



BURMAN
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Exceptional companies generate disproportionate returns

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Exceptional companies generate disproportionate returns

India has been a breeding ground for remarkable managers who have created enormous wealth for themselves and their shareholders by capturing large white spaces in the country. For instance, over the past 20 years, there have been 164 listed companies that have delivered more than 100X returns under exemplary leadership. Our strategy is to identify and back such exceptional companies early when their potential has not been fully comprehended by market participants.

In this newsletter, we show how returns generated by exceptional companies have been disproportionately higher than average listed companies and discuss our approach to investing in such companies.

Portfolio performance update

Post fee, our portfolio delivered 16.8% absolute returns over the Jul-Sep'21 quarter compared to 12.7%, 12.1% and 11.3% for BSE SENSEX, BSE Mid cap, and BSE Small cap indices respectively. Since inception on Mar 23, 2021, our portfolio is up 36.9%.

Performance Snapshot

Monthly performance (Absolute returns %)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct*	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
FY2021-22	6.5	5.7	(0.5)	7.5	4.1	4.3	4.0					

	Returns since inception (Annualized returns %)*	Returns during Jul-Sep'21 (Absolute returns %)	Sortino Ratio	Sharpe Ratio
Burman Capital Management	36.9	16.8	4.2	2.9
BSE SENSEX	22.4	12.7	2.5	1.9
BSE Midcap	27.5	12.1	2.4	1.9
BSE Smallcap	39.1	11.3	3.3	2.7

Notes:

- Portfolio inception date is Mar 23, 2021
- Sharpe and Sortino Ratios are since inception
- *Absolute returns till Oct 21st 2021 since inception

Exceptional companies generated 33% CAGR over the past twenty years

The table below shows a summary of listed companies' returns over the past 20 years.

	Multiple on investment					BSE SENSEX
	Total*	>100x	50x-100x	20x-50x	Others	
Number of companies	1,143	164	116	135	728	30
Returns generated by these companies	19	33	24	20	12.1	16

Note: *Includes all companies listed on BSE as of Oct 12, 2001

164 out of 1,143 listed companies generated more than 100X returns over the last twenty years. These 164 companies as a group generated 33% compounded returns over the period as compared to 19% returns for the market as a whole and 16% for BSE SENSEX. To put these numbers into context, the '>100X' group delivered returns that were 6X of all the listed companies combined and 10X returns generated by BSE SENSEX.

As per our detailed assessment, these 164 companies have several common characteristics including – (1.) exceptional managements, (2.) large addressable markets relative to current size, (3.) sustainable competitive advantage and (4.) strong inherent unit economics. These characteristics are also the key pillars of our investment strategy

Moreover, investing in such companies at an ‘early’ stage when the market has not fully understood the opportunity results in disproportionate returns. The table showcases the point using the large-cap/mid-cap/small-cap classification which acts as a reasonable proxy for the degree of ‘discovery’ by the market.

	Multiple on investment				
	Total*	>100x	50x-100x	20x-50x	Others
Large-cap	100	7	11	24	58
Mid-cap	150	31	16	19	84
Small-cap	893	126	89	92	586
Total	1,143	164	116	135	728

Almost all the ‘>100X’ companies were either ‘small-caps’ or ‘mid-caps’ (basis current SEBI classification).

Our approach to investing

At Burman Capital Management, we run concentrated portfolios focused on backing exceptional companies early, largely in the Indian small and mid-cap space. We follow a rigorous qualitative and quantitative diligence process for analyzing companies that provides us with differentiated insights and a unique perspective on the long-term fundamental drivers of businesses. We illustrate our approach to investing through an example of one of our portfolio companies.

The top contributor to our returns since inception has been an exceptional company focusing on providing embedded software services to the global automotive industry. The company was one of the first players in its industry to recognize and prepare for the global automotive pivot to four core areas – Connected, Autonomous driving, Shared Mobility and Electric. Driven by its early-mover advantage, it today boasts of one of the largest teams in the world in terms of auto embedded-software service capabilities.

During our interactions with their competitors, industry experts and analysts, we realized that the company had a commanding position in the industry and it fit all our investment criteria – (1.) the company sits at the center of four auto mega trends, all of which are expected to drive exponential growth in the company’s target segments over the next decade, (2.) it enjoys a sustainable competitive advantage driven by its deep client connect, experience and capabilities, (3.) it has strong unit economics with robust free cash generation, (4.) backed by exceptional visionary and ethical management and (5.) was largely unknown to the investor community with hardly any analyst coverage thereby it was trading at a steep discount to peers.

Since our investment, the company’s story has become more mainstream with multiple analyst initiations which has led to a steep re-rating. Even with the sharp price appreciation (>2x our investment price), we believe the company has a substantial runway for growth and we remain constructive about our investment.

About Burman Capital Management

Burman Capital Management is a part of Burman Family Holdings, the strategic investment platform of the Burman Family, which over the last twenty years has invested over US \$500 million in various businesses primarily in India and have partnered and joint ventured with many of the leading Fortune 100 companies from around the world. The Burman family are the control shareholders of the Dabur Group. Dabur was founded in 1884 by Dr. S.K. Burman and is today one of the largest Indian Fast Moving Consumer Good Company in India with over US\$1 billion in revenue and a market capitalization of over US\$14 billion.

At Burman Capital Management, we are long-term investors with deep passion for identifying and investing in exceptional businesses early. We are fundamentals-driven bottom-up investors and run concentrated portfolios focusing on small to mid-size companies. We are a SEBI-registered Portfolio Manager with registration number INP100007091.

To know more about how we approach investing, please visit www.burmancapital.com or write to us at info@burmancapital.com.

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