

We met with MD and CEO V Vaidyanathan of IDFC First Bank, to discuss the bank's long-term growth and asset-quality outlook, its strategy to tame the cost-to-income ratio, and rationale to tie-up the huge investments from Warburg and ADIA. KTAs:

Warburg/ADIA investment to fuel growth without near-term dilution risk

IDFC First aims to sustain ~20% credit growth and double its loan book within 4-5 years, with no dilution risk (an irritant otherwise) till FY28, supported by Warburg and ADIA's capital infusion (boosting CET-1 by 2.6%). The bank enjoys one of the best CASA ratios in the industry at 48%, though focus will be on lowering SA costs to improve the economic value of its otherwise high CASA and inch-up sub-optimal CA ratio (now at ~7%); this should provide the bank an option to reduce the portfolio risk without sacrificing margin. That said, NIM may contract in 2QFY26 from the repo cut transmission due to a lagged effect, albeit should recover in H2FY26 to ~5.8%.

Plans to sweat retail digital stack, sourcing/collection model to tame C/I ratio

The bank's opex remains elevated (C/I at 69-72%, C/A at 5.4-5.9%), given the heavy retail tech investment (reflecting in its 'best app' rating among banks at 4.9) and business sourcing cost. The card business achieved breakeven at the operating level in FY25 and is expected to contribute positively from FY26E onwards. The bank has also reduced its call-center staff given tech interventions, and plans to reduce dependence on DSAs for business sourcing through increased contribution by its own phygital network. That said, it does not plan to cut corners on the tech front and would gradually develop the enterprise tech stack; this should help mobilize enterprise business/fee and even CA deposits. Overall, it expects opex growth at ~12% in FY26E, to trail loan growth of ~20%, driving operating leverage (C/I expected to decline to ~65% by FY28E) and thus an RoA recovery.

MFI recovery to accelerate from H2FY26; BL, M-LAP risk to be contained

The bank expects MFI stress to ease post-3QFY26, with the book fully insured and new disbursements largely under government cover. High-frequency indicators (cheque bounces, DPD recoveries) remain stable in Jul-Aug'25. Unsecured BL (~4% of loans) and LAP need closer monitoring, in our view, though contained. The bank holds Rs3.2bn contingent provisions on the SMA book. Credit costs may stay elevated in Q2FY26, albeit should moderate to ~2.2% in FY26E and to ~1.6-1.8% over FY27-28E.

Set for a sustainable RoA recovery after early misses

Sticky opex and MFI/Card stress dragged RoA/RoE to a low of 0.5%/4% in FY25, thereby missing guidance. However, we expect the bank to turn the corner H2FY26 onward, as operating leverage improves, credit cost eases, and the high burn card business turns profitable, thus driving up RoA/RoE to ~1.3%/13% by FY28E. Recent investments by Warburg and ADIA (~Rs75bn) should provide long-term growth capital till FY28E, thus easing frequent dilution concerns. We retain ADD on the stock, with unchanged TP of Rs80 (1.3x Sep-27E ABV).

Target Price – 12M	Jun-26
Change in TP (%)	-
Current Reco.	ADD
Previous Reco.	ADD
Upside/(Downside) (%)	14.3

Stock Data	IDFCB IN
52-week High (Rs)	79
52-week Low (Rs)	52
Shares outstanding (mn)	7,338.7
Market-cap (Rs bn)	510
Market-cap (USD mn)	5,746
Net-debt, FY26E (Rs mn)	NA
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	33
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	1,596.4
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	18.0
Free float (%)	84.4
Nifty-50	24,634.9
INR/USD	88.8

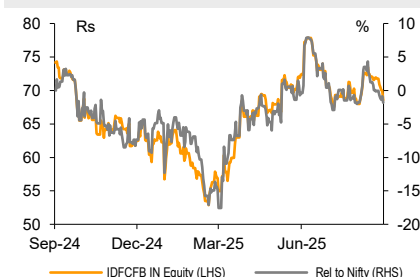
Shareholding, Aug-25

Promoters (%)	0.0
FPIs/MFs (%)	24.5/23.7

Price Performance

(%)	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	2.2	(4.0)	(6.3)
Rel. to Nifty	1.4	0.0	(0.5)

1-Year share price trend (Rs)



IDFC First Bank: Financial Snapshot (Standalone)

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net profit	29,565	15,248	25,326	47,347	71,296
Loan growth (%)	28.2	19.8	20.0	21.0	22.0
NII growth (%)	30.2	17.3	10.5	22.4	23.5
NIM (%)	6.5	6.3	5.9	6.0	6.1
PPOP growth (%)	26.5	18.9	19.3	32.6	31.6
Adj. EPS (Rs)	4.2	2.1	3.0	5.5	8.3
Adj. EPS growth (%)	13.6	(50.2)	41.7	87.0	50.6
Adj. BV (INR)	44.3	50.7	54.7	59.5	67.5
Adj. BVPS growth (%)	18.4	14.7	7.8	8.8	13.4
RoA (%)	1.1	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3
RoE (%)	10.2	4.3	5.9	9.4	12.8
P/E (x)	16.6	33.4	23.6	12.6	8.4
P/ABV (x)	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0

Source: Company, Emkay Research

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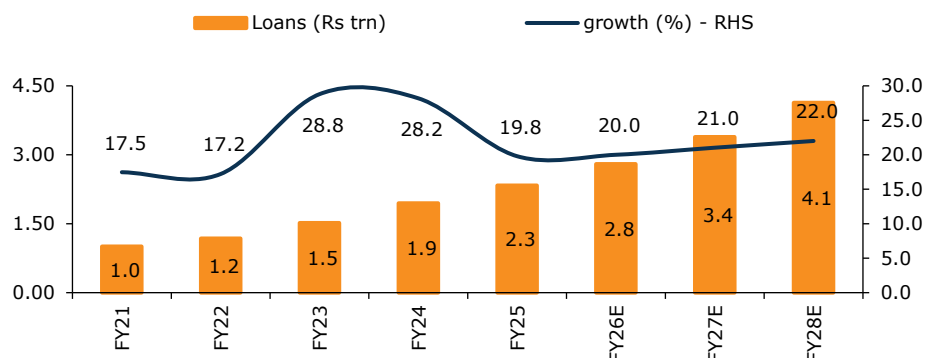
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Story in charts

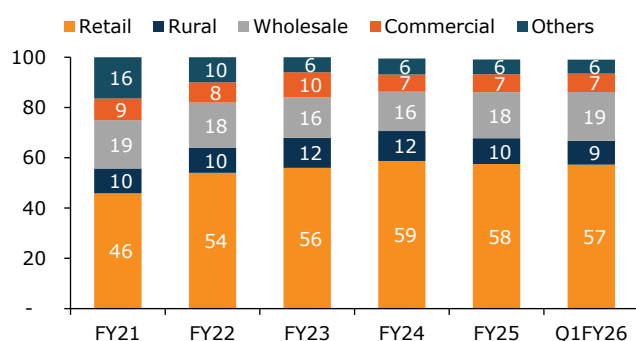
Exhibit 1: Strong loan growth momentum to continue



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: The bank has increased its retail share over the years...

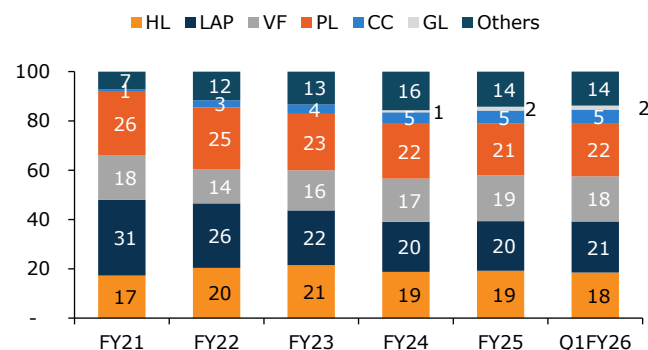
Overall loan mix (%)



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: ...with a well-diversified mix of PL, LAP, HL, VF, etc

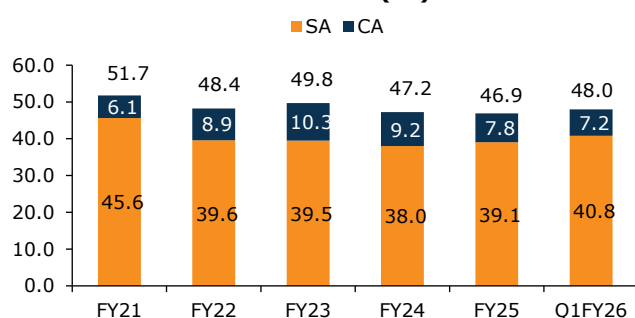
Retail loan mix (%)



Source: Company, Emkay Research; Note: Others include gold loans (till FY23), education, and other digital loans

Exhibit 4: IDFCB's CASA ratio continues to improve...

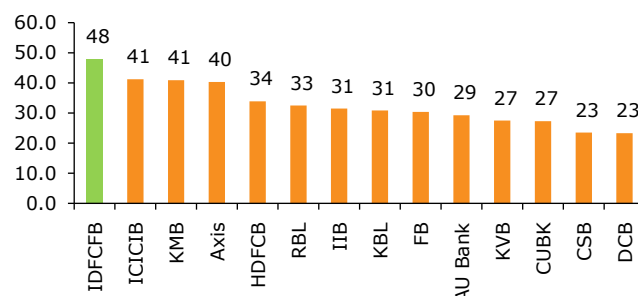
CASA Ratio (%)



Source: Company, Emkay Research

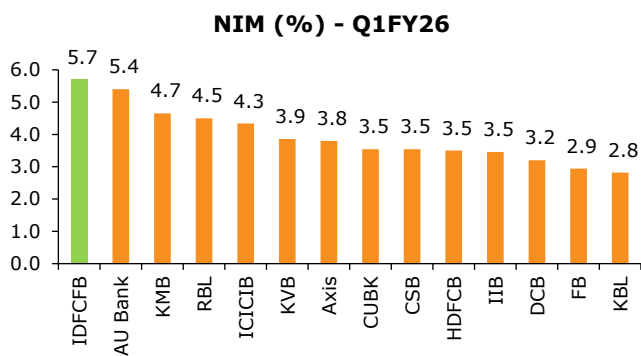
Exhibit 5: ...and is the highest among peers

CASA ratio (%) - Q1FY26

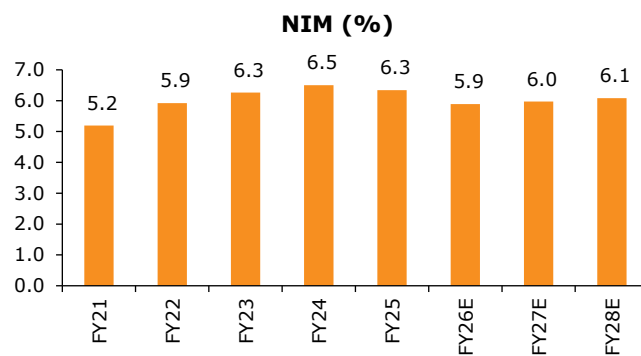


Source: Emkay Research

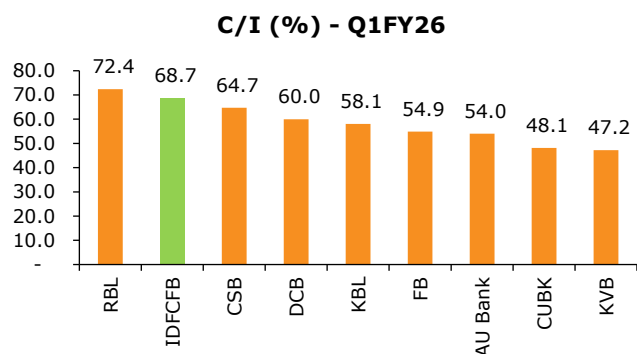
This report is intended for Team White Marquee Solutions (team.emkay@whitemarquesolutions)

Exhibit 6: IDFCB commands the highest NIM among SMID PVBs...

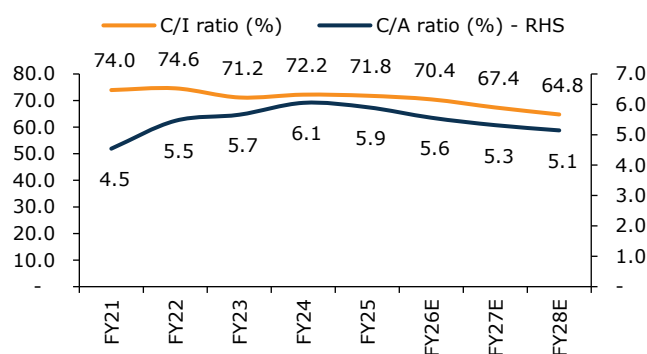
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 7: ...with IDFCB's NIM likely to ease in FY26E due to downsizing of the MFI book and the ongoing rate cuts, with recovery expected later

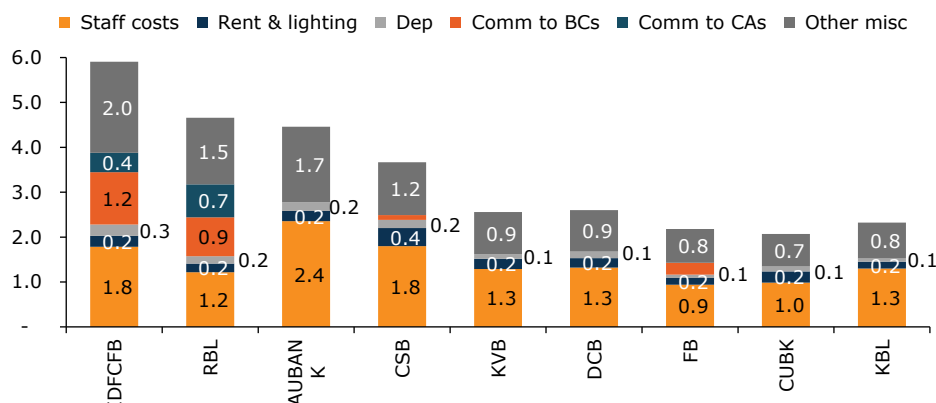
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 8: IDFCB has one of the highest C/I ratios among peers, after RBL...

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 9: ...however, IDFCB plans to sweat the retail digital stack, with the sourcing/collection model to tame the C/I ratio...

Source: Company, Emkay Research

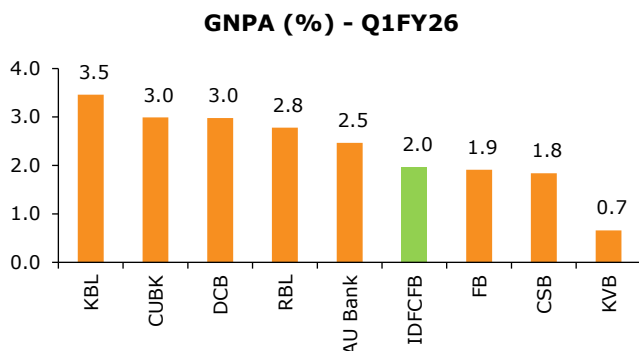
Exhibit 10: IDFCB's staff costs, commission to BCs, and other miscellaneous expenses remain higher than that of peer banks**Key cost as % of assets**

Source: Company, Emkay Research; Note: Commission to BCs represents commission to business correspondent and commission to CAs represents commissions to collection agents

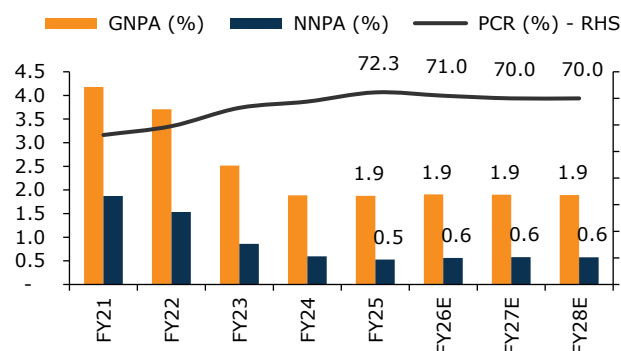
Exhibit 11: Higher opex remains the primary headwind for IDFCB's profit

Opex break-up, as a % of assets (%)	IDFCFB		RBL		FB	
	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
Total Opex	6.05	5.91	4.76	4.66	2.18	2.18
Staff Cost	1.83	1.78	1.17	1.22	0.99	0.94
Rent, Taxes, and Lighting	0.24	0.24	0.20	0.19	0.16	0.15
Printing and Stationery	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Advertisement	0.15	0.15	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.02
Depreciation	0.23	0.26	0.17	0.17	0.08	0.07
Law charges	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Postage, telephone, etc	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Repairs and Maintenance	0.07	0.06	0.15	0.15	0.03	0.04
Insurance	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.09
Other expenditure	3.33	3.21	2.82	2.69	0.73	0.79
Commission to sales agents/BCs	1.27	1.17	1.13	0.87	0.23	0.27
Commission to collection agents	0.37	0.43	0.52	0.73	na	na
System management fees	0.24	0.19	na	na	na	na
Card Expenses	na	na	0.20	0.16	0.14	0.13
Misc expenses	1.45	1.42	0.98	0.92	0.36	0.40

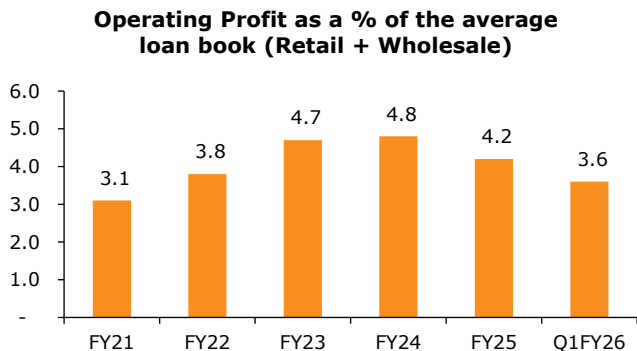
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 12: IDFCB has one of the lowest GNPA ratios...

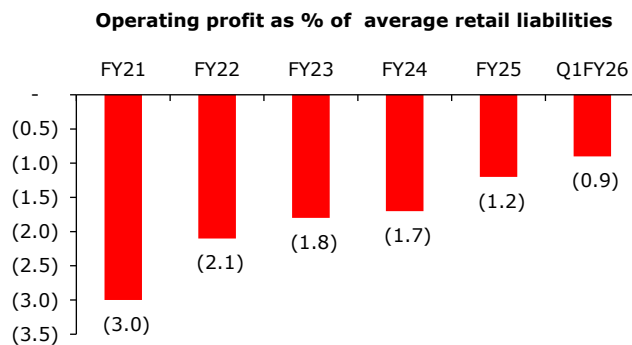
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 13: ...with the same expected to improve further as the MFI/card stress subsides

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 14: DFCB's lending business is profitable, with strong operating profit...

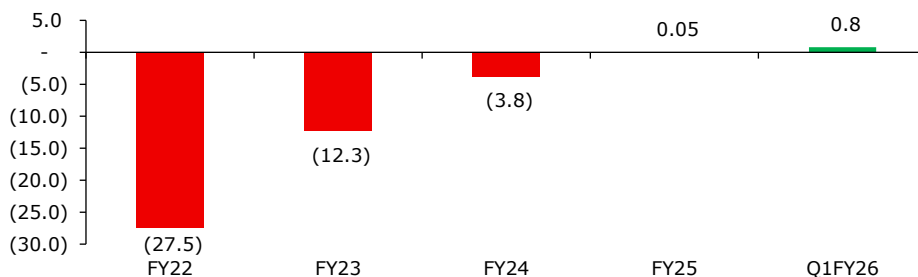
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 15: ...and, with scale, the bank expects to see breakeven at the average retail liabilities level by FY30

Source: Company, Emkay Research

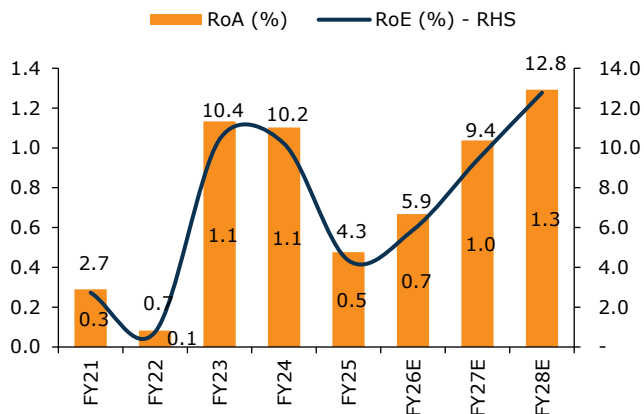
Exhibit 16: IDFCB's card business achieved break-even at the operating level in FY25, and is expected to contribute positively from FY26E

Card business operating profit as a % of the average loan book



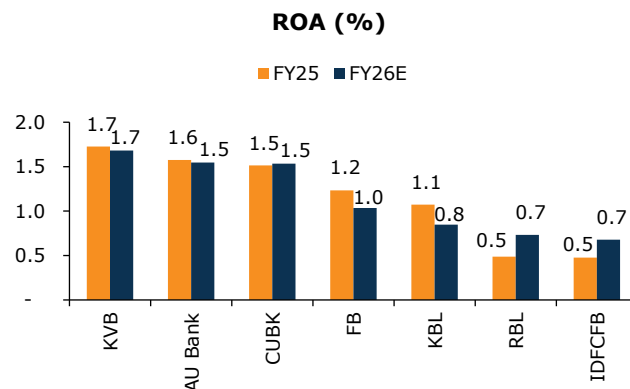
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 17: RoA/RoE set to improve, from 0.5%/4% in FY25 to 1.3%/13% in FY28E



Source: Company, Emkay Research

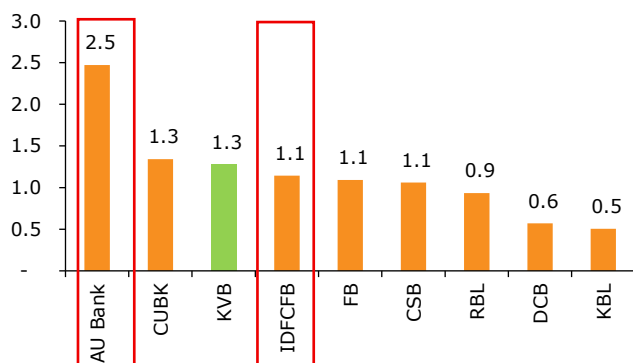
Exhibit 18: IDFCB has a lower RoA profile due to higher opex and elevated credit cost on account of the recent MFI/Card stress drag, as seen in RBL



Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 19: We believe IDFCB will see reduction in the valuation gap with AU Bank, as its strong digital capabilities and asset quality improvement should improve the return profile

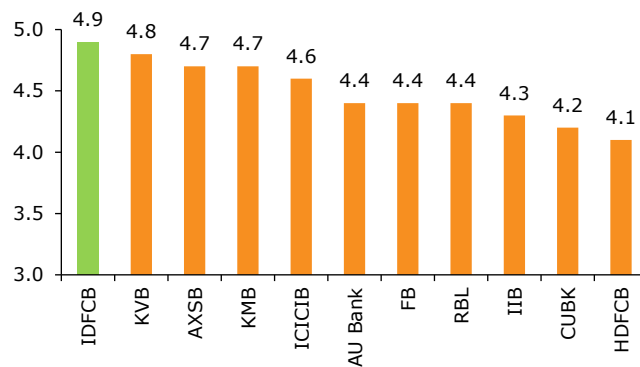
P/ABV (x) - FY27E



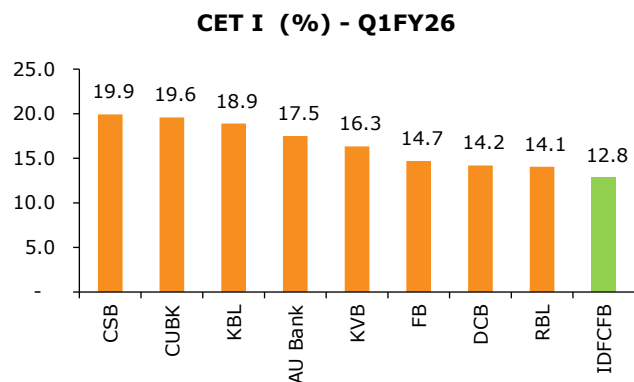
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 20: IDFCB's tech edge is also evident from its rating as the 'best App' among banks

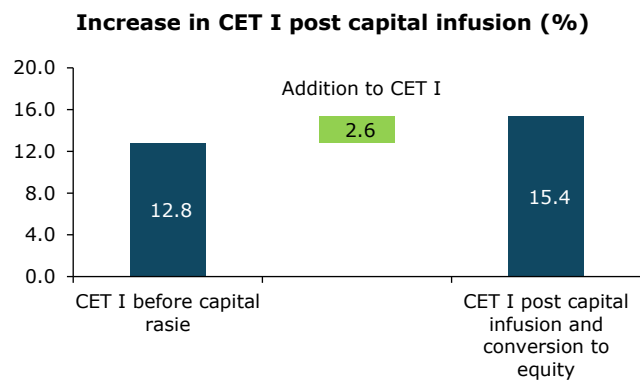
Bank-wise App Rating in Google Play store



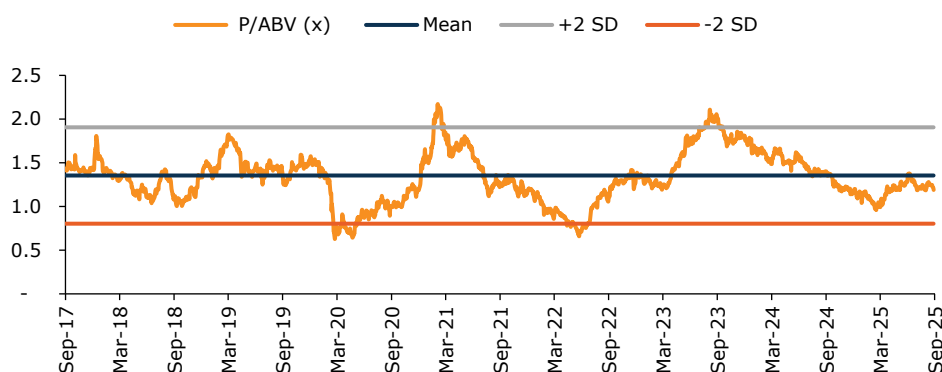
Source: Google Play store, Emkay Research

Exhibit 21: While IDFCB's CET I ratio remains low in comparison to peers...

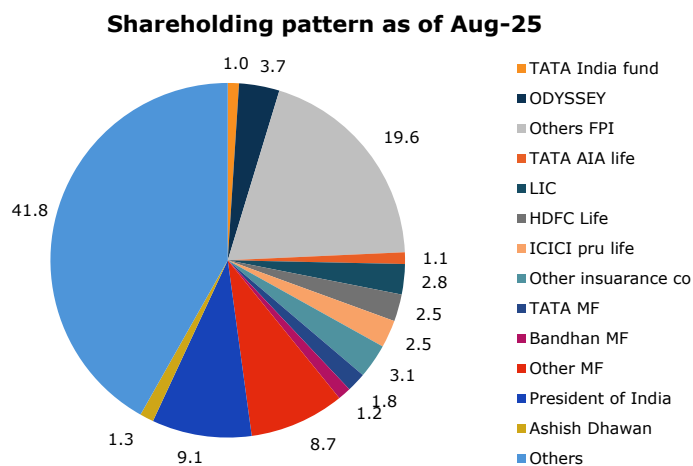
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 22: ...the same is expected to improve by ~260bps following a Rs75bn capital infusion by Warburg and ADIA

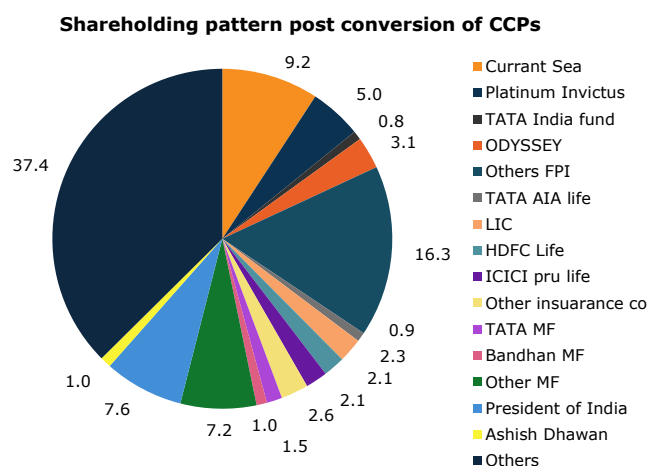
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 23: The stock currently trades at 1.1x FY27E ABV...

Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

Exhibit 24: Shareholding pattern as of Aug-25 – Before issuance of CCPS to Warburg and ADIA

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 25: Shareholding pattern after the conversion of CCPS into equity

Source: Company, Emkay Research; Note: Current Sea is an affiliate company of Warburg, and Platinum Invictus is the subsidiary of ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority)

This report is intended for Team White Marquee Solutions (team.emkay@whitemarquesolutions)

IDFC First Bank: Standalone Financials and Valuations

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Interest Income	303,225	365,015	405,177	474,694	562,416
Interest Expense	138,717	172,095	192,095	213,820	240,317
Net interest income	164,508	192,920	213,082	260,875	322,100
NII growth (%)	30.2	17.3	10.5	22.4	23.5
Other income	60,020	70,217	86,107	98,892	115,906
Total Income	224,528	263,137	299,189	359,767	438,005
Operating expenses	162,158	188,988	210,764	242,482	283,695
PPOP	62,370	74,148	88,424	117,285	154,310
PPOP growth (%)	26.5	18.9	19.3	32.6	31.6
Core PPOP	60,315	69,342	81,455	111,013	148,665
Provisions & contingencies	23,817	55,147	56,366	54,986	59,250
PBT	38,553	19,001	32,058	62,299	95,061
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Tax expense	8,988	3,753	6,732	14,952	23,765
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	-	-	-	-	-
Reported PAT	29,565	15,248	25,326	47,347	71,296
PAT growth (%)	21.3	(48.4)	66.1	87.0	50.6
Adjusted PAT	29,565	15,248	25,326	47,347	71,296
Diluted EPS (Rs)	4.2	2.1	3.0	5.5	8.3
Diluted EPS growth (%)	13.6	(50.2)	41.7	87.0	50.6
DPS (Rs)	0	0	0.2	0.4	0.7
Dividend payout (%)	0	0	6.8	7.3	8.4
Effective tax rate (%)	23.3	19.7	21.0	24.0	25.0
Net interest margins (%)	6.5	6.3	5.9	6.0	6.1
Cost-income ratio (%)	72.2	71.8	70.4	67.4	64.8
Shares outstanding (mn)	7,069.9	7,322.1	8,584.3	8,584.3	8,584.3

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Asset quality and other metrics					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Asset quality					
Gross NPLs	37,184	44,332	54,002	65,154	79,282
Net NPLs	11,605	12,299	15,661	19,546	23,785
GNPA ratio (%)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
NNPA ratio (%)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Provision coverage (%)	68.8	72.3	71.0	70.0	70.0
Gross slippages	39,270	80,550	87,909	85,783	94,189
Gross slippage ratio (%)	2.0	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.3
LLP ratio (%)	1.5	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.6
NNPA to networth (%)	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.9
Capital adequacy					
Total CAR (%)	16.1	15.5	16.4	14.8	13.7
Tier-1 (%)	13.4	13.2	14.4	13.1	12.3
CET-1 (%)	13.4	13.2	14.4	13.1	12.3
RWA-to-Total Assets (%)	78.2	80.4	78.0	78.0	77.0
Miscellaneous					
Total income growth (%)	33.6	19.8	12.9	16.8	18.3
Opex growth (%)	33.2	16.5	11.5	15.0	17.0
Core PPOP growth (%)	31.0	15.0	17.5	36.3	33.9
PPOP margin (%)	17.2	17.0	18.0	20.4	22.7
PAT/PPOP (%)	47.4	20.6	28.6	40.4	46.2
LLP-to-Core PPOP (%)	39.5	79.5	69.2	49.5	39.9
Yield on advances (%)	15.1	14.5	13.4	13.1	12.8
Cost of funds (%)	6.1	6.3	6.0	5.4	5.0

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Balance Sheet					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Share capital	70,699	73,221	85,843	85,843	85,843
Reserves & surplus	250,914	307,559	395,668	439,781	504,848
Net worth	321,613	380,780	481,511	525,625	590,691
Deposits	2,005,763	2,520,652	3,170,429	3,982,729	4,979,327
Borrowings	509,356	389,748	368,063	339,585	300,681
Interest bearing liab.	2,515,119	2,910,401	3,538,492	4,322,314	5,280,007
Other liabilities & prov.	124,419	147,006	123,591	132,534	180,613
Total liabilities & equity	2,961,151	3,438,187	4,143,594	4,980,473	6,051,311
Net advances	1,945,924	2,331,125	2,797,448	3,385,698	4,130,695
Investments	747,084	807,155	994,614	1,186,240	1,440,850
Cash, other balances	124,802	150,974	185,771	223,783	272,420
Interest earning assets	2,817,809	3,289,254	3,977,833	4,795,721	5,843,966
Fixed assets	26,194	26,626	29,492	32,362	35,518
Other assets	117,147	122,306	136,269	152,390	171,827
Total assets	2,961,151	3,438,187	4,143,594	4,980,473	6,051,311
BVPS (Rs)	45.5	52.0	56.1	61.2	68.8
Adj. BVPS (INR)	44.3	50.7	54.7	59.5	67.5
Gross advances	1,971,503	2,363,158	2,835,790	3,431,306	4,186,193
Credit to deposit (%)	97.0	92.5	88.2	85.0	83.0
CASA ratio (%)	47.2	46.9	47.2	48.3	50.0
Cost of deposits (%)	5.9	6.2	5.7	5.2	4.8
Loans-to-Assets (%)	65.7	67.8	67.5	68.0	68.3
Net advances growth (%)	28.2	19.8	20.0	21.0	22.0
Deposit growth (%)	38.7	25.7	25.8	25.6	25.0
Book value growth (%)	17.0	14.3	7.9	9.2	12.4

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Valuations and key Ratios					
Y/E Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
P/E (x)	16.6	33.4	23.6	12.6	8.4
P/B (x)	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
P/ABV (x)	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0
P/PPOP (x)	8.2	6.9	5.8	4.3	3.3
Dividend yield (%)	0	0	0.3	0.6	1.0
DuPont-RoE split (%)					
NII/avg assets	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.8
Other income	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
Fee income	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
Opex	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.1
PPOP	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.8
Core PPOP	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.7
Provisions	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.1
Tax expense	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
RoA (%)	1.1	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3
Leverage ratio (x)	9.3	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.9
RoE (%)	10.2	4.3	5.9	9.4	12.8
Quarterly data					
Rs mn	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26
NII	46,948	47,879	49,021	49,072	49,331
NIM (%)	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.7
PPOP	18,824	19,619	17,589	18,116	22,394
PAT	6,806	2,007	3,394	3,041	4,626
EPS (Rs)	3.8	1.1	1.9	1.7	2.5

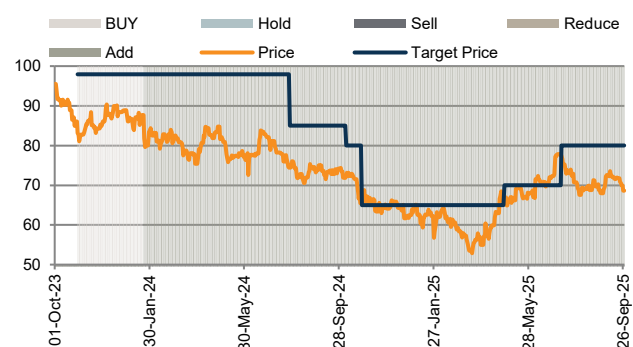
Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (Rs)	TP (Rs)	Rating	Analyst
27-Jul-25	71	80	Add	Anand Dama
09-Jul-25	77	80	Add	Anand Dama
27-Apr-25	66	70	Add	Anand Dama
09-Apr-25	59	65	Add	Anand Dama
26-Jan-25	62	65	Add	Anand Dama
27-Oct-24	66	65	Add	Anand Dama
07-Oct-24	72	80	Add	Anand Dama
27-Jul-24	74	85	Add	Anand Dama
28-Apr-24	85	98	Add	Anand Dama
22-Jan-24	88	98	Add	Anand Dama
30-Nov-23	85	98	Buy	Anand Dama
30-Oct-23	83	98	Buy	Anand Dama

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

This report is intended for Team White Marque Solutions (team.emkay@whitemarquesolutions)

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ADD	5-15% upside
REDUCE	5% upside to 15% downside
SELL	>15% downside

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