

Personal Finance Checklist

15 Smart Money Habits — Track Your Progress

FOUNDATION

■ Build Emergency Fund	6 months of expenses — 1M savings + 2M liquid fund + 3M sweep FD
■ Pay Yourself First	Automate SIP/transfer on salary day before any other spend
■ Track Every Rupee	Review bank statement weekly; use Walnut or MoneyView
■ Set Up a Budget Framework	Start with 50/30/20 and adjust to your life stage

INVESTING

■ Start a SIP	Even Rs 3,000/month at 12% = Rs 35L in 25 years
■ Step-Up SIP Annually	Increase SIP by 10% every year as income grows
■ Keep Equity at Core	60-70% equity for long-term wealth building in your 30s
■ Know Your FIRE Number	Annual expenses x 25 = target retirement corpus
■ Don't Touch EPF	Transfer on job change; let it compound over your career

PROTECTION

■ Get Term Insurance	Cover = 10-15x annual income; avoid ULIPs and endowment plans
■ Get Personal Health Cover	Floater policy of Rs 10-20L beyond employer group cover
■ Pay Off High-Interest Debt	Clear credit card (36-42% p.a.) before investing beyond emergency fund

TAX & OPTIMISATION

■ Choose Tax Regime in April	Run old vs new regime comparison at start of financial year
■ Use NPS Employer Contribution	Up to 14% employer NPS contribution is deductible in both regimes
■ Avoid Lifestyle Inflation	Let lifestyle grow slower than income; redirect the gap to investments
■ Use Credit Cards Smartly	Pay full balance every month; build credit score for future home loan

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

■ Read 20 mins of Finance Weekly	Newsletters, podcasts, or books — compound your financial knowledge
■ Review Portfolio Annually	Rebalance to target allocation; check if goals are on track

Financial freedom is not built in one decision. It is built in hundreds of small, consistent ones. Start with one habit. Add the next.