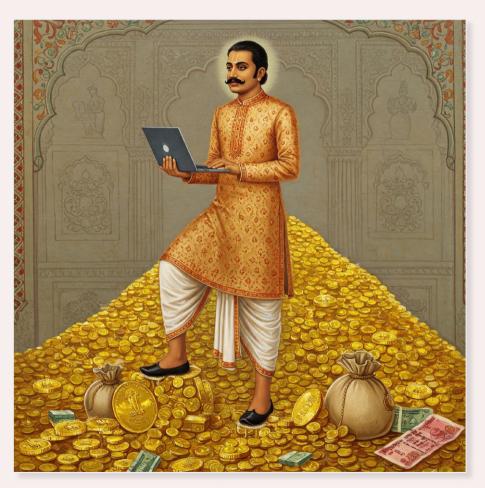
## APNA SAPNA MONEY MONEY

FUTURE FINANCE F.I.R.E.



a Bite**Geist** 





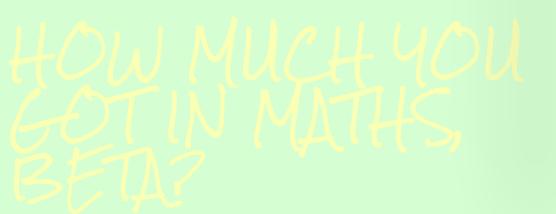
1.
MONEY &
THE AAMAAM
AADMI.

1R2000

When asked about their earliest memory of money, Indians often recall a guest handing them a crisp currency note before leaving their homes.

You never take money. As an Indian, you are taught to receive it.





×	STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS TO RECEIVE MONEY IN INDIA
STEP 1	Accept the money with hands reaching out towards the currency notes, slowly.
STEP 2	Avoid eye contact as money hits your palm.
STEP 3	Quickly retreat with excitement, while maintaining a contorted body. You're conveying, with utmost respect, that "I can't take this, but I will, to avoid disrespect to you". <b>Display hesitation stronger than gratitude.</b>
STEP 4	Make a difficult decision, immediately. Should you keep the money? Or should you give it to your mother?





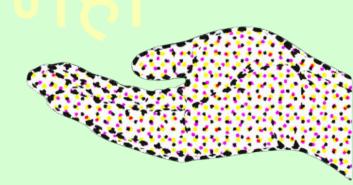
## INDIANS DO NOT HAVE PIGGY BANKS.



India has a fundamental issue with emptiness. In common superstition, even unused empty purses and wallets in storage have some money kept in them. In the days of heavier cash transaction, you stored money in anything, really. Old watch packaging. In corners of drawers. Under the lining of drawers. All savings went towards a common purpose. More savings.

Nothing was saved to spend. Any expenditure was an 'emergency'. Which is why, unlike the good old Western piggy bank, which is conceptually about saving for a purpose, Gullaks are about saving until an emergency arises, which - by God's Grace - will hopefully never happen.

Breaking a piggy bank is exciting. A broken Gullak as an image is discomforting. The Undiyal getting heavier with time is a good feeling. Each flexed finger on your arm rejoices shaking the pot, guessing the amount for its weight.



# WE'RE AE A SAVINGS GS DRIVEN EN ECONOMY.Y

Yet, net financial savings of Indian households (HH) almost halved from 10% in FY11 to 5.4% of GDP in FY23, a five-decade low.

## Financial savings by households take a backseat, focus shifts to wealth creation

Economists debate long-term impacts of declining household savings on India's economic growth.

Written by Priyansh Verma | Saikat Neogi

October 7, 2024 01:30 IST

"HH savings will continue to be on a gradual decline and along with that, HH debt will be on the rise in line with the trend in developed economies. There isn't much dependence on foreign savings now. Nevertheless, low domestic savings can leave us vulnerable during shocks."

- MADAN SABNAVIS, CHIEF ECONOMIST, BANK OF BARODA



### What's behind a dramatic fall in Indian families' savings

26 April 2024



For decades, India has been a nation of savers. They stash away a significant portion of their earnings for future security, often at the expense of current consumption. But something seems to be amiss now. Recent data from the Reserve Bank of India says India's net household savings stood at a 47-year-old low. Household net savings are the total money and investments families have, like deposits, stocks and bonus, minus any money they owe, like loans and debt.



Household savings that reported a peak during the pandemic have washed off. Households have been on a 'revenge spending' spree and savings have declined.

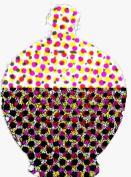
Over the years post Covid, this translated into a large premiumisation trend across categories. Only in the last two years did businesses begin to acknowledge that while premiumisation was high, mass consumption had begun to slow down.

Simply put, Indians have become accustomed to spending on small indulgences, yet are holding back on the essentials.

Household savings make up a majority of savings in the country. They've been in a steady decline, significantly dropping in share, from 2000-2023.



Households held **84%** share of all savings in FY00.



Households share of savings declined to **61%** of all savings in FY23.

This has been a long-term structural trend that began even before the pandemic.

India has been getting increasingly more unequal, with the top 10% of Indians now holding 57.7% of national income compared with 34%, in 1990.

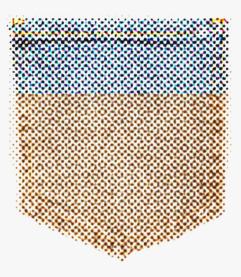
The bottom half have seen their share of national income fall from 22.2% to 15%.

The bottom half have seen their share of national income fall from 22.2% to 15%.



ONE WAY TO
ONE WAY TO
FEEL RICH IS
TO SAVE
MONEY.
ANOTHER IS TO IS
SPEND IT. END IT.

"A significant majority, 74.2% of the respondents, admitted to experiencing increased spending after adopting UPI."

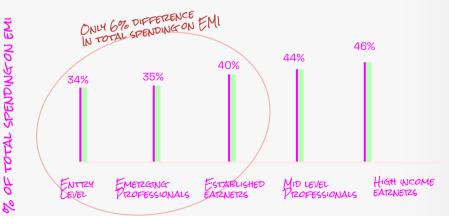


Survey by Dhruv Kumar, Assistant Professor, Harshal Dev and Raj Gupta, IIIT Delhi -IndiaToday, May 2024 EZETAP REPORTED THAT POST THE PANDEMIC, IN INDIA, NDIA, NDIA, TRANSACTIONAL VOLUMES OF EMULTIAS

226% HIT A
INCREASE %
INCREASE.

Reports indicate that consumers use EMI and UPI payments across categories and purchases today. These options drastically reduce the Pain of Pay, leading to reduced savings and increased expenditure in the Indian household.

EARNING
EARNING
INDIVIDUALS
INDIVIDUALS
SPEND OVER
SPEND OVER
333%
OF THEIR MONTHLY
MONTH IS ALARY ON INFINITIAN
IN INDIA.



PERCENTAGE OF LOAN FMI PAYMENTS ACROSS INCOME LEVELS

## NOT JUST CONSUMERS, RS, RETAILERS ERS, TOO ARE ARE OVERSPENDING.DING.



"The supplier knows that cash isn't an issue as the shopkeeper can pay through UPI.

I have been lured by better discounts on bulk purchases and lost money when the products expired."

Retailer's account, IndiaToday INDIA CAN'T SAVE LIKE IT USED TO: SLOW AND STEADY, FOR TOMORROW.

WE'VE BEGUN TO SPEND TOO MUCH. WANT TOO MUCH. WANT TO LIVE MORE. AND GET THERE FASTER.

WE CAN'T DOWNGRADE. CAN'T DE-PREMIUMISE. CAN'T GO BACK TO BASICS.

BUT EARNING IS EXACTING.
70HRS. 90HRS.
SLOWDOWN. SHUTDOWN. RECESSION. LAYOFFS.

THE WORKFORCE
NEEDS A MOMENT.
WANTS A BREAK.
WANTS TO SLOW DOWN.
WANTS TO FEEL STABLE.
WANTS TO GET OFF THE GRIND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

BUT... CAN'T SAVE LIKE IT USED TO.



"Financial
Independence, Retire
Early" as a concept
began a while ago, but
boomed as a concept in
India during COVID.

Tons of online content, Reddit discussions and investment schools hammer in the same idea over and over again:

MAKE MONEY

THROUGH THE MARKETS, ARKETS

SORT YOURSELFRSELF

OUT EARLY, RLY,

LIVE FREE OF THE NEED

TO MAKE MORE MONEY.

COVID made people painfully aware of their mortality, and how random events can snatch away the future. In the West, F.I.R.E. gained popularity after the 2008 Financial crisis. Then, people wanted to make the most of their lives, did not want to "lose" time over work, and certainly did not want to live under constant pressure of needing to make more money.

It seems like in periods of uncertainty, people look away from the anxiety of survival and seek comfort in dreams of prosperity. Be it a financial crisis or Covid, the mirage of F.I.R.E. becomes alluring.

However, 2019 was a different time from 2008.

"FINANCE", CE",

"INDEPENDENCE; NCE",

"RETIREMENT' ANT " &

"EARLY"

have begun to mean different things to different people. Indians of all income sizes and shapes have caught on.

F.I.R.E. has morphed into a chunky *khichdi* of many flavours as post-Covid India moved from one normal to another.

#### **Business Standard**

Flome / Finance / Personal Finance / Sachet-sized investments: First Hs 100 MF transaction takes place

#### Sachet-sized investments: First Rs 100 MF transaction takes place

ONDC was conceived to boost e-commerce in India and is now diversifying its services to include financial products

#### Advantages of trade in Intraday Stocks Under ₹100

Affordability and Accessibility Intraday stocks under 4100 provide an affordable entry into the stock market, making trading accessible to a broader range

Enhanced Liquidity

Lower-priced stocks often exhibit higher

Potential for Quick Profits

The lower price range offers apportunities for quick and substantial profits within a single treding des, appealing to treders seeking

Adaptability for Active Trading Strategies

Intraday stocks under £100 align with active trading strategies, enabling traders to

Diversification on a Budget: Investors can achieve portfolio diversification with lower-priced stocks, spreading risk across various options, even with a limited

Ideal for Learning and Skill Development

The lower entry point and rapid market movements make these atocks suitable for novice traders looking to hone their skills an gain experience in the dynamic world of intradey trading. How can I make 500 rupees daily from the Indian stock market if have only 10,000 rupees to invest?

#### Can I start trading with 100 rupees?

I recommend that you deposit Rs 200 in your demat account and invest Rs 100 for a long period in penny stocks that are priced below Rs 1. So you can acquire a great quantity. I invested in Proseed when the share price was Rs0.50 and exited when it was Rs50, and it has since risen to approximately Rs 200 in just one year. So, you can make good money by trading stocks, futures, and options. Where you will need to study more because the situation is perilous. Without knowledge, you can lose Rs 1000 in seconds. And if you have the correct knowledge, you can make 100% profit in one day. Trading is not difficult, but it is not easy. Make sure you daily monitor the stock with trading apps such mstock, angelone, zerodha, growe etc.



Since 2.5 years I do trading on the stock market. I get money from home. Not much, but enough to invest. I am an influencer. It is like a part-time job for 5-7 days. I also made an ID on Amazon Seller, if I get something here, I earn some money. We can generate sales and make around 20-25k p.m.

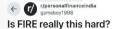
SAJID, 25YR OLD RESPONDENT, INTERVIEW FOR A 1001 STORIES RESEARCH ON *MEN AND MONEY, 2024*  A SCRUB OF SOCIAL MEDIA, ONLINE COMMUNITY FORUMS AND INDIAN INVESTOR CHANNELS ON SLACK, TELEGRAM AND WHATSAPP INFORM US OF A VARIED BUNCH OF INDIANS TRYING TO GET RICH, WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK.

REAKING THE Bank.



FIRE isn't possible for a vast majority of people immaterial of where they reside. Only reason it can be possible for a good number of Indians is because there is a new wave of highly paid people. In a country where top 10% of people live with rs 25000 monthly expenses, the opportunity of FIRE for somebody earning 1.5 lakhs is very high.





I'm a 25y old working in tech making good amount of money - 40LPA before taxes. Seeing layoffs all around me I'm trying to FIRE ASAP so I can get true Independence.

I'm not too frugal, spend a decent amount on fitness and travel mostly. Have two loans ongoing - car and house with emi of 39k and 16k respectively.

To live a basic life of spending around 30-40k per month I need around 1cr invested. I'm able to invest around 13-14lpa right now which means I would need to work for at least 7y before achieving this.

Are my calculations correct? Is there any way to do this sooner except reducing my expenses to almost zero or trying to go to US for work?

EDIT: To everyone saying 1cr is not enough, that just supports my point. Even though someone might be at top 1% of earner in India it would take decades to FIRE unless they go abroad or start a successful business.

FIRE is a scam like most financial fads. Not everyone can reach it, or should reach it.

Most FIRE proponents do not have children, or if they do, have enough passive income from stocks or real estate to transfer to their children. Which means that they didn't have to earn all their seed capital themselves.

I see FIRE as similar to the hustle culture or corporate gyaan given by idiots on LinkedIn.

Is FIRE realistically possible in India considering inflation, real estate prices, children's expenses, parents who consider children as their social security and subpar public healthcare?

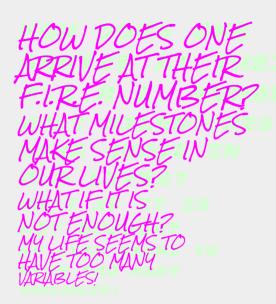
#### Serious கலந்துரையாடல்

If it's not possible how's everyone planning for your retirement considering that an average middle class person has to live for another 22 - 32 years even after retirement? Same strategy as our parents?

#### Quora

Does (FIRE) Financial Independence and Retire Early makes sense in India? Isn't it too risky an idea to just stop working?

F.I.R.E. IS A DESIRE.
BUT MANY ARE
BEGINNING TO
REALISE THAT IT'S
NOT GOING TO BE
EASY.



Even though it became a widely held ambition, it has slowly dawned upon Indian F.I.R.E aspirants that people who can, and will, achieve F.I.R.E., are folks who were going to retire in their 50s anyway.

True F.I.R.E is for the top 3%.

It's for Product managers with fat paychecks. Generational wealth holders. Business owners and cash-rich founders who will inevitably sell. Property owners whose assets are already generating passive incomes.

One F.I.R.E. doesn't fit them all. And so many forms have come to be.

#### **FAT FIRE**

For those who want to retire and live extravagantly.

#### LEAN FIRE

For those who envision living frugally, happily, in the future.

#### **CHUBBY FIRE**

For those who see a life in the higher middle area between FAT - LEAN FIRE.

#### **COAST FIRE**

Those who are saving to retire but even post retirement, will work to cover basic expenses.

#### **BARISTA FIRE**

For those who wish to refire early and work part time to supplement their income. Works best with a full time working spouse.

BUT THE DREAM HAS BEEN NOT JUST THE 3%, THE AAM AADMI WANTS TO ACHIEVE(F.I.R.E., OR SOME AUSE YOU DIDN'T HYBRID VERSION OF IT. **BUT HOW?** 

INCTZEASING INCOME IS NOT EASY FOTZ ALL. PLUS
GENETZALLY IT WILL INVOLVE A LAGEGLEATZNING A SKILL,
FINDING CUSTOMETZS FOTZ PATZT TIME GIGGETC. [ WILL
AGTZEE WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO SAVE MOTZE BECAUSE
OPPOTZTUNITIES IN OUTZ PATZENTS TIME WETZE NOT
MANY. SAVING EXPENSES ON THE OTHETZ HAND IS MOTZE
INSTANT. FG TZEDUCING NUMBETZ OF TIMES YOU EAT OUT
OTZ GOING TO MOVIE HALL LESS OTZ PETZHAPS NOT EATING
SNACKS IN HALL BUT GOING JUST FOTZ MOVIES. BUYING
CATZ ONE LEVEL SMALLETZ THAN WHAT YOU CAN PAY FOTZ
ETC. THIS LEADS TO IMMEDIATE FTZEE CASH AND OVETZTIME
IT ACCUMULATES. AT THE END OF THE DAY, TO EATZN
MOTZE OTZ SAVE MOTZE IS OPTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS
HIS CITZCUMSTANCES AND HIS PTZEFETZENCES AND
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO HIM. TZ/FATFITZEINDIA



My parents planned building their home, mine and my sisters' education, their retirement, every thing in the two bank accounts and some FDs in the 90s.

I have 3 bank accounts, 1 more is inactive. I have a FundsIndia account for me and my wife. I invest in stocks. I think I'm sorted, but not to the level my parents were with their limited resources.. the vision and discipline, at all!

MALE, 42 BANGALORE











## 3. SANSKAAR WILL SAVE YOU



NEW INDIA'S
FREE-SPENDING
HABIT AND ITS
OLD SAVINGS
VIRTUES ARE A
CULTURAL
DICHOTOMY.

It's affecting Indians' relationships with money, their bank accounts, and the financial instruments they use to plan ahead.

66

See, I had two choices. Doctor or engineer. If you take commerce, CA. Banking. Maybe Law.

But if you ask me today what will your kid do when she grows up, I can't imagine. On top of that, will she go abroad or where will she study in India.. Who knows? So I have to be prepared for that also.

MALE, 40 MYSORE Expert interviews with people in banking and investments have revealed a shift in investing habits as well.



The money has started moving from real estate into formal investments which is mutual funds. The Growws of the world are capturing imagination of people. Madhvi Buch put forward, "Why can't we have Rs. 50 SIP, why only Rs. 500 SIP? I think that's going to change the game a lot.

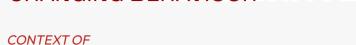
ROHIT RAINA, FINANCE AND ALEXPERT

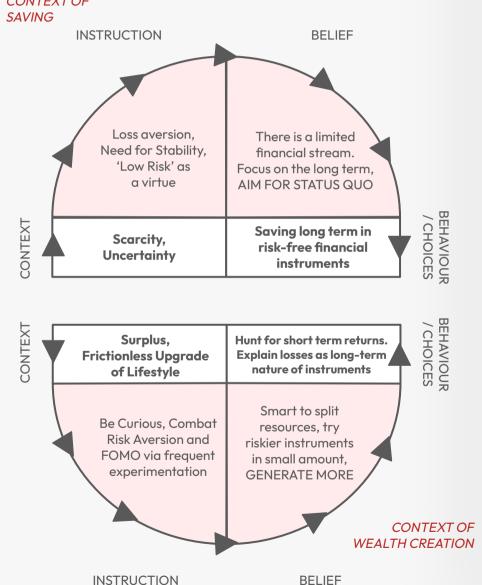
THE RICH INVEST. NVEST THE POOR SAVE. SAVE -

BUT WE'RE A NEW,
SPENDTHRIFT INDIA.

TRY TELLING US TO BUY A GULLAK.

## CHANGING CONTEXTS CHANGING BEHAVIOUR



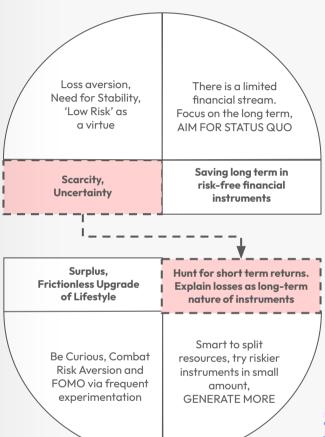


## AAM AADMI IS LOOKING TO ANSWER AN OLD CONTEXT WITH NEW BEHAVIOUR...

The idea of being prepared for a future-scarce world is encoded in Indian financial culture.

However, in the current climate of wealth creation and upgrading lifestyles, the conversation about being future-ready is predominantly hijacked by finfluencers and F.I.R.E. enthusiasts with a unidirectional view of future preparedness.

Their corpus calculators and methods to grow wealth are easy to understand and consume as content, but cannot be practised or yield results for the larger populace.



...BUT IS OPEN
TO BEING
INTRODUCED
TO NEW
DESIRES,
NEW
BEHAVIOUR.

Financial advisors and the top 3% - who can automate investing large chunks of income without feeling a pinch on their spending - swear by the feasibility of F.I.R.E..

However, large masses who were once taken by the idea, are now looking for more options that they can call realistic. They're losing optimism around F.I.R.E. But their desire can be summed up as A.A.A.G.

LESSS FILRE.. R.E MOREORE A.A.A.G.A.G



#### **ARRIVE**

FIRED UP BY F.I.R.E.,

EARNING PROFESSIONALS

ARE AIMING FOR

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.

BUT: THE MATH DOESN'T MATH UP. YOU'LL TOUCH THE MOON.

SO, WHILE THEY MIGHT NOT ACHIEVE 'INDEPENDENCE' WHAT THEY <u>HAVE</u> MANAGED TO CREATE, IS A **HEALTHY FINANCIAL FITNESS HABIT.** 

Corpus building, plans for passive income generation, investing in stocks, mutual funds - are growing.

We've never been as aware and willing to 'spend on saving' as we are today.

Mimicking the actions of highly affluent earners, mid-level and young investors, too, are going beyond their risk appetites to look at the different options available in the market.

There is a large BFSI consumer base for whom the ability to invest and diversify income and be future prepared feels like Arriving in life.

Now, early investors are beginning to understand that money can be wiped off their portfolio just as quickly as it can be made. They're privy to the losses of the volatile market. A new sentiment is arising.

Aspirations must be met. They must arrive in life.

But not early. There is no hurry.



93% traders incurred losses in equity F&O in FY22-FY24 - SEBI Study

After MBA, almost half my batch bought a home, or got married, or got a small plot of land and everything came from a parent. Then, you have a kid. So you are locked in, because you are into a stuck in EMIs for the next 7-8 years.

Now people are aware of options. There is something else called MF. People are saying, 'Why get married early? Why have kids early?' It's still a small thing, but the voices are getting louder.

ARUN KUMAR,
BEST SELLING AUTHOR,
THE 80-20 MONEY MAKEOVER

#### **ASPIRE**

ASK AN INDIAN TO
INTRODUCE
THEMSELVES AND
THEY'LL TELL YOU
WHAT THEY DO FOR A
LIVING.

LIVING.

Work is not just a means to money and sustenance. In India, work is associated with status and community. Many Indian surnames are testimony to this fact.

In an era that glorifies hustle and quick growth, for most Indians who cannot break their glass ceiling, MEANING FROM WORK > MONEY.

Quitting a job might be a restless momentary impulse. But retiring from the workforce? That's embracing irrelevance.

Every culture teaches its children to roleplay adults and their careers.
But only a few cultures take careers so seriously, that their moon sign at birth is used to predict their work skills and job inclinations as an adult.

In India, a 'career choice' ritual is held as part of a ceremony called 'Annaprasana', marking a baby's first intake of grain after feeding exclusively on their mothers' milk. It signifies 'growing' up, and reminds the family that the baby will one day 'earn' this grain they are fed.



Annaprasana model with options in business, education, grass root activism, technical expertise, etc. represented as toys to choose from. In the ritual, the chosen toys inform us of the child's interest areas and possible career paths. It holds symbolic meaning, not literal.

Career and work experience which have contributed to one's earning, upgradation and lifestyle are social capital.

Which is why post leaving the workforce, **Indians see themselves as continuing to build this social capitalwith no plug on earning money.**  GIVING UP ON
BUILDING SOCIAL
CAPITAL MEANS
AGING.

THIS IS A STRICT NO.

WHERE
RETIREMENT ONCE
MEANT LIVING ON A
PREDETERMINED
CORPUS,
RETIREMENT TODAY
MUST ENTAIL
CONTINUATION OF A
REVENUE STREAM.

Retirement cannot be a wilful capping of growth. That would be a waste of potential!

Indians aspire to grow socially, personally, and financially at retirement. It is a phase of freedom to wear their expertise on their sleeves and consider careers like consulting and freelancing within their domains, or invest in income generating assets like rental property or agri-businesses.

### AGE GRACEFULLY

In every generation, as technology and scales evolved and sharpened, retirement became a legitimate phase of life for the older generation of workers to hand the baton to new blood.

But in the new work identity, there is no getting 'older'. There is only an expanding youth canvas, more potential, more exploration and adoption of fast changing technology frequently and quickly.

IT HAS UNLOCKED A
NEW LEVEL OF
LIVING LIFEAGE-AGNOSTIC
YOUTH.

For the new age Indian consumer, future-preparedness does not feature conventional laid back retirement.

This late phase is not about becoming free of responsibility and stopping work, but finding new potential and exploring new roles as an individual. Retirement is a space to become socially more relevant, become bigger than family roles and an old work role.

In short, as they age, the New Indian experiences youth, freedom and exploration. FOR THE NEW INDIAN, RETIREMENT IS A BACKUP GROWTH OPPORTUNITY.

INDIAN BFSI NEED TO STEP UP TO SERVE THIS A.A.A.G DRIVEN CONSUMER.

Humare time mein vanaspratham nahi hai!

- 48, MALE, GURGAON

160 votes in Whatsapp surveys conducted in corporate & university alum groups shows that professionals can't imagine retiring or wish to try something new after.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RETIREMENT?

Aftr retirmnt @60, I'll chill

9%

MAY do smthng aftr retirmnt

5%

WILL do smthng aftr retirmnt

49%

No idea/ thoughts yet!

37%

I don't want to be 60 and angry with Rahul Gandhi's kid or even be rooting for his kid. I don't want to have the mindspace to be touched by those things. I want to be worried and busy about my own things.

- 47, FEMALE, BANGALORE

Retirement is for people who cannot grow in life. Ab bas, ab baith jao.

- 42, MALE, BANGALORE

## BUILDING FOR THE NEW A.A.A.G.

In our deep-contextual studies over the years, across categories like FMCG, Automotive, Public Health, Ed-tech, E-comm & Q-comm, BFSI, Fashion, Luxury and Technology, it has become obvious that the Indian consumer is going through drastic context shifts.

These shifts play a big role in informing them how to see the world, how to live in it, and how to plan for the future.



NEW ASPIRATIONS, NEW SIGNALS DIFFERENT FROM THE COLLECTIVE'S

1



CHANGING GENDER ROLES AFFECTING FINANCIAL CHOICES



INTRA-INTER
CITY ACCESS &
MIGRATION &
NEW FOUND
INDIAN
INDIVIDUALITY



NEW CODES OF YOUTH & SELF, NEW METRICS OF SUCCESS



5

EXPECTATION
OF EVERGREEN,
AGE-AGNOSTIC
YOUTH
CHANGES
FUTURE GOALS

From Insurance to Investments, Trading to Budgeting, the A.A.A.G. Indian is ready for a new way to future-proof life.

The question is, will the market step up to fill the void?

## BUILDING FOR THE NEW A.A.A.G.

All behaviour and context see multiple tensions tugging at one another.

When it comes to categories that marry present and future selves, these tensions construct product promises and consumer belief and behaviour towards them. This can be represented as a Time-Money mosaic.

#### **READING THE MOSAIC:**

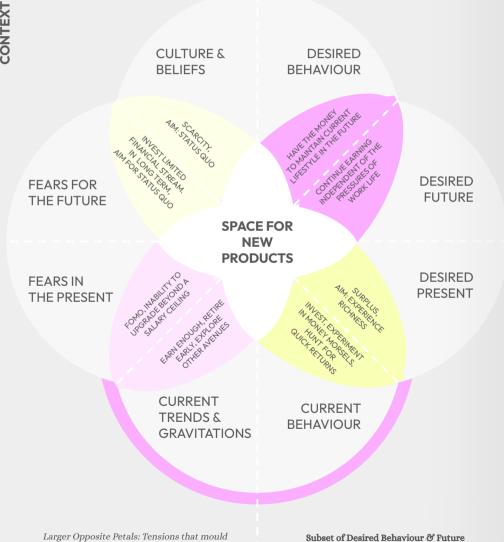
The mosaic is formed by 4 co-existing and opposite forces and tensions acting on one another.

- 1) Culture & Beliefs (TOP)
- 2) Current Trends (BOTTOM)
- 3) Fears (LEFT)
- 4) Desires (RIGHT)
- Each of these tensions exert and counteract on one another, moulding current beliefs and actions.
- 2 For any new product to work, it must consider these contradictions and find its place alongside these tensions.

## THE TIME-MONEY MOSAIC

products. Smaller Petals: Beliefs & Actions

that contradict and co-exist.



= Current Trends + Behaviour

