

Financials

		SCBs	
	WALR -	WALR -	
Month	O/s	Fresh	WATDR
	Loans	Loans	
Apr-24	9.81	9.55	6.91
May-24	9.86	9.45	6.92
Jun-24	9.89	9.32	6.91
Jul-24	9.89	9.40	6.92
Aug-24	9.89	9.41	6.93
Sep-24	9.88	9.37	6.95
Oct-24	9.88	9.54	6.96
Nov-24	9.87	9.40	6.98
Dec-24	9.86	9.25	7.00
Jan-25	9.85	9.32	7.02
Feb-25	9.78	9.40	7.02
Mar-25	9.75	9.35	7.04
Apr-25	9.68	9.26	7.01

		PSBs	
	WALR -	WALR -	
Month	O/s	Fresh	WATDR
	Loans	Loans	
Apr-24	9.22	8.85	6.97
May-24	9.21	8.60	6.99
Jun-24	9.21	8.46	7.00
Jul-24	9.20	8.55	7.03
Aug-24	9.20	8.60	7.05
Sep-24	9.21	8.57	7.07
Oct-24	9.19	8.71	7.08
Nov-24	9.19	8.59	7.10
Dec-24	9.18	8.54	7.12
Jan-25	9.17	8.59	7.15
Feb-25	9.10	8.68	7.16
Mar-25	9.09	8.66	7.16
Apr-25	9.02	8.46	7.15

	Private Banks								
	WALR	WALR -							
Month	- O/s	Fresh	WATDR						
	Loans	Loans							
Apr-24	10.63	10.13	6.88						
May-24	10.76	10.13	6.90						
Jun-24	10.83	10.31	6.83						
Jul-24	10.84	10.34	6.85						
Aug-24	10.84	10.19	6.85						
Sep-24	10.83	10.33	6.87						
Oct-24	10.83	10.35	6.89						
Nov-24	10.83	10.31	6.90						
Dec-24	10.82	10.16	6.92						
Jan-25	10.81	10.20	6.92						
Feb-25	10.75	10.24	6.93						
Mar-25	10.71	10.32	6.93						
Apr-25	10.63	10.08	6.94						

Rate transmission to suppress lending yields; margin bias negative in 1HFY26

Decline in WALR and steady WATDR point to NIM pressure for banks

- The Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) on fresh loans decreased 9bp MoM in Apr'25, following a 5bp decline in Mar'25. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) reported a 20bp decline MoM (down 2bp MoM in Mar'25), while Private Banks (PVBs) reported a sharp reduction of 24bp MoM (up 8bp MoM in Mar'25).
- WALR on outstanding loans for the system declined 7bp MoM to 9.68%, with PSBs reporting a 7bp MoM decline to 9.02% and PVBs reporting an 8bp MoM decline to 10.63%.
- The Weighted Average Term Deposit Rate (WATDR) for the system declined marginally 3bp MoM to 7.01%. During Jan'25-Apr'25, the WATDR remained flat at 7.01%, indicating heightened competition for deposits as credit growth continued to moderate.
- As of 16th May'25, systemic credit growth declined to ~9.8% amid higher CD ratio and stress in the system. Our checks suggest that banks are currently following a conservative path with a keen focus on asset quality vs disbursement velocity.
- We expect banks' NIMs to experience a downward bias in the near term, with growth likely to be slower in FY26 amid a slowdown in retail and corporate lending. We expect our overall coverage universe to clock an earnings CAGR of 11.5%.
- Our top picks are ICICI, HDFCB, SBIN, and AUBANK.

WALR on fresh loans decreases in Apr'25; decline in O/S WALR loans amid rate cuts suggests NIM contraction for banks

- WALR on fresh loans declined 9bp MoM (down 5bp in Mar'25), with a sharp reduction of 24bp MoM for PVBs and 20bp MoM for PSBs. During Jan-Apr'25, WALR on fresh loans reduced 12bp for PVBs and 13bp for PSBs.
- Following two successive 25bp rate cuts, fresh rupee loan over repo premium increased to 4.08% for PVBs and 2.46% for PSBs (the highest premium since Aug'22). The decline in fresh rupee loans turned out to be lower compared to the decline in repo rates. With more rate cuts expected, banks are likely to pass on these reductions, which should lead to a further decline in fresh rupee rates.
- WALR on O/S loans declined 7bp MoM to 9.68% (vs a 3bp MoM decline in Mar'25) and has been on a downward trend over the past three months. During this period, O/S loans declined 17bp compared to a 50bp decline in the reportate and are expected to decline further as the rate cuts intensifies.
- The one-year MCLR for most PVBs declined 10-35bp, with ICICI Bank recording the highest reduction of 35bp. In contrast, PSBs saw an increase of 5-25bp over the past year.

WATDR trend stands flat MoM for both PSBs and PVBs

- WATDR declined marginally by 3bp MoM in Apr'25, with both PSBs and PVBs reporting a flat trend. During Jan'25-Apr'25, WATDR remained flat for both PSBs and PVBs, indicating intense competition within the industry and suggesting higher CoF in 1HFY26.
- Following a 50bp cut in repo rates, banks have reduced their SA rates across most buckets as well as reduced peak TD rates in certain higher maturity buckets.
- With RBI continuously injecting liquidity into the system, the revival of deposits will be crucial for reducing overall costs. Given the lag in deposit repricing, we estimate the CoF to reduce from 2HFY26 onwards.

Nitin Aggarwal - Research Analyst (Nitin.Aggarwal@MotilalOswal.com)



Credit growth declines to ~9.8% YoY; deposit growth stands at ~10%

- Systemic credit growth declined to ~9.8% YoY, following a busy 4Q season for banks, and was further impacted by a slowdown in retail, subdued demand in the secured segment, and an elevated CD ratio in the system.
- Deposit growth remained stagnant at 10-12% over the past 2-3 years. With a higher CD ratio in the system, overall credit growth dipped to ~9.8%. We estimate credit growth to sustain at ~12% YoY in FY26.

CD ratio remains high at 79.6%; incremental CD ratio declines to 78.5% vs 85.3% (at the start of the first rate cut)

- O/S LDR has slightly reduced to 79.6% from the highs of 80.4% in Dec'24. Most PVBs have already utilized their balance sheets, while PSBs have also increased their LDR levels over the past 1-2 years.
- The outstanding CD ratio has increased for most banks, with PSBs exhibiting higher incremental CD ratios vs PVBs. Among PSBs, Indian Bank, BoB, SBI, and Union Bank reported higher incremental CD ratios in the range of 94-114% over the past year, indicating greater utilization of their balance sheets. Among PVBs, IIB's incremental CD ratio remained low at 6.5% (amid the bank run), while HDFC's incremental CD ratio was lower at 40.2% (to manage the merger). PSBs continued to maintain healthy LCR levels vs private peers.

Rate transmission to affect lending yields; NIM bias negative in 1HFY26

- The turn in the repo cycle has started to impact portfolio yields for banks, as reflected in recent data on WALR for both fresh and outstanding loans. Further repo cuts in CY26 are expected to lead to a negative impact on bank margins in the near term.
- The decline in WALR on O/S and fresh loans, vs a stagnant WATDR due to a lag in rate transmission, is expected to continue keeping NIMs under check.
- We estimate that NIMs will experience a negative bias in 1HFY26, as further rate cuts are expected to exert pressure on lending yields. However, the lagged passthrough of deposit rate reductions is expected to slightly improve NIMs in 2HFY26.
- In 4QFY25, banks reported mixed trends, with large PVBs showing an expansion in NIMs due to day count adjustment, while PSBs showed a mild contraction.

Earnings growth to bottom out in FY26; 2HFY26 to be better than 1HFY26E; Top ideas: ICICIBC, HDFCB, SBI, and AUBANK

- With repo cuts now in effect, banks have started to witness a decline in WALR on loans. As inflation is on the lower trend, further rate cuts appear imminent, which will likely impact lending yields. To mitigate this, most banks have already cut their SA rates across buckets and have cut peak TD rates in higher maturity buckets, which should help negate some of the impact of declining yields.
- Credit growth for the system has declined to ~9.8% as of 16th May'25. Our channel check note (Link) and interactions with industry experts suggest that banks are currently following a conservative path with a keen focus on asset quality vs disbursement velocity. Retail disbursals are flowing selectively into high-score, well-documented profiles, while corporate loan growth is expected to remain modest in FY26.
- We expect banks' NIMs to exhibit a downward bias in the near term, while loan growth is likely to be slower in FY26 amid a slowdown in retail and corporate lending. Consequently, we expect private banks to report an aggregate earnings CAGR of 15.1% over FY25-27. For PSBs, we estimate an earnings CAGR of 7%

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over the same period. We expect our overall coverage universe to clock an earnings CAGR of 11.5%. A healthy balance sheet, robust PCR, and well-maintained contingent buffers are expected to mitigate downside risks to earnings.

■ Top picks: ICICI, HDFCB, SBI, and AUBANK.

Exhibit 1: WALR on outstanding loans declined for both PSBs and PVBs in Apr'25

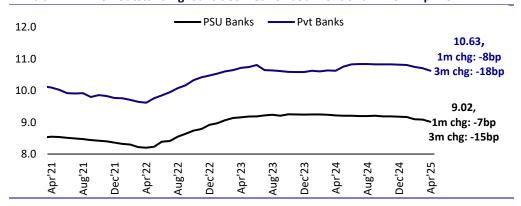


Exhibit 2: WALR on fresh loans decreased sharply MoM for both PVBs and PSBs amid reporate cuts

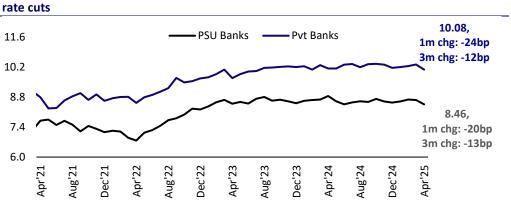
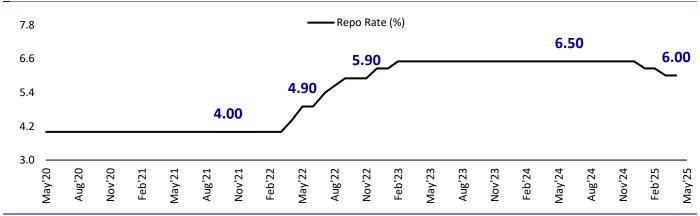


Exhibit 3: Repo rate dipped 50bp between Feb-May'25 to 6.0%

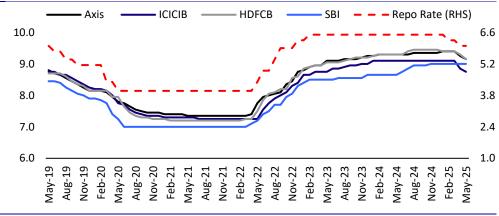


Source: RBI, MOFSL



Exhibit 4: MCLR for large PVBs declined 25-35bp in the past three months (post RBI's first rate cut), while it stood flat for SBI

ICICI Bank has seen a sharp decline of 35bp in the past three months among the top four banks.



Source: RBI, MOFSL

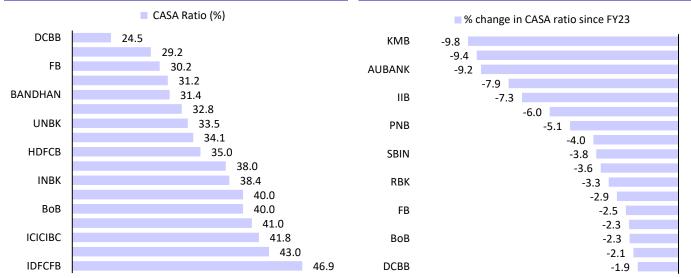
Exhibit 5: One-year MCLR rate declined 10-35bp YoY for PVBs, while it rose by 5-35bp for PSBs

	2021		20	22			2023				20	24			2025		YoY Change
•	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	May	(in %)
HDFC Bank	7.20	7.20	7.25	8.05	8.20	8.85	8.95	9.05	9.20	9.25	9.30	9.40	9.45	9.40	9.30	9.15	(0.15)
ICICI	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.75	8.10	8.65	8.75	8.85	8.95	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.10	9.10	8.85	8.75	(0.35)
Axis	7.35	7.35	7.40	8.00	8.35	8.80	8.95	9.10	9.15	9.25	9.30	9.30	9.35	9.40	9.25	9.15	(0.15)
Kotak	7.20	7.25	7.40	8.05	8.45	8.95	9.10	9.25	9.35	9.45	9.45	9.50	9.55	9.55	9.35	9.20	(0.25)
IIB	8.45	8.45	8.55	9.10	9.55	9.95	10.20	10.25	10.30	10.35	10.40	10.45	10.55	10.55	10.40	10.35	(0.10)
IDFC First	8.30	8.35	8.35	8.80	9.10	9.50	9.85	9.95	10.05	10.25	10.45	10.60	10.45	10.55	10.60	10.45	(0.10)
RBL	8.15	8.35	8.60	9.15	9.70	9.95	10.20	10.10	10.20	10.30	10.55	10.30	10.50	10.45	10.35	10.10	(0.25)
Federal	8.10	8.10	8.00	8.30	8.70	9.20	9.30	9.45	9.50	9.70	9.70	9.70	9.80	9.90	9.80	9.60	(0.10)
ВОВ	7.30	7.30	7.35	7.65	7.95	8.50	8.60	8.65	8.70	8.80	8.85	8.90	8.95	9.00	9.00	8.95	0.10
СВК	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.50	7.90	8.35	8.65	8.65	8.70	8.80	8.90	8.95	9.05	9.10	9.10	9.00	0.10
INBK	7.35	7.30	7.30	7.55	7.85	8.30	8.60	8.65	8.70	8.80	8.85	8.95	9.00	9.05	9.10	9.10	0.25
PNB	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.55	7.75	8.30	8.50	8.60	8.65	8.70	8.80	8.85	8.95	9.00	9.05	8.95	0.15
UNBK	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.55	7.90	8.40	8.65	8.65	8.70	8.80	8.90	8.90	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.95	0.05
SBI	7.00	7.00	7.10	7.50	7.95	8.40	8.50	8.55	8.55	8.65	8.65	8.85	8.95	9.00	9.00	9.00	0.35

Source: RBI, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: CASA ratio for banks declined in recent years

Exhibit 7: Decline in CASA ratio for banks since FY23



Source: MOFSL, Company

Note: Decline in HDFCB is attributed partly to the merger; Source: MOFSL, Company

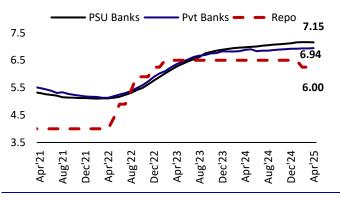


Exhibit 8: As of 4QFY25, PSBs had a sizeable mix of MCLR-linked loans (%)

Loans Mix (%) - 4QFY25	MCLR	EBLR		Repo Linked	Others (Fixed, base rate, foreign currency-floating)
AUBANK	30		7		63
AXSB	9	4		57	30
СВК	56	44			0
FB	9		51		40
HDFCB*	25			45	30
ICICIBC	15	1		53	31
INBK*	57		37		5
KMB**	13	60			27
PNB	31	15		44	11
RBL	9		46		45
SBIN	35		29		36
ВОВ	47			35	18
Equitas*			20		80

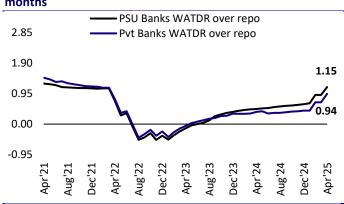
^{**}As of 2QFY25, *As of 3QFY25; Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 9: WATDR stood flat at 7.15% for PSBs and 6.94% for PVBs



Source: MOFSL, RBI

Exhibit 10: WATDR over repo gap widened amid a decline in repo rate, while WATDR remained flat over the past three months



Source: MOFSL, RBI

Exhibit 11: SA rates offered by various banks

Banks have cut their savings account rates amid declining interest rates.

(%)	SA Rate
AXSB	2.75%/3.25% (>INR5m)
HDFCB	2.75%/3.25% (>INR5m)
ICICIBC	2.75%/3.25% (>INR5m)
KMB	2.75%/3.25% (>INR5m)
IIB	3.0% to 7.0% (max rate for deposits between INR5m and above)
RBK	3.25% to 7.50% (max rate for deposits between INR2.5m and INR30m)
IDFCFB	3% to 7.0% (max rate for deposits between INR0.5m and INR250m)
BANDHAN	3.0% to 6.5% (max rate for deposits above INR50m)
AUBANK	3.0% to 7.00% (max rate for deposits between INR1m and above)
ВОВ	2.75%/4.5% (max rate for deposits of INR10b and above)
PNB	2.7%/3.0% (max rate for deposits of INR1b and above)
SBIN	2.7%/3% (max rate for deposits >INR100m)
DCBB	1.5% to 7.25% (max rate for deposits between INR20m and INR30m)

Source: MOFSL, Company



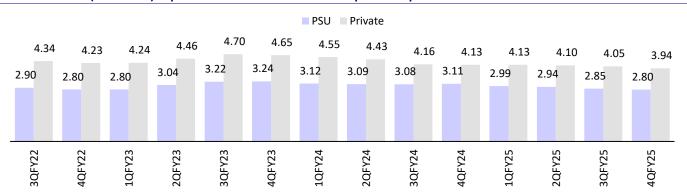
Most banks have lowered their peak TD rates in longer maturity buckets.

Exhibit 12: Peak term deposit rates across different buckets for major banks

(0/)	7-14	0-3	3-9	9-15	15-36
(%)	days	months	months	months	months
Large pvt banks					
HDFCB	3.00	4.50	5.75	6.50	6.70
AXSB	3.00	4.25	5.75	6.50	6.85
ICICIBC	3.00	4.25	5.75	6.50	6.85
KMB	2.75	3.50	6.00	6.95	6.95
IIB	3.50	5.00	7.00	7.50	7.25
Mid-size pvt banks					
RBK	3.50	4.50	6.05	7.50	7.75
IDFCFB	3.00	4.50	4.50	6.75	7.15
BANDHAN	3.00	4.50	4.50	7.75	7.65
Federal	3.00	4.50	6.00	7.15	7.10
Small finance banks					
AUBANK	3.75	5.50	7.00	7.60	7.50
EQUITASB	3.50	5.50	6.00	7.90	8.05
JANASFB	3.00	5.00	6.50	8.05	8.05
UJJIVAN	3.75	4.25	7.00	7.90	8.05

Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 13: NIMs (calculated) experienced a contraction over the past few quarters



Source: MOFSL, Company

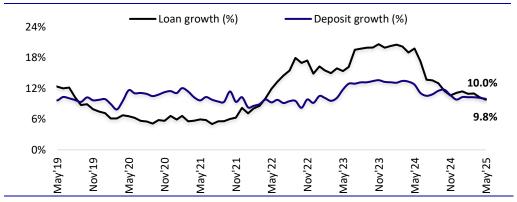
Exhibit 14: NIMs (reported) expanded for large private banks in 4QFY25, while they contracted for PSU banks

NIM (%)	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25
AXSB	4.10	4.11	4.01	4.06	4.05	3.99	3.93	3.97
HDFCB	4.10	3.40	3.40	3.44	3.47	3.46	3.43	3.54
ICICIBC	4.78	4.53	4.43	4.40	4.36	4.27	4.25	4.41
IDFCFB	6.33	6.32	6.42	6.35	6.22	6.18	6.04	5.95
IIB	4.29	4.29	4.29	4.26	4.25	4.08	3.93	2.25
KMB	5.57	5.22	5.22	5.28	5.02	4.91	4.93	4.97
FB	3.20	3.22	3.19	3.21	3.16	3.12	3.11	3.12
ВоВ	3.27	3.07	3.10	3.27	3.18	3.10	2.94	2.86
СВК	3.05	3.00	3.03	3.07	2.90	2.86	2.71	2.73
PNB	3.08	3.11	3.15	3.10	3.07	2.92	2.93	2.81
SBIN	3.33	3.29	3.22	3.30	3.22	3.14	3.01	3.00
UNBK	3.13	3.18	3.08	3.09	3.05	2.90	2.91	2.87
INBK	3.61	3.52	3.49	3.52	3.53	3.49	3.57	3.48
AUBANK	5.72	5.50	5.50	5.10	6.00	6.05	5.90	5.80
RBK	5.53	5.54	5.52	5.45	5.67	5.04	4.90	4.89
BANDHAN	7.30	7.20	7.20	7.60	7.60	7.40	6.90	6.70
DCBB	3.83	3.69	3.48	3.62	3.39	3.27	3.30	3.29

Source: MOFSL, Company

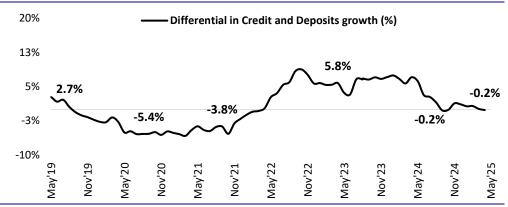


Exhibit 15: As of 16^h May'25, deposit growth declined to 10.0% YoY; credit growth declined to ~9.8% YoY



Credit growth adjusted for the HDFC merger; Source: MOFSL, RBI

Exhibit 16: Differential between credit and deposit growth turned negative to -0.2%



Source: MOFSL, RBI

Exhibit 17: CD ratio remained high for PVBs; PSBs comparatively maintained a lower CD ratio (as of 4QFY25)

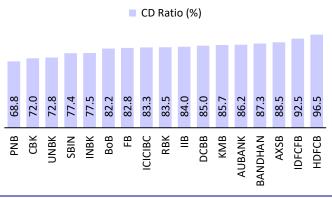
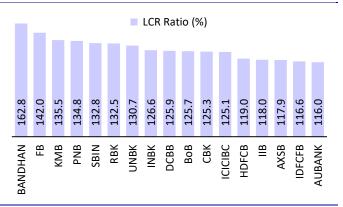


Exhibit 18: LCR healthy for most PSBs; PVBs' LCR ratio remained at 116-163% range

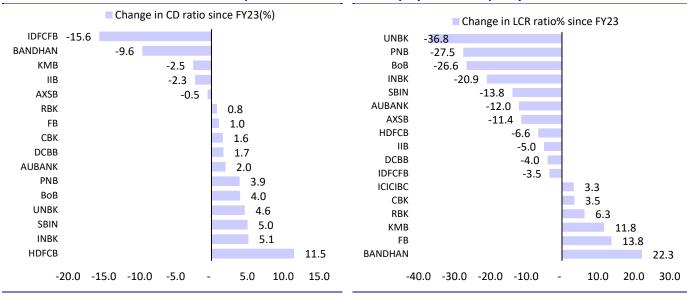


Source: MOFSL, Company Source: MOFSL, Company



Exhibit 19: CD ratio has increased for most banks since FY23 – PSBs have seen more increase in CD ratio post FY23

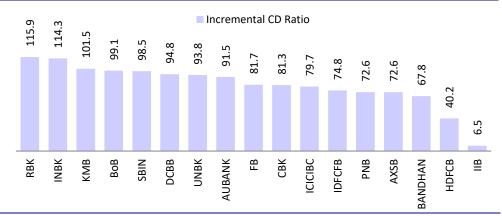
Exhibit 20: Changes in LCR ratio since FY23 – most banks have deployed excess liquidity on their balance sheets



Higher CD ratio for HDFCB amid the merger; Source: MOFSL, Company

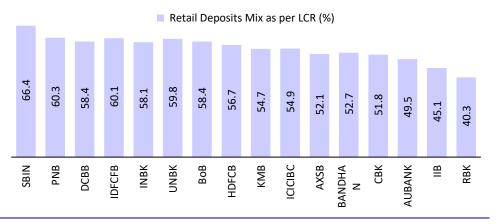
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 21: Incremental CD ratio has been high for PSBs in the past year



Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 22: Retail deposits across banks as per LCR



Source: MOFSL, Company



Exhibit 23: Yields and cost ratios for key banks - 4QFY25

		YoF			YoA			CoF		CoD		
%	4QFY25	YoY (bp)	QoQ (bp)									
AXSB*	9.0	-38.9	-31.1	9.8	-51.6	-32.2	5.5	7.0	4.0	6.2	-18.3	-38.5
HDFCB**	9.3	-145.0	-9.8	9.5	-191.7	-18.8	4.9	0.0	0.0	NA	NA	NA
ICICIBC	8.8	8.0	20.0	9.9	-2.0	21.0	5.2	13.0	9.0	5.0	18.0	9.0
IDFCFB**	12.9	-68.6	-67.5	14.9	-104.5	-58.7	6.5	8.0	2.0	NA	NA	NA
IIB	7.9	-200.0	-178.0	9.5	-321.0	-276.0	5.6	1.0	-10.0	6.5	2.0	-8.0
KMB**	9.5	-62.9	-42.7	10.4	-44.4	-25.8	5.1	509.0	3.0	NA	NA	NA
RBK***	11.5	-81.9	-73.0	13.0	-112.0	-30.0	6.6	9.0	0.0	6.5	11.0	-10.0
AUBANK***	14.4	120.0	0.0	15.8	214.2	-77.4	7.1	14.0	8.0	NA	NA	NA

^{*} YoF and YoA are calculated

Source: MOFSL, Company

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Exhibit 24: Banking valuation summary

	Val	Rating	CMP	EPS	(INR)	RoA	(%)	RoE	(%)	P/E	(x)	P/B	V (x)
	summary		(INR)	FY26E	FY27E								
Private Banks													
ICICIBC IN	ICICIBC*	Buy	1,438	72.9	85.5	2.3	2.3	17.1	17.5	16.1	13.7	3.2	2.7
HDFCB IN	HDFCB*	Buy	1,925	96.7	112.6	1.8	1.9	14.0	14.6	16.7	14.4	2.7	2.4
AXSB IN	AXSB*	Neutral	1,182	90.9	107.1	1.6	1.7	14.6	15.0	11.6	9.8	1.8	1.5
BANDHAN IN	BANDHAN	Neutral	170	19.8	23.9	1.6	1.7	12.7	14.3	8.6	7.1	1.1	1.0
KMB IN	KMB*	Buy	2,046	76.6	89.7	2.1	2.1	12.6	13.3	16.6	14.2	3.3	2.9
IIB IN	IIB	Neutral	800	44.2	57.0	0.6	0.7	5.2	6.4	18.1	14.0	0.9	0.9
FB IN	FB	Buy	211	18.0	22.5	1.2	1.3	12.5	14.0	11.7	9.4	1.4	1.2
DCBB IN	DCBB	Buy	146	24.2	31.0	0.9	1.0	13.3	15.1	6.1	4.7	0.7	0.7
IDFCFB IN	IDFCFB	Neutral	67	3.5	5.8	0.7	1.1	6.5	10.0	19.2	11.6	1.2	1.1
EQUITASB IN	EQUITASB	Buy	65	4.0	8.9	0.8	1.5	7.4	15.2	16.3	7.3	1.2	1.1
AUBANK IN	AUBANK	Buy	729	36.9	49.7	1.6	1.7	15.2	17.7	19.7	14.7	2.8	2.4
RBK IN	RBK	Buy	211	22.6	35.6	0.9	1.2	8.6	12.8	9.3	5.9	0.8	0.7
PSU Banks													
SBIN IN	SBIN*	Buy	810	80.3	89.5	1.0	1.0	16.1	15.9	7.1	6.3	1.5	1.3
PNB IN	PNB	Buy	109	16.9	19.4	1.0	1.0	15.3	15.5	6.5	5.6	0.9	0.8
BOB IN	ВОВ	Neutral	254	39.4	43.6	1.1	1.1	15.1	15.4	6.4	5.8	0.9	0.8
CBK IN	СВК	Buy	116	19.7	21.8	1.0	1.0	18.3	18.0	5.9	5.3	1.0	0.9
UNBK IN	UNBK	Buy	152	24.2	25.9	1.2	1.1	16.2	15.2	6.3	5.9	0.9	0.8
INBK IN	INBK	Buy	632	84.4	94.3	1.2	1.3	17.0	16.9	7.5	6.7	1.2	1.0
Payments & Fin	tech												
SBICARD IN	SBI Cards	Neutral	916	33	45	4.4	5.0	20.6	23.0	27.8	20.3	5.2	4.2
				EPS	(INR)	RoA	(%)	RoE	(%)	P/E	(x)	P/B	V (x)
PAYTM IN	One 97 Comm.	Neutral	928	3	16	0.9	4.4	1.5	7.9	316.3	59.1	4.6	4.6

^{*} Adjusted for subsidiaries, Source: MOFSL, Company

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4 June 2025



Explanation of Investment Rating							
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)						
BUY	>=15%						
SELL	< - 10%						
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%						
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change						
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation						

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Nainesh Rajani

Email: nainesh.rajani@motilaloswal.com Contact: (+65) 8328 0276

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Grievance Redressal Cell:

Contact Person	Contact No.	Email ID
Ms. Hemangi Date	022 40548000 / 022 67490600	query@motilaloswal.com
Ms. Kumud Upadhyay	022 40548082	servicehead@motilaloswal.com
Mr. Ajay Menon	022 40548083	am@motilaloswal.com

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