

# INDIA POWERED BY INNOVATION

## **HDFC INNOVATION FUND**

Investing in the future today

NFO Period: **June 27 - July 11, 2025** 



#### Innovation can be of Different Types



#### What is Innovation?

Process of introducing new ideas, services, or products – or improve existing ones – to create value, solve problems, and maintain a competitive edge

#### **Product Innovation**

Radical\*

Disruptive\*\*

Incremental<sup>\$</sup>

#### **Process Innovation**

Notable change from "business as usual", enabling the company to use unique capabilities, function efficiently, adapt quickly, creating cost / quality advantages

#### **Business Model Innovation**

Challenges
conventional wisdom
about revenue streams,
cost structures, and
customer engagement
strategies

\*Radical Innovation occurs when companies understand changing consumer values or behaviour, and accordingly develop new products or services, thus paving way for new markets and creating unique solutions for customers. Such new products or services could be created by bypassing intermediaries or harnessing technology; \*\*Disruptive Innovation occurs when companies introduce products / services that are very unique and superior. Such products / services could use technologies that could potentially challenge the traditional existing approaches companies; \$Incremental Innovation: For existing lines of product / services, companies make improvements. Such improvements are done using existing technology, and are directed at the existing market. When investing in companies that are innovating incrementally, the Fund Manager will endeavour to identify companies whose incremental innovation is higher than the indexed average



#### Financial Services – UPI has been Transformational



NOW

Increasing Adoption of UPI\* transforming the way wetransact

6.7%

FY23

UPI Value as % of Total Digital Value (LHS)

— UPI Volume as % of Total Digital Volume (RHS)

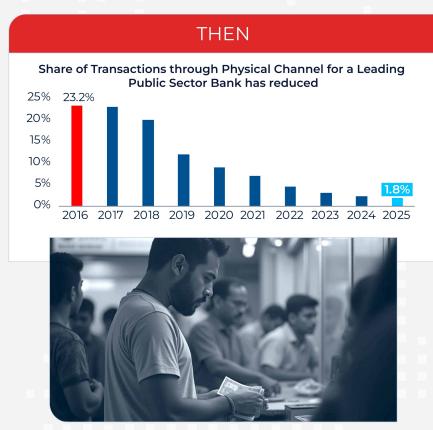
4.8%

FY22

8.2%

FY24

FY25



Source: Motilal Oswal, \*UPI: Unified Payments Interface

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10%

8%

6%

4%

2%

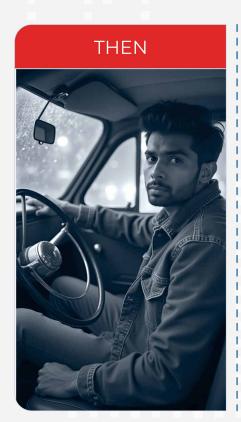
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2.9%

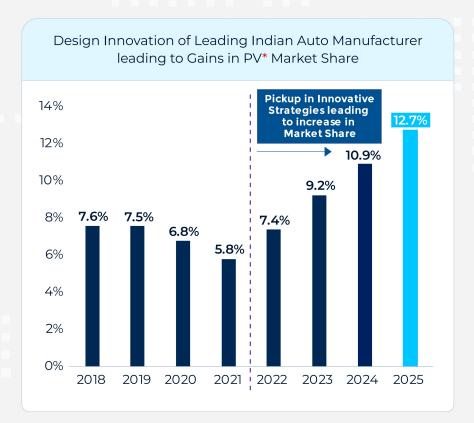
FY21

## **Autos** – Design Innovation leading to Market Share Gains









Source: Kotak Institutional Equities; \*PV: Passenger Vehicles

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## **Defence** – A Sector evolving through Cost Innovation





#### Key Parameters of US's Apache

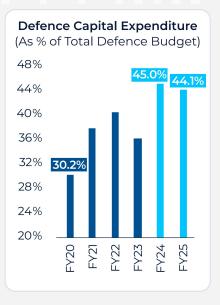
Service Ceiling (metre)	6,100
Range (kilometres)	476
Motor Rotor Diameter (metre)	14.6
Length (metre)	17.7
Height (metre)	3.9
Max Speed (km per hour)	293
Max Take-Off Weight (kilograms)	10,433
Price (in US\$ million)	40-54



#### Key Parameters of India's Light Combat Helicopter

Price (in US\$ million)	20-24
Max Take-Off Weight (kilograms)	5,800
Max Speed (km per hour)	268
Height (metre)	4.7
Length (metre)	15.8
Motor Rotor Diameter (metre)	13.2
Range (kilometres)	550
Service Ceiling (metre)	6,500

India's Defence Capital Expenditure as a % of Total Defence Budget has risen



Source: Ministry of Defence, Standing Committee on Defence report, Company data, CLSA, Budget Documents For disclaimer refer slide 29

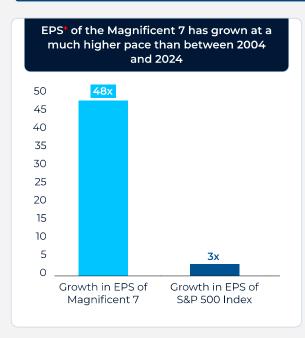


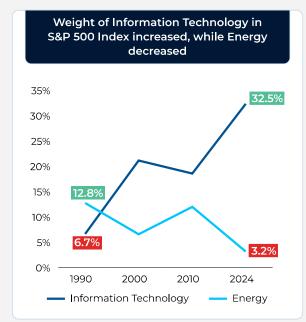
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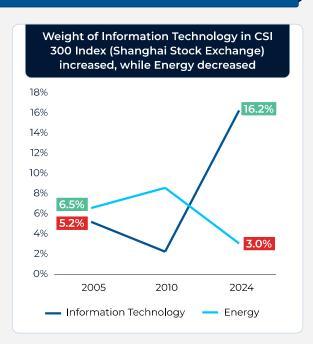
## Higher Contribution to Profit Pool led Innovators to be "Wealth Generators" across countries



Sectors that have contributed to the overall profit pool of the broad equity market index curve have witnessed an increase in weightage over time compared to the laggards



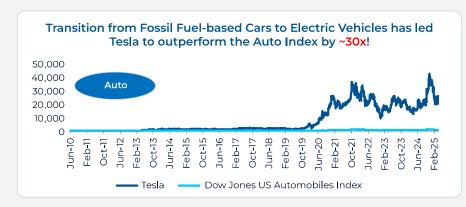


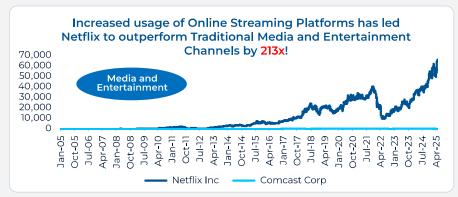


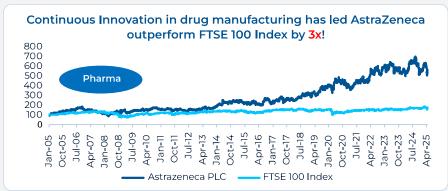
Source: Bloomberg, NYU Stern, Morgan Stanley; \*EPS: Earnings per Share; Data for EPS as of December 2024; Years indicate Calendar Year-end years. Sectors referred above do not constitute a research report or an investment advice / recommendation by HDFC Mutual Fund / AMC.

### Innovation can happen not just in Technology!









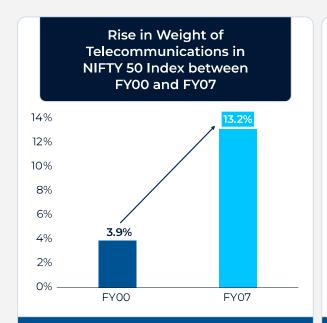
Innovation is democratic with examples of companies across different sectors, that have adopted innovative strategies, providing the potential for wealth creation





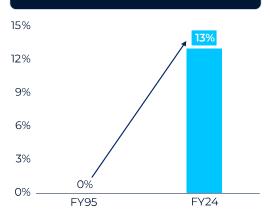
#### Even in India, Sunrise Sectors have grown disproportionately





Disruptive growth due to introduction of private sector companies and new technologies like 2G, which subsequently led to a surge in mobile phone subscribers and decrease in cost of data





Growth of IT sector weight was based on high growth in the sector driven by offshoring, application outsourcing, ERP\* Implementation and new IPOs





Multiple New Age companies have made way to the listed universe in the last 6 years with their weightage in the Index rising with time

Source: www.niftyindices.com (Capturing the Pulse – July 2024), NAASCOM, Industry Reports; \*\*ERP: Enterprise Resource Planning For disclaimer refer slide 29



## Key Pillars supporting the Rise of Innovation in India







Strong Entrepreneurial Culture improving India's Global Innovation Rankings





High Talent Availability and Lower Salary Gaps





Improved Funding Environment





Strong Digital Public Infrastructure key for Growth of Startups





Supportive Government Initiatives





Increasing Adoption of Innovative Strategies by Different Sectors

### India climbing up the Global Innovation Rankings



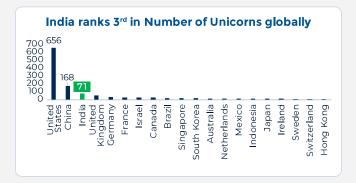
Despite India being well-placed against other countries in the Global Innovation Index, its GDP per capita is lower than countries like Brazil and Indonesia → Signals that there is significant headroom to add value

India's patent applications surged by 44.6% in 2023 Surge in electromobility within India

India's ranking on parameters like Knowledge and Technology and Market Sophistication (Funding Environment) in \*GII at 22 and 23 respectively



Countries	GII Score	GDP per capita (in US\$, Current Prices)
Switzerland	67.5	104,523
US	62.4	85,812
Korea	60.9	36,129
China	56.3	13,313
Japan	54.1	32,498
India	38.3	2,711
Brazil	32.7	10,214
Indonesia	30.6	4,958



Higher focus on evolving drivers of growth in different fields like Generative Artificial Intelligence

Country	Total Generative Al Funding (in US\$ billion)	Number of Generative Al Patents	Number of Generative Al Startups
USA	28+	5300+	1000+
UK	0.8+	550+	150+
Japan	0.2+	2000+	45+
Israel	]+	200+	45+
EU	2.7+	1700+	280+
India	0.7+	750+	230+

Source: Global Innovation Index Database, WIPO (2024), NAASCOM, International Monetary Fund (World Economic Outlook - April 2025), World Population Review (2024)

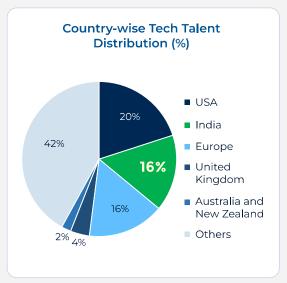
## Large Talent Pool, Lower Salary Gaps and Improving Innovation Ecosystem – India's Case for Talent Retention



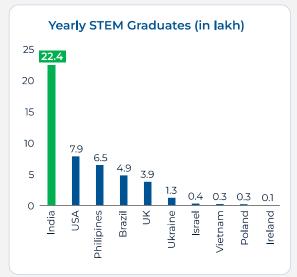
#### Indian Workforce highly skilled

One of the top in terms of Al skills penetration

2<sup>nd</sup> largest in terms of AI/ML\*\* BDA® talent pool, globally 3<sup>rd</sup> globally, in terms of installed supply of Cloud professionals



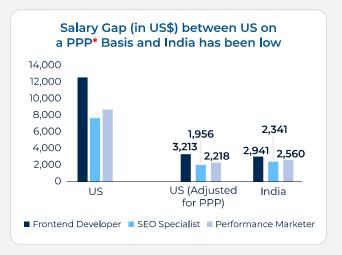
Note: Data excludes China



Note: STEM is an abbreviation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

#### India's Case for Higher Retention of Talent

- 1 Geopolitical challenges creating uncertainty
- 2 India's rising global economic standing leading to better career opportunities
- 3 Lower salary gap between US (on a Purchasing Parity Basis) and India

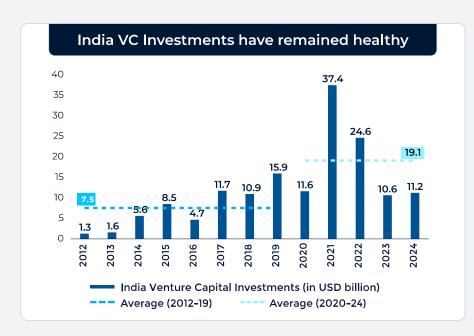


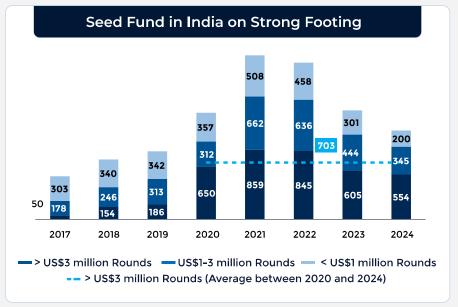
Source: EY, Publicly Available Information; India Salary Guide (2024) by Uplers; \*\*AI/ML: Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning; @BDA: Business Development Associate; All data as of 2023; \*PPP: Purchasing Power Parity; PPP Factor between India and US: 3.8:1

## Improved Funding Environment indicating Confidence in Upcoming Innovation



India's Venture Capital (VC) Investments and Seed Funding has improved with greater than US\$3 million rounds seed funding accounting for 50.4% of the funding in 2024, compared to 9.4% in 2017 → Indication of a shift from traditional industries to a knowledge-based economy



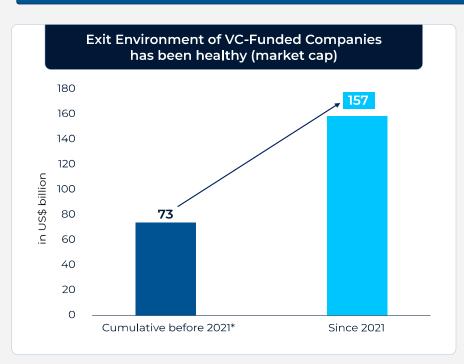


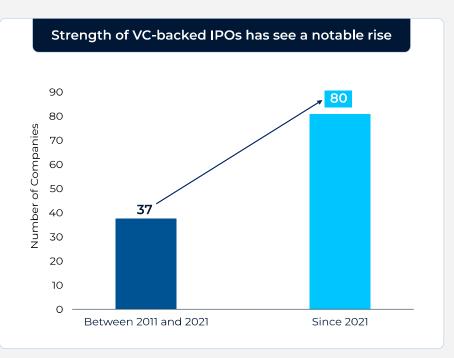
Source: Tracxn, Indus Valley - Funding Trends (2024)

## **Healthy Exit Environment** – Increasing Investable Opportunities



#### VC-Funded IPOs have been healthy with a ~2x rise in number and market cap of IPOs since 2021

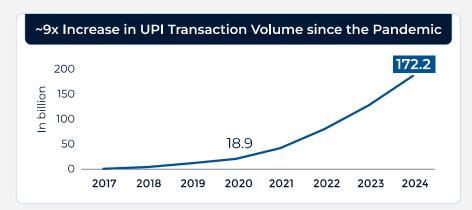


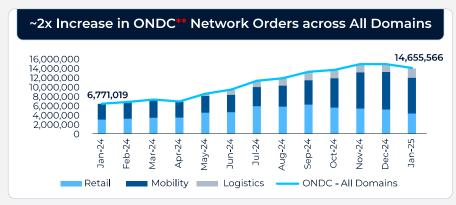


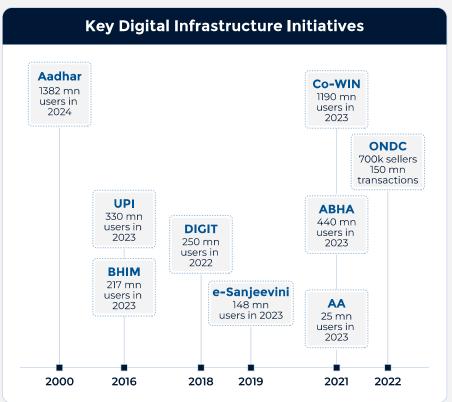
Source: Tracxn, Indus Valley - Funding Trends (2024); Data as on January 17, 2025; \*Number of VC-Funded Companies that have gone for an IPO before 2011 was 50 and between 2011 and 2021 was 37

## **Digital Public Infrastructure** – Key for Startups Growth









Source: National Payments Corporation of India, \*\*Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Website, Motilal Oswal, Indus Valley - Funding Trends (2024) For disclaimer refer slide 29

### **Government Initiatives supporting Innovation Ecosystem**



#### Major Initiatives by the Government for supporting Innovation

ASPIRE (A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship)

Fund of Funds For Startups (FFS) Scheme

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)

Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH)

**Production Linked** Incentive (PLI)

**Atal Innovation** Mission (AIM)

Prime Minister's **Employment** Generation Programme (PMEGP) through the Ministry of MSME

Scheme

10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (1.1 crore+ Students actively engaged)

**3,500+** Startups supported (1,000+ Women-led Startups)

**14** Atal Community Innovation Centres

40+ Domestic & International Partnerships **72** Atal Incubation Centres (32.000+ Jobs created)

15 Applied Research and Innovation for Small **Enterprises Challenges** 

> 24 Atal New India Challenges

Source: Indian Brand Equity Foundation, PwC Reports, Atal Innovation Mission

Objectives of a Few Schemes mentioned above: (1) CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions to finance eligible borrowers viz. Startups as defined in the Gazette Notification issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and amended from time to time. (2) ASPIRE scheme aims to support the establishment of Livelihoods Business Incubation (LBI) centers. These centers are intended to foster entrepreneurship and promote startups in the agro-industry. (3) PMEGP aims to generate employment opportunities by establishing micro-enterprises in both rural and urban areas.



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#### **Investment Strategy**



#### **Core Portfolio**

- Aims to invest at least 80% of its net assets in equity and equity related instruments, which focuses on companies that are adopting innovative themes and strategies
- Fund Manager will endeavour broadly identify innovating companies based on:
- Product / Service Innovation
- Process Innovation
- Business Model Innovation

#### **Portfolio Construction**

- Bottom-up approach to stock selection
- Diversified across different sectors and market capitalizations
- Companies who are innovators or early adopters of new technologies / strategies with focus on growth and longer-term profitability
- Companies who are part of value chain of emerging themes / trends globally

## Focus on Quality Companies

- Companies who are targeting to grow higher than the industry with market share gains
- Focusing on emerging market leaders and profit pool leaders
- Consider stage and trajectory of industry cycle and take a risk-adjusted view
- Strong Management with an ability to capitalize on opportunities while managing risks
- Good corporate governance, ESG sensitivity and transparency

## Valuation Discipline and Strategic Approach

- Valuation looking from a medium to long-term perspective with focus on unit economics
- Holistic approach to valuations without relying solely on traditional parameters like P/E or P/B
- Considering the long term nature of investments in the Scheme, stock selection will be strategic and long term in nature, instead of tactical

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### Eligible Universe for HDFC Innovation Fund



Universe 2,596 companies

Scores assigned to Each Company from 1 to 5 based on a Comprehensive Internal Assessment Scores 4 and 5 → Highest scores (Pure Play of Innovation)

Score 3 → Minimum Cut-off for a Company to be part of the "Eligible Universe"

Scores 1 and 2 → Low scores

Eligible Universe (Score 3 and higher) 235 companies Number of Companies with a Scores 4 and 5 104 companies

Macroeconomic Sectors	Sectoral Split of the Eligible Universe (% of Number of Companies)
Consumer Discretionary (Auto & Auto Ancillaries and E-Commerce)	22.1%
Industrials (including Defence)	20.9%
Pharma and Healthcare	16.6%
Information Technology	14.5%
Commodities (including Chemicals)	8.1%
Fast Moving Consumer Goods	6.4%
Utilities	5.1%
Financial Services	3.8%
Services	2.1%
Energy	0.4%
Number of Companies	235

Macroeconomic Sectors	Sectoral Split of the Companies with Scores 4 and 5 (% of Number of Companies)
Pharma and Healthcare	27.2%
Consumer Discretionary (Auto & Auto Ancillaries and E-Commerce)	23.3%
Industrials (including Defence)	17.5%
Information Technology	11.7%
Commodities (including Chemicals)	9.7%
Utilities	4.9%
Financial Services	4.9%
Fast Moving Consumer Goods	1.0%
Services 0.0%	
Number of Companies	104

Market Cap Category	Market Cap Split of the Eligible Universe (% of Number of Companies)	Market Cap Split of the Companies with Scores 4 and 5 (% of Number of Companies)
Large Cap	19.1%	24.0%
Mid Cap	23.8%	25.0%
Small Cap	57.0%	51.0%
Number of Companies	235	104

Source: Industry Classification by AMFI (April 29, 2025), SEBI Categorization of Large Cap, Mid Cap and Small Cap Stocks as of December 2024; \*Macroeconomic Sectors as defined by AMFI. As per SEBI Circular dated October 6, 2017 and December 4, 2017. Large Cap companies means 1st - 100th company in terms of full market capitalization, mid cap companies mean 101st - 250th company in terms of full market capitalization and Small Cap companies mean 251st company onwards in terms of full market capitalization or such other companies as may be specified by SEBI from time to time.

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## High Growth commands a Valuation Premium



## Growth run rate for Innovative Companies significantly ahead of the Traditional Peers → **Commanding**a Valuation Premium

Company	Ratio of Market Cap to Net Sales (March 2025)	3-year CAGR Growth in Net Sales (%), as of March 2025
One of the Leading Insurance Companies	1.7	9%
Leading Online Insurance Tech Company	14.7	52%
One of the Leading Indian Supermarkets	4.5	24%
Leading Indian Quick Commerce Platform	9.6	69%
Leading Fashion and Beauty Retailer	1.3	22%
Leading Indian Beauty and Personal Care Online Retailer	6.4	28%

Source: Motilal Oswal For disclaimer refer slide 29

### Innovation Theme – Diversified across Sectors and Market Caps



Investing in this Fund can provide an investor an exposure to industries across different market caps that are adopting innovative strategies

#### Industries that can form part of the Universe\*



Auto and Auto Ancillaries



Pharma & Healthcare



Energy (Power & Utilities)



Information Technology and Software



Defence, Industrials



Chemicals, Agrochemicals and Fertilizers



**Consumer Goods** 

<sup>\*</sup>Note: The industries mentioned above are indicative and can include more industries.

### Why invest in HDFC Innovation Fund?





Exposure to companies that are adopting innovative strategies through the development of new products, processes or business models



Opportunity to participate India's next leg of economic growth led by companies who are innovators or early adopters of new technologies / strategies



Exposure to good quality companies with medium to long-term growth drivers across multiple market caps and sectors



Well-defined Methodology for selecting companies to form a part of the portfolio



25 years of track record of HDFC Mutual Fund with an experienced Investment / Equity Research Team

## Risks and Mitigants



Risks	Mitigants
Slowdown in domestic economy and consumption → A large part of innovation ecosystem caters to the domestic economy which could get impacted in the event of an economic slowdown	Drivers of Macroeconomic growth continue to be on a strong footing
Slowdown in Funding Environment	There has been a step up in Venture Capital / Private Equity funding, which is helping the development of the innovation ecosystem in the last few years. With healthy exit environment, this should continue
Adverse Government policies for the innovation ecosystem	Government has undertaken multiple initiatives to support the innovation ecosystem
Lower talent retention in the country	A strong funding environment, India's rising global standing and lower salary gap (in PPP terms) should help in talent retention in the country

## **Fund Facts**



Particulars	HDFC Innovation Fund		
Type of Scheme	An open-ended equity-oriented scheme following the innovation theme		
Investment Objective	To generate long-term capital appreciation / income by investing in companies that are adopting innovative themes and strategies.  There is no assurance that the investment objective of the Scheme will be achieved.		
Benchmark Index	NIFTY 500 (Total Returns Index)		
Fund Manager(s) \$	Mr. Amit Sinha		
Investment Plans	Direct Plan     Regular Plan		
Investment Option	Under Each Plan: Growth, Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal – Payout and Reinvestment of IDCW		
Minimum Application Amount	During NFO Period Purchase / Switches: ₹100/- and any amount thereafter During continuous offer period (after scheme re-opens for repurchase and sale): Purchase / Additional Purchase / Switch: ₹100/- and any amount thereafter		
Load Structure	<ul> <li>Exit Load:</li> <li>In respect of each purchase/switch-in of units, an Exit load of 1% is payable if units are redeemed/switched-out within 1 month from the date of allotment.</li> <li>No Exit Load is payable if units are redeemed / switched-out after 1 month from the date of allotment.</li> <li>In respect of Systematic Transactions such as SIP, Flex SIP, STP, Flex STP, Swing STP, Exit Load, if any, prevailing on the date of registration / enrolment shall be levied.</li> </ul>		

\$Fund Manager Overseas investment – Mr. Dhruv Muchhal

For further details, refer SID and KIM available on www.hdfcfund.com and at Investor Service Centres of HDFC Mutual Fund

### **Asset Allocation**



Under normal circumstances, the asset allocation (% of Net Assets) of the Scheme's portfolio will be as follows:

Types of Instruments	Minimum Allocation (% of Net Assets)	Maximum Allocation (% of Net Assets)
Equity and Equity related instruments following the innovation theme	80	100
Equity and Equity related instruments of companies other than those mentioned above	0	20
Units of REITs and InvITs	0	10
Debt securities and Money Market instruments	0	20
Units of Mutual Fund	0	20

For complete details, please refer to the Scheme Information Document on www.hdfcfund.com

#### **Product Labelling and Riskometer**

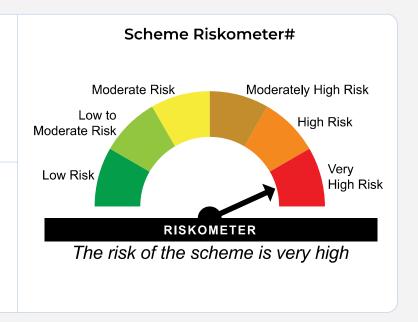


## HDFC Innovation Fund (An open-ended equity-oriented scheme following the innovation theme) is suitable for investors who are seeking\*:

- · Capital appreciation over long term
- to invest in equity and equity related instruments of companies that are adopting innovative themes and strategies

\*Investors should consult their financial advisers, if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.

#The product labeling assigned during the NFO is based on internal assessment of the scheme characteristics or model portfolio and the same may vary post NFO when the actual investments are made. For latest riskometer, investors may refer to the Monthly Portfolios disclosed on the website of the Fund viz. www.hdfcfund.com



The Scheme being thematic in nature carries higher risks versus diversified equity mutual funds on account of concentration and theme specific risks.

#### Disclaimer



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Mission: To be the wealth creator for every Indian

Vision: To be the most respected asset manager in the world

