HSBC Asset Management

HSBC Aspire Portfolio

PMS Product Note

October 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:

2QFY27 witnessed broad based correction in Indian equity markets due to rising crude prices, surging bond yields globally & geopolitical uncertainty. FII turned net sellers in September after recording inflows over previous two consecutive months as outflows stood at $4.1 bn, taking total selling to $28.3bn YTD.

In the recent MPC policy meet, RBI raised repo rate by 25 bps to 5.5% as expected. RBI raised its FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7.1% from 6.7%, but also lifted its inflation forecast to 5.2% from 5% and shifted its stance from neutral to "calibrated tightening." The hurdle rate for owning equities has risen because relatively safe fixed-income assets now offer much higher yields. This will have implications in terms of portfolio construction/recalibration.

We are witnessing frenzy in IPO market with September being blockbuster month with 34 companies raising 39300 crores and IPO pipeline proves that this is far from over. This defies bearish sentiment in secondary market. It is very difficult to understand this divergence between primary & secondary markets. Liquidity in the market is getting absorbed by IPOs/QIPs, promoters & PE investors are a happy lot in current market conditions!

Another highlight of the quarter was regulatory actions from different spheres e.g. IRADI, SEBI, Hospitals. SEBI's Implementation of CAS adversely impacted equity options turnover on volumes on stock exchanges. IRADI's draft distribution norms intend to lower distribution costs, introduce segment and product specific commission limits, improve transparency and curb mis-selling. News flow around potential price caps on hospital drugs and consumables have intensified in recent days with the Supreme Court raising concerns over the high mark up on medicines by private hospitals.

Small/Mid cap segment of the market continues to attract flows as these companies are investing aggressively in capacity, capability & tapping newer opportunities, supporting company specific micro factors. Many quality companies from SMID space are generating healthy cash flows with strong return ratios and healthy balance sheets. Though there is froth in some pockets, our endeavour is to stick to companies based on our TVSQ model.

Aspire portfolio construct can be divided in the following categories: Compounders – strong management track record, business moat, quality balance sheet, and steady earnings runway. Cyclicals – time-tested businesses with strong past records, currently navigating earnings cyclicality.

Compounders with strong moat and market share gains: Welspun Corp, 360 One, KPR Mill, Craftsman, Max Financials, Hindustan Aeronautics, Ultratech Cement, Gravita India, Fortis, Eris, Metropolis, Wework

Cyclical plays with improving trajectory: Redington, Somany Ceramics, Hero Motocorp, DCB Bank, Manappuram, Ingersoll-Rand, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda

Stocks currently in downcycle: Tech Mahindra, Intellect Design, Eclerx, Godrej Properties, JSW Energy, Aadhar Housing, Dabur

Some of the outperforming stocks during the quarter were Welspun Corp/Redington/Eclerx whereas underperformers were Godrej Properties/Intellect Design/Fortis Healthcare.

We believe the next leg of market performance is likely to be increasingly stock-specific, with earnings visibility and company-specific growth triggers becoming more important than broad market momentum. Against this backdrop, we believe fundamentally strong companies available at reasonable valuations can generate meaningful alpha. Our Aspire portfolio construct is religiously following this, which is helping us to outperform the benchmark index across time frames since inception.

Source -HSBC Asset Management India, Bloomberg

Top 10 Holdings

Name	Weight%	ROE (FY26) %	EPS CAGR (2Yrs)
WELSPUN CORP LTD	6.02	19.4	33.6
MAX FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD	5.21	1.6	93.0
REDINGTON LTD	3.96	15.8	21.5
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LTD	3.65	24.0	12.7
DCB BANK LTD	3.49	12.0	22.3
FORTIS HEALTHCARE LTD	3.39	11.1	26.2
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD	3.37	11.1	19.5
ECLERX SERVICES LTD	3.36	29.0	16.4
HERO MOTOCORP LTD	3.27	25.5	14.5
JINDAL STAINLESS LTD	3.23	17.5	15.9

Performance#	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	Since inception (21/09/23)
Portfolio	-4.59 %	1.48 %	19.30 %	4.54 %	-2.56 %	9.60 %	9.46 %
BSE 500 TRI ^	-5.57 %	-3.59 %	8.07 %	-2.33 %	-3.93 %	9.20 %	8.79 %

Source – HSBC Asset Management India, Bloomberg, Data as on 30 September 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)).

Document remediated as per WCAG 2.2 Level AA standards

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	24.79
Materials	17.37
Industrials	14.92
Health Care	9.58
Information Technology	8.82
Consumer Discretionary	6.28
Real Estate	5.41
Utilities	2.92
Communication Services	2.72
Consumer Staples	1.95

Market Capitalisation

Large Cap :	16.06%
Mid Cap:	25.81%
Small Cap:	52.89%
Avg. Weighted Market Capitalisation	Rs. 72,145 Cr
Median Market Capitalisation	Rs. 34,765 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 FY26	0.9%
P/E FY26	56.4x
P/E FY27 estimates	33.6x
P/E FY28 estimates	27.4x
2 year EPS CAGR	22.8%
ROE FY26	18.1%
Beta:	1.0

2 years EPS CAGR: FY26 to FY28

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 30 September 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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