

**RESEARCH****BANKING | Q3FY26 REVIEW**

Credit growth and improving AQ led to earnings momentum

**REAL ESTATE (REITs) | Q3FY26 REVIEW**

Improving utilisation, expansion of leasable area key for growth

**RETAIL | Q3FY26 REVIEW**

Growth Intact

**SUMMARY****BANKING: Q3FY26 REVIEW**

- Continued improvement in advances growth resulting in ATH LDR; aided by Retail & MSME demand with pickup in corporate credit
- AQ improved due to lower slippages; expect Pvt/PSU banks to report PAT CAGR of 15%/13% in FY25-FY28E
- Top picks: ICICIBC, KMB, HDFCB and SBIN in large caps, while FB and KVB in midcaps

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**REAL ESTATE (REITs): Q3FY26 REVIEW**

- Leasing by GCCs (~38% of total office leasing) and 'flight-to-quality' made for a structurally strong environment for REITs
- Leased ~3.4msf (-12.8% YoY); occupancy improved ~+373bps YoY to ~92% and avg. in-place rents improved to Rs 89.9psf/m (+4.8% YoY)
- Expect annualised DPU growth of 12.6% over FY26E-28E and REITs to trade at an avg. DPU multiple of 16.8x

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**RETAIL: Q3FY26 REVIEW**

- Jewellery retailers posted strong double-digit growth on festive and wedding demand, higher ticket sizes, and organised share gains
- Despite robust topline growth, gold volatility and shifting consumer trends are widening divergence in growth and margins
- Q3FY26 signalled early stabilisation in QSR, though recovery remains uneven and value driven

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**BANKING**

Q3FY26 Review

20 February 2026

Niraj Jalan  
 Research Analyst  
 Vijiya Rao  
 Research Analyst

Kaustubh Shetye  
 Research Associate  
 research@bobcaps.in

### Credit growth and improving AQ led to earnings momentum

- Continued improvement in advances growth resulting in ATH LDR; aided by Retail & MSME demand with pickup in corporate credit
- AQ improved due to lower slippages; expect Pvt/PSU banks to report PAT CAGR of 15%/13% in FY25-FY28E
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#### Advances growth continues to improve, resulting in an all-time high LDR:

Credit growth improved for our coverage banks to 13.3% YoY (Q3FY26) vs 11.6% YoY (Q2FY26). The growth was largely led by continued demand in Retail and MSME segments, along with a pick-up in corporate credit. However, deposit accretion remains challenging with growth of 10.8% YoY and 2.4% QoQ. System level LDR ratio reached an all-time high (ATH) of ~82%, as deposit growth lagged loan growth. IIB was the only bank under coverage to witness degrowth in both advances and deposits, as of Dec'25. We note that SBIN, with ~23% market share in system advances, raised loan growth guidance to 13-15% in FY26 from 12-14% guided earlier. We expect credit offtake for coverage banks to be ~13-14% YoY in FY26, largely backed by retail, MSME and uptick in corporate segments.

**AQ improved, mainly on receding stress in unsecured segments:** Asset quality (AQ) improved, with GNPA ratio decreasing for most banks under coverage sequentially, mainly driven by lower slippages. This is because the stress appears to have peaked out in MFI and PL, and plateaued in the credit cards. Most of the banks under coverage witnessed a decline in the SMA levels, indicating improvement in early delinquency buckets. Further, CE improved across most of the banks under coverage. Credit costs (CC) for PSU banks were lower at 0.4%-0.8% vs private banks (0.4%-3.4%) in our coverage — largely on the back of relatively lower share of unsecured loans. Also, most banks plan to increase the CGFMU cover in the MFI segment. Slippage and credit costs are expected to remain benign, given the signs of improvement in CE and SMA portfolio.

**PAT improved, largely by credit growth and sequential uptick in NIMs:** PAT for coverage banks was up by 10% YoY in Q3FY26, beating our estimates by 5.9%. This was mainly supported by a) uptick in loan growth b) higher sequential NIMs for most of the banks c) benign credit cost. The rise in NIMs was driven by lower CoF, aided by deposit repricing, CRR cut, high LDR and better liquidity management (as indicated by QoQ fall in LCR). Opex was marginally impacted due to new labour codes provisions (~0.4% of PPOp in FY26E). However, the opex growth (+9% YoY) was lower than credit growth across most banks thereby supporting profitability.



## Improving utilisation, expansion of leasable area key for growth

- Leasing by GCCs (~38% of total office leasing) and ‘flight-to-quality’ made for a structurally strong environment for REITs
- Leased ~3.4msf (-12.8% YoY); occupancy improved ~+373bps YoY to ~92% and avg. in-place rents improved to Rs 89.9psf/m (+4.8% YoY)
- Expect annualised DPU growth of 12.6% over FY26E-28E and REITs to trade at an avg. DPU multiple of 16.8x

Yashas Gilganchi  
 Research Analyst  
 research@bobcaps.in

Leasing activity was led by BLR, MUM and HYD as ~24.7msf was leased over Q3FY26. **Supply (~15.3msf) lagged demand**, and was delivered mostly in BLR, HYD and PUN. Leasing in Grade A office assets accounted for the majority (~90%) of the office space leased, leading to a **supportive environment for demand to consolidate into space in REIT managed properties.**

Leasing momentum (for REITs under our coverage) showed signs of **moderation**, as avg. committed occupancy reached an all-time high of ~92% (+287bps); driving in-place rents higher by ~+5% YoY to ~Rs 90psf/m. We believe that, **as committed occupancy in REIT portfolios exceeds 90%, growth in leasable area remains key to driving NOI growth.**

Leasable area expanded by ~8.2msf, driven mostly by BIRET’s acquisition of Ecoworld in BLR (~7.7msf). **We continue to prefer REITs expanding leasable area via acquisition of operational office assets** over REITs resorting to growth via investments in under-construction office assets (longer duration – construction + lease-up).

**REITs raised ~Rs 53.2bn of equity and ~Rs 43.0bn of debt capital** over Q3FY26, as relatively higher yields made for a tough debt capital market. With the exception of BIRET, we expect REITs to continue relying predominantly on debt capital to fund expansion. However, we do not expect any material reduction in the avg. cost of debt over FY27E, as we believe rates have bottomed out.

Driven by the lease-up of vacant space, contractual lease escalations and incremental income from additional leasable area to the portfolio, we expect NOI to grow by 20.5% over FY26E-28E resulting in annualised DPU growth of 12.6%. We expect REITs under our coverage to trade at an avg. DPU multiple of 16.8x over the next one year.

### Recommendation snapshot

Ticker	Price	Target	Rating
BIRET IN	355	416	BUY
EMBASSY IN	435	533	BUY
MINDSPCE IN	494	546	HOLD

Price & Target in Rupees | Price as of 19 Feb 2026



## Growth Intact

- Jewellery retailers posted strong double-digit growth on festive and wedding demand, higher ticket sizes, and organised share gains
- Despite robust topline growth, gold volatility and shifting consumer trends are widening divergence in growth and margins
- Q3FY26 signalled early stabilisation in QSR, though recovery remains uneven and value driven

Lavita Lasrado  
 Research Analyst  
 research@bobcaps.in

**Jewellery- strong topline momentum; Divergence due to Gold volatility:** This sector delivered a robust performance in Q3'26, driven by a mix of festive demand, elevated ASP, and structural consumer preference for organised brands. Titan delivered a powerful quarter, with Jewellery revenue up 43.3% YoY, SSSG at 31%, and EBITDA margin expanded 124bps to 10.7%. Senco revenue growth of 50.1% YoY, with EBITDA margin expanding 927 bps YoY to 13.2% reflects a strong pricing power and effective festive/wedding season execution, even as gold costs climbed. Bluestone's (27.5% rev YoY) online-led model retains momentum, though overall scale remains smaller relative to traditional retail peers. Thangamayil's Rev (112% YoY) turnaround from the weaker periods in past underscores the reopening pent-up demand in regional markets, with improved operational performance and retail traction. Overall, the jewellery sector is growing with strong topline momentum, but sensitivity to global gold prices and discretionary spending cues keep consumer demand nuanced and uneven across segments and formats.

**QSR – gradual stabilisation, recovery still patchy:** Q3'26 showed early signs of stabilisation, though recovery remains uneven across players and formats. While demand improved sequentially, it stayed value-led with premium dine-in under pressure. JFL led the pack with resilient Domino's delivery, positive LFL growth (5%) and stable margins despite expansion. Sapphire India saw improvement in SSSG sequentially for KFC (1%), while PH lagged (-12%). Sri Lanka (11%) supported growth, though margins recovered gradually. WFL (-3%) and DIL (KFC: 2.9%), (PH: -9.10%) reported modest growth, though margins remained constrained by weak operating leverage and ongoing investments. Value-focused propositions and strong delivery ecosystems continue to outperform, while dine-in-heavy formats remain sensitive to discretionary demand. In coming quarters, recovery in margins will likely depend on sustained traffic improvement and operating leverage benefits

**Top picks:** We prefer Bluestone & PNG, both companies offer substantial growth potential, supported by expanding market demand, brand strength, and scalable business models.



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Registered office Address: **1704, B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo, G Block, BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051**

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**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

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