

BUY
Target Price
53

## MFI Stress Peaks Out; Growth To Improve From H2 Onwards!

Est. Vs. Actual for Q1FY26: NII - MISS; PPOP - INLINE; PAT - BEAT

Changes in Estimates post Q1FY26

FY26E/27E (in %): NII: -5.6/-6.5; PPOP: -14.5/-11.2; PAT: -32.8/-15.1

**Recommendation Rationale** 

- PAR Accretion Tapering: The PAR accretion (in Group Loans) has been consistently moderating over the past 2 quarters. The PAR inch-up seen in Q1 can be attributed to the ARC sale done in Q4FY25, resulting in PAR looking optically meaningfully lower. However, adjusting for the ARC, the PAR has improved, supported by better X-bucket Collection trends, which have been consistently maintained at ~99.4% since May'25. The management expects Xbucket CE to normalise to ~99.5+% by Q3FY26. In the Individual Loan (IL) portfolio, PAR inchup can be attributed to the stress in KA, which the management expects to stabilise in the coming quarter. The bank has ramped up its collection team with a focus on early buckets to avoid forward flows. UJSFB has seen an improvement in CE in the SMA1 book from 36% to 47% and in the SMA2 book from 42% to 47%. The management is confident that slippages are peaking out in 9 out of 10 states in Q4FY25, while KA slippages have peaked out in Q1. Slippages are expected to trend downwards as the SMA pool continues to decline. This gives the management the confidence to maintain GNPA at <2.5% in FY26. Resultantly, credit costs in Q2 are expected to remain flattish QoQ and gradually decline over Q3 and Q4. The management expects H2 credit costs to be lower than H1. On a steady state basis, MFI credit costs are expected to settle at 2-2.25%, while secured portfolio credit costs are likely to be contained at 0.7-0.8, keeping overall credit cost for . UJSFB at ~1.5-1.7%.
- GL Stress to Gradually Moderate, IL Portfolio Fares Better: UJSFB's IL portfolio asset quality continues to fare better vs Group Loans (GL), ex-KA. However, in certain districts of KA, the IL portfolio has been facing headwinds owing to the impact of the ordinance. On the other hand, the IL portfolio in the key states such as TN and MH continues to hold up well. While in the GL portfolio, the southern states continue to exhibit stress, the Eastern and Western geographies continue to see stability, and the bank is comfortable in resuming growth in these geographies. The bank intends to keep the MFI portfolio diversified with no geography contributing to >15%.

Sector Outlook: Positive

Company Guidance: The bank has guided for growth momentum to improve over FY26, as it aims to clock an advances growth of 20%. Credit growth will be primarily led by secured assets, which are expected to grow at 35% in FY26. Deposits growth will mirror credit growth, with unabated focus on CASA Deposits. The bank intends to scale up the CASA Ratio to 27% vs ~24% in Q1. LDR is likely to be maintained at 88% during the year. With the bank in the investment phase, scale up of new products and continued investments towards tech, strengthening teams and the deposit franchise will keep Opex growth and consequently C-I Ratio elevated at 67% in FY26. While credit costs are expected to taper, the decline will be back-ended and thus, FY26 credit costs are expected to be at 2.3-2.4%.

Current Valuation: 1.4x FY27E ABV, Earlier Valuation: 1.2x FY27E ABV

Current TP: Rs 53/share. Earlier TP: Rs 49/share

Recommendation: We maintain our BUY recommendation on the stock

Alternative BUY Ideas from our Sector Coverage

AU SFB (TP - Rs 900/share)

#### **Financial Performance**

- Operational Performance: UJSFB's disbursements grew by 24% YoY/-12% QoQ, led by flat growth in MFI disbursements and a sharper de-growth in the secured segments' disbursements (+87% YoY, -25% QoQ). Advances grew by 11/4% YoY/QoQ, with growth led by secured businesses (+58/8% YoY/QoQ). MFI portfolio was flat QoQ and de-grew by 12% YoY. The share of secured book improved to ~46% vs 43.5% QoQ. Deposits grew by 19/3% YoY/QoQ, driven by TDs (+21/4% YoY/QoQ). CASA deposits grew by 13% YoY/-2% QoQ. Resultantly, the CASA Ratio declined to 24.3% vs 25.5% QoQ. C-D Ratio stood at 86.2% vs 92.5/85.4% YoY/QoQ.
- Financial Performance: NII growth was weak and de-grew by 9/1 YoY/QoQ, owing to weak MFI growth, excess liquidity and shift in portfolio mix. Margins contracted by ~60bps QoQ and stood at 7.7% vs 8.3% in Q4FY25. Non-interest income grew by 26/-8% YoY/QoQ. Opex growth was controlled at 18/-4% YoY/QoQ. C-I Ratio decreased and stood at 67.4% vs 68.3% QoQ. PPOP de-grew by 29% YoY and was flat QoQ. Credit costs were tapered QoQ to stand at 2.75% vs 3.41% in Q4FY25. PAT de-grew by 66% YoY and grew by 24% QoQ.
- Asset Quality: UJSFB's asset quality is better than the industry. The X-bucket collections in both the group and individual loans stood at 99.3% in Jun'25 vs 99.5% in Mar'25. The bank has seen X-bucket CE improve from 99.1% in Apr'25, which was impacted by the implementation of MFIN guardrails 2.0 and seasonality. GNPA/NNPA stood at 2.52/0.7% vs 2.18/0.49% QoQ. PCR stood at 73% vs 78% QoQ. Write-off during the quarter stood at Rs 159 Cr.

## Key Financials (Standalone)

(Rs Cr)	Q1FY26	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Axis Est.	Variance
Net Interest Income	856	-1.0	-9.1	886	-3.4
PPOP	360	+0.2	-29.3	367	-1.8
Net Profit	103	+23.8	-65.8	67	+54.7
NNPA (%)	0.7	+21 bps	+29 bps	0.6	+14 bps
RoA (%)	0.9	+14 bps	-207 bps	0.5	+30 bps

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

(0	CMP as of 24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2025)
CMP (Rs)	45.7
Upside /Downside (%)	16%
High/Low (Rs)	51.8/30.9
Market cap (Cr)	8,841
Avg. daily vol. (6m) Shrs	s. 1,45,21,727
No. of shares (Cr)	193.6

#### Shareholding (%)

	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Promoter	0.0	0.0	0.0
FIIs	17.9	19.5	19.6
MFs / UTI	3.8	4.7	11.0
Others	78.3	75.8	69.4

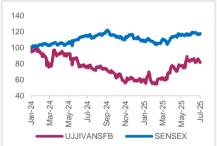
#### **Financial & Valuations**

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
NII	3,929	4,661	5,675
PPOP	1,658	2,138	2,872
Net Profit	672	1,100	1,541
EPS (Rs)	3.5	5.7	8.0
ABV (Rs)	33.1	38.1	45.0
P/ABV (x)	1.4	1.2	1.0
RoA (%)	1.3	1.8	2.0
NNPA (%)	0.5	0.5	0.5

### Change in Estimates (%)

Y/E Mar	FY26E	FY27E
NII	-5.6	-6.5
PPOP	-14.5	-11.2
PAT	-32.8	-15.1

#### **Relative Performance**



Source: Ace Equity, Axis Securities Research

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### **Key Takeaways**

NIM compression imminent: As the portfolio continues to skew towards lower-yielding segments, pressure on yields is imminent. In Q1FY26, the sharp NIM compression of 60bps QoQ was on account of portfolio mix shift towards secured products (25bps), excess liquidity of Rs 1,100 Cr (17bps), and interest reversal on advance payment (14bps). The management expects the excess liquidity to ease for the next couple of quarters, thereby supporting NIMs. Thus, in Q2, margins are expected to improve to 7.9% and to be maintained at that level in Q3. NIMs should also find support from the resumption of growth in the better-yielding MFI book. The bank is also focusing on ramping up growth in the better-yielding Micro Mortgage, Vehicle and Gold loans to support margins.

With the commencement of the rate cut cycle, UJSFB has also taken an SA and TD rate cut and expects the CoF to taper in H2FY26. The bank has slashed its TD rates by 65bps and also recalibrated SA rates in certain buckets by up to 100bps. The bulk deposit rates have also declined. **Thus, the management expects CoF to decline by 20bps each quarter over FY26**. Collectively, (i) Growth in better yielding secured segments, (ii) Faster growth in IL vs GL, wherein yield differential is ~100bps, (iii) Gradual downward repricing of deposits driving down CoF should enable UJSFB to maintain margins at 7.8-7.9% over FY26-28E.

Medium-to-Long-Term Guidance: The bank will continue to invest in the deposits franchise as it aspires to ramp up its CASA Ratio to ~35% over the next 3-5 years. Advances growth is expected to be maintained at 20-25% CAGR, enabling UJSFB to clock a loan book of Rs 1 Lc Crover the next 3-5 years, with the share of secured products improving from 46% currently to 60-65%. Continued investments towards the deposit franchise, tech and new product ramp-up will continue to keep near-term Opex ratios elevated. Over the medium term, as operating leverage kicks in with scale, the bank expects the C-I Ratio to improve significantly to 55% over the next 3-5 years. The bank will continue to strengthen its branch network as it plans to add 25 branches in FY26 and 400 branches over the medium term. As the share of the secured businesses in the portfolio mix improves, credit costs are expected to taper meaningfully to settle at 100-150bps of average. Gross advances.

## Outlook

The asset quality challenges in the MFI segment have peaked out and are expected to improve hereon. Credit costs are likely to remain elevated for another quarter before tapering over H2. While growth in the secured businesses will continue to remain healthy, we expect a pick-up in MFI growth in H2FY26 as challenges wane and demand improves. The improving growth in the MFI segment (particularly IL), along with a downward repricing of deposits aiding CoF, should partially offset the impact of the portfolio mix shift on NIMs. Opex ratios will continue to remain elevated to reflect the investments towards the franchise, tech platform and strengthening the deposit franchise. Thus, we expect UJSFB to deliver RoA/RoE of 1.7-2%/15-18% over FY27-28E, primarily driven by a sizable reduction in credit costs. We expect UJSFB to deliver a healthy Advances/Deposits/NII/Earnings growth of 21/21/16/30% CAGR over FY25-28E. However, factoring in near-term challenges on growth and shift towards lower-yielding secured products, we trim our pNII estimates by 5-6% over FY26-27E. Moreover, led by continued investments weighing on Opex ratios and a slight delay in credit cost normalisation, we have hacked our FY26/27E earnings estimates by 33/15%.

#### Valuation & Recommendation

UJSFB currently trades at 1.2x FY27E ABV, and we value the stock at 1.4x FY27E, to arrive at a target price of Rs 53/share, implying an upside of 16% from the CMP. **We maintain our BUY recommendation on the stock.** 

#### Key Risks to Our Estimates and TP

- The key risk to our estimates remains a slowdown in overall credit growth, which could potentially derail our earnings estimates.
- The scalability of new products and secured book remains a key monitorable.
- · Asset quality concerns persisting for long could keep credit costs elevated, hurting our earnings estimates



## **Change in Estimates**

Rs Cr		Revised			Old			% Change	
KS CI	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
NII	3,929	4,661	5,675	4,163	4,984	-	-5.6	-6.5	-
PBP	1,658	2,138	2,872	1,940	2,407	=	-14.5	-11.2	-
Provisions	762	671	817	605	681	-	26.0	-1.5	-
PAT	672	1,100	1,541	1,001	1,295	-	-32.8	-15.1	-

Source: Axis Securities Research

## **Results Review**

(Rs Cr)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	% YoY	Q4FY25	% QoQ
Net Interest Income	856	942	-9.1	864	-1.0
Non-Interest Income	249	197	26.3	270	-7.7
Operating expenses	744	629	18.4	774	-3.8
Staff Cost	412	340	21.0	420	-1.9
Pre-provision profits	360	510	-29.3	360	0.2
Provisions and contingencies	225	110	104.8	265	-15.0
PBT	136	400	-66.1	95	42.3
Provision for Tax	32	99	-67.2	12	172.3
PAT	103	302	-65.8	83	23.8
Business Update					
Disbursements	6,539	5,286	23.7	7,440	-12.1
MFI - Group	2,844	2,952	-3.7	2,787	2.0
MFI - Individual	1,090	942	15.7	1,185	-8.0
Affordable Housing	892	445	100.4	1,130	-21.1
MSME	402	130	209.2	533	-24.6
FIG	609	400	52.3	1,064	-42.8
Others	595	391	52.2	604	-1.5
AUM	33,287	30,070	10.7	32,123	3.6
MFI - Group	12,961	15,768	-17.8	13,090	-1.0
MFI - Individual	5,332	4,967	7.3	5,182	2.9
FIG	2,798	1,800	55.4	2,785	0.5
Affordable Housing	7,962	5,199	53.1	7,308	8.9
MSME	2,253	1,415	59.2	2,047	10.1
Others	1,578	817	93.1	1,388	13.7
Cost-Income ratio (%)	67.4	55.2	1215 bps	68.3	-90 bps
Asset Quality					
Gross NPA (%)	2.5	2.5	0 bps	2.2	34 bps
Net NPA (%)	0.7	0.4	29 bps	0.5	21 bps
PCR (%)	73.0	84.0	-1100 bps	78.0	-500 bp
Capital Adequacy					
CRAR (%)	22.8	24.9	-208 bps	23.1	-33 bps
Tier I (%)	21.2	23.0	-178 bps	21.4	-20 bps

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research



# Financials (Standalone)

Profit & Loss (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Interest Income	3,636	3,929	4,661	5,675
Non-Interest Income	846	1,003	1,179	1,385
Total Income	4,482	4,932	5,840	7,060
Operating Expenses	2,793	3,274	3,703	4,188
Pre-Provision Profits	1,689	1,658	2,138	2,872
Pre-Provision Profits Provisions	<b>1,689</b> 748	<b>1,658</b> 762	<b>2,138</b> 671	<b>2,872</b> 817
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Provisions	748	762	671	817

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

Balance Sheet (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Share Capital	1,935	1,935	1,935	1,935
Reserves & Surplus	4,059	4,664	5,654	7,041
Net Worth	5,994	6,599	7,589	8,976
Deposits	37,630	44,808	54,658	66,779
Borrowings	2,845	3,380	4,922	6,038
Other Liabilities	1,130	1,390	1,705	2,076
Total Liabilities	47,689	56,308	69,050	84,090
Cash & Bank balances	3,170	2,920	3,835	4,686
Investments	11,730	14,326	17,475	21,350
Loans	31,390	37,354	45,644	55,503
Fixed Assets & Others	1,399	1,709	2,095	2,552
Total Assets	47,689	56,308	69,050	84,090

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research



Ratio Analysis (%)

FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
3.5	5.7	8.0
-7.4	63.6	40.1
34.1	39.2	46.4
33.1	38.1	45.0
1.3	1.8	2.0
10.7	15.5	18.6
13.1	8.0	5.7
1.4	1.2	1.0
7.9	7.8	7.8
6.3	5.9	5.5
66.4	63.4	59.3
19.0	22.2	21.6
19.1	22.0	22.2
8.3	8.2	8.4
17.7	16.6	16.2
21.5	20.0	19.3
19.9	18.7	18.2
2.3	2.1	2.1
0.5	0.5	0.5
78.0	78.0	78.0
2.2	1.6	1.6
7.6	7.4	7.4
1.9	1.9	1.8
6.3	5.9	5.5
1.5	1.1	1.1
0.4	0.6	0.7
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1.3 8.3	8.8	9.2
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Source: Company, Axis Securities Research



# Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Price Chart and Recommendation History



Date	Reco	ТР	Research
25-Jan-24	BUY	64	Result Update
22-May-24	BUY	64	Result Update
26-Jul-24	BUY	52	Result Update
05-Sep-24	BUY	52	Company Update
25-Oct-24	BUY	41	Result Update
24-Jan-25	BUY	39	Result Update
02-May-25	BUY	49	Result Update
25-Jul-25	BUY	53	Result Update

Source: Axis Securities Research



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