Retail pie in NSE cos at record

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Retail investor shareholding in NSE group firms surged to a record high of 7.62% during the September quarter due to growing popularity of systematic investment plans (SIP), and growing access through digital platforms amid a robust bull market, according to market tracker Prime Database.

Retail investors pumped in ₹7,596 crore, with the shareholding increasing from 7.5% in the June quarter.

Simultaneously, Foreign Institutional Investor -Domestic Institutional Investor ownership ratio hit a historic low of 1.15, declining from an all-time high of 1.99 in the March quarter of 2015. "Retail participation in stock market has been increasing for some time, with SIP numbers and amounts reaching new highs. It is due to a number of factors, including increasing maturity of retail investors and ease of investing through digital platforms," said Anand Vardarajan, busi-

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ness head, institutional clients, banking, alternate investments and product strategy, Tata Asset Management.

The report showed that the DIIs saw their holdings rise to 15.99%, surpassing ₹50 trillion in the quarter ended 30 September, and approaching the FII holding. FIIs' share fell to 18.40%, down from 18.96%.

The gap between DII and FII shareholding reached an all-time low of 13.11% during the September quarter. DIIs, which include insurance companies, banks, mutual funds,

etc., played a significant role in this trend, it added.

"Factors behind retail investor dominance are strong and consistent performance of the markets, stellar performance of small and medium enterprises and mainboard initial public offerings, easier access to and understanding of stock markets, and rising disposable income, among others. It is seemingly easier to participate in equity markets than ever before, which is contributing to this," Puneet Maheshwari, director, Upstox, said.