AXIS DIRECT

Daily Morning Note

20 February 2026

Indices	Current Value	% 1 D	% YTD
Sensex	82,498	-1.5	-3.2
Nifty	25,454	-1.4	-2.6
BSE Midcap	45,668	-1.5	-2.7
BSE Small cap	49,108	-1.2	-4.7
Sectors – Performance (BSE)			
Healthcare	43,040	-0.7	-1.7
Oil & Gas	28,846	-0.8	0.5
IT	31,360	-0.8	-14.6
Realty	6,348	-2.5	-6.7
Power	6,755	-2.2	3.9
Capital Goods	68,578	-2.2	2.2

Nifty Gainers/Losers	CMP	% Chg
ONGC	275	3.8
HINDALCO	906	0.7
HDFCLIFE	733	0.5
BPCL	368	(3.5)
HEROMOTOCO	5,415	(3.2)
TRENT	4,068	(2.8)

FII Trading activities in Cash

	Date	Net	MTD
FII	19-Feb-26	-460	-99
DII	19-Feb-26	-1,082	43

Figs. in Rs Cr.

Global Indices	Current Value	% 1 D	% YTD
Dow Jones	49,395	(0.5)	2.8
Nasdaq	22,683	(0.3)	(2.4)
DAX	25,044	(0.9)	2.3
Nikkei 225	56,776	(1.2)	12.8
FTSE 100	10,627	(0.6)	7.0
Hang Seng	26,424	(1.1)	3.1
Shanghai	4,082	(1.3)	2.9

Forex Rate			
INR/USD	90.7	0.0	-0.9
INR/EUR	107.4	0.1	-1.7
INR/GBP	122.4	0.5	-1.4
INR/YEN (100)	58.5	0.9	-1.9

Source: Bloomberg

Market Commentary

- **Asian markets** are mostly trading lower. The Nikkei and Hang Seng are trading down by 1.14% and 0.18%, respectively. Shanghai is closed for the Spring Festival holiday.
- **Indian indices** are expected to open higher, with GIFT Nifty trading at 25,418 compared to yesterday's Nifty Futures close of 25,409.
- **U.S. markets** remained lower due to US-Iran tension, sector rotation and financial sell-off. The Dow Jones ended lower by 268 points, or 0.54%, to close at 49,395, and the Nasdaq ended lower by 71 points, or 0.31%, to settle at 22,683.

What's Inside:

- **Initiating Coverage: LG Electronics India Ltd (BUY)**
- **Top Conviction Ideas: Retail, FMCG, Pharma & Hospitals**

News in Focus

- **RailTel Corp**: The company secured a Rs 36 Cr railway signalling project from the deputy CSTE/P/CNB.
- **Paras Defence and Space Technologies:** The company acquired a 49% stake in Himanshi Thermal Solutions from DefSpace Tech.
- **Jash Engineering:** NCLT Indore approved the correction of the 'appointed date' regarding the merger of Shivpad Engineers with the company.
- **Pace Digitek**: The company received an order worth Rs 89 Cr from RailTel Corp for the supply of an IP-based video surveillance system.
- **Federal Bank:** The company is set to receive a tax refund of Rs 686 Cr for the AY11-14.
- **Bartronics India:** The company clarified that it has no collaboration with OpenAI and has made no announcements regarding a data centre in Bengaluru.
- **RailVikas Nigam (RVNL):** The Madras HC has closed the company's interim appeal regarding a bid rejection for the Tamil Nadu corridor, directing it to first approach the appellate authority.
- **Texmaco Rail & Engineering:** The company executed a JV shareholders' pact with RVNL to build a rolling stock powerhouse and expand its rail EPC footprint.
- **Blue Jet Healthcare**: The company held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh.
- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**: The company received a tax demand of Rs 216 Cr from the Maharashtra tax body, which also dismissed a separate tax appeal involving Rs 984 Cr.
- **Uflex**: The company acquired a 28% stake in Ampin C&I Power TwentySeven for Rs 6.7 Cr.
- **Euro Pratik:** The company launched new wall panel designs titled "Canfor 2" and "Chisel 2026."
- **Panorama Studios:** The company executed assignment agreements for the films 'Asambhav' and 'Kaisi Ye Paheli.'

LG Electronics India: Company's High-Voltage Growth Story

We are initiating coverage on LG Electronics India Ltd (LGEIL) with a BUY recommendation and a target price of Rs 1,815/share, which implies an upside of 16% from the CMP.

- **Market Leader in a Structurally Strong Space**: LGEIL has been consistently enjoying a high market share across categories, with an increasing share in premium segments and leadership in Side-by-Side refrigerators. Supported by superior R&D and a strong distribution network, the company is expected to maintain its consolidation in premium ranges as well as entry-level brands. It also has further scope to improve market share through entry into LG Essentials (an entry-level brand), capacity enhancements, and a robust supply chain, which should support improvement in the company's overall profitability. The consumer durables sector is expected to witness deeper penetration in tier 2/3 cities, where LGEIL's strong distribution capabilities are likely to further strengthen its overall market position.
- **Innovative Technologies Tailored to Indian Consumers:** Over nearly three decades in India, the company has leveraged LG Electronics' global technology leadership to deliver consumer-centric innovations tailored to local requirements, thereby establishing a strong competitive edge. It has consistently introduced industry-first products, including early launches of OLED, 4K, and Smart TVs, where it commands a dominant market share. Innovation extends across categories through energy-efficient inverter air conditioners, customised washer–dryer solutions suited to Indian climatic conditions, and microwave ovens adapted to Indian cooking habits. Localised design features, supported by a nationwide after-sales service network, further strengthen brand loyalty, reinforcing the company's position as a preferred household electronics brand in India.
- **Operational Efficiencies through Localised Supply Chains:** The company's operational efficiency is supported by a deeply localised and well-integrated supply chain. It works with 287 long-standing suppliers, with an increasing share of components sourced domestically; local procurement has risen to 54% in FY25, lowering costs, mitigating currency risk, and reducing lead times. Large in-house manufacturing capacity, component-level backward integration, and improving utilisation levels support tighter cost control and consistent product quality. The upcoming Sri City plant is expected to further enhance localisation, scale, and logistics efficiency. Along with a wide distribution network, this localisation-led strategy enables competitive pricing, faster market responsiveness, and profitable growth across both premium and mass segments. The company's Rs 705 Cr incentive in the government's manufacturing scheme shows the company's participation in the mega-expansion scheme.
- **Fully Integrated Model for Sustained Profitability:** The company operates a fully integrated business model that consistently delivers strong profitability and superior returns. High capital efficiency, reflected in a ROCE of 41% in FY25, efficient working capital management, and healthy cash generation underpin sustained earnings quality. Integration across manufacturing, product development, and distribution enables effective cost control, scale advantages, and margin stability. Drivers like expansion into B2B segments, doubling exports by FY27, entry into new product categories, and rising localisation under the 'Make in India' initiative further strengthen the operating model. Supported by a strong brand and presence across both value and premium segments, this end-to-end integration positions the company for durable growth and sustainable profitability.

Valuation & Recommendation

We initiate coverage on LG Electronics India (LGEIL) with a BUY recommendation. **We believe the company is well-positioned for sustained profitability and growth supported by its leading market share, brand equity, and deep distribution networks.** We expect a Revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 9%/19%/14% from FY26-28E. Valuing the company at 44x FY28E EPS, we arrive at a target price of Rs 1,815/share, implying an upside of 16% from the CMP.

Key Financials (Consolidated)

(Rs Cr)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	24,367	25,585	28,112	30,642
EBITDA	3,110	2,814	3,514	3,983
Net Profit	2,203	2,145	2,567	2,797
EPS, Rs	32	32	38	41
PER, x	49	50	42	38
EV/EBITDA, x	35	38	31	27
ROE, %	37	31	32	29
Debt/Equity (%)	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7

Source: Company, Axis Securities

CMP as of 18th February 2026

CMP (Rs)	1,561
Upside /Downside (%)	16%
High/Low (Rs)	1,749/1,325
Market cap (Cr)	1,05,945
Avg. daily vol. (1m) Shrs.	9,00,506
No. of shares (Cr)	67.87

Shareholding (%)

	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
Promoter Group	100.0	100.0	85.0
FII	0.0	0.0	3.00
MFs/Banks	0.0	0.0	7.15
Others	0.0	0.0	4.85

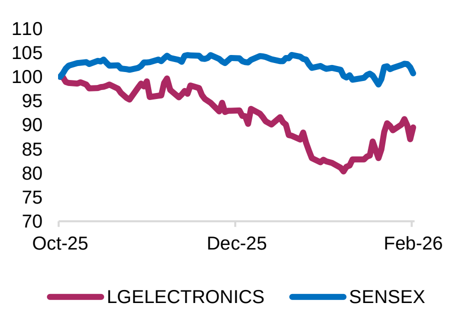
Financial & Valuations

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	24,367	25,585	28,112	30,642
EBITDA	3,110	2,814	3,514	3,983
Net Profit	2,203	2,145	2,567	2,797
EPS, Rs	32	32	38	41
PER, x	49	50	42	38
EV/EBITDA, x	35	38	31	27
ROE, %	37	31	32	29
Debt/Equity (%)	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7

Key Drivers (%) (Growth in %)

Y/E Mar	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	5	10	9
EBITDA	-10	25	13
Net Profit	-3	20	9

Relative Performance



Source: Ace Equity, Axis Securities

Eesha Shah
Research Analyst
Email:Eesha.shah@axissecurities.in

Top Conviction Ideas: Pharma

Stock	Reco.	TP	Recommendation Rationale
Lupin Ltd	BUY	Rs 2,460*	✓ **Strong Set of Results:** Lupin reported a strong quarter, driven by outperformance in the US business led by high-margin complex generics (notably gTolvaptan, Mirabegron and Risperdal Consta) and robust growth across emerging markets. Strong gross margin expansion translated into a sharp EBITDA and PAT beat. Revenue stood at Rs 7,168 Cr (+24% YoY), well above estimates, while EBITDA rose 67% YoY to Rs 2,262 Cr with margins at 31.6%. ✓ **US Market:** Sales stood at $350 Mn (+46% YoY), driven by gTolvaptan contribution along with continued strength in gMirabegron and gSpiriva. Management indicated that the US performance was driven by new launches and seasonality, partially offset by low single-digit price erosion. Tolvaptan (~35% market share) and mirabegron were the largest contributors to growth; seasonal products such as albuterol and oseltamivir also supported performance. The company currently holds ~40% share in generics and ~40% share of the overall molecule and will evaluate further market share. Pegfilgrastim launch is scheduled for Q4, with meaningful contribution expected from FY27. It has tied up with McKesson and Amerisource, and favourable reimbursement outcomes are expected to drive higher uptake. ✓ **Upcoming Pipelines & Opportunities:** Lupin is entering a stronger launch cycle, with multiple complex products lined up to drive the next leg of growth. The near-term trigger is the U.S. launch of Pegfilgrastim (expected before Q4FY26), marking its entry into U.S. biosimilars. Recent complex launches such as gRisperdal Consta (from the Nanomi long-acting platform) continue to scale, reinforcing its shift toward high-barrier injectables. Over the next three years, the injectables and 505(b) (2) portfolio is targeted to exceed $100 Mn in annual revenues, supported by a growing institutional business. In respiratory, gDulera progression and planned advancement of Mepolizumab add further optionality. Over the long term, the biosimilars roadmap led by bRanibizumab (FY27), followed by bAflibercept and bEtanercept (FY29–30), provides sustained pipeline visibility and margin-accretive growth.

Note: Target Price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update Report

Top Conviction Ideas: Pharma

Stock	Reco.	TP	Recommendation Rationale
Aurobindo Pharma Ltd	BUY	Rs 1,345*	✓ **Growth Driven by Base Business:** Aurobindo reported Q3FY26 revenue of Rs 8,646 Cr, marking 8.4% YoY and 4.3% QoQ growth. Performance was supported by steady traction in the core base business, with the US contributing ~$420 Mn. The US Injectables segment also reported healthy growth of 17% YoY, while Europe formulations emerged as the key growth engine, delivering strong 27.4% YoY growth to Rs 2,703 Cr, reflecting improved product mix and capacity utilisation. Management highlighted that growth was driven by market expansion and strong momentum in key geographies, including France, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Germany. ✓ **Ramp-up in Pen-G:** The Pen-G facility continues to scale up, currently operating at ~10,000 MT (Jan'26). Management expects capacity utilisation to reach 65–70% by the end of Mar'26, with ~60% of output earmarked for captive consumption. The recent imposition of Minimum Import Prices (MIP) at $24/kg for Pen-G and $37/kg for 6-APA is expected to be a key catalyst for progressing toward full capacity utilisation, driving meaningful EBITDA accretion from Q1FY27 onwards. ✓ **New Launches:** In the US, the launch engine remained strong with nine new product launches during the quarter, and the Dayton facility transitioned into commercialisation. Inorganic growth through the proposed Lannett acquisition, expected to close in Q1FY27, is set to strengthen the US OSD portfolio, particularly in complex products such as gAdvair. Additionally, management has identified CY29 as an inflexion year for the biosimilars business, with products such as bDenosumab and bOmalizumab progressing toward global filings by Jun/Jul'26 and subsequent commercialisation. ✓ **Outlook:** Aurobindo Pharma's outlook is anchored by a transition from high-intensity capex to operational monetisation across its global footprint. Management maintains confidence in achieving an internal EBITDA margin target of 20–21% for FY26, supported by strong operating leverage and a diversified business model. In the US, the Dayton facility has entered its commercial phase, with meaningful revenue contributions expected from FY27, while the pending Lannett acquisition, targeted for a Q1FY27 close, is expected to further strengthen the base business. Europe remains a key growth driver and is firmly on track to exceed $1 Bn in annual revenue by FY26- end. A major structural tailwind is the Pen-G facility, where production is ramping up to an annualised 10,000 MT. Following the MIP notification, management expects meaningful profitability improvement and enhanced cost competitiveness from Q1FY27. Additionally, the China OSD plant is progressing toward EBITDA breakeven in Q4FY26, while the biosimilars business is being positioned for a major commercial inflexion in CY29.

***** Note: Target Price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update Report***

Top Conviction Ideas: Hospitals

Stock	Reco.	TP	Recommendation Rationale
Max Healthcare Institute Ltd	BUY	Rs 1,250*	✓ **Max Healthcare Revenue Rises; Domestic Challenges Persist:** Max Healthcare reported net revenue of Rs 2,484 Cr, up 9% YoY but down 3.7% QoQ, moderately below expectations. Performance was supported by stable ARPOB; however, revenues were impacted by (1) lower incidence of borne diseases affecting occupancy, (2) temporary substitution of Standalone Health Insurer (SAHI) patients with PSU beneficiaries due to disruption in cashless services (largely resolved toward quarter-end), and (3) discontinuation of high-value patented chemotherapy drugs following restrictive CGHS pricing guidelines. The upward revision in CGHS tariffs, expected to be fully implemented by Apr'26, should partially offset these pressures. International patient revenue grew 14% YoY, contributing 9% of total revenue ✓ **EBITDA Margins and Profitability**: EBITDA margins declined 87 bps YoY and 76 bps QoQ to 25.5%, driven by transitional payor mix shifts and regulatory pricing changes in oncology drugs. EBITDA grew 5.3% YoY but declined 6.5% QoQ. Reported PAT stood at Rs 344 Cr, impacted by a one-time labour provision of Rs 55 Cr. Adjusted PAT was Rs 399 Cr. We believe margins are likely to normalise going forward, supported by the implementation of revised CGHS rates, ramp-up and operating leverage from recently added beds, and resolution of SAHI-related cashless service disruptions, which should improve the payor mix and profitability. ✓ **Expansion-Focused Growth with Prudent Leverage:** Max Healthcare continues to pursue an aggressive yet capital-efficient brownfield expansion strategy, underpinning strong multi-year growth visibility. Bed capacity is targeted to scale from ~5,000 beds in FY25 to 9,000–9,500 by 2028. Recently commissioned projects include a 400-bed tower at Max Smart Saket, along with phased additions at Nanavati Max (Mumbai) and Max Mohali, both already EBITDA accretive with margins of 31% and 39%, respectively. Despite deploying Rs 408 Cr in quarterly capex, the balance sheet remains robust with net debt at Rs 2,166 Cr, keeping Net Debt/EBITDA well below 1.0x. Management has further approved a 260-bed expansion at Max Dwarka and secured land in Pune for a future 450-bed hospital. ✓ **Outlook & Guidance:** Max Healthcare Institute maintains a positive multi-year outlook, underpinned by 6–7% ARPOB growth in mature hospitals and a sustained network occupancy target of ~80%. This trajectory is reinforced by an aggressive expansion plan, on track to add ~1,500 beds in FY26, including the recently commissioned 160-bed expansion at Max Mohali and phased commissioning at Nanavati Max (Mumbai) and Max Smart (Saket). Management expects a meaningful long-term tailwind from the recent CGHS rate revision, translating into a revenue uplift of ~ Rs 200 Cr. Given the largely fixed cost base, 85–90% of this incremental revenue is expected to flow through to EBITDA. While partial benefits should accrue in the near term, the full impact—particularly from the newly introduced "super-speciality hospital" category, which carries a 15% higher tariff—should materialise from FY27 onwards. Concurrently, the company remains focused on scaling high-margin oncology services and international patient volumes, which should further support margin normalisation and earnings compounding over the medium term.

Note: Target Price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update Report

Top Conviction Ideas: Hospitals

Stock	Reco.	TP	Recommendation Rationale
Fortis Healthcare Ltd	BUY	Rs 1,070*	✓ Fortis delivered a strong operational quarter with 17.5% YoY growth in consolidated revenue to Rs 2,265 Cr, driven primarily by the hospital segment. Hospital revenue stood at Rs 1,938 Cr (+19.4% YoY), while Agilus reported 7.2% YoY growth in net revenue to Rs 327 Cr. Margin expansion was visible across both hospital and diagnostics segments on a YoY basis. ✓ ARPOB stood at Rs 70,100 (+4.5% YoY), while occupancy remained stable at 67%, supported by a 14% YoY growth in occupied bed days. Hospital EBITDA margin expanded to 21.7% (+165 bps YoY), though declined 120 bps QoQ due to seasonality. ✓ **Cluster-led Expansion Strategy on Track:** Fortis continues to execute its cluster-based growth strategy, adding ~750 operational beds YTD through acquisitions and leases. The Rs 430 Cr acquisition of People Tree Hospital in Bengaluru provides an immediate 125-bed presence in a key micro-market, with adjacent land enabling expansion to 300+ beds. Alongside inorganic additions, the launch of specialised facilities such as Adayu (mental health) strengthens Fortis' positioning in high-demand urban clusters and enhances clinical depth. ✓ **Outlook:** Fortis Healthcare's management maintains a highly positive outlook for FY26 and beyond, projecting a sustained growth trajectory driven by aggressive brownfield expansion and optimised clinical operations. The company expects to maintain its current momentum with mid-to-high teens revenue growth in the hospital segment, while targeting a consolidated EBITDA margin of 24–25% over the next two years, up from the current 22.3%. Forward-looking growth is anchored by a significant capacity roadmap to add over 3,200 beds by 2030, with approximately 430 beds slated for operationalisation in FY27, including the key 200-bed new block at the FMRI flagship hospital. Management anticipates occupancy rates will recover from 67% to reach 70–75% within the next year as new assets like Adayu and People Tree Hospital ramp up, while ARPOB is guided to grow at a sustainable 4–5% annually, primarily through an improved speciality mix and higher-complexity quaternary care.

***Note: Target Price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update Report**

Top Conviction Ideas

Stock	Reco.	TP*	Recommendation Rationale
Nestle India	BUY	Rs 1,500*	✓ **Stellar Performance:** Nestlé reported an 18.5% YoY growth in revenue, supported by its strongest volume expansion in nearly five years. Performance was driven by double-digit growth in confectionery and MAGGI noodles, along with robust growth in beverages and prepared dishes, while the Milk & Nutrition portfolio delivered mid-single-digit growth. Management attributed the strong quarter to capacity additions, sustained brand investments, market recovery, and benefits from GST-related changes. EBITDA grew by ~11% YoY; however, margins contracted by 148 bps to 21.3%, impacted by gross margin pressure of 68 bps due to higher input costs and elevated operating expenses associated with ongoing expansion initiatives. ✓ **GST Reforms – A Structural Positive:** The GST rate reduction to 5% on packaged foods, dairy products, noodles, pasta, sauces, and ketchup is expected to enhance affordability and stimulate discretionary demand. Nestlé, with its wide presence in these categories, stands to be a key beneficiary, particularly in noodles and cooking aids. ✓ **Outlook:** Nestlé remains well-positioned for long-term growth, underpinned by its dominant domestic franchise, continued innovation, distribution-led market penetration, capacity expansion, and increasing out-of-home consumption. While volatile commodity prices, especially in coffee, cocoa, and edible oils, may keep near-term margins under pressure, the expected moderation in milk prices alongside its strong pricing power and efficiency initiatives should partly offset cost headwinds.

Note: The Target price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update. We remain positive on the stock's long-term prospects and recommend 'BUY on Dips'.

Top Conviction Ideas

Stock	Reco.	TP*	Recommendation Rationale
Britannia Industries	BUY	Rs 7,170*	✓ **Resilient Performance amid Transitional Headwinds:** Britannia reported a healthy Q3FY26 performance, with revenue rising 9.5% YoY, supported by benign input costs, steady traction in core biscuits and adjacent categories, and continued supply chain efficiencies. While the biscuit category continues to recalibrate price points following the GST revision, growth accelerated to 12% in November–December. This was driven by sustained media investments and portfolio expansion through innovations such as the 50-50 Dipped range, veg cake variants, and Doodh Marie Gold, enabling wider consumer reach and improved category momentum. ✓ **Outlook:** Most FMCG players like Britannia are seeing early demand recovery across urban and rural markets, supported by stable input costs and improving margins. The recent GST cuts on key food items should enhance affordability, lift consumer sentiment, and drive stronger traction in daily-use and low-unit-price SKUs. Demand recovery is expected to accelerate, positioning branded FMCG and discretionary categories for healthier volume growth in the near term.

Note: The Target price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update. We remain positive on the stock's long-term prospects and recommend 'BUY on Dips'.

Top Conviction Ideas

Stock	Reco.	TP*	Recommendation Rationale
DOMS Industries	BUY	Rs 3,000*	✓ **The company has been executing strategic initiatives over the past few years, which are expected to drive growth in the coming years. Key initiatives include:** 1. Managing end-to-end operations to enhance efficiency while maintaining high-quality standards. The new 44-acre greenfield facility will further accelerate growth. 2. Expanding beyond the small pencil segment into the larger pens category, broadening the product portfolio. Additionally, entering fast-growing segments such as bags, toys, and diapers will provide an incremental growth boost. 3. Significant potential for distribution expansion, with DOMS currently reaching 1.5 Lc outlets. The company has scope to scale up to ~3-3.5 Lc outlets, particularly in the underpenetrated east and south markets and smaller towns in India. 4. The strategic partnership with FILA, enabling DOMS to expand its global footprint while leveraging FILA's R&D capabilities, offering a long-term competitive edge.

Note: The Target price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update. We remain positive on the stock's long-term prospects and recommend 'BUY on Dips'.

Top Conviction Ideas: Retail

Stock	Reco.	TP	Recommendation Rationale
V-Mart	BUY	Rs 760*	✓ **Resilient Performance:** V-Mart reported resilient performance in Q3FY26, with revenue growing 9.7% YoY and 39.6% QoQ to Rs 1,126 Cr. The quarter saw a shift in sales due to a larger share of Durga Puja moving to Q2 in FY26 compared with the previous year. Same-store sales growth (SSSG) for V-Mart was flat, while Unlimited stores reported 2% growth, resulting in an overall flat SSSG. On a cumulative basis, Q2 and Q3 FY26 results, adjusted for festive timing distortions, showed a combined SSSG of 5% and revenue growth of 15%. EBITDA grew 22.3% YoY to Rs 210 Cr, with margin expansion of 190 bps to 18.6%, driven by improved gross margin (+40 bps YoY to 36.2%), lower employee costs (-25 bps YoY), and reduced other operating expenses (-126 bps YoY). ✓ **Expansion Strategy:** During the quarter, the company opened 23 new stores (21 V-Mart and 2 Unlimited) and closed 2 stores (1 V-Mart and 1 Unlimited), taking the total store count to 554 (V-Mart - 458, Unlimited - 96). Over the medium to long term, the company targets a 13–14% annual increase in square footage, with 60–65% of new stores coming from the same states but different towns. ✓ **Positive Long-term View:** V-Mart is well-placed to benefit from rural recovery and market share gains from unorganised players. Strong footfalls, disciplined cost control, and steady store expansion should aid performance, while the recent announcement on GST rate cut is likely to spur consumption and boost discretionary spending.

Note: The Target price is based on our Q3FY26 Result Update. We remain positive on the stock's long-term prospects and recommend 'BUY on Dips.'

Axis Intellect: Intraweek Stocks for the week 16th Feb 2026 to 23rd Feb 2026

Name of Stock	Mcap	Sector
CANARA BANK	Large Cap	Banks
FSN E-COMMERCE VENTURES LIMITED	Mid Cap	Discretionary
ANAND RATHI WEALTH LIMITED	Small Cap	NBFC
RBL BANK LIMITED	Small Cap	Banks
SBI LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED	Large Cap	NBFC
CRAFTSMAN AUTOMATION LIMITED	Small Cap	Auto & Anc
ASHOK LEYLAND LTD	Mid Cap	Auto & Anc
ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LTD	Mid Cap	NBFC
BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPN LTD	Large Cap	Oil & gas
CHOICE INTERNATIONAL LTD	Small Cap	NBFC

AXIS DIRECT

Investment Picks

Company	Recommendation	CMP	Target Price	% Upside
Aarti Drugs Ltd	BUY	369	480	30.0
Aarti Industries Ltd	BUY	453	530	17.1
ACC Ltd	BUY	1,613	2,390	48.2
Affle 3I Ltd	BUY	1,496	2,200	47.1
Ahluwalia Contracts (India) Ltd	BUY	810	915	13.0
Ambuja Cements Ltd	BUY	515	590	14.5
Aptus Value Housing Finance India Ltd	BUY	244	350	43.4
Arvind Smartspaces Ltd	BUY	547	750	37.1
Ashok Leyland Ltd	BUY	203	230	13.4
AU Small Finance Bank Ltd	BUY	1,014	1,160	14.4
Aurobindo Pharma Ltd	BUY	1,172	1,345	14.8
Avenue Supermarts Ltd	BUY	3,839	4,450	15.9
Bajaj Auto Ltd	BUY	9,722	10,790	11.0
Bajaj Finance Ltd	BUY	1,007	1,150	14.2
Bank of Baroda Ltd	BUY	303	360	18.7
Bharti Airtel Ltd	BUY	1,982	2,530	27.7
Biocon Ltd	BUY	381	435	14.2
Birla Corporation Ltd	BUY	1,025	1,375	34.1
Britannia Industries Ltd	BUY	6,100	7,170	17.5
Can Fin Homes Ltd	BUY	886	1,125	27.0
CCL Products (India) Ltd	BUY	990	1,140	15.2
Cera Sanitaryware Ltd.	BUY	5,094	7,000	37.4
Chalet Hotels Ltd.	BUY	852	1,120	31.4
Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd	BUY	1,680	2,000	19.1
Cipla Ltd	BUY	1,329	1,480	11.4
City Union Bank Ltd	BUY	284	360	27.0
Coforge Ltd	BUY	1,357	2,300	69.5
Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd	BUY	2,172	2,570	18.3
CreditAccess Grameen Ltd	BUY	1280	1,585	23.8
Dabur India Ltd	BUY	501	595	18.8
Dalmia Bharat Ltd	BUY	2,098	2,520	20.1
DCB Bank Ltd	BUY	191	225	18.0
Dhanuka Agritech Ltd	BUY	1,107	1,600	44.5
DOMS Industries Ltd	BUY	2,320	3,000	29.3
Elecon Engineering Compan Ltd	BUY	423	635	50.1
Embassy Office Parks REIT	BUY	433	505	16.6
Endurance Technologies Ltd	BUY	2,440	2,880	18.0
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd	BUY	67	85	26.9
Ethos Ltd	BUY	2,485	3,020	21.5
Federal Bank Ltd	BUY	288	320	11.2
Fortis Healthcare Ltd	BUY	907	1,070	18.0
G R Infraprojects Ltd	BUY	985	1,540	56.3
Genus Power Infrastructures Ltd	BUY	263	355	34.8
Gland Pharma Ltd	BUY	1,830	2,170	18.6
Global Health Ltd	BUY	1,142	1,280	12.1
Gravita India Ltd	BUY	1,633	2,200	34.7
Greenply Industries Ltd.	BUY	222	330	49.0
H. G. Infra Engineering Ltd	BUY	605	970	60.3
Happiest Minds Technologies Ltd.	BUY	387	520	34.3
HCL Technologies Ltd	BUY	1,452	1,880	29.4
HDFC Bank Ltd	BUY	914	1,190	30.2
HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd	BUY	589	750	27.3
Hero MotoCorp Ltd	BUY	5,405	6,400	18.4
ICICI Bank Ltd	BUY	1,389	1,700	22.4

AXIS DIRECT

Investment Picks

Company	Recommendation	CMP	Target Price	% Upside
IDFC First Bank Ltd	BUY	83	101	22.3
Indian Hotels Company Ltd	BUY	670	820	22.4
Infosys Ltd	BUY	1,367	1,820	33.2
Inox Wind Ltd	BUY	96	130	34.8
J K Cements Ltd	BUY	5,748	6,570	14.3
J.Kumar Infraprojects Ltd	BUY	547	715	30.7
JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd	BUY	718	890	24.0
JSW Energy Ltd.	BUY	480	630	31.3
Juniper Hotels Ltd.	BUY	227	295	30.0
K E C International Ltd	BUY	583	920	57.7
Kalpataru Projects International Ltd.	BUY	1,095	1,450	32.4
Kirloskar Brothers Ltd	BUY	1,591	2,330	46.4
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd	BUY	417	515	23.5
KPIT Technologies Ltd	BUY	848	1,130	33.2
LG Electronics India Ltd	BUY	1,542	1,815	17.7
LTIMindtree Ltd	BUY	4,940	7,300	47.8
Lupin Ltd	BUY	2,224	2,460	10.6
Mahanagar Gas Ltd	BUY	1,285	1,540	19.8
Man Infraconstruction Ltd.	BUY	111	130	17.1
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd	BUY	14,880	16,860	13.3
MAS Financial Services Ltd	BUY	330	425	28.7
Max Healthcare Institute	BUY	1,075	1,250	16.3
Minda Corporation Ltd	BUY	571	710	24.3
Mold-Tek Packaging Ltd	BUY	557	800	43.7
Nestle India Ltd	BUY	1,278	1,500	17.4
Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd	BUY	941	1,085	15.3
NLC India Ltd	BUY	258	300	16.2
Oberoi-Realty-Ltd	BUY	1,504	1,725	14.7
Persistent Systems Ltd	BUY	5,265	7,170	36.2
Pitti Engineering Ltd	BUY	890	1,230	38.2
Prestige Estates Projects Ltd	BUY	1,488	1,900	27.7
Prince Pipes and Fittings Ltd	BUY	263	400	52.1
Rainbow Children's Medicare Ltd.	BUY	1,205	1,625	34.9
Rites Ltd	BUY	219	275	25.6
SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd	BUY	795	900	13.2
SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd	BUY	2,045	2,450	19.8
Shriram Finance Ltd	BUY	1,051	1,200	14.2
Skipper Ltd	BUY	375	470	25.3
Star Cement Ltd	BUY	214	320	49.8
Tata Consultancy Services Ltd	BUY	2,675	3,565	33.3
Tech Mahindra Ltd	BUY	1,476	1,870	26.7
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd	BUY	62	74	19.2
UltraTech Cement Ltd	BUY	12,664	14,000	10.5
V Mart Retail Ltd	BUY	578	760	31.5
VA Tech Wabag Ltd.	BUY	1,272	1,930	51.7
Varun Beverages Ltd	BUY	452	520	15.1
Welspun Living Ltd	BUY	137	165	20.3
Westlife Foodworld Ltd	BUY	509	600	17.9

Trading Insights

Insight from trading volumes

Script	CMP	Total Volume (x1000)	Monthly Avg Volume(x1000)	% Change
OIL & NATURAL GAS CORP LTD	275	40,118	21,884	83.3%
BAJAJ AUTO LTD	9,729	320	285	12.1%
GAIL INDIA LTD	167	17,319	15,495	11.8%
SHREE CEMENT LTD	26,215	34	31	8.1%
INFOSYS LTD	1,371	15,245	14,262	6.9%
LARSEN & TOUBRO LTD	4,281	2,437	2,342	4.0%
BAJAJ FINANCE LTD	1,017	9,995	9,825	1.7%

Insight from delivery

Script	CMP	Total Delivery Volume(x1000)	Monthly Avg Delivery Volume(x1000)	%Change
OIL & NATURAL GAS CORP LTD	275	17,350	11,101	56.3%
BAJAJ FINANCE LTD	1,017	7,875	6,402	23.0%
LARSEN & TOUBRO LTD	4,281	1,599	1,457	9.8%
GAIL INDIA LTD	167	10,558	9,686	9.0%
BAJAJ AUTO LTD	9,729	149	142	5.1%
INDIAN OIL CORP LTD	174	8,626	8,553	0.8%
ASIAN PAINTS LTD	2,401	884	908	-2.6%

*CMP-Closing Market Price

Axis Direct is the brand under Axis Securities Limited, which is a 100% subsidiary of Axis Bank Limited. Axis Bank Ltd. is a listed public company and one of India's largest private sector banks, and has its various subsidiaries engaged in businesses of Asset management, NBFC, Merchant Banking, Trusteeship, Venture Capital, Stock Broking, the details in respect of which are available on www.axisbank.com.

Axis Securities Limited is registered as a

- Stock Broker, Depository Participant, Portfolio Manager, Investment Adviser and Research Analyst with the Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Corporate Agent with Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- Point of Presence with Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- Distributor for Mutual Funds with AMFI

Registration Details:

SEBI Single Reg. No.- NSE, BSE, MSEI, MCX & NCDEX – INZ000161633 | SEBI Depository Participant Reg. No. IN-DP-403-2019 | Portfolio Manager Reg. No.- INP000000654 | Investment Advisor Reg No. INA000000615 | SEBI-Research Analyst Reg. No. INH000000297 | IRDA Corporate Agent (Composite) Reg. No. CA0073| PFRDA – POP Reg. No. POP387122023 | Mutual Fund Distributor ARN- 64610.

Compliance Officer Details: Name – Mr Rajiv Kejriwal, Tel No. – 022-68555574, Email id – compliance.officer@axisdirect.in.;

Registered Office Address – Axis Securities Limited, Unit No.002, Building- A, Agastya Corporate Park, Piramal Realty, Kamani Junction, Kurla (W), Mumbai – 400070.

Administrative office address: Axis Securities Limited, Aurum Q Parć, Q2 Building, Unit No. 1001, 10th Floor, Level – 6, Plot No. 4/1 TTC, Thane – Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai, Pin Code – 400710.

In case of any grievances, please call us at 022-40508080 or write to us at helpdesk@axisdirect.in.

We hereby declare that our activities have neither been suspended nor have we defaulted with any stock exchange authority with whom we are registered in the last five years. However, SEBI, Exchanges, Clearing Corporations and Depositories, etc. have conducted the routine inspection and based on their observations have issued advice/warning/show cause notices/deficiency letters/ or levied penalty or imposed charges for certain deviations observed in inspections or in the normal course of business, as a Stock Broker/Depository Participant/Portfolio Manager. We have not been debarred from doing business by any Stock Exchange/SEBI or any other authorities; nor has our certificate of registration been cancelled by SEBI at any point in time.

Investments in the securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.
By referring to any particular sector, Axis Securities does not provide any promise or assurance of a favourable view for a particular industry or sector or business group in any manner.

Registration granted by SEBI, membership of RAASB (in case of RA's) and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors. None of the research recommendations promise or guarantee any assured, minimum or risk-free return to the investors. Our research should not be considered as an advertisement or advice, professional or otherwise. This research report and its respective content by Axis Securities made available on this page or otherwise do not constitute an offer to sell or purchase or subscribe for any securities or solicitation of any investments or investment services for the residents of Canada and/or the USA or any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal.

Subject company(ies) may have been clients during the twelve months preceding the date of distribution of the research report. Derivatives are a sophisticated investment device. The investor is requested to take into consideration all the risk factors before actually trading in derivative contracts.

Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. Information, opinions and estimates contained in this report reflect a judgment of its original date of publication by ASL and are subject to change without notice. The price, value of and income from any of the securities or financial instruments mentioned in this report can fall as well as rise. The value of securities and financial instruments is subject to exchange rate fluctuation that may have a positive or adverse effect on the price or income of such securities or financial instruments.

The information and opinions in this report have been prepared by Axis Securities and are subject to change without notice. The report and information contained herein are strictly confidential and meant solely for the selected recipient and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent of Axis Securities. The report must not be used as a singular basis for any investment decision. The views herein are of a general nature and do not consider the risk appetite, investment objective or the particular circumstances of an individual investor. The investor is requested to take into consideration all the risk factors, including their financial condition, suitability to risk return profile and the like and take professional advice before investing.

While we would endeavour to update the information herein on a reasonable basis, Axis Securities is under no obligation to update or keep the information current. Also, there may be regulatory, compliance or other reasons that may prevent Axis Securities from doing so. Non-rated securities indicate that the rating on a particular security has been suspended temporarily and such suspension is in compliance with applicable regulations and/or Axis Securities policies, in circumstances where Axis Securities might be acting in an advisory capacity to this company, or in certain other circumstances.

This report is based on information obtained in good faith from public sources and sources believed to be reliable, but no independent verification has been made, nor is its accuracy or completeness guaranteed. This report and information herein are solely for informational purposes and shall not be used or considered as an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments. Though disseminated to all the customers simultaneously, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. Axis Securities will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this report. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting and/or tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your specific circumstances.

UTTAM KUMAR SRIMAL Digitally signed by UTTAM KUMAR SRIMAL Date: 2026.02.20 04:14:40 +05'30'

The securities discussed and opinions expressed in this report may not be suitable for all investors, who must make their own investment decisions, based on their own investment objectives, financial positions and the needs of the specific recipient. This may not be taken in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment by any recipient. The recipient should independently evaluate the investment risks. The value and return on investment may vary because of changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or any other reason. Axis Securities accepts no liabilities whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investors are advised to see the Risk Disclosure Document to understand the risks associated before investing in the securities markets. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in projections. Forward-looking statements are not predictions and may be subject to change without notice. Axis Securities or its associates might have managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for the subject company or might have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past twelve months. Axis Securities or its associates might have received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report during the period preceding twelve months from the date of this report for services in respect of managing or co-managing public offerings, corporate finance, investment banking or merchant banking, brokerage services or other advisory services in a merger or specific transaction. Axis Securities or its associates might have received any compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking, or brokerage services from the companies mentioned in the report in the past twelve months. Axis Securities encourages independence in research report preparation and strives to minimise conflict in the preparation of research reports. Axis Securities or its associates, or its analysts, did not receive any compensation or other benefits from the companies mentioned in the report or a third party in connection with the preparation of the research report. Accordingly, neither Axis Securities nor Research Analysts and/or their relatives have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this report. Please note that Axis Securities has a proprietary trading desk. This desk maintains an arm’s length distance from the Research team, and all its activities are segregated from Research activities. The proprietary desk operates independently, potentially leading to investment decisions that may deviate from research views.

Compensation of our Research Analysts is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

Research Analyst may have served as an officer, director or employee of the subject company(ies). Axis Securities or Research Analysts, or their relatives, do not own 1% or more of the equity securities of the Company mentioned in the report as of the last day of the month preceding the publication of the research report. Since associates of Axis Securities and Axis Securities as an entity are engaged in various financial service businesses, they might have financial interests or actual/beneficial ownership of one per cent or more or other material conflicts of interest in various companies, including the subject company/companies mentioned in this report. Axis Securities may have issued other reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusions from the information presented in this report. Certain transactions- including those involving futures, options and other derivatives as well as non-investment grade securities - involve substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. Reports based on technical analysis centre on studying charts of a stock's price movement and trading volume, as opposed to focusing on a company's fundamentals and as such, may not match with a report on a company's fundamentals.

We and our affiliates/associates, officers, directors, and employees, Research Analyst(including relatives) worldwide may: (a) from time to time, have long or short positions in, and buy or sell the securities thereof, of company (ies) mentioned herein or (b) be engaged in any other transaction involving such securities and earn brokerage or other compensation or act as a market maker in the financial instruments of the subject company/company (ies) discussed herein or act as advisor or lender/borrower to such company (ies) or have other potential/material conflict of interest with respect to any recommendation and related information and opinions at the time of publication of Research Report or at the time of public appearance. Axis Securities may have proprietary long/short positions in the above-mentioned scrip(s) and therefore may be considered as interested. This should not be construed as an invitation or solicitation to do business with Axis Securities. Axis Securities is also a Portfolio Manager. Portfolio Management Team (PMS) takes its investment decisions independently of the PCG research, and accordingly, PMS may have positions contrary to the PCG research recommendation.

This research report is issued in India by Axis Securities Limited in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014. It is intended solely for persons residing in India. The report is not directed at or intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity resident in the United States of America, Canada, or in any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability, or use would be contrary to applicable securities laws, including the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and regulations of the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA).