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ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE | Inst

Insurance

Margin expansion a positive surprise

- VNB margin expands to 24.5% YoY, up ~50 bps, aided by favourable product mix
- APE declined 5% YoY in Q1FY26; management maintains a positive outlook for FY26
- Maintain BUY with TP of Rs 801 (earlier Rs 674), 1.8x its June'27 P/EV, on stable performance in future

VNB margin expansion a surprise: For Q1FY26, margin expanded by ~50bps YoY to 24.5% vs our estimate of 23.4%. This was primarily aided by a shift towards the high margin non-linked products in the mix, led by volatile equity markets and higher protection composition in the product mix (mix up 22% vs 18% in Q1FY25), coupled with ongoing cost optimisation measures. In line with expectations, VNB degrew 3% YoY, on a higher base vs our expectations of decline of 6% YoY. The company continues to focus on absolute VNB growth.

APE growth muted: APE de-grew 5% YoY while group APE grew 19% YoY. However, individual APE de-grew by 9% YoY on a very high base (growth of 42% YoY). APE stood at Rs 18.6bn vs our estimate of Rs 19.1bn in Q1FY26. Q1FY25 witnessed a very strong overall APE growth of 34% YoY (with individual APE growth of 42% and group APE growth of 3% YoY), driven by strong linked business growth aided by buoyancy in the equity market and new product offering linked growth in the annuity segment. Management indicated APE growth to normalise in the 2H with linked products regaining popularity, coupled with guaranteed products and protection growth. Despite a moderate quarter in terms of APE growth, management maintained a positive outlook for FY26.

Protection share gains traction: Protection share in the mix increased significantly to 21.9% vs 18.1% in Q1FY25. Within protection, retail grew 24% YoY and group protection rose 11% YoY with mix increasing to 7.5%:14.5% vs 5.7%:12.4% in Q1FY25.

Maintain BUY on IPRU: The company witnessed pressure on business growth, owing to a higher base in the previous year, which is an industry-wide phenomenon this quarter. However, management anticipates a better 2H with linked products regaining popularity, coupled with guaranteed products and protection growth. IPRU is undergoing cost optimisation measures, which are likely to aid margins coupled with a favourable product mix. Further, it continues to focus on the absolute VNB growth over product mix. Hence, we maintain BUY on IPRU with TP of Rs 801 (earlier Rs 674), implying 1.8x its June'27 P/EV.

Key changes

	Target	Rating		
	A	<►		
Ticker/F	'rice	IPRU IN/Rs 670		
Market	cap	US\$ 11.2bn		
Free floa	at	27%		
3M ADV	/	US\$ 9.3mn		
52wk hi	gh/low	Rs 797/Rs 526		
Promoter/FPI/DII		73%/15%/7%		

Source: NSE | Price as of 15 Jul 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
NBP (Rs mn)	2,32,306	2,41,085	2,77,248
APE (Rs mn)	1,04,070	1,19,160	1,35,247
VNB (Rs mn)	23,700	28,479	32,459
Embedded Value (Rs mn)	4,79,510	5,46,437	6,22,831
VNB margin (%)	22.8	23.9	24.0
EVPS (Rs)	332.3	379.1	433.3
EPS (Rs)	8.2	11.0	14.2
Consensus EPS (Rs)	-	-	-
P/EV (x)	2.0	1.8	1.5

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE



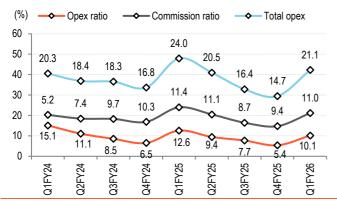
Fig 1 – Renewal premium share at 55% in Q1



(%) First Year Premium Renewal Premium Single Premium 100 25 30 29 26 27 29 29 20 80 37 60 40 20 16 0 Q1FY25 Q1FY26 Q4FY25 1FY24 **Q3FY24 22FY25 Q3FY25 Q2FY24** Q4FY24 δ

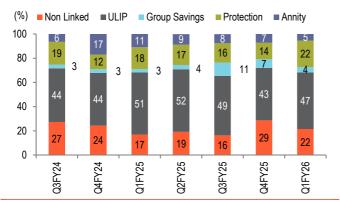
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 3 – Total expense ratio improved owing to cost rationalisation measures taken in FY25



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – ULIP share came in at 47%



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 – APE de-grew 5% YoY

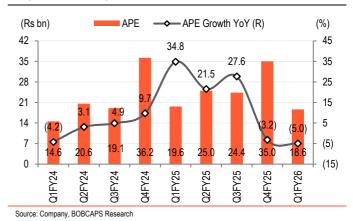
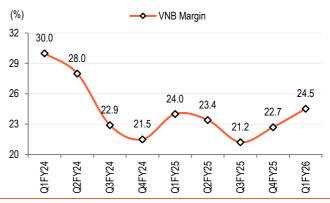
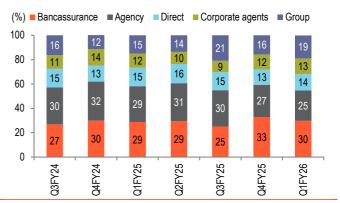


Fig 4 – Shift in product mix led to the expansion in VNB margin



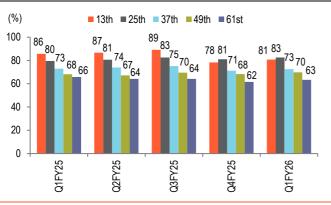
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – Bancassurance channel contributed 30% to APE









Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – Adequate solvency maintained as on date



Fig 9 – Policyholders' account

(Rs mn)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)
Gross premium income	89,540	82,837	8.1	1,68,316	(46.8)
First Year Premium	14,454	16,284	(11.2)	27,092	(46.6)
Renewal Premium	49,417	45,152	9.4	92,094	(46.3)
Single Premium	25,670	21,402	19.9	49,130	(47.8)
Reinsurance	4,509	4,091	10.2	4,625	(2.5)
Net premium income	85,032	78,747	8.0	1,63,692	(48.1)
Income from investments (Net)	1,66,486	1,73,533	(4.1)	(9,049)	(1939.9)
Other income	524	544	(3.6)	526	(0.3)
Contribution of funds from Shareholders' A/c	1,160	1,761	(34.2)	1,206	(3.9)
Total	2,53,202	2,54,584	(0.5)	1,56,375	61.9
Commission on					
First Year Premium	2,802	2,753	1.8	5,721	(51.0)
Renewal Premium	1,033	991	4.2	2,163	(52.2)
Single Premium	5,259	4,339	21.2	5,483	(4.1)
Rewards	755	1,373	(45.0)	2,385	(68.3)
Net Commission	9,849	9,456	4.2	15,752	(37.5)
Expenses of Management	18,915	19,853	(4.7)	24,777	(23.7)
Benefits Paid (Net)	97,620	95,226	2.5	1,23,271	(20.8)
Change in actuarial liability	1,30,724	1,34,891	(3.1)	1,620	7970.9
Surplus/Deficit	3,762	2,843	32.4	2,937	28.1

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 – Shareholders' account

(Rs mn)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)
Transfer from Policyholders' Account	2,706	2,891	(6.4)	3,761	(28.1)
Total income under Shareholders' Account					
Investment Income	2,484	1,673	48.5	2,222	11.8
Other income	2	3	(38.7)	20	(90.4)
Expenses other than those related to insurance business	533	204	161.7	556	(4.2)
Transfer of funds to Policyholders' Account	1,160	1,761	(34.2)	1,206	(3.9)
Profit before tax	3,448	2,603	32.5	4,141	(16.7)
Provisions for tax	428	349	22.6	278	53.6
Profit after tax and before extraordinary items	3,021	2,254	34.0	3,863	(21.8)



Fig 11 – Balance sheet

(Rs mn)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)
Sources of funds					
Share Capital	14,462	14,419	0.3	14,453	0.1
Share application money received pending allotment of shares	1	1	0.0	0	-
Reserves and Surplus	1,07,794	94,229	14.4	1,05,626	2.1
Credit / (Debit) Fair Value Change Account	3,273	4,266	(23.3)	(666)	(591.2)
Total Equity	1,25,529	1,12,914	11.2	1,19,413	5.1
Policyholders' Funds	30,07,420	28,73,402	4.7	28,74,403	4.6
Borrowing	26,000	12,000	116.7	26,000	0.0
Policy Liabilities	29,56,594	28,17,341	4.9	28,29,936	4.5
- Insurance Reserves	13,00,494	11,38,435	14.2	12,73,360	2.1
- Provision for Linked Liabilities	16,56,100	16,78,906	(1.4)	15,56,577	6.4
Add: Fair value change	50,826	56,061	(9.3)	44,466	14.3
FFA	13,888	12,817	8.4	12,832	8.2
FFA - provision of lapsed policies	59,889	67,594	(11.4)	55,822	7.3
Total Sources of funds	32,32,726	30,78,728	5.0	30,88,470	4.7
Application of Funds					
Investments	14,78,694	13,00,521	13.7	14,27,537	3.6
- Shareholders'	1,55,091	1,01,636	52.6	1,40,550	10.3
- Policyholders'	13,23,603	11,98,885	10.4	12,86,988	2.8
Assets held to cover Linked Liabilities	17,15,989	17,46,500	(1.7)	16,12,399	6.4
Loans	25,665	18,857	36.1	24,191	6.1
Fixed Assets	8,354	7,400	12.9	8,451	(1.1)
Net Current Assets	4,025	5,450	(26.2)	15,892	(74.7)
Total application of funds	32,32,726	30,78,728	5.0	30,88,470	4.7



Earnings call highlights

Business Performance

- Gross premium increased 8% YoY, driven by strong growth in the single premium, up 20% YoY. This was partly driven by a fall in fixed deposit and interest rates. Going forward, management foresees increase in single premium growth. Renewal premium grew 9% YoY, while first year premium declined 11% YoY. Net premium income increased 8% YoY.
- PAT came in at Rs 3,021 mn, a YoY growth of 34.2%, primarily due to lower new business trends, coupled with higher investment income from shareholder investments.
- New business sum assured grew 36.3% YoY, led by strong growth in the protection business.
- ICICI Pru Life continues to witness slowdown in the credit life business on account of challenges in the MFI business. However, management anticipates a gradual recovery in this segment in the ensuing quarters.
- Cost to total premium ratio stood at 21.1% YoY vs 24% in 1QFY25, a decline of 280bps YoY, owing to cost rationalisation measures undertaken by the company in the previous year.

APE

- APE declined 5% to stand at Rs 18,640 mn, with a 2Y CAGR of around 13%.
- ICICI Bank APE for the quarter stands approximately at Rs 1,000 mn per month.

VNB Margins

- VNB margin came in at 24.5% in Q1FY26 against 22.8% in FY25. The improvement was supported by a shift in product mix towards non-linked from the linked business, as there was a shift in customer preferences towards guaranteed products.
- The company highlighted that focus remains on improving absolute VNB.

Persistency

 61st month persistency ratio came in at 63.4% in Q1FY26 against 65.8% in Q1FY25. The decline in the 61st month persistency was seen mainly due to regulatory changes.

Product and Channel Mix

- In Q1FY26, demand shifted from unit-linked products to guaranteed products amid a volatile equity market, driven by an uncertain external environment. Consequently, linked business fell 14% YoY and non-linked grew 21% YoY in Q1FY26.
- Despite market volatility and contrary to expectations, ULIPs stay strong with an increase in the mix to 46.8% vs 43.4% in Q4FY25



- Annuity, which forms 5.4% of the product mix on an APE basis, continues to be a key focus area for the company (declined 53% YoY in Q1FY26 on a high base).
- With respect to the distribution channel, proprietary channels agency and direct declined 18% YoY with the mix currently being at 38.4% vs 44.6% in Q1FY25. This is primarily due to a high annuity base and shift in consumer demand for non-linked products, as the large component is of ULIPs. Bankassurance, too, saw a decline of 2% YoY and its share currently stands at 29.7%. Partnership channel grew 7% YoY.
- Bancassurance business declined 2.1% YoY, contributing 29.7% to APE.

Others

- ICICI Pru has 2,40,000+ agents across various geographies, 49 bank partnerships with access to 23,500+ bank branches and 1,350 non-bank partnerships.
- The company launched Smart Insurance Plan Plus, which offers affordable wealth creation with a minimum premium as low as Rs 1,000 per month in the linked category and iProtect Smart Plus, a protection plan to reap the benefits of increasing demand from these categories. Despite the company underwriting Rs 1,000mn of single premium annuity business solely during Q1FY26, the mix of annuity declined sharply by 53% YoY, largely on account of a very high base of in the past year.



Valuation methodology

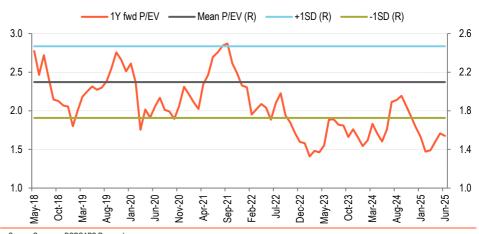
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Fig 12 – Actual vs Estimates

(Rs mn)	Q1FY26A	Q1FY26E	Actual vs Estimates (%)
Gross Premium	89,540	89,286	0.3
APE	18,640	19,066	(2.2)
VNB	4,570	4,452	2.6
VNB Margin	24.5	23.4	116bps

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 – P/EV Band



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key downside risks to our estimates:

- Changes in regulatory framework: Any unfavourable change in regulations can impact business growth. For example, currently, ULIP proceeds are taxed when the yearly premium exceeds Rs 0.25mn. Similarly, any change in the income tax rate of insurance companies can adversely impact profitability.
- Losses from capital and bond markets: Prolonged weakness in capital markets could hamper the growth of ULIPs. Although insurance companies are aiming for a balanced product mix, many of them have sizeable business coming from ULIPs. For IPRU, the sensitivity of a decline in equity on EV is comparatively higher than for private peers.



Glossary

Glossary of Abbreviations				
APE	Annual Premium Equivalent	KYC	Know Your Customer	
EOM	Expenses of Management	NBP	New Business Premium	
EV	Embedded Value	ROEV	Return on Embedded Value	
EVOP	Embedded Value Operating Profit	RWRP	Retail Weighted Received Premium	
HNI	High Net Worth Individuals	ULIP	Unit Linked Insurance Plan	
IRDAI	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority	VNB	Value of New Business	

Source: BOBCAPS Research

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Financials

Revenue Account (Technical)

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Gross premium income	4,32,356	4,89,507	5,58,038	6,41,744	7,38,005
First year premium	70,315	81,146	90,756	1,04,369	1,20,024
Renewal premium	2,45,568	2,57,202	3,16,953	3,64,496	4,19,170
Single premium	1,16,473	1,51,160	1,50,330	1,72,879	1,98,811
Net written premium	4,17,597	4,72,594	5,38,507	6,19,283	7,12,175
Income from investments	4,65,503	2,28,195	2,70,411	3,09,823	3,52,768
Other Income	20,069	5,410	5,907	6,449	7,042
Total income	9,03,169	7,06,199	8,14,825	9,35,555	10,71,986
Commissions	37,220	48,594	55,804	64,174	73,801
Operating expenses	40,926	39,746	50,223	54,548	59,040
Benefits and bonuses paid	4,00,060	4,61,825	5,11,581	5,75,933	6,45,943
Change in liabilities (net)	4,06,391	1,35,714	1,72,900	2,10,938	2,57,345
Others	0	0	0	0	1
Total expenses	8,84,596	6,85,879	7,90,509	9,05,594	10,36,129
Surplus before tax	18,573	20,321	24,316	29,961	35,856
Provision for tax	7,681	9,424	10,811	12,459	14,324
Surplus after tax	10,892	10,897	13,505	17,502	21,533
Trf to shareholders' a/c	14,719	10,931	12,830	16,977	19,379
Balance being FFA	(3,827)	(34)	0	0	0

Income Statement (Non-technical)

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Trf from policyholders' a/c	14,719	10,931	12,830	16,977	19,379
Income from investments	13,692	6,960	9,821	11,294	12,988
Contr. to policyholders' fund	18,022	3,178	3,496	3,846	4,230
Others	(1,156)	(1,348)	(1,472)	(1,575)	(1,685)
PBT	9,232	13,364	17,683	22,850	26,452
Provision for taxation	708	1,474	1,768	2,285	2,645
PAT	8,524	11,891	15,914	20,565	23,807
Dividend+Interim div.+DDT	867	1,236	872	873	873

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Equity	1,10,086	1,19,413	1,35,327	1,55,893	1,79,700
Policyholders' funds	27,31,066	28,74,403	33,11,627	38,28,552	44,27,446
FFA	12,866	12,832	12,798	12,764	12,730
Others	81,251	81,822	70,998	76,847	83,457
Total liabilities	29,35,269	30,88,470	35,30,749	40,74,056	47,03,333
Shareholders' funds	1,05,755	1,40,550	1,61,632	1,85,877	2,13,758
Policyholders' funds	11,43,182	12,86,988	13,38,467	15,25,852	17,39,472
Assets to cover linked liab.	16,48,424	16,12,399	19,83,251	24,39,398	30,00,460
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	29,35,269	30,88,470	35,30,749	40,74,056	47,03,333
Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Key Metrics	-	-	-	-	=\/00=
AUM (Rs mn)	28.97.361	30.39.936	34.83.350	41.51.128	49,53,690
NBP (Rs mn)	1,86,788	2,32,306	2,41,085	2,77,248	3,18,835
APE (Rs mn)	90,460	1,04,070	1,19,160	1,35,247	1,48,771
VNB (Rs mn)	22,253	23,700	28,479	32,459	36,449
VNB margin (%)	24.6	22.8	23.9	24.0	24.5
Embedded value (Rs mn)	4,23,370	4,79,510	5,46,437	6,22,831	7,09,479
ROEV (%)	14.1	13.0	14.1	14.1	14.1
	8.1	10.4	12.5	14.1	14.2
ROE (%)					
Opex ratio (%)	9.5	8.1	9.0	8.5	8.0
	9.5 18.1	8.1 18.0	9.0 19.0	8.5 18.5	8.0 18.0
Opex ratio (%)		•••			
Opex ratio (%) Cost ratio (%)		18.0	19.0	18.5	
Opex ratio (%) Cost ratio (%) Solvency ratio (%)	18.1	18.0	19.0	18.5	18.0



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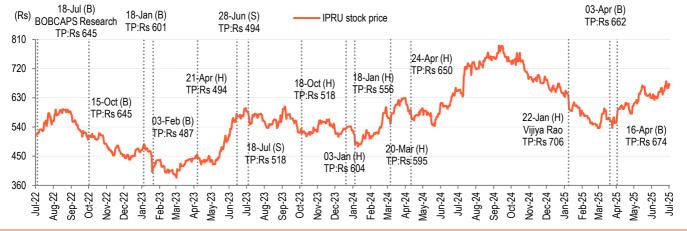
Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15% HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15% SELL – Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE (IPRU IN)



B - Buy, H - Hold, S - Sell, A - Add, R - Reduce

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