### **RESULT UPDATE**



### **KEY DATA**

Rating	BUY
Sector relative	Outperformer
Price (INR)	594
12 month price target (INR)	770
52 Week High/Low	777/517
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	859/9.7
Free float (%)	27.0
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	745.7

### SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Promoter	73.01%	73.00%	72.96%
FII	12.78%	13.24%	13.12%
DII	9.45%	8.80%	8.86%
Pledge	0%	0%	0%

FINANCIALS (INR mn)					
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	
APE	104,070	111,204	124,720	141,091	
VNB	23,700	26,581	29,751	33,976	
VNB margin (%)	22.8	23.9	23.9	24.1	
EV	479,480	546,566	621,310	706,459	
APAT	11,855	9,333	10,185	11,172	
FDEPS	8.2	6.4	7.0	7.7	
RoEV (%)	13.0	14.2	13.9	13.9	
P/EV (x)	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	
P/E (x)	73.3	93.1	85.3	77.8	

### **CHANGE IN ESTIMATES**

	Revised es	stimates	% Revision		
Year to March	FY26E	FY26E FY27E		FY27E	
APE	111.2	124.7	(3.7)	(6.5)	
VNB	26.6	29.8	(0.3)	(4.7)	
VNB Margin	23.9	23.9	82bp	45bp	
Embedded Value	546.6	621.3	(0.0)	(0.2)	

#### PRICE PERFORMANCE



## Weak print

A 7% YoY drop in Q2FY26 retail APE dragged total APE down 3.3% YoY. Group APE jumped 20.7% YoY led by an 87.5% YoY surge in the group savings segment. Protection share improved 50bp YoY, aiding a VNB margin of 24.4% (+104bp YoY). Consequently, VNB improved 1% YoY (versus estimate of 5.9%) to INR5.9bn. While management did not quantify the ITC non-availability impact on VNB margins, they remain optimistic on GST exemption-driven top-line growth offsetting its (ITC) fallout on margins and delivering absolute VNB growth.

We reducing APE and margin estimates, and FY26E/27E/28E VNB by 0.3%/4.5%/7.5%. This along with a valuation rollover to Sep-27E keeps our TP intact at INR770 (FY27E/28E P/EV of 1.4x/1.2x); retain 'BUY'.

### Agency and direct underpin individual APE declines; group holds up

Individual APE fell 7% YoY as sales dipped across agency (-22.8% YoY) and direct (-9.1% YoY) channels. Growth appears lower also due to high-growth base—individual APE up 26.1% YoY with agency/direct channels surging 44.2%/33.3% YoY in base period. On a two-year CAGR basis, individual APE rose 8.3%. The corporate agency channel grew 22.5% YoY, improving its share to 12.6% (260bp YoY). Management maintained its stance on ICICI bank channel and reiterated that sales from the channel are stable. For Q2, volatile equity markets led to a slowdown in linked products (-280bp YoY to 49%). Share of traditional products decreased 100bp YoY in the mix to 26.9% largely on account of lower annuity sales, which contracted 47% YoY. Management stated that, within traditional products, sales of NPAR products are higher (at 2:1), which should aid margins. Share of protection improved 50bp YoY to 17.3%. Growth of 2.4% YoY in individual protection was partially offset by a 2.4% YoY dip in group protection. Slowdown in MFI lending and high competitive intensity resulted in a decline in group protection. Group savings business shot up 87.5% YoY.

### VNB at INR5.1bn, up only 1% YoY; other metrics subdued

VNB margin improved 24.4% (+104bp YoY/-7bp QoQ) on the back of: i) the product mix change in favour of protection (+50bp YoY); ii) higher sum assured multiples; iii) rider attachments; and iv) cost control. For H1FY26, IPRU reported cost/premium ratio of 19.2% (-280bp YoY) and savings LOB at 12.7% (-280bp YoY). For H1FY26, EV increased 9.7% YoY to INR505bn driven by 18.1% YoY growth in VIF to INR377.6bn. EV also builds in impact of GST hit due to non-availability of ITC on back-book. IPRU reported an AUM increase of just 0.3% YoY (down 0.9% QoQ) to INR3.2tn amid significant net cash outflows of INR46.1bn during H1FY26. H1FY26 APAT jumped 25.3% YoY to INR 6bn.

## **Financials**

Year to March	Q2FY26	Q2FY25	% Change	Q1FY26	% Change
APE	24,220	25,040	(3.3)	18,640	29.9
VNB	5,920	5,860	1.0	4,570	29.5
VNB margin (%)	24.4	23.4	104bp	24.5	(7)bp
EV	505,010	460,180	9.7	0	

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## **Financial Statements**

## Policyholder AC (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Total Premium earned	472,594	503,658	577,280	663,735
Commission	48,594	49,690	57,175	65,840
Operating expenses	39,716	49,852	56,550	64,342
Provisions and taxes	9,454	8,833	8,589	8,473
Benefits Paid	461,825	492,896	491,348	498,339
Other income	2,232	2,456	2,701	2,971
Transfer from shareholders AC	3,178	3,337	3,504	3,679
Net Cash Flow	(81,584)	(91,820)	(30,177)	33,391
Income from Investments	228,195	268,664	287,693	310,670
Change in valuation of liabilities	135,714	171,538	251,336	336,837
Surplus/(deficit) after tax	10,897	5,305	6,180	7,225
Transfer to shareholders AC	10,931	3,183	3,708	4,335

Shareholders AC (INR mn)				
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Transfer from Policyholders' a/c	10,931	3,183	3,708	4,335
Investment income and other Income	7,304	12,246	12,919	13,655
Total income	18,234	15,429	16,628	17,991
Expenses	1,640	1,721	1,808	1,898
Contrib. to Policyholders' a/c	3,178	3,337	3,504	3,679
Provisions other than taxation	100	0	0	0
Profit before tax	13,317	10,370	11,316	12,414
Taxes	1,462	1,037	1,132	1,241
PAT	11,855	9,333	10,185	11,172

## **Balance Sheet (INR mn)**

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Share capital	14,453	14,453	14,453	14,453
Reserve and surplus	105,551	113,951	123,117	133,172
Net worth	120,004	128,404	137,570	147,625
Borrowings	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
Credit/debit bal. in fair value a/c	(666)	(666)	(666)	(666)
Policyholders' a/c	2,930,225	3,101,763	3,353,099	3,689,936
Funds for future appropriation	12,832	13,153	13,481	13,818
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	3,088,395	3,268,654	3,529,485	3,876,714
Investments	3,039,791	3,219,255	3,479,250	3,825,602
Loans	24,191	24,191	24,191	24,191
Fixed assets + DTA	8,501	8,501	8,501	8,501
Net current assets	15,911	16,707	17,542	18,419
Goodwill	0	0	0	0
Total Assets	3,088,395	3,268,654	3,529,485	3,876,714

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

## Key metrics (INR mn)

key metrics (nik min)				
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
NBP	232,306	255,410	295,324	341,482
APE	104,070	111,204	124,720	141,091
VNB	23,700	26,581	29,751	33,976
EV	479,480	546,566	621,310	706,459
EVOP	55,330	65,519	75,762	86,266
PAT	11,855	9,333	10,185	11,172
FDEPS (INR)	8.2	6.4	7.0	7.7
FDBVPS (INR)	82.6	88.4	94.7	101.6
Growth (YoY %)				
NBP	24.4	9.9	15.6	15.6
APE	15.0	6.9	12.2	13.1
VNB	6.4	12.2	11.9	14.2
EV	13.3	14.0	13.7	13.7
EVOP	10.3	18.4	15.6	13.9
PAT	39.4	(21.3)	9.1	9.7
FDEPS	38.7	(21.3)	9.1	9.7
FDBVPS	12.0	7.0	7.1	7.3
Expense ratios (%)				
Commissions/TWRP	10.3	9.9	9.9	9.9
Opex/TWRP	8.4	9.9	9.8	9.7
Total expenses/TWRP	18.7	19.8	19.7	19.6
Effeciency ratios (%)				
VNB Margin	22.8	23.9	23.9	24.1
ROEV return	13.0	14.2	13.9	13.9
Operating RoEV	13.1	13.7	13.9	13.9
Non-operating RoEV	(0.1)	0.5	0	0
RoAA	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
RoAE	10.5	7.5	7.7	7.8

## Valuation

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
P/E (x)	73.3	93.1	85.3	77.8
P/ABV (x)	7.2	6.8	6.3	5.9
P/EV (x)	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2
P/VNB Multiple (x)	18.6	14.4	10.6	7.1
P/EVOP (x)	15.6	13.2	11.4	10.0
P/VIF (x)	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.5
P/AUM (x)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2

## **Valuation on TP**

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
P/E (x)	94.4	119.9	109.8	100.1
P/ABV (x)	9.3	8.7	8.1	7.6
P/EV (x)	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.6
P/VNB Multiple (x)	29.0	23.8	19.0	14.4
P/EVOP (x)	20.1	17.0	14.7	12.9
P/VIF (x)	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.0
P/AUM (x)	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3

Exhibit 1: Total APE down 3.3% YoY; VNB margin improves 104bp YoY to 24.4%

Particulars	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%/bp)	QoQ (%/bp)
New Business Premium (INR bn)	49.3	64.4	74.4	40.1	54.4	10.4	35.7
Total APE (INR bn)	25.0	24.4	35.0	18.6	24.2	(3.3)	29.9
-Saving APE	20.8	20.5	30.3	14.6	20.0	(3.8)	37.7
-Protection APE	4.2	3.9	4.7	4.1	4.2	(0.5)	2.4
Saving APE share (%)	83.1	84.0	86.6	78.1	82.7	(40)bp	460bp
Protection APE share (%)	16.9	16.0	13.4	21.9	17.3	40bp	(460)bp
VNB calculated (INR bn)	5.9	5.2	8.0	4.6	5.9	1.0	29.5
VNB Margin (%)#	23.4	21.2	22.7	24.5	24.4	104bp	(7)bp
YTD VNB (INR bn)*	10.6	15.8	23.7	4.6	10.5	(0.9)	NA
VNB Margin (%)*	23.7	22.8	22.8	24.5	24.5	80bp	NA

Source: Company, Nuvama Research #Calculated VNB margin for the quarter;\* indicates FYTD VNB and VNB margins

Exhibit 2: APE product mix moves 300bp YoY in favour of non-linked to 22.1%; ULIP sales fall 8.5% YoY

Particulars	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%/bp)	QoQ (%/bp)
Product mix on APE basis (INR bn)							
Individual savings	19.9	17.8	27.8	13.7	18.4	(7.8)	34.0
Non-linked	4.8	4.0	10.0	4.0	5.4	11.9	33.8
ULIP	13.0	12.0	15.2	8.7	11.9	(8.5)	36.1
Group Savings	0.9	2.7	2.5	0.8	1.7	87.5	98.8
Protection	4.2	3.9	4.7	4.1	4.2	(0.5)	2.4
Individual Protection	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.4	22.3
Group Protection	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.5	(2.4)	(7.8)
Individual annuity	2.2	1.8	2.6	1.0	1.2	(47.0)	16.0
Group annuity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NM	NM
Total	25.0	24.4	35.0	18.6	24.2	(3.2)	29.9
Product mix - APE Basis (%)	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%/bp)	QoQ (%/bp)
Individual Savings	79.7	72.9	79.4	73.6	75.9	(380)bp	230bp
Non-linked	19.1	16.2	28.6	21.5	22.1	300bp	60bp
ULIP	51.8	49.2	43.4	46.8	49.0	(280)bp	220bp
Group Savings	3.5	11.0	7.2	4.5	6.8	330bp	240bp
Protection	16.8	16.0	13.4	21.9	17.3	50bp	(460)bp
Individual Protection	6.6	6.1	4.9	7.5	7.0	40bp	(40)bp
Group Protection	10.2	9.9	8.6	14.5	10.3	10bp	(420)bp
Individual Annuity	8.7	7.5	7.4	5.4	4.8	(400)bp	(60)bp
Group Annuity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100		

Source: Company, Nuvama  $\overline{Research}$ 

Exhibit 3: Share of agency declines 630bp YoY to 24.9% while share of banca channel improves 120bp YoY to 30.6%

Channel Mix-APE basis (%)	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%/bp)	QoQ (%/bp)
Bancassurance	29.4	25.0	32.9	29.7	30.6	120bp	90bp
Agency	31.2	29.9	26.5	24.9	24.9	(630)bp	(10)bp
Direct	15.8	14.9	12.5	13.5	14.9	(100)bp	130bp
Corporate Agents	9.9	9.2	12.4	12.9	12.6	260bp	(30)bp
Group	13.7	21.0	15.7	18.9	17.1	340bp	(180)bp
Total	100	100	100	100	100		

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 4: Cost ratios decline YoY; persistency declines across 13th and 61st cohort

Particulars	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%/bp)	QoQ (%/bp)
Cost/TWRP (%)	26.9	24.9	19.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cost/TWRP (savings business) (%)	16.9	14.8	12.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cost/Total premium (%)	NA	NA	NA	21.2	17.7	270bp	350bp
Cost/Total premium (savings business) (%)	NA	NA	NA	14.1	NA	NA	NA
Solvency Ratio (%)	188.6	211.8	212.2	212.3	213.2	2,460bp	90bp
AUM INR bn	3,205	3,104	3,094	3,245	3,215	0.3	(0.9)
Persistency(%)							
13th month persistency	89.8	89.8	89.1	86.0	85.3	(450)bp	(70)bp
25th month persistency	81.0	81.6	82.6	83.4	83.1	210bp	(30)bp
37th month persistency	73.7	74.5	75.2	75.1	75.2	150bp	10bp
49th month persistency	69.9	69.2	69.5	69.8	70.5	60bp	70bp
61st month persistency	65.9	65.3	64.1	63.8	62.9	(300)bp	(90)bp

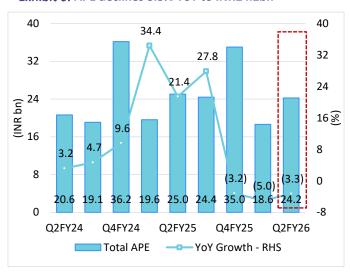
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 5: H1FY26 APE declines 4.1% YoY at INR42.9bn; PAT grew 25.3% YoY to INR6bn in H1FY26

Re-arranged income statement (INR bn)	Q2FY25	Q1FY26	Q2FY26	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	H1FY25	H1FY26	YoY (%)	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Policyholder's account											
Reported APE	25.0	18.6	24.2	(3.3)	29.9	44.7	42.9	(4.1)	111.2	124.7	141.1
Premiums											
- First Year Premium	20.6	14.5	19.8	(4.1)	36.7	35.8	34.2	(4.5)	95.2	109.5	125.9
- Renewal Premium	60.9	49.4	68.5	12.6	38.7	104.2	117.9	13.2	258.5	293.7	335.8
- Single Premium	30.3	25.7	34.7	14.5	35.2	54.6	60.4	10.6	160.2	185.9	215.6
Net premium income	107.5	85.0	118.4	10.1	39.3	186.3	203.5	9.2	503.7	577.3	663.7
Commissions											
- First Year Premium	3.9	2.8	4.9	27.3	76.4	6.5	7.7	18.4	21.9	25.1	28.9
- Renewal Premium	1.3	1.0	1.6	22.5	51.2	2.1	2.6	21.1	5.5	6.2	7.0
- Single Premium	5.1	5.3	6.2	21.1	18.3	9.7	11.5	18.4	21.3	24.7	28.6
Net commissions and rewards	12.3	9.8	12.7	3.1	29.2	21.8	22.6	3.5	49.7	57.2	65.8
Operating expenses related to insurance	10.6	9.1	8.8	(16.7)	(3.0)	20.9	17.9	(14.7)	49.9	56.5	64.3
Provisions and taxes	1.8	2.2	2.2	22.1	1.6	3.6	4.4	22.5	8.8	8.6	8.5
Benefits paid	120.2	97.6	112.8	(6.2)	15.5	215.4	210.4	(2.3)	492.9	491.3	498.3
Other income and trf to shareholders	(0.2)	1.7	4.0	NM	137.1	2.1	5.7	174.4	5.8	6.2	6.7
Net cash flow	(37.6)	(32.0)	(14.1)	NM	NM	(73.4)	(46.1)	NM	(91.8)	(30.2)	33.4
Investment income	142.8	166.5	(2.3)	(101.6)	(101.4)	316.3	164.2	(48.1)	268.7	287.7	310.7
Change in liabilities	104.2	130.7	(21.2)	(120.3)	(116.2)	239.1	109.5	(54.2)	171.5	251.3	336.8
Surplus	0.9	3.8	4.8	422.9	28.9	3.8	8.6	128.4	5.3	6.2	7.2
- transfer to shareholders	1.0	2.7	4.2	312.7	55.3	3.9	6.9	76.7	3.2	3.7	4.3
- FFA	0.1	1.1	0.6	609.1	(38.8)	0.0	1.7	3,924.1	2.1	2.5	2.9
Shareholder's account											
Transfer from policyholder's account	1.0	2.7	4.2	312.7	55.3	3.9	6.9	76.7	3.2	3.7	4.3
Income	1.3	2.5	3.3	159.9	32.2	2.9	5.8	96.3	11.9	12.6	13.3
Expenses including trfs	(0.6)	1.7	4.1	NM	133.2	1.4	5.8	319.3	5.1	5.3	5.6
РВТ	2.9	3.4	3.4	19.6	(0.7)	5.5	6.9	25.8	10.1	11.0	12.1
Taxes	0.3	0.4	0.5	35.1	9.0	0.7	0.9	28.8	1.0	1.1	1.2
PAT	2.5	3.0	3.0	17.5	(2.1)	4.8	6.0	25.3	9.0	9.9	10.9
FDEPS (INR)	1.7	2.1	2.0	17.5	(2.1)	3.3	4.1	25.3	6.4	7.0	7.7

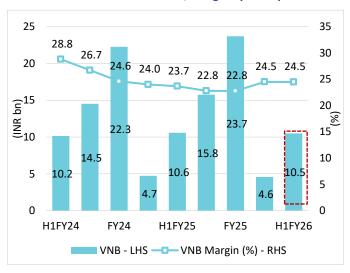
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 6: APE declines 3.3% YoY to INR24.2bn



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 8: VNB increases 1% YoY, margin up 104bp YoY



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 10: Share of agency in mix dips 630bp to 24.9%

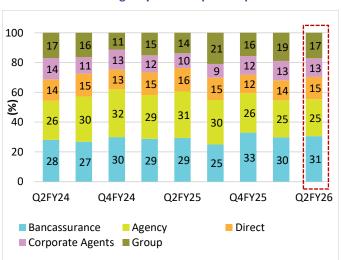
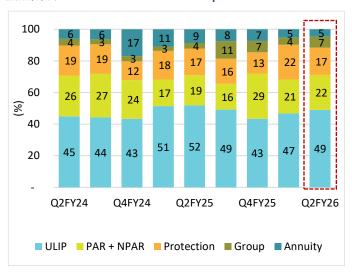
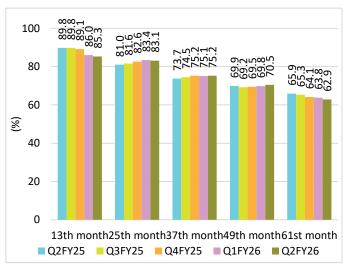


Exhibit 7: ULIP share in mix falls 280bp YoY to 49%



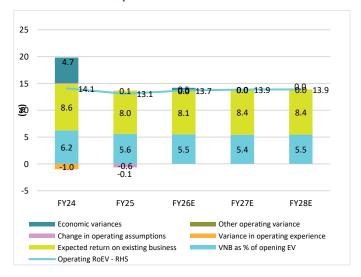
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 9: Persistency declines across 13th and 61st cohorts



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 12: RoEV expected at 13.9% over FY25-27E



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 13: EV movement (INR mn)

EV movement table	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Opening IEV	316,250	356,340	423,350	479,480	546,566	621,310
Net VNB	27,650	22,270	23,700	26,581	29,751	33,976
Expected return on existing business	27,080	30,710	33,900	38,838	45,912	52,190
Variance in Operating experience	1,760	(3,520)	270	100	100	100
Change in operating assumptions	(1,610)	700	(2,540)	0	0	0
Other operating variance	0	0	0	0	0	0
IEV operating earnings	54,880	50,160	55,330	65,519	75,762	86,266
Economic variances	(14,490)	16,910	(240)	2,500	0	0
Other non-operating variances	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total IEV earnings	40,390	67,070	55,090	68,019	75,762	86,266
Capital contributions / dividend payouts	(300)	(60)	1,040	(933)	(1,018)	(1,117)
Closing IEV	356,340	423,350	479,480	546,566	621,310	706,459

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

### **Exhibit 14: Sensitivity analysis**

	F	Y24	FY2	25
Sensitivity Analysis	% ch	nange in	% char	nge in
	VNB	EV	VNB	EV
Increase by 100bps in the reference rates	(11.7)	(3.5)	(3.7)	(3.5)
Decrease by 100bps in the reference rates	10.9	3.8	3.9	3.8
10% increase in the discontinuance rates	(4.8)	(0.4)	(1.6)	(0.4)
10% decrease in the discontinuance rates	5.1	0.4	1.8	0.4
10% increase in mortality/ morbidity rates	(14.9)	(2.0)	(3.6)	(2.4)
10% decrease in mortality/ morbidity rates	15.0	2.1	3.6	2.3
10% increase in acquisition expenses	(18.0)	NA	(3.9)	NA
10% decrease in acquisition expenses	18.1	NA	3.9	NA
10% increase in maintenance expenses	(3.4)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.7)
10% decrease in maintenance expenses	3.4	0.8	0.8	0.7
Tax rates increased to 25%	(11.4)	(6.6)	(2.4)	(6.5)
10% increase in equity values	1.1	1.6	0.3	1.4
10% decrease in equity values	(0.1)	(1.7)	(0.2)	(1.5)

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

**Exhibit 15: Estimates revisions** 

	Earlier		ı	Revised			Change (%/bps)		
(INR bn)	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
APE	115.4	133.4	154.2	111.2	124.7	141.1	(3.7)	(6.5)	(8.5)
VNB	26.6	31.2	36.7	26.6	29.8	34.0	(0.3)	(4.7)	(7.5)
VNB Margin (%)	23.1	23.4	23.8	23.9	23.9	24.1	82bps	45bps	26bps
EV	546.6	622.8	710.9	546.6	621.3	706.5	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.6)
Operating RoEV (%)	13.7	14.1	14.3	13.7	13.9	13.9	-1bps	-27bps	-43bps
Target Price (INR)		770			770		-		
Rating		BUY			BUY				

Source: Nuvama Research

## **Q2FY26** conference call highlights

#### Growth

Management indicated that Q2FY26 APE growth was impacted by a strong base effect (+31% YoY). However, with a more favourable base in H2FY26 and an expected uptick in demand following the GST exemption, growth momentum is likely to improve in the second half and beyond. The company continues to prioritise top-line expansion, which is expected to support sustainable VNB growth over medium term.

#### **VNB** margins

Improvement in VNB margins is attributable to a shift in product mix towards non-linked and protection segments and to ongoing cost control efforts. Management emphasized that higher sum assured, rider attachment, favourable movement in yield curve and longer-tenure products also support margin expansion. While refraining from giving explicit margin guidance, it stated the focus will remain on growing absolute VNB.

### **Changes in GST**

Management highlighted that the GST exemption on individual life insurance products is a positive move expected to boost demand. The non-availability of ITC will have a limited short-term impact (1% of FY25 EV). The company is renegotiating distributor commissions and optimizing costs to offset this. Management clarified that the GST change will be reflected as an assumption change in the EV movement, with the impact being highest on non-par and protection products, followed by linked and par segments.

### **Distribution channels**

#### Agency channel

The agency channel declined 22.8% YoY in Q2FY26, impacted by a high base and lower ULIP and annuity sales. However, management reiterated that the agency channel remains a key focus area.

#### **Bancassurance channel**

In the bancassurance channel, ICICI Bank remained steady around INR1bn per month. Lower ULIP sales impacted overall banca growth. Management noted that after strong 30% growth in H1FY25, H1FY26 appears flat due to the high base.

#### **Product performance**

#### **ULIPs**

ULIP demand remained muted in H1FY26, while management expects an eventual recovery.

#### **Protection**

Group protection remained stable and well-diversified, with strong performance in Group Term, while Credit Life was flat due to weakness in the MFI segment.

#### Non-par segments

In the non-par segment, improved customer preferences drove higher volumes, and the current PAR/NPAR mix stands balanced at 50:50.

Management mentioned that there has been no changes in IRR of NPAR products. However, they expects an uptick in IRR for customer due to removal of GST.

#### Agency

The company added approximately 18,000 agents on a net basis between April and September, representing about 15% of total private sector agent additions

### Other key points

#### Cost

Cost management continues to be effective with expenses in both PAR and NPAR segments maintained within EOM regulatory guidelines. Management stated that its cost control initiatives are aligned to products mix, which the company sells. The company follows the products in demand and then accordingly changes cost as per the product.

### **Persistency**

The drop in 13th-month persistency was explained by the high retention in Mar-23 due to tax changes; this caused a temporary spike in Sep-24 (89.8%), which has now normalised to 85%. Management also mentioned that some persistency cohort level is lower than assumption.

#### ΕV

ANW was impacted by MTM losses on debt and lower persistency. Management stated that the GST impact has been factored into both the existing book and H1FY26 VNB.

### **Company Description**

IPru Life is consistently rated as one of the top players in India's life insurance sector on the basis of APE as well as NBP. It was set up in FY01 as a joint venture between ICICI Bank and Prudential Corporation Holdings. It offers long-term savings (linked, participating and non-participating) and protection products (individual life, credit cover and group life) to meet different life stage requirements of customers. The company was also the first insurance player in India to get listed on NSE and BSE in FY17.

The company reported AUM of INR3.0tn in FY25 end and a solvency ratio of 212.2%, well above the regulatory threshold of 150%. It has a market share on new business sum assured of  $\sim$ 11.9% in FY25.

IPru Life has a high exposure to ULIPs among leading life insurers with 48.3% of total APE for FY25. The residual consists of traditional products — non-linked, and protection at 36.0%/15.7%, respectively. On the distribution front, while agency contributes 28.9% of total APE, balance comes from bancassurance (29.4%), direct (14.4%), partnership distribution (10.9%), and group (16.4%).

Strategy of the company is to create value for stakeholders, namely customers, employees, and shareholders. It aims to grow the absolute VNB through 4P levers—premium growth, protection focus, persistency improvement, and productivity enhancement.

#### **Investment Theme**

Given strong brand name and distribution strength, derived primarily from bancassurance (29.4% share), augmented by a fairly large agency force (contributing 28.9% share), we see IPRU as one of the top insurers in the country. Near term we do see headwinds from the reluctance of ICICI Bank selling insurance but we see IPRU adding new partners to tide over this growth hiccup. VNB margin of 22.8% in FY25 has declined YoY largely on account of product mix shift in favor linked savings.

### **Key Risks**

- Protracted weakness in capital markets affecting ULIP persistency: Limited renewals obviously hurt a largely fixed cost-quasi asset management business through a rundown in asset size and consequent cost-driven profitability pressures
- Any further slowdown in ICICI Bank channel which the company is not able to fill up with business from newer partners
- Regulatory changes that can have a profound impact
- Technology-based disruption attempts, which may break the stranglehold of existing players, if new licenses are granted

## **Additional Data**

### **Management**

CEO	Anup Bagchi
CFO	Dhiren Salian
CDO	Amit Palta
Other	
Auditor	Walker Chandilok & Co. LLP and M.P. Chitale & Co.

## Recent Company Research

Date	Title	Price	Reco
15-Jul-25	Higher protection share drives margins; Result Update	670	Buy
15-Apr-25	In-line performance; Result Update	567	Buy
21-Jan-25	Change in mix hurts margin; Result Update	633	Hold

## Holdings – Top 10\*

	% Holding		% Holding
SBI Funds Manag	2.32	Compassvale inv	1.98
ICICI Prudentia	2.27	CAMAS Inv PTE L	1.76
Norges bank	2.10	Blackrock Inc	1.16
Government Pens	2.07	Vanguard Group	1.08
Republic of Sin	2.00	Baillie Gifford	0.66

<sup>\*</sup>Latest public data

### **Recent Sector Research**

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
09-Oct-25	Life Insurance	Growth to improve; margins tighten; Sector Update
09-Oct-25	Life Insurance	Sep-25: Sales rise post-GST exemption; Sector Update
09-Sep-25	Life Insurance	Aug-25: Growth stutters; Sector Update

## **Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation**



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama research

### Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research

nating nationale & Distribution Natural Research						
Rating	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	Rating Distribution				
Buy	15%	205				
Hold	<15% and >-5%	68				
Reduce	<-5%	37				

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