

# Monetary Policy and Economic Outlook Briefing – Oct 1, 25

October 06, 2025

[institutional.equities@choiceindia.com](mailto:institutional.equities@choiceindia.com)

## Monetary Policy and Economic Outlook Briefing – October 01, 2025

## Key Policy Rates

	Rate	Change
Repo Rate	5.5%	0 bps
Reverse Repo	5.5%	0 bps
Bank Rate	5.75%	0 bps
MSF Rate	5.75%	0 bps
SDF Rate	5.25%	0 bps
SLR	8.5%	0 bps
CRR	4.0%	0 bps

Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

## RBI GDP Forecasts

Period	GDP Growth	Change
Q1 FY26E	6.4%	-10 bps
Q2 FY26E	7.0%	+30 bps
Q3 FY26E	6.4%	-20 bps
Q4 FY26E	6.2%	-10 bps
<b>FY26E</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>+30bps</b>
<b>FY27E</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>NA</b>

Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

## RBI Inflation Forecasts

Period	Inflation	Change
Q1 FY26E	4.5%	-40 bps
Q2 FY26E	2.1%	-30 bps
Q3 FY26E	3.1%	-130 bps
Q4 FY26E	4.4%	-40 bps
<b>FY26E</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>-110 bps</b>
<b>FY27E</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>-40 bps</b>

Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

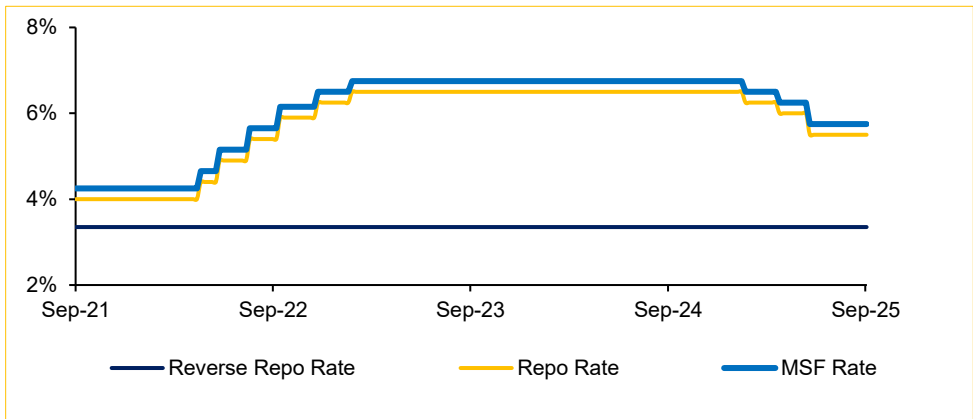
## Our View

RBI's wait-and-watch mode is rational given **recently enacted policy initiatives** coupled with **limited transmission of earlier rate cuts**. We expect RBI to **cut rates at least once in H2FY26E** as signalled by a **lower inflation target** and **low credit growth**. RBI will also have to take cues from the freshly developing **global easing cycle**.

## Policy Rates Maintained, Repo Rate at 5.5% with a Neutral Stance

- ❖ Short Term Repo Rate: 5.50% | Long-Term RBI Bank Lending Rate: 5.75%
- ❖ Over-night Rates: SDF Rate: 5.25% | MSF Rate: 5.75% (Votes: 6-0)

## RBI holds rates constant, with a neutral stance

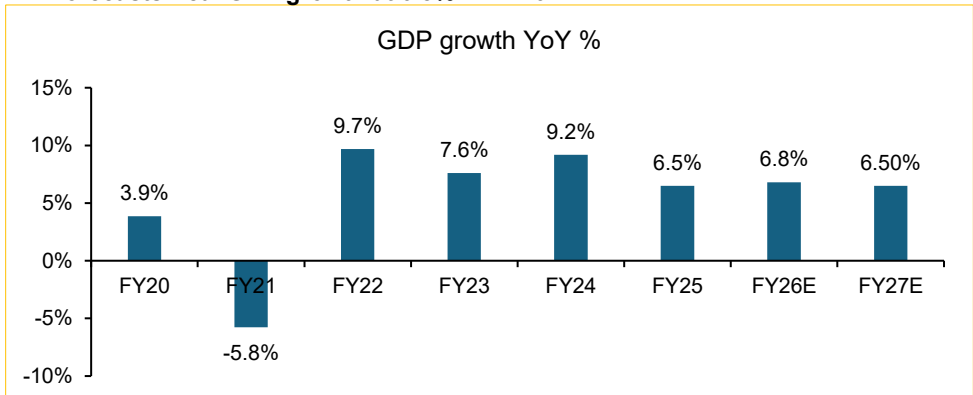


Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

## Evenly Balanced Risks &amp; Upsides Impact Growth, FY26E GDP Growth pegged at 6.8%

- ❖ Q1 FY2026: **Real GDP surged 7.8%**, driven by consumption (+7.0%), capex (+7.8%). Sectorally, services (+9.0%) and manufacturing (+7.7%) came in higher.
- ❖ High-frequency Indicators indicate that **rural demand is robust** (tractor sales +17.3%, FMCG sales +8.3%). Investment sustained (steel +8.7%; cement +8.8%).
- ❖ Risks are expected to be evenly balanced; however, **downside risks emerge from tariffs, global demand weakness and financial instability**.

## RBI forecasts Real GDP growth at 6.8% in FY26E

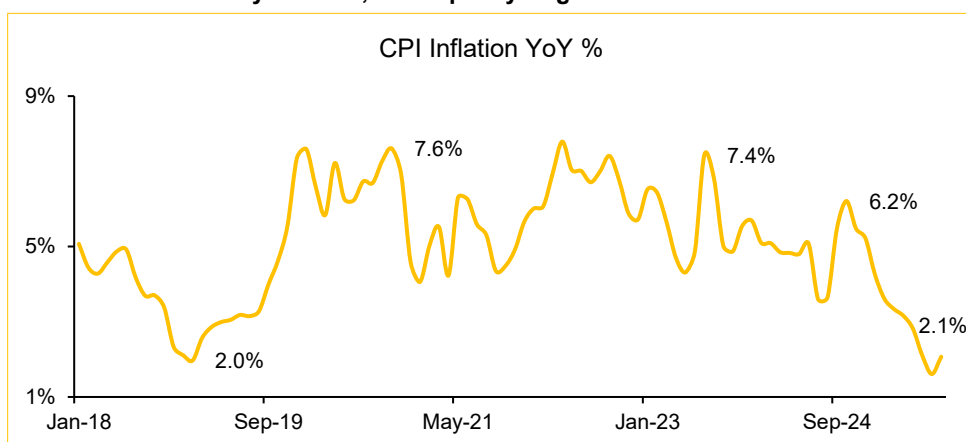


Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

## Striking a Balance Between “Lower Inflation, Growth Resilience” and “Global Uncertainty”

- ❖ **RBI awaits interest rate transmission**, while monitoring the front-loaded 100 bps cuts since Feb 2025.
- ❖ Weighted Average Lending rates **fell by only 58 bps since then**; while deposit rates dropped by 106 bps.
- ❖ In terms of GDP, **H1 saw outperformance**, driven by Q1's superior growth; but **H2 faces tariff-related and external demand headwinds**.

### CPI Inflation at multi-year lows, below policy target of 4%



Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

### Inflation to Continue its Lower Trajectory

- ❖ CPI Inflation fell to 1.6% in July 2025, before **rebounding to 2.1% by August, a multi-year low**. **Food price deflation** (-15.9% vegetables, -14.5% pulses) was the primary driver.
- ❖ Inflation is expected to be benign in the near-term averaging to **2.6% in FY26E** but expected to rise towards 4% in Q4 due to base effects. **Inflation for FY27E is expected to be 4.5%.**
- ❖ **Core inflation was contained at 4.2%** but would come in lower once precious metals are excluded.
- ❖ Good monsoon, higher reservoir levels, foodgrain stocks and GST rate rationalisation measures support a **softer inflation trajectory**. Upside risks emerge only as base effects fade.

### Forex Reserves Comfortable, while FPI Outflows Continue Pressuring INR

- ❖ Current Account Deficit narrowed down to 0.2% of GDP in Q1, supported by services and remittances.
- ❖ **FDI Inflows showed 33% YoY surge**; July inflows hit a 38-month high (US \$37.7 Bn Apr–Jul).
- ❖ FPI Outflows of US\$3.9bn YTD.
- ❖ **Forex Reserves** of US\$ 700.2 Bn (June 30, 2025), cover **11+ months of imports** (94% of external debt).
- ❖ Indian Rupee is expected to be volatile and under depreciation pressure, RBI closely monitoring the situation.

### Liquidity Surplus to Support Credit Growth

- ❖ **Liquidity surplus remains elevated**; CRR cut is expected to ease liquidity further.
- ❖ **Scheduled Commercial Banks enjoying a strong capital base** with CRAR at 17.5% and **GNPA at record lows of 2.2%**. NBFCs also sound with aggregate CRAR of 25.7% and GNPA at 2.2%.
- ❖ **Bank credit grew by +10.2% YoY**. Further, NBFC lending rose by INR 2.66 Bn, against softer bank lending

Package of 22 Reforms to Improve Credit Growth, Ease of Doing Business and System Stability

RBI Promotes Credit Growth for MSMEs & Real Estate with Prudent Basel III Norms

- ❖ Expected Credit Loss provisioning framework made applicable to banks from FY2027, phased implementation till FY2031. **This will increase the stability of the banking system with short-term pain for Banks in the form of higher provisioning.**
- ❖ Basel III revision with **lower MSME/real estate risk weights** will be applicable from FY2027. **Increased lending to MSMEs and Real Estate sectors is expected.**
- ❖ Risk-based deposit insurance to **incentivise prudent risk management.**
- ❖ Relaxation of bank-group business overlap rules. **Empowering board rooms to strategically allocate business streams.**

Enhancing Credit Growth with Relaxations in Lending Operations

- ❖ RBI proposes to enable Banks to finance Indian acquisitions.
- ❖ IPO financing limit raised from INR 1.0 Mn to INR 2.5 Mn; proposal to remove regulatory ceiling for listed debt security lending.
- ❖ Withdrawal of disincentives on large borrower exposures (< INR 100 Bn).
- ❖ Reduced risk weights for NBFCs in infrastructure finance.
- ❖ New licensing framework for Urban Co-operative Banks after a two-decade freeze.

High Frequency Indicators – Revival in Demand expected from H2FY26E

YoY Growth %	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY25	Jul - 25	Aug - 25
<b>Urban demand</b>											
Domestic air passenger traffic	19.1	23.0	9.1	5.2	5.6	7.3	11.4	12.0	5.3	(2.5)	(0.5)
Passenger vehicle sales	9.6	5.8	8.6	10.8	20.2	(1.3)	5.1	3.6	(1.4)	1.5	(9.0)
IIP: Consumer durables	(2.7)	1.1	5.3	11.2	10.7	6.6	9.0	5.9	2.6	7.7	
Personal loans	21.3	30.0	28.4	27.5	25.6	13.4	12.0	11.6	12.1	11.9	
Vehicle loans	19.3	21.2	16.4	14.2	15.5	13.3	8.8	8.6	10.8	8.9	
Credit card outstanding	37.6	31.4	32.6	25.6	23.3	18.0	15.6	10.6	7.2	5.6	
<b>Rural demand</b>											
Tractor sales	(1.9)	(5.8)	(4.9)	(18.9)	0.5	0.7	13.5	17.3	9.2	8.0	28.3
Motorcycle sales	13.8	(2.9)	22.1	27.0	16.8	10.2	(1.9)	(3.5)	(9.2)	4.7	4.3
IIP: Consumer non-durables	6.8	7.0	2.5	0.7	(0.2)	(2.2)	(1.6)	(2.0)	(1.5)	0.5	
Fertiliser sales	(2.9)	6.0	2.4	(5.3)	2.4	(7.3)	0.4	(9.6)	(14.7)		
MGNREGA work demand	4.4	15.1	1.3	(8.3)	(16.1)	(16.6)	1.7	6.5	1.3	(12.3)	(26.1)
<b>FMCG sales</b>											
Rural							5.7	9.1	8.3	8.4	8.2
Urban							1.9	4.0	2.4	4.1	4.3
All India							3.5	6.2	4.9	5.9	5.9

Source: RBI, Choice Institutional Equities

**Institutional Research Team**

Utsav Verma, CFA	Head of Institutional Research	utsav.verma@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9440
Prashanth Kumar Kota, CFA	Analyst – Basic Materials	prashanth.kota@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9887
Dhanshree Jadhav	Analyst – Technology	dhanshree.jadhav@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9535
Karan Kamdar	Analyst – Small and Midcaps	karan.kamdar@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9451
Deepika Murarka	Analyst – Healthcare	deepika.murarka@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9513
Putta Ravi Kumar	Analyst – Defence	ravi.putta@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9908
Maitri Sheth	Analyst – Pharmaceuticals	maitri.sheth@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9511
Ashutosh Murarka	Analyst – Cement & Infrastructure	ashutosh.murarka@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9887
Dhaval Popat	Analyst – Energy	dhaval.popat@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9949
Aayush Saboo	Sr. Associate– Real Estate	aayush.saboo@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9512
Bharat Kumar Kudikyala	Sr. Associate – Building Materials and Mining	bharat.kudikyala@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9521
Avi Jhaveri	Sr. Associate – Technology	avi.jhaveri@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9901
Kunal Bajaj	Sr. Associate – Technology	kunal.bajaj@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9901
Abhinav Kapadia	Sr. Associate – Capital Goods	abhinav.kapadia@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9707
Vikrant Shah, CFA (ICFAI)	Sr. Associate – Banks	vikrant.shah@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9887
Stuti Bagadia	Associate – Pharma	stuti.bagadia@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9511
Vinay Rawal	Associate – Small and Midcaps	vinay.rawal@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9433
Heer Gogri	Associate – Small and Midcaps	heer.gogri@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9433
Heet Chheda	Associate – Auto	heet.chheda@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9233
Rushil Katiyar	Associate – Technology	rushil.katiyar@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9535

**CHOICE RATING DISTRIBUTION & METHODOLOGY****Large Cap\***

BUY	The security is expected to generate upside of 15% or more over the next 12 months
ADD	The security is expected to show upside returns from 5% to less than 15% over the next 12 months
REDUCE	The security is expected to show upside or downside returns by 5% to -5% over the next 12 months
SELL	The security is expected to show downside of 5% or more over the next 12 months

**Mid & Small Cap\***

BUY	The security is expected to generate upside of 20% or more over the next 12 months
ADD	The security is expected to show upside returns from 5% to less than 20% over the next 12 months
REDUCE	The security is expected to show upside or downside returns by 5% to -10% over the next 12 months
SELL	The security is expected to show downside of 10% or more over the next 12 months

**Other Ratings**

NOT RATED (NR)	The stock has no recommendation from the Analyst
UNDER REVIEW (UR)	The stock is under review by the Analyst and rating may change

**Sector View**

POSITIVE (P)	Fundamentals of the sector look attractive over the next 12 months
NEUTRAL (N)	Fundamentals of the sector are expected to be in statis over the next 12 months
CAUTIOUS (C)	Fundamentals of the sector are expected to be challenging over the next 12 months

\*Large Cap: More Than INR 20,000 Cr Market Cap  
 \*Mid & Small Cap: Less Than INR 20,000 Cr Market Cap

**Disclaimer****Research Disclaimer and Disclosure inter-alia as required under Securities and Exchange Board of India (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014**

**Choice Equity Broking Private Limited-Research Analyst** - INH000000222. (CIN. NO.: U65999MH2010PTC198714). Reg. Add.: Sunil Patodia Tower, J B Nagar, Andheri(East), Mumbai 400099. Tel. No. 022-6707 9999

Compliance Officer--Prashant Salian, Email Id – Prashant.salian@choiceindia.com Contact no. 022- 67079999- Ext-2310

Grievance officer-Deepika Singhvi Tel.022-67079999- Ext-834. Email- ig@choiceindia.com

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing. Registration granted by SEBI, and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors

This Research Report (hereinafter referred as “Report”) has been prepared by Choice Equity Broking Private Limited as a Research Entity (hereinafter referred as “CEBPL RE” Limited). The Research Analysts, strategists are principally responsible for the preparation of “CEBPL RE” research. The research analysts have received compensation based upon various factors, which may include quality of research, investor client feedback, stock picking, competitive factors and firm revenues etc.

Whilst CEBPL has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that this information is correct, CEBPL does not offer any warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of such information. Any person placing reliance on the report to undertake trading does so entirely at his or her own risk and CEBPL does not accept any liability as a result. Securities and Derivatives markets may be subject to rapid and unexpected price movements and past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

**General Disclaimer:** This ‘Report’ is strictly meant for use by the recipient and is not for circulation. This Report does not take into account particular investment objectives, financial situations or specific needs of individual clients nor does it constitute a personal recommendation. The recommendations, if any, made herein are expression of views and/or opinions and should not be deemed or construed to be neither advice for the purpose of purchase or sale of any security, derivatives or any other security through CEBPL nor any solicitation or offering of any investment/trading opportunity on behalf of the issuer(s) of the respective security (ies) referred to herein. These information / opinions / views are not meant to serve as a professional investment guide for the readers. No action is solicited based upon the information provided herein. Recipients of this “Report” should rely on information/data arising out of their own Study/investigations. It is advised to seek independent professional advice and arrive at an informed trading/investment decision before executing any trades or making any investments. This ‘Report’ has been prepared on the basis of publicly available information, internally developed data and other sources believed by CEBPL to be reliable. CEBPL or its directors, employees, affiliates or representatives shall not be responsible for, or warrant for the accuracy, completeness, adequacy and reliability of such information / opinions / views. Though due care has been taken to ensure that the disclosures and opinions given are fair and reasonable, none of the directors, employees, affiliates or representatives of CEBPL shall be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, punitive or exemplary damages, including lost profits arising in any way whatsoever from the information / opinions / views contained in this report.



The price and value of the investments referred to in this Report and the income from them may tend to go down as well as up, and investors may incur losses on any investments. Past performance shall not be a guide for future performance. CEBPL does not provide tax advice to its clients, and all investors are strongly advised to take advice of their tax advisers regarding taxation aspects of any potential investment. Opinions are based on the current scenario as of the date appearing on this 'Report' only. CEBPL does not undertake to advise you as to any change of our views expressed in this 'Report' may differ on account of differences in research methodology, personal judgment and difference in time horizons for which recommendations are made. User should keep this risk in mind and not hold CEBPL, its employees and associates responsible for any losses, damages of any type whatsoever.

**Disclaimers in respect of jurisdiction:** This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would subject "CEBPL RE" to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction(s). No action has been or will be taken by "CEBPL RE" in any jurisdiction (other than India), where any action for such purpose(s) is required. Accordingly, this 'Report' shall not be possessed, circulated and/or distributed in any such country or jurisdiction unless such action is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of such country or jurisdiction. "CEBPL" requires such recipient to inform himself about and to observe any restrictions at his own expense, without any liability to "CEBPL". Any dispute arising out of this Report shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts in Mumbai (India).

Statements on ownership and material conflicts of interest, compensation - CEBPL and Associates reciprocates to the best of the knowledge and belief of CEBPL/ its Associates/ research Analyst who is preparing this report.

#### Disclosures of Interest (Additional):

- "CEBPL", its research Analyst(s), or its associates or relatives of the Research Analyst does not have any financial interest in the company(ies) covered in this report.
- "CEBPL" its research Analyst, or its associates or relatives of the research analyst affiliates collectively do not hold more than 1 of the securities of the company(ies) covered in this report as of the end of the month immediately preceding the distribution of the research report.
- "CEBPL", its research analyst, his/her associate, his/her relative, do not have any other material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this research report.
- "CEBPL", its research analyst, and its associates have not received compensation for investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services or for any other products or services from the company(ies) covered in this report, in the past twelve months.
- "CEBPL", its research analyst, or its associates have not managed or co-managed in the previous twelve months, a private or public offering of securities for the company (ies) covered in this report.
- "CEBPL", or its associates have not received compensation or other benefits from the company(ies) covered in this report or from any third party, in connection with the research report.
- CEBPL research analyst has not served as an Officer, Director, or employee of the company (ies) covered in the Research report.
- "CEBPL", its research analyst has not been engaged in market making activity for the company(ies) covered in the Research report.

Details of Associates of CEBPL and Brief History of Disciplinary action by regulatory authorities are available on our website i.e. <https://choiceindia.com/research-listing>

Sr. No.	Particulars	Yes / No
1.	Whether compensation has been received from the company(ies) covered in the Research report in the past 12 months for investment banking transaction by CEBPL	No
2	Whether Research Analyst, CEBPL or its associates or relatives of the Research Analyst affiliates collectively hold more than 1 of the company(ies) covered in the Research report	No
3.	Whether compensation has been received by CEBPL or its associates from the company(ies) covered in the Research report	No
4.	CEBPL or its affiliates have managed or co-managed in the previous twelve months a private or public offering of securities for the company(ies) covered in the Research report	No
5.	CEBPL, its research analyst, his associate, or its associates have received compensation for investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services or for any other products or services from the company(ies) covered in the Research report, in the last twelve months	No

**Copyright:** The copyright in this research report belongs exclusively to CEBPL. All rights are reserved. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. No reprinting or reproduction, in whole or in part, is permitted without the CEBPL's prior consent, except that a recipient may reprint it for internal circulation only and only if it is reprinted in its entirety.

This "Report" is for distribution only under such circumstances as may be permitted by applicable law. This "Report" has no regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient, even if sent only to a single recipient. This "Report" is not guaranteed to be a complete statement or summary of any securities, markets, reports or developments referred to in this research report. Neither CEBPL nor any of its directors, officers, employees or agents shall have any liability, however arising, for any error, inaccuracy or incompleteness of fact or opinion in this "report" or lack of care in this report's preparation or publication, or any losses or damages which may arise from the use of this research report.

Information barriers may be relied upon by CEBPL, such as "Chinese Walls" to control the flow of information within the areas, units, divisions, groups, or affiliates of CEBPL.

Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments (including ADRs) discussed in this research report may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, or be subject to the regulations of, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Foreign companies may not be subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect within the United States. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related financial instruments discussed in this research report denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars is subject to exchange rate fluctuations that may have a positive or adverse effect on the value of or income from such securities or related financial instruments.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by CEBPL with respect to future performance. Income from investments may fluctuate. The price or value of the investments to which this research report relates, either directly or indirectly, may fall or rise against the interest of investors. Any recommendation or opinion contained in this research report may become outdated as a consequence of changes in the environment in which the issuer of the securities under analysis operates, in addition to changes in the estimates and forecasts, assumptions and valuation methodology used herein.

No part of the content of this research report may be copied, forwarded or duplicated in any form or by any means without the prior written consent of CEBPL and CEBPL accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

The details of CEBPL, its research analyst and its associates pertaining to the companies covered in the Research report are given above.