



CHOCKALINGAM NARAYANAN
HEAD EQUITIES – PMS & AIF (LONG ONLY)
ICICI PRUDENTIAL AMC

AUM (Rs): 23,300+ Cr (As on 30th April 2026)

No Of PMS Approach: 15+

ABOUT CHOCKALINGAM NARAYANAN



Do you think trying to time cycles is still relevant today, or should fund managers shift entirely toward a more structural or bottom-up approach?

Market cycles are usually tough to predict and they are becoming progressively shorter with every passing year that it is tough to position in which part of the cycle markets are. I believe a balanced approach works best—combining bottom-up stock selection with a structural, long-term view, while remaining tactically flexible. This helps capture opportunities without over-relying on trying to predict the phase of a market cycle.

Outside markets, what is one passion that keeps you energized?

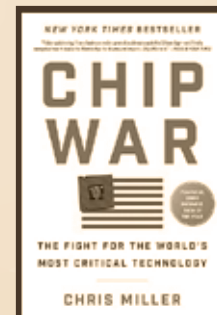
I would say travel. Exploring different cultures, economies, and consumer behaviours helps to think more holistically as an investor and provides a mental reset.

**YOUR BOOK(S)
RECOMMENDATION**



The Checklist Manifesto

- Atul Gawande



Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology

- Chris Miller

ABOUT THE BROAD MARKET

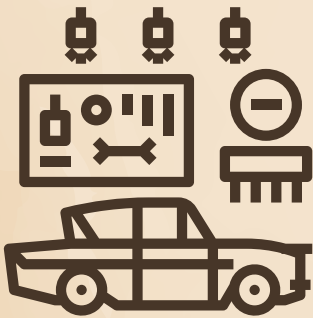


Top 3 sectors bullish as of April 2026?

- Metals.
- Auto ancillaries.
- Consumption of services.



- Metals



- Auto Ancillaries



- Consumption of Services

How do you view small-cap valuations in the current market environment?

At an index level, **small-cap valuations appear elevated relative to historical averages.** However, given the breadth of the universe, a bottom-up approach continues to uncover selective opportunities with reasonable valuations and growth potential.

With rising inflation, how do you see interest rates moving in upcoming policy meetings?

Interest rates remain one of several policy tools, and central banks have been calibrating their approach carefully. While three months back, most sections of the market were concerned about low absolute level of inflation, the geopolitical factors have increased risks. If view on inflation starts becoming sticky at an elevated level for a longer horizon, that is when historically policymakers have reacted on it. We don't see a reason for that approach to change.



ABOUT THE FUNDS



With the Contra Strategy managing over Rs.13,000 Crore in AUM (as of April 2026) and deploying across market caps, how do you manage alpha saturation?

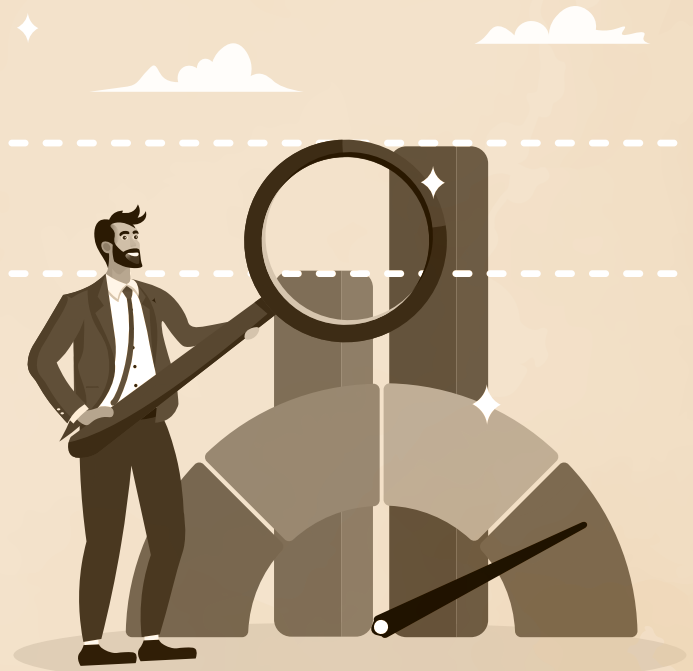
PMS as a platform allows for meaningful customization, so it does not have to be one single portfolio for all investors. We aim to benefit from a large research team that supports bottom-up stock identification. Additionally, we operate within a collaborative investment environment, allowing us to leverage each other's strengths effectively.

What are the 3 factors that trigger the exit?

- First, when our original investment hypothesis is not playing out as expected.
- Second, from a risk management perspective.
- Third, when the thesis materialises faster than anticipated, prompting us to book gains.

Your Value Strategy delivered 16.17% in one year versus 3.64% by the BSE 500 TRI benchmark (as of April 2026). What drove the outperformance?

We remained disciplined in staying true to our investment style while identifying opportunities through a bottom-up approach. Performance was also aided by favourable timing in a few positions, as well as fewer negative surprises beyond what was already priced into valuations.



Disclaimer: The information about funds, investment strategies, stocks, and sectors is for informational purposes only and doesn't constitute investment advice. PMS Bazaar and the AMC do not endorse or recommend any specific investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The returns mentioned are not verified by SEBI. Please consult with a qualified financial advisor before making any investment decisions.