ICICI Bank
FEBRUARY 2025 | VOL. 45

THE ORANGE BOOK

Kindness in Finance

ICICI Bank

The Currency of Compassion: Embracing Kindness in Finance

2-minute read

In the world of finance, which is dominated by profits, balance sheets and investment returns, kindness might seem like an unlikely quality. However, it has an important role to play. Kindness in finance is about recognising the humanity behind the numbers and using financial resources to create a meaningful, positive change.

The case for kindness in finance

Finance isn't just about wealth creation; it's about empowering lives. A compassionate approach can transform financial systems into tools of empowerment. Everyday gestures of financial support & kindness can build trust, lasting relationships and drive sustainable growth.

How individuals can show kindness in finance

Here's how you can incorporate compassion into your personal financial life:

Start with yourself

The kindness journey begins with being kind to oneself. In finance, it's about appreciating your savings, investments and the financial lessons you've learned. Reflecting on one's financial progress gives the motivation to stay disciplined and the confidence to plan for the future. Keeping a positive mindset during market fluctuations can help one stay focused, knowing that the ups and downs are temporary and long-term growth is within reach.

OPEN A PPF ACCOUNT | INVEST IN MUTUAL FUNDS* | OPEN AN FD | INVEST IN NPS

Teach financial literacy

Share your knowledge about budgeting, saving and investing with family, friends and young adults. Even a little advice can have a big impact. Take the first step! Share The Orange Book editions with your friends and family!

Encourage savings and investments

Help others in understanding the importance of saving for the future and guide them in starting their financial journeys.

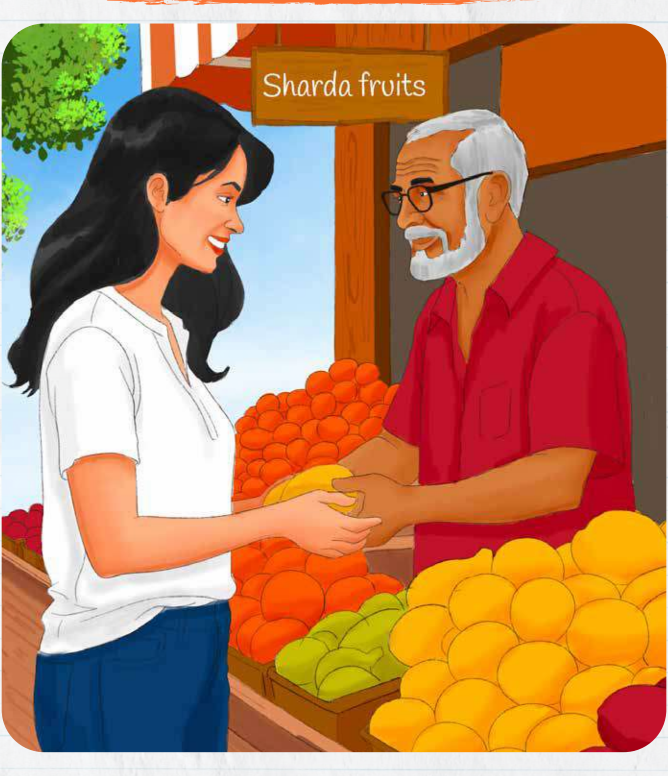
Pay it forward

Engage in small acts of kindness like tipping generously, paying for someone's coffee or clearing a minor debt for someone.

Support someone in need

Offer financial help to someone struggling by paying for their meal, lending money responsibly or donating to a worthy cause.

Support local businesses



Buy from local shops and entrepreneurs to directly support your community and help others grow financially.

Why kindness matters in finance

Whether it's helping someone in financial distress or supporting local businesses, every act of kindness in finance has a lasting impact. The returns on these actions go far beyond monetary value—they generate goodwill, trust and shared prosperity.

In finance, as in life, kindness is a currency that never loses its value. By integrating compassion into our financial decisions, we can create a world where wealth is measured not just in numbers but also in the well-being of all.

*ICICI Bank Limited is an AMFI Registered Mutual Fund Distributor. Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risk. Read all scheme related documents carefully. T&C Apply.

Money & Matrimony

Investing in Your Happily Ever After

3-minute read

Marriage is an exciting journey filled with dreams, love and shared aspirations. But beyond the romance lies a critical element of married life, that often gets overlooked—financial planning.

After all, a well-planned financial life allows you to focus on what truly matters—building a happy and fulfilling life together.

Here is how both of you can take charge: –

Understanding each other's financial background

Before creating a financial plan, it is essential to understand each other's financial situation. This includes:

- Income and assets: Be transparent about your earnings, savings and investments
- Debts and liabilities: Share details about existing loans, Credit Card debts or any other obligations
- Credit scores: Discuss credit histories as they play a significant role in joint financial decisions like buying a home

VIEW YOUR CIBIL SCORE

Setting financial goals

Every couple should define short-term and long-term financial goals.

- Short-term goals: Financial objectives that you want to achieve within a relatively short period of time, a few months or a couple of years, focusing on immediate aspirations or needs
- Long-term goals: These on the other hand are aspirations that span across several years. These are significant milestones that need strategic investments and consistent efforts to achieve

Creating a joint budget

A joint budget helps manage day-to-day expenses and track spending.

Key steps include:

- Listing monthly incomes and expenses
- Categorising expenses into essentials (examples – rent, groceries) and non-essentials (examples – dining out, subscriptions)
- Setting limits for discretionary spending while prioritising savings

Deciding on joint & separate accounts

Couples need to decide how to manage their bank accounts.

Options include:

- Joint accounts: To simplify bill payments and shared expenses

OPEN A JOINT ACCOUNT

- Separate accounts: To maintain financial independence

OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Reviewing and updating nominations

Nominations play a very critical role in ensuring that your assets are inherited, as per your wishes.

- Beneficiaries: Review and update nominee details for life insurance policies, retirement accounts and investment portfolios
- Bank accounts: Update nominee details for your Savings Accounts, Fixed Deposits and other financial instruments

UPDATE NOMINEES

Building an emergency fund

An emergency fund is a financial safety net for unexpected events like medical emergencies, layoffs or any other urgent need. Ideally, couples should aim to save living expenses worth 3–6 months in a liquid, easily accessible account.

BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY FUND

Insurance planning

Insurance is vital for protecting your financial future.

- Health insurance: Evaluate employer-provided plans or consider a family plan for better coverage
- Life insurance: If one partner is financially dependent on the other, life insurance is crucial
- Property insurance and auto insurance: Update and review all such insurance policies

GET YOUR INSURANCE NOW

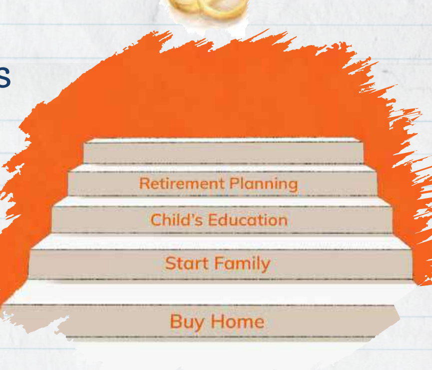
Debt repayment strategies

If either partner has significant debt, create a repayment plan. Consider:

- Paying off high-interest debts first (example – Credit Cards)
- Consolidating loans for lower interest rates
- Balancing debt repayment with savings

Planning for major life events

Marriage often brings major life changes that require financial preparation:



- Buying a home: Discuss how much you can afford, savings for down payment and mortgage options

GET A HOME LOAN

- Starting a family: Factor in costs like childcare, education and healthcare
- Retirement planning: Begin contributing to retirement accounts early, to derive maximum benefits from compounding

PLAN YOUR RETIREMENT NOW

Tax planning

Couples should:

- Ensure that they file taxes on time
- Take advantage of tax benefits**
- Consult a tax adviser for guidance

CALCULATE YOUR TAX NOW

Regular financial reviews

Financial priorities and circumstances evolve over time. Schedule regular check-ins to:

- Review progress towards goals
- Adjust budgets and savings plans
- Revisit investment strategies

Seeking professional advice

If financial planning feels overwhelming, consider consulting a financial adviser. A professional can help with budgeting, investment planning and tax optimisation tailored to your unique situation.

Remember, financial planning is not just about numbers, it is about building trust, communication and teamwork.

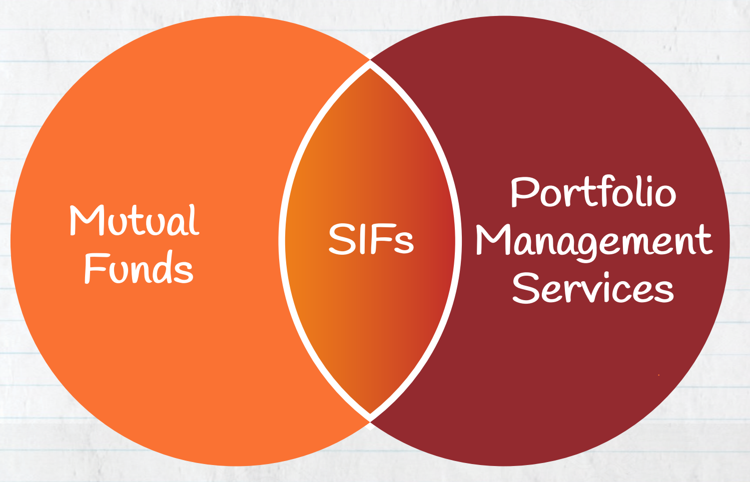
So, take the first step today and start planning for the life you envision together!

**Tax Benefits are subject to amendments in tax laws from time to time.

ICICI Bank

A New Investment Opportunity: Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs)

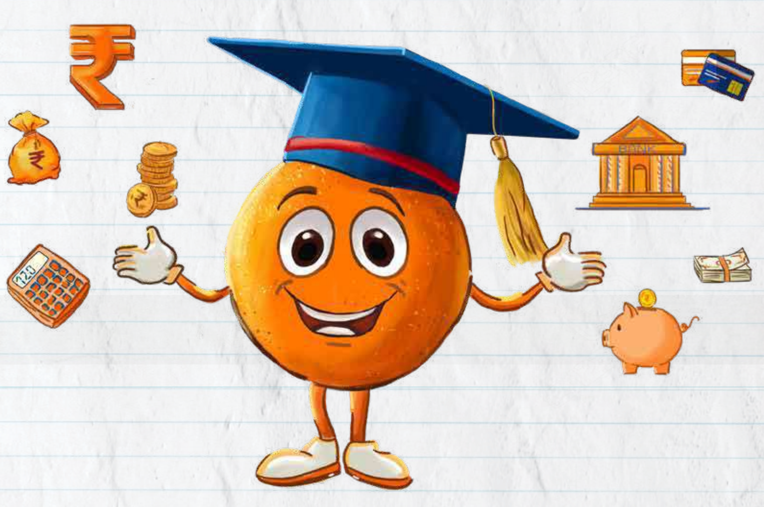
2-minute read



What are SIFs?

Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs) aim to bridge the gap between Mutual Funds and Portfolio Management Services, offering advanced strategies for investors who are ready to take on higher risks to get better returns. Unlike PMS, SIFs don't require you to be an ultra-high-net-worth individual (UHNI).

Why are SIFs relevant now?



India's financial market is evolving, aligning with global standards. Products like SIFs provide advanced strategies but remain more accessible. SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) identified a gap between MFs and PMS, which had led some investors to unregistered and unauthorised schemes. SIFs aim to fill this gap with regulated, structured offerings.

Key features: A quick comparison

	Mutual Funds	Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs)	Portfolio Management Services (PMS)
Minimum investment	₹500 (₹100 in SIPs)	₹10 lakh	₹50 lakh
Who can invest	Retail investors	HNIs	UHNIs
Strategy flexibility	Low	Moderate	High
Instrument coverage	Equity, Debt, Derivatives, etc.	Equity, Debt, Derivatives, etc.	Equity, Debt, Derivatives, etc.
Risk level	Low to very high	Higher than MFs	Higher than SIFs
Liquidity	High	Variable (depends on the fund)	Low to moderate

What we still don't know:

- The tax treatment for SIFs is not fully defined yet.
- In relation to SIF, detailed guidelines around investments are awaited.

What this means for you:

SIFs open doors for experienced and affluent investors to diversify portfolios and access advanced investment strategies. However, as with any investment, the decision comes down to assessing your risk tolerance and financial goals.

While global markets offer some precedent for similar products, remember that past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. SIFs could be an exciting addition to the investment landscape, but they are best suited for those who are comfortable navigating higher risks.

Guidelines on SIFs are awaited. Information included here is from the SEBI Mutual Fund (Third amendment) Regulation, 2024.

PAN vs PAN 2.0

2-minute read

11:41

PAN
online

PAN: Hey, PAN 2.0! Welcome to the world. 👋 What's up? 10:01

PAN 2.0: Hi, PAN! Busy upgrading myself. You? 😀 10:02

PAN: Same old stuff- serving taxpayers for decades. Offering them a permanent identification number, allotment, validation and linking with Aadhaar. 10:04

PAN: What is your upgrade about? 🤔 10:05

PAN 2.0: I've integrated everything onto a single, unified portal. 10:06

PAN 2.0: Now users can access all PAN and TAN* services, from allotment to validation in one place hosted by the Income Tax Department 🙌 10:07

PAN: All in one platform? Really? 😲 10:08

PAN 2.0: Yes! No more jumping between multiple portals like UTIITSL, Protean e-Gov, and the e-Filing portal 🧐 10:10

Type a message

11:41

PAN
online

PAN: 👍 10:11

PAN: What about applying for a PAN? 10:11

PAN: I still require physical forms and paperwork. 10:12

PAN 2.0: That's outdated now. 10:13 😳

PAN 2.0: I'm fully digital and paperless 🌱 10:14

PAN 2.0: Taxpayers can now apply for and get an ePAN online, eliminating the need for any physical documents. 10:15

PAN: Wow! 👏 10:16

PAN: Even though I do provide essential services, there is a cost to it, 😕 specifically for physical issuance. 10:17

PAN 2.0: Don't worry! PAN services including ePAN allotment and updates are free! 😊 10:18

PAN 2.0: For those who still need a physical card, it's just ₹50 for domestic delivery and ₹15 plus postal charges for international delivery. 10:20 💯

Type a message

11:41

PAN
online

PAN: That's tough to beat! Let's talk about security- digital fraud is a big concern 🥺 10:21

PAN 2.0: I hear you. 10:22

PAN 2.0: I've solved that with the PAN Data Vault. 10:22 👌

PAN 2.0: It's a robust security framework to safeguard the personal data of users ✅ 10:24

PAN: Impressive! 10:25 ❤️

PAN: Also, I've been using QR Codes since 2017-18. What's so different about yours? 10:26

PAN 2.0: Mine's dynamic. 10:27

PAN 2.0: It displays real-time data, including the user's photo, signature and other details. 10:29 😳

PAN 2.0: Plus, it's easily scannable with the dedicated PAN QR Code Reader! 📝 10:30

PAN: That's next level. 10:31

PAN: Identifying duplicate PANs has always been tricky for me. Is that something you've fixed? 🤔 10:32

Type a message

11:41

PAN
online

PAN 2.0: Absolutely! 10:33

PAN 2.0: I use advanced algorithms to spot and eliminate duplicate PANs 🙅‍♂️ ensuring every taxpayer has only one valid PAN. 10:35

PAN: That's a relief. 10:36

PAN: One last question- what about user support? I try my best to help, but users often struggle to find proper guidance. 10:38

PAN 2.0: I've got it covered! 10:39 😀

PAN 2.0: There's a dedicated helpdesk and call centre now for user assistance. 📞 10:40

PAN: You truly are an upgrade, PAN 2.0! 10:41 ❤️

PAN: Making tax compliance faster, simpler and more secure! 🙌 10:42

PAN 2.0: Thank you, PAN 😀 10:43

PAN 2.0: Together, we're driving India's digital economy forward! 🚀 10:44 ❤️

Type a message

*TAN – Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number

ICICI Bank

Fraud prevention: Stay safe from cybercrime e-mails

2-minute read

Always think before you click on a link or respond to an e-mail. Not every e-mail is what it seems – read on to spot the signs of cybercrime.

Pick of the month

Kindness is a currency that never loses its value

ICICI Bank

Union Budget Highlights

2-minute read

Finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2025, presented the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Key focus areas from the Budget are as follows:

Taxation updates

- **Senior citizens:** Deduction limit on interest income doubled to ₹1 lakh
- **Tax exemption:** New tax regime threshold raised to ₹12 lakh

Revised Tax Slabs for the new tax regime:

FY 2024-2025	
Income Tax Slab (in ₹)	Income Tax Rate (%)
Up to ₹3,00,000	NIL
₹3,00,000 - ₹7,00,000	5%
₹7,00,000 - ₹10,00,000	10%
₹10,00,000 - ₹12,00,000	15%
₹12,00,000 - ₹15,00,000	20%
Above ₹15,00,000	30%

FY 2025-2026	
Income Tax Slabs (in ₹)	Income Tax Rate (%)
Up to ₹4,00,000	NIL
₹4,00,001 - ₹8,00,000	5%
₹8,00,001 - ₹12,00,000	10%
₹12,00,001 - ₹16,00,000	15%
₹16,00,001 - ₹20,00,000	20%
₹20,00,001 - ₹24,00,000	25%
Above ₹24,00,000	30%

Fiscal consolidation

- Revised estimate of the fiscal deficit for FY 2025-26 is 4.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), below the budgeted 4.8%
- FY 2025 revised capex at ₹10.18 lakh crore

MSME and startup support

- **Higher MSME limits:** Investment and turnover criteria raised by 2x and 2.5x
- **Customised Credit Cards:** 10 lakh Micro Enterprises to receive these through the Udyam portal
- **Women and SC/ST entrepreneurs:** ₹2 crore term loans for 5 lakh first-time entrepreneurs over 5 years
- **Startup boost:** ₹10,000 crore 'Fund of Funds' announced

Financial reforms

- **Insurance:** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap increased from 74% to 100%, enhancing foreign investment potential
- Profits and gains from the redemption of Unit linked insurance policies to which exemption under Section 10 (10D) does not apply, shall be charged with tax as capital gains
- **Rural credit access:** Public Sector banks to develop a Gramin Credit Score framework for Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

Infrastructure and economic growth

- **State capital expenditure support:** ₹1.5 lakh crore in interest-free loans for states
- **Water supply:** Enhanced funding for rural piped water under the Jal Jeevan Mission
- **Nuclear energy:** ₹2,000 crore allocated for small modular reactors

People and innovation

- Two self-occupied properties can be claimed as a deduction from house property, without any conditions
- **Financial inclusion:** PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) expanded with bank loans and UPI-linked Credit Cards (₹30,000 limit)

Education and healthcare

- 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in government schools
- 10,000 new medical college seats
- Cancer Daycare centres in all district hospitals

Technology and innovation

- ₹20,000 crore for Private Sector Research & Development
- Deep Tech 'Fund of Funds' proposed
- National Geospatial Mission to enhance digital infrastructure

Trade and exports

- **Bharat Trade Net (BTN):** A new digital public infrastructure for trade finance and documentation
- **Exports boost:** Support for handicrafts, air cargo infrastructure and perishable goods storage

This Budget emphasises financial inclusion, credit accessibility and economic resilience, making it a crucial step towards growth and prosperity.

We're listening!

Your feedback is essential
to help us improve.

FEEDBACK

Connect with us
for banking solutions.

1800 1080

WhatsApp 'Start' to
86400 86400.

Click here to view the disclaimer.