

August 1-12, 2025

1) Centralized Death Reporting—One Report, One System: SEBI's Smart Move in Investor Demise Reporting

Panellists:

Biharilal Deora, Director, Abakkus Harsh Roongta, Feeonly Advisor

Moderator:

Kunj Bansal, GM, NISM

2) Demystifying Municipal Bonds: Opportunities for investors and issuers

By Venkatakrishnan Srinivasan, Managing Partner – Rockfort Fincap LLP

3) How to create a complete portfolio using mutual funds

By Lisa Pallavi Barbora, Financial Coach & Personal Finance Expert

4) Rethinking Retirement – Using safe withdrawal rates for better planning in India

By Ravi Sarogi, CFA, Co-founder, Samasthithi Advisors, SEBI RIA



**A fortnightly series offering quick, engaging insights from investor education webinars.*



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Key Takeaways¹

August 1-12, 2025

1. Centralized Death Reporting - One Report, One System: SEBI's Smart Move in Investor Demise Reporting

Panellists: *Biharilal Deora, Director - Abakkus Asset Manager Pvt. Ltd.*
Harsh Roongta, Feeonly Advisor

Moderator: *Kunj Bansal, GM, NISM*

Context: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Centralized Death Reporting Mechanism is a world-first initiative that enables a one-time notification of an investor's demise through KRA, triggering updates across all SEBI-registered intermediaries. This simple yet powerful step eases the transmission process, reduces delays, and provides much-needed relief to grieving families. This one-of-a-kind system exemplifies how India is setting global benchmarks in capital markets regulation.

❖ Session Highlights:

- The Centralized Death Reporting mechanism is an easy-to-use, free-of-cost facility for nominees, legal heirs, or family members, who can approach any investor services center of a stock exchange, depository, or their existing intermediary to report the demise of an investor.
- The verified results are provided to all intermediaries in capital markets who will reach out to nominees in their own records for facilitating easier and faster transmission process.

✓ Key Takeaways:

- Old or new demise reporting can be intimated through this mechanism by anyone, including the nominee, along with the relevant documentation.
- The KYC of the deceased investor, once verified, will be permanently deactivated, thereby preventing any fraud or impersonation.
- Intermediaries holding assets are required to provide a process for the registered nominee or legal heir to enable the transmission of the said assets. Instead of reporting the death at each account level, this facility reduces paperwork and provides a centralized way to disseminate the information.

🔗 Recording of Webinar Link

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2. Demystifying Municipal Bonds: Opportunities for investors and issuers

Speaker: Venkatakrishnan Srinivasan, Managing Partner – Rockfort Fincap LLP

Context: This session focused on the critical role of municipal bonds in bridging India's urban infrastructure financing gap. With rapid urbanization and growing climate challenges, the session explored how **capital markets** can be harnessed to support sustainable urban development through municipal bond instruments.

❖ Session Highlights:

- India's cities, expected to house over 800 million people by 2050, are facing mounting infrastructure stress. Municipal bonds offer a market-driven and scalable solution beyond traditional grants and subsidies.
- Since SEBI's 2015 ILDM regulations, and with support from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), the municipal bond ecosystem has gained renewed momentum, raising over Rs. 3,350 crore through 23 issuances, including AA-rated and green bonds.
- Enhanced regulatory oversight, smaller ticket sizes, public issue avenues, and structured credit mechanisms (such as escrow and Debt Service Reserve Account) have boosted investor confidence. At the same time, issuers gain access to long-term, lower-cost capital while strengthening financial governance.

✓ Key Takeaway:

- Municipal bonds are emerging as a powerful tool to finance India's urban transformation—offering investors stable, impact-oriented returns and enabling cities to access capital markets with greater autonomy, accountability, and alignment with sustainable development goals.

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3. How to create a complete portfolio using Mutual Funds

Speaker: Lisa Pallavi Barbora, Author, Financial Coach & personal finance expert

Context: Mutual funds are easily accessible and flexible financial instruments that allow investors to diversify across various assets.

❖ Session Highlights:

- Learning how to decide where to invest.
 - a. Goal setting
 - b. Investment time-line
- Asset allocation across goals – short, medium and long term.
- Deciding the right type of MF – direct or growth plan, active or passive, for Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) or lump sum, New Fund Offer (NFO).

✓ **Key Takeaway:**

- Mutual funds across different types and asset classes cater to all investment horizons—short, medium, and long term. You should approach investments with proper logic and process rather than chasing returns.

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4. Using Safe Withdrawal Rates for Better Retirement Planning

Speaker: Ravi Sarogi, CFA, Co-founder, Samasthithi Advisors, SEBI RIA

Context: Retirees in India often rely on simplistic return forecasts that do not account for market volatility and sequence of return risk. This session introduced the concept of Safe Withdrawal Rates (SWRs), a research-based approach that provides a more reliable framework for determining sustainable retirement income.

❖ **Session Highlights:**

- Demonstrated why average return forecasts can be misleading and why retirement planning must account for volatility and the sequence of return risk.
- Presented evidence from simulations using Indian data (2000–2024), showing that safe withdrawal rates typically remain lower than commonly assumed, and that higher equity allocations or bucket strategies do not automatically allow for higher withdrawals.

✓ **Key Takeaways:**

- A sustainable retirement plan must focus on minimizing the risk of failure (running out of money), not just on maximizing potential returns.
- Safe withdrawal rates provide retirees with a disciplined, scenario-tested method to draw income that balances stability and sustainability over a long retirement horizon.

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