5TH APRIL 2026

CRASH CASH OPPORTUNITY

In the current market environment, Indian equities have undergone a sharp correction, with the Nifty 50 trading at compressed valuations of ~19-20x following a record ₹1.25 lakh crore wipeout in March 2026. The India VIX has surged into the 25+ range, signalling heightened fear among investors. While investors are understandably hesitant to deploy capital amid such volatility, historical data reveals a compelling counter narrative. Elevated VIX levels deliver superior forward returns, making this precisely the moment to add exposure.

To illustrate this pattern, we've analysed data from April 2008 to March 2026. We categorised them into VIX buckets based on market sentiment, from "calm" (<15) to "panic" (>30). The results reveal a compelling pattern. In calm periods (VIX <15), the Nifty 50 gives positive returns over the next 12 months 83% of the time with an average return of just 9.5%. However, as volatility climbs into the 20-25 "elevated" zone, where we find ourselves today, the win rate remains robust at 73%, while average 1-year returns jump to 11.7%. The "fearful" 25-30 bucket shows an even stronger 94% win rate and 19% average return and outright panic (>30) delivers a perfect 100% win rate with 35.3% average gains.

VIX Bucket	Historical Days	Positive Outcomes	Success Rate	Avg 1YR Forward Return
<15 (calm)	1943	1,603	83%	9.5%
15–20 (watchful)	2109	1,692	80%	9.8%
20–25 (elevated)	1013	743	73%	11.7%
25–30 (fearful)	424	399	94%	19.0%
>30 (panic)	355	355	100%	35.3%

**Data considered from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2026*
**Source: Investing.com*

The table above underscores a timeless market truth: fear creates opportunity. Current VIX levels around 25 align with the high-reward "fearful" regime. Geopolitical triggers behind this selloff are transient; the structural bull case for Indian equities, earnings growth, capex cycle and global repositioning remains intact.

For investors sitting on cash, now is the time to act strategically. Consider layering into India equities on further dips and continue with systematic investments through dollar cost averaging (SIP/STP) to take advantage of volatility and build positions at attractive levels over the course of FY2026-27. History shows that buying when others sell remains the surest path to building wealth. Don't wait for calmer markets, that's when returns settle into single digits. Turn fear into your competitive advantage.

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