HSBC Asset Management

HSBC Aspire Portfolio

PMS Product Note

October 2025

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: 27 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:

It has been a sobering experience for Indian markets last few months as a combination of muted corporate results, increasing paper supply and fresh concerns around US tariffs. Apart from FII outflows, there has been over $27 bn of paper in last four months diverting capital away from secondary markets. The momentum of supply seems likely to continue in October given the recent IPO filings – Sep 2025 will be highest number of IPOs since 1997 and 75 companies have received regulatory approvals.

RBI in its latest monetary policy has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.5% but revised FY26 real GDP growth from 6.5% to 6.8%. It has announced a slew of measures to support credit growth and rationalisation of certain regulatory limits for the banking sector that should improve the ease of doing business, boost growth and enhance balance sheet resiliency. India witnessed its strongest monsoon in five years that could mean better harvests and further reduction in food inflation.

The government's GST 2.0 is truly an all-pervasive reform that will benefit most domestic-oriented sectors that can unleash collateral benefits, setting the Indian economy on a path of productivity gains and higher growth. We expect these benefits to cascade into auto, FMCG, durables, cement and other discretionary categories over time, supported by rural recovery and direct tax relief. Importantly, the festive period is anticipated to provide an additional fillip to consumption across categories. We believe that the government is committed to lifting and stimulating the Indian economy in the face of frosty global headwinds, weak private capex and sub-optimal consumption. In our view, the proactive steps of the government in tandem with the RBI's stimulus measures have kick-started a cycle of positive uptrends for the Indian equity market, which has been a key underperformer over the past 12 months. With government's reforms measure of GST, Income tax cut, softening interest rates, RBI's liquidity infusion; all these factors should augur well for economy & corporate India in 2HFY26 & beyond.

Aspire strategy has outperformed the benchmark index during last 3 month & 6 month period. However, our portfolio's underperformance during 4QFY25 when mid & small caps corrected significantly, has caused underperformance for one year period. As bottom-up approach, we focus on business fundamentals, management quality & earnings growth visibility.
We added Welspun Corp in the portfolio during the quarter. Welspun Corp is a prominent player in large-diameter pipes (LSAW, HSAW, and ERW) across India, the US, and Saudi Arabia. With a manufacturing capacity of 2.3mt, the company commands significant market share in steel pipes business across regions. It has evolved from a specialized line pipe manufacturer to a diversified conglomerate by expanding its product portfolio to include ductile iron (DI) pipes, stainless steel (SS) pipes, tubes and bars, TMT rebars, water tanks, and home interior solutions. The company currently has a global order book of ~Rs 193bn, and the company's US operations are completely booked for the next two years following huge order inflows in FY25, primarily for coated and natural gas pipeline projects. A lean balance sheet and strong cash position shield its growth plans from cyclical volatility, while significantly improving return ratios.
We booked partial profit in eClerx Services Ltd and added weights to Tips Industries & DCB Bank.

Aspire strategy is well diversified portfolio of predominantly mid & smallcap companies with robust growth-oriented businesses with competent management at reasonable valuations. We remain confident that the current portfolio construct can weather near term volatility and outperform in medium to long term.

Source - HSBC Asset Management India, Bloomberg

Top 10 Holdings

Name	Weight%
MAX FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD	6.24
FORTIS HEALTHCARE LTD	4.44
ERIS LIFESCIENCES LTD	4.25
MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD	3.98
AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE LTD	3.91
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LTD	3.86
ECLERX SERVICES LTD	3.85
BANK OF BARODA	3.65
HERO MOTOCORP LTD	3.52
GODREJ PROPERTIES LTD	3.32

Performance#	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	Since inception (21/09/23)
Portfolio (HSAP)	0.37 %	-2.75 %	10.96 %	-9.18 %	12.22 %	11.97 %
BSE 500 TRI ^	1.24 %	-3.23 %	7.19 %	-5.50 %	15.46 %	14.72 %

Source – HSBC Asset Management India, Bloomberg, Data as on 30 September 2025. 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. Data as on 30 September 2025. The above information is for general information purpose only and it should not be considered as investment research, investmentrecommendation 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)).

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 Name	% of Net Assets
Financials	26.28
Materials	16.68
Industrials	12.93
Consumer Discretionary	11.83
Health Care	8.69
Information Technology	5.45
Real Estate	3.32
Utilities	2.78
Consumer Staples	2.62
Communication Services	2.52

Market Capitalisation

Small Cap :	42.72%
Mid Cap:	34.16%
Large Cap:	16.22%
Avg. Weighted Market Capitalisation	Rs. 72,964 Cr
Median Market Capitalisation	Rs. 36,398 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.

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

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.

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.

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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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