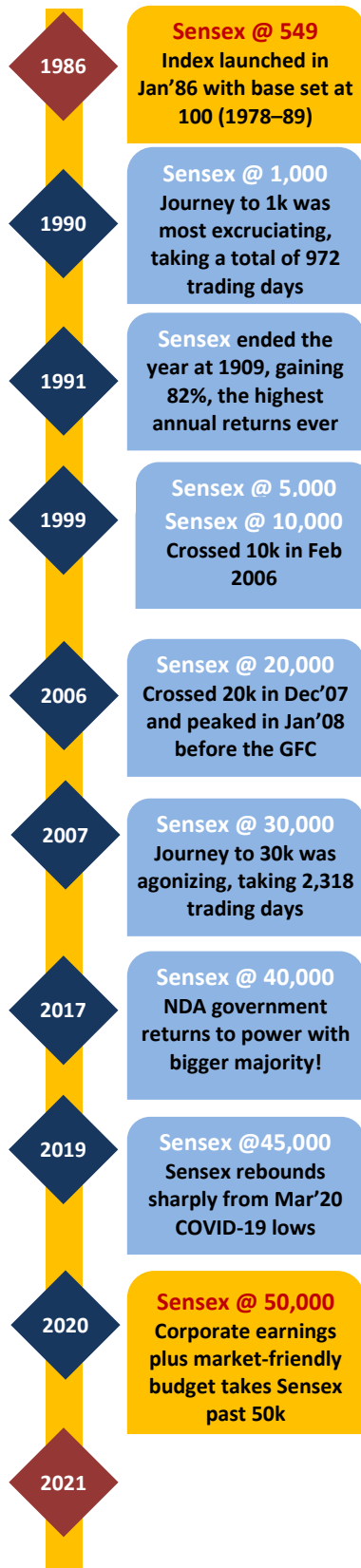


**BSE Sensex: 50,256**
**S&P CNX: 14,790**
**SENSEX MILESTONE JOURNEY**


## Sensex closes at 50K mark; 1<sup>st</sup> time in its history

### In flashback – 1986 to 2021

- For the first time in history, the Sensex has closed above the psychological mark of 50k on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021. While the first 25k took ~28 years, the second 25k milestone has come in the last ~7 years. The index has, indeed, come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1986, when it traded at 549, while setting the base year of 1978-79 as 100. On this spectacular journey, the Sensex has mirrored the economic growth of the country from the pre-liberalization phase to now emerge as one of the top economies of the world while overcoming the challenges of Asian financial crisis, dot com bubble, Global financial crisis, taper tantrum to covid pandemic and coming out triumphant.
- The recent sprint to 50k now in Feb'21, from pandemic lows of 26k in Mar'20 – amid lockdowns and other health challenges – has been led by a benign global liquidity backdrop, better containment of COVID-19 cases, sharp recovery in corporate earnings, and a market-friendly budget.
- In this note, through select interesting exhibits, we traverse the Sensex's journey from 549 in 1986 to 50k today.

### Sensex up 91x in ~35 years – a non-linear journey

- While traversing its journey from 549 to 50k, the Sensex, up 91x, has delivered 13.6% CAGR returns in the last 35 years. While the returns have been impressive, this has been a non-linear journey (as shown in Exhibit 3).
- CY'1991 – the year in which India ushered in a new era by breaking the barriers of the 'License-control Raj' – was the best year of annual returns, with the Sensex delivering 82% gains. On the other hand, CY2008, the year of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), was the worst year, with the Sensex ending the year with a 52% decline.
- In the last 35 years, the Sensex has given calendar annual returns of >20% over 14 years, while it fell more > 10% over 7 calendar years.
- The Sensex's journey from 549 to 5k was the most excruciating, as it took a total of 3,034 trading days (almost 14 years). The move from 20k to 25k was also prolonged (1,607 trading days or 6.5 years) as the markets took time to recover from the long phase of correction in the aftermath of the GFC in 2008. On the other hand, the move from 45k to 50k has been the quickest as it has been covered over just 41 days. Of course, as the levels move higher, every 1k point journey implies lower percentage returns.

### Sunrise and Sunset: Some sectors gained prominence, others have faded

- Over the years, the sectoral representation of the Sensex has undergone a world of change. In fact, the representation of sectors remains in consonance with the changes in the underlying economy. The Sensex in Mar'90 had zero representation from private sector banks and was dominated by industrial sectors such as Metals, Cement, and Capital Goods. With a) the change in the economy from Manufacturing to Services over the past three decades and b) the rise of the private sector post liberalization, the sectoral representation in 2021 is vastly different from that of 1990.

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- The Top 2 sectors in 2021 – Private Banks (28.5%) and Technology (17.7%) – had zero representation in the Sensex in 1990. Similarly, NBFCs, with 12.4% weight in the Sensex, had zero weight in 1990.
- Cement and Capital Goods have also seen massive decline in weights to 1.3%/3.4% now in 2021 from 12.5%/10% in 1990. With Tata Steel being replaced in the Sensex with Dr Reddy’s Labs in Dec’20, the Sensex now has zero representation from Metals – a sector which had 26.3% weight in 1990. Similarly, Fertilizers (5.8%), Textiles (4.3%), Shipping (2.5%), Paper (1.6%), and Hotels (1.0%) are no longer a part of the Sensex.
- Consumer and Auto weights have dropped to 10.2%/4.3% in 2021 from 14.7%/12% in 1990. On the other hand, sectors that have gained weight include Oil & Gas (from 7.3% to 12%), largely on account of Reliance. Healthcare and Utilities have seen minor increase in weights.

**Only four companies have traversed the entire journey!**

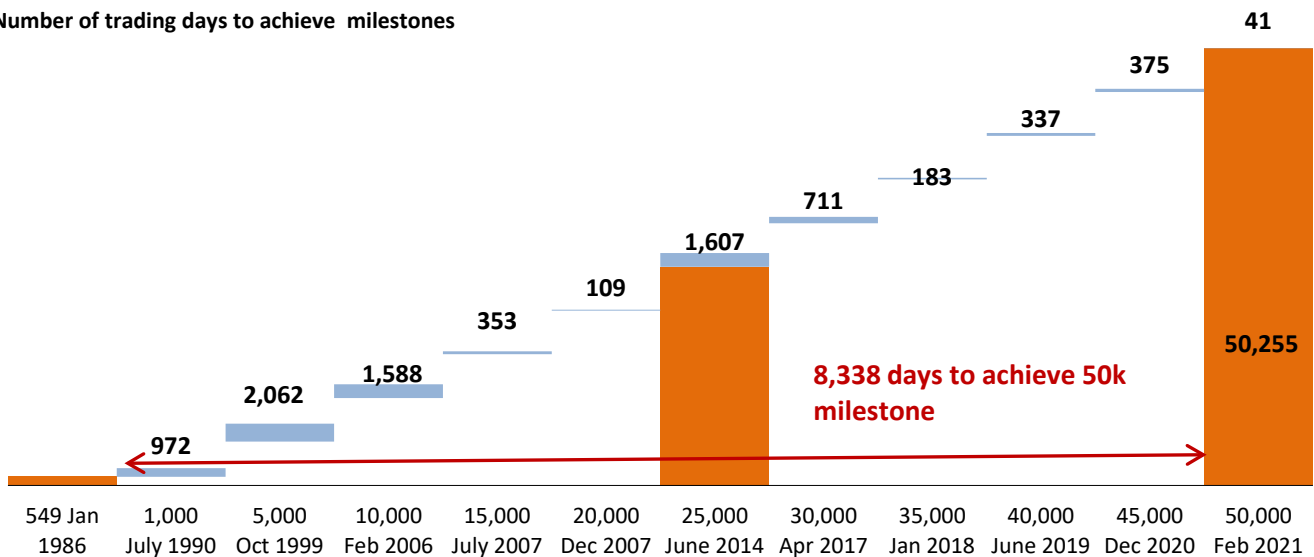
- Out of the 30 stocks in the Sensex, only four companies – RIL, HUL, ITC, and L&T – have been a part of the index’s journey since inception.
- The combined market-cap of these four companies has grown at a CAGR of 23% between Jan’1988 and Feb’2021. This can be broken down into two phases – one wherein the market cap expanded at a CAGR of 32% between Jan’1988 and Dec’2007 and another wherein an 8% CAGR was reported between Dec’2007 and Jan’2021.

**Valuation multiples changed in line with underlying change in constituents**

- In line with the change in the underlying composition of the Sensex, the valuation multiples of the Sensex have also moved up.
- The average P/E multiple of the Sensex between April’1993 and Feb’2021 stands at 16.6x; however, the average for the last 10 years is 19.5x.

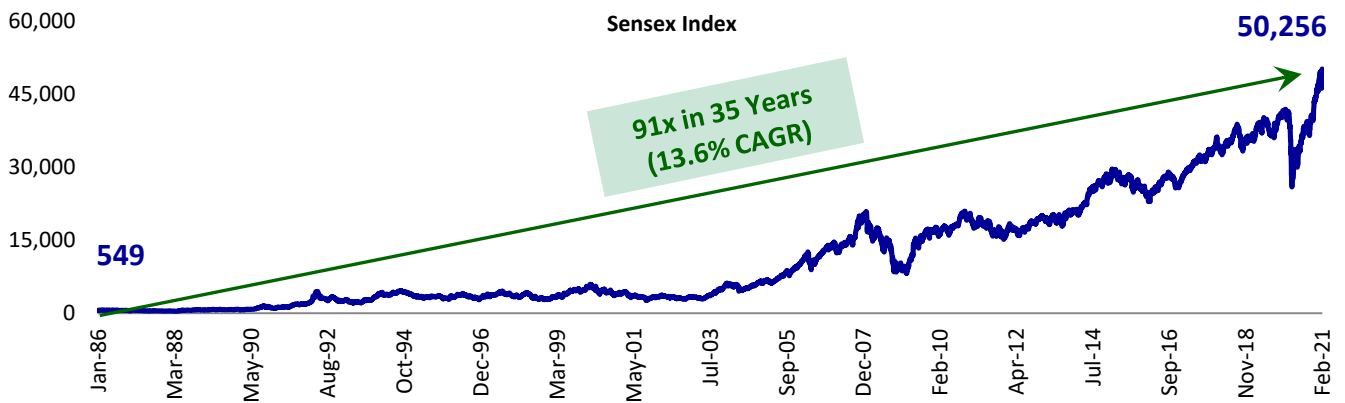
**Exhibit 1: Sensex’s journey from 500 to 50,000!**

Number of trading days to achieve milestones



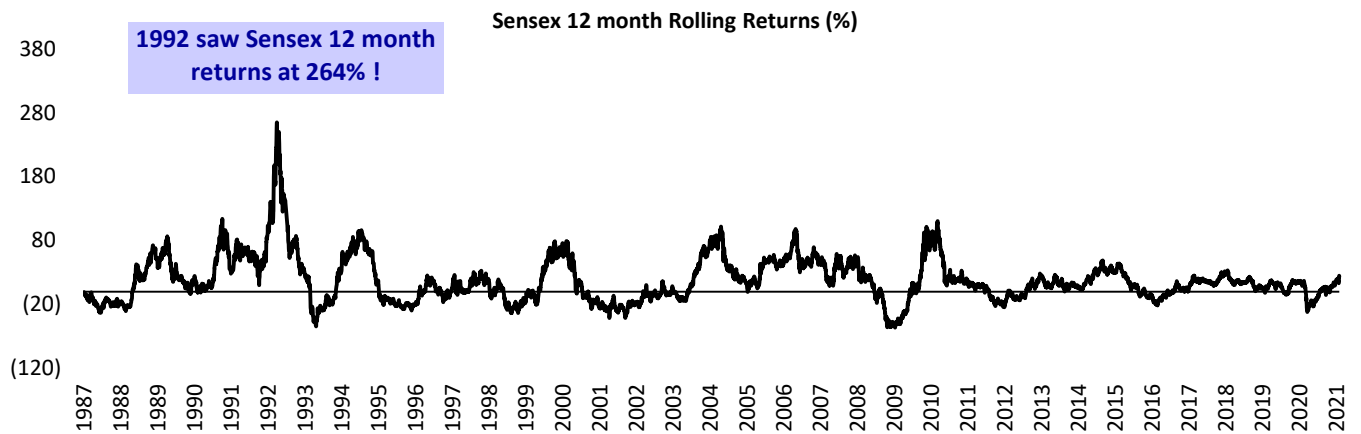
Source: BSE, Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 2: Sensex has delivered a 13.6% CAGR between 1986 and Feb'2021...**



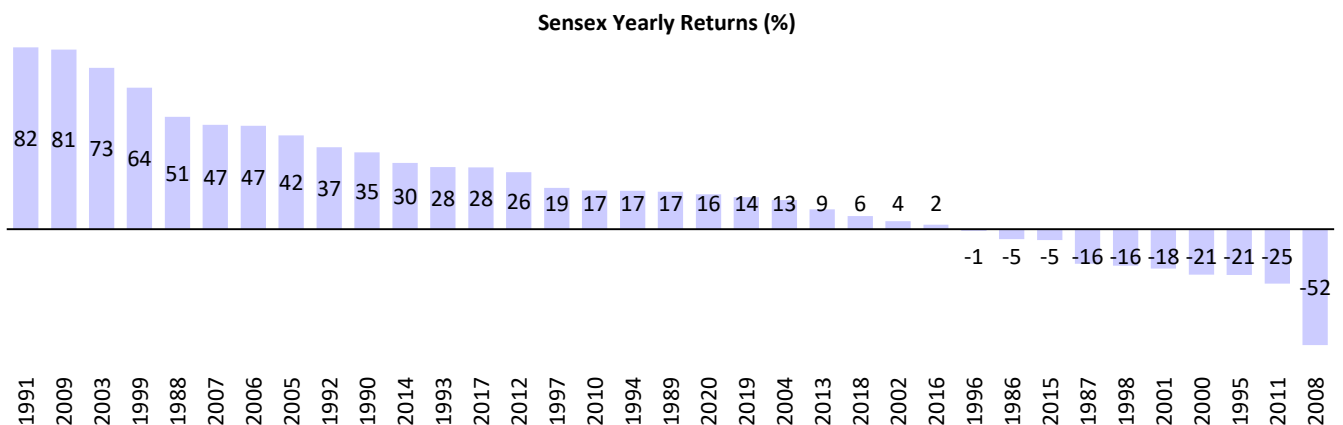
Source: Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 3: ...but, the journey has been anything but smooth**



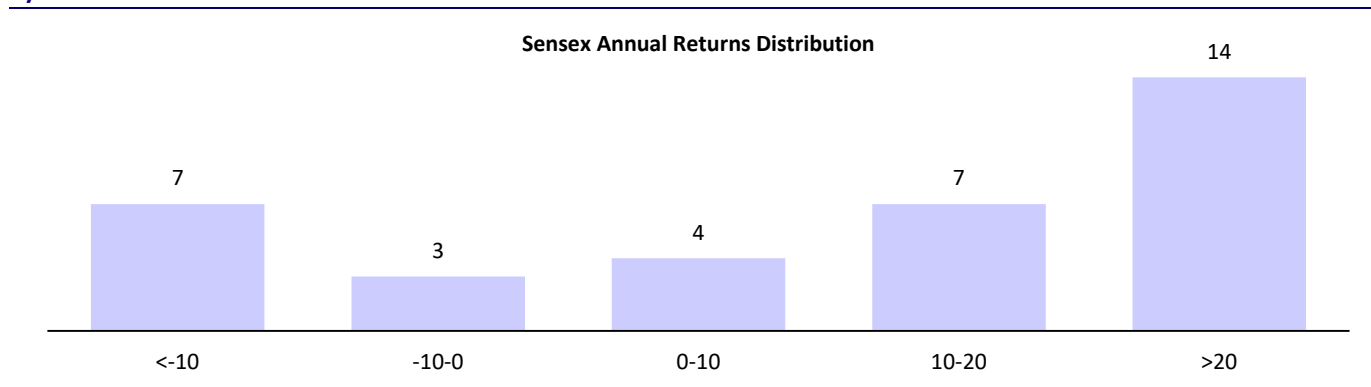
Source: Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 4: Sensex's annual returns were the highest in 1991/2009 at more than 80%, while 2008 was the worst year with decline of more than 52%**



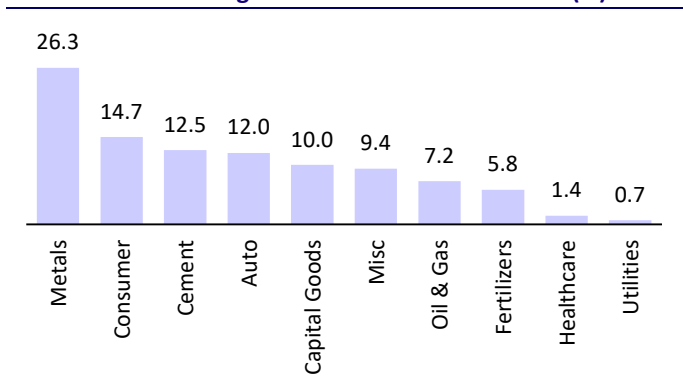
Source: Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 5: In 2 out of every 5 years, the Sensex’s CY returns are more than 20%, while in 1 year out of 5, the Sensex declines by more than 10%**



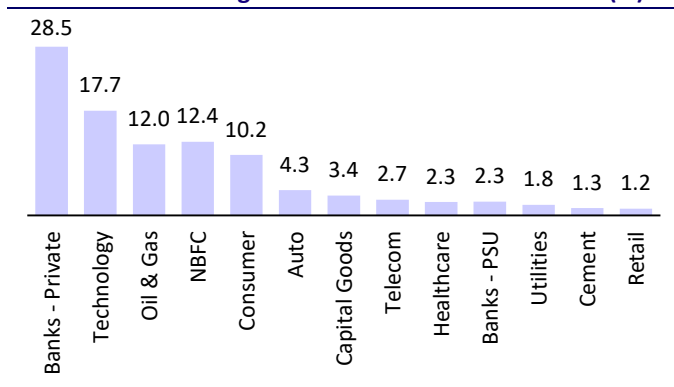
Source: Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 6: Sector weight in the Sensex in Mar’1990 (%)**



Source: BSE, Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 7: Sector weight in the Sensex on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021 (%)**



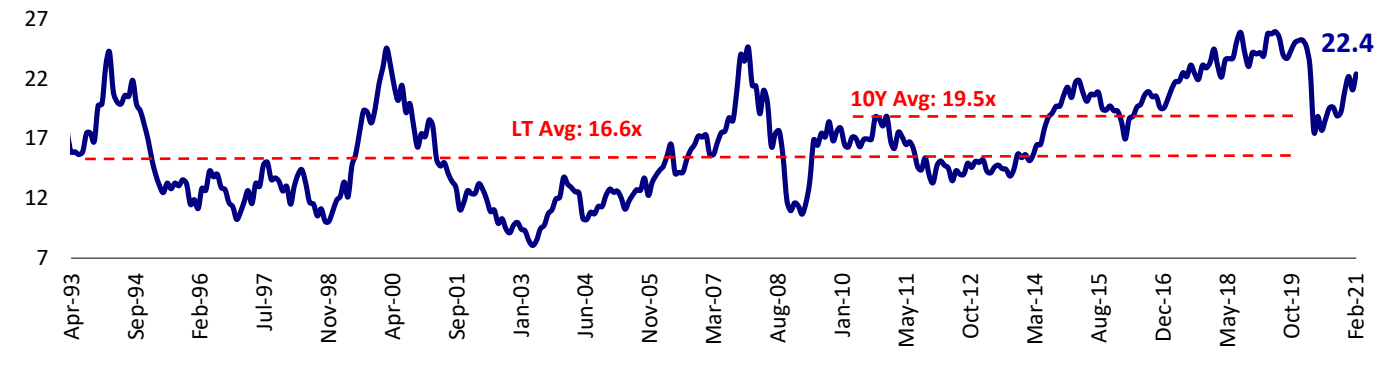
Source: BSE, Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 8: Top 10 companies by weight in the Sensex – a snapshot of India’s transformation in the last 30 years!**

Company	Weight as of Mar 1990 (%)	Company	Weight as of Mar 2000 (%)	Company	Weight as of Mar 2010 (%)	Company	Weight as of Mar 2020 (%)	Company	Weight as of 03 Feb 2021 (%)
Tata Steel	20.9	Infosys	20.5	Reliance Inds.	13.2	HDFC Bank	11.8	HDFC Bank	11.7
Tata Motors	9.6	Hind. Unilever	17.2	Infosys	9.6	Reliance Inds.	11.4	Reliance Inds.	11.4
Hind. Unilever	8.2	Reliance Inds.	11.5	ICICI Bank	8.0	H D F C	9.0	H D F C	8.9
Reliance Inds.	7.2	ITC	6.3	Larsen & Toubro	6.6	Infosys	7.7	Infosys	8.6
Century Textiles	6.5	M T N L	5.1	HDFC Bank	5.3	ICICI Bank	6.7	ICICI Bank	7.8
G S F C	5.8	NIIT	3.8	ITC	5.3	TCS	6.2	TCS	6.1
Grasim Inds	4.3	ICICI-Merged	3.7	H D F C	5.3	Hind. Unilever	5.3	Kotak Mah. Bank	4.4
Larsen & Toubro	4.1	Ranbaxy Labs.	3.7	St Bk of India	4.5	Kotak Mah. Bank	4.9	Hind. Unilever	3.6
Hindalco Inds.	3.5	St Bk of India	3.7	O N G C	3.5	ITC	4.7	Axis Bank	3.5
Nestle India	3.3	Larsen & Toubro	2.5	TCS	3.5	Larsen & Toubro	3.2	ITC	3.4

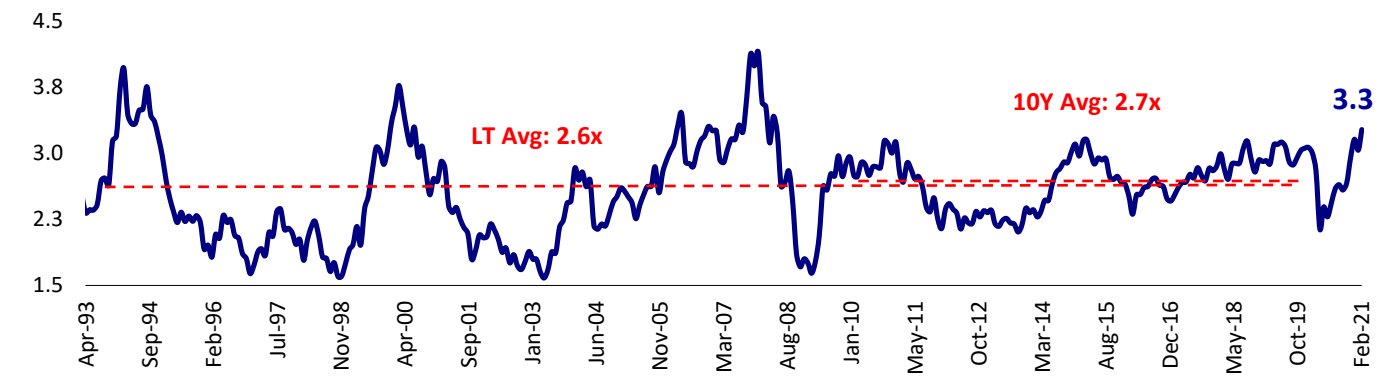
Source: Capitaline, MOFSL

**Exhibit 9: Sensex P/E LT average has increased from 16.6x to 19.5x due to a change in underlying index constituents**



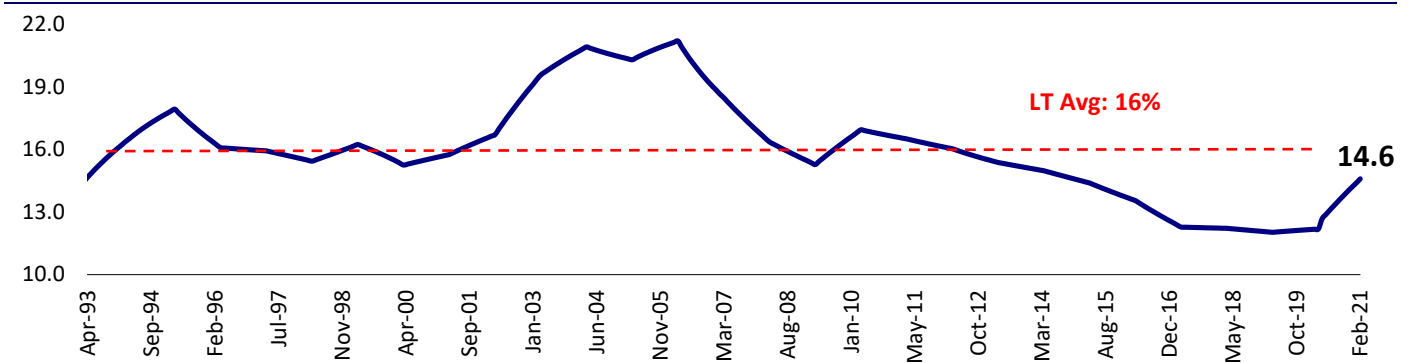
Source: MOFSL

**Exhibit 10: Sensex is trading at 23% premium to its LT book value**



Source: MOFSL

**Exhibit 11: Sensex ROEs has picked up from the lows of 12% in Mar'17 to 14.6%**



Source: MOFSL

## NOTES

# THEMATIC/STRATEGY RESEARCH GALLERY

**MOTILAL OSWAL** Thematic | Economy  
**Economy**

**2020s: Decade to regain lost economic strength**

- The third decade of the 21st Century has begun on an unprecedentedly weak note. Due to the physical lockdown on account of COVID-19, global GDP deflation has been the fastest in the positive era. This makes the 2020s decade highly unusual, but interesting. This strong or weak India's economic recovery could be and what could be done to make it stronger is what we have addressed in the same.
- India's average GDP growth in the first two decades of the 21st Century remained the same, however, the drivers varied drastically. After both decades reported strong growth in the first year, economic growth weakened. It then strengthened considerably in the middle and tapered once again towards the end, creating a steep 2-shaped growth curve. Nonetheless, the growth in the 2000s decade was led by investments, while consumption was the key driver in the 2010s decade.
- Although the third decade begins at the absolute bottom – which could only improve over the course of the decade – the case of COVID-19 may mean limited economic strength in the recovery phase. Nevertheless, it does provide an unmatched opportunity to address difficult structural economic issues – this would help the nation move from low growth in the first half to high-growth-growth before the end of the 2020s decade, and on a sustainable basis too.
- Decide these structural issues, there are five more areas wherein improvement is needed to support India's economic growth. Many of these areas have already shown some promise in 2020, however, sustained improvement in these areas is needed, without which both economic strength cannot be regained.

**IMPROVEMENT IN THESE FIVE AREAS IN THE 2020s DECADE WOULD BE FOLLOWED CLOSELY**

01	Without a strong financial sector, no sector can sustain high economic growth. India in the first decade, India's financial sector diversified and struggled in the 2010s decade. While it has been somewhat resilient in 2020, supported by regulatory changes and strong capital discipline, credit growth remains tepid. Continued efforts to keep the system clean, further consolidation, and adequate capital base very well for higher credit growth over a period of time.
02	India's Residential Real Estate (RRE) sector has been at the core of economic slowdown. A large reduction in interest costs and various steps by central/state governments have complemented low-stable home prices and low-to-stable income growth to prop up the sector. However, the government's RRE sector. Although the resilience of the recovery is in question at this stage, it certainly provides a template of how the RRE sector may be revived.
03	From being a member of the fragile Five over 2012-14, India has come a long way in securing its position as one of the most favored investment destinations. As the country has the world's 1st largest stock of foreign exchange (FX) reserves, the external sector has turned from an area of concern to comfort. Going forward, although S&P surplus would reduce, FX reserves of USD50B provide enough insurance to follow the low-growth strategy, without worrying too much about areas of vulnerability.
04	The "corporatization of assets," and the government of India (GoI) seems to have taken the very wrong path in the past few months. GoI has increased a number of structural reforms, ranging from labor, agriculture, to educational reforms. The beauty of reforms is that they should be ending corruption and bringing the government back to its core values. As a result, there are almost certain to bring efficiency or productivity improvements.
05	Lastly, GoI has shown renewed drive toward India's Manufacturing sector. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme was announced by 13 different sectors by 28 different departments, with the regional financial and banking hubs. It is the most far-reaching, while the government's RRE sector. However, the resilience of the recovery is in question at this stage, it certainly provides a template of how the RRE sector may be revived.

**When will government accept fiscal policy limits?**

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**When will government accept fiscal policy limits?**

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**Economy**

**Fiscal policy has reached limits**

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**Housing Finance**

**A Home Run!**

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**MOTILAL OSWAL**

**2010-20  
A Decade of  
Triumphs and Trials**

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Sector codes | Sector: NBFC  
**Gold Finance**

**The Gold Rush!**

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**Back in the saddle!**

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Person**

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