Vested

The Global Investing Specialist

How India Invests Globally

2025 Edition

Tracking India’s rise as a global investor

FORWARD

From paper forms to global portfolios: India's investors have come a long way

When we began Vested in 2019, global investing from India was still a distant idea. The most frequent question we would get was, *"Is it even legal for us to invest abroad?"*. The process required printing forms, couriering documents, and waiting days for transfers to clear.

But the aspiration was always there.

We could see that investors were ambitious, yearning to reach beyond geographical borders. They wanted access to global companies they used every day. They wanted the same investing experience that someone sitting in the U.S. or Europe had. They wanted the world at their finger tips.

Six years later, Indian investors are increasingly making their presence felt on the global stage.

$400M → $1.6B+

Rising global investments driven by growing interest in international opportunities

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145+ cities

Global investors come from across India, not just metros

48% under 35

A young, globally aware investor base

38% start with < $500

Investors start small and build their portfolio over time

In FY25, $1.6 billion was invested globally from India, up from $400 million a few years ago. Investors come from over 145 cities across the country, with nearly 50% under 35. The average investor holds 11 global securities, including ETFs.

With Edition 1 of *How India Invests Globally (2025)*, we attempt to document what has changed over the last few years and what the next few years might look like. We hope it helps investors, partners, and the ecosystem understand this fast-evolving space.

Sustainable wealth creation is a key requirement for India's prosperity. It is encouraging to witness first-hand how Indian investors are slowly and steadily building global portfolios for diversification, for better long-term outcomes, and for investing in high-quality companies across the world. What was once aspirational is increasingly becoming an integral part of long-term wealth building.

Viram Shah
Co-founder & CEO, Vested

India's global investment regulations have evolved over time

India's rules for global investing rest on four major pillars that have evolved steadily over the last two decades.

The first is the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), introduced in 2004 with an annual limit of USD 25,000 for travel, education, medical needs, gifts and certain investments. This limit was later raised to USD 100,000 in 2007 and to USD 250,000 in 2015, which continues to define how much an individual can invest or remit abroad each year. LRS essentially provides the mechanism through which individual investors access global markets.

The second pillar is FEMA and the Overseas Investment rules that sit under it.

Between 2013 and 2016, and later through a major update in 2022, regulators clarified the difference between Overseas Portfolio Investment (OPI) and Overseas Direct Investment (ODI). OPI allows individuals to buy listed global equities, ETFs, bonds and fund units without taking control, whereas ODI applies when ownership crosses 10% or involves management influence.

These rules help ensure that outward investing remains transparent, non-leveraged and within defined boundaries, while still giving residents the flexibility to build global portfolios.

Taxation forms the third pillar.

Long-term capital gains on foreign assets were simplified into a flat-rate structure in 2023, replacing the earlier indexation-based method. Tax Collected at Source (TCS) on outward remittances was introduced in 2020 and revised in 2023 and 2024, improving traceability while also altering the cash-flow profile of overseas investing.

Annual reporting of foreign holdings through Schedule FA further anchors the compliance framework.

The fourth pillar is the formation of GIFT City, India's International Financial Services Centre, which was notified in 2015.

Since then, it has grown steadily with the launch of NSE IFSC in 2021, dedicated rules for foreign-currency accounts and the introduction of global fund structures and international investment products. GIFT City now provides an onshore alternative for accessing global markets.

Together, these four elements define the environment in which Indian residents invest globally today with each addressing a different part of the system and collectively making global investing more stable, clearer and easier to approach.

India’s global investment regulations have evolved over time

2004

Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) introduced with a USD 25,000 annual limit

2007

LRS limit increased to USD 100,000

2013-2016

OPI/ODI framework formalised; clear separation between portfolio investment and direct investment

2015

- LRS limit raised to USD 250,000 (current limit)
- GIFT City notified as India’s International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)

2020

Tax Collected at Source (TCS) introduced on LRS remittances at 5%

2021

NSE IFSC launched; international equities and ETFs enabled through IFSC exchange

2022

New Overseas Investment Rules notified; OPI expanded, ODI thresholds reaffirmed, round-tripping rules clarified

2023

- LTCG on foreign assets moved to a flat 12.5% structure (replacing indexation)
- TCS rate on investments under LRS increased (20% above threshold)

2024

TCS threshold revised to ₹10 lakh; easing burden for mid-ticket remittances

INR depreciation makes global exposure relevant

12.7%

Nifty 50 (10-year CAGR)

15.9%

S&P 500 (10-year INR CAGR)

The rupee has weakened against the dollar at a steady pace for more than a decade, losing roughly 3% a year.

This slow but persistent depreciation changes long-term outcomes in a way that headline numbers often fail to capture. A portfolio built only in rupees grows on terms set by a currency that continues to lose ground globally. Many of the goals Indian households plan for education, healthcare, travel, and retirement are linked to dollar-based costs.

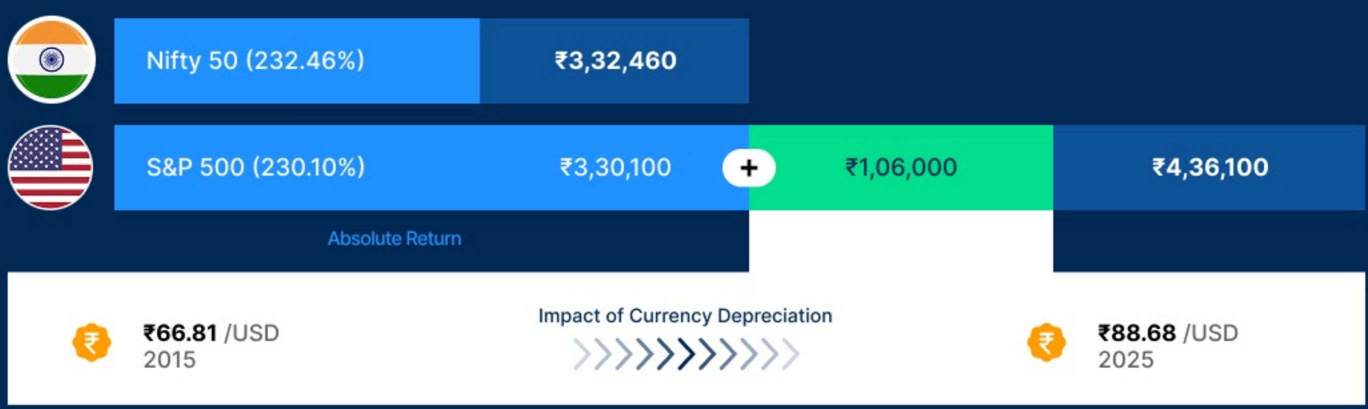
A part of the portfolio, therefore, needs a currency anchor that holds value over time.

When you compare long-run outcomes, the effect is clear: ₹1 lakh invested in the S&P 500 (and converted back to INR) ends higher than the same amount invested in the Nifty, even in years when Indian markets perform well. The difference comes from the combination of equity performance and the currency lift.

Currency does not replace returns, but it influences them. Holding a portion of assets in a stable global currency helps preserve purchasing power and creates more balanced long-term outcomes.

Initial Investment in 2015: **₹1,00,000**

Portfolio value 2025:



Source: Bloomberg

No market leads forever but a global portfolio always has a leader

Every year, investors pick favourites. And every year, markets remind them why that's dangerous.

2 times

India topped global returns only 2 times in 10 years

The U.S., China, India, Japan, Europe, and Canada have all had their good years and their bad years.

This tells us something basic: no single market stays on top.

Each economy moves at its own speed. Some sectors grow fast, some slow down, currencies shift, and global events push markets in different directions. When you invest in only one market, you depend on just one of these cycles working in your favour.

A global portfolio reduces this guesswork.

You do not need to predict which country will lead next year. You simply stay invested in more than one place, so at least one part of your portfolio is in the right cycle at the right time.

Market leadership rotates and global diversification captures the whole cycle

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD
Rank 1	Japan +10%	Canada +26%	China +54%	US -5%	US +32%	S Korea +45%	India +27%	India -8%	US +27%	US +25%	S Korea +78%
Rank 2	US 1%	US +12%	S Korea +48%	India -7%	Canada +29%	China +30%	US +26%	Canada -12%	S Korea +24%	China +20%	China +33%
Rank 3	Europe -2%	S Korea +9%	India +39%	Japan -13%	Europe +25%	US +21%	Canada +26%	Europe -15%	India +21%	Canada +13%	Canada +33%
Rank 4	India -6%	Japan +3%	Europe +26%	Europe -14%	China +24%	India +16%	Europe +17%	Japan -16%	Japan +21%	India +12%	Europe +31%
Rank 5	S Korea -6%	Europe +1%	Japan +24%	Canada -17%	Japan +20%	Japan +15%	Japan +2%	US -20%	Europe +21%	Japan +9%	Japan +24%
Rank 6	China -8%	China +1%	US +22%	China -19%	S Korea +13%	Europe +6%	S Korea -8%	China -22%	Canada +17%	Europe +2%	US +18%
Rank 7	Canada -24%	India -2%	Canada +17%	S Korea -21%	India +8%	Canada +6%	China -22%	S Korea -29%	China -11%	S Korea -24%	India +5%

Source: Respective region's MSCI index in USD terms

The $100 split

When you look at how Indians put their first $100 into global markets, the pattern is clear.

Most of the money goes into stocks, usually the companies people recognise and believe in. A good proportion goes into ETFs because they make the portfolio steadier without much effort. A small part stays as cash so investors can handle timing or currency movements. Global funds are still tiny today, but this will likely evolve as more people get comfortable and are given access to UCITS and GIFT City options.

The important part is this: people are not randomly investing money globally. They are choosing a mix that feels safe, sensible, and easy to manage.

66%

Invest in both stocks and ETFs

1.5%

Start their first investment with an ETF

How Indian investors allocate globally

Portfolios don’t Lie

The average investor holds 8 stocks. This suggests that individuals want to hold a small set of ideas they are comfortable owning.

ETFs contribute too. Index ETFs provide stability, emerging-market ETFs add range, and thematic ETFs allow specific interests without taking on concentrated risk.

61% is concentrated in the top 10 stocks and top 10 ETFs shown in this report. These are not popular meme stocks but names with long operating histories and clear business models. Investors choose them because they are businesses they understand and can hold for the long term.

Insight: Even with access to the entire ETF universe, Indian investors gravitate to instruments that represent big ideas, big trends, or big markets.

Ticker	Name
VOO	Vanguard S&P 500 ETF
QQQ	Invesco QQQ Trust, Series 1
SOXX	iShares Semiconductor ETF
QQQM	Invesco NASDAQ 100 ETF
VGT	Vanguard Information Technology Index Fund ETF
GLD	SPDR Gold Trust
SMH	VanEck Semiconductor ETF
SLV	iShares Silver Trust
ARKK	ARK Innovation ETF
SGOV	iShares 0-3 Month Treasury Bond ETF

8

Stocks on average

7%

Emerging market ETFs

27%

ETF allocation goes to Index ETFs

$10,465

Median portfolio size

The way money enters the portfolio is steady as well.

An average deposit of $1,634 keeps costs manageable and builds the portfolio at a pace that feels practical. The concept of monthly SIPs in stocks is still low at 2%, though it is slowly becoming part of how some investors approach global markets. Indian investors are building high-conviction and long-term global portfolios, with the majority owning a combination of stocks and ETFs.

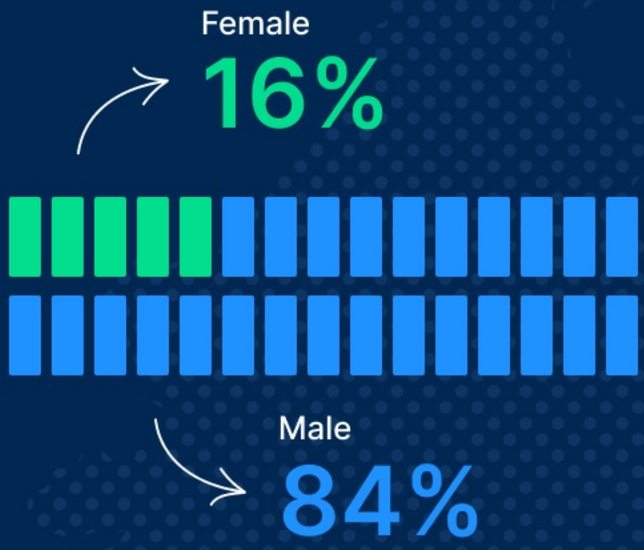
Insight: India's global investors allocate to companies that define technologies, supply chains, or entire markets.

The demography of global investing

Tier 1- 53%

Tier 2- 31%

Tier 3- 16%



Indians investing globally come from all parts of the country, not just the metros.

Tier-1 cities account for 53% of investors, while Tier-2 and Tier-3 together make up 47%. In our assessment, this shift reflects one thing clearly – once global investing became fully digital, location stopped being a limitation.

The age mix also reflects how investing habits are changing.

46% of investors are below 35. Many start global investing early because digital access makes it simple to try, learn and continue without needing prior experience.

ETF participation adds another angle.

Over 80% of the investors have an ETF allocation in the portfolio. This suggests that many global investors also invest in straightforward, low-effort products along with individual stocks.

Together, the numbers suggest a clear pattern: global investing is not restricted to metros or older investors. It has spread across cities and age groups because the entry barriers have come down.

The moment global investing became digital, it became nationwide.

How retail and HNIs think about global investing

82%

Retail

18%

HNI

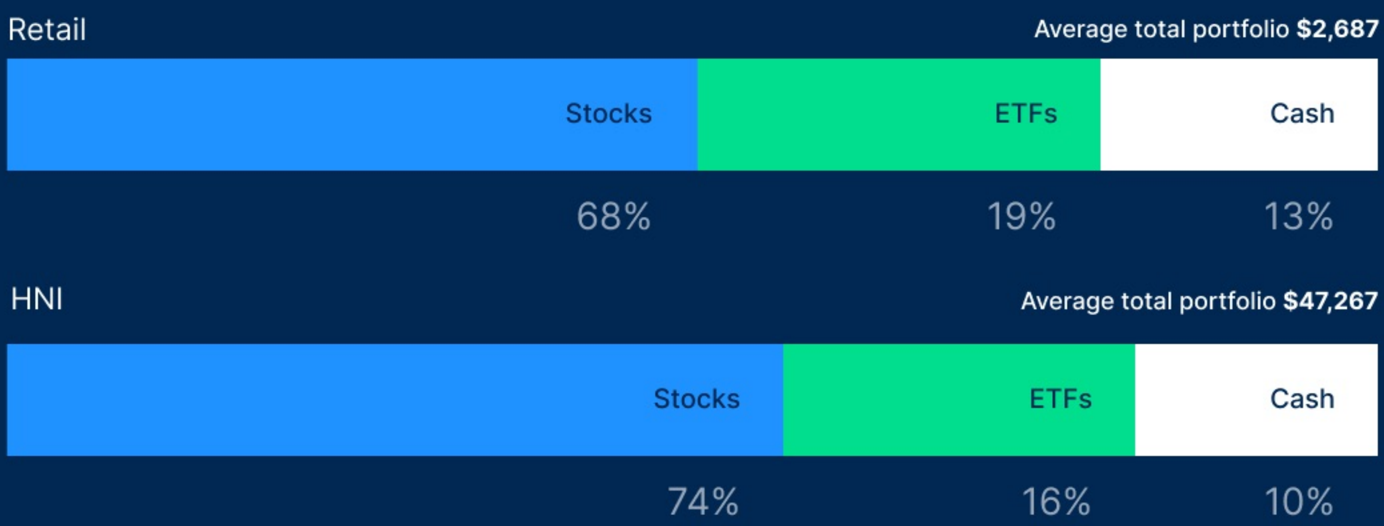
Retail drives participation, HNIs drive investing volume, yet both segments share a common pattern: once they begin, they tend to continue for a long period of time.

Retail investors build their portfolios with small but consistent deposits. The average global deposit of $1,634 is a measured decision to start.
For HNIs, the average deposit is $23,807, signalling meaningful allocation rather than opportunistic exposure.

More importantly, HNIs represent 18% of global investors, while retail accounts for 82%, making this trend broad, not top-heavy. Also, 68% transfer money more than once, showing that global allocation is becoming a recurring action, not a one-time event.

At different scales, retail and HNIs are doing the same thing, which is building global portfolios deliberately.

Scaling global portfolios: Retail vs HNI



Note: We classify HNIs as investors whose annual global deposits cross the ₹10 lakh TCS threshold.

Global Funds: The mutual fund way to diversify globally

Indian investors already understand the idea behind mutual funds – a single product that gives diversification and access to multiple themes at once.

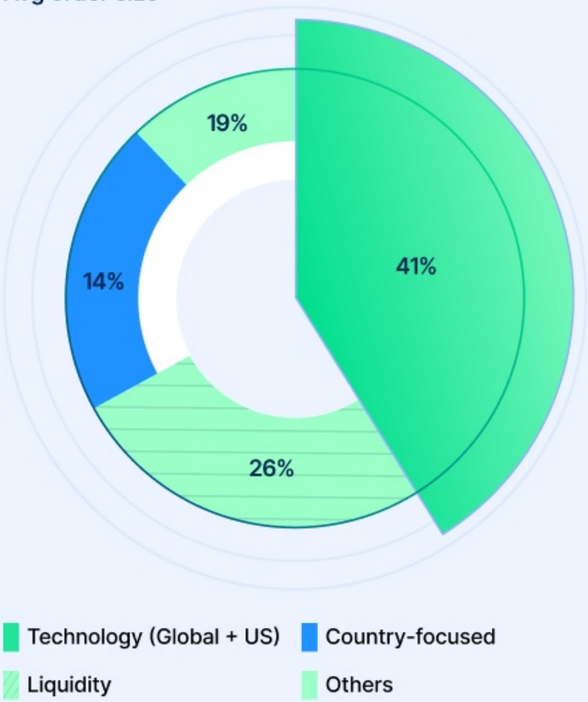
UCITS funds are simply the global version of that idea.

UCITS (pronounced "yoo-sits") is a European fund management framework, where global fund managers such as BlackRock, Goldman Sachs - Franklin Templeton, and Fidelity run diversified portfolios that invest across countries and asset classes.

How investors allocate across Global Fund categories"

$452

Avg order size



For Indian investors, the comfort comes from how familiar the format feels. It works like a fund structure they already recognise, but the portfolio inside spans 50+ global markets instead of just India.

What makes UCITS relevant today is how naturally it fits into the way Indians already invest.

Minimums start at $10, long-term taxation is clean at 12.5%, and the structure is widely trusted by global asset managers. The additional benefit is the ability to manage estate taxation for investors.

Recent investing trends reflect this comfort. Investors typically invest in 2.4 funds, with a clear tilt toward themes they understand: liquidity, global technology, and country-based exposure. Global investors aren't using UCITS to replace ETFs or U.S. stocks; they are using them to add global diversification in a way that feels familiar.

Global Funds offered by

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON
Goldman Sachs
Morgan Stanley
BlackRock
Fidelity INTERNATIONAL

GIFT City: Connecting India to the World

GIFT City is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) built so that global products can be created and managed from within the country. It operates as an offshore jurisdiction within India. Think of it as India creating its own version of a Singapore- or Dubai-style financial centre.

The ecosystem within GIFT City is governed by the International Financial Services Centres Authority or IFSCA. Under the IFSCA's oversight, GIFT acts as a gateway for inbound (global investors to access Indian assets) and outbound (Indian investors to access global assets) investments.

Multiple financial services businesses are now operating in GIFT across banking, broking, fund management, aircraft/ship leasing and more.

As of September 2025, GIFT City has 194 fund management entities running 310 funds, with total investor commitments crossing USD 26 billion. Fund houses like DSP have already launched global retail products from GIFT City. For global investors, this creates a second route alongside UCITS to access global funds.

Furthermore, the Global Access Provider regulation notified in August 2025 provides a framework for entities looking to offer global securities to Indian residents and NRIs.

Overall, GIFT City doesn't replace the existing global investing ecosystem in India. It brings part of it home with India's own oversight, India's own institutions, and India's own long-term vision for global access.

Product	What It Is	Why Investors Use It
Global Funds (Retail & Non-Retail)	Global portfolios managed by Indian & international AMCs from within GIFT City	Familiar fund-led experience and easy way to access global themes Example: DSP Global Equity Fund, Parag Parikh IFSC S&P 500 Fund of Fund (FoF), and Parag Parikh IFSC Nasdaq 100 Fund of Fund (FoF)
Depository Receipts (NSE IX)	Global stocks offered as DRs on NSE International Exchange	Stock-like experience for global names Example: NSE IX DRs for global stocks (US & other markets)
Global Access (Exchange Connectivity)	Structured access to select global exchanges/products via the IFSC	Cleaner route to global instruments with regulated Indian gateway

Two ways Indian investors are going beyond stocks and funds

0.5%

of total users invest in pre-IPO opportunities

As Indian investors become more familiar with global markets, it seems two new behaviours are starting to emerge.

The first is the move toward structured global portfolios.

About 16% of users choose a model or framework instead of building everything on their own. These portfolios include multi-asset mixes as well as themes that investors find exciting.

AI, space technology, and cybersecurity are some of the themes people explore because they want exposure to ideas that are likely to shape the future.

The second behaviour is an interest in private markets via regulated funds.

The segment is still very small, close to 1% of users. These are usually experienced investors who have high risk taking ability. Some of these investors utilize their entire $250,000 LRS limit to invest in well-known private companies, such as OpenAI, SpaceX, or Stripe. As more opportunities become available, this cohort is likely to grow.

Both behaviours show the same pattern. Indian investors are finding new ways to participate in global markets. Some prefer structure and themes. Others look for access to companies that are not yet listed.

What will shape global investing for Indians next

The next phase of global investing for Indians will not depend on headlines or sudden market events. It will come from four practical shifts in how people allocate money, plan their finances, and think about global exposure.

These shifts are already visible today. By 2026, they will shape most of the new global portfolios built in India.

01

Investors are increasing their global allocation over time

Investors are starting small but increasing their global allocation as they develop a comfort level and understanding of global opportunities. Close to a 38% increase in the allocation of global markets in their portfolio within the first year.

Globally, in developed markets like the US, UK and Japan, 20-40% of assets are diversified globally. It is likely that as education, ease and comfort in international investing build, Indian portfolios will move towards such an allocation.

02

More investors are adding a second or third asset category

Global portfolios are becoming deeper.

Around 29% of users added a new global product type in 2025. For many, this was a move from stocks to ETFs. For others, it was adding a Global Fund to take exposure to a new geography.

This behaviour shows that global exposure is not a one-time choice. It is something investors build over time as they learn more.

03

Global investing is not just restricted to US Stocks or Tech as a theme

Investors are beginning to explore sectors that did well globally this year.

Categories linked to AI, semiconductors, healthcare and consumer spending saw growing interest. Close to 3% of global investors now hold exposure to more than one region, which could be the US, Europe or emerging markets.

This move toward multi-region portfolios suggests that concentration risk is becoming something investors want to actively manage.

04

GIFT City is increasingly becoming the trusted gateway for global investing from India

As the ecosystem evolves, more and more entities are setting up businesses within GIFT City, which in turn is leading to investors exploring global products through India's first IFSC.

Regulatory clarity and oversight are two key drivers behind the increasing popularity of GIFT City.

2026 will likely see many offerings being launched from GIFT, which will provide global investors with optionality for building robust global portfolios.

Finally...

The next wave of global investing will not come from one product or one moment. It will come from small behavioural shifts that compound over time. Investors appear to be increasing their allocation, exploring more categories, spreading across regions and reviewing their decisions more regularly.

This is how global investing becomes part of long-term financial planning, not an occasional choice.

Vested and the global investing journey

Global investing has been our core focus since 2019, long before it became a mainstream conversation. As access improved and awareness grew, our role stayed consistent. We are here to enable Indians across the world to participate in global markets with confidence and clarity.

Vested brings together U.S. equities, ETFs, Private Market opportunities, and Global Funds, including GIFT City funds, in one platform. Alongside these products, we offer the tools and research needed to understand them.

Screeners, model portfolios, educational resources, and analytical insights are all built with a single intention: to help investors create thoughtful, globally diversified portfolios. Global Indians also get the opportunity to invest back into India through our platform.

We want global investing to feel intuitive for every Indian investor, whether they are beginning with their first hundred dollars or building a long-term allocation strategy. This report reflects that mission. It shows how India is approaching global markets and how that behaviour continues to evolve.

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For comments or data clarifications regarding this report, contact help@vestedfinance.co or parth.parikh@vestedfinance.co

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