

HSBC Aspire Portfolio

PMS Product Note

April 2026

Emerging themes from Mid and Small Cap stocks to lead in the next decade

Mid Cap stocks	Small Cap stocks	Large Cap stocks	Aspirational themes with High Alpha
Emerging set of companies with growth potential. Midcap universe offers access to growing pool of leaders.	Big opportunities through Small Cap stocks as they may offer valuation discount on account of under-researched / under-owned features	Well researched Large Cap stocks have visibility on earnings growth with proven business and track record	Aim to build a portfolio with aspirational themes that have potential to deliver alpha from a Mid & Small Cap stocks oriented Multi Cap Equity strategy

Aspirational themes from Mid and Small Cap stocks with flavor of quality Large Cap stocks

Inception Date : 21 September 2023

Minimum Application Amount

For (1) Fixed fee option and (2) Fixed & Performance-linked option = INR 5 million

Investment Objective

HSBC Aspire Portfolio aims to generate long-term capital growth from an actively managed portfolio of equity and equity related securities predominately from the mid and small cap companies. However, the approach would also have the flexibility to invest in companies across the entire market capitalization spectrum. There can be no assurance or guarantee the objective of the investment approach would be achieved

Benchmark: Regulatory Benchmark/ Strategy Benchmark: BSE 500 TRI

Rationale for selection of benchmark –

Regulatory Benchmark/ Strategy Benchmark: Benchmark prescribed by Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI) as mandated by SEBI to evaluate relative performance of the portfolio. This is decided by APMI as per market-cap based methodology for equity strategy.

Fund Manager

Sheetalkumar Shah, Total Experience: 28 years, managing this portfolio since 21 September 2023

Indicative tenure or investment horizon

Medium to Long Term (5 years+)

Investors should note that pursuant to Clause 2.3 of SEBI Master Circular for Portfolio Managers dated July 16, 2025, an option to invest directly, i.e. without intermediation of persons engaged in distribution services, is available to the investors.

Portfolio Manager's commentary:

Calendar year 2026 started with lot of volatility in Indian markets with March witnessing sharpest drawdown since the COVID crash, with indices falling over 11% amid a four-way macro shock—oil surge, currency depreciation, rising bond yields, and record FII outflows. The trigger was clear: heightened geopolitical volatility arising from the US–Iran–Middle East conflict, which rattled global supply chains and triggered sharp energy shocks across Asia, with the Strait of Hormuz effectively shut. For India, the implications are both near-term and structural. Higher energy prices feed directly into the current account, inflation, and growth, tightening the macro balance and reducing policy flexibility. In this context, policy trade-offs also become more complex, with limited room to simultaneously support growth while managing inflation and external balances. Supply chains, RM availability, RM price shock are impacting production in many sectors due to ongoing war. We hope that this situation does not last longer and economic activity normalizes in near term.

In March month, DIIs invested \$15.4bn and marked the highest ever monthly inflows; they extended the streak to 32 straight months of net inflows. Meanwhile, FIIs turned sellers with a historic \$13.3bn sell-off during the month. On the currency front, INR depreciated ~4% MoM, breaching the 95/USD mark in March and closing near 94.8, making it the weakest among key emerging market currencies. India's economic activity slowed in March, with manufacturing PMI dropping to 53.9 (a 4.5 year low) amid gas shortages linked to Iran tensions; services PMI softened to 57.2.

Nevertheless, the sharp drop in stock prices has brought down the market valuations (Nifty 50) to about 17 times the one-year forward estimated earnings. The severe market correction has led to double digit valuation decline across most sectors. Valuations for Automobiles, Private Banks, Consumer, Technology, and Oil & Gas are now below their 10-year averages.

During the period under review, we added new stock Metropolis Healthcare to the portfolio. Metropolis Healthcare Limited is among the leading diagnostic services providers in the healthcare sector with a dominant share in the country's western and southern regions. Amid rising prevalence of lifestyle diseases and increasing popularity of wellness & preventive health, the diagnostics market in India is likely to see sustained growth for several decades. Further, the share of diagnostics within the overall healthcare market is also set to increase with preventive care, regular health monitoring, and active disease management becoming mainstream healthcare strategies. The sector is highly fragmented (~75% unorganized), but organized firms are gaining market share through penetration within Tier I cities, expansion into Tier III & IV cities, and M&A. With structural shift in the diagnostic industry from unorganized to organized, from basic to preventive & specialty tests, Metropolis stands to benefit with its pan India presence, professional management team, strong balance sheet & return ratios.

We increased weight in many portfolio stocks like JSW Energy, KPR Mills, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Ultratech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Intellect Design during the quarter and booked partial profit in Sansera Engineering.

Mid & small caps always provide great long-term investing opportunities in a fast-growing economy like India. P/E multiple of SMID segment has corrected significantly from September 2024 peak levels. Companies with high quality growth businesses, quality management and strong earnings growth potential are expected to deliver superior risk adjusted returns over medium to long term. Our Aspire portfolio is well positioned to build wealth in the medium to long term.

Source - HSBC Asset Management India, Bloomberg

Top 10 Holdings

Name	Weight%	ROE (FY25) %	EPS CAGR (2Yrs)
MAX FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD	6.76	7.2	19.0
FORTIS HEALTHCARE LTD	4.17	9.3	33.8
MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD	4.07	10.1	28.4
BANK OF BARODA	4.03	15.7	(1.0)
ERIS LIFESCIENCES LTD	3.98	12.9	40.1
AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE LTD	3.91	16.9	21.5
HERO MOTOCORP LTD	3.77	24.4	25.4
JINDAL STAINLESS LTD	3.67	16.1	23.6
ULTRATECH CEMENT LTD	3.57	9.2	38.2
360 ONE WAM LTD	3.51	19.3	11.1

Performance#	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	Since inception (21/09/23)
Portfolio (HSAP)	-11.79 %	-14.26 %	-12.37 %	-2.76 %	-0.33 %	3.93 %
BSE 500 TRI ^	-11.37 %	-13.94 %	-9.62 %	-3.12 %	1.32 %	7.27 %

Source – HSBC Asset Management India, Bloomberg, Data as on 31 March 2026. The above information is for general information purpose only and it should not be considered as investment research, investment recommendation or advice to any reader of this content to buy or sell investments.

^ Regulatory benchmark.

Returns upto 1 year are absolute & over 1 year are Compounded Annualized Returns are adjusted for inflows/outflows. The portfolio may or may not have any future position in these stocks. # Refer page no. 2 for detailed disclaimer. To view the portfolio's performance relative to other Portfolio Managers, you may click here (APMI (apmiindia.org)).

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Description of types of securities

Equity and equity related securities including convertible bonds and debentures and warrants carrying the right to obtain equity shares
Derivatives instruments as may be permitted by SEBI / RBI
Units of liquid funds/overnight funds of HSBC Mutual Fund
Cash and Cash equivalents
Any other instruments as may be permitted by RBI / SEBI / such other Regulatory authorities from time to time

Allocation of portfolio across types of securities

The investment approach has the mandate to predominantly invest in Equity and Equity related instruments of mid cap and small cap companies. However, the investment approach has the flexibility to invest in companies across the entire market capitalization spectrum.

Risk associated with investment approach

Deployment of monies under the investment approach will be oriented towards equity and equity related securities of companies belonging to mid cap and small cap. Stocks of these companies usually have lower trading volumes on the exchanges, which may result into higher impact costs and longer execution time compared to large cap stocks. These companies tend to be less researched compared to large cap stocks and this may result into longer waiting period for the stock to reach their potential intrinsic value. A lot of smaller companies can be highly volatile and hence tend to have large up and down movements which may result in periods where the investor may see drawdowns. Further, small cap companies have higher opportunities of growth but these come with higher amount of risk as well and therefore, are suitable only for those investors who have higher risk appetite. It is likely that the portfolio may also experience period of volatile performance and liquidity challenges in view of its exposure towards mid and small cap companies. These companies will also be affected by the broader macro-economic environment such as interest rate changes, liquidity, cross border fund flows, statutory/ regulatory changes etc.

Since the portfolio is expected to be concentrated with exposure to select themes/sectors, it may perform differently from the broader stock markets/benchmark, but may still be impacted by broad market movements. It is likely that the portfolio may also experience period of volatile performance and liquidity challenges in view of the limited number of stocks invested in by the fund manager.

Sector Allocation

Sector Name	% of Net Assets
Financials	28.91
Materials	15.98
Industrials	11.41
Health Care	11.14
Consumer Discretionary	8.56
Information Technology	7.75
Utilities	3.32
Real Estate	2.85
Consumer Staples	2.51
Communication Services	2.43

Market Capitalisation

Large Cap :	21.07%
Mid Cap:	29.49%
Small Cap:	44.30%
Avg. Weighted Market Capitalisation	Rs. 66,051 Cr
Median Market Capitalisation	Rs. 21,438 Cr
Large Cap:1st 100 company in terms of full market capitalization. Mid Cap: 101st to 250th company in terms of full market capitalization. Small Cap: 251st company onwards in terms of full market capitalisation.	

Portfolio Fundamentals & Attributes

Dividend yield FY25	1.1%	2 year EPS CAGR	23.7%
P/E FY25	36.6x	ROE FY25	17.8%
P/E FY26 estimates	32.7x	Beta:	1.0
P/E FY27 estimates	26.2x		

2 years EPS CAGR: FY25 to FY27

Why Invest in HSBC Aspire Portfolio (HSAP)?

Quality

The portfolio aims to gain by focusing on Quality Business with robust growth & competitive advantages: High quality products, brands, franchise with scalability and resilience.

Sustainability

Sustainable earning growth & return ratios: We prefer companies with superior earnings growth profile with high ROE/ROCE with low gearing.

Valuations

Fair Valuations: Identifying a scrip at fair value before its future earnings growth is reflected in its "valuation" is an art which helps in generating portfolio "Alpha".

Ownership

Promoter holding: Invests into businesses with reasonable promoter holding. The management with passion and have skin in the game are expected to deliver performance over the period of time.

Governance

Corporate governance a key to long term success: Transparent, passionate & honest management helps in multiplying wealth in the long term. Capital efficiency reflects the management skills.

HSBC Aspire Portfolio

HSBC Portfolio Management Services presents HSBC Aspire Portfolio, which aims to invest your money in emerging themes from Mid and Small Cap stocks to which may lead in the next decade.

Why Mid and Small Cap stocks?

Stocks from relatively new sectors are getting listed and many of these are mid - small cap stocks

- India gaining traction as a manufacturing source would mean opportunities for a lot of ancillary sectors which would be smaller in size
- Historically, Mid and Small Cap stocks have delivered reasonable performance over medium to long term
- Small and Mid Cap stocks are good options to hold emerging business leaders. More Mid-Small cap businesses are dependent on domestic factors
- Mid and Small Cap stocks offer potential of delivering growth and alpha in the long term

Note - The above sector mentioned for illustration purpose only. The above data/information represents historic performance of the sector and for illustration purpose only. The above graphs/ analysis should not be construed as an investment advice or research report or recommendation to buy or sell any sector mentioned above. Past performance may or may not sustain and doesn't guarantee the future performance. For illustrative purposes only. The information above is provided by and represents the opinions of HSBC Asset Management and is subject to change without notice.

Source - HSBC Asset Management (India) Bloomberg, Data as on 31 March 2026.

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*** Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not a guarantee of any future returns.** Time weighted - Daily valuation method is used for rate of return calculation. Returns up to 1 year are absolute & over 1 year are Compounded Annualized. The performance disclosed above is based on all clients' portfolios under the investment approach, existing as on the performance calculation date, using Time Weighted Rate of Return (TWRR) of each client. All cash holdings and investments in liquid funds are also considered for calculation of performance and the performance data is net of all fees and all expenses (including taxes). Since inception date stated above is the date on which the first client investment was made under the investment approach. Please note that the actual performance for a client portfolio may vary due to factors such as expenses charged, timing of additional flows and redemption, individual client investment restrictions, if any, etc. These factors may have an impact on client's portfolio performance and hence may vary significantly from the performance disclosed above. Neither the Portfolio Manager, nor its directors or employees shall in any way liable for any variation noticed in the returns of individual client portfolios. The performance related information provided herein is not verified by SEBI.

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