



# Money-Update



## TOP 10 UPDATES

### 1. India revamps tax regime in 2025, new I-T Act to take effect from April 1

- New Income Tax Act from 1 April 2025: India will replace the Income Tax Act, 1961 with a modern, simplified law to reduce complexity, improve clarity, and make tax compliance easier while aligning with global and digital-economy practices.
- Fewer exemptions, new regime focus: The revamped law is expected to limit exemptions, promote the concessional “new” tax regime as the default, and integrate data-privacy principles in line with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

2. Sensex & Nifty posted strong gains in December, Nifty 50 closed near 26,000, completing 10 consecutive years of positive returns, showing long-term investor confidence. Indian stocks closed higher on the final trading day of the year on Wednesday, with the Sensex and Nifty rebounding after five and four straight sessions of losses, respectively, as buying returned to metal stocks following the government's decision to impose a three-year safeguard duty on select steel imports, among other factors supporting the rally.

### 3. Government eMarketplace (GeM) facilitates Rs 2,200 Crore asset disposal for Govt entities in 4 years

- Using its digital “Forward Auction” module for selling scrap, old vehicles, and property, achieving transparency and better value through online bidding instead of traditional manual methods.
- This initiative has seen over 13,000 auctions, onboarded thousands of bidders, and marked a significant digital transformation in how public assets are sold, making the process more efficient and fair.

### 4. Gold, Silver see all time high prices in December

- Gold, Silver and Copper see huge volatility driven by geopolitical tensions, strong industrial demand, and a weakening US dollar.
- This rally was followed by significant volatility and a sharp price correction as investors engaged in profit-taking.

### 5. FASTag annual pass contributes to 12% of National Highway trips within 3 months of launch

- Saw rapid adoption, achieving 12% of total National Highway trips within its first three months, driven by its Rs 3,000 price for 200 toll-free journeys, offering significant cost savings (around ₹15 per toll) for frequent private vehicle users, and quickly capturing a notable share of highway traffic by October/November 2025.

### 6. India Surpasses Japan to Become World's 4th Largest Economy with a GDP of ~\$4.18 trillion

- India's economy grows at a six-quarter high of 8.2% in Q2, fuelled by robust domestic demand, resilient consumption, and strategic government policies, with India now positioned to challenge Germany for the third spot soon.

### 7. India-New Zealand FTA to unlock \$6-billion market for Indian exporters

- The FTA opens this up with zero-duty access, boosting Indian exports in textiles, leather, gems, and other labour-intensive sectors, while also creating pathways for Indian professionals and doubling trade potential within five years, despite New Zealand protecting its dairy sector.

### 8. India's net direct tax collections rise 8% to Rs 17.05 lakh cr this FY till December 2025

- India's net direct tax collections rose 8% to ₹17.05 lakh crore in the current financial year up to December 17, with corporate tax collections overtaking personal income tax receipts, reflecting improved corporate profitability and compliance.

### 9. RBI to infuse Rs 2.90 lakh crore liquidity done through bond purchases and a dollar-rupee swap. These measures aim to ease tight cash conditions.

### 10. GeM turns govt buying into an MSE engine: MSE sellers collectively secured Government orders worth Rs 7.44 lakh crores, accounting for 44.8% share of total orders on the platform.

#### CHANGE IN INDICES (Absolute Returns)

#### HIGHEST FD RATES

INDICES	VALUES	ONE MONTH	SIX MONTH	ONE YEAR	THREE YEAR	FIVE YEAR	TEN YEAR	COMPANY	TENOR RANGE MONTHS	RATES
SENSEX	85220	⬇️ 0.56%	⬆️ 1.93%	⬆️ 9.06%	⬆️ 40.07%	⬆️ 78.46%	⬆️ 226.48%	ICICI Home Finance	60	7.00%
NASDAQ	23241	⬇️ 0.53%	⬆️ 14.09%	⬆️ 19.27%	⬆️ 122.48%	⬆️ 80.33%	⬆️ 364.17%	Bajaj Finance	60	6.95%
GOLD	133195	⬆️ 5.21%	⬆️ 38.90%	⬆️ 74.81%	⬆️ 141.20%	⬆️ 168.91%	⬆️ 403.87%	LIC Housing Finance	60	6.90%
SILVER	230420	⬆️ 40.19%	⬆️ 117.63%	⬆️ 164.31%	⬆️ 318.18%	⬆️ 263.23%	⬆️ 509.17%	ICICI Bank	60	6.60%
INR-USD	89.86	⬇️ 0.55%	⬇️ 4.70%	⬇️ 4.93%	⬇️ 8.59%	⬇️ 22.96%	⬇️ 35.27%	HDFC Bank	60	6.15%

## Product of the Month: NPS – Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF)

The Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF) under NPS for Non-Government Sector subscribers enhances flexibility, liquidity, and investment control.

- Extended exit age up to 85 years, allowing longer investment tenure.
- Higher lump-sum withdrawal – up to 80% of the corpus at exit.
- 100% lump-sum exit limit increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh.
- Premature exit made easier – 5-year lock-in removed, lump sum allowed up to ₹5 lakh.
- Loan facility introduced against NPS corpus.
- Partial withdrawals allowed more frequently for better liquidity.
- Reduced vesting requirement – 15 years or 60 years/retirement age, whichever is earlier.
- Multiple schemes allowed for future contributions.
- Equity investment limit increased to 100% under Section 20(2) schemes.

## Forthcoming New Fund Offers (NFOs)

Name of scheme	Category	Type	Opening Date	Closing Date	Type of Risk
Zerodha Nify Short Duration G-sec Index Fund	<a href="#">Others-Fund of Funds</a>	Open Ended	26-Dec-25	09-Jan-26	Low to Moderate Risk
Groww Nifty Chemicals ETF	<a href="#">Others-Index Funds/ETFs</a>	Open Ended	26-Dec-25	09-Jan-26	Very High Risk

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## THE PERMANENT PORTFOLIO

Ever heard about the "Permanent Portfolio"? The genesis of this investment strategy lies in a book – "Fail Safe Investing – By Harry Browne", written way back in 1999. This portfolio is quite unique and contrarian in the sense that it proposes one quarter of holdings each in investments such as gold (not jewellery), cash equivalents, long durations bonds and broader equity indexes. The premise is - "Every investment has its time in the sun - and its moment of shame". However, put together, such highly uncorrelated investments let one be one up on bad financial times of any kind. I admit this is the first time I have heard of such high gold and cash holding in any investment program. 5% to 10% is more like it. I would have mostly trashed this portfolio as some marketing gimmick if I had not come across excellent analysis done in this [blog](#). While the said blog is in UK context, I would tend to believe same would be more or less true in Indian context too. Maybe better as our currency depreciates against developed world currencies and gold would do even better in such a situation. While you can have a detailed look at the blog, here is the gist: it seems "Permanent Portfolio" has:

- Managed to deliver real return (positive inflation adjusted return) in longish periods
- Managed to cushion the fall in extremely tough environments

That said, a key point in the said blog caught my attention – in the worst case market situation, permanent portfolio was back in green much quicker than equity heavy portfolio.

That set me thinking – can permanent portfolio strategy be an alternative to aggressive equity heavy portfolios in certain situations? I can clearly think of two scenarios:

Scenario 1: Maybe one can consider emulating the permanent portfolio kind of allocation for goals which are between 5 years to 10 years when safety and bouncing back quickly from any set back assumes more importance than maximizing returns. The notional losses, if we again hit a real bad patch in such a set up would be much lesser than say in an equity overweight portfolio – if we assume that history will approximately rhyme with future. Having some money in a bucket which holds good even in a real bad times when investing for bit shorter horizons gives lot of confidence and enhances staying power for other much more aggressive bucket. And anything which lets one stick to a chosen plan will mostly end up adding to net worth given sufficient time!!!

From  
Manav Singh



Scenario 2: Another situation when such a portfolio can be considered: deaccumulation phase. After one has won the game by investing in aggressive assets during his / her earning phase and amassed a decent corpus, particular individual may decide that conservation of accumulated capital assumes more importance than swinging for highest possible return. Permanent portfolio strategy can very well give one extremely good shot at securing inflation beating returns while reducing portfolio volatility to a great extent. High cash holding in this kind of portfolio also ensure income generation will never be a problem in any kind of market situation.

Here's the link to the book which started it all for further reading. Aside, the author has also penned a very short and unique chapter in this book – "Enjoy Yourself With A Budget for Pleasure". Again a first for me to read about spending in an investment oriented treatise.

Have fun exploring "Fail Safe Investing"!!!

## Message from the Founder



### The Sukoon, is within

Since childhood, I've had a very special connect with Music. We all are aware of the therapeutic qualities of Music, be it any mood, any occasion, any age. After a very long time, I heard a song that has left me introspective and inspired - 'Sukoon' from Bhumi 2025, lyrics by Shraddha Pandit, sung by Arijit Singh, a touching reminder of the peace we often seek outside, but is already within us.

The song's lines resonate deeply:

*"Dil Woh Hi Sukoon Dhoonde, Waisa Hi Karaar Maange, Jo Kudrat Ne Bikhere The Bas Meri Raahon Mein, Aur Kismat Ne Sajaye The Meri Nigahon Mein"* - I'm searching for the serenity that nature had already laid before me, and fate had already planned for me.

*"Woh Sukoon Shayad Mujhsay Hi Hai, Mujh Mein Hi Tha Aur Mujhme Hi Hai"* - I realize that I am the peace I've been seeking, it's been within me all along.

*"Jhaank Lu Khud Mein Zara, Sab Kuchh Hai Andar Mere"* - Take a moment to dive deeper, there's more to discover within.

*"Kya Maine Kabhi Kiya Hai, Thoda Ishq Bhi Khudse"* - Have I ever truly loved myself? Self-love is the key to unlocking that peace.

Enjoy the meaningful lyrics and soulful voice!!!

Wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!!!

**CA Madhusudan Chandak**

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