



# FIRST-PRINCIPLES

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UNIFI AIF – BLEND FUND

Q4 FY22

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## FIRST-PRINCIPLES

*A fundamental proposition that serves as the foundation for a chain of reasoning.*

We count the privilege of managing risk capital seriously. As we round off the financial year and re-group for the next many, it is a good time to emphasize our core principles that define how we think and manage capital.

## NON-PRESCRIPTIVE

We invest across a vast range of industries and firms at very different stages of evolution. We appreciate the heterogeneity and uniqueness of India's investment universe and are wary of assigning simplistic rules, boxing our style of investing. Our approach favors the identification of the value and their margin of safety over everything else. This means the dispersion of themes at a portfolio level will likely be high and consistent around a risk and reward equation that is favorable.

## MARGIN OF SAFETY

India's lack of complete capital convertibility has resulted in valuations of some of India's finest firms reaching levels that cannot be theoretically justified. As leaders, a few of these companies will continue to consolidate their position of dominance and grow. We are comfortable not aligning with such opportunities and prioritize the discovery of value over the temptation to hold great companies that do not offer a margin of safety in terms of *price and time*. Our strategy of looking thematically at the evolution of India's industries and households enables us to discover opportunities that are beyond consensus.

## THE LONG TERM IS A SERIES OF MEDIUM TERMS

We monitor the journey to our investment outcomes very closely and do not feel obligated to stay invested in firms we like without regard to their growth and valuations. While our objective is to generate absolute long-term performance, our instincts are to implement the logical next steps [buy, hold, sell] as our investment journey evolves. This is a corollary to maintaining the margin of safety at a stock and portfolio level.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Governance is key to realizing an entity's true value in letter and spirit. We look for companies that have acted consistently on all financial and qualitative facets of governance. Long-term business, and equity value creation, are sustainable when a business checks these boxes. We are uncompromising in the evaluation of this facet and comfortable bypassing opportunities that seem financially attractive but questionable on governance.

## PEOPLE

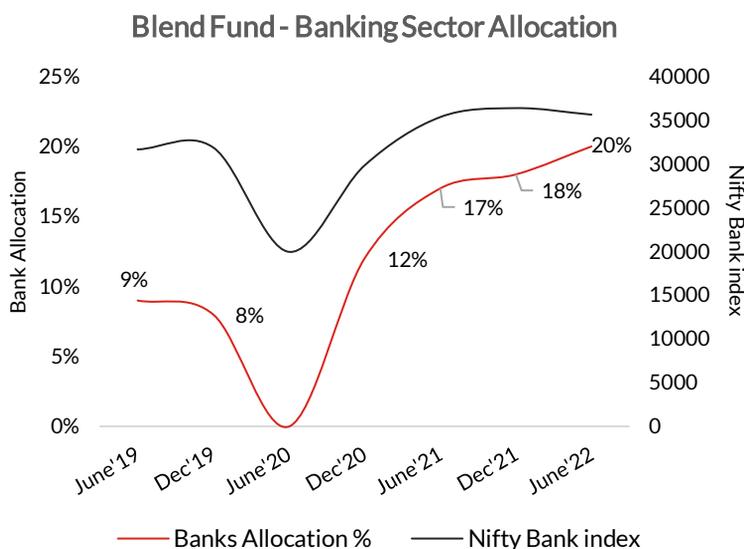
Our strong investment team combined with our working relationships with entrepreneurs, experts, and market intermediaries help navigate the breadth and depth of India's investable universe. We invest in each of these relationships consciously.

## ANATOMY OF A PORTFOLIO

*In keeping with the first principles, our responses to the market are never static*

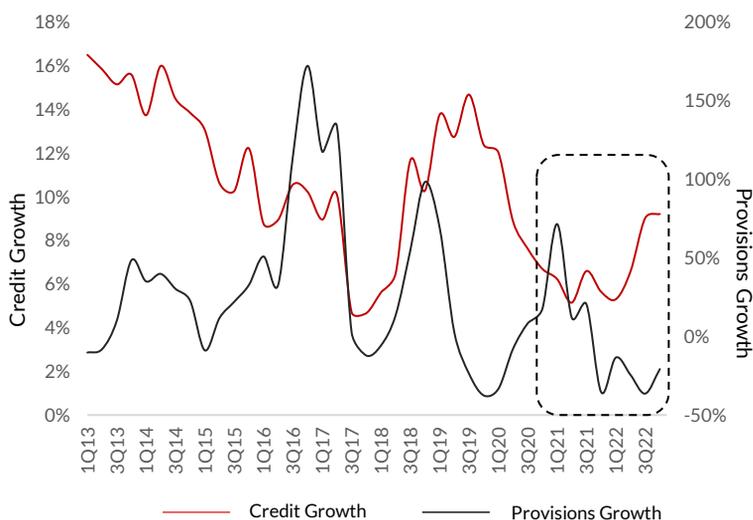
Cyclicality and evolution of the markets are a reflection of the society they represent and therefore no one answer works forever. A common mistake made at the turn of a cycle is the assumption that the market will revert to how it was immediately before, which is unlikely over time. Maintaining an updated prognosis for the future is critical, especially when the current one is working well. In other words, the portfolio composition must reflect our view of the future and manage the risk of being early appropriately.

*This is a representative sample of how there are sub-cycles within cycles and how our funds have navigated this over the past 4 years.*

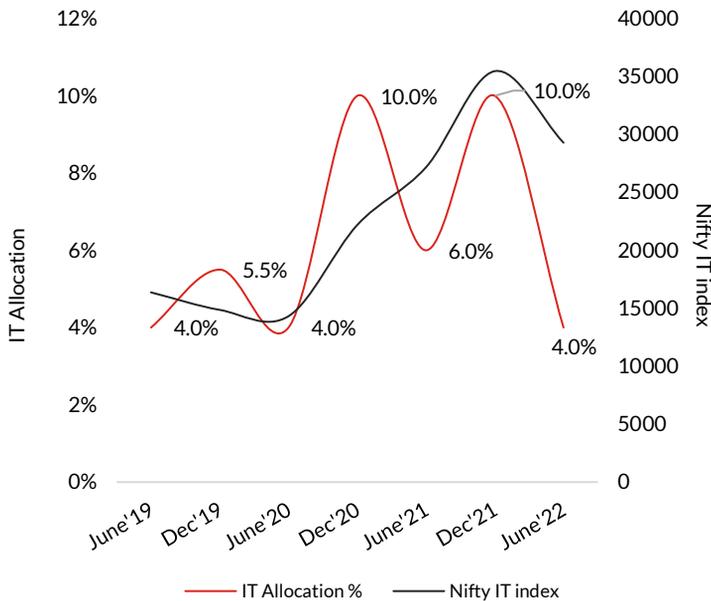


A moment of inflection in India's **Banking** system is finally underway. After 10-years, there is a clear divergence today between the systemic growth rate and credit costs. Today, an extended period of provisioning has led to credit costs below normalized levels while a higher nominal-growth environment supports credit growth. Given that India's private consumption expenditure (in real terms based on 2011-12 prices) in FY22 was below FY20 levels, we are yet to witness a complete revival in demand.

Despite the circumstances, the industry is now clocking double-digit credit growth. As policy measures to seed a new cycle of growth fructify and private consumption surpasses pre-pandemic levels, further offtake in credit is anticipated. There is an added angle of the rate-environment. As RBI reverses the low-rate regime, industry margins will gain as interest rates rise. *With this in perspective, our exposure to India's banking sector is the highest ever in recent years, at c.20% vs negligible exposure in the previous sub-cycle.*



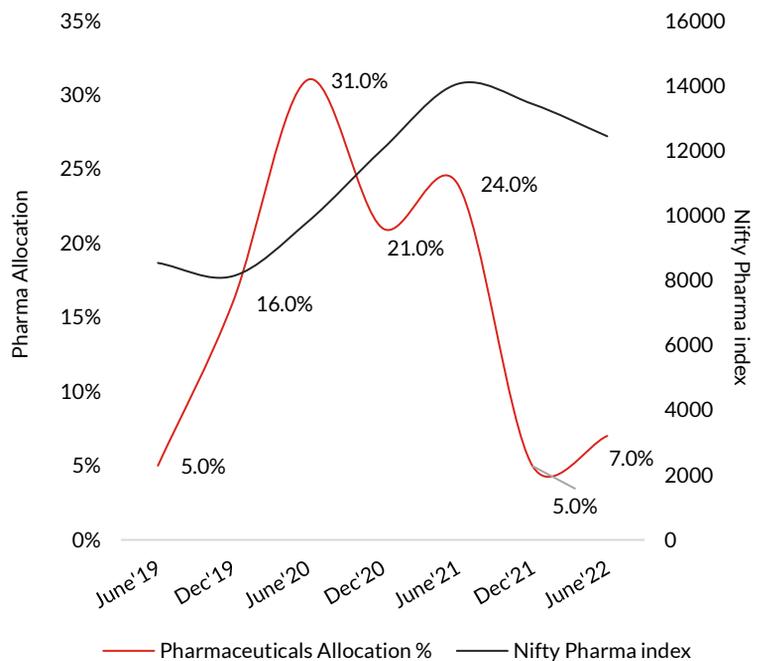
Blend Fund - IT Sector Allocation



Technological change today is exponential. This rapid change lies in the advances of enabling technologies ranging from computing power to data storage to the scale and performance of the Internet. These advances create tipping points – moments when technologies cross a threshold and trigger sudden and significant change, making them a systemically important part of society. And firms that choose to cut back on technology spending will risk long-term competitiveness. **Despite the inflationary environment, this explains the lack of slowdown in the appetite for server and cloud spending.** Productivity gains from technology are eventually a key driver of growth and sustainability. We continue to see opportunities in the technology space and maintain exposure to the sector, driven strictly by the bottom-up, in areas where growth visibility is long tailed.

We view India's pharmaceutical industry with a strict bottom-up lens considering the industry's diverse segments and geography-specific challenges. India offers a structural pathway and investment case given lifestyle-led chronic diseases, but most firms in the industry operate in multiple geographies, with US generics being a key market. The US Generics business faces a prolonged fall in profitability due to severe pricing pressure led by the consolidation of buyers, stiff competition, legacy products, and regulatory hurdles. We have refrained from underwriting equities in businesses operating under such circumstances. Today, our alignment is a bottom-up one pursuing complex products with low competition, niche therapies, a long gestation period, and a large market size. We have managed our exposures here accordingly.

Blend Fund - Pharma Sector Allocation



The rest of our portfolio composition largely continues to draw from the breadth and strength of India's domestic consumption franchisee. India's household consumption expenditure has grown at a CAGR of 8-10% p.a. over the last few years, driven by higher disposable incomes and urbanization. A sharp rise in pent-up disposable incomes over the two pandemic years has resulted in visible betterment across premiumization, non-discretionary consumption, property absorption, and financialization of savings.

The number of households in the upper and high-income brackets increased from 8% in 2005 to 24% in 2018, and this is expected to touch 51% by 2030. This shift in household incomes will accelerate underlying consumption across all cohorts and create newer categories. At a portfolio level, we are aligning with various businesses that would likely benefit from this consumption trend. We have captured this in detail in the later section.

Alongside, we increased our exposure to India's largest private sector manufacturer of Phosphatic fertilizers. With backward integration of scale and an unprecedented rise in input costs, the subsidy mechanism of the Government of India will enable them to capture significant spreads in a positive demand environment. While in chemicals, we have exposure to names that are catering to India's need for import substitution and are category leaders who are backward integrated and moving up the value chain.

## CONSUMPTION AHEAD

*India remains a significantly domestic consumption-driven economy. We present a few data points highlighting a few of India's consumption drivers and how they come together as a flywheel.*

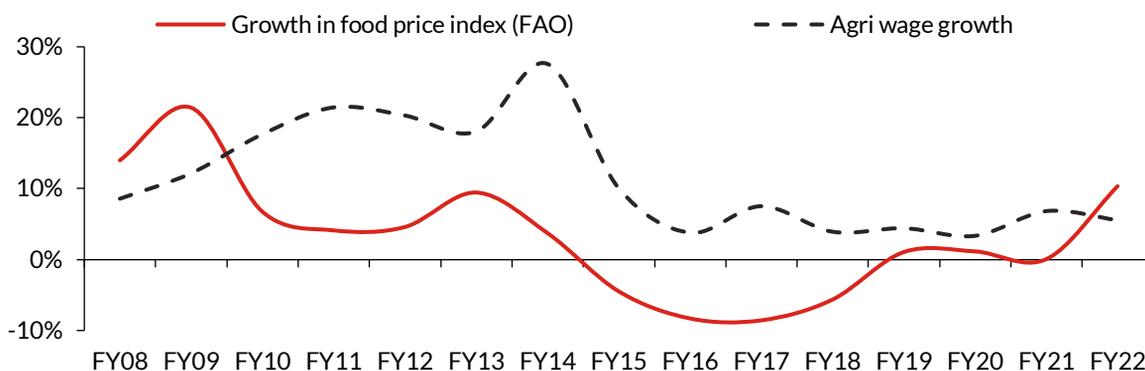
### RURAL CONSUMPTION

Transfer of income is an essential tool to eliminate structural imbalances in an economic value chain. This is true of productivity and output [and hence GDP] between urban and rural India. 65% of India stays in the hinterlands, where the majority of consumer spending is driven by farm income.

The government's policies toward increasing farm incomes via better minimum support prices are birthing a new rural income growth cycle. In our opinion, a tempered and real inflation in farm income is one of the most significant policy initiatives at play in the current times.

This has a flywheel effect on multiple segments of the economy with two primary trends: (a) increases access to agricultural inputs and mechanization, enabling increased productivity, and (b) the incremental incomes help households move up the chain of Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Increased consumption, premiumization, and an uptick in discretionary goods and services directly benefit from better farm incomes. It is clear from the previous cycle that the correlation played out, and we see a repeat of this cycle again. The impact of this on the Indian economy cannot be overemphasized.

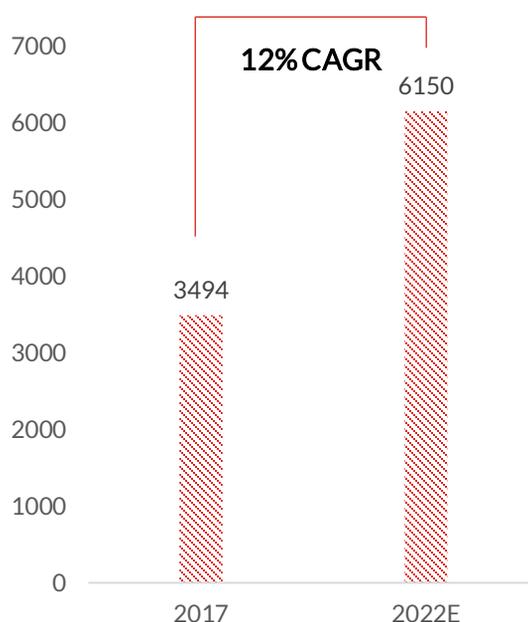


### URBAN CONSUMPTION

Anecdotal flows on urban income growth have been positive for a while: heightened IT wage inflation, manufacturing resurgence, incremental construction activity, etc. Another strong proxy that captures urban consumption potential is the strength of personal tax collections. This number captures both the fundamental ideas of (a) the supply side: i.e., an expansion of the tax-payers base through the formalization of the economy, and (b) the demand side, i.e., an increase in the number of consumers translating into the increased per capita spend.

With several sectors seeding a new wave of growth and the emergence of peripheral cities, the rise in personal disposable incomes will have a multiplier effect at scale, creating new patterns of consumption.

### PERSONAL TAX COLLECTIONS (RS. BN)

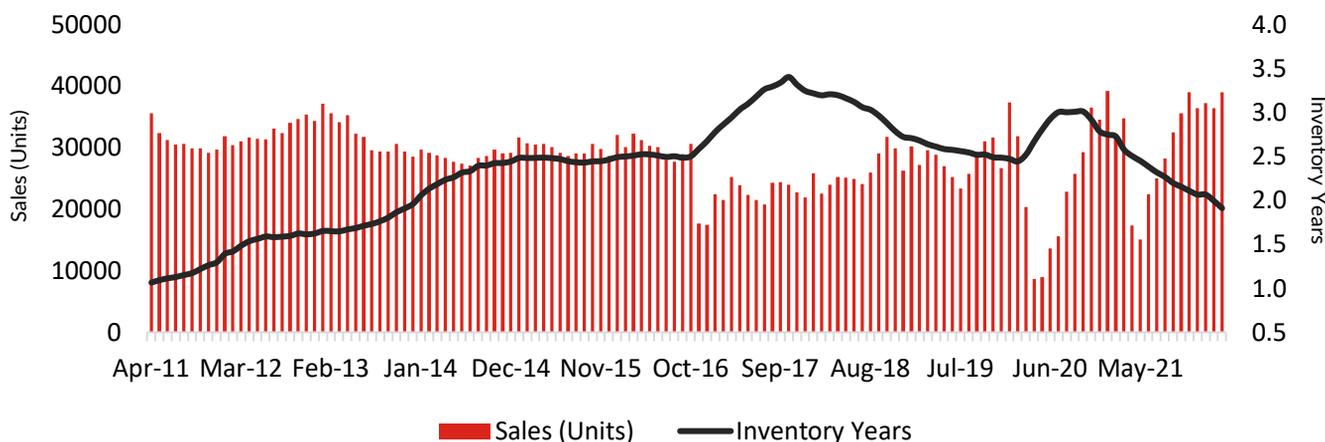


### EARLY SIGNS OF HOUSEHOLD ASSET FORMATION

It is early days, but a multi-year unit price stagnation and pent-up savings have made their way into India's household capital expenditure. Real Estate is the largest constituent of the household balance sheets and higher discretionary incomes are showing up in better realty consumption. This has resulted in the lowest levels of inventory in Tier-1 cities over the last 8-10 years. In the current financial year, the housing sales in the top-7 cities have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels and new launches have surpassed pre-2020 levels.

The importance of the real estate sector to the Indian economy cannot be over-emphasized: realty consumes 65% of India’s cement production and 40% of iron & steel, and each has a large flywheel of its own on the economy as a whole.

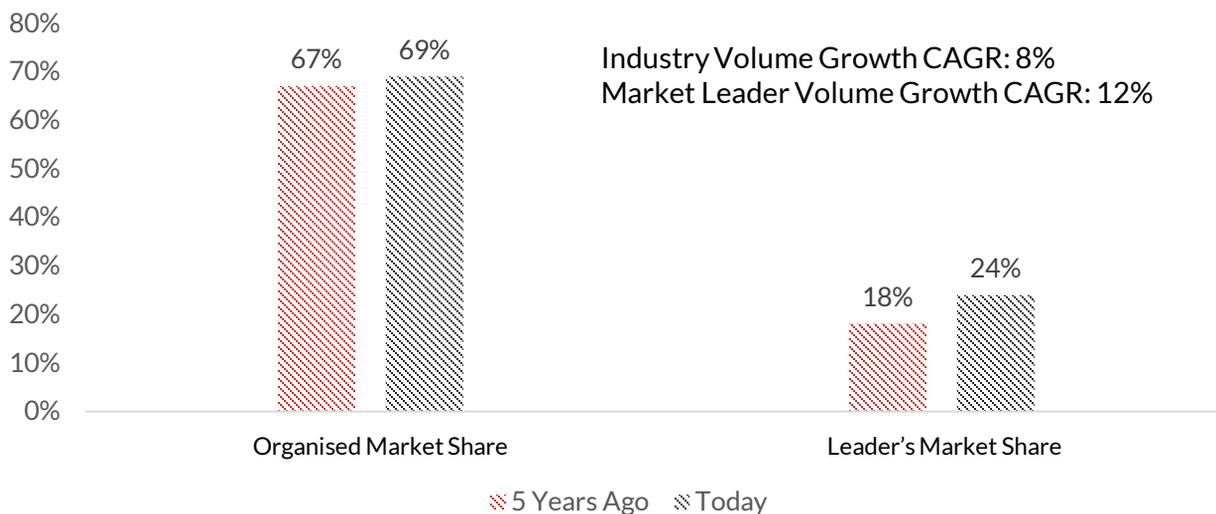
### Sales in Tier 1 Cities / Inventory Levels



### An example of how Realty feeds into the value chain – Consolidation

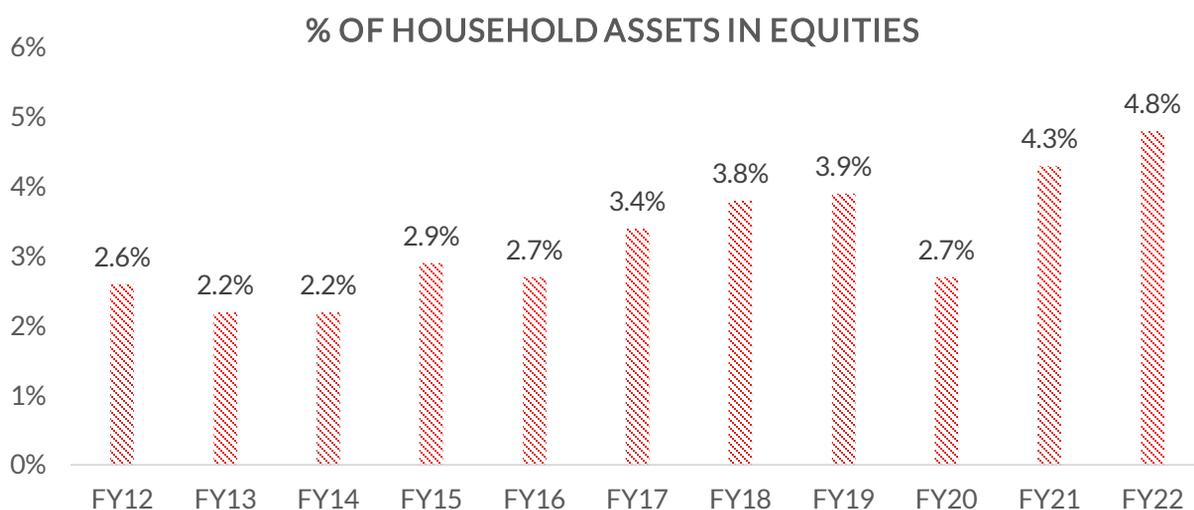
The private household-capex influences the entire building value chain from cement, iron & steel, cables & wires, paints, pipes & fitting, to sanitary ware, tiles, and wood panels. While this offers a huge set of heterogeneous opportunities in different categories, it is to the discretion of investors to play the best proxy which offers the collective prospects of high-volume growth, consolidating industry structure, favorable unit economics, and reasonable valuations. We present an example of a proxy to the sector, and how in a phase of high growth, the leader consolidates its market share significantly.

### WIRES AND CABLES



## FINANCIALIZATION OF SAVINGS

In keeping with the trends of consumption, the nature of how India is saving has witnessed a paradigm shift. A cursory glance at various asset classes indicates how the average savings dashboard has moved over the past 5 years: (a) SIP AUM now forms ~30% of equity AUM vs ~20% of equity AUM; (b) Share of equity AUM has increased to c.48% vs c.32% and (c) the number of demat accounts have grown over 3.5x. These trends are likely to continue as financial literacy and access to financial products are significantly higher than in the previous generation.



*Source: RBI*

Overall, the path to increased consumption and premiumization is not just paying for rational product attributes or functional benefits, but also for social and psychological reasons for which a customer consumes and pays a premium. Over the past two years, the intensity of how India consumes has pivoted. A new wave of growth capital has entailed a variety of investments that lower the friction in paths to consumption. Despite the inflationary environment, demand expansion across categories is throwing up opportunities for us to underwrite. The long-term drivers that will now shape India's consumption will be very different from what we have witnessed over the last many years, and we see growth emerging from several frontier business segments that will generate significant earnings over the next five years.

## IN CLOSING

*Uncertainty is inherently unmeasurable. In the long run, investment outcomes will continue to be a function of their earnings growth, adjusted for capital efficiency. While in the interim, divergence in how various stakeholders measure and react to risk will affect stock prices.*

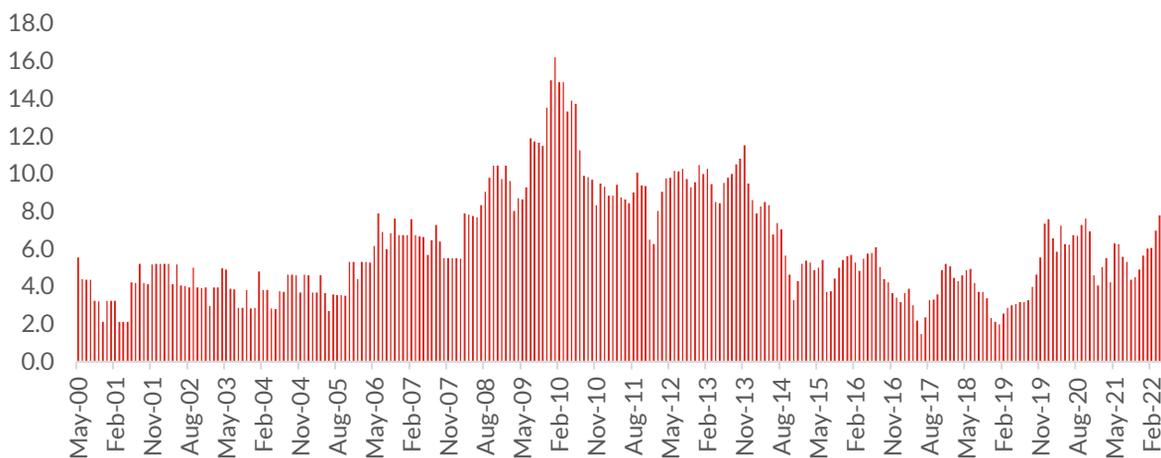
## GROWTH

Contraction in growth rates is as much a logical phase of an economic cycle as is expansion in growth rates. What is difficult is timing the slowdown, especially given the nature of false alarms that are endemic to the industry. Over time, our assessment of the market's cyclical phase will significantly impact our portfolio returns since it determines our stance of either being defensive or investing opportunistically. Let's bear in mind that India's demographic picture fundamentally underpins its growth rates. In a nutshell, the aspirations of 2/3rd of India's consumers aged below 30 and their rising incomes are driving a wave of demand for certain products and services. And there is the added impetus of a manufacturing resurgence. Our job is to identify firms in these sectors available at a reasonable price.

## INFLATION

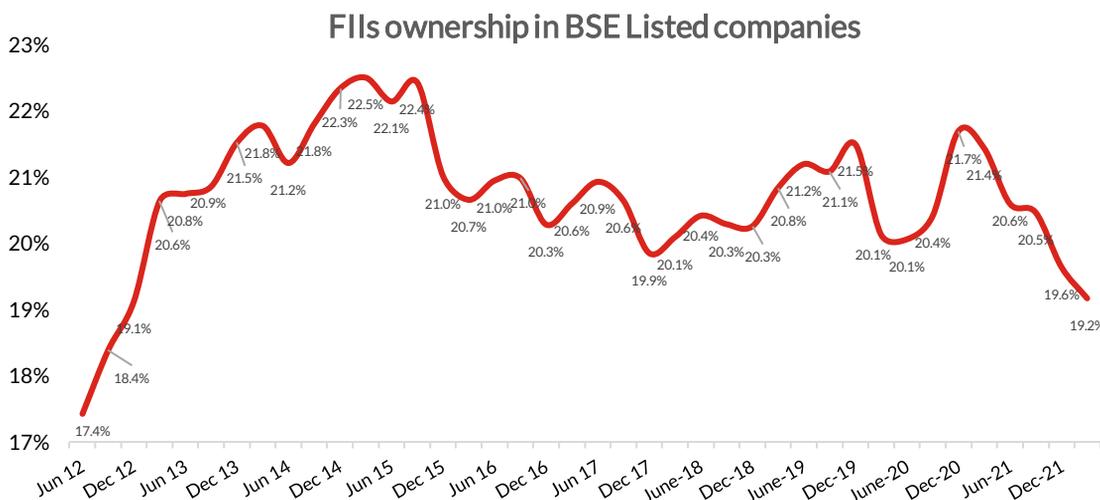
The powerful force of inflation influences demand; low and stable inflation accentuates growth while rising inflation contracts pricing spreads for firms and purchasing power for consumers. The question is, how long will inflationary prices prevail before supply catches up as it always does? Getting this forecast right is essential as it influences interest rates and our choice of asset classes. Today's environment is dominated by jams in container shipping, the war in Ukraine, and the reversal of the benefits of globalization due to geopolitics and rising trade barriers, presenting India with serious challenges and great opportunities. While we face uncertainties, the macroeconomic stability of the country's overall debt and foreign currency flows/balances are foundational to our view as investors.

CPI Inflation

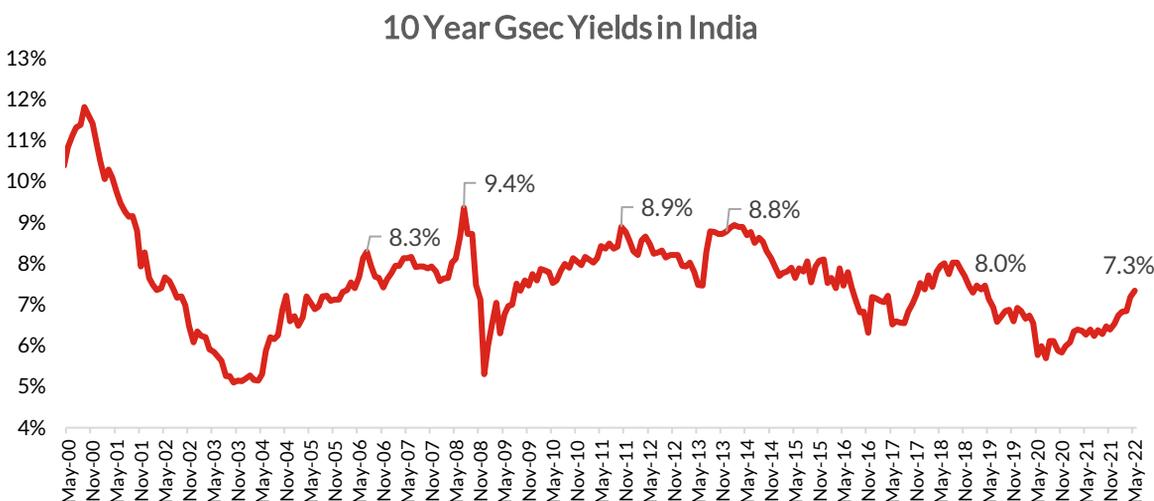


## OUR VIEW

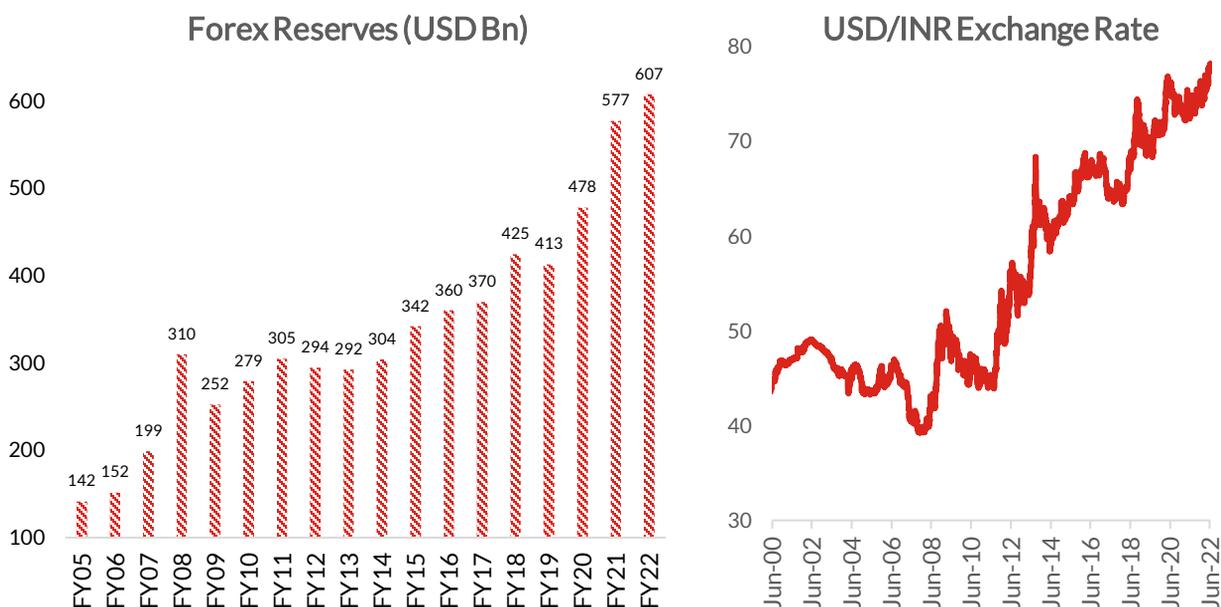
Asset prices are determined by how investors expect growth and inflation to trend. And this is reflected in our current portfolio construction. The demographic picture in the developed world is dominated by high base effects of incomes and consumption and their low and falling birth rates of around 1.5. The selling by foreign investors and the hysteria observed in the western media is a reflection of this. The collateral impact on Indian stock markets has been quite significant, especially on those firms that were over-valued or whose prospects are weak and unclear.



Inflation is impacting firms and consumers, but not equally. It is important to bear in mind that the absolute cost of money is more important than the direction of cost, i.e., interest rates. It is clear that interest rates are still at a reasonable level relative to our past.



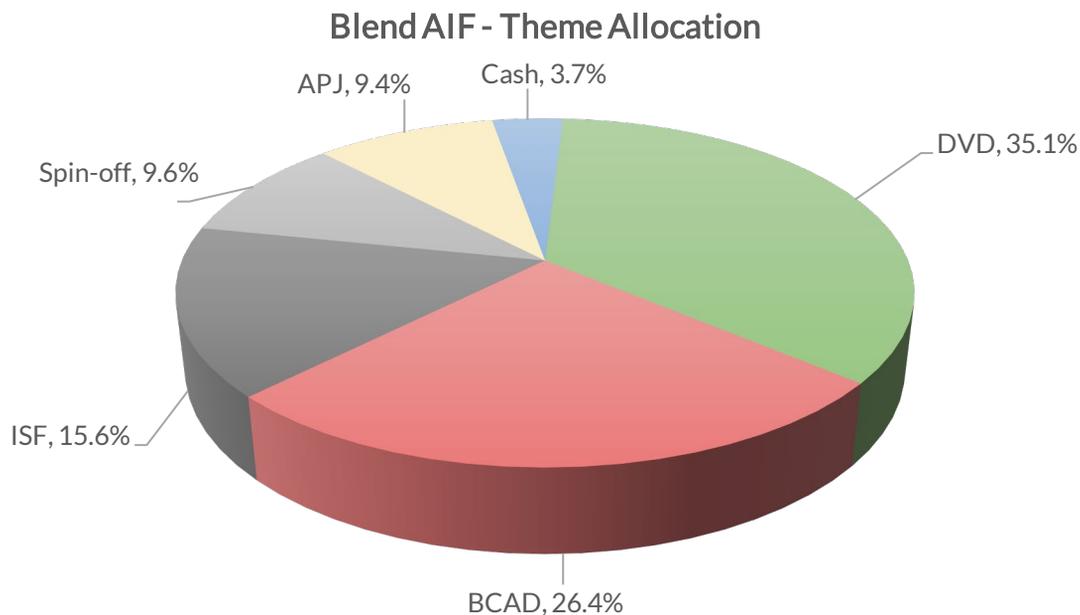
And alongside, the probability of a sharp fall in the rupee exchange rate as we suffered in 2014 is low.



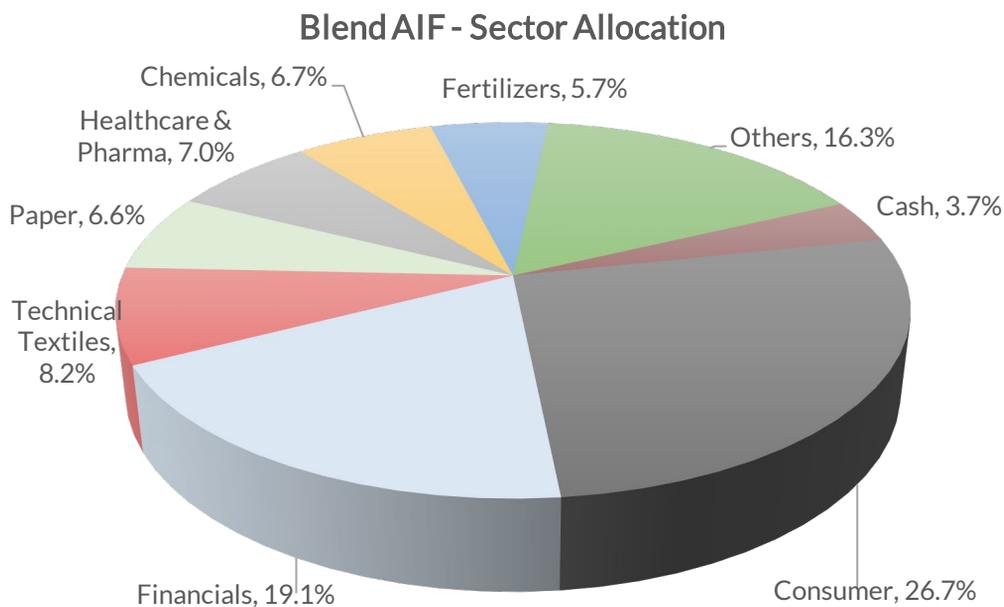
Different sectors are coping with growth and inflation using the tools at their disposal to optimize their growth and earnings. Certain sectors will do well and others poorly, and we are focused on identifying this accurately and early.

Finally, valuations. As prices have dropped across the board, there are more well-run businesses we have the option to buy vs. the same period last year. We find sectors like consumer staples still over-valued relative to their growth and capital efficiency and resist the temptation to take shelter under the comfort of brand names that represent good past performance. Instead, we are taking advantage of reasonable valuations in emerging sectors and firms catering to India’s discretionary demand for healthcare, building products, home appliances, and agri-chemicals, and globally competitive firms in technology, KPO, chemicals, and specific aspects of pharmaceuticals. We cannot over-emphasize India’s demographic strength, the depth of its consumption franchisee, and the resurgence in manufacturing. The rising income of 26cr households is driving a wave of demand for certain products and services, and we are excited by the opportunities available to us.

The strategy wise composition of the Blend AIF fund is as below



The sector wise composition of the Blend AIF fund is as below



The following annexure presents a brief on our top holdings:

Company	Brief background and Investment rationale
<b>Axis Bank</b>	<p>Axis Bank reported earnings growth of 54% YoY/14% QoQ to Rs 4,118cr. The bank reported an impressive loan growth at 6.4% QoQ which was slightly better compared to its peers. Its incremental market share also improved to 9.6% vs outstanding market share of 5.9%. The company is witnessing strong traction in the focus areas of retail and SME while it is cautious on wholesale lending due to fierce competition in lending rates. Margins declined slightly by 4bp QoQ. Asset quality has further improved and is among the best in peers given the net NPA at 0.7% and restructuring at ~0.6% of loans.</p> <p>We expect that company's margins will improve structurally in FY23 led by shift from investment to asset book, maturity of RIDF bonds, improvement in CASA book and general improvement in interest rates. Opex was elevated as Axis continues to invest in building front end team, process, and infrastructure. Asset quality has further improved and is among the best in peers given Net NPA of 0.7% and restructuring at ~0.6% of loans. The bank may report an RoA/RoE of ~1.4/~15% in FY23 led by improvement in margins and operating expenses.</p> <p>Key risks would include deterioration of asset quality leading to higher-than-expected credit costs and lower than expected loan growth.</p>
<b>GarwareTech</b>	<p>Garware delivered revenue growth of 6% YoY and 16% QoQ to Rs. 356cr. EBITDA and PAT registered a growth of 4% and 1% YoY to Rs. 73cr and Rs. 54cr respectively. Despite significant inflation in key raw materials i.e. crude derivatives, the company was able to pass on a majority of this cost with a few months' lag. The gross margin was up 500bps YoY and flat QoQ, which is commendable considering the inflationary environment. EBITDA growth was affected by an unprecedented increase in freight costs. In addition, the cycle time to dispatch goods to customers in many parts of the world has significantly increased due to the non-availability of containers despite having the materials ready. Though the situation has improved sequentially from Q3 to Q4, there is still some disruption impacting the revenue.</p> <p>We remain positive on Garware given the company's focus on value-added products (which now forms 70% of overall business), its leadership position in the technical textile segment, its relationship with an international clientele built over the past decades and strong balance sheet with cash of Rs. 550cr. The company continues to win new patents and launch new products, which we believe will drive growth and profitability.</p> <p>Key risks: Decline in the prices of Salmon, a further sharp increase in raw material price and failure of newer products to garner higher market share.</p>
<b>CG Consumer</b>	<p>Crompton Greaves Consumer reported revenue growth of 2% YoY to Rs.1,548cr. The lighting segment was down 4% YoY owing to decline in B2G business, while consumer durables delivered 3% YoY growth, on the back of a slow-down in the pumps segment. In each of the key product segments [Fans (19% YoY), Electric Appliances (28% YoY)], the company delivered ahead of industry growth rates, on the back of product innovation, premiumization, and market reach initiatives. The company was able to mitigate commodity inflation through price hikes, product mix improvement, and aggressive cost reduction.</p>

As a result, the gross margin was stable sequentially at 30% in spite of material inflation. We expect Crompton to deliver headline growth that is ahead of the industry. The company reported PAT of Rs. 176cr (up 2% YoY) during the quarter.

Crompton is amongst India's most profitable players in the consumer durables space with best-in-class growth, margins, and capital efficiency. We continue to like the company given their execution and expect them to benefit from this phase of consolidation and growth in household spending on durables.

Key risks to the investment could emanate from a drop in consumer sentiment, and steep inflation in raw materials.

### JK Paper

JK Paper reported revenue growth of 49% YoY & 31% QoQ to Rs.1,340cr, supported by commissioning of the new packaging plant and higher realizations. The company was able to maintain margins, given the backward integration of its pulp capacity and access to coal from domestic linkages. JK Paper took 10% price hike in Q4 to pass on the increase in raw material & power costs. As a result, EBITDA was up by 47% YoY at Rs.336cr. The company continued to perform well amidst a turnaround in the business at its subsidiary- Sirpur Paper Mills. Overall, PAT came at Rs.170cr compared to Rs. 151cr in Q3FY22 and Rs.136cr in Q4FY21.

JK Paper is a play on the revival on domestic paper consumption driven by the reopening of offices and educational institutions. Further, the company is increasing its capacity from 4.36 lakh tonne to 7.42 lakh tonne driven by greenfield packaging board expansion in Gujarat with a capacity of 1.7 lakh tonne and the addition of 1.36 lakh tonne from the inorganic acquisition of Sirpur paper mills. The medium-term earnings growth would be driven by volume increase, cost optimization, and better realization.

Key risks would be further escalation of coal prices and decline in international pulp prices.

### Godrej Consumer

Godrej Consumer reported revenue growth of 7% YoY to Rs.2,916cr. Except for Indonesia, all the other regions did well (India, Africa and LATAM) with 9-15% YoY revenue growth. The gross margin declined to 49.5% vs 50.7% in Q3FY22 and 55.1% in Q4FY21 due to inflation in palm oil and crude oil prices. Reported EBITDA declined by 15% YoY but there had been one off inventory pilferage in African business. Adjusted to that, EBITDA declined by 9% YoY. Despite sharp drop in the gross margin on YoY basis, the EBITDA margin didn't show decline to that extent given the cost efficiencies that company has been working on. Company reported PAT of Rs. 362cr in Q4FY22 (adjusted PAT declined by 3% YoY).

Godrej Consumer always had great brands (Good Knight, Cinthol, Godrej No.1, Hit, Godrej Expert and Aer) but the execution was weak in the last few years as management focused more on international business. The company appointed Sudhir Sitapati as new CEO in 2021 and he comes with rich experience in HUL. The new CEO has been working on various initiatives like filling the gaps in product portfolio, cutting down unnecessary SKUs, cost efficiencies etc and we expect this to play out in the next couple of years. The company has also recruited new CEOs for Africa and Indonesia businesses. There are clear turnaround signs visible in Africa business over the last couple of quarters and we expect even India business to see a revival going forward.

Key risks include entailing a steep increase in raw material prices and any changes in the senior management.

**ICICI Bank** ICICI reported earnings growth of 59% YoY / 13% QoQ to Rs 7,019cr. This was led by 5.5% QoQ growth in loan book which was driven by growth across business segments. The growth in this quarter was largely driven by Business Banking and SME loans. The bank continues to gain higher incremental lending market share of ~13% compared to its outstanding market share of 7.2%. We believe that the bank will be one of the key beneficiaries of further improvement in system credit growth in FY23 due to higher provision buffers build in balance sheet and comfortable CET I of 17.6%. The asset quality was further improved in the quarter with net NPA declining to 0.76%. We expect that margins may move northwards in FY23 led by drying up of liquidity in the system leading to better pricing and general improvement in interest rates.

We expect credit cost should be contained at <1% given the bank is carrying higher provision coverage on GNPA, restructured book and BB & below book. We expect the bank to report RoA / RoE of 1.9% / 16% in FY23.

Key risks would include deterioration of asset quality, higher than expected credit costs, and lower than expected loan growth.

**Coromandel** Coromandel recorded revenue growth of 50% YoY in Q4 FY22 to Rs.4,227cr. However, the revenue growth number is of less significance as it includes the pass-through of RM cost. EBITDA and PAT grew by 65% and 86% YoY to Rs.280cr and Rs.291cr respectively. Margins were better than expectations due to backward integration in Phosphoric Acid, sourcing efficiency & operating leverage. The company plans to increase their Phos Acid capacity by 25% in H1 FY23, apart from incurring capex for Sulfuric capacity for backward integration and SSP capacity to capture market share in the category, combining a capex amount of Rs. 700cr. Structurally, the company is well placed to battle cost inflation with good capital allocation and governance, and with a debt-free balance sheet, the company is strongly poised for the next cycle of growth.

Coromandel is India's largest privately held non-urea (Phosphatic) fertilizer company with a diversified revenue mix of regulated and unregulated products. The company has a 15% market share in India's NPK consumption with a better proposition vs peer through differentiated products, focus on specialty grade, strategic sourcing, and international tie-ups for key RM supplies, and backward integration to the extent possible to protect & benefit from integrated chain margins. In Crop Protection, Coromandel has taken a slow and measured step to overhaul its portfolio from older generics to a mix of combination (double or triple molecules) and in-licensed products from global innovators (launched six products). This business forms 25% of consolidated EBITDA.

Key risks to the investment could be significant reduction in RM prices leading to correction in inventory valuation, unexpected regulatory developments, and the erratic monsoon.

**Varun Beverages** Varun Beverages reported revenue growth of 26% YoY to Rs.2,827cr supported by volume growth of 19% YoY and realisation increase by 6% YoY. The growth in realisation was driven by price hikes in select SKUs, change in SKU mix and higher realization in international markets. Gross margin reduced by 430 bps to 51.5% primarily due to increase in preform/pet chips prices. Despite the increase in input costs, company was able to improve EBITDA margins from 17% to 18.8%, led by operating leverage and volume growth. Overall, PAT was up by 97% YoY to 255cr.

Varun Beverages is the second largest bottler for PepsiCo globally and currently bottles 85% of PepsiCo India's beverage volumes. Summer is the peak season for sale of carbonated soft drinks in India and the last two summers got impacted due to outbreak of covid. Meanwhile, the company has worked on geography expansion domestically, taking over Southern and Western operations from PepsiCo. The company has also expanded distribution reach by setting up visi-coolers at retail touchpoints. Varun has introduced new products in the non-Cola space with offerings like Lemon drink (Mountain Dew-Ice) and Energy drink (Sting) which have been received well. Having completed the domestic capacity expansion, free cash flows will be used to bring down debt and expand in international markets which offer high growth potential.

Key risks include increase in raw materials like PET reforms and sugar prices.

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**State Bank of India** SBI reported earnings growth of 41% YoY / 8% QoQ to Rs 9,114cr. This was led by higher loan growth of 6% QoQ which was similar to large private banks. The company is confident about corporate credit growth in FY23 given unutilised credit lines, loans under approval and improvement in lead economic indicators. SBI also mentioned that since 75% of loan book is linked to external benchmark, so it will be one of the beneficiaries in rising interest rate environment. Asset quality has further improved with net NPA improving by ~32bp QoQ to 1.0%

We believe that asset quality of SBI is in a better shape as it has been reporting benign gross slippages of 40-70bps over the past three quarters now. Net slippages are even better at NIL to negative over the same period. We do not expect any major asset quality challenges flowing into FY23 as SMA I & II book is low at 13bps. 50% of restructured book is being billed now and is performing well. We expect SBI should continue its superior performance on the operational & asset quality side and shall report RoA of 0.9% and RoE of ~17% in FY23.

Key risks would include deterioration of asset quality leading to higher-than-expected credit costs, decline in NIMs due to falling yields, and lower than expected loan growth.

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**NatcoPharma** Natco Pharma recorded revenue growth of 80% YoY to Rs. 597cr. Profitability was impacted by one-off inventory value write-off and receivable credit loss, combining to Rs. 278cr. Adjusted for one-offs, EBITDA and PAT grew by 240% and 223% YoY to Rs. 260cr and 171cr respectively. Revenue was mainly driven by the first generic launch of gRevlimid in the US market by Natco with its marketing partner Teva. Domestic Formulations business was steady. The company is looking to expand the product portfolio by entering new therapies and launching more products in the existing therapies. Apart from the gRevlimid launch in the US, gRevlimid in Canada and Everolimus [launched in Oct 21] are driving the portfolio currently. NATCO has acquired Dash Pharmaceuticals, a New Jersey-based entity for consideration of US\$ 18Mn.

The long-term strategy of the company is to bring stability in earnings – focus on creating a steady branded generics business in India through acquisition and a front end franchise in the US; evaluate M&A opportunities in US, India and other large EMs. The company will generate significant cashflows from the launch of gRevlimid [8Bn\$ market size in the US and 12Bn\$ globally] and other complex products in the US and other RoW markets for the next 2 years and this will be used to fund acquisitions and capabilities.

In addition, the company has forayed into the Agrochem business, where the first key launch is expected in Q2 FY23.

Apart from Revlimid, the company has about 10 approved products in the pipeline, of which atleast 4 products will be launched in the next two financial years. The company filed 3 FTFs in FY22 and for one of the products, the company is the only FTF filer.

Key risks: Product concentration and inability to grow base business.

### United Spirits

United Spirits reported revenue growth of 14% YoY to Rs. 2,535cr. Prestige and Above (P&A) which formed 72% of the business registered volume growth of 9% YoY and revenue growth of 15% YoY. Premiumisation trend was quite visible, and this resulted in higher revenue growth vs volume growth. The premium scotch portfolio had grown in strong double digits. There was sharp inflation in the key raw materials (i.e., ENA and glass prices) and this resulted in gross margin declining to 44.3% vs 45.2% in the last quarter. Company was able to maintain its EBITDA Margin around 17% due to various cost savings initiatives. Lower interest expense resulted in PAT (adjusted to one-offs) growth of 16% YoY to Rs. 253cr in this quarter.

During the quarter, company has completed its strategic review where in it sold 32 'popular' brands and franchised 11 'popular' brands to Inbrew. This strategic review has been done as company wants to vacate the mass end of the category and focus only on the premium products. This will ease the management bandwidth, reduce the SKUs, and would result in leaner structure. Company is now debt free and going forward the cash will be used for acquisitions and paying dividends to shareholders.

Alcobeve sector is enjoying high volume growth due to demographic dividends and increasing household income in the country. We have aligned to this sector through the market leader, United Spirits. The premiumization trend in P&A continues to be at a rapid pace led by industry tailwinds and company-led initiatives. Over the last few years, the company has focused on cleaning up the balance sheet, and now it is a debt-free company. This allows the new CEO to focus more on growth.

Key risks include higher RM prices and government policies.

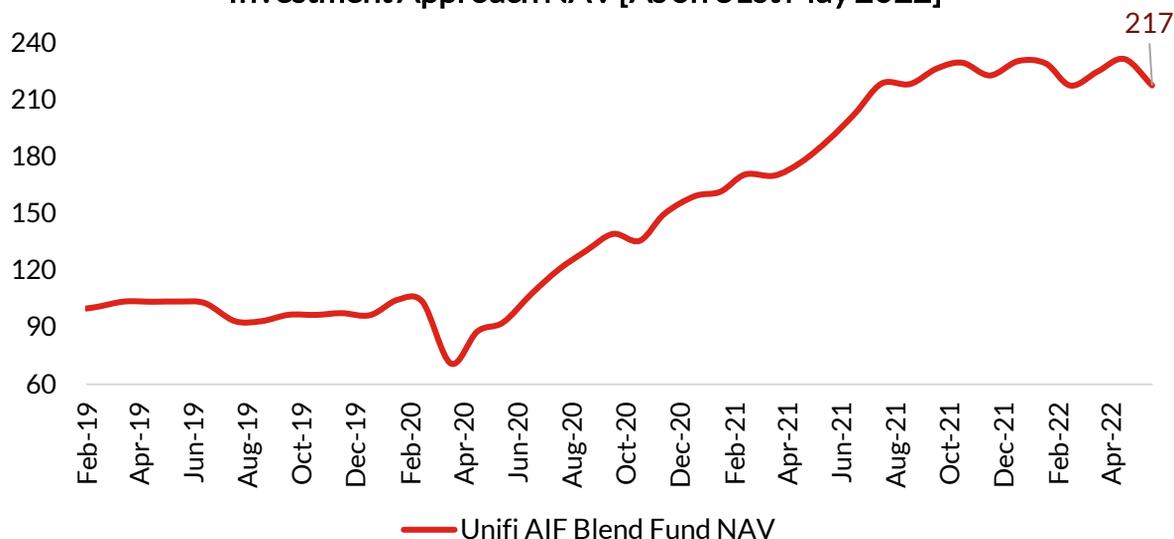
### ICICI Securities

ICICI Securities' revenue/ EBITDA/PAT grew YoY by 21%/18%/3% to Rs.892cr/564cr/340cr respectively in Q4 FY22. The broking segment degrew 5% sequentially as yields continue to be under pressure. Brokerage business formed 42% of the revenue vs 53% in Q4FY21. ICICI Securities continues to focus on building a resilient business beyond broking. The allied offerings to broking such as margin trading and other fees are 24% of revenues vs 14% YoY. The distribution revenues which are 19% of revenues grew 19% YoY led by improvement in both mutual fund and distribution business. ISec is also the second-largest nonbank MF distributor with an AUM of Rs.503 Bn. Corporate finance revenue grew 22% YoY. ISec continues to make investments in technology and branding and expects to gain market share in the derivative segment that have benefited the discount brokers.

We like the business resilience given the share of non-brokerage revenues in sales, agility demonstrated in the broking business, technology leadership, continuing consolidation of the user base and high RoE of >50%+.

Key risks would arise from a downcycle in equity markets leading to lower volume turnover and lower deal flow for corporate finance.

## Investment Approach NAV [As on 31st May 2022]



## KEY PORTFOLIO METRICS

It is important to note that each investment in the fund has been made on its own merit and the portfolio characteristics are merely a by-product of the process. In sync with Unifi's philosophy, the aggregate portfolio has low leverage, demonstrates potential for strong earning's growth, and has reasonable valuations.

Valuation Parameters* (As on 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	FY2022	FY2023E
P/E Ratio	26.2x	20.2x
Earnings Growth	39.4%	25.2%
Debt Equity Ratio	0.14	0.12
ROE %	20.3%	20.9%
PE/ Growth Ratio		0.7x

\*Adjusted for one-off to make figures representative.

We are continually monitoring the environment for any opportunities that have potential to materially improve the portfolio composition. We will be writing to you again post Q1 FY23 results. In closing, we encourage you to write to us, or your relationship manager for a detailed review of the portfolio and understanding of our proposition in greater granularity.

With best wishes,

**E. Prithvi Raj | Fund Manager**

**Baidik Sarkar | Head-Research**

## ANNEXURE

### FINANCIAL DETAILS OF TOP PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Unifi AIF BLEND	Market Cap (Rs. cr)	PBT (Rs. cr)		YoY (%)	PAT (Rs. Cr)		P/E	ROE	Portfolio Weight
		4th June 2022	Q4 FY21		Q4 FY22	FY 22			
Axis Bank	2,06,604	3,570	5,479	53%	13,025	17,692	12	14%	8.7%
Garware Tech	6,519	69	71	3%	165	202	32	19%	8.5%
CG Consumer	23,044	231	213	-8%	577	669	34	27%	7.2%
JK Paper	5,716	194	266	37%	544	759	8	23%	7.0%
Godrej Consumer	77,895	424	384	-9%	1,783	1,891	41	16%	6.3%
ICICI Bank	5,19,833	5,656	9,224	63%	1,528	1,757	296	16%	6.2%
Coromandel	28,265	213	389	83%	1,528	1,757	16	25%	5.9%
Varun	48,262	195	361	85%	696	1,080	45	24%	5.8%
SBI	4,13,879	8,649	12,479	44%	31,675	44,977	9	17%	5.1%
Natco	12,688	71	228	221%	448	1,226	10	25%	4.8%
United Spirits	58,153	281	361	28%	925	1,034	56	20%	4.4%
ICICI Sec	14,691	449	455	1%	1,383	1,259	12	57%	4.1%

### CLASSIFICATION OF MARKET CAP

Segment	Basis	%
Large Cap	> Rs. 45,000 cr	35.0%
Mid Cap	> Rs. 15,000 cr < Rs. 45,000 cr	16.9%
Small Cap	< Rs. 15,000 cr	44.1%
Cash		3.7%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### LIQUIDITY ANALYSIS

Segment	% of portfolio
1 day	36.4%
Between 1 & 3 days	10.1%
Between 3 & 7 days	22.0%
Greater than 7 days	31.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigants
<b>Coronavirus Impact</b>	The impact of the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak in India and the rest of the World can be multifold. The lockdown-related slowdown in consumption can affect several sectors. Our investee companies have product & category leadership along the financial wherewithal to withstand temporary phases of demand slowdown and lead consolidation of demand. The BFSI sector could have heightened stressed assets for a certain period of time thereby impacting their profitability.
<b>Geo-political risks</b>	Geopolitical tensions globally can disrupt the supply chain in the region. This might have a non-linear impact on business.
<b>Raw material inflation</b>	India continues to be dependent on the supply of feedstock whose pricing is global in nature. Key categories would be crude, metals, minerals, and natural commodities. Sharp movement in their underlying prices will have a short-term financial impact on the companies. The situation in China [political] has the potential to disrupt the supply chain of a few of our investee companies.

<b>Liquidity risk (in case of NBFCs)</b>	The NBFC led liquidity crisis in India has had a systemic effect on the entire economy. Our investee companies have been able to tap diversified sources of liquidity on the back of their long-term track record of comfortable asset quality and asset-liability management (ALM). However, sustained deterioration of the asset quality can continue to affect our holdings in Banks and NBFCs.
<b>Foreign Exchange risk</b>	The foreign exchange system continues to be guided by global developments. Our investee companies in the IT sector are subject to sharp movements in the USD and GBP. They mitigate the same via hedging, but there remains a portion of revenues that continue to be subject to the vagaries in fx movements. Most of our non-IT exposure is to companies that derive their revenues from the domestic market. The revenue from exports would be minimal for each strategy as a whole, and where relevant, are adequately hedged. A sharp depreciation in the INR will affect the import of feedstock (higher prices) which can lead to a brief moment of earnings-related volatility.
<b>Leverage risk</b>	Except for financial companies, most of the operating companies in the strategies carry nil to moderate debt on their balance sheets with a track record of having managed leverage well in the past. Their leverage is monitored regularly.
<b>Technology Obsolescence</b>	Technological changes can render the products/services of a company obsolete and thereby hurt its profitability and valuation. Such a risk is generally minimized by limiting the aggregate exposure of portfolio to such investments to less than 10% of value.
<b>Governance risk</b>	We avoid investing in companies with a known history of corporate governance issues. If such issue arises in an existing investment, we stop additional purchases and start optimally exiting the investment.
<b>Concentration risk</b>	At the portfolio level, such risks are minimized by limiting the aggregate exposure of portfolio to such investments to less than 10% of value at the time of investment.
<b>Stock Illiquidity risk</b>	High Impact cost, due to thin trading at the time of buying or selling is endemic to small & mid-caps. We plan our investment decisions, size of the investment and trading strategies to minimize the costs due to illiquidity.
<b>Key Man Risk</b>	Small and mid-caps are frequently managed by a key promoter / person on whom the business is completely reliant and without whom the business would be materially inferior. We generally avoid such names and in cases where we make any exceptions, the aggregate exposure of the portfolio to such investments is limited to less than 10% by value.
<b>Slowdown in global consumption</b>	The wallet share of the investee companies in the global manufacturing value chain does not pose a significant risk of loss of business to their vendors. New and high growth areas such as Lithium-Ion batteries, EV vehicles are in the relative infancy stage and have a strong growth curve ahead of them.
<b>Softness in IT product spends</b>	The convergence to digital software solutions is a 'must do' proposition and our investee companies have exhibited significant traction in competing in this space. A combination of their recent deal wins, and current bid pipelines bode well for their future.

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**CHENNAI:**  
11, Kakani Towers 15  
Khader Nawaz Khan Road  
Nungambakkam High Road  
Chennai - 600 006. INDIA  
Ph: +91-44- 2833 1556

**HYDERABAD:**  
H No. 6-3-346/1, Road  
No. 1  
Banjara Hills Scotia  
Bank Building  
Hyderabad - 500 034.  
INDIA Ph: +91-40-  
4010 2316/17

**BANGALORE:**  
1109, 11th Floor  
Barton Centre 84,  
M.G. Road  
Bangalore - 560 001.  
INDIA  
Ph: +91-80-255  
9418/19

**MUMBAI:**  
Shiv Sagar Estate,  
A-Block, 8th Floor,  
Dr. Annie Besant  
Road Worli,  
Mumbai - 400 018.  
INDIA

**DELHI:**  
No.818, International  
Trade Tower, Nehru  
Place.  
Delhi - 110 019.  
INDIA  
Ph: +91-9930112828