

EQUITY MARKET OUTLOOK

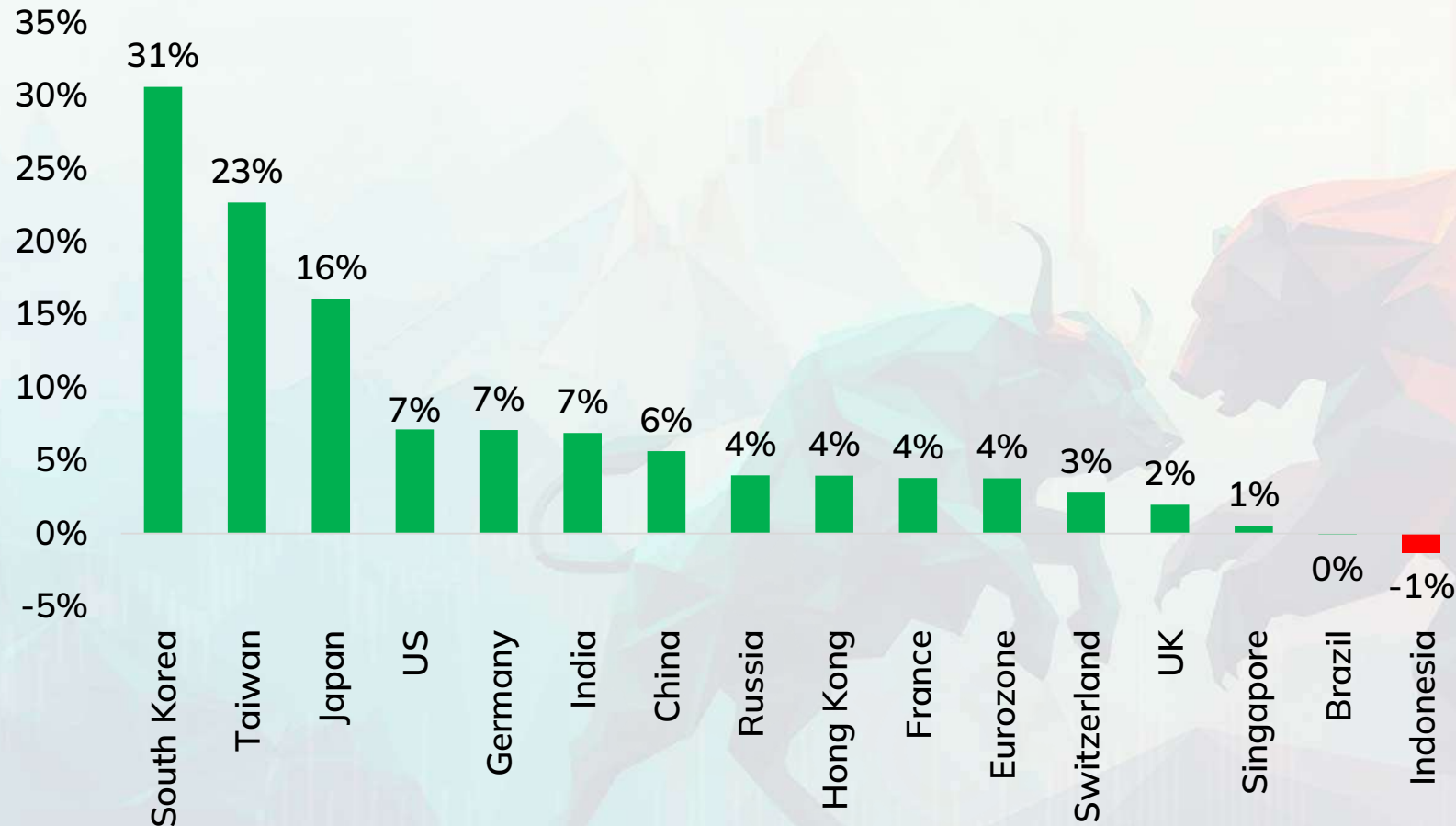
May 2026





Global Equity Markets – Asia rode the AI wave

Country Returns (Apr-26)



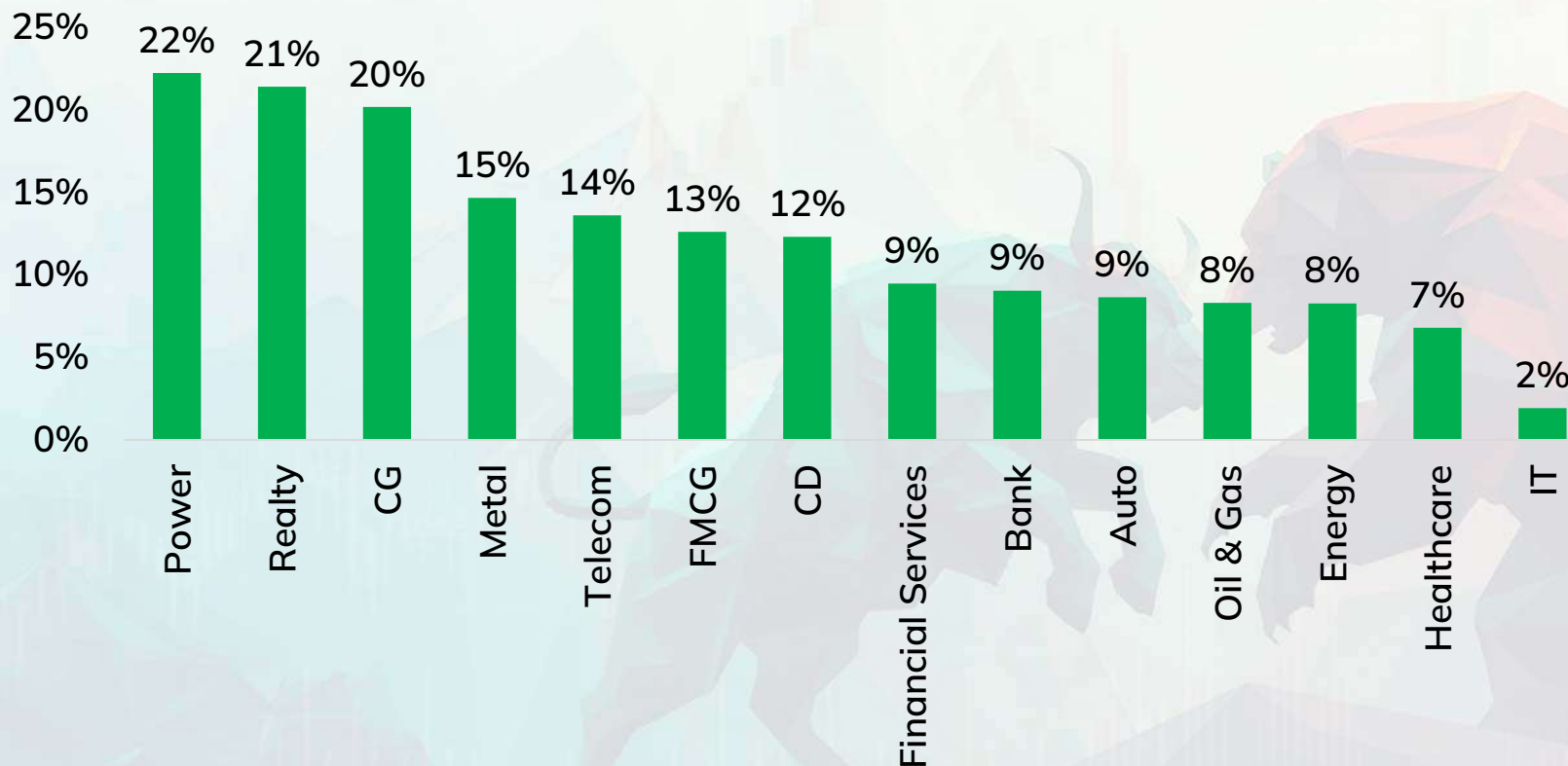
- South Korea & Taiwan performed exceptionally well during the month given record buying by foreign investors on the back of semiconductors & AI infrastructure demand
- Shift in foreign capital towards export-tech markets over domestic-demand-driven markets led to relative underperformance of Indian equities

Data Source – ACE MF. Returns data is from Mar 31, 2026 to Apr 30, 2026. Past performance may or may not sustain in the future. Returns are absolute returns. AI – Artificial Intelligence. Past performance may or may not sustain in future. Indices considered – India: BSE Sensex, France: – CAC 40, Germany: DAX, Eurozone: Euronext 100, UK: FTSE, Brazil: Ibovespa, Indonesia: Jakarta Composite Index, South Korea: Kospi, Japan: Nikkei, Russia: RTS, China: SSE Composite, Singapore: Strait Times, Switzerland: Swiss Market Index, Taiwan: TWSE Capitalization Weighted Stock Index, US: Dow Jones Industrial Average



Sectoral Indices – Powering ahead with cyclicals

Sector Returns (Mar-2026)



- Power sector outperformed as investors believed India is entering a multi-year electricity demand boom driven by data center expansion, heatwave driven power consumption & urban infrastructure expansion
- IT underperformed relatively as US slowdown fears impacted outlook

Data Source: MFIE Research. MFI Explorer is a tool provided by ICRA Analytics Ltd. For their standard disclaimer please visit <https://icraanalytics.com/home/Disclaimer>. Returns data is from Mar 31, 2026 to Apr 30, 2026 (in absolute terms). Indices used: Power Sector – BSE Power TRI, Bankex Sector – BSE Bankex TRI, FMCG Sector – BSE FMCG TRI, Energy Sector – BSE Energy TRI, For Capital Goods Sector – BSE CG TRI, Auto Sector – BSE AUTO TRI, Oil & Gas Sector – BSE Oil & Gas TRI, Finance Sector – BSE Financial Services TRI, Metal Sector – BSE METAL TRI, Telecom Sector – BSE Telecom TRI, HC Sector – BSE HC TRI, Realty Sector – BSE Realty TRI, Consumer Durables Sector – BSE CD TRI, IT Sector – BSE IT TRI is considered. CG: Capital Goods, CD: Consumer Durables, IT: Information Technology, FMCG: Fast moving Consumer Goods. Past performance may or may not sustain in future. The sector(s)/stock(s) mentioned in this document do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future positions in the sector(s)/stock(s).

Global Economy – Stack of Cards

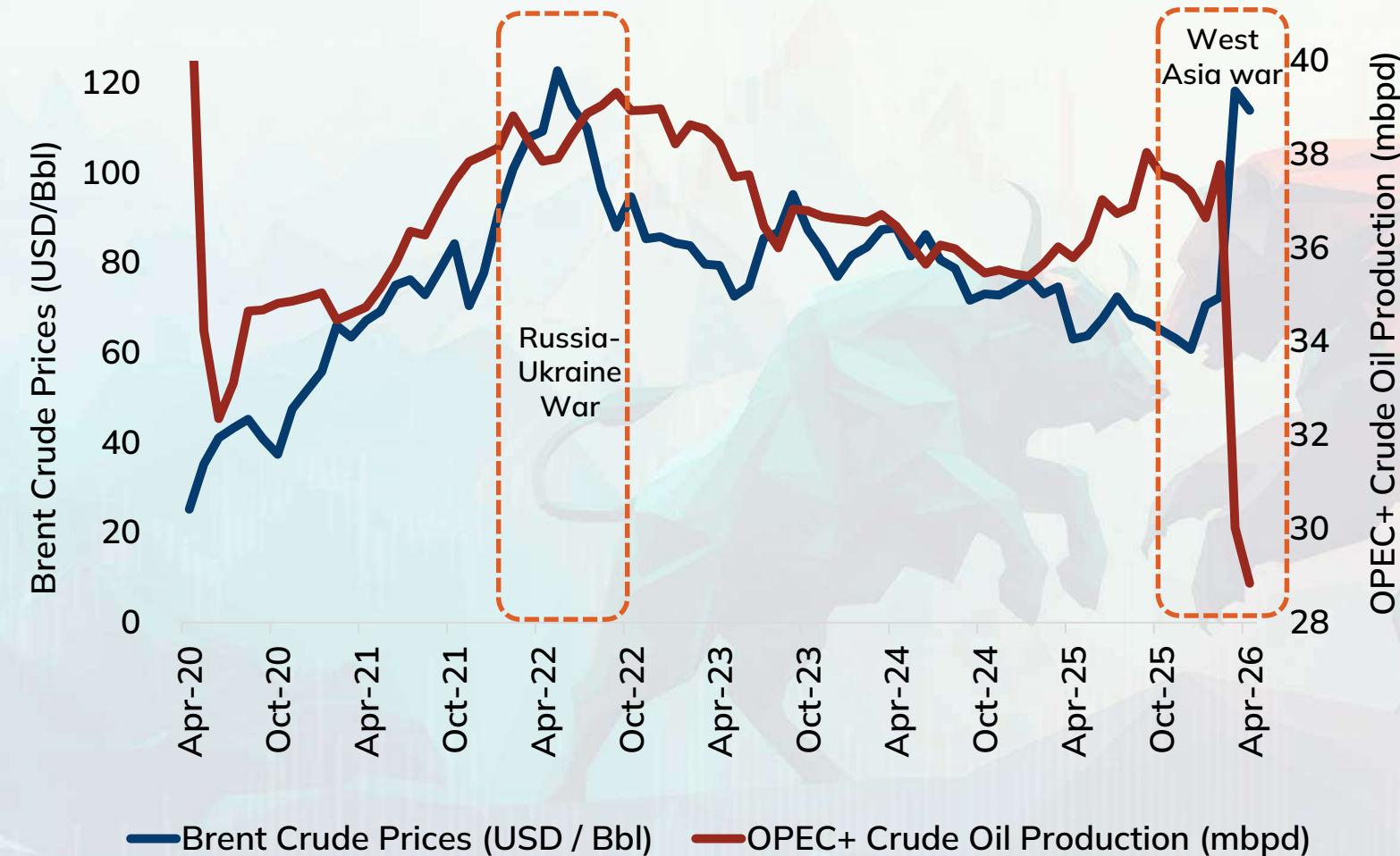
The global economy today resembles a house of cards – stable as long as balance holds, but vulnerable to even the smallest disturbance. The escalation in West Asia is a reminder that shocks, however localized, rarely remain contained. They transmit quickly through energy markets, financial flows and investor sentiment creating ripple effects across regions. India, despite its strong domestic footing is not completely insulated from these shifts. In a structure so tightly linked, even a distant move can test domestic stability

While overall long term view remains positive on Indian economy and markets, we remain cautious on near term prospects



Global Landscape – Supply Shock, Price Surge

Brent Crude Prices & OPEC+ Oil Supply



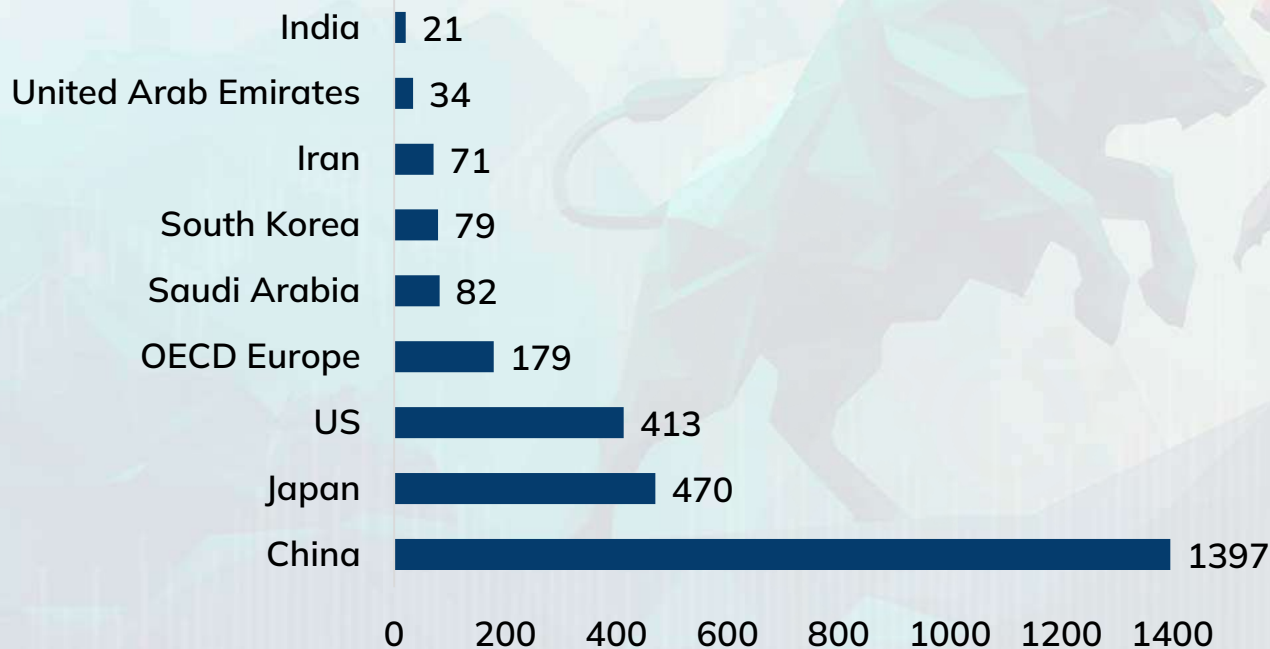
- OPEC+ Crude supply plunged sharply in March-April as production declined due to continued closure of Strait of Hormuz & on going attacks on oil infrastructure leading to a sharp cut in spare crude production capacity in the Middle East
- The UAE officially exited OPEC & OPEC+ alliance on May 1, 2026



Global Landscape – Strategic Reserves: Cushion or Countdown?

The 3 largest strategic oil inventories are currently being held by China, the US & Japan. Currently, these countries as a part of coordinated emergency release plan have agreed to and are releasing part of their oil stocks following closure of Strait of Hormuz. How long this can sustain is a question

Strategic Crude Oil Inventories in select countries,
Mn Barrels (Dec-25)

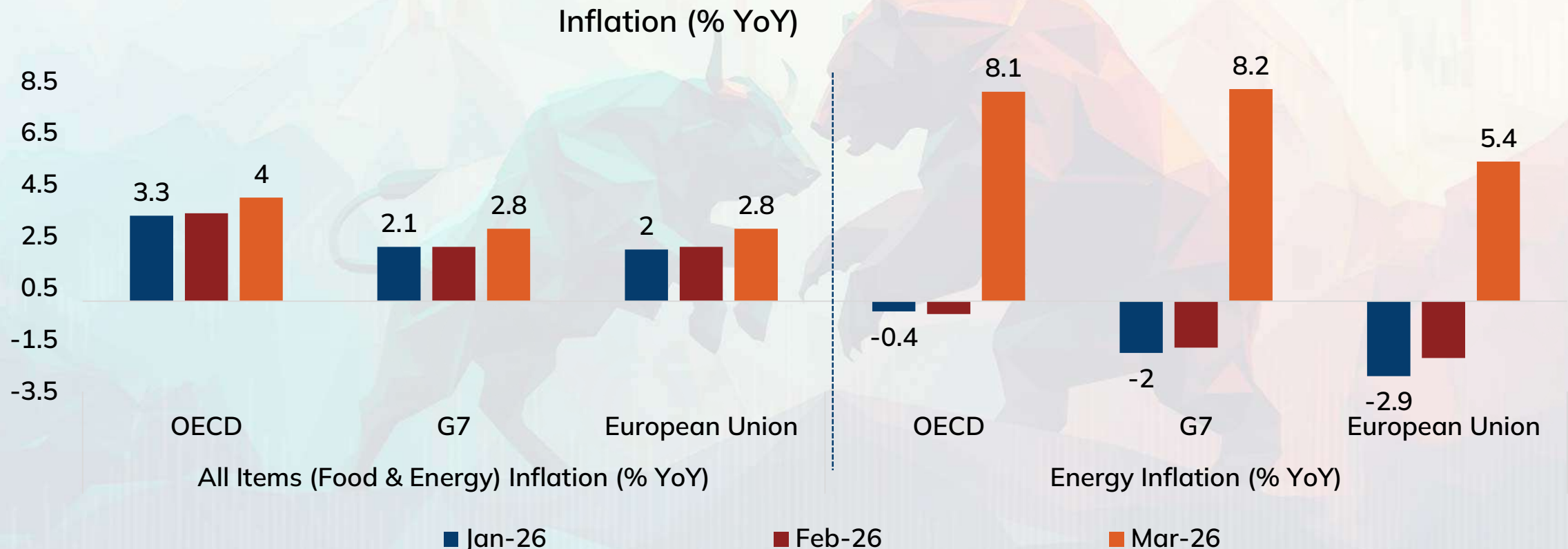


Country	Days of Inventory (Net Import)
China	100-130
Japan	140
US	55-60
OECD Europe	90
Saudi Arabia	-
South Korea	26
Iran	12-22
United Arab Emirates	-
India	9-10



Global Landscape – Oil Spike to Inflation Surge

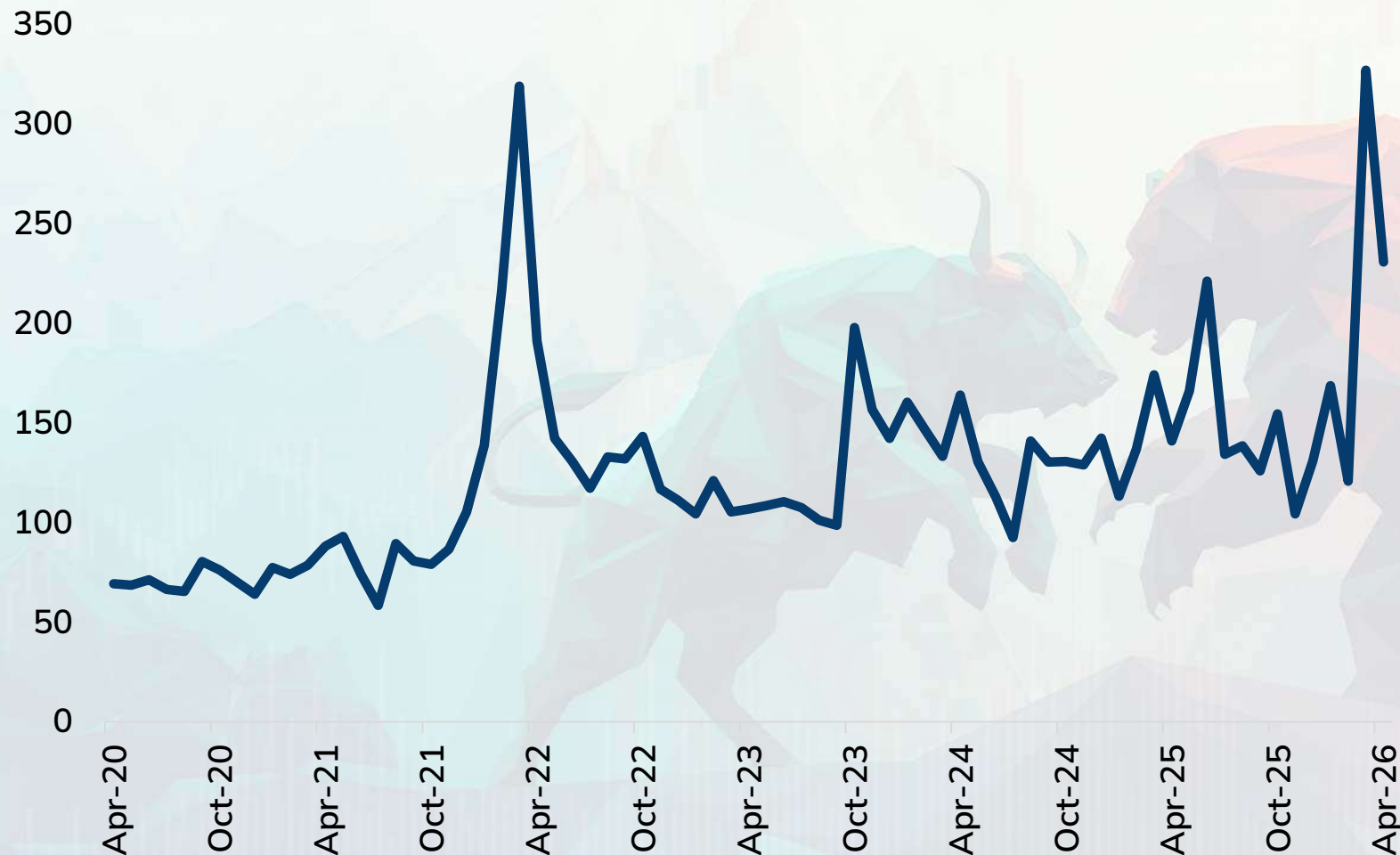
The latest data released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicate rise in inflation given high energy prices. This surge is expected to prolong inflationary pressures across many economies thereby increasing prospects of tighter monetary policies by Central Banks





Global Landscape – Rising Geopolitical Risk

Geopolitical Risk Index



- The Geo-Political Risk Index (GPR) tends to spike during major events and is usually linked to reduced economic growth and higher downside risks to the global economy
- The index spiked to 300+ levels, 4 years after the Russia-Ukraine war indicating inevitable volatility & risk



Indian Economy – Rupee Edges Lower

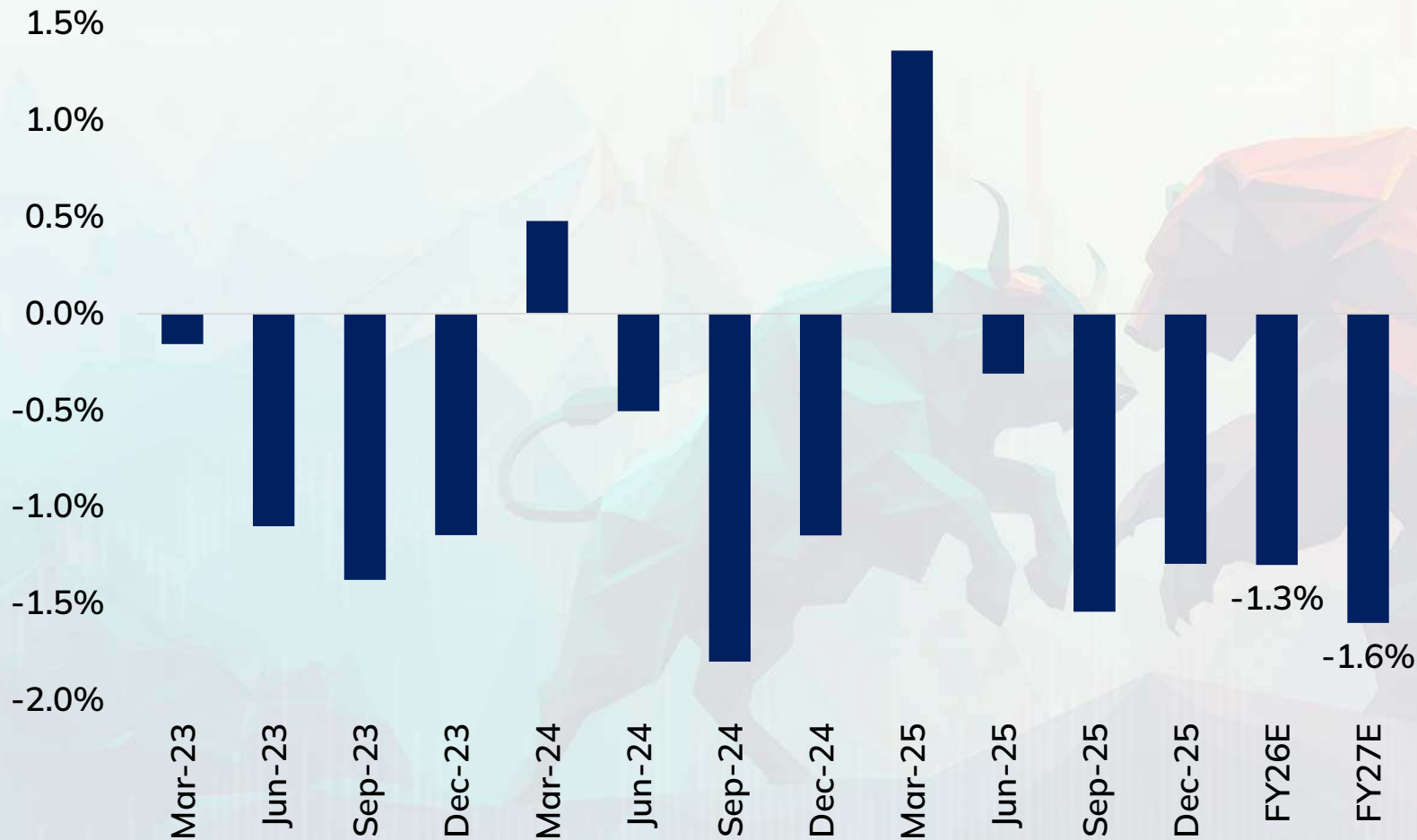


- The rupee was already under pressure in 2025 given heavy FPI selling
- The West-Asia tensions further exacerbated the fall with rupee touching depreciating ~11% in last one year



Indian Economy – Current Account Balance – From Comfort to Caution

Current Account Balance, % of GDP



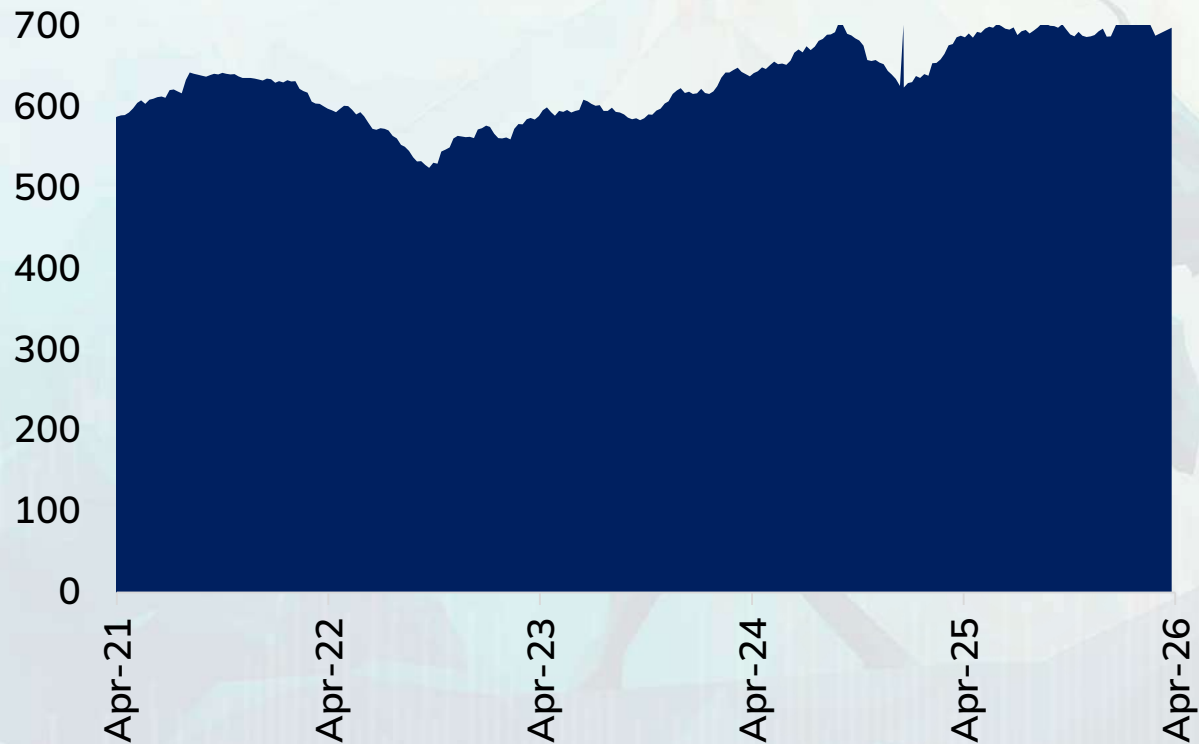
- Inflated import bill thanks to rise in global crude oil prices may impact India's Current Account Balance as it imports 90% of its requirements
- This may put some pressure on India's external trade and financial balance



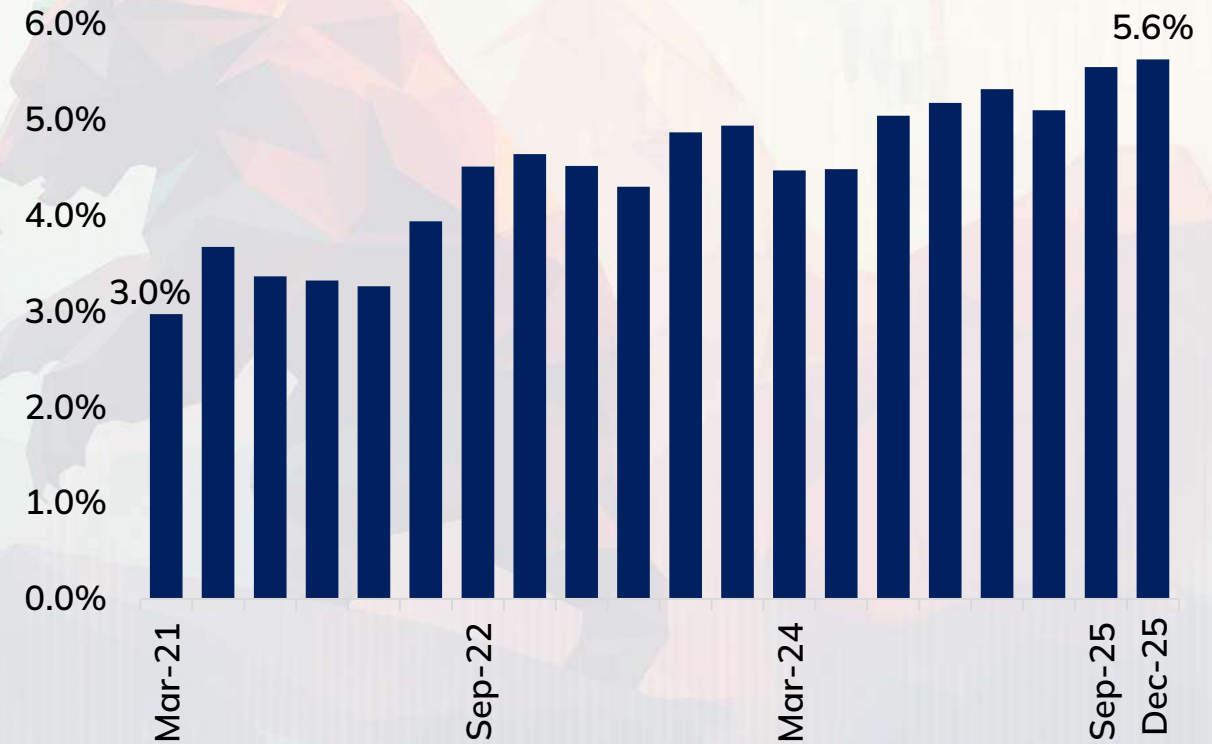
Indian Economy – Service Exports & Forex Reserves (Buffers in Play)

The pressure on India's trade balance may partly be cushioned by healthy Forex Reserves & growing Services surplus

Forex Reserves (USD bn)



Services Trade Balance, % of GDP





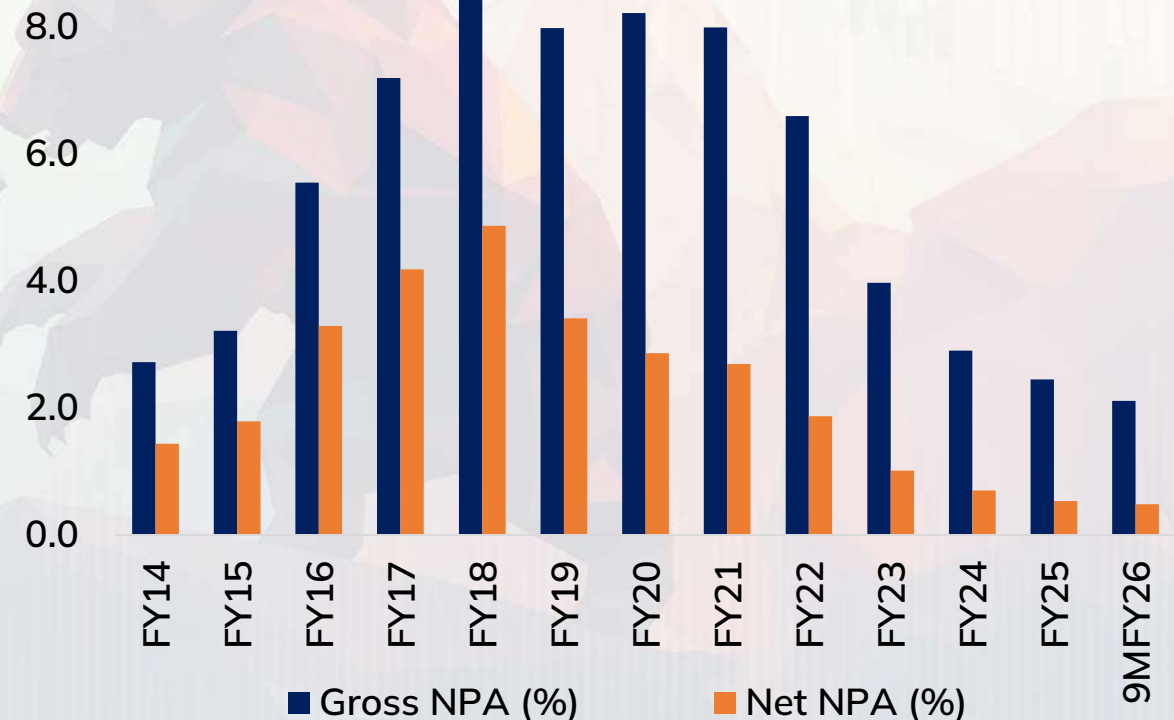
Indian Economy – Long Term Macros Intact

Banks are well-capitalized and asset quality is improving contributing to the resilience of overall financial system

Capital Adequacy Ratio (Tier-1 Capital %)



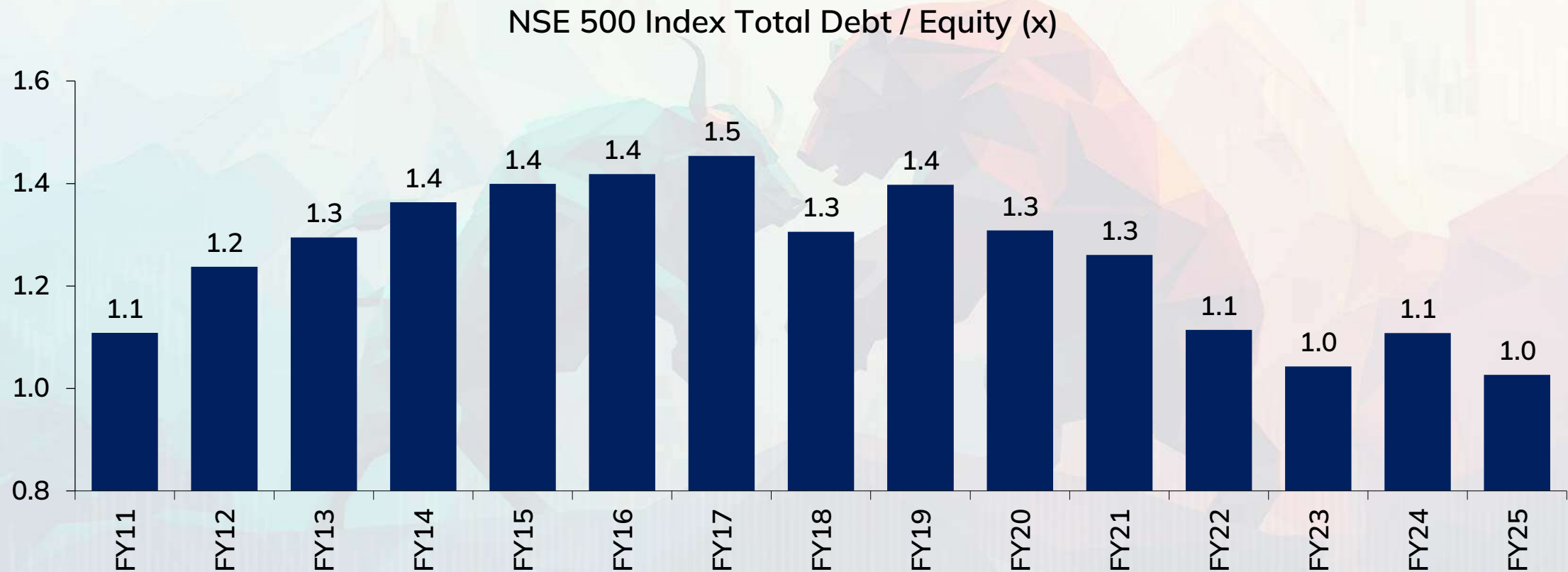
Gross & Net NPA (%)





Indian Economy – Long Term Macros Intact

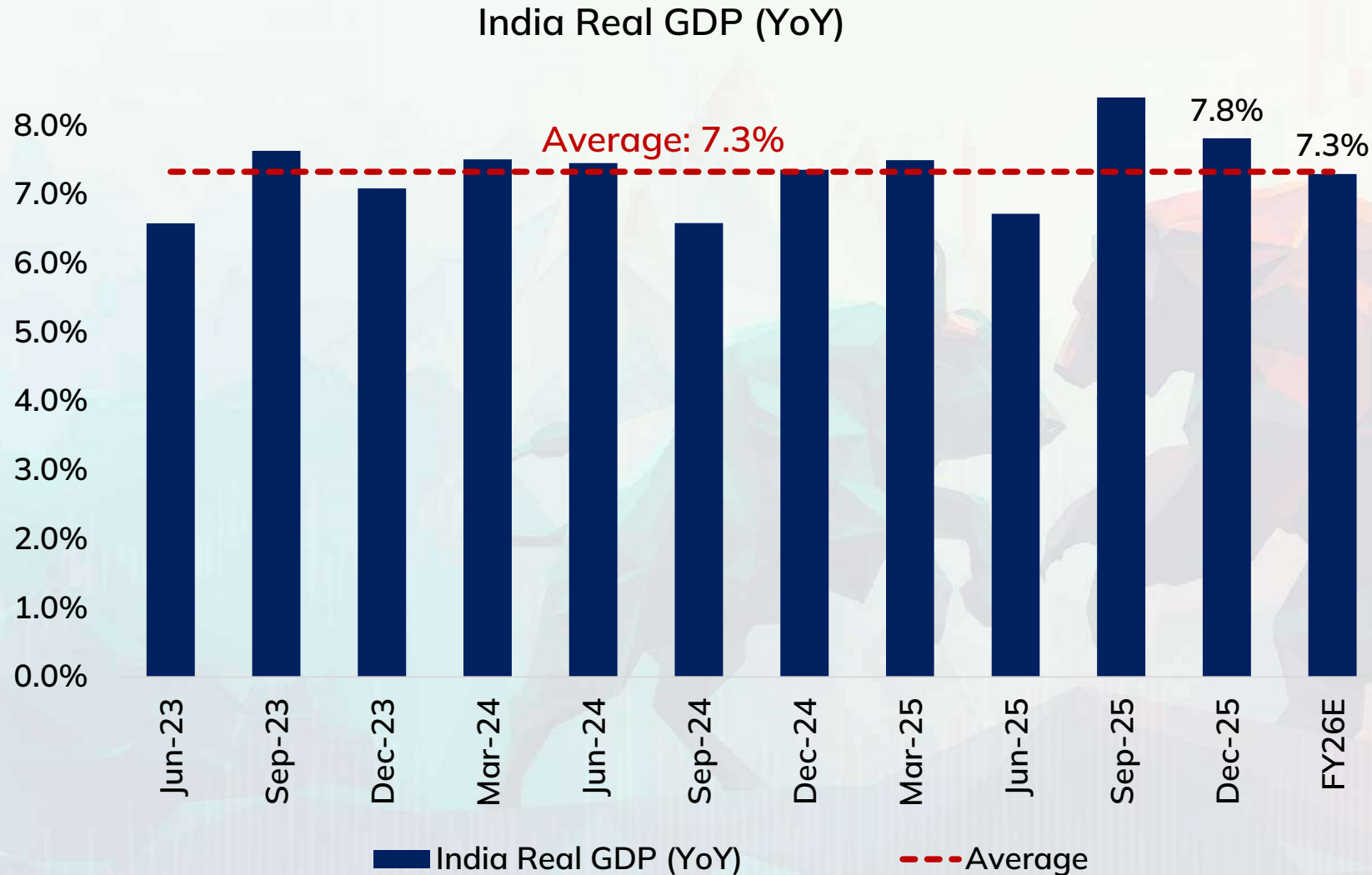
Corporates are de-leveraging Vs their past cycles indicating good financial health & decreasing their vulnerability to any financial system shock



Source: DAM Capital. Data as of March 31, 2025. Past performance may or may not sustain in future. The ratio total debt/equity ratio is calculated as total liabilities / total shareholder's equity. For all NSE 500 companies, the average of total debt to equity ratio is considered



Indian Economy – Long Term Macros Intact



- India continues to remain one of the fastest growing economies in the world at ~7%
- Considering the impact of West-Asia tensions on the war, going by IMF estimates, despite a cut in projections, India will still be among the fastest growing economies



INDIAN EQUITIES – CURRENT STATE



'V'valuations Re-set

Indian equities were commanding rich valuations until last year. They have moderated post recent corrections



Source: DAM Capital. Data as of May 6, 2026. Returns are in absolute terms. Past performance may or may not sustain in future. Indices considered: Kospi for Korea, Taiwan – TWSE Capitalization Weighted Index, Brazil – Ibovespa Sao Paulo Index, MSCI EM – MSCI Emerging Markets Index, Japan – Nikkei 225, South Africa – JSE Top 40 Index, China – Shanghai Composite Index, Singapore – Strait Times, UK – FTSE 100, Europe – Euro Stoxx 50, Hong Kong – Hang Seng Index, France – CAC 40, Germany – DAX, India Nifty 50



'V'valuations Re-set

The valuations froth seen in last 2 years, has come off

Period	As a % of Total Market Cap			
	Top 50 Stocks	Next 50 Stocks	Midcap-150 Stocks	Smallcap - Above 250 Stocks
2015	59.8	14	15.2	11.0
2016	58.8	14.1	15.3	11.8
2017	53.4	14.7	17.3	14.6
2018	58.3	13.7	16.3	11.7
2019	61.8	13.1	15.6	9.5
2020	60.9	13.3	15.5	10.2
2021	55.6	13.1	16.8	14.4
2022	56.7	12.5	16.1	14.7
2023	51.4	13.1	17.6	17.8
2024	46.1	13.8	19.3	20.8
2025	46.7	13.9	20.0	19.4
Apr-26	45.4	14.2	20.2	20.2

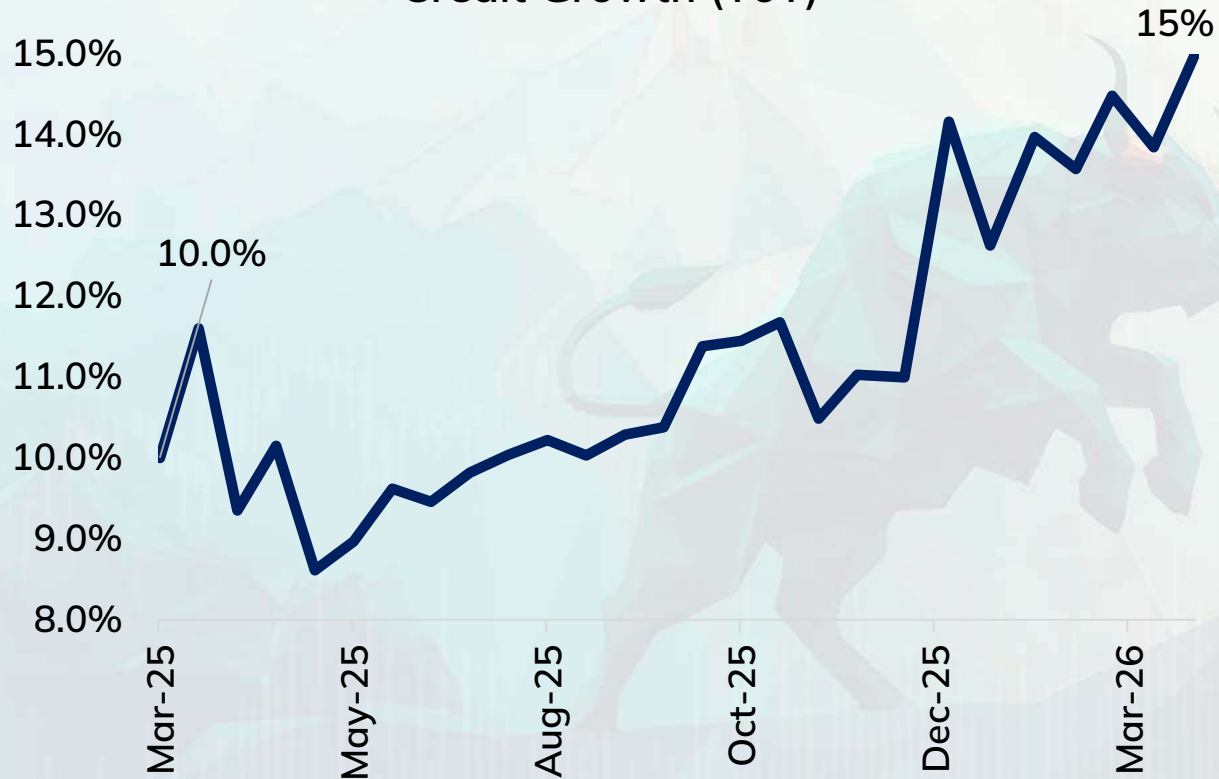
Source: NSE. Data as on Apr 30, 2026. Data is on calendar year basis. Past performance may or may not sustain in future. Red indicates high valuations, Amber indicates neutral valuations and Green indicates attractive valuations.



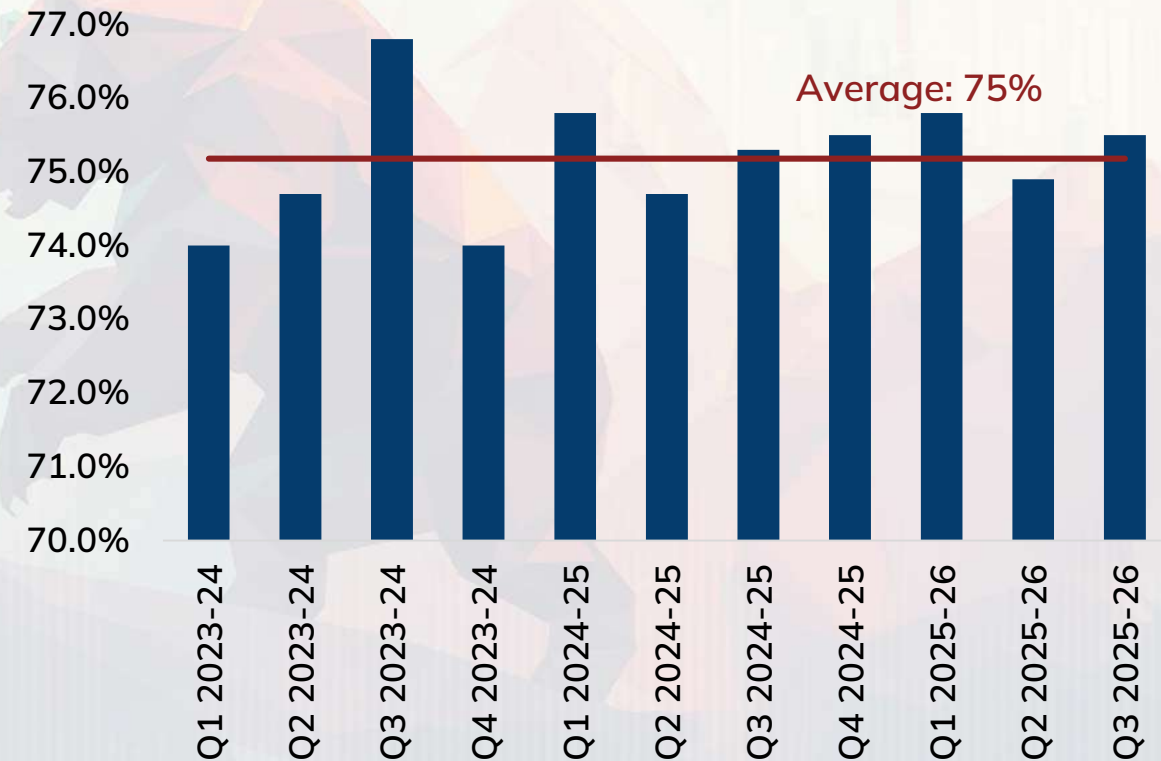
'C'ycle – Business Cycle Holds Firm

Business Cycle continues to remain strong indicating good overall economic health

Credit Growth (YoY)



Capacity Utilization

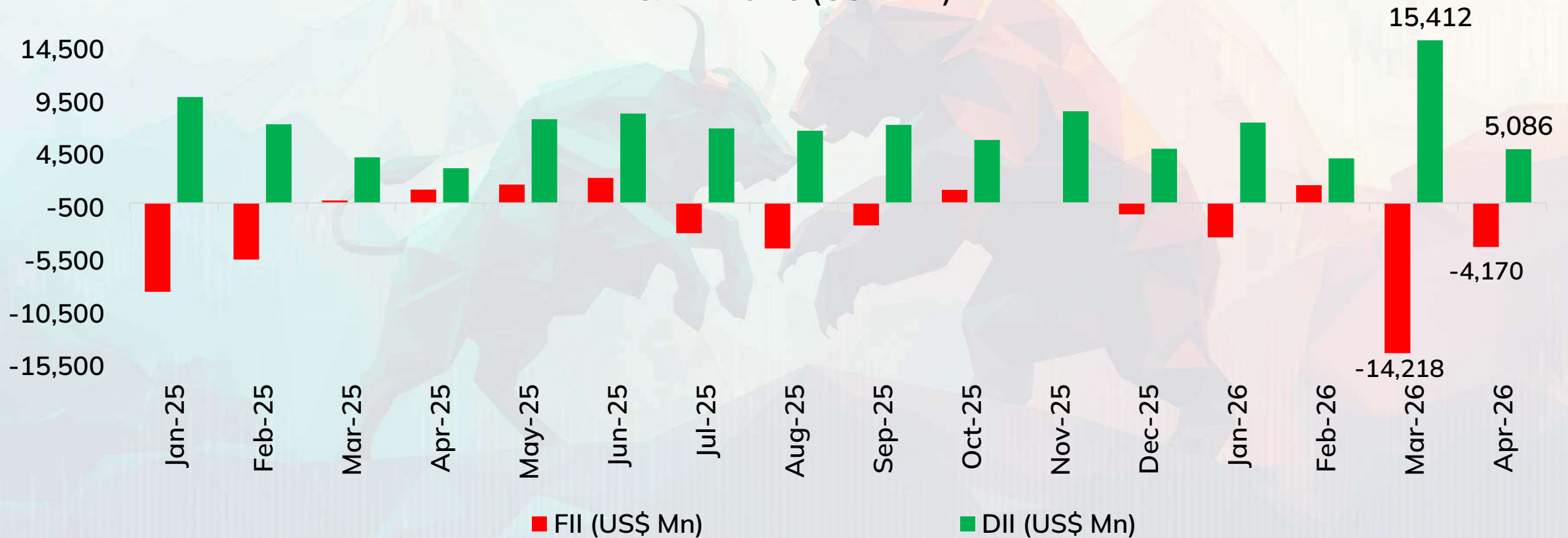




'S'entiments – Neutral

Sentiments have been subdued in case of FIIs as they moved to 'safer assets' from riskier ones (Emerging Markets). DIIs on the other hand absorbed a significant part of outflows making Sentiments neutral

FII & DII Flows (USD Mn)





Key Takeaways



Global markets are volatile at the moment and India is not completely insulated from the near term jolts. Factors that may chart future course include – Inflation, Global Central Banks' monetary policies & Growth



There may be a short term impact on India's trade balance, currency and other macro indicators like Growth



However, India's core fundamentals remain intact – Healthy forex reserves, services trade surplus, strong demand, steady long term Govt. reforms



Valuations have eased, Business Cycle remains robust, Sentiments are neutral. However, in near term, volatility is inevitable as geo-political environment is very dynamic



Given that recent corrections have cooled-off valuations, one can consider investing in equities in a staggered manner through SIP / STP in schemes that have the flexibility to maneuver across sectors / market cap



Since market volatility may persist, we continue to recommend investing in Hybrid / Asset Allocation schemes



Recommendations

Hybrid / Asset allocation schemes to manage volatility



- IPRU Equity & Debt Fund
- IPRU Multi-Asset Fund
- IPRU Balanced Advantage Fund
- IPRU Dynamic Asset Allocation Active FOF (erstwhile ICICI Prudential Asset Allocator Fund (FOF))

Schemes with flexibility to maneuver across sectors / themes



- IPRU Business Cycle Fund
- IPRU Flexicap Fund
- IPRU Dividend Yield Equity Fund
- IPRU Active Momentum Fund
- IPRU Multicap Fund
- IPRU Diversified Equity All Cap Active FOF
- IPRU India Opportunities Fund
- IPRU Value Fund (erstwhile ICICI Prudential Value Discovery Fund)

Large cap biased schemes for long term wealth creation



- IPRU Large Cap Fund (erstwhile ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund)
- IPRU Equity Minimum Variance Fund

Continue SIP/STP as the long term view remains intact, strongly recommend ICICI Prudential Booster STP*

IPRU – ICICI Prudential, SIP – Systematic Investment Plan, STP – Systematic Transfer Plan, FOF – Fund of Fund. The asset allocation and investment strategies will be as per Scheme Information Document. * ICICI Prudential Booster Systematic Transfer Plan is a facility wherein unit holder(s) can opt to transfer variable amount(s) from designated open ended scheme(s) of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund to the designated open ended scheme(s) of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund



Walking the talk

At market peak in Sep-24, we were overall cautious on equities and hence our asset allocation schemes too had lower equity allocation. As we believe that high valuations have now cooled-off, the equity allocation across these schemes have increased

EQUITY RANGE

		Sep-24	Apr-26
65-80%	▶ ICICI Prudential Equity & Debt Fund	67.3%	75.5%
10-80%	▶ ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Fund	50.5%	62.2%
0 - 100%*	▶ ICICI Prudential Dynamic Asset Allocation Active FOF^	37.4%	55.6%
30-80%	▶ ICICI Prudential Balanced Advantage Fund	31.8%	53.2%
10-25%	▶ ICICI Prudential Regular Savings Fund	21.7%	22.7%
15-50%	▶ ICICI Prudential Equity Savings Fund	16.3%	20.3%

Data as on Apr 30, 2026. FOF: Fund of Fund. The net equity exposure is calculated net of stock futures and options (Notional Exposure of Index Put Options only) and does not include exposure in REITs. The portfolio of the scheme is subject to changes within the provisions of the Scheme Information document of the scheme. Please refer to the SID for investment pattern, strategy and risk factors. The asset allocation and investment strategy will be as per Scheme Information Document. ^Pursuant to SEBI's framework on Fund of Fund Schemes, the Scheme features has been modified with effect from November 25, 2025. Kindly refer to the AMC's website for detailed information. Erstwhile ICICI Prudential Asset Allocator Fund (FOF) Investors may please note that they will be bearing the recurring expenses of this Scheme in addition to the expenses of the underlying Schemes in which this Scheme makes investment. *Please note that total Non Debt Allocation of the scheme will be 35-100%. Compulsorily convertible debentures and foreign equity has been included in the net equity exposure.



Riskometers

ICICI Prudential Balanced Advantage Fund (An open ended dynamic asset allocation fund) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term capital appreciation/income
- ☐ Investing in equity and equity related securities and debt instruments

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

ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Fund (An open ended scheme investing in Equity, Debt and Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives/ units of Gold ETFs/units of Silver ETFs/units of REITs & InvITs/ Preference shares) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long Term Wealth Creation
- ☐ An open ended scheme investing across asset classes

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

ICICI Prudential Large Cap Fund (Erstwhile ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund) (An open ended equity scheme predominantly investing in large cap stocks) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

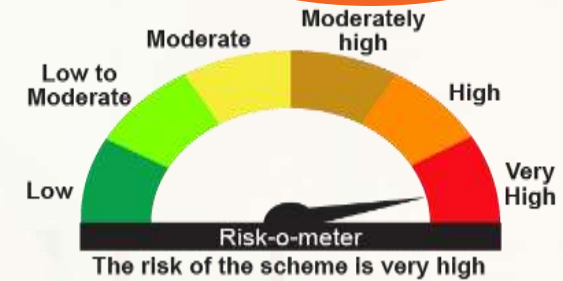
- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An open ended equity scheme predominantly investing in large cap stocks

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

ICICI Prudential Equity Minimum Variance Fund (An open ended equity scheme following Minimum Variance theme) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ To generate long term capital appreciation by investing in Equity & Equity related instruments through a diversified basket with an aim to minimize the portfolio volatility

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





Riskometers

ICICI Prudential Equity & Debt Fund (An open ended hybrid scheme investing predominantly in equity and equity related instruments) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation solution
- ☐ A balanced fund aiming for long term capital appreciation and current income by investing in equity as well as fixed income securities

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

ICICI Prudential Dynamic Asset Allocation Active FOF (Erstwhile ICICI Prudential Asset Allocator Fund (FOF)) (An open ended Fund of Funds scheme investing dynamically in units of active equity and debt oriented schemes) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An Open-ended Fund of Funds scheme investing dynamically in units of active equity and debt oriented mutual fund schemes.

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

Investors may please note that they will be bearing the recurring expenses of the relevant fund of funds scheme in addition to the expenses of the underlying schemes in which the fund of funds scheme makes investment.

ICICI Prudential Flexicap Fund (An open ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap & small cap stocks) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

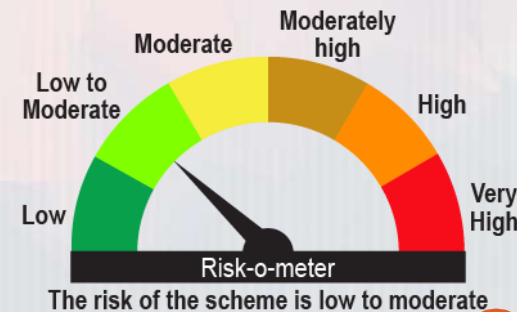
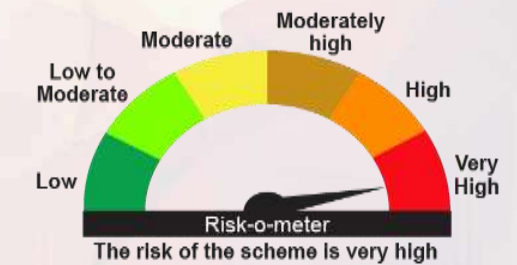
- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An open ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap and small cap stocks

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

ICICI Prudential Equity Savings Fund (An open ended scheme investing in equity, arbitrage and debt) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An open ended scheme that seeks to generate regular income through investments in fixed income securities, arbitrage and other derivative strategies and aim for long term capital appreciation by investing in equity and equity related instruments.

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





Riskometers

ICICI Prudential Regular Savings Fund (An open ended hybrid scheme investing predominantly in debt instruments) suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Medium to long term regular income solution
- ☐ A hybrid fund that aims to generate regular income through investments primarily in debt and money market instruments and long term capital appreciation by investing a portion in equity.

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

ICICI Prudential Value Fund (Erstwhile ICICI Prudential Value Discovery Fund) (An open ended equity scheme following a value investment strategy) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An open ended equity scheme following a value investment strategy

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

ICICI Prudential India Opportunities Fund (An open ended equity scheme following special situations theme) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long Term Wealth Creation
- ☐ An equity scheme that invests in stocks based on special situations theme.

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

ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund (An open ended equity scheme following business cycles based investing theme) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An equity scheme that invests in Indian markets with focus on riding business cycles through dynamic allocation between various sectors and stocks at different stages of business cycles

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





Riskometers

ICICI Prudential Diversified Equity All Cap Active FOF (An open ended Fund of Funds scheme investing predominantly in the units of diversified domestic active equity-oriented schemes based on varied market caps) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An open ended Fund of Funds scheme investing predominantly in the units of diversified domestic active equity-oriented schemes based on varied market caps

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

Investors may please note that they will be bearing the recurring expenses of the relevant fund of funds scheme in addition to the expenses of the underlying schemes in which the fund of funds scheme makes investment.

ICICI Prudential Multicap Fund (An open ended equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap, small cap stocks) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long Term Wealth Creation
- ☐ An open ended equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap and small cap stocks.

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

ICICI Prudential Active Momentum Fund (An open ended equity scheme following momentum theme) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long Term Wealth Creation
- ☐ An open ended equity scheme investing in equity and equity related instruments of companies reflecting momentum factors.

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

ICICI Prudential Dividend Yield Equity Fund (An open ended equity scheme predominantly investing in dividend yielding stocks) is suitable for investors who are seeking*:

- ☐ Long term wealth creation
- ☐ An open ended equity scheme that aims for growth by primarily investing in equity and equity related instruments of dividend yielding companies.

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





Disclaimer

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

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