CD Ratio Normalized, Margins Bottoming

CMP: INR 1,957

Rating: BUY

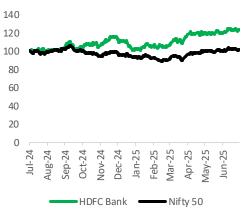
Target Price: INR 2,409

Stock Info	
BSE	500180
NSE	HDFCBANK
Bloomberg	HDFCB IN
Reuters	HDBK.BO
Sector	Banks
Face Value (INR)	1
Equity Capital (INR Mn)	7,648
Mkt Cap (INR Bn)	15,009
52w H/L (INR)	2,027 / 1,589
Avg Yearly Vol (in 000')	15,137

Shareholding Pattern %			
(As on June, 2025)			
Promoters	-		
Public & Others	100		

Stock Performance (%)	1m	6m	12m
HDFC Bank	3.46	20.84	23.63
Nifty 50	1.44	8.15	1.66

HDFC Bank Vs Nifty



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HDFC Bank has posted a decent set of Q1FY26 earnings with a net profit of INR 182 Bn, slight deterioration in asset quality (GNPAs/NNPAs up 7 bps/4 bps QoQ), and declared an interim dividend of INR 5 per share. Net Interest Income for Q1FY26 stood at INR 314.4 Bn against our estimates of INR 320.8 Bn, down by 1.96% QoQ / up by 5.4% YoY. Adjusted PPOP came at INR 266.0 Bn against our estimates of INR 261.6 Bn, up 0.25% QoQ / up by 11.39% YoY. Provisions stood at INR 144.4 Bn against our estimates of INR 32.6 Bn increasing by 352.3% QoQ / up by 455.0% YoY. PAT stood at INR 181.6 Bn against our estimates of INR 172.8 Bn increasing by 3.1% QoQ / up by 12.2% YoY. GNPA came at 1.40% up 7 bps QoQ / down by 3 bps YoY against our estimates of 1.30% while NNPA was at 0.47% against our estimates of 0.47% up 4 bps QoQ / up 1 bps YoY. Deposits increased by 1.8% QoQ / up 16.2% YoY to INR 27,641 Bn. Advances increased by 0.34% QoQ / up 6.7% YoY to INR 26,284 Bn. HDFC Bank reported transaction gains of INR 91.3 billion from a partial divestment through an offer for sale in the recent IPO of its subsidiary, HDB Financial Services Ltd.

Margin Resilience Despite Repricing Headwinds; Stability Expected by FY-End: The bank's NIM trajectory reflects short-term pressure due to faster repricing of the asset side (floating rate book ~70%) compared to the liability side (more fixed in nature). With EBLR forming around 65-67% of the book, recent repo rate cuts have already impacted yields on assets, causing a ~22 basis point QoQ decline in yield in Q1FY26. However, management expects this lead-lag effect to fade gradually, as the average maturity of deposits (~12–18 months) allows the cost of funds to adjust. Importantly, no further policy rate cuts and stabilizing deposit costs are expected to restore NIMs toward Q4FY26. The bank continues to manage deposit pricing prudently and does not chase irrational pricing. As a result, while short-term margin compression is acknowledged, the long-term margin outlook remains constructive.

Strategic Shift to Sustainable and Broad-Based Loan Growth from FY26 Onwards: HDFC Bank aims to align its loan growth with the system average in FY26 and outperform the system in FY27. Advances had grown only 7% YoY last year due to the bank's focus on CD ratio correction, but this has already picked up to 8% YoY in Q1FY26. Importantly, disbursal growth is expected to outpace loan book growth due to a typical lag between the two, especially in non-mortgage retail and MSME segments where the bank sees strong momentum. Despite competition, the bank's strong brand recall, large customer base, and broad presence across geographies position it well to tap into festive season demand and recover market share in mortgages, unsecured loans, and MSME lending. Management's confidence in achieving higher loan growth is backed by improving macroeconomic tailwinds such as normal monsoons, stable food inflation (~3.7%), tax cuts, and strong rural demand recovery all of which suggest an upturn in credit demand in the upcoming quarters.

Valuation & View: HDFC bank's strategic realignment to lower its credit-deposit (CD) ratio from 110% to 95% has set the stage for a more balanced and sustainable growth trajectory. Loan growth should mirror system averages in FY26 and outpace them in FY27, supported by improving retail demand, MSME buoyancy, and selective corporate participation. NIMs may remain under pressure in the near term due to the lag effect of deposit repricing, normalization is expected by Q4 FY26. Deposit cost pressures are gradually easing, and the bank is leveraging its liquidity buffer and strong liability franchise to protect spreads. Additionally, cost pressures from recent hiring and tech investments are expected to moderate, with management reiterating its commitment to improving the cost-to-income ratio over the medium term. We maintain a BUY rating on the stock with a revised target price of INR 2,409 on SOTP basis, with the standalone bank valued on 2.6x FY28E P/ABV.

Financial Summary						
Y/E Mar (Rs Bn)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
NII	868	1,085	1,227	1,313	1,473	1,638
Net profit	441	608	673	751	868	997
Networth	2,802	4,402	5,014	5,265	5,527	5,638
Adj BVPS	494	569	640	668	695	700
EPS (Rs)	79.05	80.05	88.01	98.16	113.47	130.30
P/ABV (x)	3.96	3.38	2.99	2.84	2.71	2.66
P/E (x)	24.76	24.45	22.24	19.94	17.25	15.02
RoA (%)	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
RoE (%)	17.0	16.9	14.3	14.6	16.1	17.9

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Q1FY26 - Quarterly Performance (Standalone)

Income Statement (INR Bn.)	Q1FY26	Q4FY25	Q1FY25	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Interest Income	775	775	730	0.0%	6.1%
Interest Expense	460	454	432	1.4%	6.6%
Net Interest Income	314	321	298	-2.0%	5.4%
Non Interest Income	217	120	107	80.7%	103.7%
Total Income	532	441	405	20.6%	31.3%
Employee Costs	62	61	58	0.7%	5.3%
Other Operating Expenses	113	114	108	-1.4%	4.7%
Operating Expenses	174	176	166	-0.7%	4.9%
Pre-Provision Profit	357	265	239	34.7%	49.6%
Provisions	144	32	26	352.3%	455.0%
Profit Before Tax	213	233	213	-8.8%	0.0%
Tax Expense	31	57	51	-45.2%	-38.6%
Net Profit	182	176	162	3.1%	12.2%
Balance Sheet Analysis					
Deposits	27,641	27,147	23,791	1.8%	16.2%
CASA (%)	34.0%	35.0%	36.3%	-100bps	-230bps
Advances	26,284	26,196	24,635	0.3%	6.7%
Total Assets	39,541	39,102	35,672	1.1%	10.8%
Capital Adequacy Ratio (%)	19.90%	19.55%	19.33%	35bps	57bps
Spread Analysis					
NIM (%)	3.50%	3.70%	3.66%	-20bps	-16bps
Asset Quality					
Gross NPA	370.41	352.23	330.26	5.2%	12.2%
Net NPA	122.76	113.20	95.08	8.4%	29.1%
GNPA (%)	1.40%	1.33%	1.33%	7bps	7bps
NNPA (%)	0.47%	0.43%	0.39%	4bps	8bps
Key Ratios					
Cost to Income Ratio (%)	32.8%	39.8%	41.0%	-703bps	-824bps
C/D Ratio	95.1%	96.5%	103.5%	-140bps	-846bps
RoA (%) (annualized)	1.92%	1.92%	1.88%	0bps	4bps

Q1FY26 Concall Takeaways

The bank expects its loan growth to align with system growth in FY26 and exceed it in FY27, after having deliberately slowed lending to reduce the credit-deposit ratio post-merger. Management highlighted ongoing strength in asset quality, with no visible stress across retail, corporate, or MSME segments, and credit costs remain low, though they may normalize gradually. Margin pressures are expected in the near term due to the lag in deposit repricing, but the bank anticipates stabilization by year-end.

- The Bank sees improved rural and MSME demand, with urban premium consumption expected to rise
 during the upcoming festive season. It remains conservative in the mortgage segment due to intense
 pricing competition from PSUs but sees opportunity during festivals.
- The bank has ~70% of its loan book linked to external benchmarks like EBLR, while deposit repricing lags, leading to temporary margin compression. The management expects quarterly fluctuations in NIMs, but normalization is expected over the next few quarters as liabilities reprice.
- Deposit maturity durations average 12–18 months. Margins may trough in Q2FY26, assuming no further rate cuts, before stabilizing thereafter.
- Asset quality remains a key strength with no signs of stress; Retail GNPA (excluding agri) remains stable
 at 82 bps, same as last year. Net credit cost rose to 41 bps from 29 bps QoQ, driven primarily by agri
 portfolio seasonality.
- A contingent provision of INR 17 Bn was made during the quarter, taking total contingent provisions to 57 bps of loans. The bank sees no visible deterioration in corporate, retail secured or unsecured segments but acknowledges that credit costs will revert to the mean over time.
- CASA ratio dropped post-merger from ~41% to ~38%, largely due to prioritization of total deposit growth to improve liquidity and CD ratio. The bank intends to shift focus back to customer engagement and product upsell to regain low-cost deposits and improve CASA ratio.
- While there has been no significant overlap between HDFC Bank and HDB customer segments, the Bank sees significant opportunity to cross-sell to its own large base of 100 Mn customers.
- Headcount rose by ~4,000 employees in Q1FY26, driven by new branch openings in Q4 FY25 and frontoffice hiring, especially in sales and tech. The bank emphasized that its long-term strategy includes
 more front-end and tech-focused hiring, while backend functions will be optimized using tech.
- The board has declared an interim dividend of INR 5 per share and also recommended a 1:1 bonus issue. The bank also successfully completed the listing of HDB Financial Services, in which it divested a partial stake during the quarter.
- The bank expects to maintain CD ratio between 85–90% in the medium term, reverting to pre-merger levels.
- Cost-to-income ratio was ~42% in Q1, and while the bank aims to reduce it toward 40%, it will prioritize growth and customer experience when required.
- The bank continues to actively manage PSL through the PSLC market and remains compliant despite merger-related additions.

Key Financials

Profit & Loss Account							
Rs in Bn	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	
Interest Earned	1,616	2,583	3,005	3,352	3,821	4,355	
Interest expended	747	1,498	1,778	2,039	2,348	2,717	
NII	868	1,085	1,227	1,313	1,473	1,638	
Other Income	312	492	456	654	745	858	
Net Income	1,181	1,578	1,683	1,966	2,218	2,496	
Operating Exp	477	634	682	750	825	907	
PPOP	704	944	1,001	1,216	1,394	1,589	
Provisions	119	235	116	220	242	266	
PBT	585	709	885	996	1,151	1,322	
Tax	144	101	211	245	283	325	
PAT	441	608	673	751	868	997	

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings, Ace Equity, Bloomberg

Balance Sheet							
Rs in Bn	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E	
CAPITAL & LIABILITIES							
Capital	5.58	7.60	7.65	7.65	7.65	7.65	
Reserves & Surplus	2,796	4,395	5,007	5,257	5,520	5,630	
Deposits	18,834	23,798	27,147	31,503	38,022	45,438	
Borrowings	2,068	6,622	5,479	4,931	4,192	3,563	
Other Liabilities	957	1,354	1,461	1,364	1,501	1,651	
TOTAL	24,661	36,176	39,102	43,064	49,242	56,290	
ASSETS		_					
Cash & Balances	1,938	2,191	2,396	3,423	5,030	7,090	
Investments	5,170	7,024	8,364	8,535	9,712	10,913	
Advances	16,006	24,849	26,196	28,816	31,697	34,867	
Fixed Assets	80	114	137	153	184	220	
Other Assets	1,467	1,998	2,010	2,137	2,620	3,200	
TOTAL	24,661	36,176	39,102	43,064	49,242	56,290	

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

Ratios (%)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E		
Growth	Growth							
NII	20.6	25.0	13.0	7.0	12.2	11.2		
PPOP	9.9	34.1	6.1	21.5	14.6	14.0		
Net profit	19.3	37.9	10.7	11.5	15.6	14.8		
Deposits	20.8	26.4	14.1	16.0	20.7	19.5		
Advances	16.9	55.2	5.4	10.0	10.0	10.0		
Returns								
ROA	2.07	2.00	1.79	1.83	1.88	1.89		
ROE	17.0	16.9	14.3	14.6	16.1	17.9		
NIM (%)	4.05	3.80	3.45	3.38	3.38	3.30		
Efficiency								
C/I Ratio	40.4	40.2	40.5	38.1	37.2	36.4		
CASA	44.4	38.2	34.8	31.5	28.0	24.7		

Ratios (%)	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E		
Per Share	Per Share							
BV (Rs)	502	580	655	688	722	737		
ABV (Rs)	494	569	640	668	695	700		
EPS (Rs)	79	80	88	98	113	130		
Valuation	Valuation							
P/BV (x)	3.9	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7		
P/ABV (x)	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8		
P/EPS (x)	24.8	24.4	22.2	19.9	17.2	15.0		
Asset quality	Asset quality							
GNPA	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7		
NNPA	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8		
PCR	75.8	74.0	67.9	63.8	58.4	52.6		

Source: Arihant Research, Company Filings

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Stock Rating Scale	Absolute Return
BUY	>20%
ACCUMULATE	12% to 20%
HOLD	5% to 12%
NEUTRAL	-5% to 5%
REDUCE	-5% to -12%
SELL	<-12%

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