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Gold-silver ratio and the biggest daily rise in 50 years

PRECIOUS MOVES. The 2026 one-day ratio shock joins 1979-80, 2006 and 2020 stress episodes, showing silver cracks first when liquidity is hit



A daily move of 1 per cent or 2 per cent in the gold-silver ratio, one number that quietly links both the precious metals, barely is news. Sure, a 5 per cent swing is a noisy day. But the biggest one-day jumps sit in a different league. In the last 50 years, the largest one-day rise in the gold-silver ratio was 23.69 per cent on January 30, 2026. It tops the list of extreme sessions since 1975. The only other day above 20 per cent is January 3, 1980 (22.35 per cent). The rest of the biggest jumps cluster in the mid-to-high teens, including March 1980, April 2006, September 1979 and March 2020 (refer to the adjoining table).

On January 30, 2026, the ratio surged because the two legs did not fall equally. Spot gold fell about 9 per cent to around \$4,887 an ounce, while spot silver crashed 26.4 per cent to \$85-levels. That gap was mechanically forced the gold-silver ratio up to 57.49. The crash in both the precious metals was triggered by the US dollar rebounding, after news that the Donald Trump administration would nominate Kevin Warsh for Fed Chair, and profit-taking, given gold was up 24 per cent and silver, up a blistering 61 per cent in the first 29 days of the year.

The gold-silver ratio is a deceptively simple measure that often tells a deeper story than either metal alone. In the last bl portfolio edition (January 25, 2026), we had already unpacked what the gold-silver ratio signals and how investors can read it. The gold-silver ratio equals the dollar-denominated gold price divided by silver price, using the same unit (ounce). Gold behaves more like monetary collateral, a conservat-

ive refuge when investors want safety. Silver is part precious, part industrial and trades with higher beta. But when there is profit-taking, ETF outflows and rebalancing of allocations, silver is frequently punished harder.

Extreme ratio moves, like we have seen on January 30, 2026, are so rare and so revealing. A ratio spike is not merely "both metals were volatile." It says the relationship itself broke for a day, as silver underperformed gold by such a wide margin that relative pricing snapped.

2026 CROWDING FATE

In the early 1970s, gold was anchoring a controlled, policy anchored world and entering the era of a true market price. Under the post war Bretton Woods system, major currencies were pegged to the US dollar, and the dollar was convertible into gold at a fixed price. Its breakdown under Richard Nixon (Nixon shock), followed by floating exchange rates, removed the constraints that had capped gold. With the anchor gone, the market had to discover a new clearing price in real time. That discovery came with violent

swings, given thin and evolving trading structures, intense speculation, and a global macro backdrop pushing investors toward hard assets. The oil shock then poured fuel on this transition. The 1973 to 1974 embargo and the jump in energy prices amplified inflation fears, fed stagflation, and deepened the sense that paper money was losing purchasing power fast.

The latest entry of 23.69 per cent one-day rise in the gold-silver ratio on January 30, 2026, belongs to a different kind of regime break. This one is driven less by the birth of a new market and more by the mechanics of a crowded trade unwinding at speed. Precious metals had staged a remarkable rally over the past year (gold up 95 per cent, silver up over 270 per cent till then), with repeated record highs and heavy investor demand. Investors crowded into traditional havens amid concerns about currency debasement, trade wars, geopolitical tensions and the Fed independence. On January 28, 2026, the metals hit fresh all-time highs. Then came the shock. By Jan 30 close, spot gold was down

Biggest one-day jumps in gold-silver ratio in last 50 years

Date	Gold price	Daily change (%)	Silver price	Daily change (%)	Gold/Silver ratio	Daily change (%)
30-01-2026	4,887.31	-8.96	85.01	-26.40	57.49	23.69
03-01-1980	634.00	13.32	37.00	-7.38	17.14	22.35
27-03-1980	485.25	-4.38	16.00	-18.58	30.33	17.43
20-04-2006	612.50	-4.33	11.99	-18.44	51.11	17.31
19-09-1979	369.00	-1.80	15.48	-15.42	23.84	16.11
28-03-1980	490.00	0.98	13.99	-12.56	35.03	15.49
21-09-1979	369.00	-2.89	14.04	-14.92	26.28	14.13
18-03-1980	481.50	-0.52	16.60	-12.68	29.01	13.93
16-03-2020	1,514.10	-1.03	12.91	-12.29	117.27	12.85
08-01-1980	610.00	-3.71	33.52	-14.05	18.20	12.03

Spot gold and silver prices in US dollars per ounce. Source: Bloomberg

sharply at about \$4,887 an ounce, while silver had plunged to around \$85 an ounce.

The trigger described by market participants was a sudden dollar rebound after the Trump administration moved to nominate Kevin Warsh for Federal Reserve Chair, a development interpreted as supportive of the greenback and less supportive of the "debase-

ment" narrative that had underpinned the metals surge. The dollar's rally undercut sentiment among investors and the sell-off quickly gained momentum.

OTHER BIGGEST MOVES

Take the 2026 shock out of the picture and the remaining list (see the table for specific dates) reads like a map of stress in the

modern monetary era. Start with late-1979. The world was living through the second oil shock, high and rising inflation, and a growing sense that policymakers had lost control. Fragile faith in paper money pushed fast, often leveraged inflows into metals, making prices brittle.

When markets shift from inflation hedging to liquidity demand, silver usually lags gold, being smaller, more flow-driven, and more speculative.

Then comes the dense run in early-1980, the heart of the blow-off and reversal phase. This was the period when inflation psychology peaked, Paul Volcker's Fed was tightening aggressively, and the metals story started looking disorderly. Silver, in particular, had its own accelerator: The Hunt Brothers episode, which turned the market into a pressure cooker. A crowded, leveraged trade met a sudden change in financing terms and the most speculative leg absorbed the damage.

Fast-forward to April 2006 and you see a different regime with a familiar rhythm. Commodities were in a broad speculative narrative, China demand was central to

the story, and liquidity was abundant. Yet even in a growth-friendly backdrop, crowded positioning can make metals behave like risk assets on the wrong day. When the market snuffed tighter financial conditions or a shift in the dollar, the exit could get messy.

Finally, March 2020 was a classic liquidity shock. It was not a debate about fundamentals. It was a dash for cash. In such situations, gold can still be sold, whereas silver often gets hit harder because it trades like a high-volatility hybrid of precious metal and industrial metal when investors are de-risking in a hurry.

TAKEAWAYS

The ratio spike captured the essential detail: Silver was not just falling; it was falling far faster than gold. We saw that happen on January 30, 2026, when gold slid while silver crashed. That relative collapse mechanically drove the gold-silver ratio.

Widen the lens beyond that single session and the same message keeps appearing. The biggest jumps cluster around stress windows rather than calm "inflation hedge" markets: Late-1979, the dense run of early-1980, then a modern dislocation-style print in April 2006, and the pandemic shock of March 2020. The point is not that the ratio predicts the next move. It is that the ratio's sharpest jolts show up when markets stop debating narratives and start scrambling for liquidity, margin and exits.

For investors, the practical lesson is straightforward. The gold-silver ratio is a stress gauge. It lights up when the market stops treating the two metals as a paired "precious" trade and starts treating them as different animals: Gold as collateral, silver as leverage.

Diversify, not "diworsify"

ASSET ALLOCATION. A lowdown on what investors should consider while investing in uncorrelated assets



Rishabh Nair

Investing is a game of endurance. If you cannot stay in the game, you cannot win it. Diversification is what keeps you in the game.

It is often described as the only free lunch, but many investors turn that free lunch into a buffet and end up with indigestion. The goal is not to own everything, or "diworsify," as coined by Peter Lynch referring to reckless or inefficient diversification of a portfolio, which adds excessive, unnecessary investments that increase complexity and risk while reducing overall returns.

The goal is to own a set of return drivers that do not all fail at the same time.

A simple way to think about diversification is correlation. If two assets move together, you have not diversified; you have doubled down. If they move differently, one can cushion the other when the world changes. Importantly, correlation is not a constant. It shifts during stress. So, the right question is not what was uncorrelated last year, but what tends to behave differently when equities are under pressure.

Using the same period as the accompanying portfolio NAV series (2010 to 2026), we look at annual returns across three building blocks: Equity, gold and bonds. Equity and gold show a negative correlation of -0.23.

Bonds, however, show a very high positive correlation with equities (0.99), which means they did not behave like a classic shock absorber in this sample. The lesson is straightforward: Diversification has to be measured, not assumed.

There is also a subtle difference between uncorrelated and negatively correlated. Uncorrelated assets reduce noise; negatively correlated assets can act like a form of insurance.

In this dataset, gold is the closest thing to that insurance against equity swings.

Bonds, despite their reputation as a stabiliser, did not provide much diversification when equities moved. That is a useful reminder that the same asset can play a different role in a different macro regime.

DRAWDOWNS

Diversification shows up not just in correlations, but in drawdowns. Compare two wealth paths built from the NAV series: 100 per cent equity, and a 60/20/20 mix of equity, gold and bonds.

From January 1, 2010, to January 20, 2026, the diversified mix delivered a CAGR of 10.91 per cent vs 10.24 per cent for equity, with lower volatility (9.76 per cent vs 16.29 per cent) and a smaller maximum drawdown (-22.59 per cent vs -38.44 per cent). In practice, the smoother journey is often the edge, because it reduces the odds of a forced exit during bad markets.

How does an investor play this without turning the portfolio into a museum?

First, diversify by risk factors, not by the number of holdings. Owning 10 banks is not diversification if a credit cycle turns. Diversification is exposure to different cash-flow drivers: Growth, inflation, interest rates and liquidity. Equities are primarily a growth asset. Bonds are largely an interest-rate and liquidity asset. Gold is an inflation and confidence asset. Cash is an optionality asset.

Second, keep the core simple and robust. For most investors, the real job is to build a sensible core allocation that matches time horizon, then rebalance. Rebalancing is the discipline that forces you to sell a bit of what has run up and buy a bit of what has lagged, without needing to predict the future. It also quietly harvests volatility.

Third, accept that some diversification will look wrong at any point in time. In strong equity markets, gold and bonds can feel like dead weight. In stressed markets, they feel like the best decision you ever made. The purpose of uncorrelated assets is not to outperform equities every year; it is to reduce the risk of a forced sale, and to provide dry powder when prices are attractive.

Fourth, avoid diversification. Adding assets you do not understand, or adding themes that are really just

the same equity risk in a different wrapper, does not help.

A good test is to ask: What scenario makes this asset useful? If you cannot answer that clearly, you probably do not need it.

Finally, match diversification to your real-world liabilities. If your expenses are in rupees, domestic fixed income is relevant. If your goals include large near-term cash needs, liquidity matters more than cleverness. Your portfolio should reflect your life, not your neighbour's.

Diversification is humble investing. It admits we do not know the future. It replaces the hope of being perfectly right with the confidence of being roughly right and staying solvent. In markets, survival is not a soft skill. It is the skill that makes compounding possible.

The author is Partner and Fund Manager at Qode Advisors PMS

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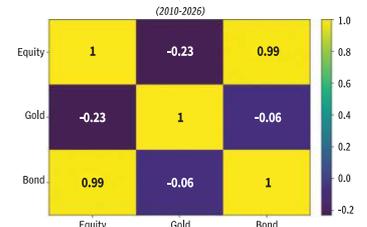
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Sr. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Quarter ended
		31.12.2025	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
1	Total Income from Operations	12,54,199	36,23,930	11,12,287	12,54,199	36,23,942	11,12,286
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	63,504	1,64,351	42,102	61,115	1,60,601	42,216
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	63,504	1,64,351	42,102	61,115	1,60,601	42,216
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	50,254	1,31,742	33,943	47,865	1,27,992	34,017
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) (Refer Note no. 1)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face value ₹ 10/- per share)	8,59,569	8,59,569	7,32,005	8,59,569	8,59,569	7,32,005
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) (As at 31.03.2025)	30,60,717	30,60,717	25,03,246	30,68,495	30,68,495	25,14,473
8	Securities Premium Account	22,85,871	22,85,871	16,53,830	-	-	-
9	Net worth	46,02,983	46,02,983	36,63,528	-	-	-
10	Outstanding Debt	37,97,852	37,97,852	46,39,003	-	-	-
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.34	0.34	0.21	-	-	-
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value ₹ 10/- per share) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - not annualized	0.57	1.57	0.46	0.54	1.52	0.46
	- Basic (₹)	0.57	1.57	0.46	0.54	1.52	0.46
	- Diluted (₹)	0.57	1.55	0.46	0.54	1.50	0.46
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debtors Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes:
1 Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income are not furnished as Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) is not yet made applicable to Banks.
2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly financial results are available on the Bank's website (www.idfcfirstbank.in) and on the Stock Exchange(s) website (www.sebiindia.com) and (www.bseindia.com).
3 The figures for the previous quarter / period have been regrouped / reclassified wherever necessary in order to make them comparable.

For and behalf of the Board of Directors of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
Sd/-
V. Vaidyanathan
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer
Date: January 31, 2026
Place: Mumbai

Correlation heatmap of annual returns (2010-2026)



Methodology: Pearson correlation on annual returns; negatives in parentheses; rounded to two decimals

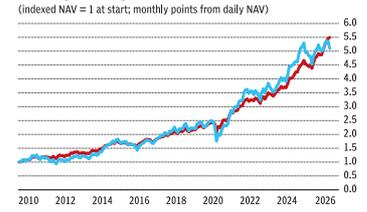
Portfolio illustration using NAV series

(Start NAV = 1000 on Jan 1, 2010)

Portfolio	Annualised return (CAGR)	Volatility (annualised)	Maximum drawdown	Ending wealth multiple
100% Equity	10.24%	16.29%	-38.44%	4.78
60/20/20 Equity/Gold/Bond	10.91%	9.76%	-22.59%	5.27

Methodology: CAGR and wealth multiple use NAV from Jan 1, 2010 to Jan 20, 2026. Volatility and drawdown are from the same NAV-based reports

Wealth path comparison (indexed NAV = 1 at start; monthly points from daily NAV)



Methodology: Both series are indexed to 1 at the start; chart uses month-end values from daily NAV to improve readability
For the analysis following have been considered for respective asset classes: Equity - Nifty 50 price return index; Bond - 7% annualised zero coupon bond (average of 10 year government bond yield over the years); Gold - GoldBSE ETF
Source: ACE Equity, NSE India, Qode Research

