

BUY TP: Rs 1,611 | A 24%

SBI LIFE

Insurance

23 January 2023

Upbeat quarter; maintain BUY

- Strong 15% YoY growth in 9M gross premium with an in-line Q3; APE clocks robust 20% increase
- VNB buoyant with a high ~30% margin at end-9M, up 480bps YoY but down vs. H1 due to a change in product mix
- We raise FY24/FY25 VNB by 5% each; on rollover, we have a revised TP of Rs 1,611 (vs. Rs 1,512); retain BUY

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Strong premium growth: Gross premium grew 6% YoY and 16% QoQ to Rs 193bn in Q3FY23 (+15% YoY to Rs 473bn in 9M), meeting our estimate. NBP was flat whereas renewal premium increased 13% YoY for the quarter. For 9MFY23, APE grew at a robust 20% YoY to Rs 123bn (+19% YoY in Q3), with savings APE up 21% to form 90% of the total. The company's protection business grew 16% YoY in 9M, wherein group products did comparatively better than individual plans. We now factor in an 18% CAGR in APE over FY22-FY25 to Rs 236bn (vs. Rs 216bn earlier).

Buoyant VNB and high margin: SBI Life's VNB rose 44% YoY to Rs 36.3bn in 9MFY23 with a 29.6% margin (+480bps YoY). However, the margin declined 140bps when compared to H1FY23 because of a change in product mix in favour of ULIPs which carry lower margins. Thus, we pare our VNB margin assumptions from 28-30% to 27-29% over FY23-FY25. Following the upward revision in APE estimates, we now model for a 20% CAGR in VNB over our forecast period to Rs 64bn (Rs 60bn earlier).

Bancassurance share increases: Based on overall APE, the share of the bancassurance channel climbed to 66% in 9MFY23 (vs. 64% in 9MFY22). The banking channel has performed well even if we were to exclude SBI. Agency was also steady at 25%. The share of other channels, comprising brokers, corporate agents and direct, declined to 9% (vs. 11% in 9MFY22).

Persistency improves; cost ratios increase: Persistency in the 13th month cohort increased to 84.6% in 9MFY23 from 83.9% in the year-ago period and 61st month ratios increased to 53.6% from 48.7%. The total cost ratio expanded ~140bps YoY to 9.1% at end-Q3 (+220bps in 9M to 9.7%), with opex ratio rising to 4.5% from 4.2% in the year-ago quarter and commission ratio to 4.6% from 3.5%.

Maintain BUY: The stock is trading at 1.9x FY25E P/EV. Given SBI Life's strong growth, market leadership, healthy solvency margins and high persistency ratios, we value the stock at 2.4x FY25E P/EV, which is the average of its long-term mean and 1SD below the mean multiple. Based on our revised estimates and rollover of valuations to FY25E, we have a new TP of Rs 1,611 (vs. Rs 1,512).

Key changes

Target	Rating
A	∢ ▶

Ticker/Price	SBILIFE IN/Rs 1,296
Market cap	US\$ 16.0bn
Free float	45%
3M ADV	US\$ 14.8mn
52wk high/low	Rs 1,340/Rs 1,004
Promoter/FPI/DII	55%/24%/16%

Source: NSE | Price as of 20 Jan 2023

Key financials

FY22A	FY23E	FY24E
2,54,574	2,92,933	3,42,554
1,43,000	1,72,874	2,03,227
37,037	50,133	54,871
3,96,030	4,74,841	5,64,694
25.9	29.0	27.0
395.5	475.2	566.8
15.0	19.3	20.4
15.0	19.5	22.4
3.3	2.7	2.3
	2,54,574 1,43,000 37,037 3,96,030 25.9 395.5 15.0	395.5 475.2 15.0 19.3 15.0 19.5

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance

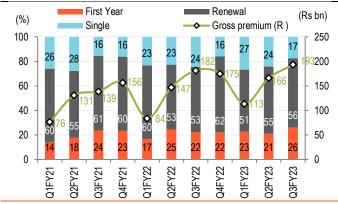


Source: NSE



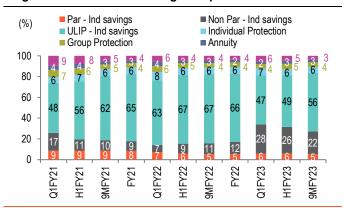


Fig 1 - Gross premium grew 6% YoY



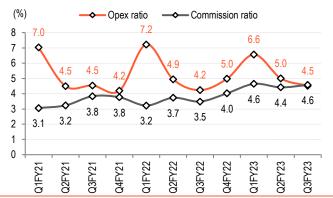
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 3 – ULIP remained strong this quarter on APE basis



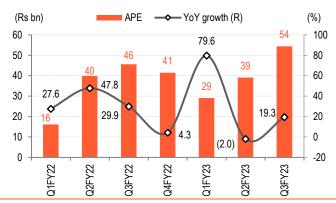
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Ind: Individual

Fig 5 - Opex ratio tapers; commission ratio inches up



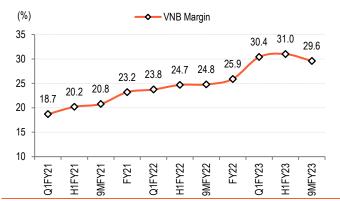
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 - APE growth strong



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 - VNB margin down vs. H1 due to change in mix



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – Market share: Remains the leader in private life insurance

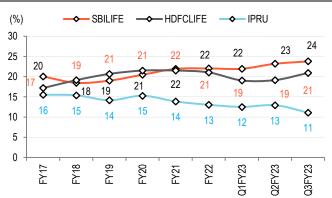




Fig 7 - Policyholders' account

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q3FY22	YoY (%)	Q2FY23	QoQ (%)
Gross premium income	1,93,319	1,81,558	6.5	1,66,211	16.3
First Year Premium	50,552	40,736	24.1	34,819	45.2
Renewal Premium	1,09,083	96,529	13.0	91,240	19.6
Single Premium	33,684	44,294	(24.0)	40,152	(16.1)
Reinsurance	1,611	1,305	23.5	1,438	12.0
Net premium income	1,91,708	1,80,253	6.4	1,64,773	16.3
Income from investments (Net)	74,430	24,241	207.0	1,10,367	(32.6)
Other income	130	89	46.4	113	15.0
Contribution of funds from Shareholders' A/c	-	-	NA	-	NA
Total	2,66,267	2,04,583	30.2	2,75,253	(3.3)
Commission on					
First Year Premium	5,271	3,268	61.3	4,226	24.7
Renewal Premium	2,599	2,445	6.3	2,347	10.8
Single Premium	582	432	34.6	545	6.9
Rewards	398	182	118.7	235	69.5
Net Commission	8,851	6,328	39.9	7,353	20.4
Expenses of Management	17,591	14,021	25.5	15,664	12.3
Provision for taxes	2,674	2,312	15.6	2,481	7.8
Benefits Paid (Net)	83,559	64,726	29.1	76,367	9.4
Change in actuarial liability	1,59,375	1,21,151	31.6	1,77,323	(10.1)
Surplus/Deficit	2,968	2,365	25.5	3,446	(13.9)

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 - Shareholders' account

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q3FY22	YoY (%)	Q2FY23	QoQ (%)
Transfer from Policyholders' Account	1,138	1,683	(32.4)	1,903	(40.2)
Investment Income	2,030	2,225	(8.8)	2,032	(0.1)
Other income	0	8	(96.1)	0	(25.0)
Expenses other than those related to insurance business	85	101	(16.3)	88	(3.1)
Transfer of funds to Policyholders' Account	-	-	NA	(20)	(100.0)
Profit before tax	3,108	3,814	(18.5)	3,866	(19.6)
Provisions for tax	67	173	(61.5)	99	(32.7)
Profit after tax and before extraordinary items	3,041	3,641	(16.5)	3,767	(19.3)



Fig 9 - Balance sheet

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q3FY22	YoY (%)	Q2FY23	QoQ (%)
Share Capital	10,008	10,003	0.1	10,007	0.0
Reserves and Surplus	1,13,925	99,402	14.6	1,10,801	2.8
Credit / (Debit) Fair Value Change Account	1,860	2,582	(28.0)	1,353	37.5
Sub-Total	1,25,793	1,11,987	12.3	1,22,161	3.0
POLICYHOLDERS' FUNDS:					
Policy Liabilities	12,41,541	10,53,339	17.9	11,94,100	4.0
Provision for Linked Liabilities	13,41,313	10,99,288	22.0	12,59,052	6.5
Add: Fair value change	1,90,872	2,13,484	(10.6)	1,63,156	17.0
Total Provision for Linked & Discontinued Policyholders Liabilities	93,013	82,915	12.2	88,397	5.2
Funds for Future Appropriations	15,033	11,864	26.7	13,202	13.9
TOTAL	28,81,772	24,60,891	17.1	27,17,907	6.0
Total Liabilities & Equity	30,07,565	25,72,878	16.9	28,40,068	5.9
Assets					
INVESTMENTS:					
Shareholders'	1,13,327	1,00,302	13.0	1,11,193	1.9
Policyholders'	12,61,248	10,81,563	16.6	12,01,494	5.0
Asset held to cover Linked Liabilities	15,96,291	13,61,584	17.2	14,84,356	7.5
Loans	3,765	3,538	6.4	3,571	5.4
Fixed Assets	5,153	5,346	(3.6)	5,250	(1.9)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	27,781	20,546	35.2	34,204	(18.8)
TOTAL ASSETS	30,07,565	25,72,878	16.9	28,40,068	5.9

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 - Key ratios and growth metrics

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q3FY22	YoY (%)	Q2FY23	QoQ (%)
NBP	84,236	85,029	(0.9)	74,971	12.4
APE	54,400	45,600	19.3	39,100	39.1
VNB	15,100	11,500	31.3	12,400	21.8
Opex ratio (%)	4.5	4.2	28bps	5.0	(48bps)
Commission ratio (%)	4.6	3.5	109bps	4.4	15bps
Expense ratio (%)	9.1	7.7	138bps	9.4	(32bps)
VNB margin (%) – Cumulative	29.6	25.5	410bps	31.0	(140bps)
Solvency ratio (%)	225.0	209.0	1600bps	219	600bps
Persistency ratio (Regular Premium / Limited Premium Payment under Individual category)					
13th month (%) – Cumulative	84.6	83.9	70bps	85.2	(57bps)
61st month (%) - Cumulative	53.6	48.7	490bps	52.5	115bps
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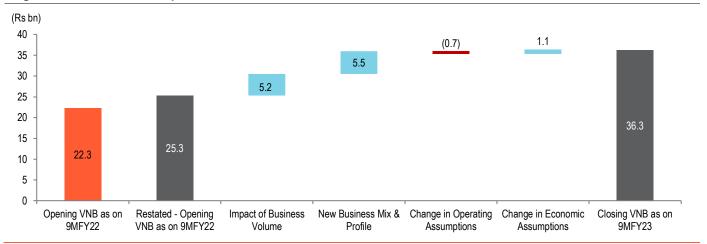
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – Distribution mix (APE)

(%)	Q1FY20	H1FY20	9MFY20	FY20	Q1FY21	H1FY21	9MFY21	FY21	Q1FY22	H1FY22	9MFY22	FY22	Q1FY23	H1FY23	9MFY23
Banca	64.0	66.0	66.0	65.0	56.0	61.0	64.0	63.0	57.0	62.0	64.0	63.0	63.0	63.0	66.0
Agency	28.0	27.0	27.0	28.0	26.0	24.0	24.0	26.0	29.0	27.0	25.0	26.0	26.0	25.0	25.0
Others	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	18.0	15.0	12.0	11.0	14.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	9.0



Fig 12 - New business mix, profile and volumes add to VNB





Earnings call highlights

Business highlights

- SBI Life's NBP grew 14% YoY in 9MFY23 to Rs 215.1bn. Individual NBP increased 31% YoY to Rs 152.4bn and protection NBP grew 25% to Rs 25.5bn. GWP was at Rs 473bn, up 15% YoY.
- VNB margin stood at 29.6% at end-9MFY23, expanding 480bps over 24.8% in Dec'21. AUM grew 17% to Rs 3tn.
- APE registered 20% growth to Rs 122.6bn in 9MFY23.
- Partnerships such as Indian Bank, UCO Bank, South Indian Bank, Punjab and Sindh Bank, and Yes Bank grew 69% YoY in 9MFY23 in terms of individual NBP and now contribute 3% share.

Product mix

- The APE mix shifted in 9MFY23, with the contribution from non-participating savings products reducing from 26% in H1FY23 to 22% in 9M and ULIPs increasing from 49% to 56%. Annuity and individual protection share remained stable at 3% and 6% respectively. The company doesn't intend to maintain a specific product mix.
- SBI Life expects the demand momentum for its ULIP offerings to continue though Q4. Management also expects non-par guaranteed products to continue seeing good traction.
- The company decides the pricing of non-par products based on long-term interest rates, market sentiment and customer feedback, among other parameters.
- Annuity products have demonstrated strong growth across channels. The company
 has changed the rates a couple of times over the year.
- The company indicated that it is sufficiently hedged against currency risk.

Distribution channels

- The agency force increased by ~45,000 in FY23 YTD to 0.2mn and per agent productivity stood at Rs 0.27mn at end-9MFY23.
- The bancassurance channel has demonstrated strong growth, and management remains positive on public sector bank partnerships. Most SBI branches are actively selling the life insurance product and growth has been steady. Productivity per SBI branch stood at Rs 6.2mn at end-9MFY23 vs. Rs 4mn at end-H1FY23.
- In terms of APE, bancassurance constituted 66% of the total at end-9MFY23 (vs. 63% in FY22), whereas the share of agents was stable at 25% (vs. 26%).

VNB

 VNB margin improved from 24.8% in 9MFY22 to 29.6% at end-9MFY23 with the new business mix & profile majorly contributing to the gain.



- VNB margin showed a decline compared to H1FY23 levels of 31% because of the change in product mix towards ULIPs that earn below-company-average margins.
- The VNB sensitivity to reference rate is negative as the company hedges interest rate risk in non-par products by using forward rate agreements (FRA). When interest rates increase, it results in mark-to-market losses incurred on FRA, causing the sensitivity to turn negative.

Others

- 13th month persistency improved to 84.6% at end-9MFY23 vs. 83.9% in 9MFY22. The 61st month cohort also improved to 53.6% vs. 48.7%.
- Per management, there is no competition between life insurance purchases and fixed deposit accretion.
- As much as 99% of individual proposals are being submitted digitally and 45% of individual proposals are being processed through automated underwriting.
- The company's mis-selling ratios are the lowest in the industry with unfair business practice at 0.09% as at end-9MFY23. This is defined as the number of grievances with respect to unfair business practices as compared to policies issued over the same period.



Valuation methodology

SBI Life is a market leader in the private life insurance space and continues to expand market share – from 22% at end-FY22 to 23.8%% in Q3FY23 – backed by its strong brand equity and pedigree. The company is focused on maintaining a balanced product mix and enjoys a robust VNB margin (29.6% in 9MFY23). Business is supported by ~1,000 branches and 0.2mn agents. While the total cost ratio remains elevated (9.1% at end-Q3), it is still on the lower side compared to peers.

Baking in the Q3FY23 performance, we raise VNB estimates by 5-6% over FY23-FY25 but pare VNB margins by 100bps each to factor in the decline vis-à-vis H1FY23. We also raise our APE estimates by ~9% and gross premium estimates by 1-2% in each of the forecast years.

The stock is trading at 1.9x FY25E P/EV. Given SBI Life's strong growth, market leadership, healthy solvency margins and high persistency ratios, we continue to value the stock at 2.4x FY25E P/EV, which is the average of its long-term mean and one standard deviation below the mean. Based on our revised estimates and rollover of valuations to FY25E, we have a new TP of Rs 1,611 (vs. Rs 1,512) – maintain BUY.

Fig 13 - Revised estimates

(Rs bn)		New		Old					
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY23	FY24	FY25
Gross Premium	6,76,756	7,97,769	9,36,032	6,74,231	7,86,591	9,16,181	0.4	1.4	2.2
Net Premium	6,69,463	7,90,338	9,27,367	6,66,985	7,79,243	9,07,642	0.4	1.4	2.2
VNB	50	55	64	47	52	60	5.7	5.3	5.3
APE	173	203	236	158	186	216	9.4	9.2	9.2
VNB Margin (%)	29.0	27.0	27.0	30.0	28.0	28.0	(100bps)	(100bps)	(100bps)

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 - Valuation summary

Particulars	
Embedded Value (FY25E) (Rs bn)	671
PV of Future business (Rs bn)	943
Total value (Rs bn)	1,614
Current P/EV (FY25E) (x)	1.9
Implied P/EV (FY25E) (x)	2.4
Implied Target Price (Rs)	1,611
Current Price (Rs)	1,296
Upside (%)	24%



(x) P/E Mean +SD -SD +2SD -2SD

4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0

Oct-20

Fig 15 - 1Y fwd P/EV - Trading at -1SD

Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Apr-1

Jul-18 Oct-18

Key risks

Jan-18

1.0

2ct-1

Key downside risks to our estimates are:

Jul-19 Oct-19

- Change in regulatory framework: Any unfavourable change in regulations can impact business growth. For example, currently ULIP proceeds are taxed to the extent the yearly premium exceeds Rs 0.25mn. Similarly, any change in 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 opting for a balanced product mix, many of them have sizeable business coming from ULIPs.
- Increasing interest rates: The guaranteed return businesses can be affected by an
 increase in interest rates as other financial instruments (e.g. deposits) become more
 attractive. HDFC Life had ~28% share of non-par in the total APE mix as of FY22.
- Adverse economic events: A significant economic decline may result in financial
 difficulties or defaults by issuers of bonds in the company's investment portfolios.
 The shareholders' equity and earnings and policyholders' funds may be affected by
 fair value re-valuation of bonds held in investment portfolios.
- High surrender of policies: Life insurance companies face the risk of surrendered policies. In ULIPs, customers can withdraw policies after five years even if they have been taken for longer durations. Policies can also be surrendered for reasons such as job loss and monetary requirements, which lowers the persistency ratios.



Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
HDFC Life	HDFCLIFE IN	15.6	591	741	BUY
ICICI Prudential Life	IPRU IN	8.4	471	601	BUY
SBI Life	SBILIFE IN	16.0	1,296	1,611	BUY

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 20 Jan 2023

Glossary

Glossary								
APE	Average Premium Equivalent	NBP	New Business Premium					
EV	Embedded Value	ULIP	Unit Linked Insurance Plan					
GWP	Gross Written Premium	VNB	Value of New Business					
IRDA	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority							



Financials

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Gross premium income	5,02,542	5,87,596	6,76,756	7,97,769	9,36,032
First year premium	1,03,381	1,29,415	1,58,098	1,86,058	2,15,828
Renewal premium	2,96,299	3,33,023	3,83,824	4,55,215	5,38,669
Single premium	1,02,861	1,25,158	1,34,834	1,56,496	1,81,535
Net written premium	4,97,683	5,84,323	6,69,463	7,90,338	9,27,367
Income from investments	3,14,560	2,35,679	1,97,495	2,25,296	2,65,541
Other Income	8,606	10,270	11,248	12,357	13,575
Total income	8,20,849	8,30,272	8,78,206	10,27,991	12,06,483
Commissions	17,788	21,583	30,947	35,671	41,177
Operating expenses	22,409	30,153	35,145	42,396	49,568
Benefits and bonuses paid	2,15,826	3,13,398	2,99,742	3,54,686	4,17,236
Change in liabilities (net)	5,39,342	4,37,619	4,78,969	5,59,580	6,57,148
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Total expenses	7,95,365	8,02,753	8,44,802	9,92,332	11,65,128
Surplus before tax	25,484	27,519	33,404	35,659	41,355
Provision for tax	7,410	8,681	9,338	9,411	11,140
Surplus after tax	18,074	18,838	24,065	26,249	30,216
Trf to shareholders' a/c	16,788	17,324	22,553	24,492	28,187
Balance being FFA	1,287	1,513	1,512	1,756	2,029

Income Statement (Non-technical)

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Trf from policyholders' a/c	16,788	17,324	22,553	24,492	28,187
Income from investments	6,885	9,831	9,335	9,809	9,898
Contr. to policyholders' fund	(8,248)	(9,821)	(10,804)	(11,884)	(13,072)
Others	0	(1,726)	(1,098)	(1,192)	(1,296)
PBT	15,425	15,608	19,987	21,225	23,716
Provision for taxation	(866)	(548)	(700)	(743)	(830)
PAT	14,559	15,060	19,287	20,482	22,886
Dividend+Interim div.+DDT	2,500	2,003	3,005	3,005	3,005

Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Equity	1,04,004	1,16,223	1,30,467	1,47,943	1,67,825
Policyholders' funds	20,43,379	24,74,190	29,54,432	35,14,012	41,71,160
FFA	8,423	9,936	10,930	11,258	11,483
Others	70,115	81,723	89,895	92,592	94,444
Total liabilities	22,25,921	26,82,072	31,85,724	37,65,805	44,44,911
Shareholders' funds	86,047	1,00,758	1,18,895	1,42,674	1,74,062
Policyholders' funds	9,39,364	11,21,307	15,09,095	19,01,335	23,71,181
Assets to cover linked liab.	11,62,150	14,26,253	14,97,566	16,47,322	18,12,055
Others	38,359	33,754	60,168	74,474	87,614
Total assets	22,25,921	26,82,072	31,85,724	37,65,805	44,44,911

Key Metrics

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
AUM (Rs mn)	22,08,710	26,74,000	32,42,897	38,27,480	45,11,917
NBP (Rs mn)	2,06,242	2,54,574	2,92,933	3,42,554	3,97,363
APE (Rs mn)	1,14,500	1,43,000	1,72,874	2,03,227	2,35,743
VNB (Rs mn)	23,358	37,037	50,133	54,871	63,651
VNB margin (%)	20.4	25.9	29.0	27.0	27.0
Embedded value (Rs mn)	3,33,630	3,96,030	4,74,841	5,64,694	6,70,515
ROEV (%)	19.1	20.7	20.7	19.6	19.3
ROE (%)	15.2	13.7	15.6	14.7	14.5
Opex ratio (%)	4.8	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2
Cost ratio (%)	8.3	8.7	9.7	9.7	9.6
Solvency ratio (%)	214.7	204.8	224.1	227.0	229.3
EPS (Rs)	14.6	15.0	19.3	20.4	22.8
BVPS (Rs)	104.0	116.2	130.5	147.9	167.8
EVPS (Rs)	333.6	395.5	475.2	566.8	674.0



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Disclaimer

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

BUY - Expected return >+15%

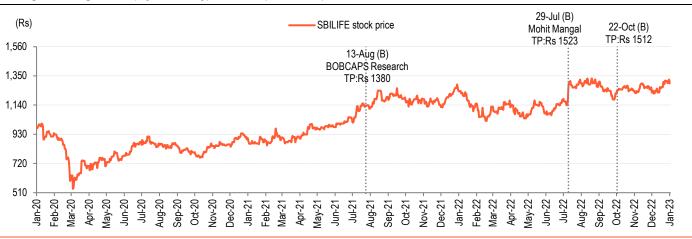
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

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): SBI LIFE (SBILIFE IN)



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

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