

Between the Highs and the Headlines



WHITEOAK
CAPITAL MUTUAL FUND

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF INVESTING

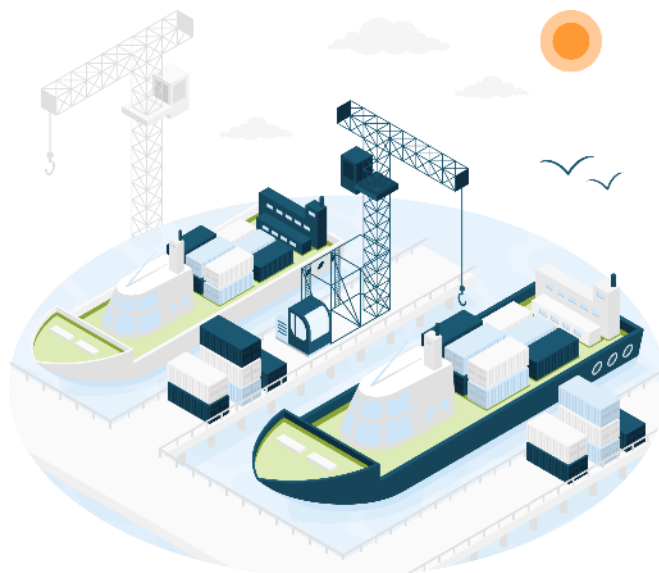
SEBI REGISTRATION NO. MF/074/18/02

"A ship is safe in harbour, but that is not what ships are for."

John Shedd wrote this almost a century ago, and it had nothing to do with markets. Yet it captures something important about the cost of staying safe at the wrong moment.

The moments that feel like the worst time to be invested have often been followed by some of the strongest long-term returns. Not the easy years when everything grows and nobody is anxious, but the crashes that made headlines for weeks and had people using words like collapse and irreversible.

In 2008, the global banking system was genuinely failing. In 2020, the world had no timeline for returning to normal. In 2011, oil prices were elevated and concerns about growth and the global economy were widespread. The risks were real, which is precisely what made those moments so difficult to navigate.



1

The Date on the Door

Think about the last time you saw a sign outside a shop that said, "Established 1971." You did not need to read another word. That number told you the place had stood through recessions, bad years, competition and uncertainty. It was not just age. It was proof of cycles survived.

Precedent is one of the oldest tools human beings have. Not because the past guarantees anything, but because when the same pattern repeats across enough time and enough pressure, the brain stops calling it coincidence and starts calling it evidence.

Markets are full of moments that feel new while we are living through them. Sometimes, the best way to understand the present is to look at what came before.

What The Market Has **lived Through**



Source: WhiteOak. As of March 31, 2026. Above levels are for BSE Sensex. **Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not a guarantee of any future returns. Index performance does not signify scheme performance.**

From 1996 to 2026, the market has gone through wars, oil shocks, financial stress, political uncertainty and global selloffs. The immediate impact was different each time, as was what followed. To understand this better, it is important to look at how the market responded to these moments at the time.

Between the Highs and the Headlines



WHITEOAK
CAPITAL MUTUAL FUND

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF INVESTING

SEBI REGISTRATION NO. MF/074/18/02

Event	What worried us	Decline	CAGR to Date	Multiple
Tech Bubble + 9/11, 2000–01	US tech sell-off, dot-com crash and 9/11 attack. Rupee 43.7→48.0 (+10%).	–67%	12%	20×
Global Financial Crisis, 2008–09	Global financial system and world economy were under severe stress. Oil had reached \$147 before collapsing to \$35 (–76%). India's WPI inflation had reached 12.9%. Satyam scam (Jan-09, –7% in a day). Rupee 39.3→51.9 (+32%). FII outflow 53,000 cr.	–64%	9%	5×
Euro Debt Crisis + RBI Rate Hikes, 2010–11	Eurozone debt crisis, rising US bond yields and aggressive RBI tightening. Repo rate 4.75%→8.50%. Oil \$87→\$107 (+23%). Rupee 44.2→52.9 (+20%).	–31%	11%	5×
Demonetisation + US Election, 2016	Cash-crunch shock to consumption and SME earnings, commodity weakness alongside US Fed rate-hike fears after the Trump election win.	–12%	13%	3.4×
IL&FS + EM Stress, 2018	IL&FS default, credit freeze, EM outflows and global volatility spike. FPI outflow 83,146 cr.	–16%	12%	2.6×
COVID Crash, 2020	Life-threatening pandemic, global shutdown, oil-price war and severe earnings uncertainty. In March alone, FIIs sold 61,973–65,816 cr.	–38%	15%	2.5×
Ukraine War + Inflation + Fed Hikes, 2022	Ukraine war, oil \$85→\$115 (+35%), US CPI peaked at 9.1% and aggressive Fed tightening. FPI outflow 1.40 lakh cr. over the financial year.	–18%	9%	1.6×
2024 Election Uncertainty	Exit-poll expectations of a large majority gave way to coalition uncertainty on counting day. Sensex –5.74% and Nifty –5.93% on 4 June. FPI selling 12,436 cr. that day.	–7%	3%	1.1×
US Tariffs + Iran War, 2025–26	US tariff shock, Iran war and AI-sector concerns. FPI equity outflow 1.17 lakh cr. in March 2026. Rupee 90→94.4, reaching a new level of weakness after years of depreciation.	–19%	Ongoing	

Source: Nifty 500 TRI. Decline = peak to trough. CAGR and Multiple from each peak through 31 Aug 2026. 2025–26 marked Ongoing as the period had not fully played out by that date. **Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not a guarantee of any future returns. Index performance does not signify scheme performance.** Historical events and concerns are based on publicly available information.

What history shows us is that, at different points in time, markets have faced different events, crises and narratives. At times, even the same concerns have returned in a different form. Yet their experience and impact can feel very different when we are living through them.

Importantly, the outcome has not always matched the concern of the moment. The decline captures what happened then; the compounding from those levels captures what happened after.

Beyond sharp crises, there are also periods when the market takes longer to make progress. Looking at those periods offers another perspective.



2

What Happened After Flat Markets

Flat Market Period	Trailing 2 years	Subsequent 1 year return (Absolute)	Subsequent 2-year return (CAGR)
Mar 2001 – Mar 2003	-0.60%	112%	27%
Aug 2011 – Aug 2013	2.90%	56%	13%
Dec 2014 – Dec 2016	2.60%	38%	8%
Jun 2018 – Jun 2020	-2.70%	61%	13%

Source: NSE India Nifty 500 TRI; Trailing and Forward returns are calculated for the specific time horizons relative to each flat market period. Data as of 31 August 2026. Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not a guarantee of any future returns. Index performance does not signify scheme performance.

A prolonged period of limited market progress has not necessarily carried forward into the next phase. Across these periods, forward returns were positive in every case, even though the reasons for the uncertainty were different each time. What came next was clear to investors only in hindsight.

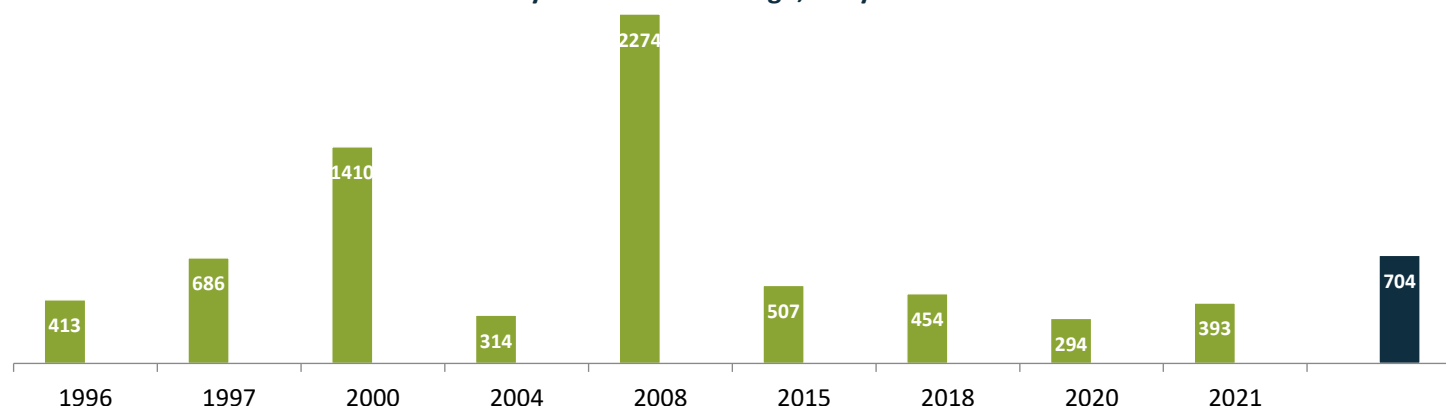
That distinction matters because a market that has gone nowhere for an extended period can feel very different from one that has fundamentally lost its long-term potential. Such periods can make investors question whether the underlying opportunity has changed, even when the market may simply be going through a pause.

3

The Length of the Wait

The hard part of a flat market is not doubting whether markets will make new highs; it is not knowing how long you may have to wait. Since 1996, the Nifty 500 TRI has had several periods when it remained below its previous all-time high for an extended period.

Days without a new high, Nifty 500 TRI



Source: Nifty 500 TRI. Waiting period = calendar days from a prior all-time high until the index makes a new high through 31 Aug 2026. Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not a guarantee of any future returns. Index performance does not signify scheme performance.

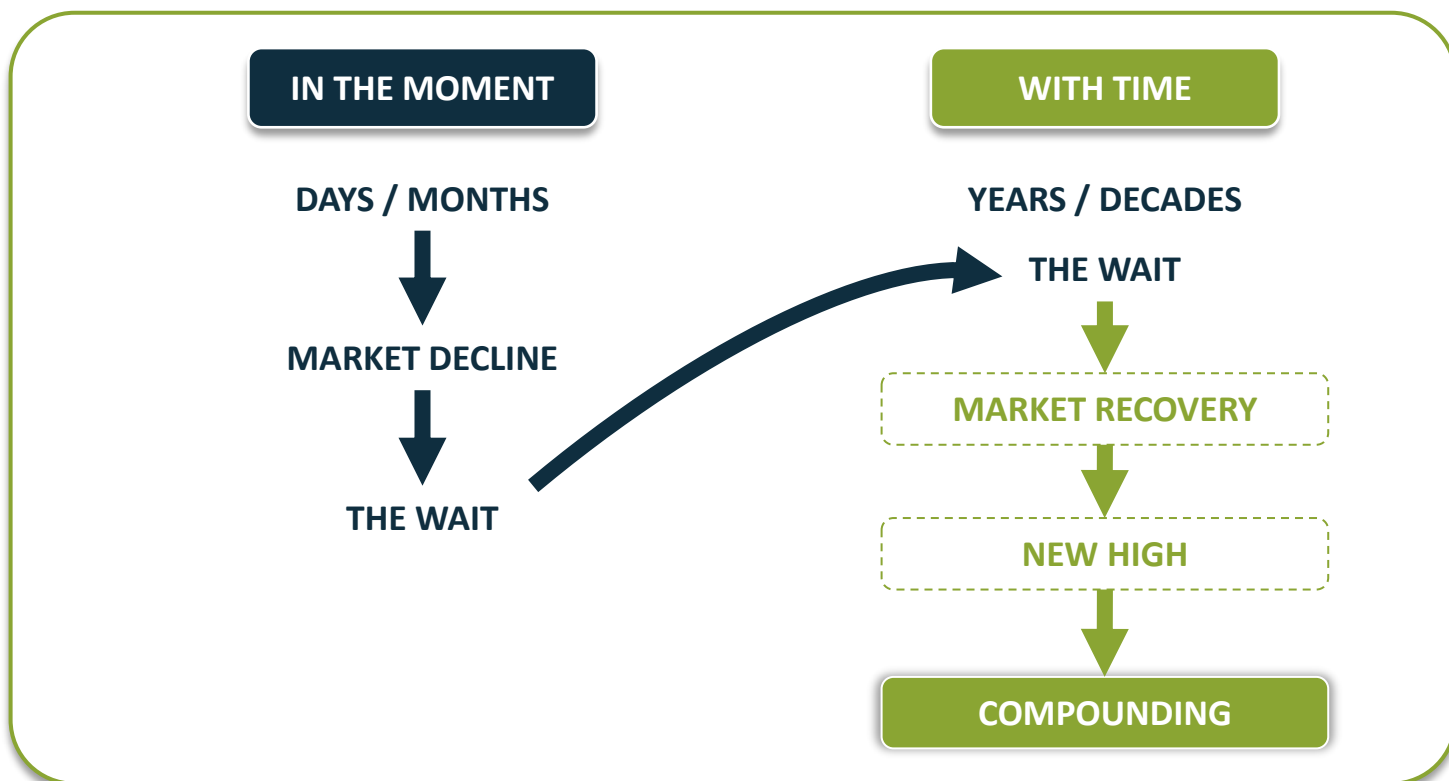
The waiting periods have been very different. Some ended within a year, while others stretched across several years. The longest wait in the record lasted 2,274 days, while the current period has reached 704 days. The present wait is longer than several earlier episodes, but still well below the longest period in the record.

That range puts the current period in context. A wait that feels unusually long when experienced day by day can look different when placed alongside the full history of the market. The calendar tells us how long the wait has lasted, but not what the next phase will look like.



4

The Same Market, A Different Feeling



For Illustrative and understanding purpose only

The same wait can feel very different each time because the reason behind it is never the same. Oil, the rupee, a war, or a slowdown can create uncertainty, but living through any of them can still feel different every time.

Prices can stay unchanged while earnings and the economy grow. Value can build even when the market does not show it immediately. That progress may not always be reflected in the price immediately.

The practical question, then, is not just how long the market has gone without a new high. It is whether the reason for owning the investment has changed. If the underlying case remains intact, time alone does not change it. If the facts have changed, that is a different decision. The wait matters, but what is happening during the wait matters more.

None of this is to say the market has found its bottom and is about to launch into a rip-roaring rally. We may very well face more of the same stagnation in the near term, driven by geopolitical tensions, volatile oil prices, shifting views on the AI rally, or a US monetary policy at the crossroads.

The limited point is that with every passing month and quarter the market goes nowhere, it behaves like a compressed spring being wound tighter and tighter. The underlying economics continues to build while the price stands still. As that tension builds, the possibility of mean reversion, a rapid catch-up and disproportionate returns become more pronounced.

"In the rearview mirror, every crash looks like an opportunity; through the windshield, every bump feels like it could become a crash."

These views are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute investment advice, an offer, or a solicitation to buy or sell any securities. Past performance may or may not be sustained in future and is not an indicative of future results. Investors are advised to consult their financial advisors before making any investment decisions.

C/508/9/26