

June 03, 2022

Better FY22; pick-up in growth to drive valuation...

The banking sector has outperformed against the overall market (the Bank Nifty registered a fall of 1.6% whereas the Nifty fell 3.7% in the past three months) as the earnings outlook has improved due to expected lower credit cost, improved asset quality and better topline growth.

Challenges pertaining to the pandemic are behind us. Thus, we expect normalisation of business activities to be seen in credit offtake as well as collection efficiency ahead.

Taking over the baton from the previous quarter, bank credit growth has picked up pace, further led by the retail and MSME segments. The corporate segment is showing green shoots of revival as working capital limits are getting utilised. Bank credit growth is expected to pick up further as the impact of pandemic led disruptions recede, demand improves further, ECLGS scheme gets extended, etc. We believe NPAs have largely bottomed out with lower credit cost expected to aid earnings trajectory ahead.

Banking sector outlook:

- Overall non-food credit has grown 11.3% in April 2022, which is meaningfully up when compared to a trajectory of ~5.5% level seen during the beginning of FY22. As per latest sectoral deployment data, pick up in credit growth is largely driven by retail and MSME segment as they were up 14.7% and 35.1%, respectively, on a yearly basis. MSME segment has seen robust growth of over 30% in the past few months. This can be attributed to a pick-up in overall business activity and extension of ECLGS till March 2023. We believe bank credit growth will increase further as pandemic issues take a back seat
- GNPA ratio for banks in our coverage declined in the range of 10-70 bps with average drop being at ~40 bps. PCR has inched up 150 bps QoQ to ~72%. Restructured book also declined by an average of 25 bps QoQ, thus indicating overall reduction in stress. We believe NPAs have largely bottomed out for banks with the trend expected to continue to remain positive ahead. Existing provision buffers, decline in stress and other resolutions are expected to keep credit cost benign
- Overall, this quarter saw healthy business momentum continuing with improvement in asset quality. HDFC Bank outperformed its comparable peers on the growth front while Kotak and IDFC First Bank also recorded a strong loan trajectory. Private banks have clearly outperformed their PSU counterparts, growing 15% YoY and 6% QoQ
- In an off-cycle policy meet, RBI increased its repo rate to 4.4%, with reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35% and MSF at 4.65%. Also, in a recent media interview the RBI governor had hinted that there would be a rate hike in the coming months, thus indicating continuance in further hardening of rates

We prefer lenders with healthy CASA base, higher floating rate asset, adequate PCR and capital. Thus, we have a positive stance on Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance among large lenders and SBI Life, Star Health in the insurance coverage universe. We prefer SBI among PSU banks as bottoming of NPA and business growth would aid earnings trajectory and, thus, return ratios ahead. Continued competition from new age fintech players is expected to keep the performance of mid-sized banks volatile. Collaborative structure of neo banks could assist traditional banks to showcase and widen their offerings mostly towards untapped segment.

Sector View

Banks / HFCs – Overweight

Insurance – Neutral

NBFC / Brokerage / AMC – Neutral

Research Analyst

Kajal Gandhi
kajal.gandhi@icicisecurities.com

Vishal Narnolia
vishal.narnolia@icicisecurities.com

Sameer Sawant
sameer.sawant@icicisecurities.com

Q4FY22 quarterly highlights

- GNPA ratio for banks in our coverage declined in the range of 10-70 bps with the average drop being ~40 bps. PCR has inched up 150 bps QoQ to ~72%. Restructured book also declined by an average of 25 bps QoQ, thus indicating an overall reduction in stress. Kotak Mahindra Bank saw highest reduction in GNPA at 37 bps QoQ among private peers in our coverage
- In the PSU space, SBI continued to maintain its healthy run on the asset quality front as GNPA was down 42 bps while restructuring also declined 10 bps QoQ
- Despite a few weeks of hiccups due to the pandemic, rest of the quarter saw an upsurge in business activities and loan growth, which were at 8.7% YoY & 4.6% QoQ to ₹ 111 lakh crore. Private banks have clearly outperformed their PSU counterparts, growing 15% YoY and 6% QoQ
- NII grew at a healthy 17% YoY but only 1% QoQ due to the relatively higher pace of deposit accretion and increasing competitive intensity in secured lending segment. Other income was down 19% YoY as treasury income was impacted due to hardening of yield (especially for PSU banks). However, sequentially, due to better loan growth, fee income saw some spike
- C/I ratio declined 60 bps QoQ from 49.6% to 49% QoQ, mainly on account of better growth in topline and control over opex
- Credit cost (provisions) for the quarter declined YoY due to better asset quality performance. However, sequentially it was slightly up by ~8% as a few large banks took additional provisions to strengthen balance sheet while some opted to write off bad loans
- Overall, this quarter saw healthy business momentum continuing from the last quarter as also improvement in asset quality. HDFC Bank outperformed its comparable peers on the growth front while Kotak and IDFC First also posted a strong loan trajectory

Valuations in range; sustainable growth to drive price performance

The banking sector has underperformed against the overall market (the Bank Nifty registered growth of ~11% whereas the Nifty grew ~36% in the last three years) largely due to concerns like subdued bank credit growth and asset quality pressure. Subdued bank credit growth observed in the last few years was mainly on account of weak demand, balance sheet deleveraging, shift to other funding sources and risk aversion by lenders. The underperformance was further compounded by the outbreak of Covid-19 given heightened uncertainty on growth and asset quality.

In the last three years, asset quality of SCBs (largely supported by PSBs) improved after a long period of stress, driven by lower fresh slippages, resolution, write-offs, recapitalisation and sale of doubtful/loss assets to ARCs by taking haircuts. Asset quality of banks seems to have bottomed out as GNPA ratio of all SCBs moderated to their lowest level in the last six years. We remain watchful on slippages arising out of restructured loans and loans under various dispensation schemes during the pandemic.

Restructured book continued to decline further in Q4FY22. Among PSU banks, Indian Bank, Canara Bank, BoB and SBI witnessed a decline of 65 bps, 50 bps, 25 bps and 10 bps, respectively, in their restructured book. Among private banks, IndusInd bank recorded the highest decline of 70 bps in the restructured book.

Most banks had frontloaded provisions in the last few years in anticipation of rising stress post end of various regulatory dispensations (like ECLGS, moratorium, etc). Lower incremental provision requirement aided by lower slippages resulted in increasing provision coverage ratio (PCR) for SCBs.

As the impact of the pandemic recedes and economic activities gathered pace, bank credit growth started picking up gradually (since August 2021) led by retail and MSME segment. For FY22, bank credit growth increased to 9.7% YoY. Retail credit growth was primarily driven by lower interest rates, credit push by banks by offering discounts, cashback offers and revival in the overall economy. Interestingly, bank credit growth in the agriculture segment was healthy even during the pandemic period, led by continued government support of interest subvention scheme. Bank credit growth to industry picked up to 7.1% YoY in FY22 compared to contraction of 0.4% in FY21, primarily led by MSME segment owing to government support.

Considering these factors, we believe the worst for the banking sector is behind, in terms of lower growth and NPA issues. Going ahead, it is likely to witness expansion from here on led by economic revival, rise in capex, retail credit push. Sustainable and improving credit growth is seen driving valuations, though rising rates cycle may act as a near term deterrent.

Credit growth trajectory improving, retail & MSME catalyst

Ever since unlocking 2.0 began, bank credit offtake has shown continuous improvement aided by pent up demand, higher business activity and festive season. Overall non-food credit has witnessed a continuous improvement at 11.3% in April 2022, meaningfully up compared to a trajectory of ~5.5% level seen during the beginning of FY22.

As per RBI's latest sectoral deployment data, pick-up in credit growth is largely driven by retail and MSME (medium + micro & small) segment as they were up 14.7% and 35.1%, respectively, on a yearly basis. Within the retail segment, credit cards saw strong growth of 20% YoY. Healthy pick-up in credit card segment can also be substantiated by the fact that card spends have crossed the ₹ 1 lakh crore mark in March, April 2022. This landmark was only achieved since October 2021 when spends had surged on the back of festive demand. Vehicle and housing segment (ex-priority) also reported decent growth of 11.5% and 13.7% YoY, respectively.

Large industry segment, which forms ~20% of the total bank credit, had remained a drag on overall credit-offtake by posting de-growth in the initial period of the fiscal. However, in the past six months, growth in this segment has moved into the positive zone and is at 1.6% for April 2022. As heard from various management commentary, utilisation of working capital limits has increased and could be gradually followed by borrowing for capex requirement.

The MSME segment has seen robust growth of over 30% in the past few months. This can be attributed to a pick-up in overall business activity and extension of ECLGS till March 2023. We believe bank credit growth should increase with multiple between GDP and advances estimated at ~1.5x in FY23-24E.

Exhibit 1: Industry wise credit deployment data

| ₹ crores | Nov-21 | Dec-21 | Jan-22 | Feb-22 | Mar-22 | Apr-22 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Non-Food Credit | 1,10,79,831 | 1,15,94,733 | 1,15,00,052 | 1,15,58,783 | 1,18,35,628 | 1,19,12,088 |
| Agriculture & Allied Activities | 13,44,129 | 14,17,969 | 14,32,743 | 14,48,928 | 14,61,350 | 14,78,559 |
| Industry | 28,64,911 | 29,85,278 | 30,46,833 | 31,35,271 | 31,52,449 | 31,52,414 |
| Large | 22,71,089 | 23,13,458 | 23,59,037 | 24,15,757 | 24,06,372 | 23,89,232 |
| Services | 26,26,577 | 28,48,108 | 29,04,619 | 29,66,593 | 30,17,116 | 30,18,767 |
| NBFCs | 9,20,630 | 10,02,081 | 10,14,179 | 10,27,183 | 10,78,447 | 10,91,216 |
| Personal Loans | 29,85,430 | 30,87,845 | 31,80,477 | 33,06,650 | 33,85,827 | 34,42,993 |
| Housing (Including Priority Se | 14,90,157 | 15,21,439 | 15,52,989 | 15,78,125 | 16,84,424 | 17,06,286 |
| Credit Card Outstanding | 1,22,111 | 1,24,743 | 1,41,254 | 1,44,004 | 1,47,782 | 1,53,681 |
| Vehicle Loans | 2,75,249 | 2,79,485 | 2,81,518 | 3,29,636 | 4,02,667 | 4,13,536 |

| YOY growth (%) | Nov-21 | Dec-21 | Jan-22 | Feb-22 | Mar-22 | Apr-22 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Non-Food Credit | 7.1% | 9.3% | 8.3% | 8.0% | 9.7% | 11.3% |
| Agriculture & Allied Activities | 10.4% | 14.5% | 10.4% | 10.4% | 9.9% | 10.6% |
| Industry | 3.8% | 7.6% | 6.4% | 6.5% | 7.5% | 8.1% |
| Large | 0.0% | 1.3% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 1.9% | 1.6% |
| Services | 3.6% | 10.8% | 7.3% | 5.6% | 8.7% | 11.1% |
| NBFCs | 5.2% | 13.4% | 10.7% | 14.6% | 11.2% | 17.4% |
| Retail | 11.6% | 14.3% | 11.6% | 12.3% | 12.6% | 14.7% |
| Housing (Including Priority Se | 8.0% | 9.3% | 7.6% | 6.7% | 12.9% | 13.7% |
| Credit Card Outstanding | 6.8% | 13.0% | 9.3% | 9.9% | 12.6% | 20.0% |
| Vehicle Loans | 7.7% | 8.3% | 2.5% | 10.3% | 9.3% | 11.5% |

| Proportion (%) | Nov-21 | Dec-21 | Jan-22 | Feb-22 | Mar-22 | Apr-22 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Agriculture & Allied Activities | 13.8% | 14.5% | 14.7% | 14.8% | 15.0% | 15.1% |
| Industry | 29.3% | 30.6% | 31.2% | 32.1% | 32.3% | 32.3% |
| Large | 20.5% | 20.0% | 20.5% | 20.9% | 20.3% | 20.1% |
| Services | 26.9% | 29.2% | 29.7% | 30.4% | 30.9% | 30.9% |
| NBFCs | 8.3% | 8.6% | 8.8% | 8.9% | 9.1% | 9.2% |
| Retail | 30.6% | 31.6% | 32.6% | 33.8% | 34.7% | 35.2% |
| Housing (Including Priority Se | 13.4% | 13.1% | 13.5% | 13.7% | 14.2% | 14.3% |
| Credit Card Outstanding | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.2% | 1.2% | 1.3% |
| Vehicle Loans | 2.5% | 2.4% | 2.4% | 2.9% | 3.4% | 3.5% |

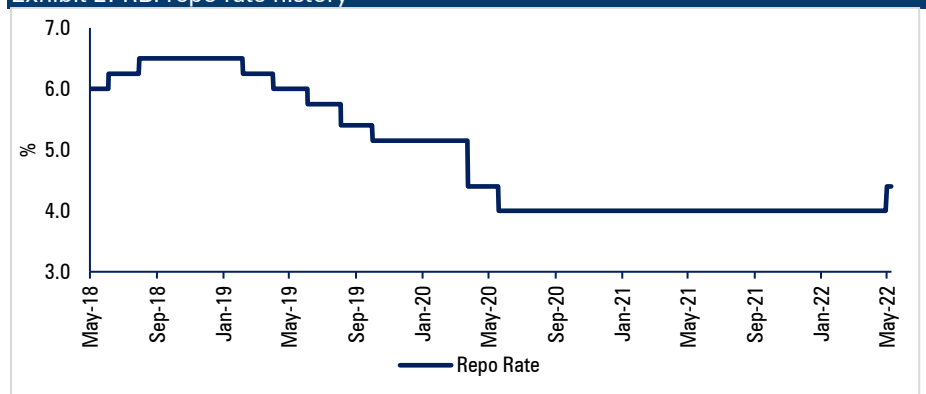
Source: RBI, ICICI Direct Research

RBI hikes repo in off-cycle policy meet; rates to harden further

In an off-cycle policy meet, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased its repo rate to 4.4%, with reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35% and MSF at 4.65% while all MPC members unanimously voted to increase rates.

According to RBI, global commodity prices are driving food inflation in India. International crude oil prices remain high but volatile, posing considerable upside risks to the inflation trajectory. Core inflation is likely to remain elevated in the coming months, reflecting high domestic prices.

Exhibit 2: RBI repo rate history



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research;

The market reaction to the surprise rate hike was sharply negative with yields across the curve moving up almost 50 bps. The 10-year benchmark G-Sec yield rose sharply by more than 25 bps to 7.40% immediately after the announcement. The risk of inflation overshooting the upper target band of 6.0% for three consecutive quarters is high. Inflation for Q4FY22 was at 6.3% with RBI's own projection for Q1FY23, Q2FY23 at 6.3%, 5.8%, respectively. CPI for April 2022 has touched near eight year's high of 7.8% wherein food inflation jumped to a 17-month high of 8.38%. Given the risk of breach of inflation mandate being high, MPC may resort to successive rate hikes in its upcoming policy meetings. Further, in a recent media interview, the RBI governor had hinted that there would be a rate hike in the coming months, thus indicating continuance in further hardening of rates.

NBFCs would feel the heat of rising interest rates more than banks. CRR rate hike is going to impact banks blocking liquidity and raising negative carry.

Exhibit 3: Impact of 50 bps hike in CRR on top banks

| ₹ crore | Deposits + Borrowings | Loss of yields due to 50bps CRR hike |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| State Bank of India | 42,28,581 | 5% |
| Bank of Baroda | 10,53,468 | 5% |
| Punjab National Bank | 11,48,996 | 6% |
| Canara Bank | 11,07,650 | 6% |
| Union Bank of India | 9,65,886 | 5% |
| HDFC Bank | 17,44,035 | 4% |
| Axis Bank | 10,06,855 | 4% |
| Kotak Mahindra Bank | 3,37,651 | 3% |
| IndusInd Bank | 3,41,005 | 5% |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research; Note: HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank & IndusInd Bank data as on Mar'22, rest all data is as on Sept'21

Rate trajectory to impact treasury; margin to gain in interim

As we know, inflation has been moving northwards due to various domestic and global developments. RBI, in order to control inflation, has resorted to rate hike and also indicated further rate hike possibilities ahead. The 10-year G-sec yields have moved up by over 80 bps since beginning of this calendar year. Due to inverse relationship with bond prices, we can say that treasury income for banks will get impacted as investments in AFS and HFT category would see MTM loss.

Exhibit 4: Interest rate moving northwards



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research;

PSU banks generally have higher quantum of investment as proportion to deposits on account of strong deposit profile but credit deployment is lesser. This is very visible from the fact that private banks have a credit-deposit ratio (C/D) in the general range of 80-85% while PSU banks C/D ratio ranges at 65-70%, which means more quantum of money is deployed in investments, mostly in bonds. Hence, we believe PSU banks will bear greatest brunt on treasury income as interest rate rises further. This, in turn, would negatively affect topline. However, as other operating parameters improve the effect could be negated.

Exhibit 5: Treasury income of PSU banks showing declining trend

| Rs crore | Treasury income of PSU Banks | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Q1FY21 | Q2FY21 | Q3FY21 | Q4FY21 | Q1FY22 | Q2FY22 | Q3FY22 | Q4FY22 |
| SBI | 4,025 | 1,084 | 959 | (37) | 2,102 | 429 | 514 | 178 |
| BoB | 541 | 1,113 | 940 | 873 | 844 | 1,167 | 446 | (683) |
| BoI | 914 | 256 | 649 | 66 | 880 | 429 | 210 | (111) |
| Canara Bank | 887 | 464 | 1,395 | 178 | 617 | 1,133 | 320 | 523 |
| PNB | 1,324 | 649 | 986 | (171) | 1,419 | 880 | 625 | 12 |
| Indian Bank | 632 | 578 | 154 | 291 | 615 | 395 | 245 | 84 |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research;

As we can see from above table, treasury income for PSU banks has been on a declining trend in the past few quarters as a result of hardening of interest rates. However, we believe now the impact would be slightly lower led by a decline in modified duration for most PSUs.

On the margins front, we believe with 70-80% of bank loans being on a floating rate basis, a general rise in interest rate should aid margins in the near term. Though deposits rate may also rise, we believe this would come with a lag as nearly 45% of total banking deposits are CASA deposits, which have zero to low interest rate. Hence, the cost impact from them would be minimal. Yields on 70-80% of assets would get repriced. Hence, NIMs should see some spike in the short run while lower slippages, better recoveries should also support margins as interest reversals would be less.

Asset quality trend continues to improve; credit cost fear out of sight

According to the recent quarter numbers, the asset quality performance was better than the previous quarter aided by lower slippages and better recoveries. GNPA ratio for banks, in our coverage, declined in the range of ~10-70 bps with an overall decline of ~40 bps QoQ. Bandhan Bank reported a significant improvement in GNPA ratio (from 10.8% in Q3FY22 to 6.5% in Q4FY22). For banks under our coverage universe, restructured book declined in the range of ~10-70 bps QoQ, thus indicating overall reduction in the stress pool.

Among PSU banks, SBI continued to post a healthy asset quality performance with multi quarter low slippages at 0.99% (1.16% in Q3FY22) and multi quarter low credit cost at 0.55% (0.57% in Q3FY22). Overall credit cost for banks was largely stable QoQ at 1.3% in Q4FY22. Whereas for PSU banks, it increased by 21 bps QoQ, for private banks it declined 24 bps QoQ.

Recent management commentary suggests no material slippages from restructured or ECLGS pool. However, RBI has been suggesting caution with respect to the restructured asset. Overall, we remain watchful of the performance of restructured pool. However, given the revival in the economy and performing assets being allowed to be restructured, we believe slippages from the pool should not be significant. Thus, we believe NPAs have largely bottomed out for banks with the trend expected to continue to remain positive ahead. Existing provision buffers, decline in stress and other resolutions are expected to keep credit cost benign, thus supporting earnings growth.

Exhibit 6: Asset quality of Indian banking system as of March 2022

| | Q4FY20 | Q1FY21 | Q2FY21 | Q3FY21 | Q4FY21 | Q1FY22 | Q2FY22 | Q3FY22 | Q4FY22 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| GNPA | 807912 | 777496 | 761338 | 709300 | 776133 | 778716 | 741765 | 711406 | 688913 |
| NNPA | 259673 | 237543 | 201497 | 166003 | 239114 | 243520 | 225217 | 207756 | 190612 |
| GNPA ratio | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 6.1 | 5.8 |
| NNPA ratio | 2.4 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| GNPA of PSU banks | 668666 | 665587 | 632735 | 597945 | 636504 | 632026 | 601278 | 578060 | 562214 |
| GNPA of Private banks | 148121 | 120757 | 137451 | 119845 | 148962 | 155745 | 150310 | 142983 | 136334 |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Neo banks – Collaborative offering rather than competition with traditional banks

Introduction to new age banking offering

Neo banks are digital banks that have no brick and mortar presence, offering services similar to traditional banks. It works on “Banking as a Service (BAAS)” model. They leverage technology and artificial intelligence to offer personalised services to customers while minimising operating costs. There are mainly three types 1) Digital only banks 2) Over the top neo banks and 3) Digital only brands. Digital only banks require a banking license. Over the top neo banks are a standalone digital platform. Digital only brands are created by traditional banks – YONO (by SBI) and Kotak 811 (by Kotak Mahindra Bank).

Features/benefits

Neo banks offer user-friendly interfaces, lower fee services on consumer and SME banking side and act as digital acquisition engines for traditional banks. In addition, neo banks also offer value added services like online customer support, alerts and notifications, etc, to improve user experience. As the business model is digital, neo banks have lower operational cost and can run operations with minimum manpower. With the help of neo banks, traditional banks can offer specific services to their targeted customers at minimum cost.

Target segments

Neo banks are primarily consumer focused (young population) and SME focused. Consumer focused neo banks focus on targeted services based on transaction history, beyond FDs and debit/credit cards. (e.g. NiYo, Jupiter, Fi, Slice). SME focused neo banks provide software solutions related to payables and receivables, services like tax filing, payrolls, etc (e.g. Open, Razorpay X). Fintech company Niyoy, in association with SBM Bank India and Visa, now offers a digital savings account with Niyoy Global.

Business model

Neo banks get commission income from partner banks based on per transaction and distribution fee for financial products sold on their platforms. e.g. Jupiter (Neobank) has a tie-up with Federal Bank. If a customer uses a debit card or takes a loan or buys an insurance policy using Jupiter app/card, they will get a commission.

Collaboration rather than competition

Neo banks are bridging the gap between the services that traditional banks offer and the rising needs of customers in the digital age. The main constraint that neo banks face in India is not having a banking license of their own. They cannot accept deposits and give loans on their own balance sheet. This leads to large dependency on traditional banks for core operations. Expansion of these banks will be driven by their own product offerings. However, capital requirement to grow their business is also a constraint.

Neo banks may pave the way for banking to go digital but a regulatory framework needs to emerge that will determine how the data generated by neo banks should be used and how they can customise their products based on available data.

One of the important parameters from a customer perspective while choosing a banking partner is “customer trust” and “brand image”. Thus, in the initial phase, neo banks are to be seen as “collaborative” rather than “competition” which will enable them to broaden the overall market and enhance customer experience through personalised offerings.

Annexure

Exhibit 7: Asset quality scenario

| Asset quality trend | GNPA (₹ crore) | | | | | NNPA (₹ crore) | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Q4FY21 | Q1FY22 | Q2FY22 | Q3FY22 | Q4FY22 | Q4FY21 | Q1FY22 | Q2FY22 | Q3FY22 | Q4FY22 |
| PSU coverage | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bank of Baroda | 66,671 | 63,029 | 59,504 | 55,997 | 57,117 | 21,800 | 20,260 | 19,602 | 16,465 | 16,564 |
| SBI | 1,26,389 | 1,34,259 | 1,23,942 | 1,20,028 | 1,18,529 | 36,810 | 43,153 | 37,119 | 34,530 | 36,130 |
| Indian Bank | 38,455 | 37,759 | 36,886 | 36,540 | 35,214 | 12,271 | 12,653 | 11,749 | 10,155 | 8,848 |
| Private coverage | | | | | | | | | | |
| Axis Bank | 25,315 | 25,950 | 24,149 | 23,301 | 24,000 | 6,994 | 7,846 | 7,200 | 6,513 | 6,643 |
| City Union Bank | 1,893 | 2,035 | 2,119 | 1,999 | 1,933 | 1,075 | 1,242 | 1,294 | 1,296 | 1,191 |
| DCB Bank | 1,083 | 1,269 | 1,285 | 1,340 | 1,289 | 594 | 719 | 707 | 697 | 573 |
| IndusInd Bank | 5,795 | 6,186 | 6,245 | 5,779 | 5,490 | 1,477 | 1,760 | 1,771 | 1,633 | 1,552 |
| Federal Bank | 4,602 | 4,649 | 4,446 | 4,401 | 4,357 | 1,569 | 1,593 | 1,502 | 1,471 | 1,442 |
| HDFC Bank | 15,086 | 17,099 | 16,346 | 16,146 | 16,141 | 4,555 | 5,486 | 4,755 | 4,655 | 4,408 |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 8: Quarterly margin trend

| NIM (%) | Q3FY21 | Q4FY21 | Q1FY22 | Q2FY22 | Q3FY22 | Q4FY22 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| PSU coverage | | | | | | |
| Bank of Baroda | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| SBI | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Indian Bank | 3.1 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Private coverage | | | | | | |
| Axis Bank | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| City Union Bank | 4.2 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| DCB Bank | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Federal Bank | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| HDFC Bank | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Kotak Mahindra Bank | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| IndusInd Bank | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Bandhan Bank | 8.3 | 6.8 | 8.5 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.8 |

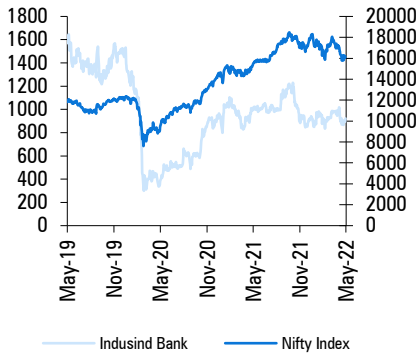
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: Key financials of industry as of Q4FY22

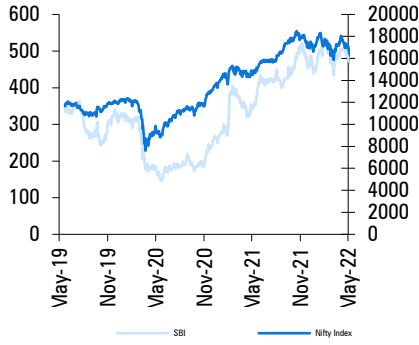
| (₹ crore) | Q4FY22 | Q3FY22 | Q2FY22 | Q1FY22 | Q4FY21 |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| NII | 135379 | 134454 | 127332 | 122258 | 116098 |
| Growth YoY | 16.6 | 9.6 | 6.3 | 0.6 | 3.7 |
| Other income | 54439 | 50257 | 52771 | 55737 | 67232 |
| Growth YoY | -19.0 | -4.4 | 16.2 | 26.2 | 16.0 |
| Total operating exp. | 93068 | 91564 | 94774 | 81071 | 88022 |
| Staff cost | 41972 | 44064 | 43802 | 42665 | 41919 |
| Operating profit | 96750 | 93147 | 85328 | 96924 | 95309 |
| Growth YoY | 1.5 | -0.6 | -3.5 | 4.6 | 15.1 |
| Provision | 36158 | 33553 | 34379 | 54543 | 61559 |
| PBT | 60593 | 59595 | 50949 | 42422 | 33751 |
| PAT | 45837 | 43698 | 43462 | 31155 | 24748 |
| Growth YoY | 85.2 | 52.4 | 61.4 | 44.2 | NM |
| GNPA | 688913 | 711406 | 741765 | 778716 | 776133 |
| Growth YoY | -11.2 | 0.3 | -2.6 | 0.2 | -3.9 |
| NNPA | 190612 | 207756 | 225217 | 243520 | 239114 |
| Growth YoY | -20.3 | 25.2 | 11.8 | 2.5 | -7.9 |
| Advances (Lakh crore) | 111.4 | 106.6 | 99.9 | 98.6 | 102.5 |
| Deposits (Lakh crore) | 155.1 | 147.5 | 144.3 | 141.2 | 141.0 |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

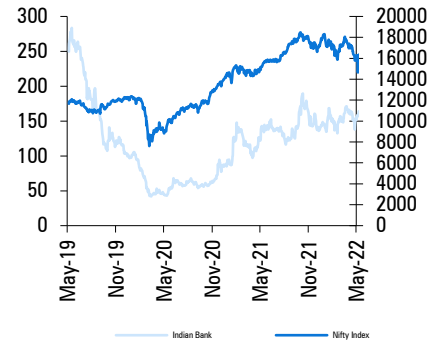
IndusInd Price Performance



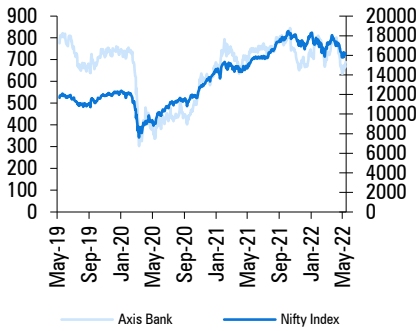
State Bank of India Price Performance



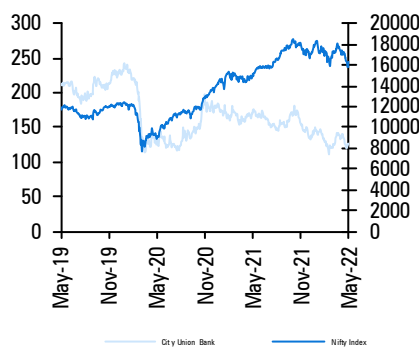
Indian Bank Price Performance



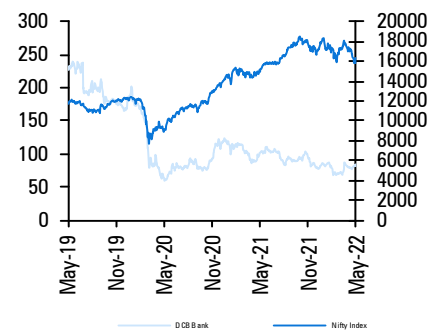
Axis Bank Price Performance



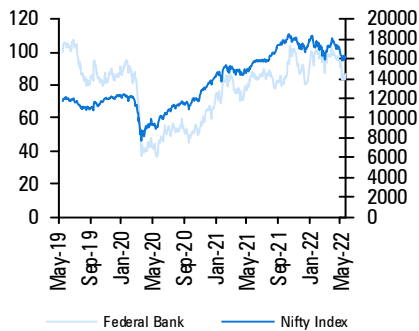
City Union Price Performance



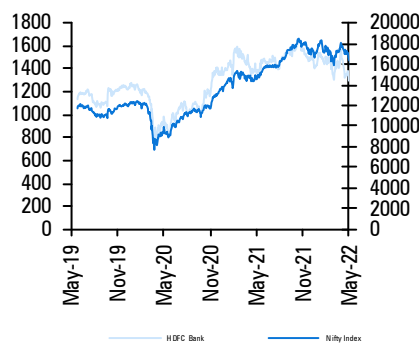
DCB Bank Price Performance



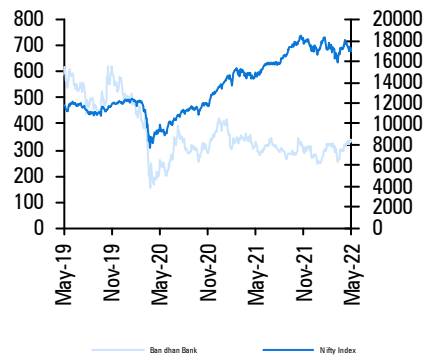
Federal Bank Price Performance



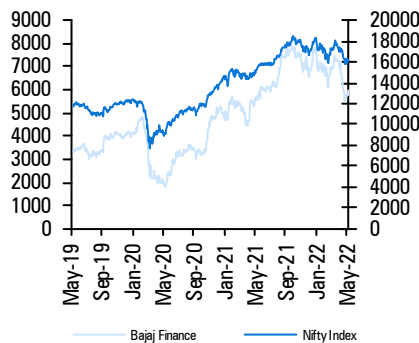
HDFC Bank Price Performance



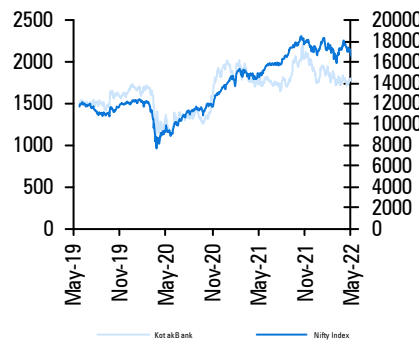
Bandhan Bank Price Performance



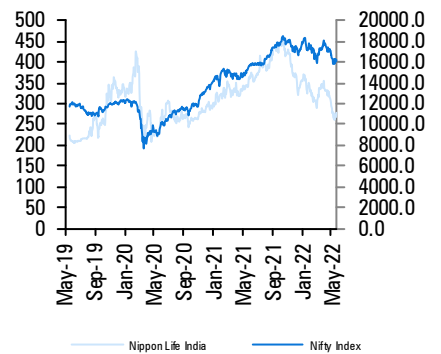
Bajaj Finance Price Performance



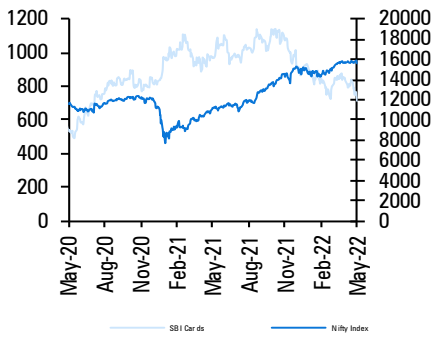
Kotak Mahindra Bank Price Performance



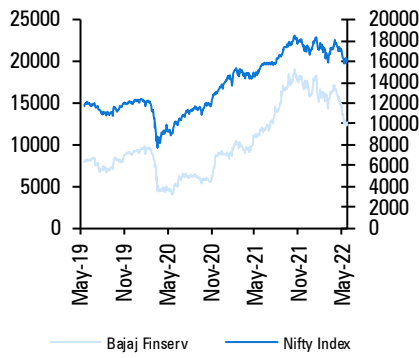
Nippon Life Price Performance



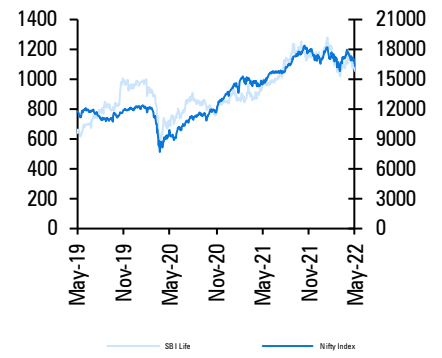
SBI Cards Price Performance



Bajaj Finserv Price Performance



SBI Life Price Performance



HDFC Life Price Performance

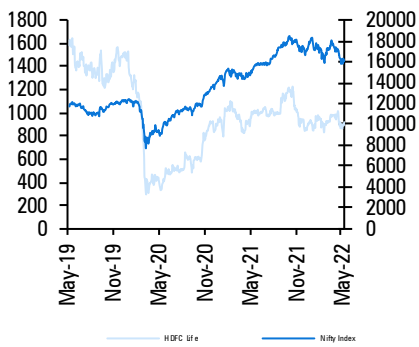


Exhibit 10: ICICI Direct coverage universe (Banks)

| Sector / Company | CMP | | | M Cap (₹ Bn) | EPS (₹) | | | P/E (x) | | | P/ABV (x) | | | RoE (%) | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | ₹ | TP(₹) | Rating | | FY22 | FY23E | FY24E | FY22 | FY23E | FY24E | FY22 | FY23E | FY24E | FY22 | FY23E | FY24E |
| BoB (BANBAR) | 99 | 115 | Buy | 510 | 14.9 | 19.5 | 21.6 | 6.4 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 9.6 | 11.3 | 11.3 |
| SBI (STABAN) | 469 | 605 | Buy | 4,185 | 35.5 | 44.4 | 52.8 | 13.6 | 10.9 | 9.2 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 11.9 | 13.2 | 13.7 |
| Axis Bank (AXIBAN) | 688 | 970 | Buy | 2114 | 42.4 | 52.7 | 63.7 | 15.8 | 12.7 | 10.5 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 12.0 | 13.3 | 14.8 |
| City Union (CITUNI) | 127 | 200 | Buy | 91 | 9.3 | 11.7 | 13.5 | 13.3 | 10.6 | 9.2 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 11.3 | 12.4 | 12.6 |
| Federal Bank (FEDBAN) | 87 | 100 | Hold | 183 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.9 | 10.5 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 10.8 | 11.6 | 13.1 |
| HDFC Bank (HDFBAN) | 1,391 | 1,650 | Buy | 7,725 | 66.7 | 77.9 | 92.3 | 19.4 | 16.6 | 14.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 16.7 | 16.8 | 17.8 |
| IndusInd Bank (INDBA) | 926 | 1150 | Buy | 717 | 59.5 | 82.4 | 101.0 | 14.9 | 10.8 | 8.8 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 10.1 | 13.1 | 15.1 |
| Kotak Bank (KOTMAH) | 1,946 | 2,150 | Buy | 3,863 | 43.0 | 49.6 | 57.8 | 41.0 | 35.5 | 30.5 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 12.6 | 12.9 | 13.1 |
| CSB Bank (CSBBAN) | 190 | 270 | Buy | 36 | 28.2 | 29.4 | 34.8 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 6.0 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 20.2 | 17.6 | 17.6 |
| Bandhan (BANBAN) | 324 | 365 | Buy | 522 | 0.8 | 19.7 | 22.3 | 402.2 | 15.9 | 14.1 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 16.9 | 16.5 |
| IDFC First (IDFBAN) | 36 | 56 | Buy | 221 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 163.3 | 16.1 | 10.6 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 6.4 | 8.7 |
| HDFC (HDFC) | 2330 | 2840 | Buy | 4226 | 72.5 | 84.8 | 100.6 | 29.8 | 25.5 | 21.5 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 11.4 | 12.7 | 14.7 |
| Bajaj Finserv (BAFINS) | 12766 | 18900 | Buy | 2031 | 708.4 | 416.3 | 531.0 | 18.0 | 30.6 | 24.0 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 27.7 | 13.4 | 14.8 |
| Bajaj Finance (BAJFI) | 5,993 | 9,500 | Buy | 3,628 | 116.5 | 158.7 | 201.4 | 51.7 | 37.9 | 29.9 | 8.6 | 7.1 | 5.3 | 17.4 | 19.9 | 20.0 |
| SBI Cards (SBICARD) | 765 | 1000 | Buy | 721 | 14.9 | 21.1 | 29.1 | 51.2 | 36.3 | 26.3 | 10.0 | 8.2 | 6.1 | 23.0 | 23.6 | 24.9 |
| Muthoot Finance (MUTFIN) | 1096 | 1300 | Buy | 440 | 9.5 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 112.3 | 88.9 | 82.1 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 23.5 | 22.9 | 23.1 |
| HDFC AMC (HDFAMC) | 1,807 | 2,400 | Buy | 385 | 65.4 | 75.8 | 87.4 | 29.6 | 25.5 | 22.1 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 25.2 | 25.8 | 26.2 |
| Nippon AMC (RELNIP) | 280 | 400 | Buy | 174 | 12.0 | 15.1 | 17.8 | 24.2 | 19.2 | 16.2 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| SBI Life Insurance | 1119 | 1400 | Buy | 1119 | 15.1 | 16.6 | 18.9 | 70.8 | 64.3 | 56.4 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 8.5 | 11.1 | 12.0 |
| HDFC Life | 598 | 670 | Buy | 1264 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 9.5 | 62.6 | 63.0 | 59.0 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 18.0 | 18.1 | 18.2 |
| Star Health | 663 | 825 | Buy | 381 | -20.5 | 10.7 | 15.1 | -33.5 | 64.1 | 45.6 | 9.3 | 7.8 | 6.4 | -27.8 | 12.2 | 13.9 |
| ICICI Lombard | 1260 | 1550 | Buy | 618 | -20.0 | 22.9 | 21.9 | -63.5 | 55.5 | 58.1 | 6.8 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 15.7 |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

RATING RATIONALE

ICICI Direct endeavours to provide objective opinions and recommendations. ICICI Direct assigns ratings to its stocks according to their notional target price vs. current market price and then categorizes them as Buy, Hold, Reduce and Sell. The performance horizon is two years unless specified and the notional target price is defined as the analysts' valuation for a stock

Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



Pankaj Pandey

Head – Research

pankaj.pandey@icicisecurities.com

**ICICI Direct Research Desk,
ICICI Securities Limited,
1st Floor, Akruiti Trade Centre,
Road No 7, MIDC,
Andheri (East)
Mumbai – 400 093
research@icicidirect.com**

ANALYST CERTIFICATION

I/We, Kajal Gandhi, CA, Vishal Namolia, MBA and Sameer Sawant, MBA Research Analysts Research Analysts, authors and the names subscribed to this report, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect our views about the subject issuer(s) or securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) in this report. It is also confirmed that above mentioned Analysts of this report have not received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report in the preceding twelve months and do not serve as an officer, director or employee of the companies mentioned in the report.

Terms & conditions and other disclosures:

ICICI Securities Limited (ICICI Securities) is a full-service, integrated investment banking and is, inter alia, engaged in the business of stock brokering and distribution of financial products.

ICICI Securities is Sebi registered stock broker, merchant banker, investment adviser, portfolio manager and Research Analyst. ICICI Securities is registered with Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India Limited (IRDAI) as a composite corporate agent and with PFRDA as a Point of Presence. ICICI Securities Limited Research Analyst SEBI Registration Number – INH000000990. ICICI Securities Limited SEBI Registration is INZ000183631 for stock broker. ICICI Securities is a subsidiary of ICICI Bank which is India's largest private sector bank and has its various subsidiaries engaged in businesses of housing finance, asset management, life insurance, general insurance, venture capital fund management, etc. ("associates"), the details in respect of which are available on www.icicibank.com.

ICICI Securities is one of the leading merchant bankers/ underwriters of securities and participate in virtually all securities trading markets in India. We and our associates might have investment banking and other business relationship with a significant percentage of companies covered by our Investment Research Department. ICICI Securities and its analysts, persons reporting to analysts and their relatives are generally prohibited from maintaining a financial interest in the securities or derivatives of any companies that the analysts cover.

Recommendation in reports based on technical and derivative analysis centre on studying charts of a stock's price movement, outstanding positions, trading volume etc as opposed to focusing on a company's fundamentals and, as such, may not match with the recommendation in fundamental reports. Investors may visit icicidirect.com to view the Fundamental and Technical Research Reports.

Our proprietary trading and investment businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein.

ICICI Securities Limited has two independent equity research groups: Institutional Research and Retail Research. This report has been prepared by the Retail Research. The views and opinions expressed in this document may or may not match or may be contrary with the views, estimates, rating, and target price of the Institutional Research.

The information and opinions in this report have been prepared by ICICI Securities and are subject to change without any notice. The report and information contained herein is strictly confidential and meant solely for the selected recipient and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent of ICICI Securities. While we would endeavour to update the information herein on a reasonable basis, ICICI Securities is under no obligation to update or keep the information current. Also, there may be regulatory, compliance or other reasons that may prevent ICICI Securities from doing so. Non-rated securities indicate that rating on a particular security has been suspended temporarily and such suspension is in compliance with applicable regulations and/or ICICI Securities policies, in circumstances where ICICI Securities might be acting in an advisory capacity to this company, or in certain other circumstances.

This report is based on information obtained from public sources and sources believed to be reliable, but no independent verification has been made nor is its accuracy or completeness guaranteed. This report and information herein is solely for informational purpose and shall not be used or considered as an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments. Though disseminated to all the customers simultaneously, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. ICICI Securities will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this report. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting and tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your specific circumstances. The securities discussed and opinions expressed in this report may not be suitable for all investors, who must make their own investment decisions, based on their own investment objectives, financial positions and needs of specific recipient. This may not be taken in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment by any recipient. The recipient should independently evaluate the investment risks. The value and return on investment may vary because of changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or any other reason. ICICI Securities accepts no liabilities whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investors are advised to see Risk Disclosure Document to understand the risks associated before investing in the securities markets. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in projections. Forward-looking statements are not predictions and may be subject to change without notice.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have managed or co-managed public offering of securities for the subject company or might have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past twelve months.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report during the period preceding twelve months from the date of this report for services in respect of managing or co-managing public offerings, corporate finance, investment banking or merchant banking, brokerage services or other advisory service in a merger or specific transaction.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have received any compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the companies mentioned in the report in the past twelve months.

ICICI Securities encourages independence in research report preparation and strives to minimize conflict in preparation of research report. ICICI Securities or its associates or its analysts did not receive any compensation or other benefits from the companies mentioned in the report or third party in connection with preparation of the research report. Accordingly, neither ICICI Securities nor Research Analysts and their relatives have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this report.

Compensation of our Research Analysts is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

ICICI Securities or its subsidiaries collectively or Research Analysts or their relatives do not own 1% or more of the equity securities of the Company mentioned in the report as of the last day of the month preceding the publication of the research report.

Since associates of ICICI Securities and ICICI Securities as a entity are engaged in various financial service businesses, they might have financial interests or actual/beneficial ownership of one percent or more or other material conflict of interest various companies including the subject company/companies mentioned in this report.

ICICI Securities may have issued other reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusion from the information presented in this report.

Neither the Research Analysts nor ICICI Securities have been engaged in market making activity for the companies mentioned in the report.

We submit that no material disciplinary action has been taken on ICICI Securities by any Regulatory Authority impacting Equity Research Analysis activities.

This report is not directed or intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law, regulation or which would subject ICICI Securities and affiliates to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. The securities described herein may or may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain category of investors. Persons in whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of and to observe such restriction.