

# HSBC Aspire Portfolio

PMS Product Note

April 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+)

4Q FY25 proved to be a quite volatile one for Indian stock markets. After a major 15 week sell off -the longest streak of foreign outflows, Indian capital markets saw a glimmer of hope in late March as FIIs turned net buyers. Nifty Midsmall 400 index corrected 18% in first two months of calendar which recovered ~8% in the month of March. As compared to the headline indices, the stock wise correction is far steeper. Of BSE 500 stocks, 31% stocks lost 40% or more from their 52 Week high, while 33% stocks lost between 20% to 40% from the yearly high levels and 15% of the stocks marked fall of lower than 20%.

The 3QFY25 corporate earnings scorecard was modest with more earnings downgrades than upgrades for BSE 500 universe. The Indian policy action has turned favourable. The Impact of personal tax cuts announced in the union budget should come through in FY26. The government's capex spending has been budgeted to go up in FY26 from the revised numbers of FY25. RBI has distinctly put emphasis on growth in the last policy statement. Policy rate was cut by 25 bps from 6.5% to 6.25% and the overall policy statement was growth oriented. RBI is using all possible means of intervention to address tight liquidity that has helped liquidity to turn positive at the end of the March month.

The global investment landscape is bracing for disruption as the Trump administration rolls out sweeping reciprocal tariffs on nearly all countries. Reciprocal tariff on India (26%) is lower than most Asian peers – China (34%), South Korea (25%), Thailand (36%), and Indonesia (32%). Final incidence could be much lower with likely bilateral negotiations, curtailed US exports and tariffs pass-through. These tariffs will impact global GDP growth. After the global knee jerk reaction, we feel money could flow out of the US and find ways into markets which are less impacted. India being more of a domestic economy with consumption incentive could turn attractive for foreign investors. India's proactive approach in securing a BTA with the US while also diversifying its market by pursuing FTAs with other countries positions it strongly in the global trade landscape.

We have undertaken portfolio restructuring during the quarter based on the quarterly results and company specific developments. We exited from Bharat Bijlee, 3M India, Raymond Lifestyle, Sterling & Wilson Solar, Hindustan Foods & Indusind Bank during the quarter.

We added quality large cap names such as Kotak Mahindra Bank, Ultratech Cement, Dabur India & Hero Motocorp in the portfolio. All these stocks, leaders in their respective businesses offer reasonable upside from current levels.

We also utilized the opportunity provided by market correction by increasing weights in existing portfolio companies such as Godrej Properties, JSW Energy, Bank of Baroda, Hindustan Aeronautics, Thomas Cook, eClerx, Intellect Design Arena Ltd.

When uncertainty is high, we can't reliably predict what policies, partnerships or power dynamics will look like in near to medium term. We must be judicious & disciplined in our investment approach and look at how to deploy capital in the current market environment.

#### Top 10 Holdings

Name	Weight%
MAX FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD	5.12
ERIS LIFESCIENCES LTD	4.28
GODREJ PROPERTIES LTD	4.02
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LTD	3.80
MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD	3.72
AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE LTD	3.67
ECLERX SERVICES LTD	3.64
BANK OF BARODA	3.60
FORTIS HEALTHCARE LTD	3.59
CASTROL INDIA LTD	3.49

Performance#	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	Since inception (21/09/23)
Portfolio (HSAP)	6.04 %	-14.35 %	-18.16 %	2.15 %	8.55 %
BSE 500 TRI ^	7.32 %	-4.39 %	-11.84 %	5.96 %	14.68 %

Source – Bloomberg, Data as on 28 March 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 28 March 2025. Investors should note that pursuant to Clause 2.3 of SEBI Master circular for Portfolio Managers dated June 7, 2024, investors have an option to invest directly i.e. without intermediation of persons engaged in distribution services.

^ Regulatory benchmark,

Source – Bloomberg, Returns upto 1 year are absolute & over 1 year are Compounded Annualized. Returns are adjusted for inflows/outflows. 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. 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](http://apmiindia.org))).

Description of types of securities		Market Capitalisation																																			
<p>Equity and equity related securities including convertible bonds and debentures and warrants carrying the right to obtain equity shares</p> <p>Derivatives instruments as may be permitted by SEBI / RBI</p> <p>Units of liquid funds/overnight funds of HSBC Mutual Fund</p> <p>Cash and Cash equivalents</p> <p>Any other instruments as may be permitted by RBI / SEBI / such other Regulatory authorities from time to time</p>		<table> <tr> <td><b>Sector Name</b></td><td><b>% of Net Assets</b></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Financials</b></td><td>22.61</td><td>Small Cap :</td><td>40.53%</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Industrials</b></td><td>19.53</td><td>Mid Cap:</td><td>24.89%</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Consumer Discretionary</b></td><td>12.84</td><td>Large Cap:</td><td>25.27%</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Materials</b></td><td>11.77</td><td>Avg. Weighted Market Capitalisation</td><td>Rs. 67,635 Cr</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Health Care</b></td><td>7.87</td><td>Median Market Capitalisation</td><td>Rs. 38,331 Cr</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Information Technology</b></td><td>5.86</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="4">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.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Real Estate</b></td><td>4.02</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Utilities</b></td><td>3.16</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Consumer Staples</b></td><td>3.03</td></tr> </table>		<b>Sector Name</b>	<b>% of Net Assets</b>			<b>Financials</b>	22.61	Small Cap :	40.53%	<b>Industrials</b>	19.53	Mid Cap:	24.89%	<b>Consumer Discretionary</b>	12.84	Large Cap:	25.27%	<b>Materials</b>	11.77	Avg. Weighted Market Capitalisation	Rs. 67,635 Cr	<b>Health Care</b>	7.87	Median Market Capitalisation	Rs. 38,331 Cr	<b>Information Technology</b>	5.86	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.		<b>Real Estate</b>	4.02	<b>Utilities</b>	3.16	<b>Consumer Staples</b>	3.03
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<p>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.</p>																																					
Risk associated with investment approach																																					
<p>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.</p>																																					
<p>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.</p>																																					
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<p>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.</p>																																					
Why Mid and Small Cap stocks?																																					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stocks from relatively new sectors are getting listed and many of these are mid - small cap stocks</li> <li>India gaining traction as a manufacturing source would mean opportunities for a lot of ancillary sectors which would be smaller in size</li> <li>Historically, Mid and Small Cap stocks have delivered reasonable performance over medium to long term</li> <li>Small and Mid Cap stocks are good options to hold emerging business leaders. More Mid-Small cap businesses are dependent on domestic factors</li> <li>Mid and Small Cap stocks offer potential of delivering growth and alpha in the long term</li> </ul>																																					
Why Invest in HSBC Aspire Portfolio (HSAP)?																																					
<p><b>Quality</b> The portfolio aims to gain by focusing on Quality Business with robust growth &amp; competitive advantages: High quality products, brands, franchise with scalability and resilience.</p>																																					
<p><b>Sustainability</b> Sustainable earning growth &amp; return ratios: We prefer companies with superior earnings growth profile with high ROE/ROCE with low gearing.</p>																																					
<p><b>Valuations</b> 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”.</p>																																					
<p><b>Ownership</b> 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.</p>																																					
<p><b>Governance</b> Corporate governance a key to long term success: Transparent, passionate &amp; honest management helps in multiplying wealth in the long term. Capital efficiency reflects the management skills.</p>																																					
<p>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.</p>																																					
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