# ASCENT FLASH 

## Newsletter Edition: March '24

Helping our clients experience

## the joy of financial independence

Welcome to our newsletter! Stay updated with the latest financial updates, insightful articles, and valuable information delivered straight to your inbox. Explore a diverse range of topics curated to inform and inspire our readers in every edition.

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## From The Editorial Team

Dear Valued Patrons,
We are delighted to present to you the latest edition of our newsletter - Ascent Flash!
We are thrilled to have you as part of the Ascent family and excited to share the latest news, updates, and valuable insights from the world of finance.

Our team has worked hard to mine informative and engaging knowledge base, and we hope you find it well.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content. We aim to make this newsletter a valuable resource for you and are committed to provide you with the information that will help in making smarter financial decisions.

Thank you for being associated with Ascent Financial Solutions Pvt. Ltd. We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Best regards,
Ascent Financial Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

## From The Managing Director's Desk



## Mr. Prakash Lohana

Managing Director
Ascent Financial Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Certified Financial Planner (CFP) from
Financial Planning Standard Boards of India

## Last three cycles in Indian Economy \& Stock Market starting from 2003

Over the last three years, markets have given fantastic returns, so investors are very happy looking at their portfolios. At the same time, they have a lot of questions in their minds, like: Are Equity Markets overvalued? Shall we remain invested or book some profit? To answer these questions, we have to check the history of the Indian Economy and markets. Let us check the history of the last 21 years of Nifty 50 Index earnings, Index, and PE.

The last 21 years can be divided into three cycles from the Indian Economy and Indian Market point of view. Let us see how Markets and the Economy behaved in these three cycles.


The first cycle happened between Jan-2003 and Dec-2007. It continued for five years, and during this cycle, the profitability (earnings) of the Nifty 50 companies went up by $201.42 \%$ i.e. $24.69 \%$ CAGR, but at the same time, the Nifty Fifty Index went up by $461.37 \%$ i.e. $41.21 \%$ CAGR. So, the market ran more than the economy and became overvalued. In Dec-2002, the PE of Nifty 50 was around 14.83 times, which went to 27.62 times at the end of Dec-2007.

So, returns generated by Nifty 50 companies during this cycle can be divided into two parts: 1) Returns generated due to actual growth in profitability, which is $201 \%$, and 2) Returns generated because of expansion of PE ratio, which is between $260 \%$ ( $461 \%$ total return $-201 \%$ growth in earnings). So, these $260 \%$ were the returns generated due to positive momentum in that cycle.


The second cycle came between Jan-2008 to Dec-2019. In this cycle, the profitability (earnings) of the Nifty 50 companies went up by $93.47 \%$ and where, the Nifty 50 went up by $98.23 \%$. So, this was the slowest cycle in the last twenty years. The profitability of the Nifty 50 companies went up by only $93.47 \%$ in a period of 12 years, which is less than $5.65 \%$ CAGR, and as a result, nifty 50 also went up by $98.23 \%$ only, which is $5.87 \%$ CAGR only.

Coming to this third and last cycle, which started in 2020 with COVID-19, let us also see some data for this cycle. Profitability of Indian companies went up by $118.13 \%$ i.e. $21.53 \%$ CAGR, and Nifty 50 went up by $78.59 \%$ i.e. $15.60 \%$ CAGR, so profits of Nifty 50 companies have grown more than the Nifty 50 Index. Most of us feel that Nifty is overvalued, but let me tell you it is not because, as you can see in the table, the PE of Nifty 50 was 28.30 times in Dec-2019, which came to 23.17 in Dec-2023. So, earnings are growing more than the Index, and with this, we can understand that we are not overvalued at all.

## SIP Analysis Report: Addressing Some of the Frequently Asked Questions



## Mr. Chirag Patel, CFA

Associate Director
Co-Head of Product \& Strategies
WhiteOak Asset Management Company Limited


Over the years, the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), a feature offered by Mutual Funds, has become a household name. Its popularity among investors can be seen from the graph given below, which depicts growth in monthly SIP contribution by investors over the last seven years.

This study aims to provide a holistic picture to our investors so that investors can make better- informed decisions for their investments. Any calculations shown in subsequent pages are approximations and meant for understanding a particular concept. Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not a guarantee of any future returns. These calculations/views alone are not sufficient and should not be used for the development or implementation of an investment strategy. Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.

Happy investing :-)

## Q1. What is an Ideal Investment Time Horizon for SIP?

Experts often suggest investors invest for the "Long-term," but what exactly is "Long-term"? What is the "Ideal Investment Horizon"? Or is there anything called an "Ideal Investment Horizon"?

Equities have proved to be a volatile asset class in the past. But, the study reveals volatility reduces as investors increase their investment horizon. (Data for S\&P BSE Sensex TRI)

| SIP Period --> | 3 years | 5 years | 8 years | 10 years | 12 Years | 15 years |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maximum Return | 52.4\% | 50.0\% | 40.8\% | 29.6\% | 21.7\% | 18.1\% |
| Mininum Return | -36.2\% | -10.5\% | 1.4\% | 4.6\% | 6.2\% | 7.4\% |
| Average Return | 12.9\% | 15.2\% | 16.2\% | 15.6\% | 14.6\% | 14.3\% |
| Median Return | 12.0\% | 13.4\% | 14.3\% | 14.1\% | 13.9\% | 14.5\% |
| \% Times Positive Return | 84\% | 91\% | 100\% | 100\% | 100\% | 100\% |
| \% Times more than 8\% Return | 64\% | 82\% | 94\% | 99\% | 99\% | 99\% |
| \% Times more than 10\% Return | 56\% | 72\% | 81\% | 94\% | 98\% | 97\% |
| \% Times more than 12\% Return | 50\% | 59\% | 68\% | 78\% | 76\% | 90\% |

Above returns are \%XIRR Rolling Returns on monthly basis for S\&P BSE Sensex TRI for SIP between September 1996 to December 2023.


Longer the Investment Horizon, Higher is the Probability of receiving decent Returns!


## Q2. Which is better, starting SIP at the Top or Bottom?

First, Let's accept that it is impossible to consistently predict the exact Top or Bottom of a Market Cycle. At best, one can create and follow a valuation checklist whenever one deviates from their Strategic Asset Allocation, which should help investors reduce portfolio-level volatility to some extent while participating in the equity market.

But still, let's assume one has some magical power, can predict the exact Top and Bottom, and wants to start a long- term SIP. So, should that investor start SIP at the Top of the cycle or the Bottom? We did a detailed analysis using long- period data of S\&P BSE Sensex TRI (last 27+ years). We took all those periods when equity market has fallen more than $20 \%$ from its Top. The table below is the investment summary of two investors, one who started a Rs. 10,000 monthly SIP at the Top of various market cycles and the other at the Bottom:

| Market Cycle | SIP Start Month | S\&P BSE <br> Sensex TRI Levels | Market Correction (\%) | Correction Tenure (Months) | SIP Period (Years) | Amount Invested (in Lakh) | Valuation as on 29-Dec-23 (in Lakh) | Difference in Invested Amt. (in Lakh) | Difference in Final Value (in Lakh) | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{SIP} \\ \mathrm{XIRR}(\%) \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Sep'96 | 3563 | -21\% | 3.3 | 27.3 | ₹ 32.8 | ₹ 368.0 | ₹ 0.3 | ₹ 13.4 | 14.7\% |
|  | Dec'96 | 2803 |  |  | 27.0 | ₹ 32.5 | ₹ 354.5 |  |  | 14.7\% |
| 2 | Aug'97 | 4617 | -37\% | 15.7 | 26.4 | ₹ 31.7 | ₹ 331.9 | ₹ 1.5 | ₹ 45.2 | 14.9\% |
|  | Nov'98 | 2888 |  |  | 25.1 | ₹ 30.2 | ₹ 286.7 |  |  | 15.1\% |
| 3 | Feb'00 | 6313 | -54\% | 19.3 | 23.9 | ₹ 28.7 | ₹ 244.6 | ₹ 1.9 | ₹ 46.3 | 15.3\% |
|  | Sep'01 | 2874 |  |  | 22.3 | ₹ 26.8 | \% 198.3 |  |  | 15.5\% |
| 4 | Jan'04 | 7168 | -27\% | 4.1 | 20.0 | ₹ 24.0 | ₹ 116.9 | $₹ 0.4$ | ₹ 6.2 | 14.0\% |
|  | May'04 | 5229 |  |  | 19.6 | ₹ 23.6 | ₹ 110.7 |  |  | 14.0\% |
| 5 | May'06 | 15186 | -29\% | 1.1 | 17.6 | ₹ 21.2 | ₹ 77.6 | ₹ 0.1 | ₹ 0.8 | 13.3\% |
|  | Jun'06 | 10790 |  |  | 17.5 | ₹ 21.1 | ₹ 76.7 |  |  | 13.3\% |
| 6 | Jan'08 | 25756 | -60\% | 14.0 | 16.0 | ₹ 19.2 | ₹ 64.3 | ₹ 1.4 | ₹ 9.6 | 13.8\% |
|  | Mar'09 | 10216 |  |  | 14.8 | ₹ 17.8 | ₹ 54.8 |  |  | 14.0\% |
| 7 | Nov'10 | 26968 | -27\% | 13.5 | 13.1 | ₹ 15.8 | ₹ 43.3 | ₹ 1.3 | ₹ 6.3 | 14.3\% |
|  | Dec'11 | 19759 |  |  | 12.0 | ₹ 14.5 | ₹ 37.0 |  |  | 14.7\% |
| 8 | Jan'15 | 40594 | -21\% | 13.0 | 8.9 | ₹ 10.8 | ₹ 21.7 | ₹ 1.3 | ₹ 3.9 | 15.2\% |
|  | Feb'16 | 31911 |  |  | 7.8 | ₹ 9.5 | ₹ 17.9 |  |  | 15.8\% |
| 9 | Jan'20 | 61221 | -38\% | 2.2 | 3.9 | ₹ 4.8 | ₹ 6.6 | ₹ 0.2 | ₹ 0.3 | 16.2\% |
|  | Mar'20 | 38017 |  |  | 3.8 | ₹ 4.6 | ₹ 6.3 |  |  | 16.7\% |

How to read the above table: For example, if someone would have started a monthly SIP of Rs. 10,000 in S\&P BSE Sensex TRI during January 2008 (at the peak of market cycle six as per the above table), as of 29th December 2023, they would have invested Rs. 19.2 Lakh and the current value of this investment would have been Rs. 64.3 Lakh at an XIRR of 13.3\%. Similarly, if somebody had started this SIP in March 2009 (at the bottom of market cycle six as per the above table), as of 29th December 2023, they would have invested Rs. 17.8 Lakh (Rs. 1.4 Lakh less than earlier investor) and the current value of this investment would have been Rs. 54.8 Lakh (Rs. 9.6 Lakh less than earlier investor) at an XIRR of $13.3 \%$.

## Some Findings:

1. It is interesting to note that while the \% return is marginally higher for SIPs started at the bottom of the market cycle, the absolute gain in rupee term (Wealth Creation) is far higher for SIPs that began at the top.
2. The "Cost of Delay" of starting SIP late can be huge over the long term. The longer the market takes to reach the bottom, the higher the "Cost of Delay," keeping all other things constant.
3. Even the marginal difference of \% return goes away over the long-term, irrespective of whether you started at the top or bottom (refer to the return difference for SIPs during the first 6 Market Cycles, i.e. in long-term).

The biggest risk is not the market, but missing out on compounding over time.


## Q3. Which Date to Select for Monthly SIP?

Start of the Month? End of the Month? Middle of the Month? Near the Last Thursday of the month because of higher volatility due to F\&O expiry? Splitting SIP amount into multiple date SIPs?

We tried answering these commonly asked questions using long-period data from S\&P BSE Sensex TRI (a widely tracked Indian Equity Market Index). The study of the last 27+ years' index data reveals no meaningful difference between the average return of different dates' 10 Years SIPs.

| Monthly SIP Date | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SIP Return (\% XIRR) | $15.65 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.63 \%$ | $15.61 \%$ | $15.61 \%$ | $15.59 \%$ | $15.58 \%$ |
| Monthly SIP Date | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| SIP Return (\% XIRR) | $15.59 \%$ | $15.58 \%$ | $15.58 \%$ | $15.59 \%$ | $15.60 \%$ | $15.62 \%$ | $15.63 \%$ |
| Monthly SIP Date | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| SIP Return (\% XIRR) | $15.64 \%$ | $15.62 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.63 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ |
| Monthly SIP Date | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| SIP Return (\% XIRR) | $15.65 \%$ | $15.65 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.65 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.64 \%$ | $15.63 \%$ |

10 Years Average SIP Return (\% XIRR) on Daily Rolling Basis for particular date of the month for S\&P BSE Sensex TRI between September 1996 to December 2023.

Cf
The best SIP date in our view, is when an investor usually receives money in his/her bank account (For Eg. Salary Credit Day).


## Q4. Shall I stop my SIP since the market is not doing well?



Total 10 Years SIP Average Returns XIRR (\%)

14.8\%

8\% or Less
More than 8\%


When Average SIP Returns for First 5 Years were

## Data for S\&P BSE Sensex TRI

Equity as an Asset Class is relatively very volatile and, there can be periods of low returns in the initial investment journey of a long-term SIP.

But historical data suggests that the SIP, which has delivered comparatively lower returns in the initial 5 years, has delivered a better return on 10 years basis (on an average).

Source: MFIE, 10 Years and 5 years Average SIP Return (\% XIRR) on monthly basis at the end of month for S\&P BSE Sensex TRI between August 1996 to December 2023.


## Data Bytes

| Index | 1W | 1M | 3M | 6M | 1Y | $3 Y$ | 5 Y |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mid Cap 150 | -1.1\% | 0.8\% | 10.2\% | 18.8\% | 53.4\% | 25.6\% | 23.4\% |
| Small Cap 250 | -0.6\% | 1.0\% | 11.8\% | 22.7\% | 64.9\% | 28.5\% | 23.4\% |
| Auto | 0.6\% | 7.9\% | 16.5\% | 27.8\% | 58.5\% | 25.1\% | 18.6\% |
| Bank | -2.2\% | 1.3\% | 2.6\% | 3.1\% | 12.9\% | 9.2\% | 10.8\% |
| Energy | -1.4\% | 6.5\% | 31.1\% | 45.5\% | 77.1\% | 26.5\% | 20.7\% |
| FMCG | -0.1\% | -1.4\% | -0.05\% | 5.2\% | 19.4\% | 18.0\% | 12.7\% |
| Infra | -0.3\% | 2.8\% | 21.1\% | 32.8\% | 59.5\% | 24.5\% | 22.0\% |
| IT | 0.9\% | 3.7\% | 15.8\% | 17.3\% | 25.4\% | 15.4\% | 19.2\% |
| Metal | -1.6\% | -0.2\% | 10.8\% | 12.0\% | 43.3\% | 26.3\% | 21.2\% |

Source : https://ticker.finology.in/market * Data as of Feb 28, 2024

Domestic Equity Benchmark Indices (Returns \%)


* Data as of Feb 28, 2024

Source : https://ticker.finology.in/market

FII / Mutual Fund Data

| (Rs Cr) | 27 Feb. | MTD | YTD |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Flls | 2055.97 | 1187.47 | -24923.57 |
| Mutual Funds | 201.36 | 14599.66 | 37669.06 |

## NIFTY P/E

| Latest P/E* | FY24E | FY25E |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 24.28 | $23.86 X$ | $20.66 X$ |

[^0]
## Indian Debt Summary

| Index | 28-02-2024 | Week Ago | Month Ago | Year Ago |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Call Rate | 6.43\% | 6.62\% | 6.77\% | 6.65\% |
| Repo | 6.50\% | 6.50\% | 6.50\% | 6.50\% |
| 10 Yr Gilt^ | 7.06\% | 7.05\% | 7.17\% | 7.46\% |
| 30 Yr Gilt^ | 7.28\% | 7.25\% | 7.46\% | 7.57\% |
| 91-D T Bill^ | 6.93\% | 7.00\% | 7.04\% | 6.89\% |
| 182-D T Bill^ | 7.14\% | 7.15\% | 7.16\% | 7.24\% |
| 364-D T Bill^ | 7.11\% | 7.13\% | 7.15\% | 7.32\% |
| 1-mth CP rate | 7.65\% | 7.75\% | 7.55\% | 7.25\% |
| 3-mth CP rate | 8.39\% | 8.55\% | 8.50\% | 7.86\% |
| 6-mth CP rate | 8.39\% | 8.55\% | 8.20\% | 7.95\% |
| 1 yr CP rate | 8.28\% | 8.28\% | 8.23\% | 8.10\% |
| 1-mth CD rate | 7.06\% | 7.00\% | 7.15\% | 6.90\% |
| 3-mth CD rate | 7.74\% | 7.82\% | 7.80\% | 7.58\% |
| 6-mth CD rate | 7.77\% | 7.85\% | 7.85\% | 7.70\% |
| 1 yr CD rate | 7.77\% | 7.85\% | 7.85\% | 7.86\% |

The average interbank call money rate ended lower at $6.43 \%$ on Wednesday compared to $6.67 \%$ on Tuesday.
Government bond prices ended flat on Wednesday due to lack of fresh cues.
The yield of the new 10 -year benchmark $7.18 \% 2033$ paper ended flat at $7.07 \%$ on Wednesday

| Yield (\%) | Gsec* | AAA | AA+ | AA | AA- | A+ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 month | 7.14 | 7.84 | 8.58 | 8.62 | 9.93 | 10.30 |
| $\mathbf{1}$ Year | 7.03 | 7.83 | 8.57 | 8.61 | 9.92 | 10.29 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ Year | 7.05 | 7.73 | 8.47 | 8.51 | 9.82 | 10.19 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ Year | 7.05 | 7.69 | 8.55 | 8.59 | 9.90 | 10.27 |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ Year | 7.06 | 7.57 | 8.43 | 8.47 | 9.78 | 10.15 |

${ }^{\wedge}$ Weighted Average Yield. G-sec and corporate bonds data as of 28 Feb *Weighted average yields for G-sec data 6 month G-sec: 182 day T-Bill rate;
1 year G-Sec: 05.22\% GS 2025; 3 year G-Sec: 7.38\% GS 2027; 5 year G-Sec: 07.37 GS 2028; 10 year G-Sec: 07.26 GS 2033

## Economic Indicators

| YoY (\%) | Economic Indicators <br> Current |  | Quarter Ago |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Monthly Inflation (CPI) | 5.1\% (Jan-24) | $4.87 \%$ (Oct-23) | Year Ago |
| IIP | $3.8 \%$ (Dec-23) | $5.8 \%$ (Sep-23) | $4.3 \%$ (Dan-23) |
| GDP | $7.6 \%$ (July-Sep FY24) | $7.8 \%$ (Apr-June FY24) | $6.3 \%$ (July-Sep FY23) |
| Monthly Inflation (WPI) | $0.27 \%$ (Jan-24) | $-0.52 \%$ (Oct-23) | $4.73 \%$ (Jan-23) |

## Reserve Ratios

```
CRR 4.50%
SLR 18%
```

Source: RBI

## International News

The US economy expanded an annualized 3.2\% in Q4 2023 following a 4.9\% rate in Q3.

US personal consumption expenditure (PCE) price index came at $1.8 \%$ in the fourth quarter of 2023, lower from $2.6 \%$ rise in Q3

Eurozone Consumer inflation expectations edged up to 15.5 in February, from 12th January.

## Currencies Vs INR

|  | 28 Feb | 27 Feb | Change |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| USD | 82.93 | 82.89 | -0.04 |
| GBP | 104.71 | 105.20 | 0.49 |
| Euro | 89.56 | 89.98 | 0.42 |
| 100 Yen | 55.02 | 55.18 | 0.16 |


| Index | 28 Feb | 1 Day | 1 Month | 1 Year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| DJIA | 38949 | -0.06 | 2.20 | 19.27 |
| Nasdaq | 15948 | -0.55 | 3.19 | 39.21 |
| FTSE | 7625 | -0.76 | -0.13 | -3.19 |
| Nikkei | 39208 | -0.08 | 9.67 | 42.86 |
| Hang Seng | 16537 | -1.51 | 3.66 | -16.42 |
| Strait Times | 3139 | -0.58 | -0.65 | -3.79 |

## Commodities

| Index | 28 Feb | Week <br> Ago | Month <br> Ago | Year <br> Ago |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| London Brent <br> Crude Oil (\$/bbl) | 83.68 | 83.03 | 83.55 | 83.89 |
| Gold (Rs/10 gms) | 62135 | 62258 | 62312 | 55550 |

[^1]
## What rabbits tell you about power of compounding



Most investors do not benefit from this power of compounding.
Have you ever heard of Thomas Austin? Austin was an English settler in Australia, who in 1859, imported 24 rabbits from England, and released them in Australia. As Bill Bryson writes in Down Under: Travels in a Sunburned Country: "Thomas Austin, a landowner in Winchelsea, Victoria... released [24 rabbits] into the bush for sport. It is hardly a novel observation that rabbits breed with a certain keenness. Within a couple of years, they had entirely overrun Austin's property and were spreading into neighboring districts."

The trouble was that Australia had never seen anything like the rabbit before. As Bryson writes: "Fifty million years of isolation had left Australia without a single predator or parasite able even to recognize rabbits, much less dine off them, and so they proliferated amazingly."

The number of rabbits increased at a very high rate of $35 \%$ per year, points out Pulak Prasad in What I Learned About Investing from Darwin. Now 24 rabbits increasing at $35 \%$ per year doesn't really sound much? Does it? But the numbers just became astonishing as time went by. Five years down the line there were just 108 rabbits, which was clearly not a problem. Twenty years down, there were just 9,700 rabbits. And 35 years down the line, there were nearly 900,000 rabbits. And after this the numbers just went off the charts. There were 17.5 million rabbits 45 years after 1859. At the end of the 66th year, there were 9.59 billion rabbits or close to 10 billion rabbits.

As Prasad puts it, these rabbits "wreaked havoc on the flora and fauna of the continent". In fact, as Bryson puts it: "Rabbits [devoured] every bit of it-leaves, flowers, bark, stems-until none was to be found. The rabbits ate so much of everything that sheep and other livestock were forced to extend both their range and their diet, punishing yet wider expanses."

This example of the proliferation of rabbits in Australia shows the real power of compounding along with why most people don't get it. The rabbits-even though they reproduced at a rapid rate-did not become a problem for a long time. As Prasad writes: "Nothing happened for a very long time! [emphasis in the original] ... Even after forty-five years, there were fewer than two rabbits per kilometer. So, Australians ignored the rabbit problem for many decades." Now, the "bigger mystery of compounding is not that it leads to large numbers but that it doesn't do so for a long time"

And this has a lesson in investing: The real power of compounding comes into the picture only a few decades down the line, like the number of rabbits jumped from 900,000 in the 35 th year to 17.5 million in the 45th. Now how does this stack up when it comes to a real-life investing example?

Let's take the case of the Public Provident Fund (PPF), which has an initial lifespan of around 15 years. Let's say you invest |  |
| :--- | :--- | 5 lakh every year into it and the rate of interest paid on it amounts to $7.1 \%$ per year, as is the case currently.

At the end of 15 years, you would have ended up with around ₹ 41 lakh. Now, this is a lot of money given that no tax needs to be paid on it. But the real fun only starts after 15 years. Let's say you are 45 years old and still have 15 years to go before you retire. The PPF account can be extended for five years at a time, with or without contribution. Let's say you decide to continue contributing and extend the account every five years. At the end of the twentieth year, the investment would be worth ₹ 67 lakh. By the 25th year it would be worth $₹ 1.03$ crore. By the 30th year, when you are ready to retire at 60, it would be worth $₹ 1.55$ crore. Remember, the PPF investment was ₹ 41 lakh at the age of 45.

So, as Prasad puts it, "compounding does not lead to significant numbers for a very long time". Given this, it makes sense to keep extending the PPF account. Clearly, most investors do not benefit from this power of compounding. As Prasad puts it: "What is needed to become a successful investor is not intellect, a commodity, but patience, which is not."

Source: Mint

## Major Events: March 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 <br> Manufacturing PMI | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | $12$ | 13 | $14$ | $15$ <br> Advance Tax Filing | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

PMI - Purchasing Managers' Index | IIP - Index of Industrial Production | CPI - Consumer Price Index WPI - Wholesale Price Index

## Our Client's Feedback

Name: Dr. Bakulesh Chauhan (Pediatrician)
Dr. Jayshree Chauhan (Gynecologist)
Manav Hospital, Vadodara.
We have been clients with Mr. Prakash Lohana \& Ascent team since 2009. They have Provided us financial advice that is customized to our needs and goals. Their advice is excellent and the approach is scientific. We have gained very good returns without much jerks in our disciplined investments over the years. Their advice on matters like tax planning, Will Writing and some other financial decision making issues have also helped us to organize those issues.

Country: India

## Absolute Returns versus XIRR

XIRR (Extended Internal Rate of Return) and absolute returns serve as methodologies to evaluate investment performance, such as that of mutual funds, though they vary in terms of the information conveyed and the calculation methods employed.

## Absolute Returns:

Absolute returns measure the total profit or loss incurred on an investment over a specific timeframe, expressed as a percentage. This method offers a direct evaluation of the overall performance of the investment. For instance, if a mutual fund records an absolute return of $10 \%$ over one year, it signifies a $10 \%$ gain during that period.

## (Final Value - Initial Value) / Initial Value * 100

Example: Shyam invested Rs. 1,000 for a period of Four years. After four years, he got Rs. 1,500 from his investment. What is the absolute returns from his investment?

$$
=(1500-1000) / 1000 * 100
$$

= $50 \%$
An absolute return measures an investment's performance without regard to the amount of time committed.

## XIRR (Extended Internal Rate of Return):

XIRR stands out as a more comprehensive metric for assessing investment performance, factoring in both the timing and magnitude of cash flows, encompassing investments and withdrawals, throughout the investment duration. It computes the annualized rate of return required to equate the present value of all cash flows (both inflows and outflows) to zero.

| Date | Price |
| :---: | :---: |
| $01 / 01 / 2022$ | $-10,000$ |
| $01 / 12 / 2022$ | $-10,000$ |
| $01 / 01 / 2023$ | $-10,000$ |
| $01 / 12 / 2023$ | $-10,000$ |
| $01 / 01 / 2023$ | $-10,000$ |
| $01 / 02 / 2024$ | 90,000 |
| XIRR | $62.65 \%$ |

The absolute return using the above example would be $80 \%$. Whereas, the XIRR is $62.65 \%$.
XIRR (Extended Internal Rate of Return) is crucial for assessing the annualized return on investment, especially in situations with irregular cash flows. It considers the timing and amounts of cash inflows and outflows, providing a more accurate measure of performance.

On the other hand, Absolute Return represents the overall gain or loss on an investment without considering the time factor. While XIRR considers the time value of money, Absolute Return offers a straightforward measure. Both metrics are vital in evaluating investment performance, providing investors with comprehensive insights into profitability, helping them make informed decisions in financial management.

In summary, Absolute return is a straightforward measure typically used for investments held for less than a year. On the other hand, XIRR (Extended Internal Rate of Return) is more suitable for investments held for over one year, especially in cases with irregular cash flows.

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## Vote Of Thanks

## Dear Reader,

We really appreciate everyone who took the time to read and interact with our material as we approach to the close of another edition of our newsletter. We anticipate your ongoing encouragement and support.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Chirag Patel for his invaluable contribution in this newsletter. Their insightful and thought-provoking contribution have truly enhanced the quality of this newsletter.

We also want to express our gratitude to the members of the editorial staff, authors, designers, and everyone else who helped with the production and dissemination of this newsletter.

We make an effort to deliver pertinent, educational, and interesting information that represents our beliefs and interests. As we work to enhance and expand our newsletter, we are always open to your comments and recommendations.

Thank you for joining our community. We look forward to bringing you even more exciting content in the future.

Best Regards,
Ascent Financial Solutions Pvt Ltd.

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[^0]:    *Data as of 28 February, 2024

[^1]:    Source: Domestic Indices - NSE, BSE, FII / MF (Equity) - SEBI, Domestic Derivative Statistics - NSE, Currency Movement - RBI, Reuters, Domestic Economic Indicators - CRISIL Center for Economic Research, Domestic Fixed Income Numbers - CRISIL
    Fixed Income Database, RBI Commodity Prices - Reuters, IBJA, International Indices - Respective websites, Market summaries, global bond yields, domestic and international news - CRISIL Research, Financial websites

    Abbreviations: FII (Foreign Institution Investors), CPI (Consumer Price Index), WPI (Wholesale Price Index),
    P/E (Price/Earnings ratio), CP (Commercial Papers), CD (Certificate Of Deposits), G-sec (Government Securities),
    MTD - Month to Date, YTD - Year to Date
    Source : ICICI Prudential MF Head start

