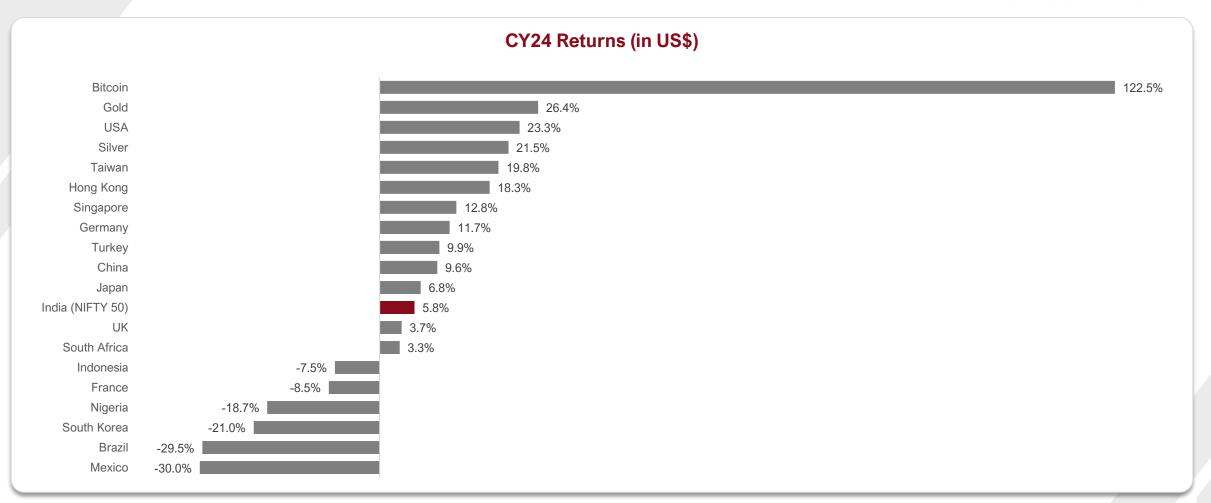


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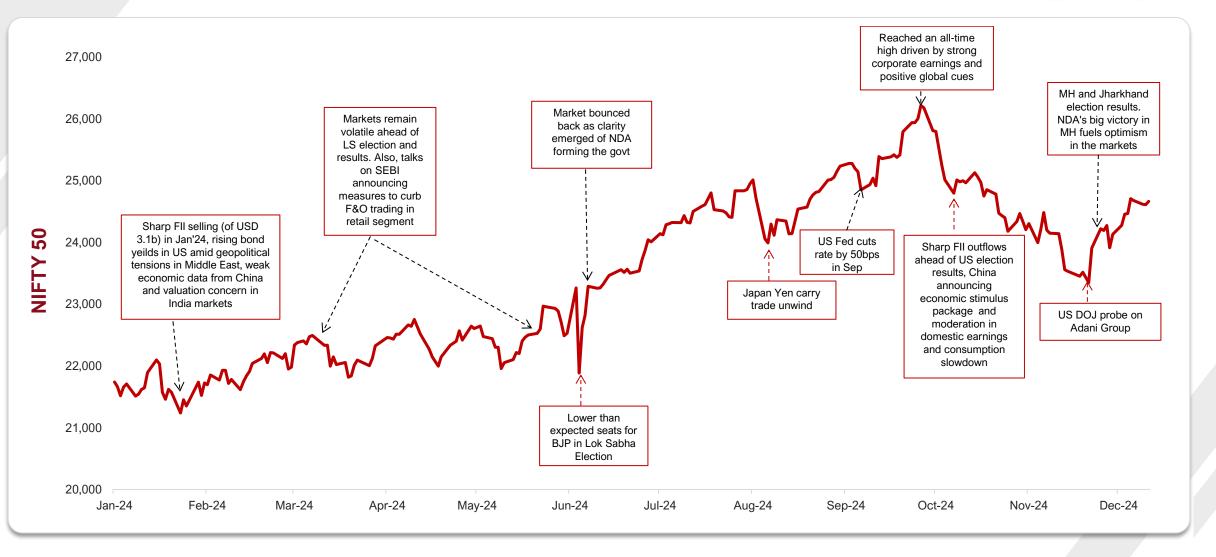
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2025 Calendar with Holidays by Vertex42 com





Most asset classes and global markets did better than India in dollar terms. Amidst strong growth in USA; Bitcoin rally post Trump re-election and Gold/Silver momentum in geopolitical uncertainty, \$ returns for India seemed moderate.



Source: ABSLAMC Research

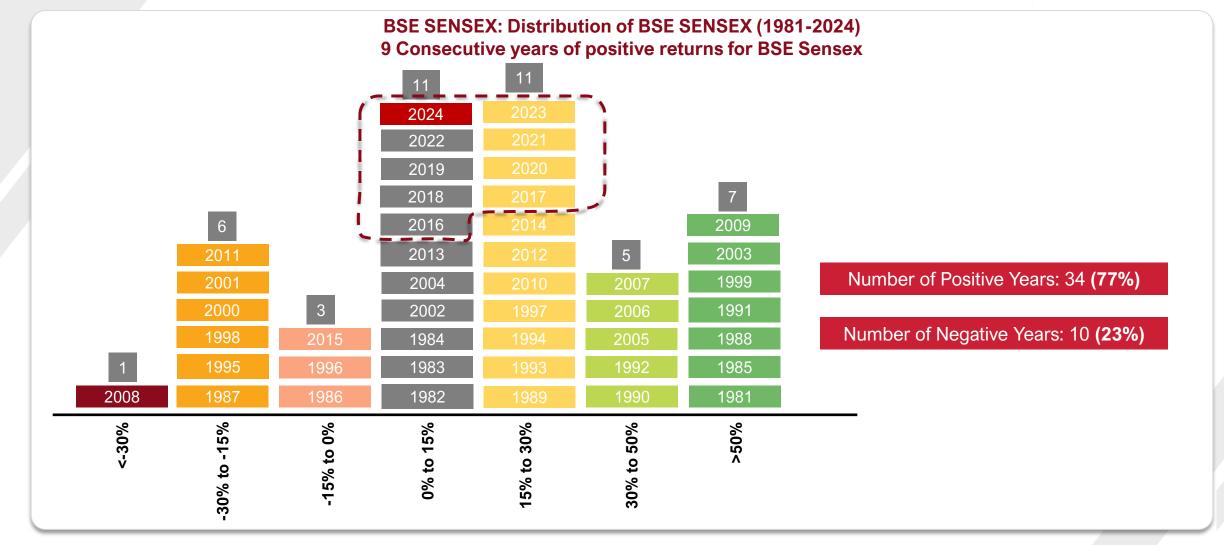
ADITYA BIRLA

CAPITAL

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Equity Markets – Distribution of Returns in the Long Term

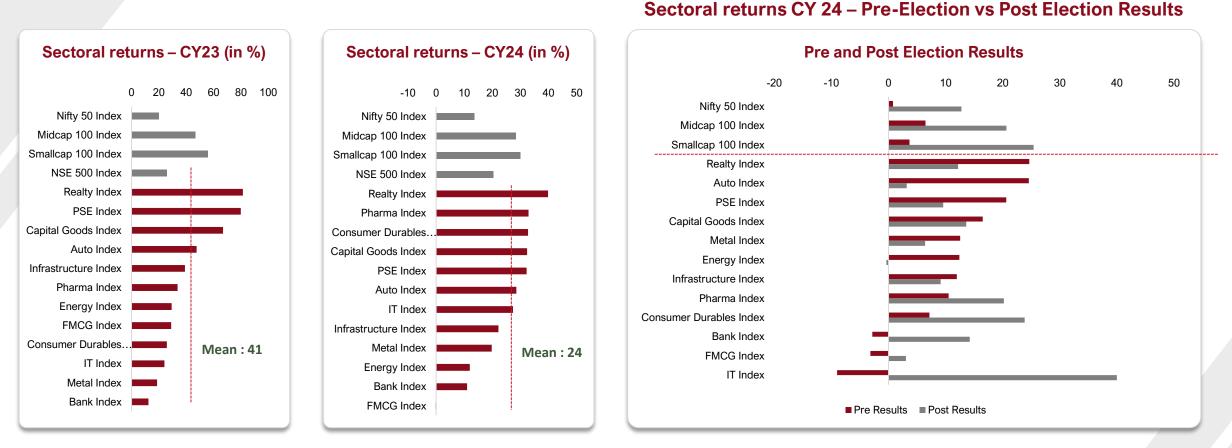




LOOK BENEATH THE HEADLINES



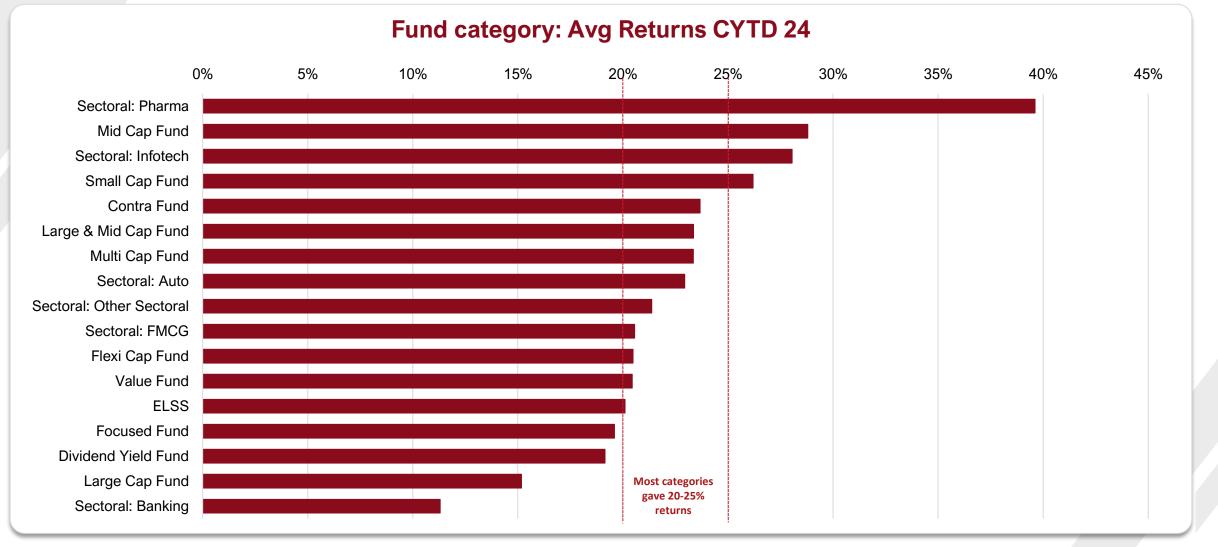
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- Returns in CY 24 were consistent across sectors unlike CY 23 except Realty and FMCG.
- There was a stark difference in sector outperformers pre and post election result. Post elections, IT, consumer durables and banks which were laggards pre election, witnessed a turnaround

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Gold has been a terrific asset for Indian Household

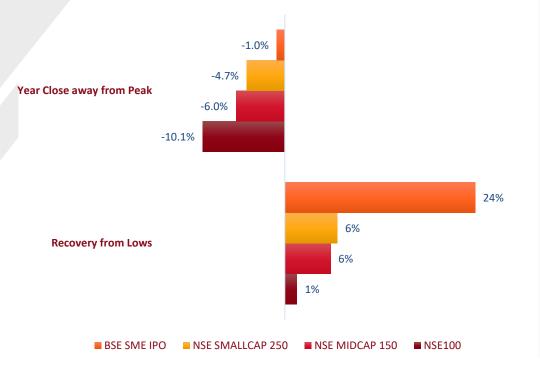




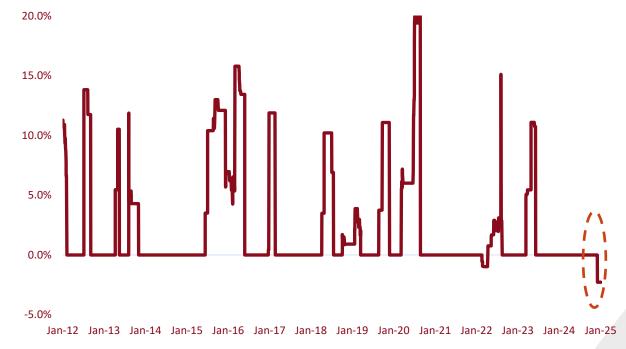
India Market cap in Gold terms



Q4CY24 Wobbles - Despite Nifty down 10% from peak, illiquid asset classes rose to close near highs. Riskier Assets did better.



Alpha of Nifty Low Vol Index Over NSE200TR During Episodes of 10%+ Correction - Rare instance where Low Volatility Fell More than Market in 2024



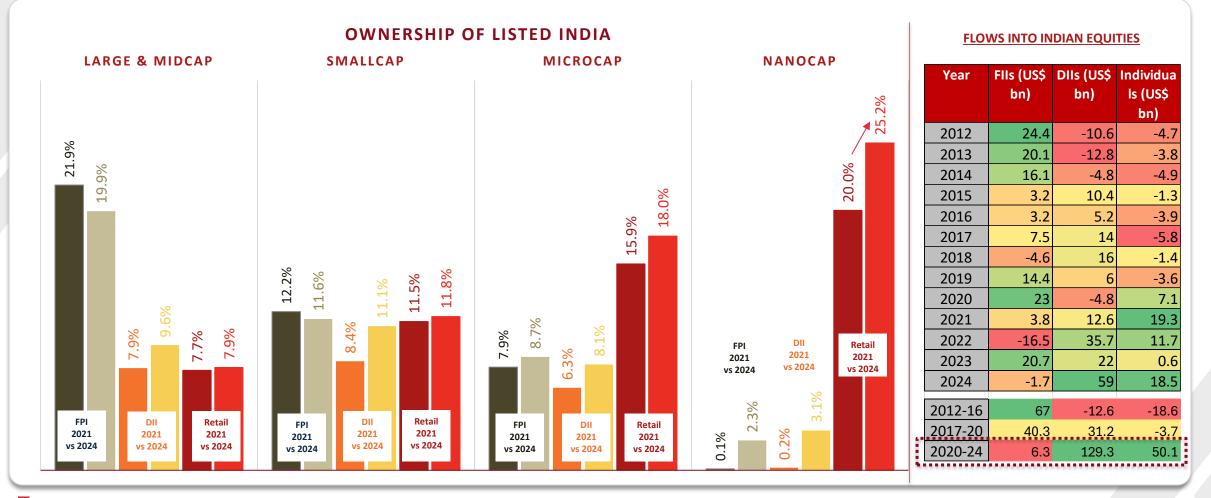
• Unlike earlier, defensive and staples bets failed to support themselves during the corrections, the flavor of the season was smaller, volatile securities.

Retail behavior coupled with large FII flows out of large caps likely the driver of such activity.



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• Individual investors holdings in nano-caps moved from INR 40,000 cr in June 2021 to INR 3.3 lakh cr in Sep 2024 - increasing their share in these companies by 5.2%.

• Micro-caps has seen renewed vigor across the table as growth boosts from favorable conditions intensified. Retail contribution up 13% from FY21.

• Unlike the previous 10Y period, DIIs and Individual investors have directed the market directions with FIIs having net negative flow in FY21-FY24 period

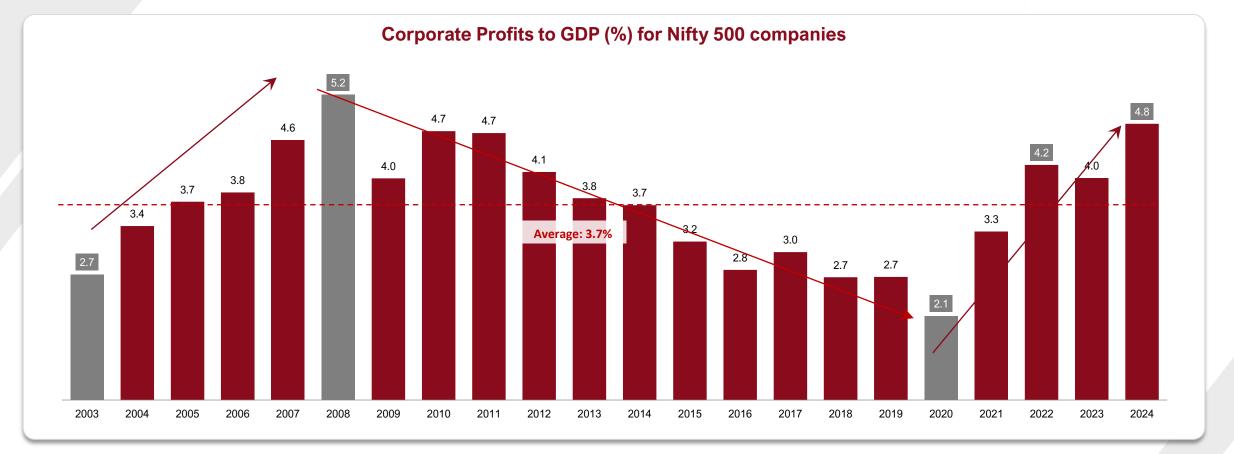
OUTLOOK FOR 2025: Time for





Normalisation of Corporate Profit to GDP

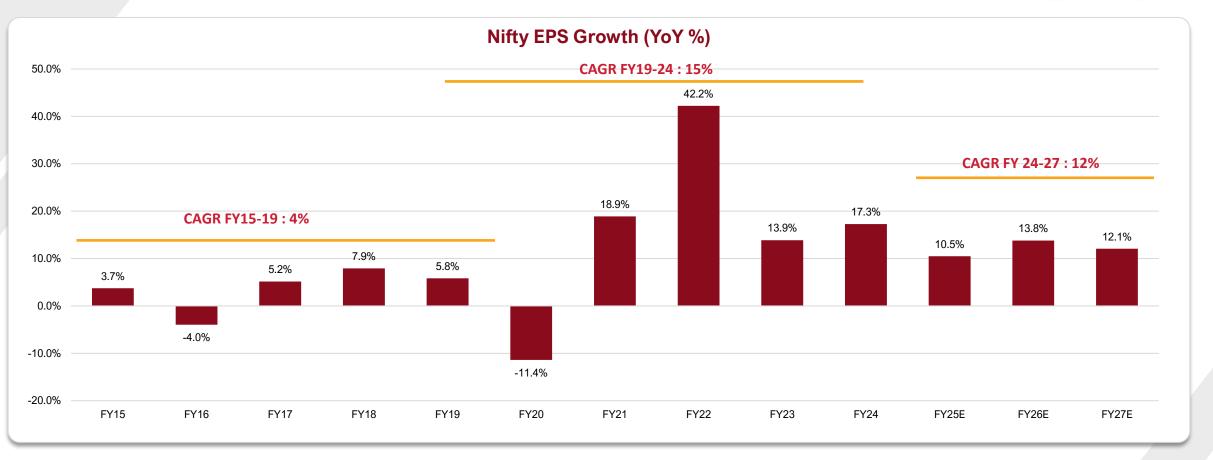
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Last 4 years we have seen profit growing faster than top line due to unorganized to organized, deleveraged balance sheet, loss making cos turning profitable. Going forward profit growth to converge with topline growth.

Source: MOFSL, ABSLAMC Research





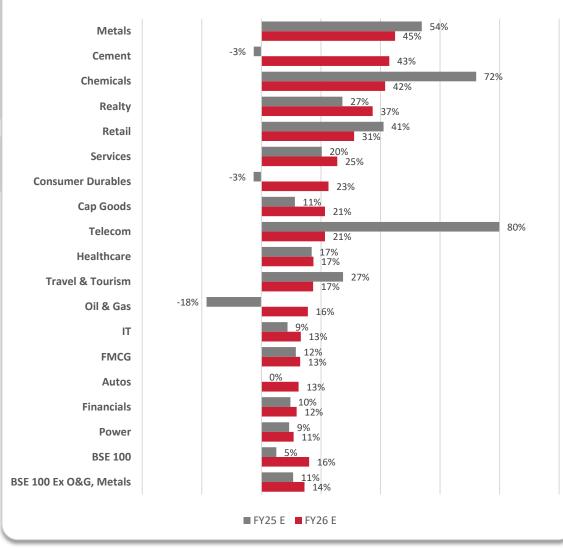
Nifty earnings CAGR is expected to be low-to-mid teens over FY25-27E period and revert back close to the historical average of ~11-12%

Source: MOSL, ABSLAMC Research



Sector-wise expectation of earnings growth

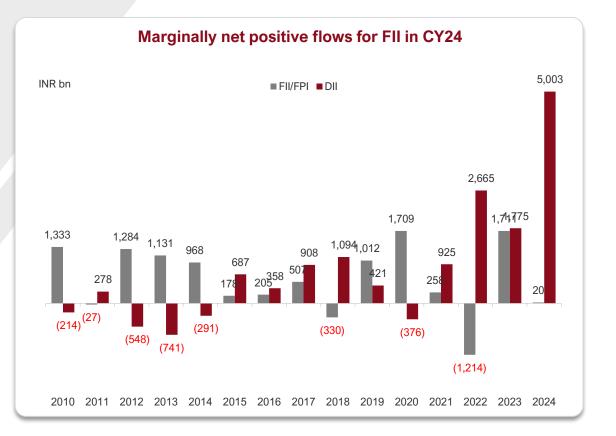


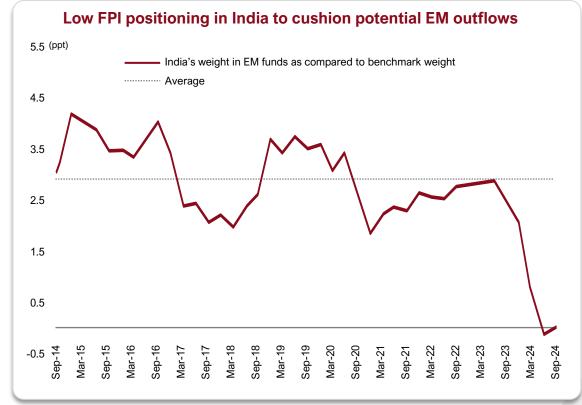


PAT Growth Estimates

- Expect mid to low teen earnings growth for BSE100 companies
- For FY26, above average growth seen in the following sector – Metals, Cement, Realty, Retail
- Below average growth in FMCG, Autos, Financials,
 - Power

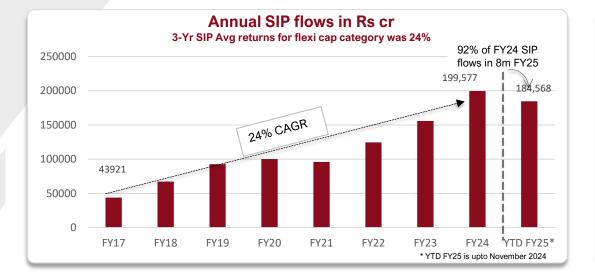
FPI positioning the lowest for India among EMs



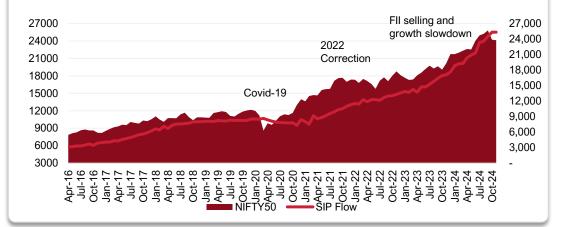


- Oct-2024 MTD FII selling of USD8bn of outflows shows the worst pace since Covid, outpacing domestic inflows. But Dec saw recovery and FIIs are net positive for the year
- We note that for India, the risk could be lower on account of a) India's relative positioning in FPI portfolios is down to the lowest in more than a decade; Notwithstanding EPS cuts, a market rebound is likely when FII selling abates.

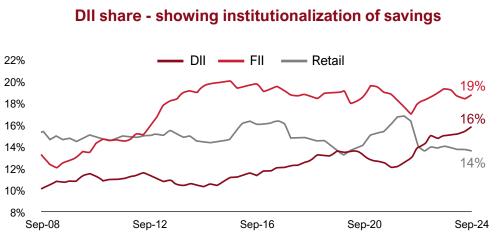
'Buy The Dip' reinforced by Indian households



SIPs have been immune to numerous 10% market corrections



Source: ABSLAMC Research



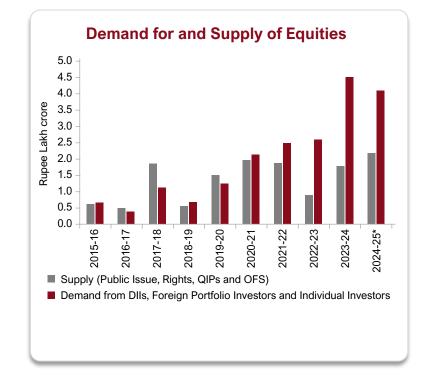
Out if 20 episodes of market corrections, 17 of them have seen SIP flows higher than previous 12 month average - only amidst Covid - SIP flows fell. Household equity ownership continues to get institutionalized: direct retail share of BSE500 fell to near-record lows due to net selling, but MF inflows are up (SIPs annualizing: USD35bn; 12M non-SIP flows: USD17bn), with their share at a record 10.1%; DII share is 15.8%.

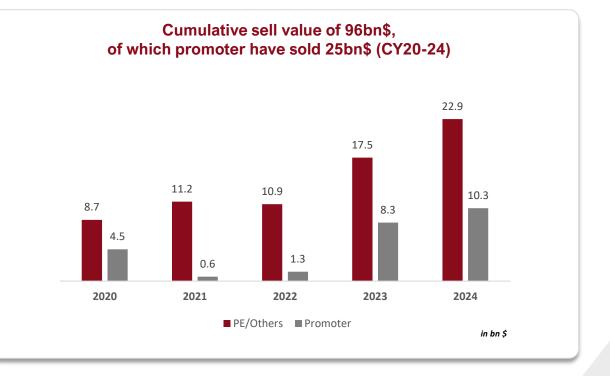
ADITYA BIRLA

ΓΔΡΙ

ASSET MANAGEMENT

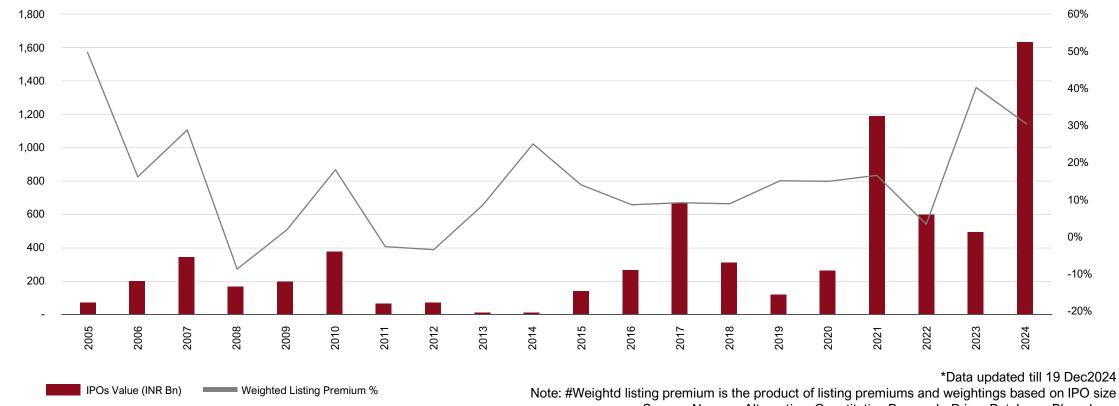






ADITYA BIRLA ΓΔΟΙ ASSET MANAGEMENT

CY24 witnessed mainboard IPOs raise INR 1,628bn (USD 19.5bn), with an impressive 31% weighted average listing premium.

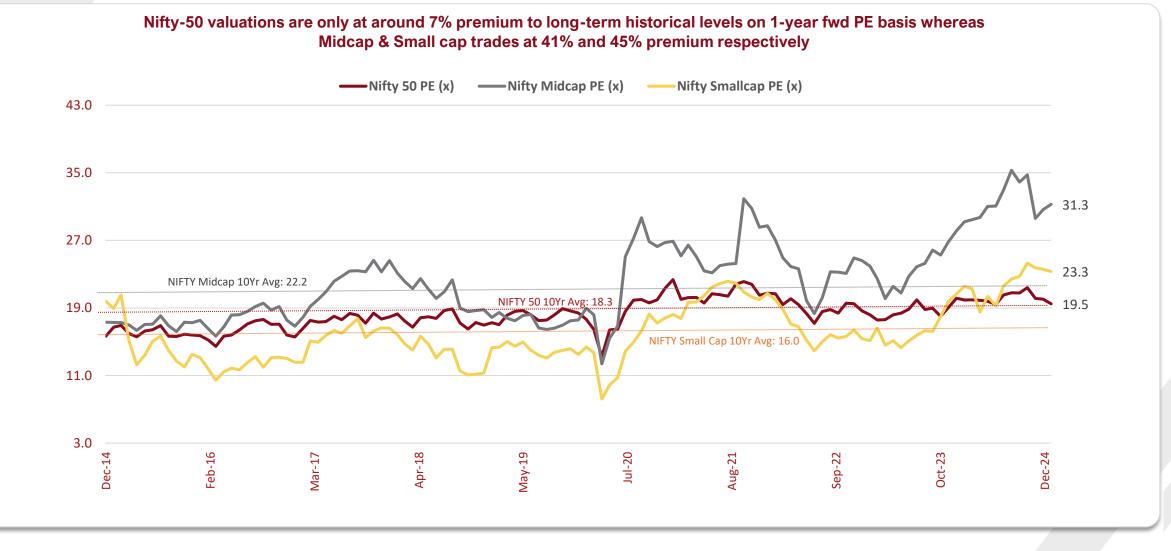


Issue size-weighted listing premium trend

Source: Nuvama Alternative Quantitative Research; Prime Database; Bloomberg

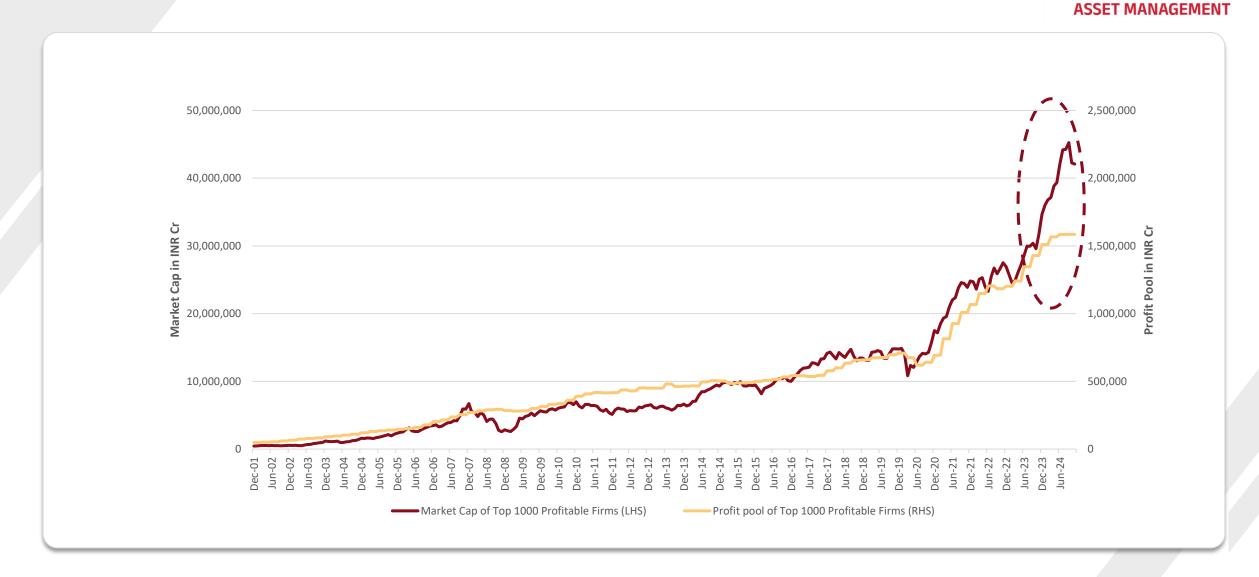


ASSET MANAGEMENT



Source: MOSL, ABSLAMC Research; 1 Year forward PE. Note: Data as of 31st Dec 2024

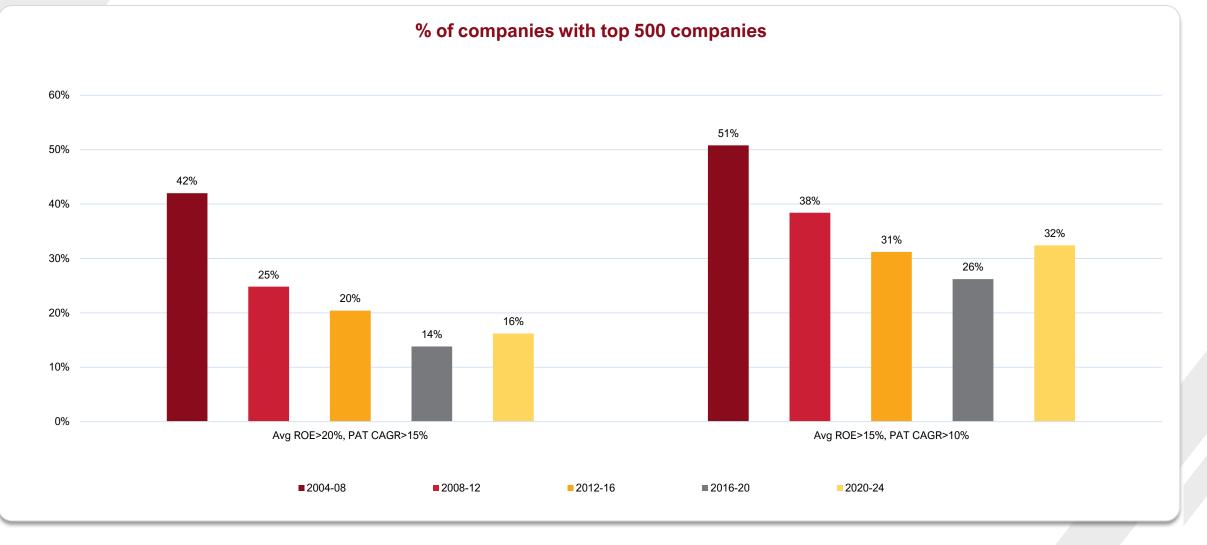
Mind the Gap - Market Cap seen rising faster than Profit pool



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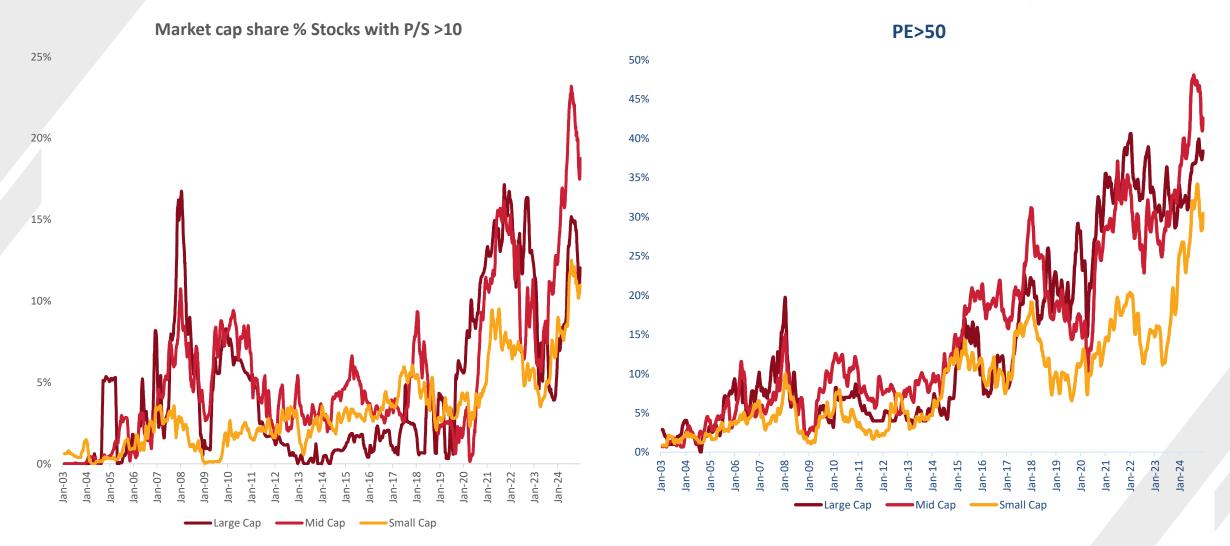




Source: ABSLAMC Research, ICICI Securities

Valuation creep getting mainstreamed





Source: ABSLAMC Research

.. Even as earnings growth profile is converging



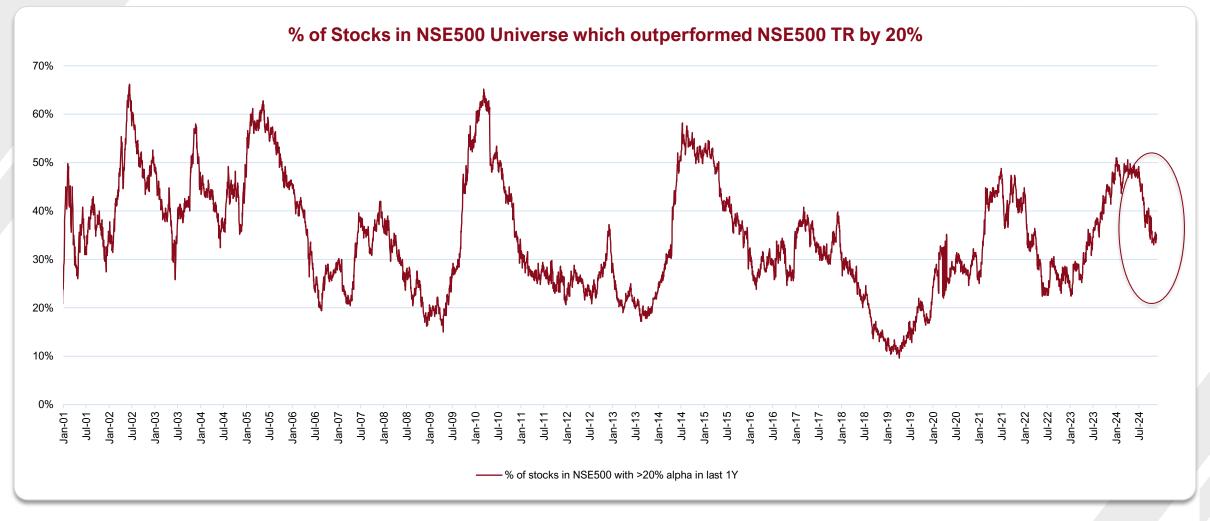
ADITYA BIRLA

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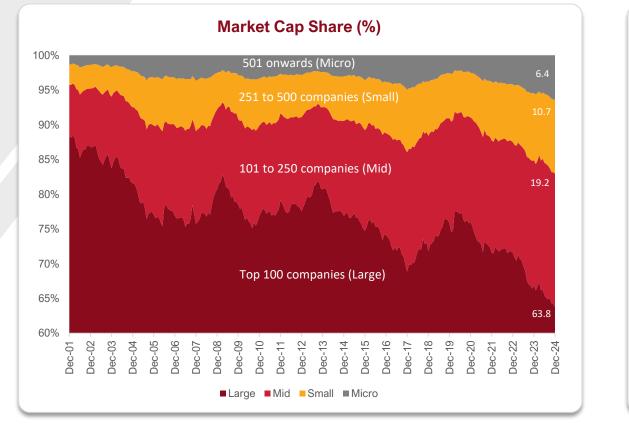
Leading to Market Breadth normalizing

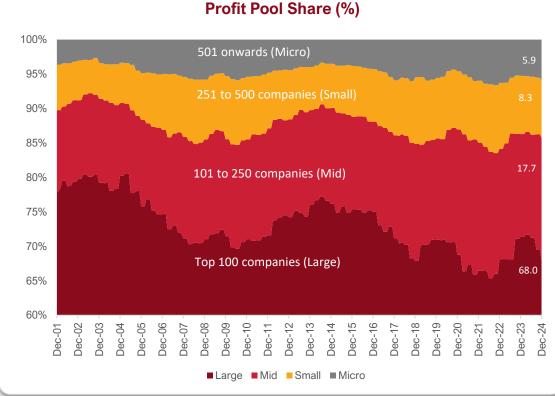






ASSET MANAGEMENT





In Top 1,000 companies by market cap (Profitable companies only):

- Market cap share of Large-caps is at a 2-decade low. Profit Pool share of Large-caps has increased from Jun'22 low.
- Conversely, market cap share of Mid, Small, and Micro caps has crossed the Dec-17 highs and is at a 2-decade high. Profit Pool share of Mid, Small, and Micro caps has fallen from Jun'22 highs.

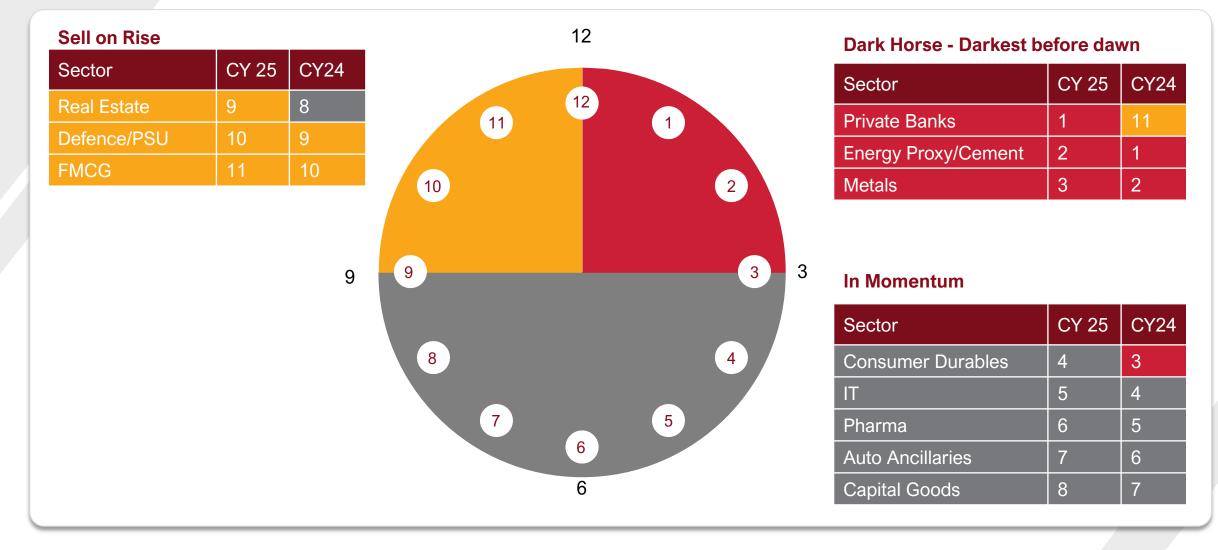
Source: ICICI Sec, ABSLAMC Research





While many of these "quant frameworks" can bring in objectivity, one still needs Human assessment of the cycles; all these frameworks help in is in reducing many human biases and to help in repeatability





Source: ABSLAMC Research





Turning constructive on private banks after being negative on them for last 18 months, as an anti-consensus call

Background: The De-rating Saga

- Super Normal Profits driven by high credit growth and expanding NIM
- Expanding Profit Pools (1% of GDP); at 25Y high
- De Rating Concerns: Sustainability issues coupled wth regulatory uncertainty.

Factors behind de-rating

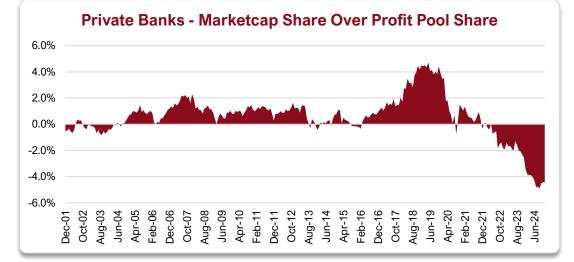
- RBIs tightened regulatory stance resulting in increased operating costs.
- Tri-legged stress in credit growth, NIM and increased credit costs.

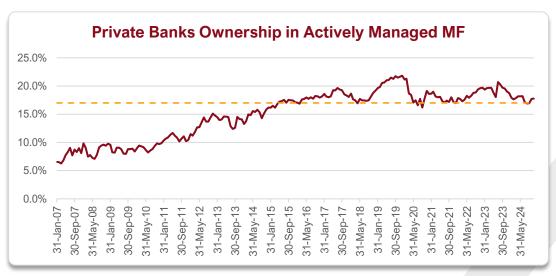
The case for Re-rating

- Bottom out: Private bank Mcap at lowest level relative to profit pool share.
- Ownership in active MF at Decade lows
- Strong Structural levers in place.

Risks

• Stress proliferation from MFI asset quality to other pockets coupled with prevalent earnings slowdown.









Global Economic Landscape: Loose policies in both the US and China, with further stimulus likely.

Risk of currency wars and significant CNY depreciation, impacting INR.

Metals Market Dynamics: Metals benefit from USD-denominated pricing for global cyclicals.

Profit Pool Share: Back to levels seen in 2001, near the 2016/2020 bottom.

MF ownership in metals near historic lows, slightly above 2016/2020 levels.

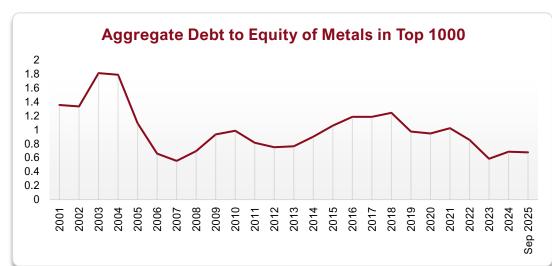
Indian metal companies' debt-to-equity ratios at multi-decadal lows, reflecting improved balance sheets.

Risk to the Call: Weak Chinese demand, especially in real estate.

Rising exports from China could export deflation, raising doubts about global metal price sustainability.



Metals & Metals Products Profit Pool Share 18.0% 16.0% 14.0% 12.0% 10.0% 8.0% 6.0% 4.0% 2.0% 0.0% Aug-08 Jun-09 Apr-10 Feb-11 Dec-11 Dec-12 Apr-15 Feb-16 Dec-16 Dec-16 Dec-16 Apr-20 Feb-21 Pec-21 Dec-06 Oct-07 Aug-03 Apr-05 Feb-06 Dec-01 Oct-02 Jun-04 Oct-22 Aug-23 Jun-24





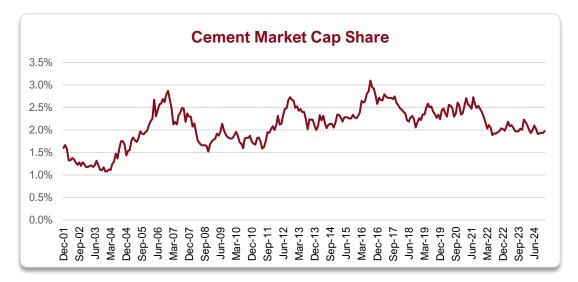
Energy Price Outlook: Base case: Energy prices range-bound with potential downward drift. If Trump's deregulation and 3mn barrels/day shale output increase materialize, further downward reset is possible.

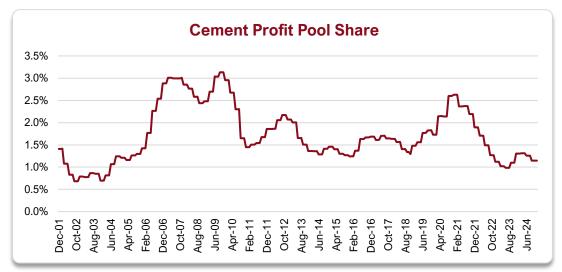
Cement Market Dynamics: Despite consolidation, cement price increases over the last decade have been weak. Cement companies are massively expanding capacities, pushing **profit pool share** to levels last seen in 2004.

Active MF ownership in cement sector is at a 10-year low; market cap share at a 15-year low.

Sector Performance: Cement lags behind real estate and infrastructure sectors despite similar demand drivers.

Risk to the Call: Continued consolidation may further depress prices, requiring significant patience for returns.









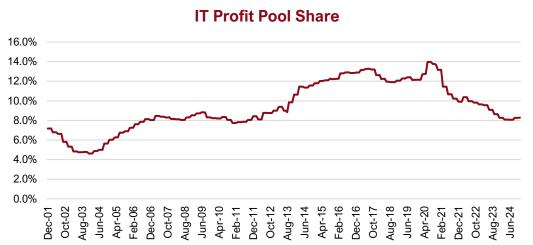
ADITYA BI

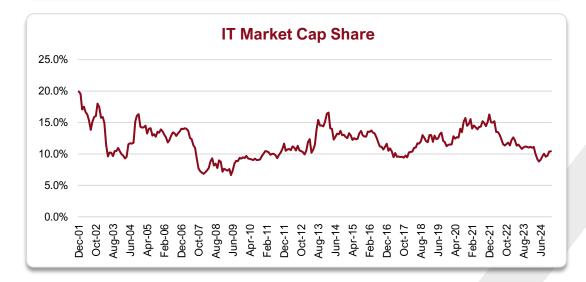
Historic Trends

- Profit pool share of IT sector has come down from 14% seen during Covid times to about 8% - back to levels seen in 2011-12
- Compared to Pre-covid, level of offshoring has gone up, which is typically margin accretive
- However, margins of most Indian IT companies are below pre-covid levels, due to aggressive hiring evidenced during Covid, and subsequent slowdown in growth.
- IT sector market cap share has also come down to 2009-10 levels

Growth Expectations

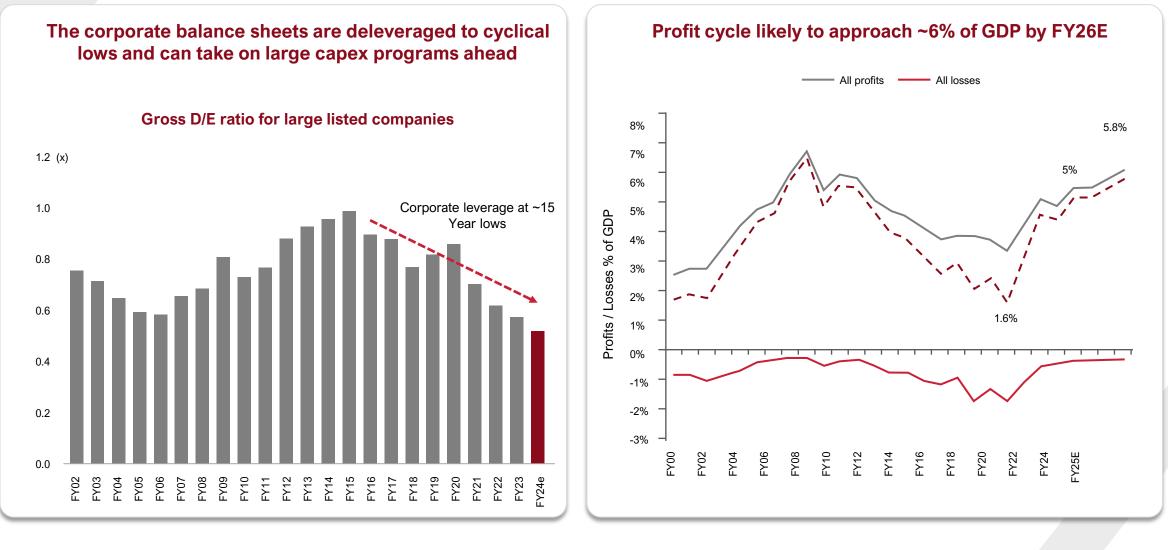
- With Trump policies likely to improve investment and profitability of corporates in US, we expect growth momentum to slowly revive.
- Over time, we expect margin also to improve leading to improving profit pool share
- While H2CY2023 has seen a big move, expect some consolidation but use volatility to further bolster exposure





Capex cycles appear to be favourable

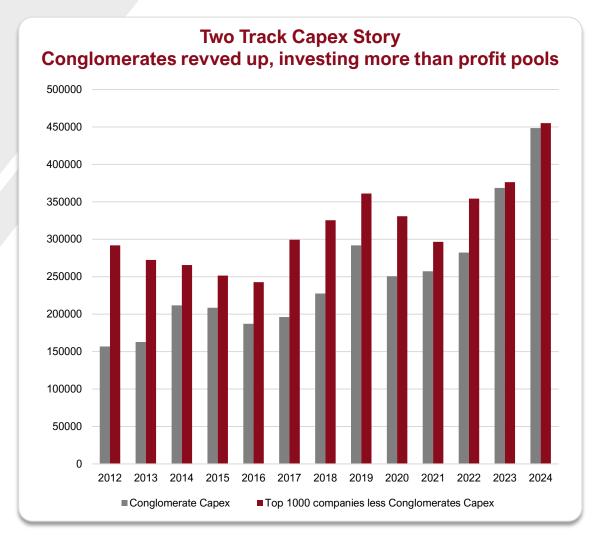




Source: ABSLAMC Research







Even as most other companies are in wait & watch mode, investing half of their profit pools ſ

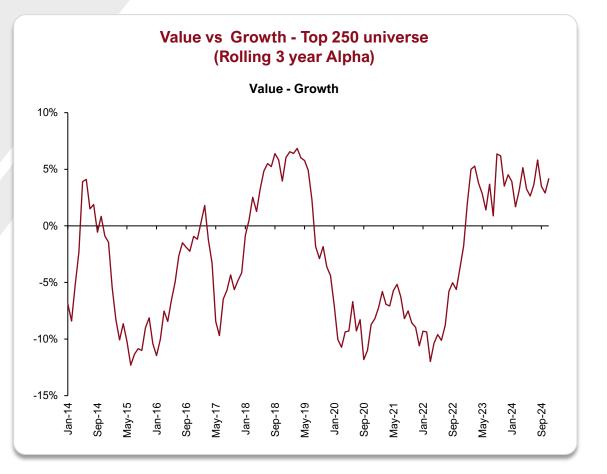
Conglomerate PAT Top 1000 companies less Conglomerates PAT

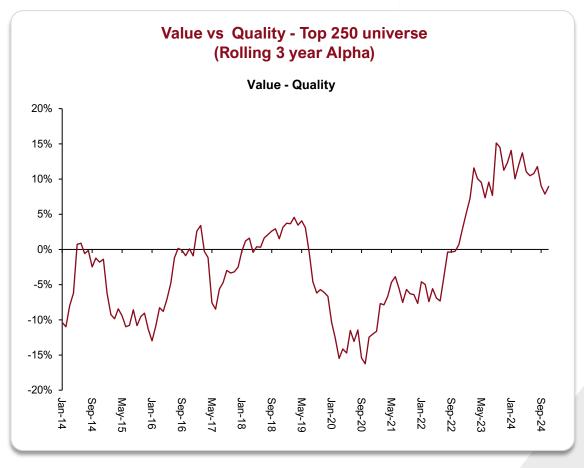
2018 2019

Source : Jefferies , ABSL AMC Research

With interest rates expected to decline, growth could outperform value. We could also see a rotation from value to quality

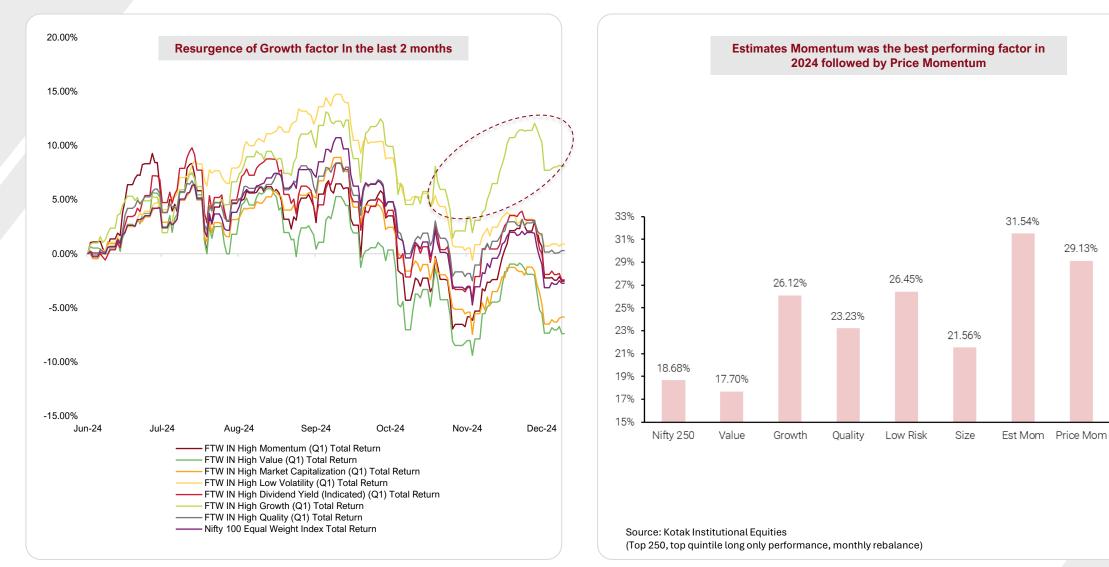




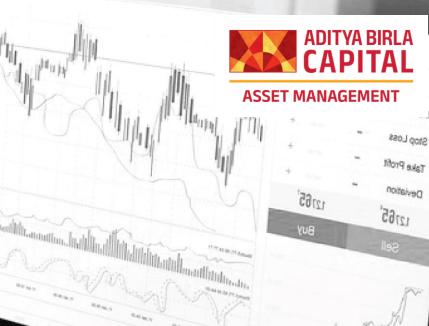


- On rolling 3-year basis, Value over Growth was its highest readings. Value has cooled out a bit and we can see Growth catching up to Value.
- On rolling 3-year basis, Value over Quality is also relatively high. This could also reverse as investor sentiment improves and they rotate out of Value stocks.



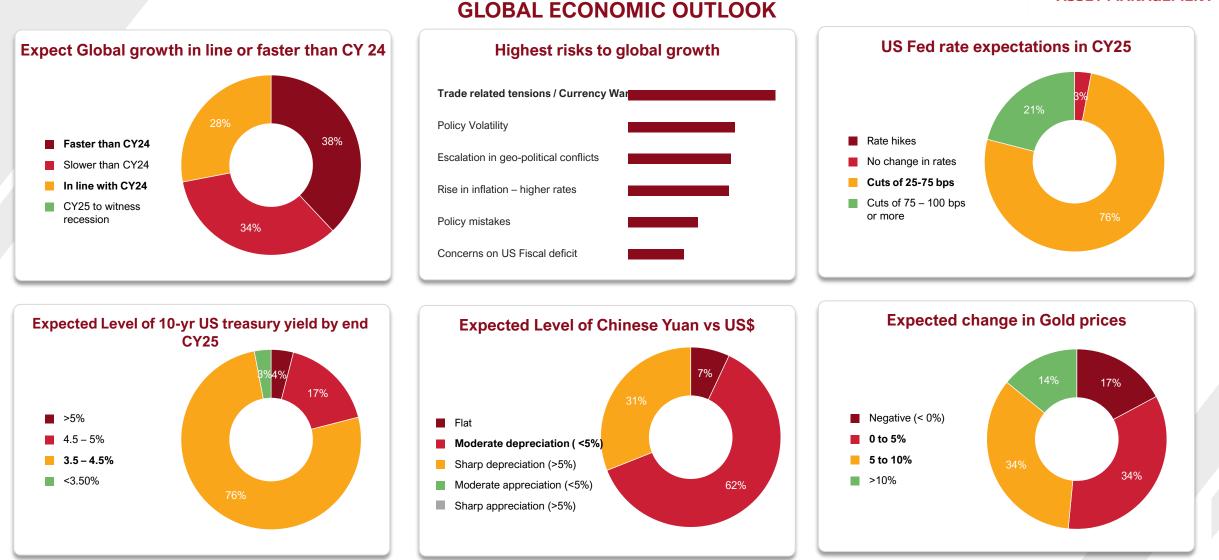


INVESTMENT MANAGER'S POLL



Global currency wars leave uncertainty on the table. Growth levers look stable

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT



Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited

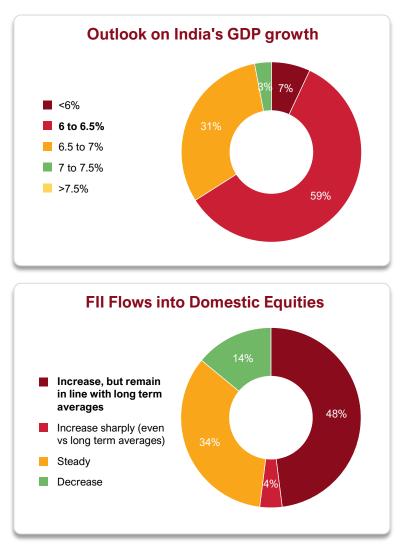
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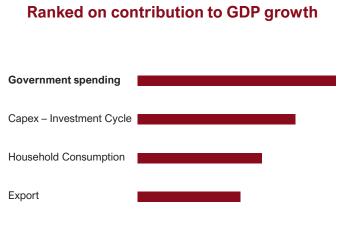
Booming GDP growth to be impacted by slowing consumption. FII flows to return



INDIA OUTLOOK



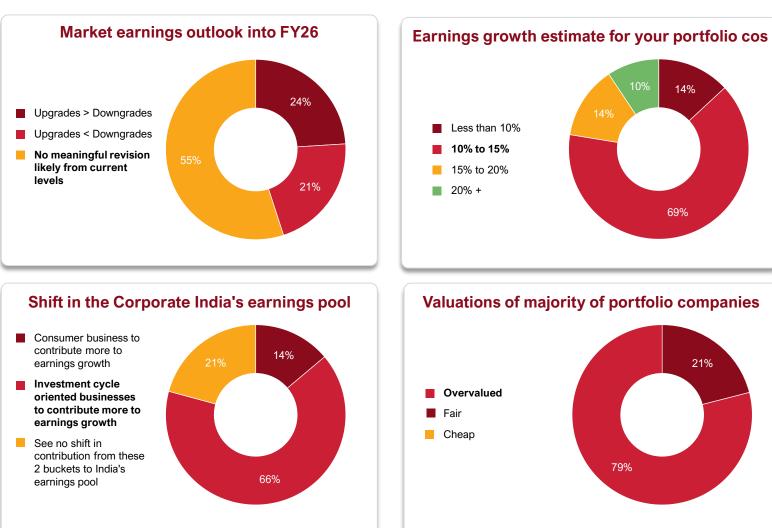
Key risks to India's growth outlookSlowing Household ConditionsGlobal Factors (Slowdown, geo-politics)Lower Govt. spending / Tepid capex growthDeterioration in credit conditionsHigh Inflation / High RatesINR depreciationState Elections / political Uncertainty





A Strategic moderation in the ECM, look for investment cycle themes

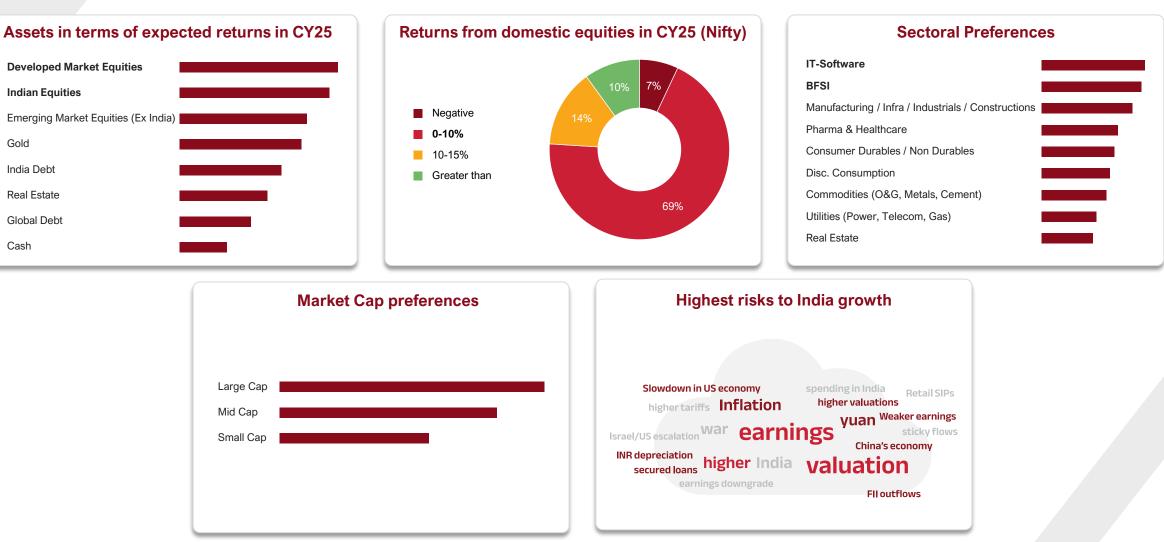




INDIA EARNINGS OUTLOOK

Bet on reliability over volatility for this CY

INDIA INVESTMENT OUTLOOK



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Indian Equities

Gold

Cash

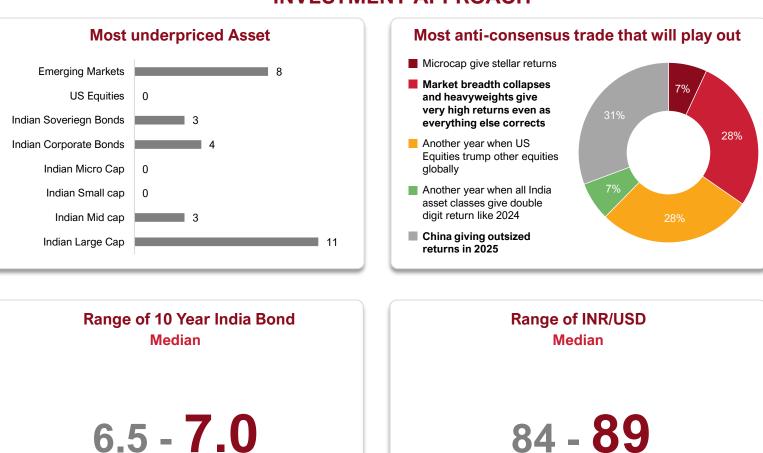
India Debt

Real Estate

Global Debt







INVESTMENT APPROACH



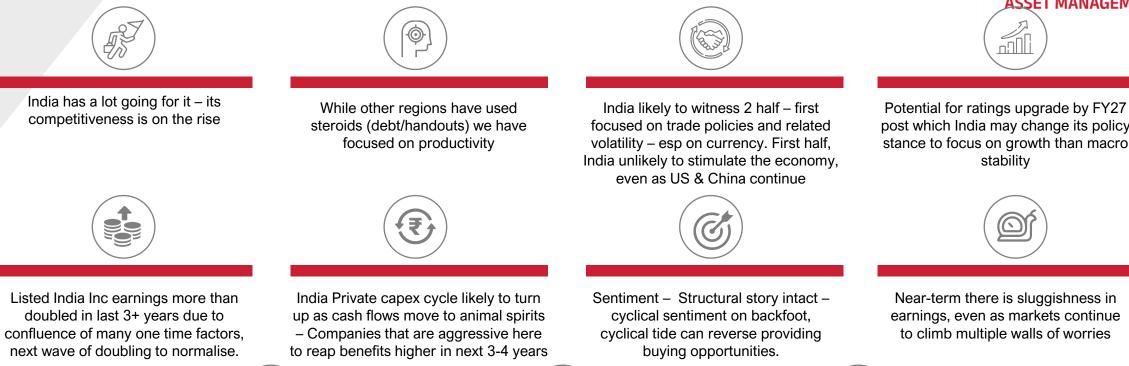




Asset Class	Expected Return For CY25	Comments
₹ ₹ Equity	8-12%	 Equity markets delivered strong returns, with homogeneity in returns across sectors. However, as we move forward, markets may consolidate in the near term and returns in CY25 are likely to moderate. While large-cap valuations remain reasonable, mid- and small-cap valuations appear stretched. Key short-term risks include growth falling below expectations—especially as markets have priced in a soft landing—and fewer or slower-than-expected rate cuts, which could trigger a deflationary impact on asset prices. Despite these risks, the medium-to-long-term outlook remains positive. Nifty earnings are expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) in the low-to-mid teens over the next three years, providing a strong foundation for equity returns. Given the current landscape, investors should adopt a measured approach to equity allocation, favoring large caps over mid- and small caps. Equity exposure in portfolios should be aligned with median levels, ensuring a balanced risk-reward profile while capitalizing on long-term growth opportunities.





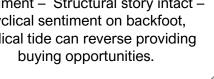


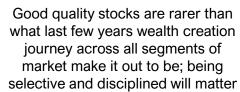
next wave of doubling to normalise.



Corporates that allocate capital well to be rewarded disproportionately!

Growth and quality investing to make a comeback after their disappointing run in last 3-4 years

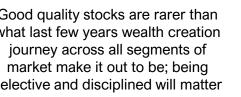




post which India may change its policy stance to focus on growth than macro



Near-term there is sluggishness in earnings, even as markets continue to climb multiple walls of worries



Keep faith in Indian Economy, picture abhi baaki hain mere dost!



Investor type	Fund	Suggested Mode
Conconvotivo Invostors	Aditya Birla Sun Life Balanced Advantage Fund	Lumpsum
Conservative Investors	Aditya Birla Sun Life Frontline Equity Fund	SIP
Moderate investors	Aditya Birla Sun Life Flexi Cap Fund	SIP
	Aditya Birla Sun Life Quant Fund	SIP
	Aditya Birla Sun Life GenNext Fund	SIP
Aggressive investors	Aditya Birla Sun Life Business Cycle Fund	SIP
	Aditya Birla Sun Life Banking & Financial Services Fund	Opportunistic
	Aditya Birla Sun Life Digital India Fund	Opportunistic
	Aditya Birla Sun Life Multi Asset Allocation Fund	Lumpsum
All-rounder	Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Allocation FoF	Lumpsum



(An open ended Dynamic Asset Allocation fund)					
This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:					
 Capital appreciation and regular income in the long term Investment in equity & equity related securities as well as fixed income securities (Debt & Money Market securities) 					
Risk-o-meter	Benchmark Risk-o-meter				
The risk of the scheme is High	CRISIL Hybrid 50+50 - Moderate Index				
*Investors should consult their financial advisors if in doubt whether the product is suitable for them.					

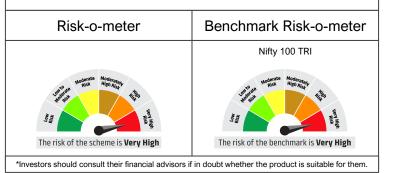
Aditya Birla Sun Life Balanced Advantage Fund

Aditya Birla Sun Life Frontline Equity Fund

(An Open ended equity scheme predominantly investing in large cap stocks)

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- Long term capital growth
- Investments in equity and equity related securities, diversified across various industries in line with the benchmark index, Nifty 100 TRI

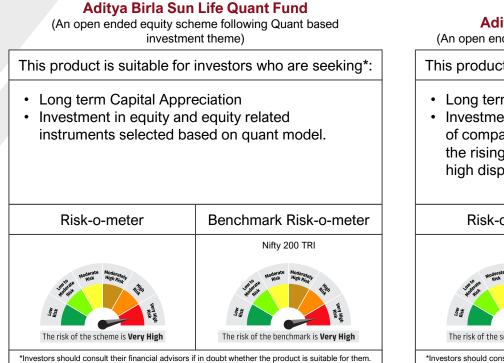


Aditya Birla Sun Life Flexi Cap Fund

(An open ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap, small cap stocks)

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:				
 Long term capital growth Investments in equity and equity related securities 				
Risk-o-meter	Benchmark Risk-o-meter			
The risk of the scheme is Very High	Nifty 500 TRI			
*Investors should consult their financial advisors	*Investors should consult their financial advisors if in doubt whether the product is suitable for them.			





Aditya Birla Sun Life GenNext Fund (An open ended equity scheme following Consumption theme) This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*: • Long term capital growth • Investments in equity and equity related securities of companies that are expected to benefit from the rising consumption patterns in India fuelled by high disposable incomes Risk-o-meter Benchmark Risk-o-meter NIFTY India Consumption TRI

ne scheme is Very High

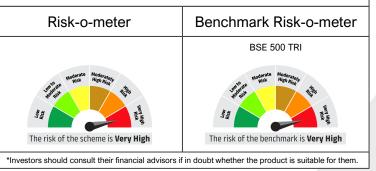
*Investors should consult their financial advisors if in doubt whether the product is suitable for them.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Business Cycle Fund

(An open ended equity scheme following business cycles based investing theme)

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- Long term capital appreciation
- •An equity scheme investing in Indian equity & equity related securities with focus on riding business cycles through dynamic allocation between various sectors and stocks at different stages of business cycles in the economy





Aditya Birla Sun Life Banking and Financial Services Fund

(An open ended equity scheme investing in the Banking & Financial Services sectors)

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- Long term capital growth
- Investments in equity and equity related securities of companies engaged in banking and financial services

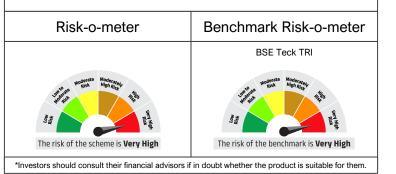
Risk-o-meter	Benchmark Risk-o-meter	
	Nifty Financial Services TRI	
Honorate Barrier Hannak	and the second s	
The risk of the scheme is Very High	The risk of the benchmark is Very High	
*Investors should consult their financial advisors if in doubt whether the product is suitable for them.		

Aditya Birla Sun Life Digital India Fund

(An open ended equity scheme investing in the Technology, Telecom, Media, Entertainment and other related ancillary sectors)

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- Long term capital growth
- Investments in equity and equity related securities with a focus on investing in IT, Media, Telecom related and other technology enabled companies



Aditya Birla Sun Life Multi Asset Allocation Fund

(An open ended scheme investing in Equity, Debt and Commodities)

 This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*: Long term capital appreciation Investment in equity and equity related securities, debt & money market instruments and Commodities. 		
Risk-o-meter	Benchmark Risk-o-meter	
	65% BSE 200 TRI + 25% CRISIL Short Term Bond Index + 5% of Domestic prices of Gold + 5% of Domestic	



Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Allocator FoF

(An open ended fund of fund scheme investing predominantly in equity schemes, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) & debt schemes)

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*:				
 Capital appreciation in the long term Investment in portfolio of equity schemes, Exchange Traded Funds & debt schemes 				
Risk-o-meter	Benchmark Risk-o-meter			
The risk of the scheme is High	CRISIL Hybrid 50+50 - Moderate Index			





Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future. The calculations provided above are based on assumed rate of returns and it are meant for illustration purposes only. Loads are not taken into consideration in the above investment simulation. Returns greater than one year are compounded annualized growth rate. Neither Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund / Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited nor any person connected with them, makes no warranty about the accuracy of the calculations and will not accept any liability arising from the use of the same. The recipient(s) before acting on any information herein should make his/her/their own investigation and shall alone be fully responsible/liable for any decision taken on the basis of information contained herein.

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