In numbers: How blue-chip firms keep betting on older directors

Directors aged 26 to 45 now hold a larger share of board seats than they did eight years ago

By Samreen Wani

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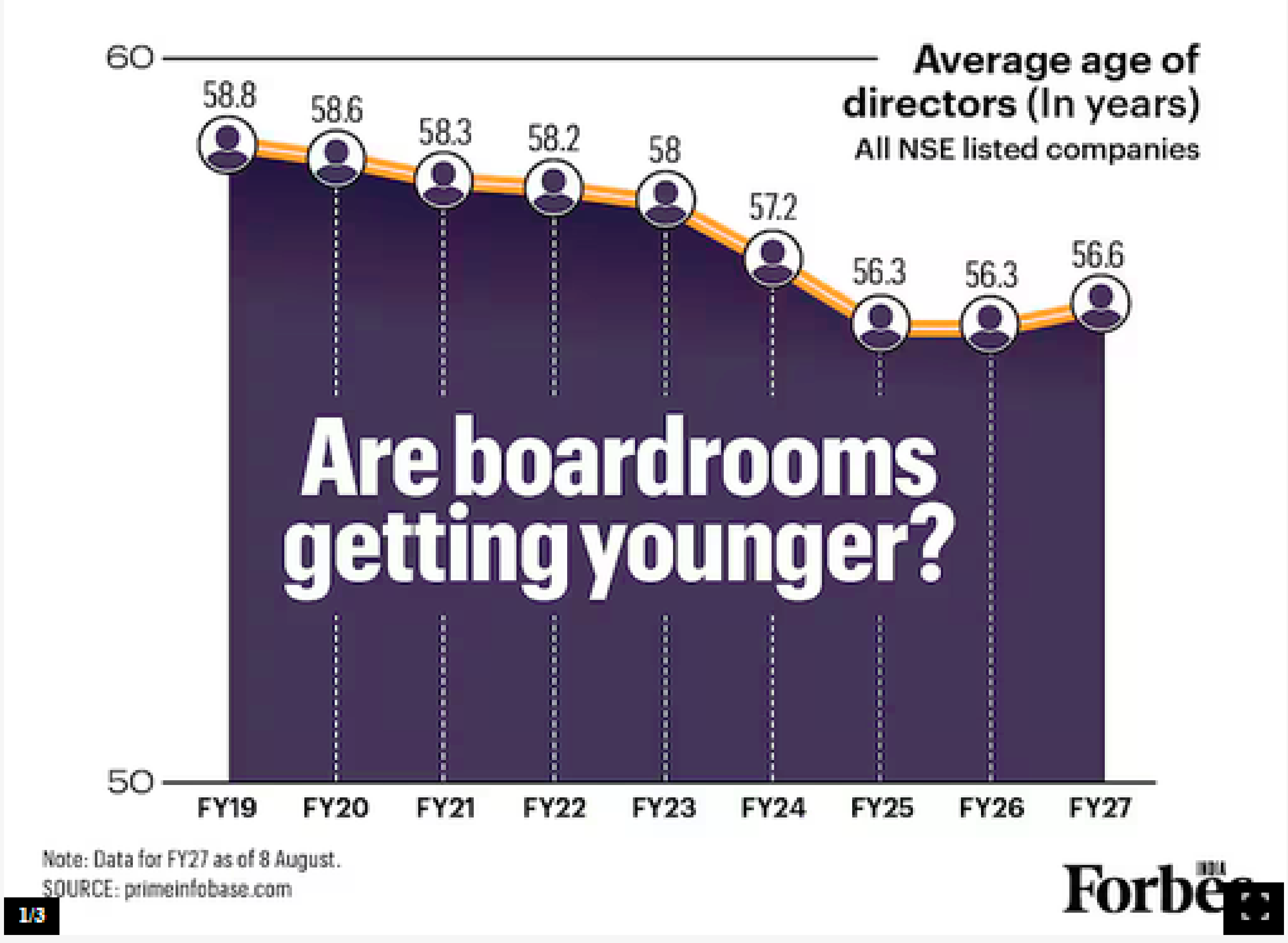
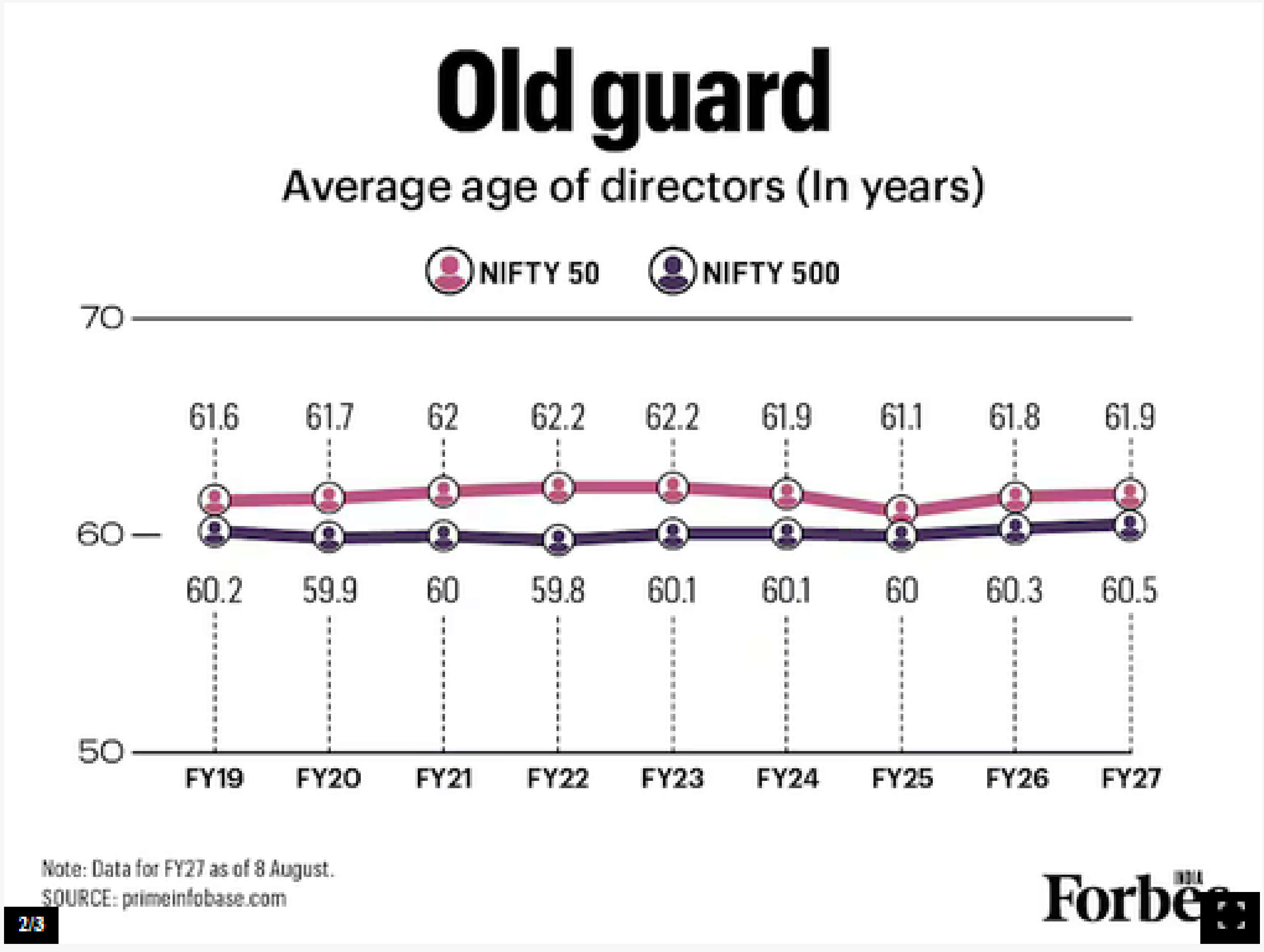
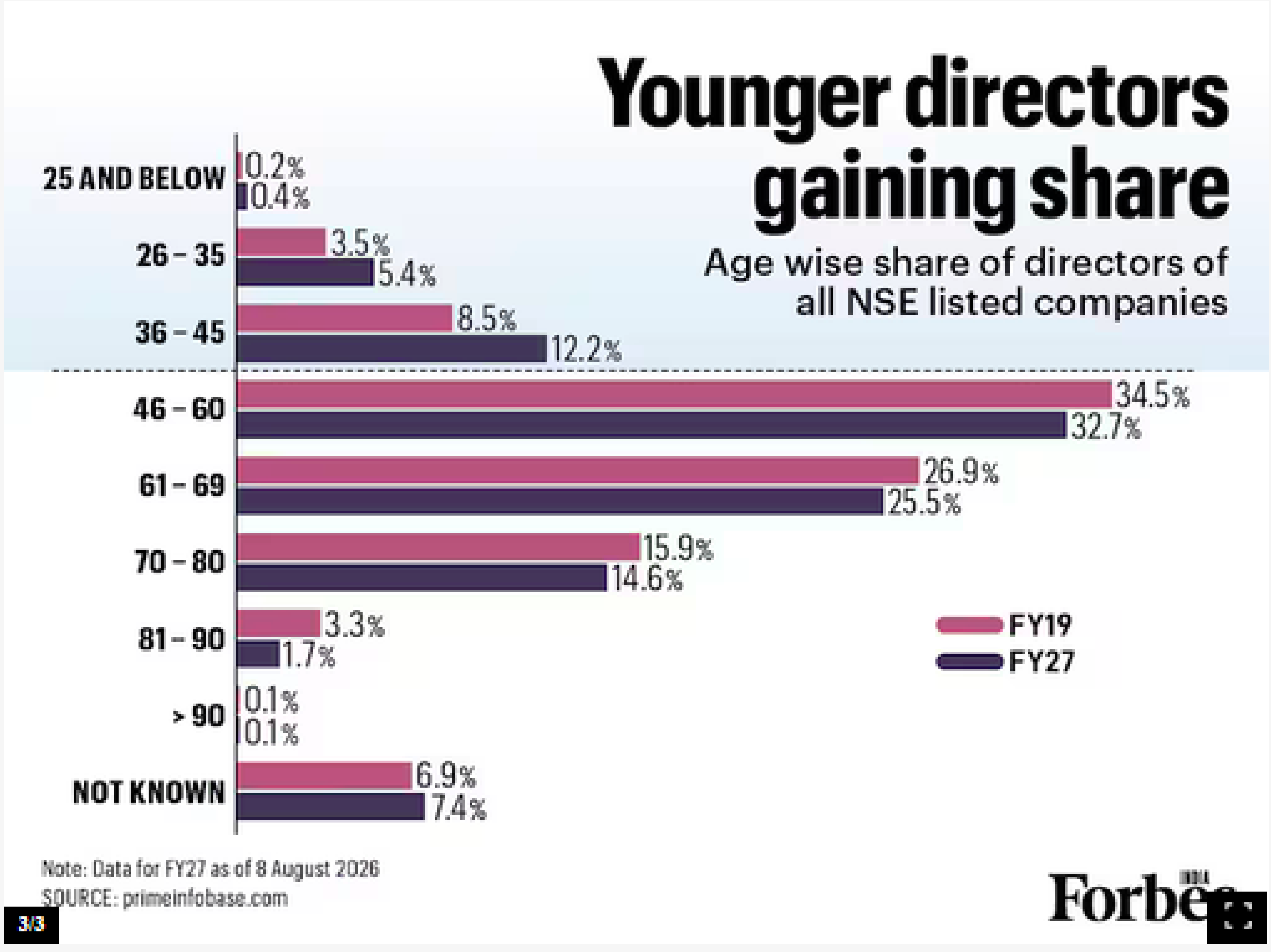


India's boardrooms are getting younger, but only outside the top tier companies. The average age of directors across all NSE-listed companies has slipped from 58.8 years in FY19 to 56.3 in FY26, before ticking up marginally to 56.6 by August. Against this backdrop, a parliamentary panel's recommendation to lower the minimum age for managing directors and whole-time directors from 21 to 18 gains context which reflects a broader push to give younger voices a real seat at the table.



The trend doesn't hold at the top, however. Nifty 500 boards have stayed almost flat at above 60 years since FY23. Nifty 50 boards have aged, from an average age of 61.6 years in FY19 to 61.9 years in FY27, according to data as of August 8. Blue-chip companies, it seems, still prefer experience over youth.



The churn is visible lower down the pyramid. The share of directors aged 26 to 35 has risen to 5.4 percent in 2026 from 3.5 percent in FY19, while the 36-45 bracket has climbed to 12.2 percent from 8.5 percent in the same period. However, the share of directors aged 46 years and above has declined between FY19 and FY26.