An Investor Education & Awareness Initiative

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Invest Correctly

IPRU Insights

Issue 05 | 2026

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Planning Beyond Wealth Creation

NIMESH SHAH
MD & CEO

Most investors spend decades learning how to invest but very little time learning how to withdraw. Their focus is on earning more, investing regularly, increasing SIP amounts and allowing compounding to work overtime. Yet one of the most important transitions in personal finance receives remarkably little attention: turning accumulated wealth into a sustainable source of income. Building wealth and living off the wealth are related skills, but they are not the same.

Today, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) have become one of the most widely used tools for long-term wealth creation because of their simplicity and the discipline they bring to investing. Investors contribute fixed amounts periodically, benefit from rupee-cost averaging and allow returns to compound over long periods. Over years and decades, the portfolio grows not merely because of market performance but because capital remains invested.

But this discipline of investing regularly alone doesn't solve the income question — whether for retirement, a career break, a child's education, or any life transition that demands regular cash flow. At some point, investors stop asking, "How much should I invest every month?" and start asking, "How much can I withdraw without exhausting my corpus?"

This is where a Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) becomes relevant. SWP allows investors to withdraw a fixed amount periodically from an existing investment portfolio while keeping the remaining corpus invested. Instead of redeeming large portions at irregular intervals, withdrawals happen in a structured manner. Conceptually, it converts an investment portfolio into a cash-flow generating asset.

The SIP–SWP combination works beautifully because the objective changes over time. Consider the transition from accumulation to withdrawal phase conceptually. An investor may spend 25 years investing monthly into diversified assets. Rather than liquidating the portfolio and moving entirely into cash, part of the accumulated corpus can remain invested while periodic withdrawals fund living expenses. The invested portion may continue to compound, helping offset inflation over long periods.

But the transition is not automatic. Withdrawal rates matter. A wrong withdrawal rate that ignores how much you actually need and for how long, can silently drain a portfolio long before you expect.

Asset allocation matters even more. A portfolio designed purely for growth may not be suitable for income generation. Investors often need to rebalance exposure across equity, debt and liquidity sources before beginning withdrawals. Equally important is sequencing risk, the risk that poor market returns early in the withdrawal phase damage long-term sustainability, even if average long-term returns remain reasonable. This is a risk few investors plan for, but it can make or break the entire strategy. Taxation adds another layer. Every SWP withdrawal has tax consequences. Overlook them, and your usable income quietly shrinks.

Thus, getting the SIP–SWP combination right demands understanding three things; an appropriate withdrawal rate, protection against early sequence losses through smart asset allocation, and tax aware execution. Combined with periodic reviews and inflation conscious planning, they turn accumulated wealth into a sustainable source of income rather than a corpus that gradually erodes.

The Discipline of Averaging: In and Out

S. NAREN
ED & CIO

The same market volatility that can help investors accumulate wealth through disciplined investing can also support disciplined withdrawals.

Market volatility is often described as a problem investors must navigate. Falling prices create anxiety, corrections trigger panic, and uncertain market conditions test patience. Yet volatility can also play a constructive role. For disciplined long-term investors, volatility creates opportunities to accumulate more units throughout their investing journey.

This principle is widely understood during the accumulation phase through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). Less discussed is that a similar approach can also work during the withdrawal phase through Systematic Withdrawal Plans (SWPs).

In many ways, the logic behind SIPs and SWPs mirrors each other. A SIP works because investors buy more units when markets fall and fewer units when markets rise. Over long periods, this averaging process helps moderate the impact of short-term market fluctuations. Investors do not need to predict market peaks or bottoms. Discipline replaces forecasting.

Under an SWP structure, investors periodically redeem a fixed amount from their portfolios. When markets are strong, fewer units are sold to generate the required cash flow. When markets decline, more units need to be redeemed. Over time, this creates an averaging-out process similar to the averaging-in mechanism of SIPs.

The behavioural advantage of both SIPs and SWPs is that investors do not require to make repeated market timing decisions. SIP removes the need to decide when to invest and SWP removes the need to decide when to withdraw. Without a structured withdrawal framework, investors often react emotionally during periods of volatility. Sharp market corrections may lead to premature selling, while euphoric periods may encourage speculative reallocations that might not necessarily be aligned with an investor's long-term requirements. A predefined withdrawal structure reduces such emotional decision-making.

However, SWPs are not identical to SIPs. A SIP builds a corpus over time by adding capital at different market levels, while an SWP reduces an existing corpus by withdrawing capital over time. The similarity lies in process discipline, not in economic outcome.

Although SWPs offer a structured approach to generating cash flows, the sustainability of withdrawals ultimately depends on factors such as portfolio performance, market conditions, and the level of withdrawals chosen. While discipline improves process management, it does not eliminate investment risk.

While the economic outcomes of investing and withdrawing are fundamentally different, both approaches benefit from a rule-based approach that reduces the influence of short-term market movements. In both cases, consistency replaces the need for prediction or the pressure of timing an action.

Turning Your Corpus into Income

Accumulating wealth is only half the financial journey—the real challenge is converting that wealth into a sustainable income stream. A Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) offers a structured way to achieve this by allowing your investments to generate regular cash flow while the remaining corpus stays invested.

CREATE A GROWTH-ORIENTED PORTFOLIO

Your portfolio should continue growing even after you begin withdrawing from it. A mix of equity, debt and other assets allows one part of the portfolio to generate long-term capital appreciation while the other may provide stability during market volatility. Remember, your portfolio shouldn't just fund your withdrawals—it should also replenish them. That's what makes your income stream more sustainable and helps protect your purchasing power against inflation over the long term.

REVIEW AND REBALANCE PERIODICALLY

Review your portfolio regularly to ensure the asset allocation remains aligned with your goals and risk appetite. Rebalancing helps book gains from outperforming asset classes and replenish those that have underperformed. It also provides an opportunity to adjust withdrawal amounts based on inflation, changing expenses, and market conditions without disrupting the long-term sustainability of the plan.

LET INCOME GROW WITH YOUR LIFE, NOT YOUR EMOTIONS

Your income needs won't remain the same forever—so why should your SWP? As expenses rise with inflation, consider increasing your withdrawals gradually instead of making sharp, emotion-driven changes after market rallies or cutting them during downturns. Let your financial goals, not market sentiment, guide your decisions.

WITHDRAW ONLY WHAT YOUR PORTFOLIO CAN SUSTAIN

Ask yourself one simple question: Is your portfolio growing faster than you are withdrawing? If the answer is no, your corpus could gradually shrink over time. As the corpus declines, so does its ability to generate future income, increasing the risk of outliving your savings. As a rule of thumb, annual withdrawals should broadly remain in line with the long-term return potential of the portfolio after accounting for inflation and taxes.

Are You Ready for a SWP?

A Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) is more than just a way to generate regular income from your investments. It requires thoughtful preparation to ensure your withdrawals remain sustainable over the long term. Use this four-point checklist to assess whether you are truly ready to make your investments work for you in retirement.

CORPUS READINESS

Is your investment corpus large enough to support regular withdrawals? An SWP can succeed only if the investment corpus is large enough to support your desired withdrawals without being depleted prematurely. Estimate your annual expenses, account for inflation, and determine whether your corpus can comfortably sustain these withdrawals over the expected investment horizon.

PORTFOLIO READINESS

Can your portfolio generate regular income without compromising future growth? The portfolio should be structured to deliver both stability and growth. Keeping the entire corpus in low-return assets may not beat inflation, while an overly aggressive equity allocation can expose withdrawals to market volatility. A well-diversified portfolio can help you balance both income generation and capital appreciation.

BEHAVIOURAL READINESS

Will you stay disciplined when markets turn volatile? Staying disciplined is essential, especially during periods of market volatility. Emotional decisions can disrupt the long-term sustainability of the withdrawal plan. It is equally important to maintain realistic expectations regarding returns and understand that markets move in cycles. A disciplined approach, combined with patience, helps investors stay committed to their long-term income strategy.

LONGEVITY & LEGACY READINESS

Have you planned for a retirement that could last 25–30 years or more? Your portfolio should be designed keeping longevity risk in mind rather than focusing only on current income needs. You should also consider whether you wish to leave behind a financial legacy for your spouse, children, or charitable causes. Careful planning and periodic reviews may help preserve wealth while meeting current income needs.

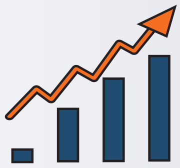
Investor Built by Process

DISCIPLINED. SYSTEMATIC. PURPOSE-DRIVEN

Follows a process. Stay invested. Lets compounding do the heavy lifting

START EARLY

- Sets clear goals
- Starts SIPs consistently
- Thinks long term



Built on discipline.

Sustained by patience.

STAY INVESTED

- Ignored market noise
- Stays focused on goals
- Trusts the process

Markets go up and down, but he stays the course.

REVIEWS & REBALANCES

- Reviews portfolio regularly
- Rebalances when needed
- Keeps risk in check

Adjust Smartly.

Stay aligned.

WITHDRAWS WITH A PLAN (SWP)

- Plans withdrawals
- Considers inflation
- Income + Growth balance

Creates a sustainable income stream.

ENJOYS FINANCIAL FREEDOM

- Financially independent
- Peace of mind
- Leaves a legacy

Wealth lasts.

Freedom grows.

Legacy lives on.

THE RESULT

Wealth grows. Income flows.
Confidence stays.

Built on discipline.
Sustained by patience.

Investor Broken by Panic

REACTIONARY. EMOTIONAL. SHORT_SIGHTED

Breaks the process. Reacts to emotions. Pays a heavy price.

START LATE OR NOT AT ALL

- No clear goals
- Inconsistent or no investing
- Seeks quick returns

Lost time today, more regret tomorrow.

PANICS IN VOLATILITY

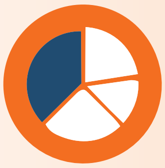
- Checks markets obsessively
- Sells in fear
- Chases performance

Market fall, he panics.

Long-term damage done.

NO REVIEW, NO PLAN

- No portfolio review
- Wrong asset allocation
- Risk gets out of control



Out of balance.

Out of control.

WITHDRAWS WITHOUT A SYSTEM

- Withdraws too much
- No inflation planning
- Corpus depletes fast

Income stops.

Corpus shrinks.

Stress begins.

RISK OF RUNNING OUT OF MONEY

- Compromised lifestyle
- Financial stress
- No legacy

Money runs out.

Worries stay in.

THE RESULT

Wealth erodes. Income stops.
Regret remains.

Broken by panic.
Drained by emotion.

All You Need to Know About the Taxation of SIP Investments

BY BALWANT JAIN

Of late, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) have gained huge popularity, which is evident from the surging inflow of investments into mutual funds through SIPs. It is one of the most widely used methods of investing for retail investors. Though people are investing through SIPs, there are a lot of misconceptions about how SIP investments are taxed. This article explains the taxation aspect of SIP investments.

WHEN AND HOW ARE SIP INVESTMENTS TAXED?

There are no income-tax implications for you when you make the investment through SIPs, but you may have to pay some stamp duty on the amount being invested. The amount of stamp duty is deducted from the SIP amount and only the net amount is invested.

You are not liable to pay any tax for appreciation of NAV of the units acquired by you at the end of a financial year as long as you remain invested, unlike your investment in bank fixed deposits where the annual accrued interest is required to be added to your income for the year even if it is not credited to your bank account.

The liability to pay tax on investments made through SIPs arises only when you sell, redeem or transfer the units either through your broker on the stock exchange or redeem them directly from the fund house, or when you transfer the units online to non-relatives through functionality offered by fund houses.

For the purpose of taxation, each and every transaction under an SIP is treated as a separate investment and the profits at the time of sale/redemption are computed based on the FIFO (First in, First Out) method.

Under the FIFO method, the units bought earlier are treated as having been redeemed or sold first and so on and so forth. In case you have more than one demat account, where your mutual fund units are parked, this method of identifying the units sold is applied for each demat account separately.

It is the difference between the respective NAV applicable at the time of redemption and acquisition that gets taxed as capital gain. So, while computing the capital gain on units bought under SIP, profits/losses are computed with reference to each lot of units purchased through SIP. The difference between the total cost of the units sold and the sale/redemption price of such units is treated as capital gains.

The capital gains are taxed either as short-term or long-term depending on the period for which you held the investments in units as well as the type of scheme.

CATEGORIES OF MUTUAL FUND SCHEMES FOR TAXATION

The capital gains are taxed either as short-term or long-term depending on the period for which you held the investments in units as well as the type of scheme.

For units acquired through SIP, the holding period is computed with reference to each lot of units acquired through an SIP separately. Benefit of indexation is no longer available for long-term capital gains on any mutual fund scheme.

For taxation purposes, the mutual fund schemes are categorised into three categories:

1. Equity-oriented schemes
2. Debt schemes
3. Residual schemes

Taxation rules for all three categories of mutual funds differ.

TAXATION OF EQUITY-ORIENTED SCHEMES

Equity schemes are schemes where the fund house invests a minimum of 65% of its corpus in companies which are listed in India.

Additionally, in case of fund of funds, the scheme is treated as an equity-oriented scheme if the scheme invests a minimum of 90% of its corpus in the schemes of exchange-traded funds, which in turn invest a minimum of 90% in Indian listed companies.

In case of equity-oriented schemes, the profits are treated as short-term capital gains (STCG) if held for less than 12 months as on the date of sale/redemption, else the same are treated as long-term capital gains (LTCG).

For units acquired through SIP prior to 31st January 2018, the NAV as on 31st January 2018 is taken as your cost for units sold. So, effectively, any appreciation in the NAV of the scheme up to 31st January 2018 has become exempt in your hands.

LTCG on equity schemes and listed shares taken together are taxed at a zero rate up to the first ₹1.25 lakh and thus making such LTCG tax-free up to that limit. The LTCG beyond ₹1.25 lakh is taxed at a flat rate of 12.50%. Likewise, such STCG is taxed at 20%.

The profits in respect of investments made in debt schemes are taxed as short-term capital gains irrespective of your holding period in respect of units acquired after 31st March 2023.

TAXATION OF DEBT SCHEMES

Like the categorisation criteria for equity schemes, a scheme is categorised as a debt scheme if a minimum of 65% of the corpus is invested in debt products.

The profits in respect of investments made in debt schemes are taxed as short-term capital gains irrespective of your holding period in respect of units acquired after 31st March 2023.

In respect of units of debt funds acquired before the law change, grandfathering has been provided and such investments will become long-term after two years and get taxed at 12.50%; otherwise, the profits are taxed at the slab rate applicable to you as short-term capital gains.

TAXATION OF RESIDUAL SCHEMES

All the mutual fund schemes which do not fall either in the first category or second category fall under this category. This includes gold and silver funds, international funds, conservative funds, etc.

The profits are treated as LTCG after the units have been held for more than 24 months on the date of sale/redemption and get taxed at a flat rate of 12.50% without any basic threshold. If sold within 24 months, the same are treated as STCG and taxed at the slab rate applicable to you.

SET-OFF OF SHORTFALL IN THE BASIC EXEMPTION LIMIT AND TAX REBATE

In case you are a resident individual or an HUF for tax purposes and your total income, excluding the capital gains on equity schemes as well as other LTCG, is less than the basic exemption limit applicable to you, you can set off such shortfall against such capital gains taxed at a flat rate.

THIS BENEFIT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO NON-RESIDENT TAXPAYERS.

If you are a tax resident opting for the old tax regime and your total taxable income does not exceed ₹5 lakhs, you are entitled to a tax rebate of ₹12,500 under Section 156 of the Income-tax Act, 2025, which can be used against any tax liability except your tax liability on LTCG on equity units.

The rebate under Section 156 is not available against the capital gains on equity schemes and long-term capital gains on other schemes if you opt for the new tax regime. Hopefully, this article has helped improve your understanding of the taxation of SIP investments.

Stick to Your SIPs and Ignore the Noise

BY AARATI KRISHNAN

It now seems to be a favourite pastime on social media to scoff at people investing in mutual funds through SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans). You get to read lengthy essays about how SIP investors are "giving exit" to FIIs (foreign institutional investors), don't care about market valuations and are missing out on great opportunities overseas.

If you're an investor taking the SIP route in Indian equities, it would be safe to ignore most of these rants. Most of them are driven by either a poor understanding of how markets work or by a vested interest in plugging a product. Let me address the main criticisms one by one.

1. SIPS GIVE EXIT TO FIIS

Markets exist because, at any given point in time, one set of investors has a different view from another about an asset or security. This allows some investors to buy an asset at the same time as others are looking to sell it. Those clever influencers who are buying Korean semiconductor stocks today are also "giving exit" to investors who think the same stocks are overheated.

Without domestic money to absorb FII selling, Indian markets would have fallen much more during events such as Covid, the Ukraine war and the Iran-Israel conflict, impacting household wealth. Therefore, it is good that domestic investors are seeing value in stocks that FIIs are looking to sell.

As for FIIs, yes, they have been net sellers of Indian equities for extended periods over the past two years. Some reasons have to do with Indian markets becoming expensively valued in 2024, domestic growth slowing and corporate earnings being impacted by global uncertainties, including US tariff measures and geopolitical conflicts. However, these are only part of the picture. When taking sell decisions, FIIs are also influenced by global factors such as US Treasury yields, relative valuations across markets, investment themes such as AI, and the outlook for their home markets.

As an Indian investor earning and spending in Indian rupees, currency fluctuations or US Treasury yield movements need not drive your investment decisions. While buying equities today, you may simply be looking to beat inflation and meet financial goals over a five- to seven-year (or longer) time frame. For these objectives, Indian equities remain a compelling asset class.

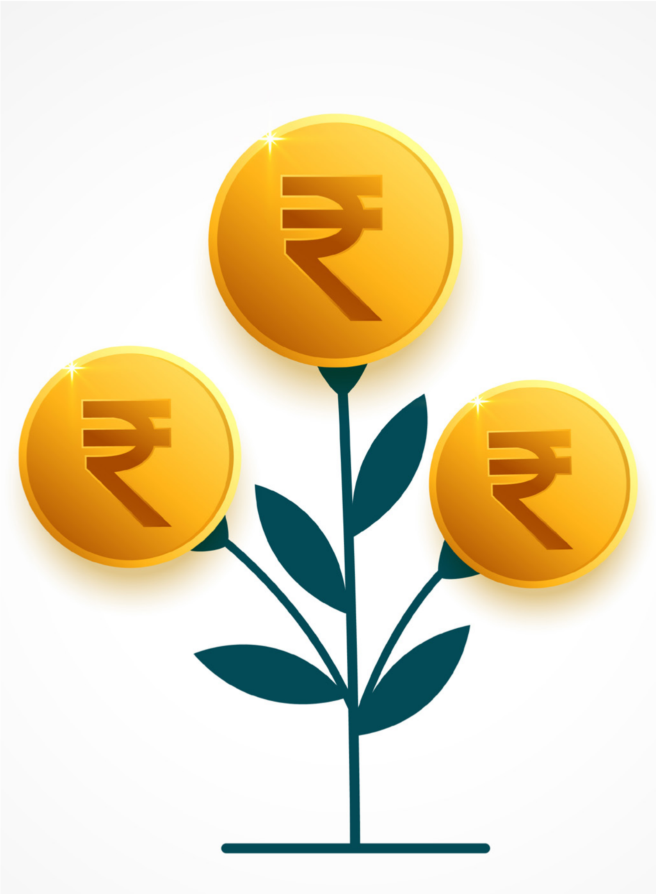
The beauty of SIPs is that you aren't trying to second-guess market direction or decide whether valuations are attractive enough to enter equities. You are simply believing that, in a growing economy like India, equities will beat inflation over the long run if you stay the course.

2. SIPS MAKE YOU BUY INTO OVERVALUED MARKETS

The beauty of SIPs is that you aren't trying to second-guess market direction or decide whether valuations are attractive enough to enter equities. You are simply believing that, in a growing economy like India, equities will beat inflation over the long run if you stay the course.

As a SIP investor, you continue investing affordable sums into the market when markets are expensive, when they are cheap and when they trade at fair value. Over time, if you persist through an entire market cycle, SIPs average out your purchase price.

The views expressed in this article are solely of the author and do not reflect the views of ICICI Prudential AMC.



If you are running a five-year SIP, for instance, you are investing at a Nifty 500 PE (price-to-earnings ratio) of about 22 today (as of 23 May 2026). You were also investing at a Nifty 500 PE of 28 in September 2024 and around 19 in June 2022. Over time, investing across these differing valuations ensures that your average cost of purchasing equity funds isn't excessively high.

Data from Value Research Online, as of 23 May 2026, shows that an investor who did a SIP in a Nifty 50 index fund earned an XIRR of around 7.4% over the last five years and an XIRR of around 11.5% over the last ten years. This period includes demonetisation, Covid, the Russia-Ukraine war, US tariff measures and the Iran-Israel conflict. This goes to show that, even when market timing is far from perfect, SIP investing has historically delivered reasonable long-term outcomes.

Also imagine what would happen if you didn't invest through SIPs. Human behavioural biases could then take over. Today, all the gloom-and-doom narratives about Indian equities could scare you away from investing altogether. In September 2024, all the stories about small-cap stocks being the only place to invest might have encouraged you to place large lump-sum bets.

The investors who made the most money in recent market history were those who invested during March and April 2020, when most of us were apprehensive about our very survival during the pandemic. Expecting ordinary investors to make large lump-sum investments in equities at such times is unrealistic. SIPs, by automating investments, help you take advantage of such opportunities.

3. DON'T BUY INDIAN EQUITIES, BUT BUY...?

The critics also don't tell investors what they should do instead if they abandon SIPs. Should you put all your money into whatever happens to be the flavour of the season?

In the last five years, I've personally seen influencers promote different assets every six months. First, it was cryptocurrencies, then IPOs, then US markets, gold and silver, and lately AI-driven stocks across the US, China, South Korea and Taiwan.

Anyone who participated in all these "opportunities" would likely have ended up destroying wealth and paying significant capital gains tax by constantly switching from one asset to another, not to mention the sleepless nights spent worrying about investments they didn't fully understand.

The truth is that retail investors doing "boring" SIPs have achieved something remarkable since Covid. They have created wealth that they may never have built had they stayed only with fixed deposits or constantly experimented with fashionable investments.

Helping you navigate market cycles, valuation complexities and behavioural biases are not the only reasons SIPs work. They also work because most of us are not millionaires to begin with. We save and invest from a monthly income stream that is regular but doesn't allow outsized bets. We may not have enormous sums to invest, but we do have time and discipline. What better route than SIPs to harness those two advantages and build wealth?

Consistency in Life and Investing: The Most Valuable Lesson for Your Child

BY LISA PALLAVI BARBORA

My almost 16-year-old twin boys are part of their school cricket team and have been playing cricket actively for just over five years. As part of this routine, they need to show up at 6:20 am to the practice grounds opposite Azad Maidan in Mumbai every morning before school. I'm a disciplinarian and believe that routine and consistency are good for children. Hence, come rain or shine, they must show up.

One of them is an opening pace bowler and the other a middle-order batter. This year, however, they are both shining in their roles, including in matches played during the peak of Mumbai's summer afternoons. From being dismissed for ducks in successive matches last year, my batter son is now regularly scoring in the high 40s (missing his half-century by a run or two, much to his disappointment). The pace bowler now opens the innings with at least one maiden over and maintains a sharply restricted economy rate.

Neither of them aspires to become a cricketer after school; they simply love playing the game. And they keep at it. This is not talent. It's not passion. It's simply the power of showing up. Outcomes take time, and you need to understand that everything is not about being the best. Rather, consistency is what one should strive for. For weeks, progress can feel invisible, and then suddenly it begins to show and stays. My boys were never the best players in their team, but they chose not to quit despite the setbacks.

Just like their cricket journey, which is bearing fruit after years of practice, most of our wealth-creation journey is primarily about showing up; the compounded returns take time to appear.

SHOWING UP FOR YOUR INVESTMENTS

Being regular with your investments regardless of the market environment is going to yield the most powerful results, as compounding is allowed to do its job. In India, mutual funds offer the Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), which helps us embrace this very discipline. With SIPs, you can keep adding to your investment through bull markets, bear markets and sideways markets, and see your returns compound over five, ten or fifteen years.

Many parents, when their child is born, like to take an endowment or money-back insurance policy as a savings tool for their child's future. That may seem like wise, proactive thinking, but such policies typically offer a fixed return, which has historically struggled to outpace inflation over the long term. If you replace it with a disciplined monthly SIP over 18 years in a diversified portfolio with around 60%–70% equity exposure, depending on your goals and risk appetite, your child's future financial cushion could potentially be exponentially higher.

Being regular with your investments regardless of the market environment is going to yield the most powerful results, as compounding is allowed to do its job.

Discipline is not a lock it and shut it process. It is about repeating an action with trust in the process. Just like my boys would show up for practice early every morning, even on the days when nothing seemed to happen, or turn up for matches even if they had to sit on the bench, sticking to your SIPs is about consistently showing up for your investments.

Had they quit out of disappointment or frustration, they would never have experienced the rewards that came later. Similarly, stopping your SIPs too early often means walking away before compounding has had a chance to work.

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The views expressed in this article are solely of the author and do not reflect the views of ICICI Prudential AMC.

Long-term returns show up not just for you, but also for your child, who sees you remain calm through market corrections and continue investing in your family's future financial security through small but steady steps.

The journey will test your patience, but just like you would tell your child not to quit guitar lessons or tennis classes because showing up matters, sticking with your monthly SIP is crucial.

REAP THE FRUITS OF YOUR HARD WORK

You have seen the math. ₹10,000 invested every month for 20 years at 12% can potentially grow to approximately ₹1 crore. You work hard at saving and investing patiently for 10, 20 or 30 years, and then, once your financial cushion starts feeling comfortable, do not make the mistake of becoming complacent or taking this wealth for granted.

Keep in mind that your patiently earned passive income through investment gains can continue to benefit you without additional effort. What you need to be mindful of is keeping your withdrawals structured rather than overreaching too soon.

SIP contributions may stop with your active income, but your invested corpus can continue generating returns. Be mindful and focus on measured withdrawals that can continue for a long period. If you want your wealth to support you for several years or even decades, plan a Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) at a level that sustains the corpus for as long as you need.

Using SIPs and SWPs isn't just a way to secure your own financial future; as a parent, they also allow you to plan your child's future. For example, use SIPs to save for your child's college education and then use that corpus through planned SWPs to meet tuition fees or monthly education-related expenses.

We know that patience and hard work are important lessons for children. But they cannot be taught through lectures alone. Your children need to see you practising these values in everyday life and in the way you manage money. What better way for them to learn than to see you managing money with discipline and over time see the real benefits of patiently showing up.

Don't Underestimate the Psychological Power of Consistency

BY LARISSA FERNAND

Earlier this year, a 20-year-old Canadian won a lottery. The reason this lit up social media was because chose not to accept the $1 million lumpsum prize but instead chose a $1,000week annuity for life.

There were plenty who believed she made the wrong call. After all, the possibilities that come with a million dollars are immense. On the other hand, the lottery winner did not make her reasons public, so we are left wondering what guided her decision.

We can only speculate. Maybe...

- She was unsure how to invest the money
- She did not want family or friends asking for money
- She could not trust herself not to spend it all
- She realized she is impulsive and would not manage the money well
- She was afraid that it would take away her ambition and drive
- She was wary that someone would fake love just because she is rich

The truth is that we will never know why she turned down the million dollars. Life is not lived on a spreadsheet. Not everything in life can be based on a mathematical calculation. Every financial decision is made in the context of emotion and past experiences with money.

What we can reasonably infer is that the certainty of a regular cash flow may have appealed to her. With such an arrangement, even if she spends unwisely, loses her job, takes a sabbatical, or decides to become a stay-at-home mom, she is assured of a stable income of $1,000/week for life. The psychological comfort of a consistent cash flow may well have outweighed the appeal of receiving a million dollars upfront.

Consistency gives you clarity about what you really want. Once that becomes clear, you know what to say yes to and more importantly, what to say no to. For example, committing to consistently investing, by way of SIPs, irrespective of the volatility in the market, means you are saying no to selling in panic, no to staying away from the market, and no to acting on emotions and sentiment. You ignore all the noise, doomsday predictions and continue investing systematically.

Consistent investing also enforces discipline across every market phase. During a bull run you don't go overboard as the amount is fixed. During a bear or sideways market, you do not stop. Over time, such an investment strategy helps you ride market upheavals to your advantage and categorically aims to accumulate wealth over the years in a low-cost, transparent fashion without putting undue strain on your finances. Most people do not have large lumpsums to invest but can consistently invest small sums of money every month. That's what makes SIPs a realistic way to build wealth, from a logistical and psychological standpoint.

Consistent investing also enforces discipline across every market phase. During a bull run you don't go overboard as the amount is fixed. During a bear or sideways market, you do not stop.

Since consistency precedes outcome, it makes time your friend. It compounds your actions. Defining moments are the result of consistency. There is no once-in-a-lifetime transformation. Success is the product of consistent habits.

On the subject, author and speaker James Clear tells us to imagine sitting in a cold room with an ice cube on the table. It is 25°F. The room gradually heats up: 26°F, 27°F, 28°F, 29°F, 30°F, 31°F. The ice cube sits there. At 32°F, it begins to melt. A 1° shift, seemingly no different from

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the temperature increases before it, has unlocked a huge change. But it is the consistent rise in temperature that led to the cube melting.

Eat well consistently. Exercise consistently. Invest consistently. Give those habits enough time, and they begin to compound in ways that are almost invisible, until one day they aren't. Look at what you are consistent with today, and you will know where you are headed tomorrow.

QUIZ

Are You Ready to Test Yourself?

1. Modified Duration measures a debt fund's sensitivity to interest rate changes
A. True
B. False

2. Standard deviation in mutual funds indicates the volatility of returns
A. True
B. False

3. SIPs help reduce the impact of market volatility through rupee cost averaging
A. True
B. False

4. Mutual funds invest only in stocks
A. True
B. False

5. An SIP is primarily designed to encourage regular and disciplined investing
A. True
B. False

6. Some mutual funds guarantee returns
A. True
B. False

7. A fund with high AUM (Assets Under Management) always delivers better returns
A. True
B. False

8. ELSS investments qualify for tax deduction under Section 80C up to ₹1.5 lakh per financial year
A. True
B. False

9. For long-term financial needs, investors may consider equity funds
A. True
B. False

10. An equity mutual fund with beta 1.2 is expected to be less volatile than the market
A. True
B. False

Answer: 1. A, 2. A, 3. A, 4. B, 5. A, 6. B, 7. B, 8. A, 9. A, 10. B

Twenty Years of Investing; One Big Transition

This is for illustrative purposes only.

The Serene Magic of Lakshadweep

BY ARUNIMA HOSKOTE

To arrive at a place of calm and quiet with your family or partner — a place that offers everything from snorkeling and water sports to long walks along powdery white sand beaches and tranquil lagoons — is one of life's most underrated luxuries.

And yes, you need not run around to obtain a foreign visa to Bali or Mauritius for that. You could indulge in this luxury closer home in our very own archipelago of 36 mesmerizing islands that could be every beach hopper's delight — Lakshadweep, off the coast of Kerala. It does not shout from advertising hoarding headlines but invites you in a quiet sort of way.

The very corals that make Lakshadweep magical also make it fragile. Climate change, coral bleaching, and human impact pose real threats. As a result, tourism here is restricted and regulated to preserve its delicate ecosystem, which also contributes to its untouched, unsullied natural beauty. In fact, visitors need permits to go there as well, although it's no longer difficult to get one from the e-service portal. The earlier requirements of a sponsor invitation and police clearance certificate have been done away with starting this May (2026).

That said, one cannot visit Lakshadweep without returning with countless memories to cherish. It is not just the scenery but also the pace at which life moves there. One's days begin with endless shades of blue stretching into the horizon and often end with quiet sunsets that seem to have been sketched by a very fine artist.

For adventure seekers, the islands offer snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking, reef walks, sailing, and glass-bottom boat rides through crystal-clear lagoons teeming with marine life. Agatti, Bangaram, Kadmat, and Kavaratti are among the main islands that offer thrill as well as tranquility and are every tourist's delight. The waters in Lakshad-

weep are so clear that even a simple swim feels immersive, while the coral reefs reveal an underwater world vibrant with fish, turtles, and living corals.

This may seem like a lot of adventure, yet Lakshadweep is equally rewarding for those who simply want to come to unwind and relax. You could take simpler activities like cycling through coconut-lined pathways, sipping tender coconut water by the shore, or walking barefoot across beaches that seem completely untouched by time.

India has a vast coastline and there are many beach destinations, so to speak. However, unlike louder tourist destinations crowded with commercial distractions, the islands of Lakshadweep encourage stillness and calmness. You do not need a rushed itinerary to keep your adrenaline pumping — just the gentle rhythm of waves, quiet villages, tasty coastal cuisine, local island culture, and another rare luxury of uninterrupted peace. The silence can feel restorative.

The true charm of Lakshadweep is that it reminds travelers that luxury need not always come wrapped in excess. Sometimes, it lies in simplicity: in clear waters, unhurried mornings, coral lagoons, and the ability to disconnect from the noise of everyday life. In an age of overcrowded destinations and hurried vacations, Lakshadweep remains one of India's rare hidden treasures — serene, fragile, and unforgettable.

Also, if you are worried about the hassle of booking a trip with your partner or family, then you'd be surprised to learn that the islands are easier to reach than many imagine, though the journey itself feels like the beginning of the escape. It is accessible both by air and sea from Kochi in Kerala, which serves as the main gateway to the archipelago. Agatti Island has the only airport in Lakshadweep, with regular flights connecting from Kochi, after which boats or helicopters are used to reach nearby islands depending on the package and weather conditions. Passenger ships also operate from Kochi to islands such as Kavaratti, Kalpeni, and Minicoy for those who wish to experience a slower, more scenic voyage across the Arabian Sea.

If this sounds exciting, you know where to spend your next vacation — far from the madding crowds!

The Joy of Beach Photography

NALIN SOLANKI

Beach photography is great fun—sand, sea, and sun in one frame! The beach is a fantastic place for photography: you've got soft sandy beaches, beautiful deep blue skies, awesome colours, soft fluffy clouds, and happy, content people...so what could possibly go wrong?

The best photographs often come from understanding the light, timing your visit well, and observing the many moods of the beach.

THE BEST TIME TO SHOOT

At the start and end of the day, the sun is at a lower angle. One of the best tips for beach photography relates to the time of day you photograph. It's really important, as you don't want to be out there when the sun is high in the sky and light is bouncing everywhere.

Golden hour occurs around sunrise and sunset—when the sun is low and close to the horizon. For stunning golden-hour photography, shoot when the sun is setting over the water (or at sunrise if the sun rises over the water). At this time, the beach is bathed in a beautiful golden hue, giving your photographs a magical glow. Sunset is also the perfect time to capture striking silhouettes against the evening sky.

The midday sun is bright and harsh, making it less suitable for photography. During these hours, the beach is usually

much quieter, as most people prefer to stay away until the heat subsides.

LIFE ON THE BEACH

The beach is more than just a scenic backdrop; it is a vibrant stage for everyday life, offering endless opportunities for candid photography.

You will find the beach at its liveliest during the morning, especially before 9 a.m. People come for jogging, walking, and exercising. The wide expanse of sand is filled with people enjoying their morning fitness routines. Men and women of all age groups are busy with exercise, jogging, and yoga sessions. Many young people also practise martial arts on the beach, as the sand provides a softer surface and reduces the risk of injury if they fall.

Senior citizens enjoy their exercises and then, in groups, take part in laughter clubs, laughing heartily together—a practice believed to promote physical and mental well-being. Around 8 a.m., after spending a couple of hours on the beach, they happily enjoy tea, coffee, or snacks.

During the late afternoon and evening, you will see young people cooling themselves by jumping into the seawater.

You will also find talented artists creating intricate sand sculptures. Youngsters enjoy playing cricket, football, and other outdoor games, while families with children stroll along the shoreline to experience the waves. If you are lucky, you may even spot large fish washed ashore or witness an unusual sight, such as a ship anchored close to the coastline.

Children love cooling themselves by covering their bodies with wet sand. Children have a fascinating relationship with sand, and capturing their expressions as they play can result in some of your most memorable beach photographs.

ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR BETTER BEACH PHOTOGRAPHY

Since the light changes every minute, you'll need to work faster. Shoot more frames frequently to ensure you have multiple photo options to choose from as the light chang-

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es. Look out for reflections in tide pools or wet sand. Reflections add symmetry to your photography and bring visual interest to your composition.

Since beaches are generally bright environments, it's best to keep your ISO (your camera's sensitivity to light) low—around 100 or 200. Use a large f-stop number, between f/8 and f/18, so that the entire beach remains in focus.

Never place your camera directly on the sand. If your hands get sandy, wipe them thoroughly before handling your camera. Getting sand inside your camera can be disastrous.

While it is tempting to get down close to the water for an interesting viewpoint or to capture reflections, always be aware of waves, even if they appear gentle. Stay safe, and avoid changing your lens at the beach, especially when the wind is blowing.

As you can see, beach photography isn't difficult but it is a lot of fun!

So, the next time you visit the beach, don't forget to bring your camera. You never know what memorable moments or breathtaking scenes await you.

A Monsoon Evening, A Purple Sky, and the Slow Magic of Patra

BY DARSHINI BHUTA

I remember one of those heavy monsoon evenings in Mumbai when the entire city seemed to slow down. The sky outside my window had turned a deep shade of purple, and as I watched the world grow quieter around me, I found myself thinking about how some of the most beautiful things begin in the most unassuming forms.

That thought took me to Patra or Alu Vadi, as my Maharashtrian friends call it. It begins with simple colocasia leaves, a handful of spices, a little patience, and the right technique to reveal something extraordinary.

Patra isn't just a snack. It's an edible craft. You can't rush the paste or be careless with the rolling. The magic lies in its khatta-meetha flavour— sour from tamarind, sweet from jaggery, and spicy from chilies and ginger. Fried until the edges turn crips while the inside stays melt-in-the-mouth. And perhaps, that's why I love it.

In this guide, we are going to master: How to achieve that professional-looking tight roll of Patra at home.

STEP 1: PREPARING THE LEAVES

First, wash the leaves thoroughly. Rinse them under running water to get rid of any grit. Pat them completely dry with a kitchen towel. If they are wet, your besan paste will turn into a watery soup, and you'll never get a tight roll. Colocasia leaves have thick veins. If you don't manage them, your roll will tear, or worse, it will be impossible to eat comfortably. Take a knife and gently trim the thick central vein from the underside of the leaf. You don't have to cut it all the way through, but make it pliable. This allows the leaf to bend without snapping.

STEP 2: CRAFTING THE SPICED PASTE

Now, we make the paste. This is where the flavor lives.

1 . In a large bowl, mix your besan with the tamarind paste, crushed jaggery, ginger-garlic paste, red chili powder, turmeric, salt, hing, and ajwain.

2. Add water very slowly. You aren't making a batter

THE INGREDIENT CHECKLIST

Every good Patra begins with a handful of humble ingredients. Gather them first, because once the rolling begins, you'll want everything within easy reach.

Ingredient	Quantity (Approx.)	Purpose
Colocasia Leaves (Arbi ke Patte)	8–10 large leaves	The base
Gram Flour (Besan)	2 cups	The coating paste
Tamarind Paste	3–4 tbsp	The essential "sour" & itch preventer
Jaggery (Gur)	2 tbsp (crushed)	The sweetness to balance the spice
Ginger-Garlic Paste	1.5 tbsp	For that aromatic punch
Red Chili Powder	1-2 tsp	Heat and color
Turmeric Powder	1/2 tsp	Color and antiseptic properties
Hing (Asafoetida)	A pinch	Digestion and aroma
Ajwain (Carom Seeds)	1 tsp	Essential for digestion (crucial with besan!)
Salt	To taste	Flavor enhancer
Oil	For tempering/frying	Texture and finish

for pakoras; you are making a thick, spreadable paste. It should have the consistency of peanut butter.

PRO TIP: If it's too runny, it will seep through the leaves. If it's too dry, it won't stick. The spice should feel like a warm hug, not a sharp jolt—because balance is everything.

STEP 3: THE ART OF LAYERING AND ROLLING

This part requires focus. Put on some soft music, clear your head, and begin.

1. Place one leaf flat on a clean surface. If the leaf is very large, you can overlap two leaves.

2. Spread a generous, even layer of the besan paste over the entire leaf, reaching all the way to the edges. Place another leaf on top of it, paste side down. Repeat this process until you have a stack of 4–5 leaves.

3. Now roll. Start from the bottom edge. Roll the stack tightly into a cylinder. As you roll, apply gentle pressure to ensure there are no air pockets. Air pockets are the enemy of a perfect Patra; they cause the roll to fall apart when sliced.

STEP 4: STEAMING

Once you have your long cylinder roll, wrap it tightly in aluminum foil or place it on a greased steamer mat.

◆ Steam for 15–20 minutes.

◆ How do you know it's done? Take a toothpick and poke the center. If it comes out clean (not covered in raw paste), it's ready.

CRUCIAL STEP: Let the rolls cool completely before slicing. If you cut them while they are hot, they will crumble into a heap of sadness. Wait at least 30 minutes.

STEP 5: THE FINAL FLOURISH

Once cooled, slice the roll into rounds about half an inch thick. Now, you have two choices:

OPTION A: THE HEALTHY WAY (STEAMED & TEMPERED)

Heat a little oil in a pan. Add mustard seeds, sesame seeds (til), and a few curry leaves. Toss the slices in gently just to warm them through and coat them in the tempering.

OPTION B: THE MONSOON WAY (DEEP FRIED)

This is what I recommend when the rain is lashing against the window. Heat oil in a kadhai. Fry the slices on medium heat until they are golden brown and incredibly crispy on the edges.

Serve them hot.

A FINAL THOUGHT

There is something deeply therapeutic about making Patra. In a world that demands instant results—instant messages, instant coffee, instant success—this dish stands as a quiet rebellion. It tells you that some things take time. They require preparation, they require patience, and they require you to be present in the moment.

So, next time the monsoon clouds roll over the city, don't just order in. Go to the market, find some fresh leaves, and start rolling. Your soul (and your taste buds) will thank you.

Sleep: Your Body's Most Underrated Recovery Tool

BY JUHI KAPOOR

If I asked you to name a couple of natural medicines, you would think of some herbs, some shrubs, an Ayurvedic remedy, maybe even clean, fresh water, but at what number would you place SLEEP? Ask medical experts and Ayurvedic practitioners too; they would put sleep at number one.

Sleep is the most underrated medicine in the world, and most of us remain unaware of the many benefits it has to offer.

But, of course, it doesn't come as a surprise in a world that is too busy celebrating hustle and productivity that there is no time for leisure, and even less for quality sleep. So, we make memes about going through the day half-sleepy, working on coffee overload, and slouching at our desk jobs. But, behind all those jokes is a silent but consistent cry from your body that it needs sleep.

WHY DO YOU NEED PROPER SLEEP?

Remember the times you tried pulling all-nighters or a party lasted a little too long? How was your mood and energy the next day? I'm guessing your mood was groggy and your energy was low. Yup. No marks for guessing that. It is just what happens when your body has not had the time to rest.

Over time, if proper sleep isn't included in your schedule, you would start noticing a regular drop in mental faculties and overall activity. You would notice that poor sleep leads to noticeable physical changes too. Your face may appear puffy, your body feels tired, and to compensate for that energy drop, you may get into a habit of overeating, which leads to weight gain.

Prolonged poor sleep hygiene can lead to a weaker immune system, hormonal imbalance, and it can significantly affect certain organs more than others. For instance, your thyroid is likely to act up. Research confirms that those who sleep irregularly or not enough are at a higher risk of thyroid dysfunction as they age.

Not just thyroid, your liver and kidneys aren't left untouched either. It has been found that patients suffering from sleep disorders are more vulnerable to kidney failure, fatty liver, diabetes, and blood pressure issues. In general, poor sleep disrupts insulin production and regulation in the body, leading to more liver and kidney complications.

On the contrary, if one only maintains decent sleep hygiene, they can stay away from diseases naturally as your body is wired to repair itself when it sleeps. As we drift off into rest, our metabolism slows down and all the energy is then directed into cellular repair at a microscopic level.

So, all you would need to do is start today and commit to giving your body the sleep it needs. And it's simpler than it sounds.

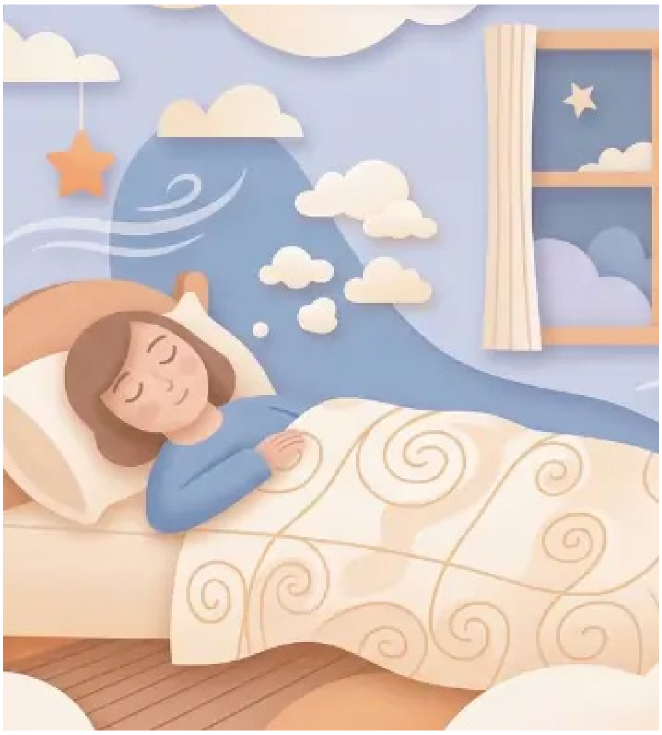
HOW TO MAINTAIN A BETTER SLEEP ROUTINE

◆ **Clean your bedroom:** A simple but effective tip! If your bedroom looks messy and untidy, your mind cannot fully relax into rest. Start by swapping your sheets for new ones. Make sure no clothes are lying around. You can introduce some pleasant aromatic candles or oils to the scent of the room. Make sure your phone is away and there's plenty of water by your side to ensure you do not get up in the middle of the night.

◆ **Pick an hour:** This is important. When you commit to a specific hour to hit the bed every day, you are training your body to naturally start shutting down at that time. Over time, your body and circadian rhythm would naturally reset. It is also important to pick an earlier hour since your melatonin production is naturally higher during 10 PM to 2 AM. Melatonin is the sleep hormone, but it also regulates your mood, your skin and hair health, and immune responses.

◆ **Eat well before time:** Sleep starts before you get to the bedroom, actually. When you eat last determines your sleep quality too, because if the body has to also digest the food, the recovery process lags. Eat at least 4 hours before you hit the bed. And no coffee after 3 PM. Caffeine in particular is notorious for keeping us up longer!

◆ **Prep for your sleep:** This is where you make a sleep ritual that works for you. Ideally, you want to include low-



stimulation, high-relaxation activities in the hours leading up to bedtime. You can start by shutting off all your screens two hours beforehand. The blue light your devices emit is disrupting your sleep cycle. Switch to dimmer yellow lights at night. Soft music or nature sounds can further ease you into it.

◆ **Add a little bed yoga:** I know, I know, you probably think exercise is best kept for mornings, but what if I told you some asanas really do help you sleep better? For instance, legs-up-the-wall pose or Vipreet Karani redirects circulation to your abdomen and spine, thus reducing nervous activity and calming your system for better sleep. Balasana or Child's Pose is another relaxing asana that stretches your back and hips, releasing more tension and instantly making your mind feel more at ease. Simple breathing exercises like Bhramari Pranayama and deep breathing also help calm the mind.

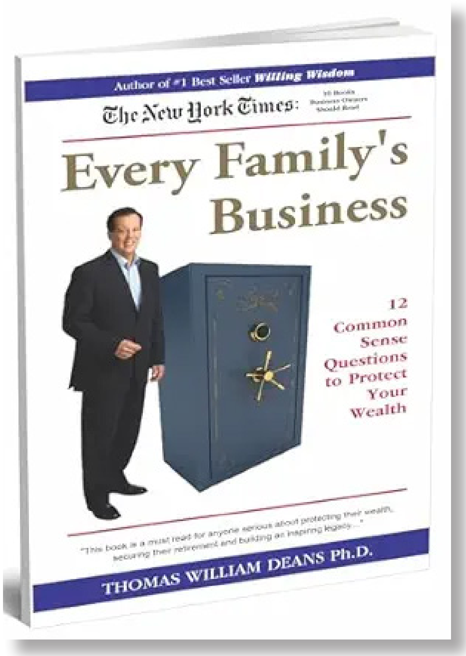
So, tonight when you are ready to drift off, realise the sacred gift that is the luxury of a peaceful sleep. With just a little discipline and some scientific tweaks explained, you will be on your way to healing your body every time you doze off

Here's to better sleep, deeper healing, and a healthier you.

Every Family's Business: 12 Common Sense Questions to Protect Your Wealth by Tom Deans

BY SHOAIB ZAMAN

Many family businesses struggle to survive into the third generation. That sobering statistic haunts boardrooms and kitchen tables alike, yet remarkably few families do anything about it. Canadian entrepreneur and speaker, Tom Deans, has written a slim, accessible book that attempts to change that not with dense financial theory, but with twelve deceptively simple questions.



The book is structured as a business fable, a genre familiar to readers of Patrick Lencioni. Two neighbouring families, one that thrives across generations, the other that implodes, illustrate Deans' central argument: the greatest threat to family wealth is not a bad economy or a reckless heir, but silence. The conversations families avoid about succession, fairness, and whether the next generation even wants the business are often the ones that destroy them.

The twelve questions themselves are the book's real strength. They cover everything from whether children are expected to join the family firm, to how the business would be valued in a sale, to what role, if any, in-laws should play. Each question is deliberately uncomfortable. That is the point. Deans is not interested in platitudes; he wants families to have these arguments now rather than leaving them to lawyers later.

Where the book is strongest is in its insistence that love and money make poor bedfellows when left unexamined. A parent who assumes their child wishes to inherit the business, and a child who assumes they are obliged to accept it, creates a recipe for resentment on both sides. Deans argues convincingly that selling a business to a willing third party and distributing the proceeds fairly is often more loving than a forced succession that pleases nobody.

The fable format, however, has its limitations. The characters are functional rather than fully formed, and the dialogue occasionally reads more like a seminar than a conversation. Readers seeking a more nuanced exploration of the emotional complexity of dynastic wealth may find the book too tidy. Real families, one suspects, are considerably messier than Deans' fictional ones.

There is also a subtle cultural assumption running through the text. The book was written with a North American, and largely entrepreneurial, audience in mind. Families whose wealth is held in property, investments, or professional partnerships may find some of the questions less directly applicable, though the underlying principles remain sound.

None of this detracts significantly from the book's considerable merits. It is readable in an afternoon, practical in intent, and honest about the awkwardness it asks families to embrace. For any family sitting atop a business without the courage to discuss it openly, it is a worthwhile afternoon's reading.

The twelve questions will not save every family business. But they might just start the conversation that does.

Why Pritam and Pedro Offers a Refreshing Exhale from Dark Streaming

BY DARSHINI BHUTA

My friend had come over and we were lounging on the sofa, digging into bowls of corn chaat.

"It's been raining for days," I said. "What are you watching these days?"

My friend, Kareena, looked up from her phone and sighed. "Every new film or web series that comes out is so dark," she said, scrolling through a feed full of gritty crime dramas and cynical thrillers. "Everything is about blood, betrayal, and shadows. Don't you find it exhausting?"

I couldn't agree more. But then I remembered a show I'd watched recently that felt refreshingly different, and I told her about it.

I'm talking about Pritam and Pedro.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS REVIEW

If you're looking for a breakdown of why this show feels different, here is what we are going to wander through:

- **THE SOUL OF THE STORY:** Why moving away from "gritty" works
- **THE HUMAN ELEMENT:** An analysis of Arshad Warsi and the new faces
- **THE SETTING:** How Goa becomes more than just a postcard
- **THE VERDICT:** Whether it's worth your precious weekend hours

AN ANTIDOTE TO THE SHADOWS

There is a certain trend in modern streaming—a race to the bottom of human depravity. We have become obsessed with the "dark and gritty." We crave the jump scares, the hyper-violence, and the protagonists who are fundamentally broken beyond repair. But sometimes, you just want to breathe.

Pritam and Pedro is Rajkumar Hirani's first foray into the world of OTT production, and it feels like a deliberate exhale. Directed by Avinash Arun, the six-episode series refuses to participate in the current arms race of shock value. Instead of shadows and gore, it gives us something much harder to execute: warmth.

It's a peculiar mix. It weaves together cybercrime, comedy, family drama, and emotional storytelling. It doesn't try to trick you with a plot so convoluted that you need a spreadsheet to follow it. In fact, some critics have pointed out that the storytelling can feel a bit too safe, perhaps even predictable. But there is a profound difference between being "predictable" and being "comforting."

THE OLD SCHOOL MEETS THE DIGITAL WORLD

The heart of this story beats in Goa. Now, when most people think of Goa, they think of sun-drenched beaches and loud parties. But Pritam and Pedro uses a much more intimate lens. It takes you into the quieter neighborhoods, the local police stations, and the breathing rhythm of local communities. The cinematography is bright and colorful, intentionally avoiding that gloomy, desaturated look that has become the default for almost every crime series released in the last three years.

Then, there is Inspector Pedro Gonsalves, played by Arshad Warsi. Pedro is a man out of time. He is an old-school officer—the kind who believes in his gut, the power of a good interrogation, and the dust of street investigations rather than the cold logic of an algorithm.

The conflict arises after a professional setback leaves him transferred to the cybercrime department. It's a brilliant setup for a character study. How does a man who trusts his instincts navigate a world made of code and invisible data? The series is less interested in the technicalities of hacking and more interested in how this transition affects his relationships and his sense of self.

A GALLERY OF FACES

You cannot talk about Pritam and Pedro without talking about Arshad Warsi. I remember watching a scene where he simply reacts to a piece of news—no grand monologue, no dramatic weeping—just a subtle shift in his eyes. It was outstanding. He possesses this rare ability to balance comedy, emotion, and action with a natural grace that makes Pedro feel like someone you've known your whole life.

Then there is Vir Hirani, making his acting debut here and playing Pritam. As any seasoned observer knows, the first step onto a stage is always the most precarious. While he occasionally shows the slight awkwardness of inexperience during the more intense emotional beats, there is a sincerity to his performance that is hard to ignore. More importantly, the chemistry between him and Warsi is convincing, and you can see him growing with every episode.

And we must mention Vikrant Massey. He doesn't have much screen time, but when he appears, the air in the room changes. He avoids the trap of becoming a one-dimensional villain, bringing a level of nuance that aligns beautifully with the Rajkumar Hirani school of character building—where even the antagonists feel human.

FINAL SCORE: 3.5/5

Tone: Warm, humorous, and accessible

Visuals: Bright, colorful, and authentic Goa

Best For: Family viewing and a relaxed weekend binge

Drawback: Can feel somewhat predictable at times

THE VERDICT: IS IT WORTH THE BINGE?

I went back to that conversation with Kareena. I told her that while Pritam and Pedro might not give her the edge-of-your-seat suspense she might find in a darker thriller, it offers something much more valuable: an enjoyable, family-friendly experience that prioritizes charm over complexity.

It's not a masterpiece of complexity. The plot is safe. The writing doesn't take massive risks. But in a world that feels increasingly heavy, there is something deeply comforting about making something "pleasant."

After Kareena left, I found myself thinking that I'd watch Pritam and Pedro again next weekend. Not to look for clues or solve a crime, but simply to spend a little more time in that bright, colorful Goa. Sometimes, the best way to face the darkness is to remember what the light feels like.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1 Citizens of ancient Mesopotamia

4 Something that speeds up

9 Visual display of stock price

10 Person who delivers speeches

11 NSE benchmark index

12 Holder of an asset

13 Broad economic perspective

14 Tyre brand

15 Continue to hold a position

16 Emission of energy

DOWN

1 Generation born after World War II

2 The power to draw

3 Selection for leadership role

5 Medium used to settle payments

6 Lender in a financial transaction

7 Financial rather than political

8 Economic slowdown

Take a picture of the solved crossword and Mail to Jinsy Mathew
at pr@icicipruamc.com to win an interesting book.

For some interesting activity, scan the QR code or click on https://tinyurl.com/3j2benz2

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- A recent passport sized Photograph
- A Proof of identity – A copy of your PAN card
- A Proof of Address – A copy of your Voter ID card, Passport or Driving License

If you are already KYC Verified and would like to update any of your information, you can submit a completed KYC Details Change Form with the required self-attested documents at your nearest AMC branch or Point of Service.

SEBI REGISTERED MUTUAL FUNDS

We advise investors to make informed decisions and are cautioned to invest only with SEBI registered Mutual Funds. List of Registered Mutual Funds is available at https://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html

COMPLAINT REDRESSAL

For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal you can reach out to us at enquiry@icicipruamc.com or call us on 1800222999. If you are unsatisfied with the resolution or wish to escalate the matter, you may write to Investor Service Officer at servicehead@icicipruamc.com. For this purpose, Mr. Rajen Kotak is the Investor Relations Officer of the Mutual Fund. He can be contacted at 2nd Floor, Block B-2, Nirlon Knowledge Park, Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400 063. Tel No.:022-2685 2000, FAX No.: 022 -2686 8313.

In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution given by AMC, he can approach SEBI by registering his complaint on SCORES (SEBI Complaints Redress System) through https://scores.sebi.gov.in/

Further, investors may also lodge complaints through Online Dispute Resolution Portal ('ODR') Portal available at https://smartodr.in/login.

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