

# Winning the Quick-Commerce Decade: Playbook for Brand Success

September 2025

**redseer**  
Strategy Consultants

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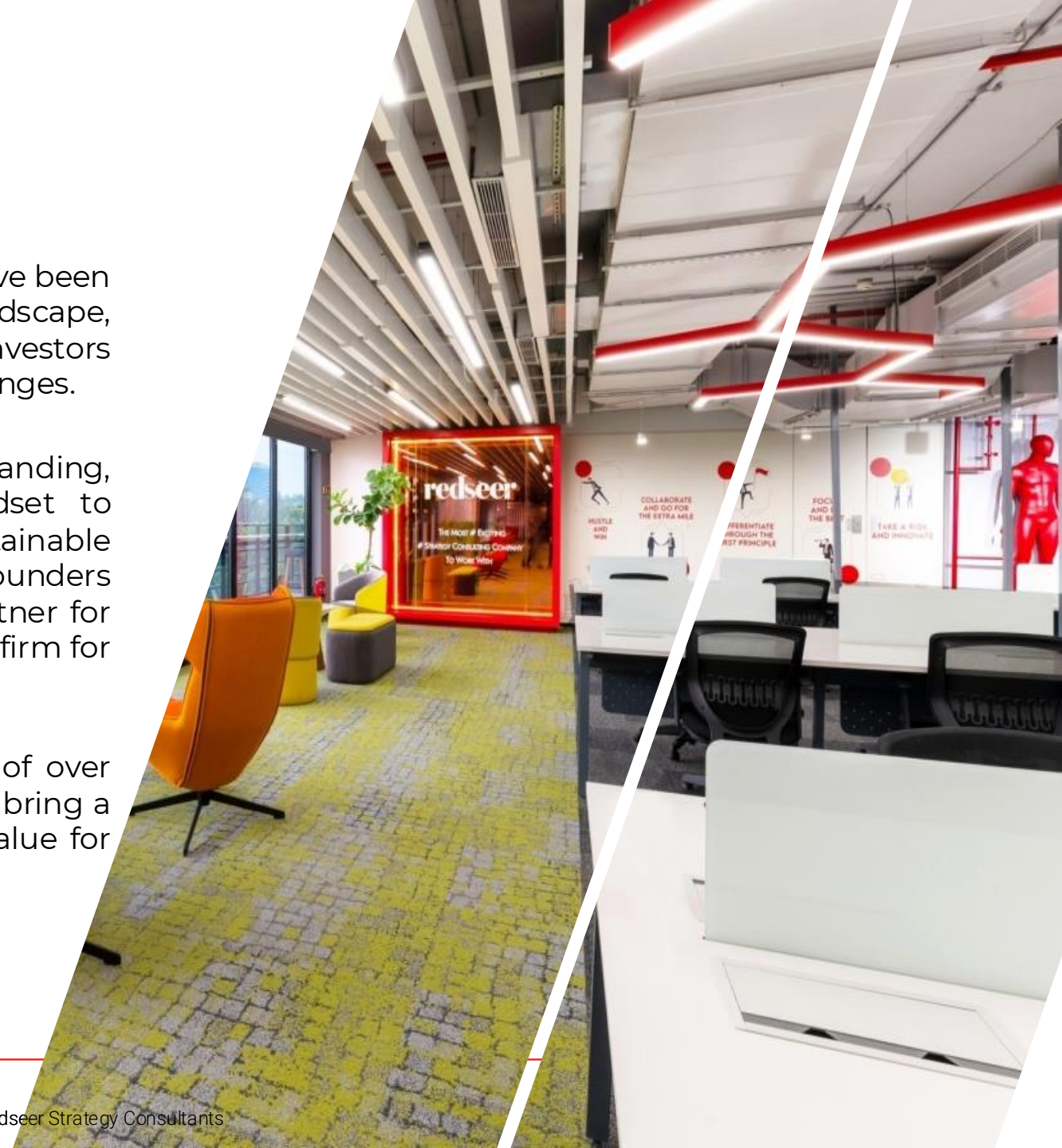
## About Redseer Strategy Consultants

We solve the strategy behind scale. For over 15 years, we have been at the forefront of shaping India's new-age business landscape, helping consumer-focused brands, digital platforms, and investors solve their most pressing growth and transformation challenges.

Our advantage lies in combining deep consumer understanding, innovation-first thinking, and an entrepreneurial mindset to deliver strategies that go beyond ideas into scalable, sustainable impact. This has made Redseer the trusted advisor to founders and boards as they build enduring businesses, the #1 partner for IPO strategy among new-age firms, and a leading advisory firm for private equity investors navigating high-stakes decisions.

Together with our global partner, OC&C, and a network of over 1,000 consultants across 22 countries and 5 continents, we bring a global perspective with local relevance, creating lasting value for clients as they transition from bold vision to scalable reality.

For more, visit [redseer.com](https://redseer.com)





# We help brands to power their quick-commerce growth journey

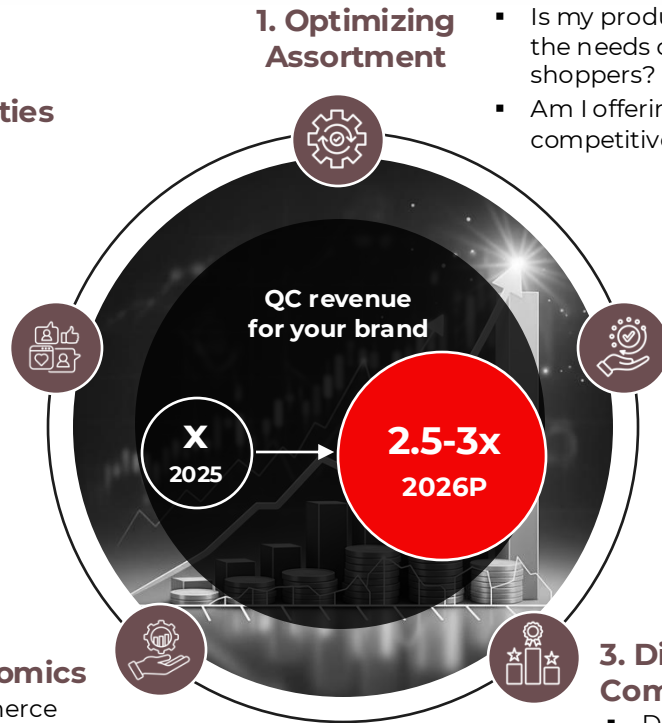
## Redseer Framework: Unlocking Revenue Uplift on Quick Commerce

### 5. Strengthening Capabilities & Platform Engagement

- Are my quick-commerce logistics, supply chain, forecasting, and analytics future-ready for this channel?
- Do I have the talent, systems, and processes to scale quick-commerce seamlessly?
- Am I partnering strategically with quick-commerce platforms—across contracting, planning, and execution?

### 4. Improving Economics

- Are my quick-commerce margins aligned with industry benchmarks?
- How can I optimize promotional, media, and logistics spend to drive efficiency in the quick-commerce channel?



### 1. Optimizing Assortment

- Is my product assortment aligned with the needs of quick-commerce shoppers?
- Am I offering the right mix to stay competitive?

### 2. Ensuring Availability

- Is my inventory calibrated to meet the unique demand patterns of quick-commerce — including local micro-markets and time-sensitive peaks?

### 3. Discoverability & Pricing Competitiveness

- Do my products have enough recall to appear in searches?
- How easily can shoppers find my products when browsing through the key platforms?
- Am I competitively priced across categories and during key demand spikes?

## Our Solutions

### Consulting & Advisory Support

Backed by exceptional primary research capabilities, rigorous & detailed approach, and senior team engagement

### Benchmarks (Request Access)

Continuous performance measurement across categories, customers, and competitors

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# Methodology: Primary research supported by Redseer IP



## Project Methodology

35+ Industry stakeholder interactions, across different type of stakeholders and categories

### 01 25+ Brand Discussions

Including national and D2C brands



### 02 10+ Quick-Commerce Platform Discussions

Including established leaders and emerging players



### 03 Redseer IP

- [Benchmarks: Redseer's proprietary platform on the India Internet Landscape](#) (Click to request access)
- Insights drawn from continuous strategy engagement with leading brands, investors, and platforms



All estimates stated in this report are based on Redseer's research and IP, unless otherwise specified



# Executive summary: Quick-Commerce is growing rapidly into a mainstream distribution channel for brands



## Quick Commerce Market Highlights

01

**Quick-Commerce to become main-stream**



Quick commerce is set to cement itself as a mainstream brand distribution format, projected to contribute

**~10% of branded retail by 2030.**

02

**Grocery, BPC and electronics accessories at the forefront**



Its sweet spot lies in small-ticket, impulse-driven purchase missions, especially in categories with a tight SKU range – translating to

**10-15% of grocery and 15-20% of BPC spends**

being QC-led by the end of the decade.

03

**Gen Z's & Millennials from metros' to lead the way**



Affluent, big-city Gen Z and millennial shoppers will remain the core monthly transacting base for the next 5-7 years, driving QC to account for

**20-25% of D2C brand spends and 1/3rd of total brand spends in metro cities by 2030.**

04

**Quick-Commerce's distinct DNA demands brand focus**



GT/Kirana-like consumer engagement, e-commerce-like brand control, and high-intent /mission-driven consumer journeys, make QC a distinctive channel.



# Executive summary: Brands can maximize the potential by unlocking the 8 levers identified as part of our QC success playbook

## Redseer's Playbook for Brand Success on Quick Commerce

### **Recalibrate QC identity for today's dynamic consumer trends**

- New-age consumption trends are leading the way on QC.
  - Zero sugar beverages: INR 350 Cr.+
  - Dark chocolates: INR 250 Cr.+
- Crucial for brands to align their assortment and product messaging / ad efforts

01

### **Sharpen the assortment based on micro-market demand**

- Distinct micro-market demographics call for tailored assortments
- Limited dark store capacity demands a sharper focus on high-velocity SKUs
- Platforms are advancing to enable micro-optimizations

03

### **Optimize promotional spends as per demand rhythms**

- QC demand is highly time sensitive and category specific
- Promotional efforts need to match the demand patterns, while factoring in competitive intensity - what's the golden window for your products?

05

### **Win spike days with event-led agility**

Quick commerce lets brands win small, sudden demand surges through agile, low-effort activations

07

- New-age brands (Represented By D2C) drive 4x higher share of GMV on QC Vs E-commerce
- Multiple newly launched products have scaled 7-9x on QC last year
- Real-time, granular targeting & insights make QC an effective launch channel.



**Leverage QC as a launchpad**



**Drive profitability through smart upselling**



**Customize visibility efforts as per category & brand maturity**



**Deploy an agile team, paired with responsive supply chain engine**

08

- Visibility efforts (across search & browse journeys) must align with the brand X category maturity on QC
- Off-platform efforts are critical for insurgents, while on-platform efforts are universally relevant

- QC account management is uniquely intense
- Ownership spans multiple functions: platform relationships, catalogue & content, supply chain, and digital marketing.
- Agile supply chain is critical to enable real-time actionability.



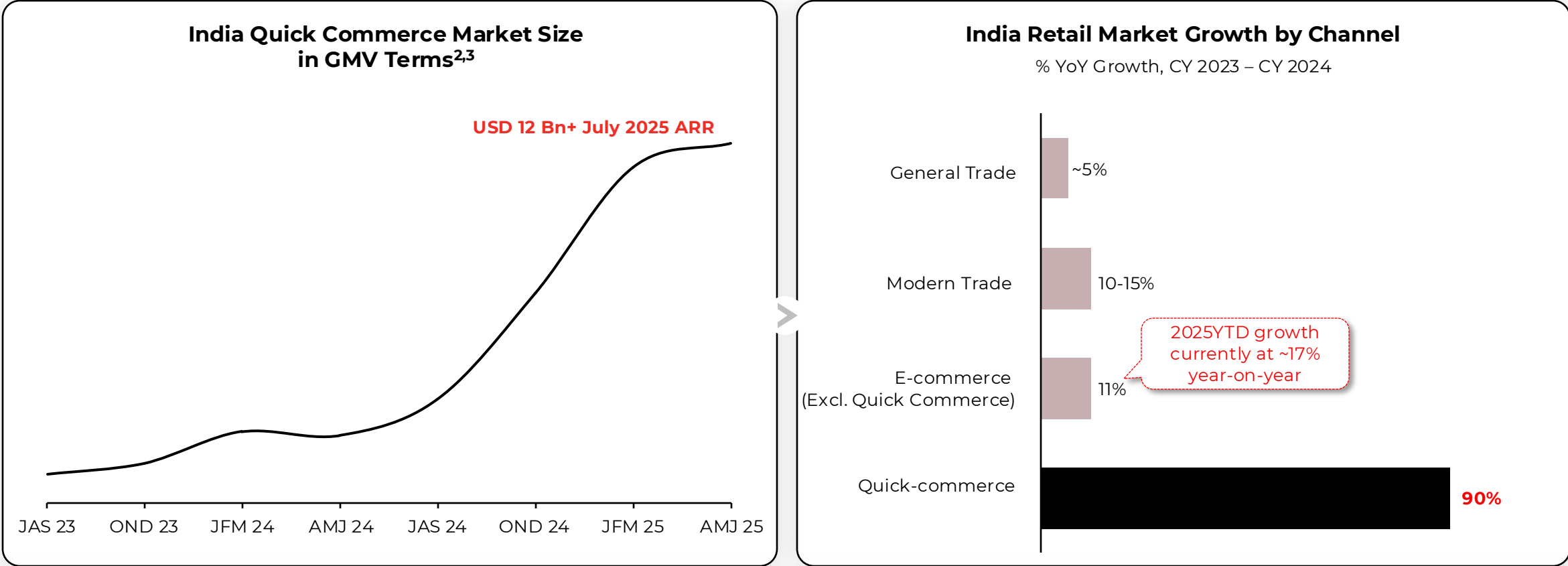


# A

# Quick-Commerce: from emerging channel to mainstream force



# Quick commerce continues to grow rapidly, emerging as the fastest growing retail format in India



Jul-25 KPIs:

33 Mn+ MTUs

4,800+ Dark Stores

150+ Cities

75-80% Metro share

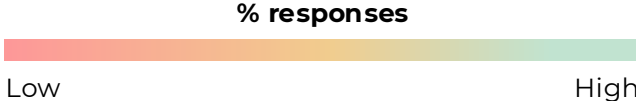
~80% Top 3 platform share

~150% 2025YTD growth YoY

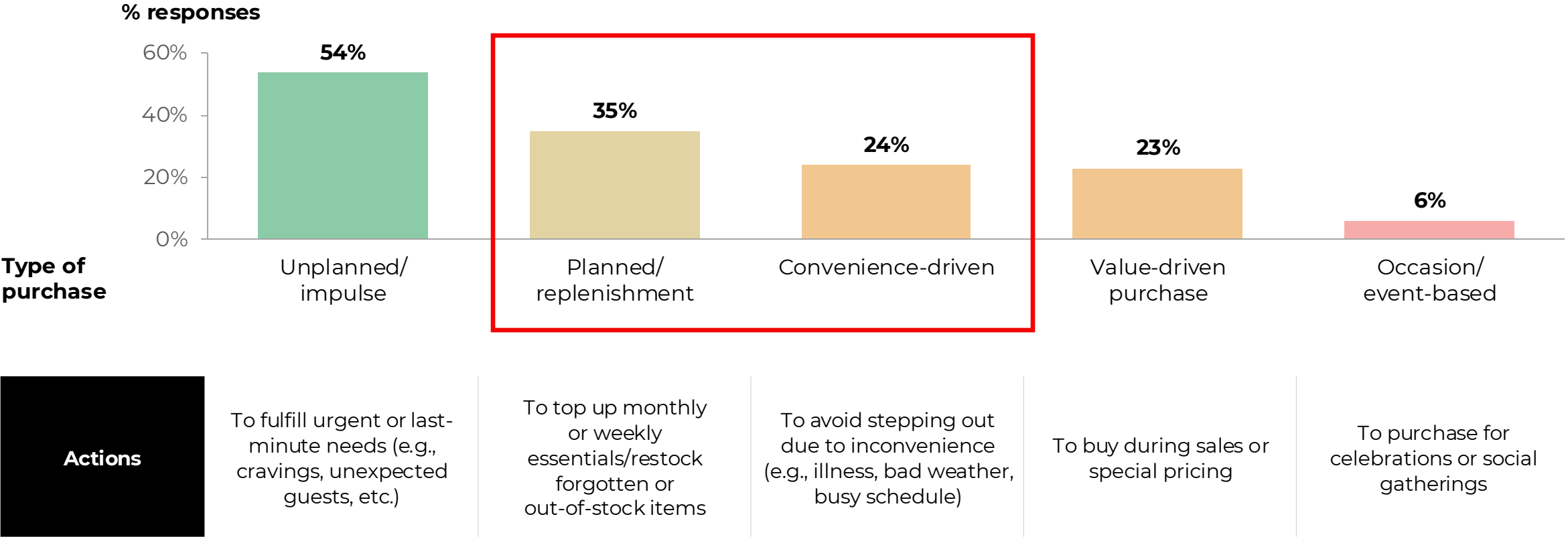
**Note(s):** 1. Conversion Rate: 1 USD = INR 85, 2. Represents aggregated performance across leading platforms – Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy Instamart, BB Now, Flipkart Minutes, and Jiomart Quick; 3. Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) at Selling Price refers to the total value of goods sold at their selling price (i.e., after any MRP discounts) for all the orders excluding coupon and checkout discounts, delivery charges, and other platform fees. It includes cancelled and returned orders.

# Shoppers are becoming habitual, moving from impulse-driven daily fixes to planned routine top-ups

## Quick commerce: Use cases (N=604)



Q: When do you usually use quick commerce platforms to shop for grocery products?

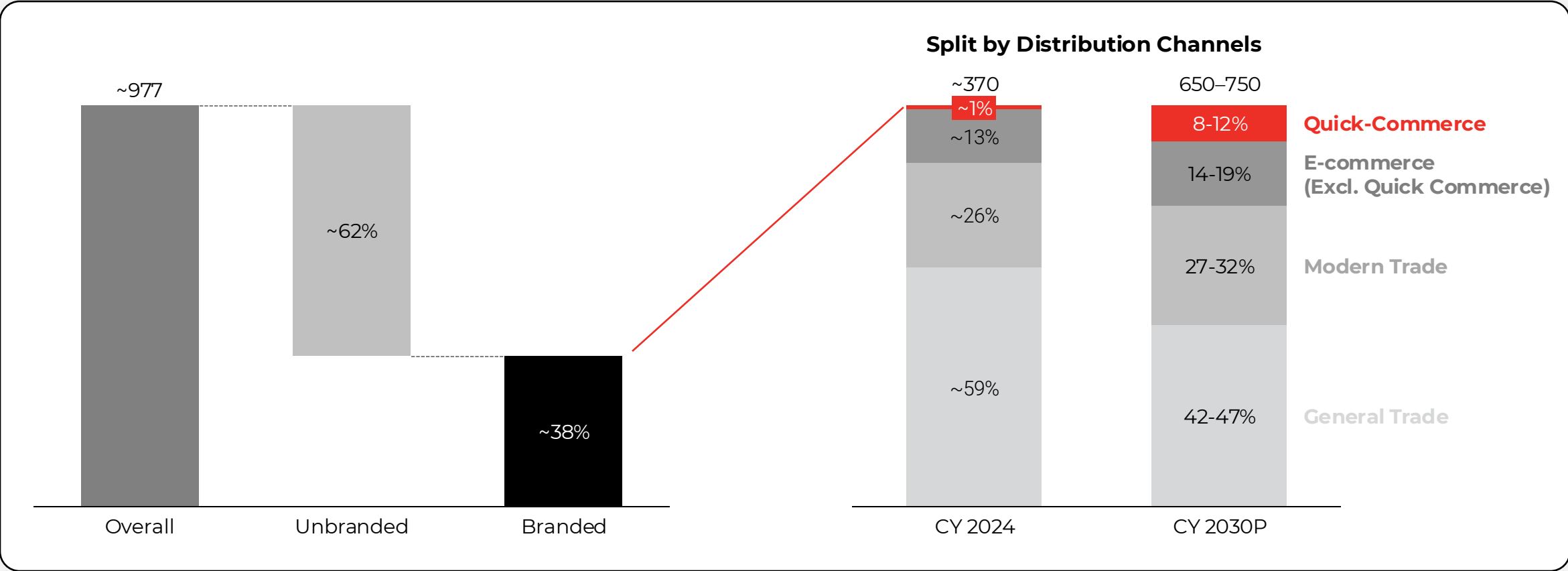




# ~10% of branded spends in India are expected to happen on QC in 2030, making it a mainstream distribution channel for brands

## Retail Market Size Split – By Branded & Unbranded

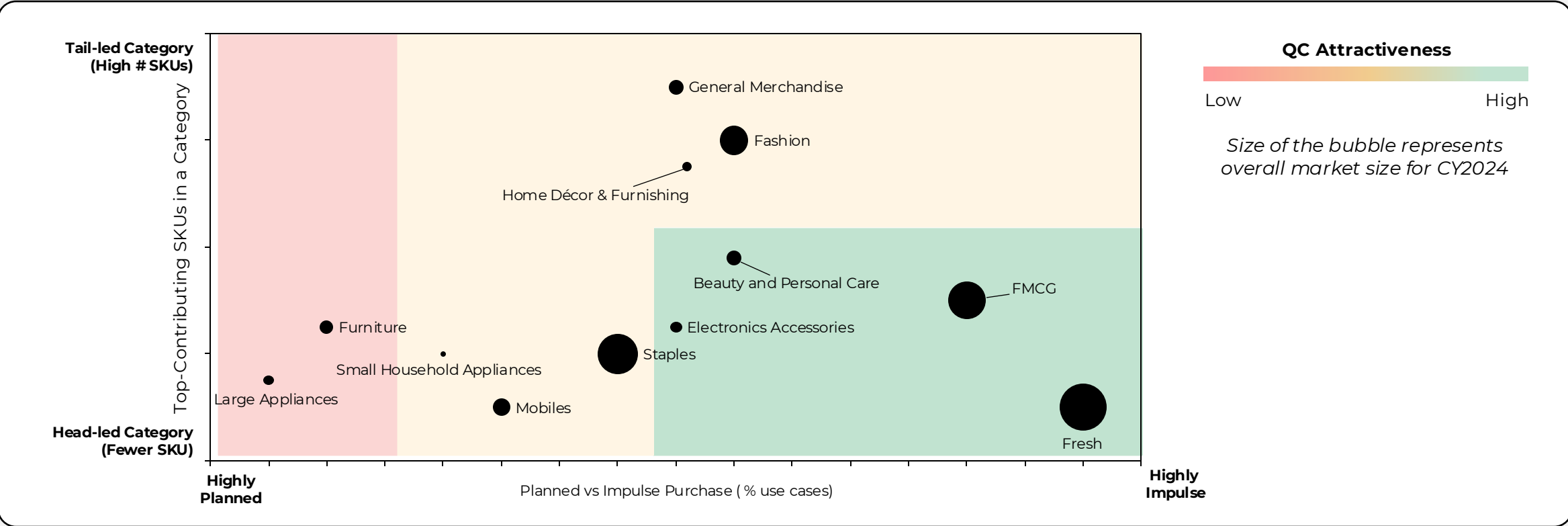
In USD Bn (% share of the overall retail), CY 2024



**Note(s):** 1. Conversion Rate: 1 USD = INR 85, 2. Branded market comprises products sold by national brands (Pan-India), direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands, and regional brands

# QC emerging as a natural fit for small-ticket product categories (often bought impulsively) with confined SKU range

## Quick-Commerce Category Attractiveness



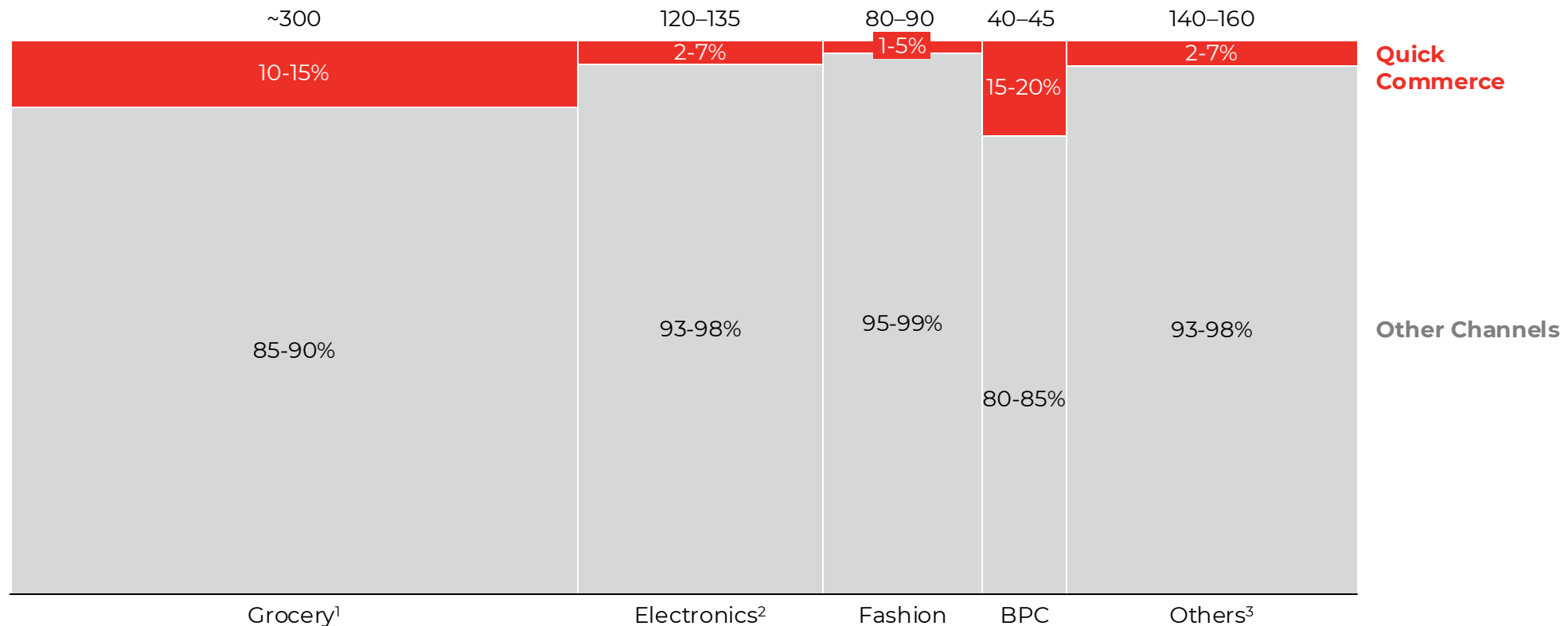
**Note(s):** Note(s): 1. Fresh includes fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, dairy, and other perishables; 2. Staples include grains, pulses and related essentials; 3. FMCG covers packaged foods, beverages, toiletries, and cleaning supplies (excludes personal care and baby care consumables); 4. Beauty and Personal Care comprises makeup, hair care, skin care, fragrances, personal hygiene, oral care, and deodorants; 5. Large Appliances include refrigerators, washing machines, ACs, TVs, home entertainment systems, etc.; 6. Small Household Appliances cover water heaters, vacuum cleaners, air purifiers, ironing/heating devices, kitchen & cooking appliances, and personal care gadgets; 7. Electronic Accessories include mobile covers, screen protectors, chargers, cables, headphones, adapters, smartwatches, and batteries; 8. Fashion consists of apparel, footwear, and accessories like belts, bags, watches, hair accessories, wallets, wearables, scarves, stoles, caps, and hats; 9. Furniture includes core household furniture such as beds, sofas, wardrobes, dining tables, chairs, study/work desks, storage units, and cabinets; 10. Home Décor and Furnishing include home textiles and décor items including curtains, carpets, rugs, cushions, bedding, mattresses, wall décor, lighting, decorative pieces, kitchenware, and tableware; 11. General Merchandise comprises toys, baby care products, stationery, and office supplies.

# Within the branded segment, 10-15% grocery and 15-20% BPC are projected to be QC-led by 2030



## Branded Retail Market Size Split – By Category and Channels

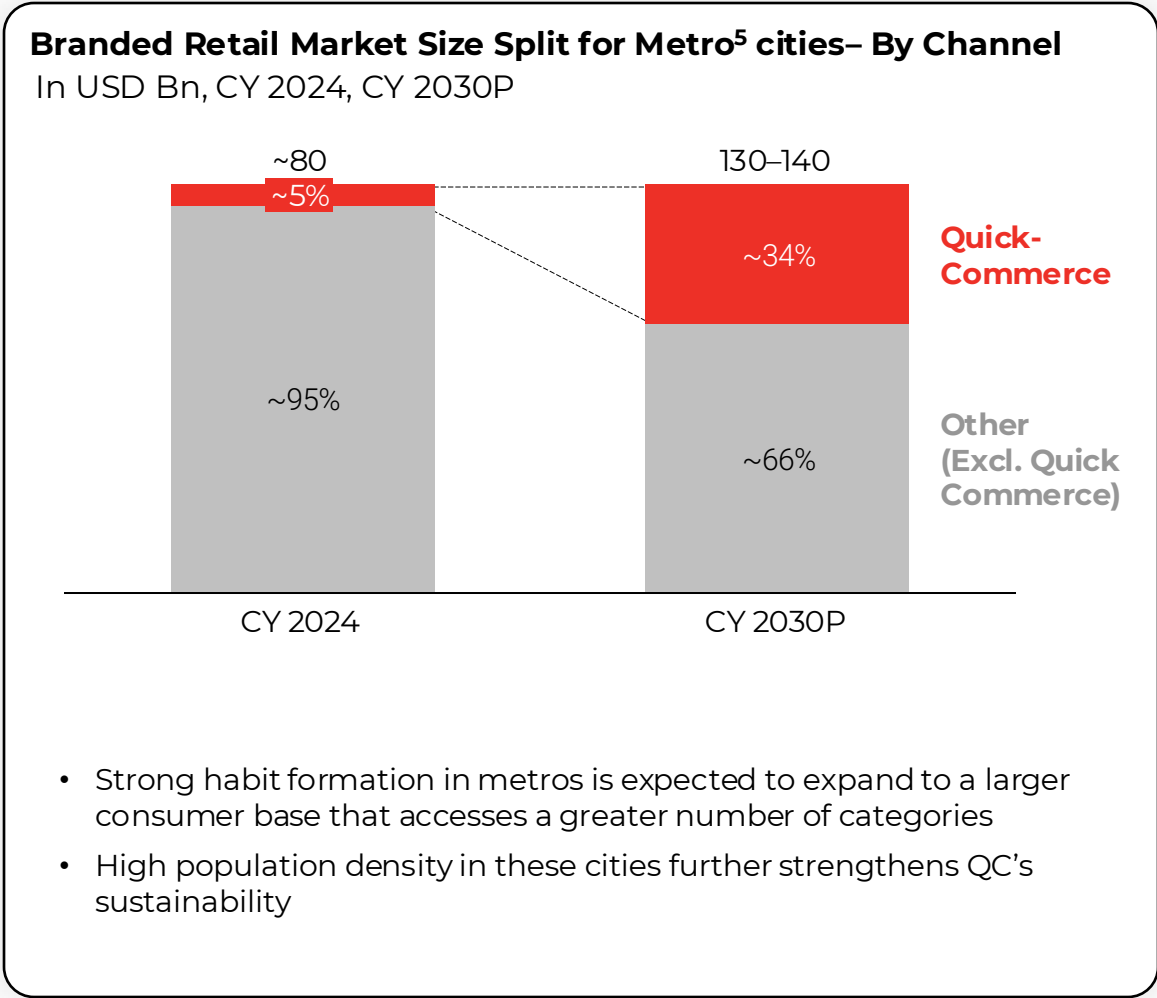
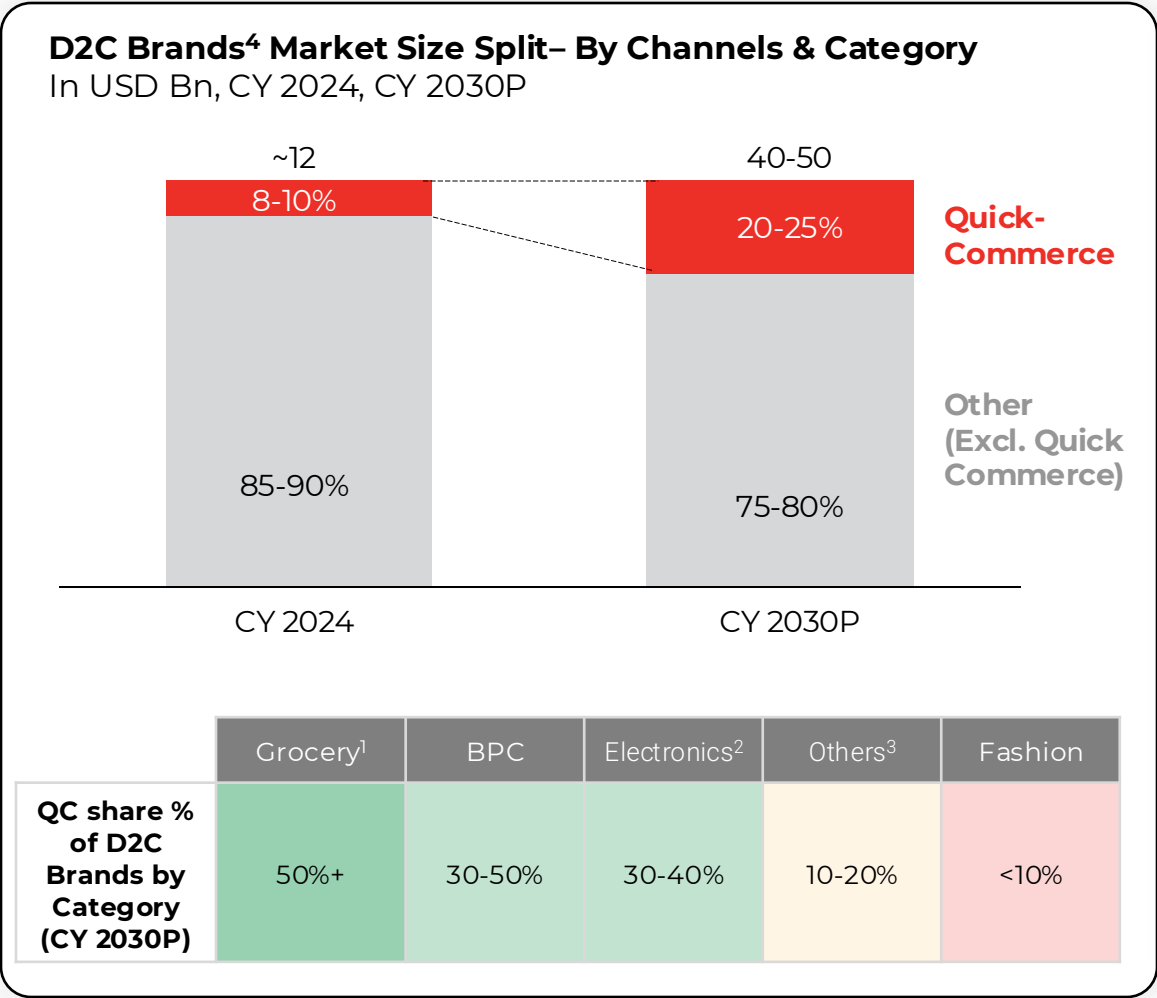
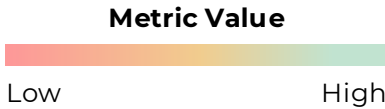
In USD Bn (% share of branded retail), CY 2030P



**Note(s):** 1. Grocery includes FMCG, Fresh and Staples. 2. Electronics include Mobiles, Electronic Accessories, Large and Small Appliances. 3. Others include General Merchandise, Home & Furniture, Pharma, Jewellery, etc.



# More than 1/5th of D2C brand sales and ~1/3rd of branded spends in metros are set to be QC-led in 2030



**Note(s):** 1): Grocery includes FMCG, Fresh and Staples. 2): Electronics include Mobiles, Electronic Accessories, Large and Small Appliances; 3): Others include General Merchandise, Home & Furniture, Pharma, Jewellery, etc. 4): D2C brands are brands with a large portion of their sales from online channels (more than 50%) and have own website/app; 5): Metro includes top 8 cities with a population over 5 million as of CY24, comprising Mumbai (Maharashtra), Delhi (NCT), Bangalore (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune (Maharashtra), and Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

# Affluent big-city GenZs & millennials will continue to form the core QC MTU base



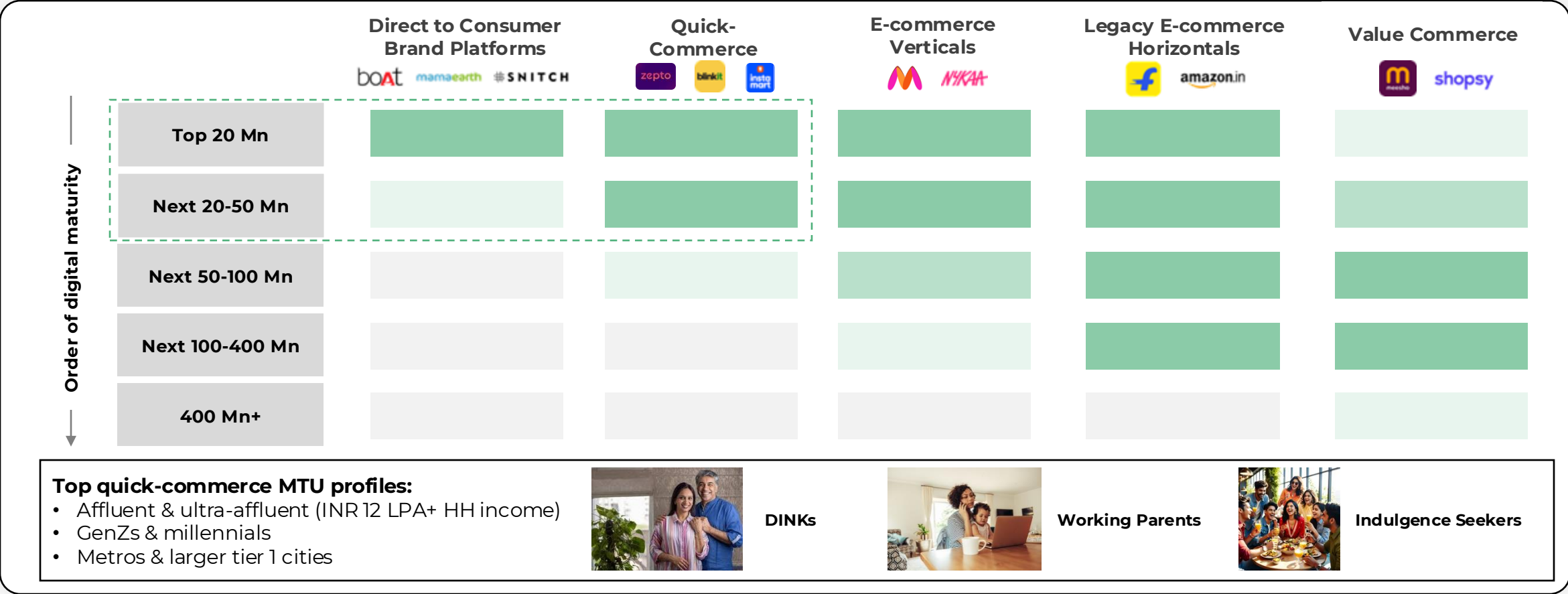
## India Digital Commerce Userbase Distribution by Platform Type

Propensity to use

Low

High

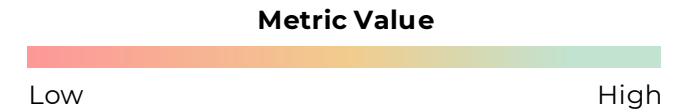
2030P



Note(s): 1) : Platform logos are representative and not exhaustive.

# GT-like engagement, paired with e-commerce like control, make QC a distinctive channel

## Distribution Channel Benchmarking

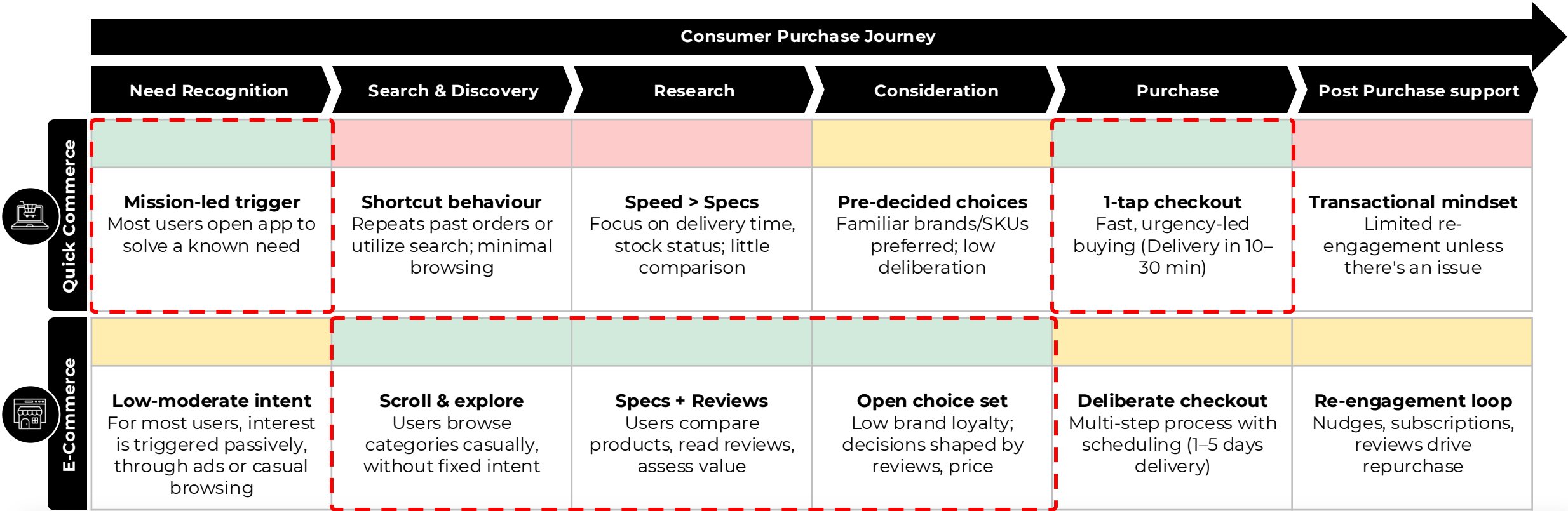
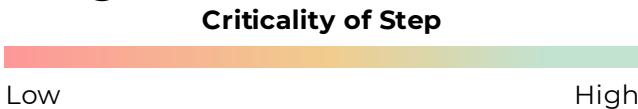


|                     |                                          | Quick-Commerce                                                              | E-commerce<br>(Excl. Quick Commerce)                                        | Modern Trade                                                           | General Trade                                             |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Consumer Engagement | Avg. Monthly Purchase Frequency (times)  | 5-6                                                                         | 3-4                                                                         | 1-2                                                                    | 10-20                                                     |
|                     | Avg. Ticket Size (INR)                   | 400-500                                                                     | 800-900                                                                     | 2,000-2,500                                                            | 100-150                                                   |
| Brand Control       | Sales & Campaign Performance Measurement | Real-time, granular                                                         | Real-time, less granular                                                    | Available at a lag                                                     | No formal reporting                                       |
|                     | Product Visibility & Control             | High – Optimize visibility through digital ads and search/browse placements | High – Optimize visibility through digital ads and search/browse placements | Moderate – Limited to securing shelf space and promoter led visibility | Low – distributor dependent                               |
|                     | Speed of Replenishment                   | Very High – multiple replenishments per day                                 | Moderate – warehouse-level planning, typically weekly replenishments        | Moderate – store/DC replenishment typically weekly to fortnightly      | Low – distributor replenishment typically once in 2 weeks |
|                     | Geo Targeting Precision                  | Very High – neighbourhood or city zone-level with exact precision           | High - Typically State, and city level with exact precision                 | Moderate - City or store cluster level with low precision              | Low – Territory-level via distributors with low precision |

# High-intent and mission-driven journeys (unlike the rest of e-commerce) require sharper consumer targeting on QC



## Typical purchase journey – Q-commerce vs E-commerce



- Quick-Commerce is built for high-intent, need-now moments – users typically know what they want, act fast, and rarely browse beyond their immediate need, making it a limited exploration channel.
- E-Commerce, on the other hand, enables open-ended exploration – users tend to scroll, compare, and deliberate a lot more before deciding.





# B

## **Redseer's Playbook for Brand Success on Quick-Commerce**

# How can brands maximize India's quick-commerce potential?

## Redseer's Playbook for brand success on QC

**01**

### Recalibrate QC identity for today's dynamic consumer trends

- New-age consumption trends are leading the way on quick-commerce.
  - Zero sugar beverages: INR 350 Cr.+
  - Dark chocolates: INR 250 Cr.+
- Crucial for brands to align their assortment and product messaging / ad efforts accordingly

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**02**

### Leverage QC as a launchpad

- New-age brands (Represented By D2C) drive 4x higher share of GMV on QC Vs E-commerce
- Multiple newly launched products have scaled 7-9x on QC last year
- Real-time, granular targeting & insights make QC an effective launch channel

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**03**

### Sharpen the assortment based on micro-market demand

- Distinct micro-market demographics call for tailored assortments
- Limited dark store capacity demands a sharper focus on high-velocity SKUs
- Platforms are advancing their capabilities to enable micro-optimizations

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**04**

### Drive profitability through smart upselling

- Appropriate premiumization and bundling can help unlock higher profitability on QC
- High QC user orientation towards premium products further aids action
- Platforms to continue promoting premium / bundled products to improve economics

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**05**

### Optimize promotional spends as per demand rhythms

- QC demand is highly time sensitive and category specific
- Promotional efforts need to match the demand patterns, while factoring in competitive intensity - what's the golden window for your products?

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**06**

### Customize visibility efforts as per category & brand maturity

- Visibility efforts (across search & browse journeys) must align with the brand X category maturity on QC
- Off-platform efforts are critical for insurgents, while on-platform efforts are universally relevant

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**07**

### Win spike days with event-led agility

- Quick commerce lets brands win small, sudden demand surges through agile, low-effort activations

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**08**

### Deploy an agile team, paired with responsive supply chain engine

- QC account management is uniquely intense
- Ownership spans multiple functions: platform relationships, catalogue & content, supply chain, and digital marketing
- Agile supply chain is critical to enable the real-time actionability

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# Recalibrate QC identity for today's dynamic consumer trends

- New-age consumption trends are leading the way on quick-commerce.
  - Zero sugar beverages<sup>1</sup>: INR 350 Cr.+
  - Dark chocolates<sup>1</sup>: INR 250 Cr.+
- Crucial for brands to align their assortment and product messaging / ad efforts accordingly

1. Annualized GMV across QC platforms for Zero sugar beverage as of Mar-25 and Dark chocolates for May-25

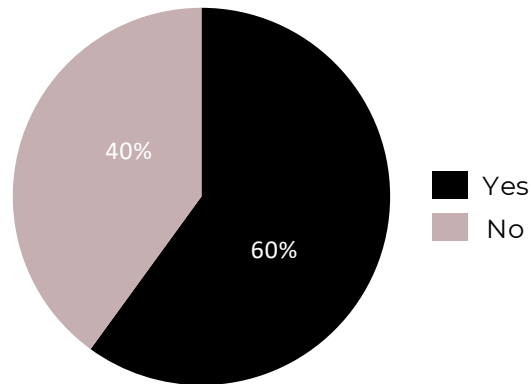


# The core QC users are gravitating towards the new-age consumption trends



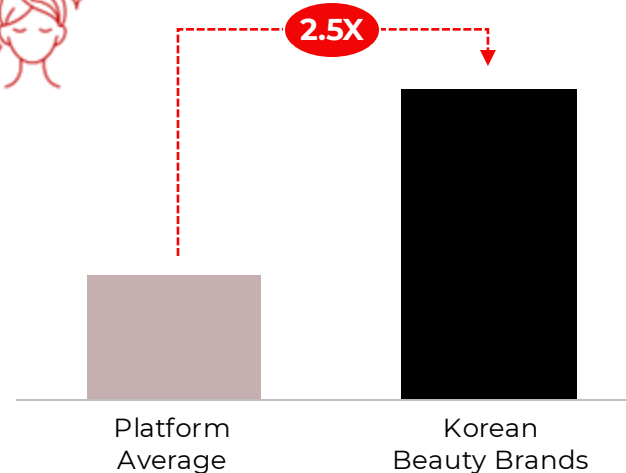
## Genz and millennial-led consumption trends in India

### 1. Opting for Clean/ Healthy Snacking (Protein bars, low-calorie, sugar-free products)



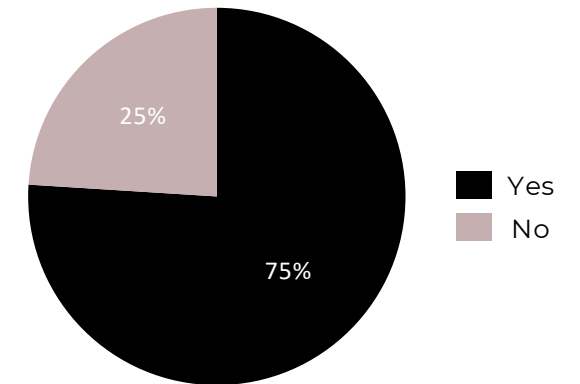
GenZs & millennials (survey respondents) willing to Pay ~15% premium for Healthy RTE / RTC products

### 2. Adoption of Korean Skincare (Sunscreen, glass skin)



YoY GMV growth on leading beauty e-commerce platform (2024 vs 2023) focused on GenZs & millennials

### 3. Use of International Sauces and Spreads (Mayo spreads, peri-peri, Schezwan, soy, mustard, BBQ, pasta sauces)



GenZs & millennials (survey respondents) that use sauces and spreads to complement their meals

**Gen Zs and millennials are shaping India's consumption patters –**

Gen Z with trend-driven, digital-first purchases, and millennials with a preference for convenience and healthier lifestyle swaps



# These trends are picking up tremendously on QC

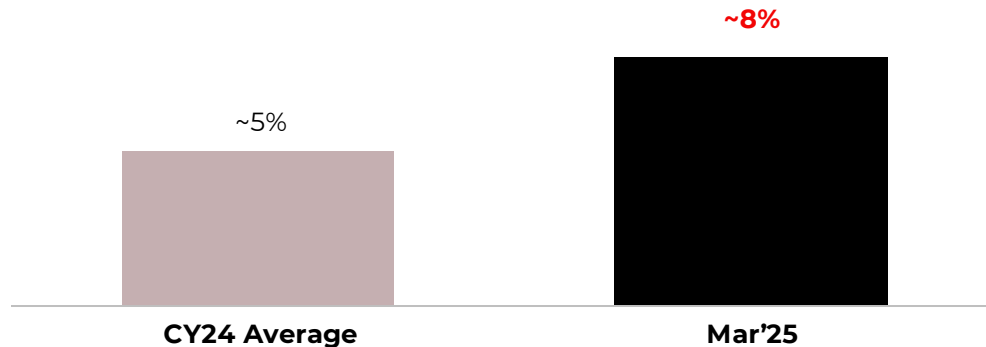
## New-age consumption trends on quick-commerce

INR xx Cr.

Annualized Revenue Estimate on QC (Mar / May-25)



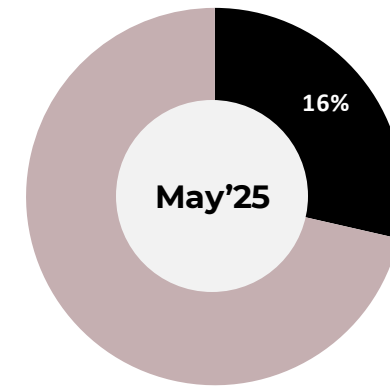
### Zero Sugar Beverages <sup>1</sup>

**~INR 350+ Cr.**

Growth in share of Zero-Sugar Beverages in overall Beverage GMV on a leading QC platform



### Dark Chocolates <sup>2</sup>

**INR 250 Cr. +**

Share of Dark Chocolates in Total Chocolate GMV on a leading QC platform

New-age wellness and indulgence formats are breaking out, and quick-commerce's instant reach is the catalyst turning early curiosity into habit.

**Note(s):** 1. < 0.5 g total sugars per 100 ml or per labelled serving. Does not include unsweetened drinks, 2. Containing >50% total cocoa solids and contains negligible milk solids

# Crucial for brands to align their product assortment accordingly on QC



Brands' product assortment efforts to align with the new-age consumption trends

01



**Maggi tapping Gen Z's obsession with bold global flavours and K-culture through Korean-inspired spicy noodles**



02



**Mother Dairy has launched 'Promilk', a high-protein milk offering convenient nutrition for health-focused consumers (20 gm protein, daily strength)**



03



**Paper Boat moves beyond its nostalgia-based beverages with the launch of zero-sugar sparkling water**



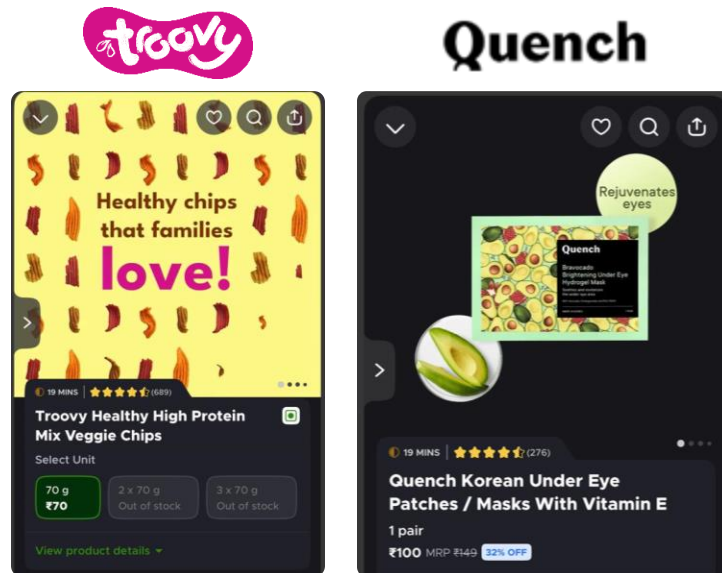
# Also tailor their product messaging & AD efforts to facilitate trend-based discovery on QC



Product messaging & AD efforts to align with the new-age consumption trends

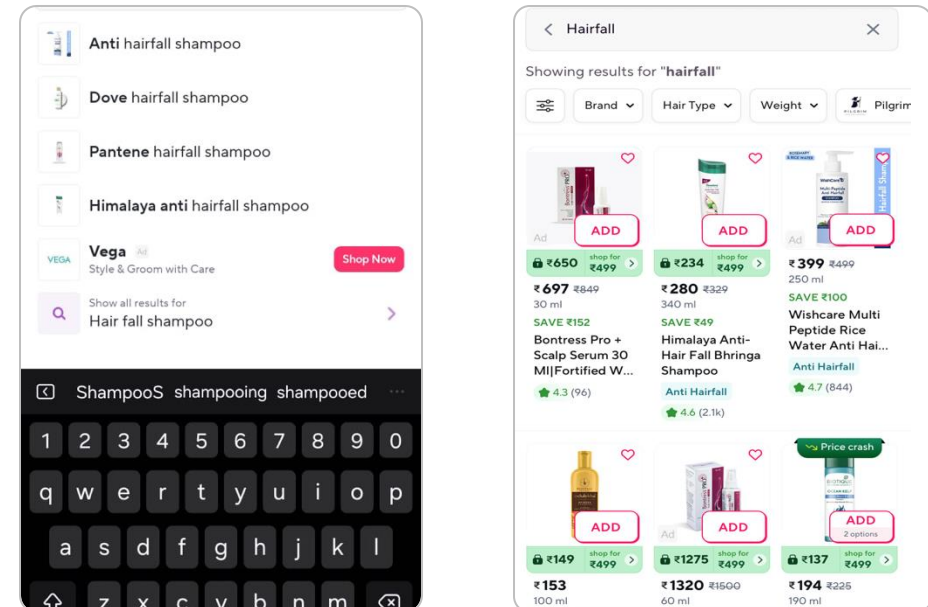
## 01 Product Title / Description Updates

- Product titles now include high-volume keywords (e.g., "Healthy Protein Chips", "Korean Sunscreen")
- Designed to rank higher on platform search results



## 02 Search Keyword Sponsorship

- Beauty & Personal Care brands tend to run ads on **spike keywords** such as "Hairfall", "Korean skincare", "Glass skin"



## Leverage QC as a launchpad

- New-age brands (Represented By D2C) drive 4x higher share of GMV on QC Vs E-commerce
- Multiple newly launched products have scaled 7-9x on QC last year
- Real-time, granular targeting & insights make QC an effective launch channel





# QC users are open to trying new brands and products, making them an attractive TG for new launches

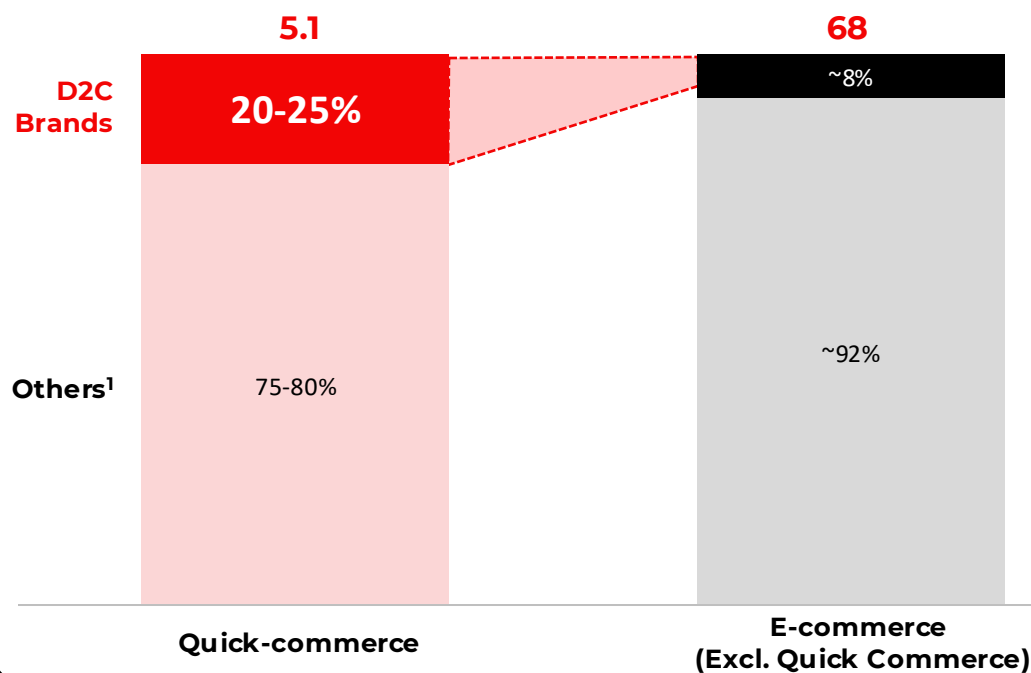
New-age brands (represented by D2C) have a disproportionately high share on QC, indicating a **stronger experimentation appetite...**

**...targeted extensively by both new-age and legacy brands** through their extensive new launches on QC



## Brand Type GMV Contribution – Quick-commerce vs E-commerce

In %, CY2024



## New Launches on QC in CY2024

Select Examples

### New-age Brands:



### Legacy Brands:



- QC users are defined by a **pronounced willingness to experiment**, with a strong preference for discovering and trying out new brands and products
- This openness is especially pronounced among **Gen Z and Millennials**, who comprise the platform's core user base

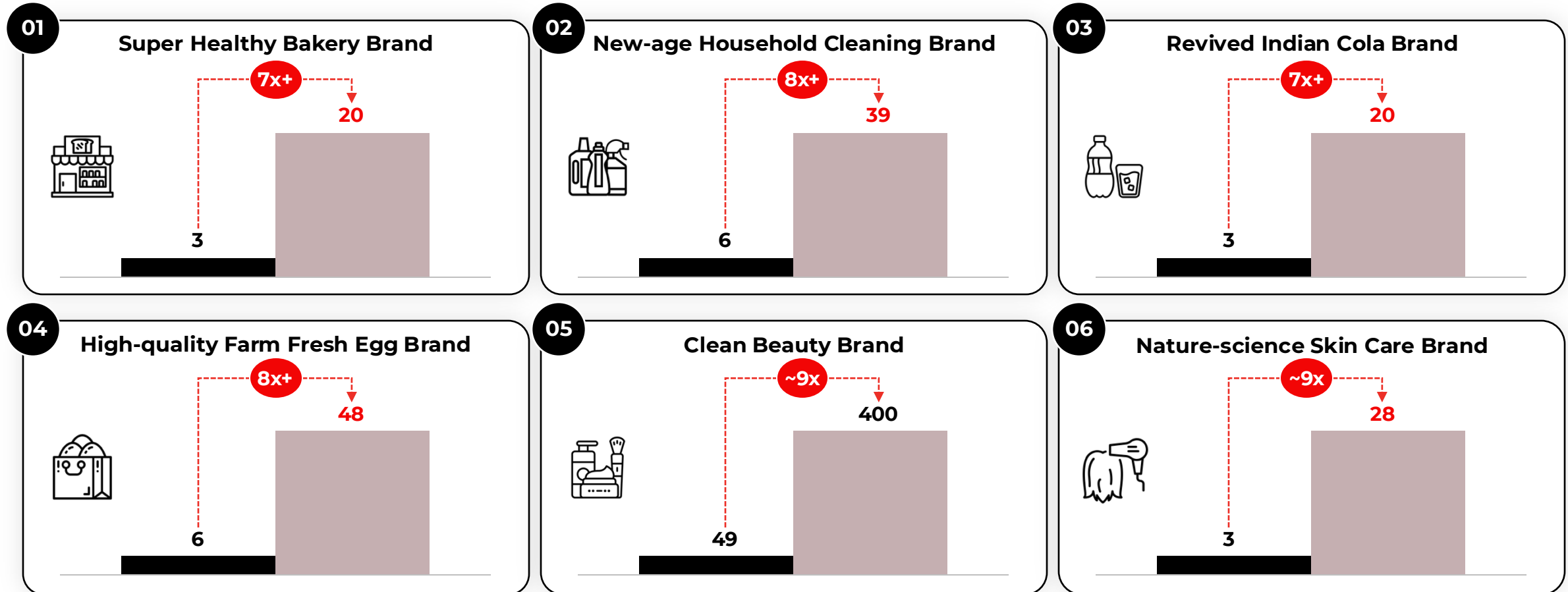
**Note(s):** Others include legacy, regional and unbranded market size

# Last year's launches have witnessed an accelerated scale-up on QC

## Growth in new launches on a leading quick commerce platform<sup>1</sup>

■ 2024 ■ JFM-25 Annualized

GMV in INR lacs, Y-o-Y growth in (%)



**Note(s):** 1. Examples include brands launched in 2024



01



02



03



High



“Price packs shift seasonally,  
never mid-cycle.”  
– *Channel Strategy Head*



## Sharpen the assortment based on micro-market demand

- Distinct micro-market demographics call for tailored assortments
- Limited dark store capacity demands a sharper focus on high-velocity SKUs
- Platforms are advancing their capabilities to enable micro-optimizations





# Consumer demographics differ starkly by micro-market within a city

Illustrated below for few micro-markets in Bangalore



## Indicative consumer demographics mix – by micro market

### Prominence of Demographics

Low

High

| Demographics                         |                        | Bellandur                                                                                                                                                      | RT Nagar                                                                                                         | HSR Layout                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Degree Of Relationship With The City | Native                 |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                      | Migrants               |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |
| Occupation                           | Working Professionals  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early to senior executives</li> <li>Working at nearby tech parks – ETV, Pritech Park, Prestige Business Park</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early to mid-level executives</li> <li>Mostly working at startups and nearby tech parks and co-working space</li> </ul> |
|                                      | Business               |                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local business owners</li> </ul>                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large business families</li> </ul>                                                                                      |
|                                      | Students               |                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adarsha PU College, RS College, Atria Institute, Dairy Science</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIFT, Oxford College, Shakuntala Devi</li> </ul>                                                                        |
| Housing Setup                        | Independent Houses     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APR Villas</li> </ul>                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HMT layout and Anandnagar</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sector - 6</li> </ul>                                                                                                   |
|                                      | Independent Apartments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Glen Layout</li> </ul>                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rahmath Nagar &amp; Ganga Nagar</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across the micro market</li> </ul>                                                                                      |
|                                      | Small Gated Society    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Glen Layout</li> </ul>                                                                                            |                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sector 4 and 3</li> </ul>                                                                                               |
|                                      | Large Gated Society    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across the Micro Market (Mantri Espana, Shobha Iris, Shobha Jasmin, Shobha Daffodil, etc)</li> </ul>                    |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |
| Dominant Ethnic Groups               |                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bengal, Gujarat &amp; Maharashtra</li> </ul>                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native South Indians</li> <li>Muslims</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marwadi and Telugu</li> </ul>                                                                                           |
| Average Monthly Rent / SQFT          |                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INR 20-25</li> </ul>                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INR 15-20</li> </ul>                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INR 20-25</li> </ul>                                                                                                    |

# The differing demographics result in distinct brand preferences

Illustrated below for few micro-markets in Bangalore



Product Preference as per GT / Kirana Stores – by Micro Market

Spend within a Micro-market

Low High

| Type of Brands   | Bellandur                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | RT Nagar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | HSR                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Legacy Brands    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Insurgent Brands | <b>Widely consumed</b> across categories such as:<br><div><br/>Beverages</div> <div><br/>Snacks</div> <div><br/>Grains &amp; Atta</div> | <b>Limited to few categories</b> such as:<br><div><br/>Snacks</div> <div><br/>Grains &amp; Atta</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Limited to few categories :</b><br><div><br/>Grains &amp; Atta</div>                                                            |
|                  | <div><br/>Oil</div> <div><br/>Instant</div> <div><br/>Dry fruits</div>                                                                   | <div><br/>Dry fruits</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <div><br/>Beverages</div> <div><br/>Dairy</div> |
| Regional Brands  | <b>Limited to few categories</b> such as:<br><div><br/>Dairy</div> <div><br/>Loose Grains &amp; Atta</div> <div><br/>Local Bakery</div>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Widely consumed</b> across categories such as:<br><div><br/>Snacks</div> <div><br/>Spices</div> <div><br/>Instant</div> <div><br/>Dairy</div> | <b>Limited to few categories</b> such as:<br><div><br/>Dairy</div> <div><br/>Loose Dry fruits</div> <div><br/>Local Bakery</div>  |
|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <div><br/>Dairy</div> <div><br/>Loose Grains &amp; Atta</div> <div><br/>Local Bakery</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Note(s):** 1. Legacy brands: A brand that has been operating for more than 20+ years and in more than three states, establishing a broad market presence across multiple regions, 2. Insurgent Brands: Challenger brands that typically target niche consumer needs and have a sharp differentiation; 3. Regional brands: A brand primarily dominant in one or two states, catering to local preferences and maintaining a strong regional footprint

# Secondly, dark store space is highly optimized and best-suited for high-velocity products



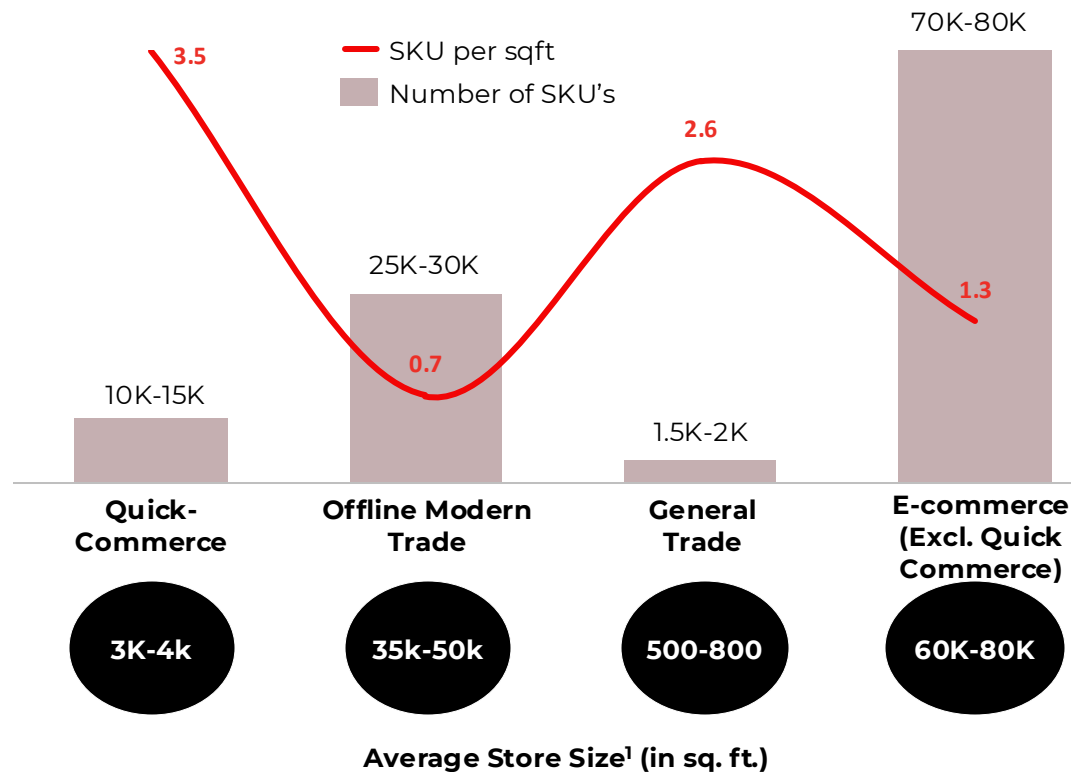
QC shelf-space per micro-market is limited, and highly optimized for speed and efficiency...

...this space is best utilized by faster-turn products



### Number of SKUs per Micro-market – by Channel

In #, Mar 2025



### Average Days of Inventory (DOI)– by Channel

Quick-Commerce indexed at x, Mar 2025



Slow-moving products on QC not only lose sales but also drive returns, limit visibility, and weaken brand-platform partnerships.

**Note(s):** 1. Average Store Size represents dark store for quick commerce, warehouse for e-commerce and stores for offline modern trade and general trade

# Imperative for brands to align their assortment with micro-market demand

(Illustrated Below For The 3 MMs In Bangalore)

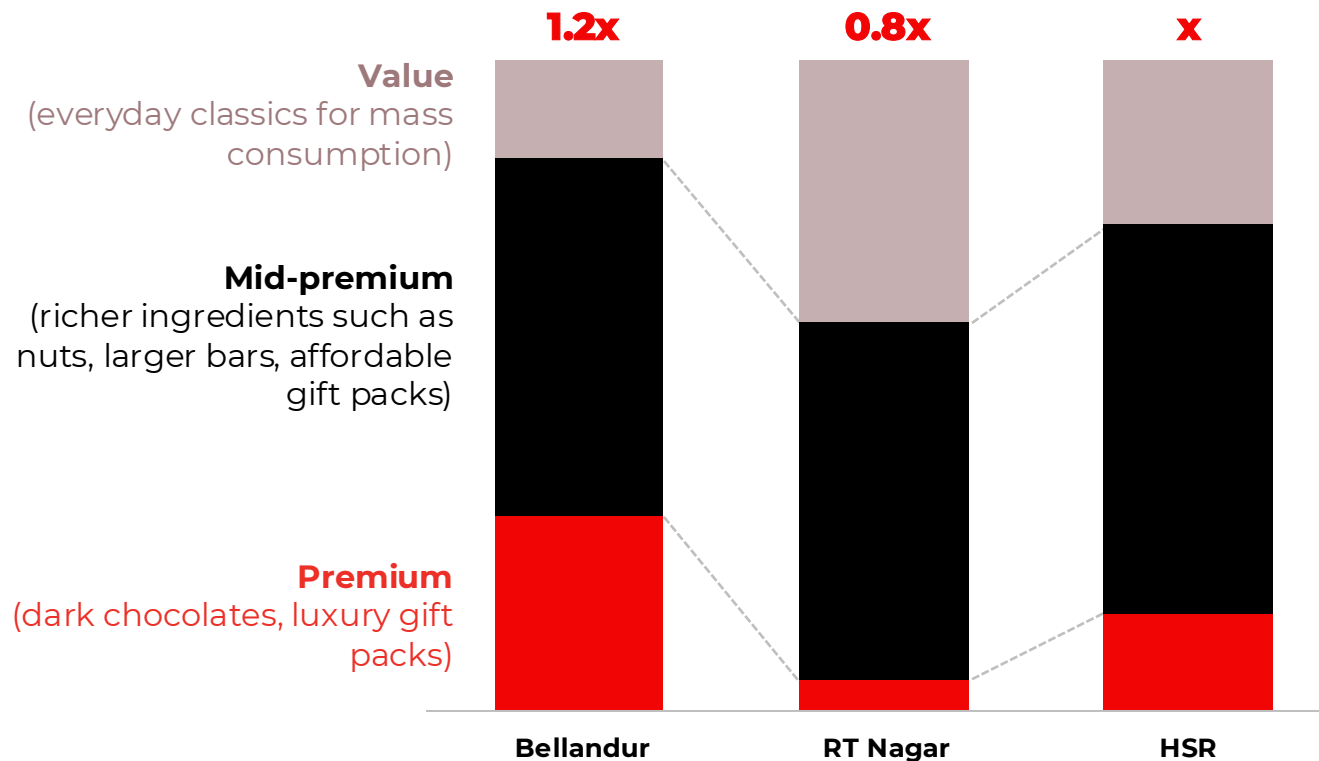


## Product Assortment Optimization by micro-market – Illustration

Quantity Indexed at x for HSR

### Recommended SKU Scale & Mix for a chocolate brand in Example micro-markets in Bangalore

(Illustrated Below)



Ensure optimum quantity and appropriate mix of product range within each micro-market



Also optimize the targeting efforts (through promos and ad / media spends) by micro-market – currently less explored by brands / platforms



# Platforms are also advancing their capabilities to enable efficient dark store level decision making by brands

## Dark store level decisioning framework

*Platforms are shifting towards more product-led approach to enable dark store level decisions*

|                                                                                     | 1. KAM-led Approach  | 2. Product-led Approach  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A<br>Basis for Decision Making<br>(assortment optimization,<br>promo approach etc.) | Discussions with KAMs on hyperlocal demand trends and stock availability                                | Real-time dark store level insights and trends                                                              |
| B<br>Decisions<br>(Stock transfer/ promo start/<br>pause etc.)                      | Communicated manually through KAMs                                                                      | Communicated through the brand-facing tool                                                                  |

**Product-led approach with the optimal blend of KAM inputs will be a sustainable & effective way to enable dark store level decision making.**

# Zepto Atom's micro-tracking and targeting features

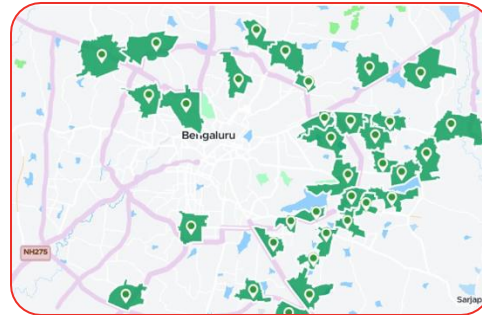
## Zepto Atom Features

zepto ATOM

### Real-time micro market sales tracking



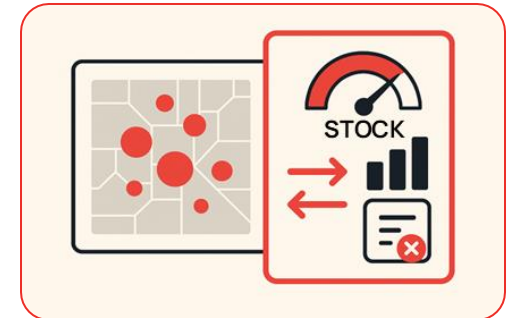
- **Refresh cadence:** Live, 60-second data drops
- **Spatial resolution:** PIN-code granularity
- **Action lever:** Surface demand gaps and redeploy stock before targets slip



### Dark store level stock availability



- **Metric tracked:** Live days-of-cover per SKU-store
- **Diagnostic view:** Lost-sale heatmap at PIN-code level
- **Action lever:** Auto-transfer stock or pause promos pre-OOS



To meet rising brand demand for deeper, localized insights, platforms like Zepto have built micro-targeting tools that deliver real-time data on sales, inventory, and consumer behaviour – down to the dark store level

## Drive profitability through smart upselling

- Appropriate premiumization and bundling can help unlock higher profitability on QC
- High QC user orientation towards premium products further aids action
- Platforms to continue promoting premium / bundled products to improve economics

# Brands must actively upsell on QC to offset the high channel costs



## Consumer Brand Profitability (Illustrated for Legacy FMCG brand)

Per sold unit, Cost heads as % of Revenue

|                                                               | Gross Revenue<br>(assumed at INR 100) | Channel Spends <sup>2</sup> | COGS | Operating Expenses<br>(including fixed costs) <sup>3</sup> | EBITDA |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Traditional commerce channels <sup>1</sup>                    | INR 100                               | 15-20%                      | ~40% | ~25%                                                       | 15-20% |
| Quick-Commerce for same product packs as traditional commerce | INR 100                               | 20-25%                      |      |                                                            | 10-15% |
| 1. Quick-Commerce with Premiumization                         | ↑                                     |                             | ↓    | ↓                                                          | ↑      |
| 2. Quick-Commerce with Bundling                               | ↑                                     |                             |      | ↓                                                          | ↑      |

Upselling

**Note(s):** 1. Traditional Commerce Channels includes General Trade, Offline Modern Trade, and E-Commerce; 2. Channel Spends include on-platform commission, marketing and promotions and other channel specific fees; 3. Operating Expenses include all ongoing costs required to run the business aside from direct production like salaries for administrative, sales, and support staff, Rent, utilities, and maintenance of corporate offices and warehouses (excluding plant-specific overhead in COGS), Marketing and brand development (not included in channel spends), IT, finance, legal, and other back-office functions



# The two key levers are product bundling and premiumization

Illustrated below for certain brands



## Quick-Commerce upselling examples

✓ Profitability Benefits

Product Bundling

1A

Same product multi-packs at affordable price-point



MRP of 1Pc:

**Rs 50** ✗

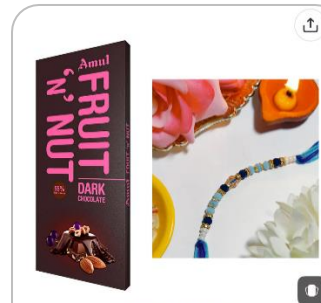
MRP of 4Pc:

**Rs 200** ✓

- ✓ Higher revenue against similar marketing / fixed expenses
- ✓ Faster inventory turn driven by better perceived value

1B

Complementary product bundling



MRP of individual item: Rs

**100-150** ✗

MRP of combined offering:

**Rs 299** ✓

- ✓ Stock clearance
- ✓ Improving margin mix
- ✓ Higher revenue against similar marketing / fixed expenses

2

Premiumization based on ingredients, materials, brand positioning, packaging etc.



MRP of regular Tata Salt:

**Rs 26/kg** ✗

MRP of Superlite Salt:

**Rs 75/kg** ✓

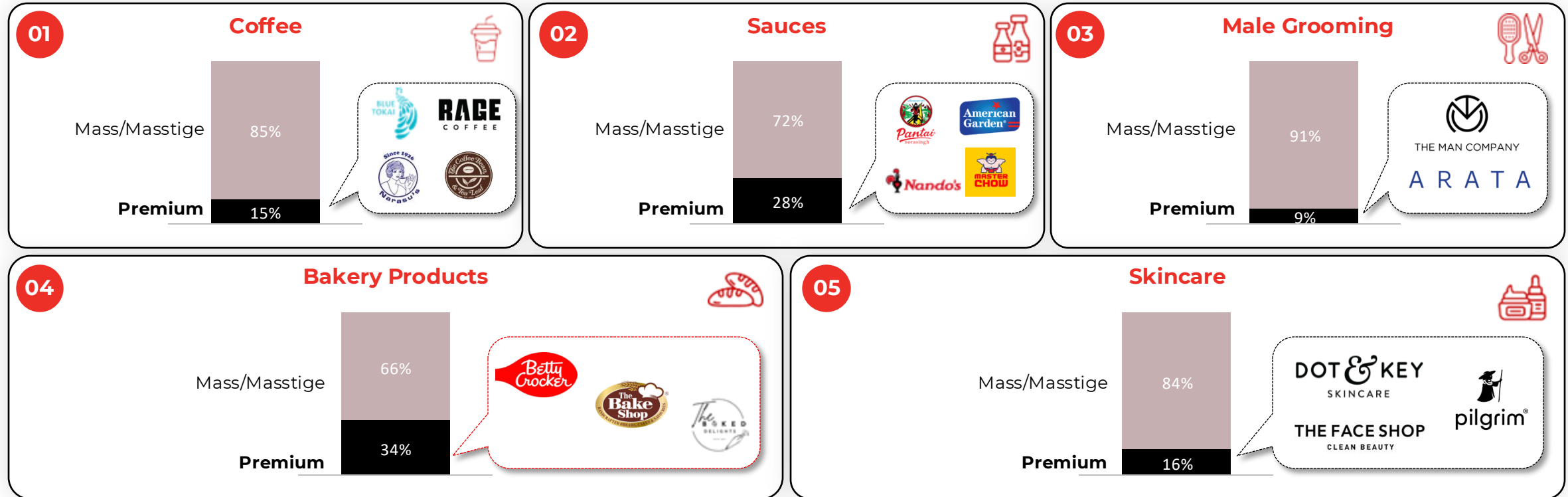
- ✓ Better margins
- ✓ Higher revenue against similar marketing / fixed expenses

# Premium propositions resonate strongly with QC shoppers, and could also be a path for brands to gain market share



## Premium brand share of product categories – Leading QC Platform

Premium share is indicative as per brand's positioning in the category



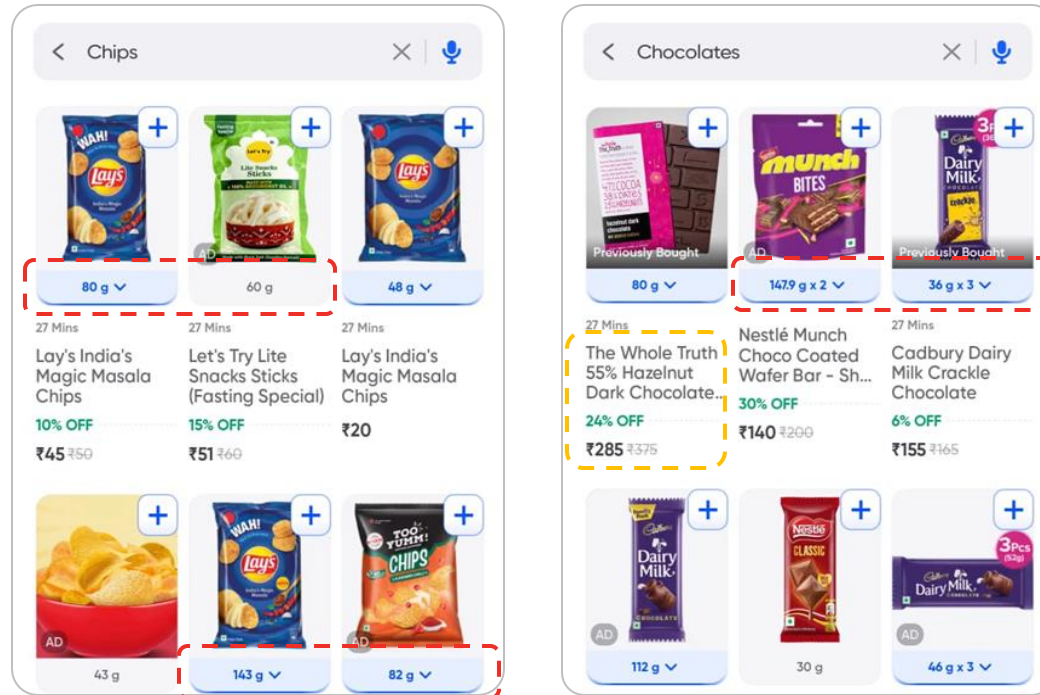
**Note(s):** 1. Coffees include instant, filter coffee, flavoured instant, roasted beans, ground coffee, cold brew, and ready-to-drink beverages. 2. Sauces include tomato ketchup, mayo spreads, peri-peri, Scheszwan, soy, mustard, BBQ, pasta sauces, Asian stir-fry, and curry bases. 3. Male Grooming product types include razors, shaving creams, beard oils, face wash, body lotions, fragrances, and hair removal products. 4. Bakery products include cake mixes, brownie mixes, pancake batters, frosting, ready-to-bake cookie dough, baking powders, cocoa powders, premade pie crusts, and dessert toppings. 5. Skincare includes face washes, moisturizers, serums, sunscreens, face masks, toners, scrubs, under-eye creams, lip balms, cleansing oils, anti-acne treatments, and night creams.

# This is reinforced by QC platforms, which are increasingly promoting high-ASP products

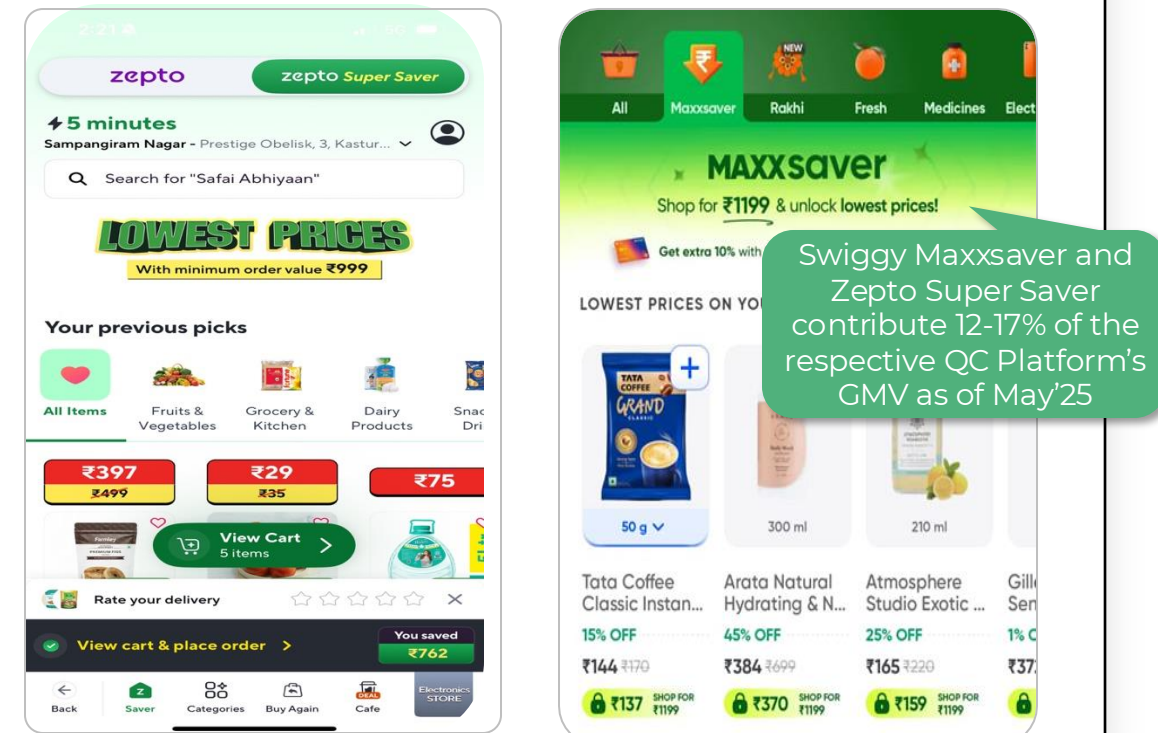
## Examples of QC platforms pushing higher ticket sizes

### 01 Easier Discovery of Multi / Large packs and Premium SKUs

Top 6 products on a leading QC platform in Bangalore<sup>1</sup> location



### 02 Active Promotion of Large Baskets



**Note(s):** 1. Based on app data in sampangiram nagar- kasturba road (Bangalore-560001)

# The trend likely to sustain as larger basket values improve platform order economics



## QC Order economics (industry average) – impact of AOV Increase

INR, % of AOV

|                                                            | March'25     | Future Scenario:<br>10% Higher AOV | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Average Order Value (At Selling price)</b>              | <b>470</b>   | <b>520</b>                         | Increased promotion of high-ASP products to expand the basket value                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Commissions & Ad Revenues                                  | 20%          | 20%                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Customer Delivery Charge, Handling Charge & Other User Fee | 4%           | 4%                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher basket value will command lower delivery charge, but higher handling fee, potentially offsetting each other</li> </ul>                                                                    |
| Dark store/replenishment/<br>other variable costs          | <b>(12%)</b> | <b>(11%)</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed costs (e.g. rents, manpower) gets distributed on a larger basket size</li> <li>Improved order consolidation and picking efficiency leads to reduction in wastage / expiry costs</li> </ul> |
| Delivery/Last mile costs                                   | <b>(9%)</b>  | <b>(8%)</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last-mile delivery costs (fixed per order) gets distributed on a larger basket size</li> </ul>                                                                                                   |
| Platform funded discounts / customer incentives            | (0.5%)       | (0.5%)                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Contribution Margin</b>                                 | <b>2.5%</b>  | <b>4.5%</b>                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



# Optimize promotional spends as per demand rhythms

- QC demand is highly time sensitive and category specific
- Promotional efforts need to match the demand patterns, while factoring in competitive intensity - what's the golden window for your products?

# QC demand is highly rhythmic – fluctuating across different days within a week

Daily Average No. of Orders within a category



## Weekly Consumer Demand on QC – by Category

| Day of the week | Grocery | Fashion | Electronics | BPC    | Others <sup>1</sup> |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------|---------------------|
| Sunday          | High    | Low     | Low         | Low    | Medium              |
| Monday          | Medium  | Low     | Medium      | Medium | Low                 |
| Tuesday         | Medium  | Low     | Medium      | Medium | Low                 |
| Wednesday       | Medium  | Medium  | High        | Medium | Medium              |
| Thursday        | Medium  | Medium  | High        | High   | Medium              |
| Friday          | High    | High    | High        | High   | High                |
| Saturday        | High    | Medium  | Medium      | High   | High                |

### Key Highlights



Grocery demand remains high and stable across the week, with **only ~20% variance**



BPC shows sharp, **lifestyle-driven** surges around weekends

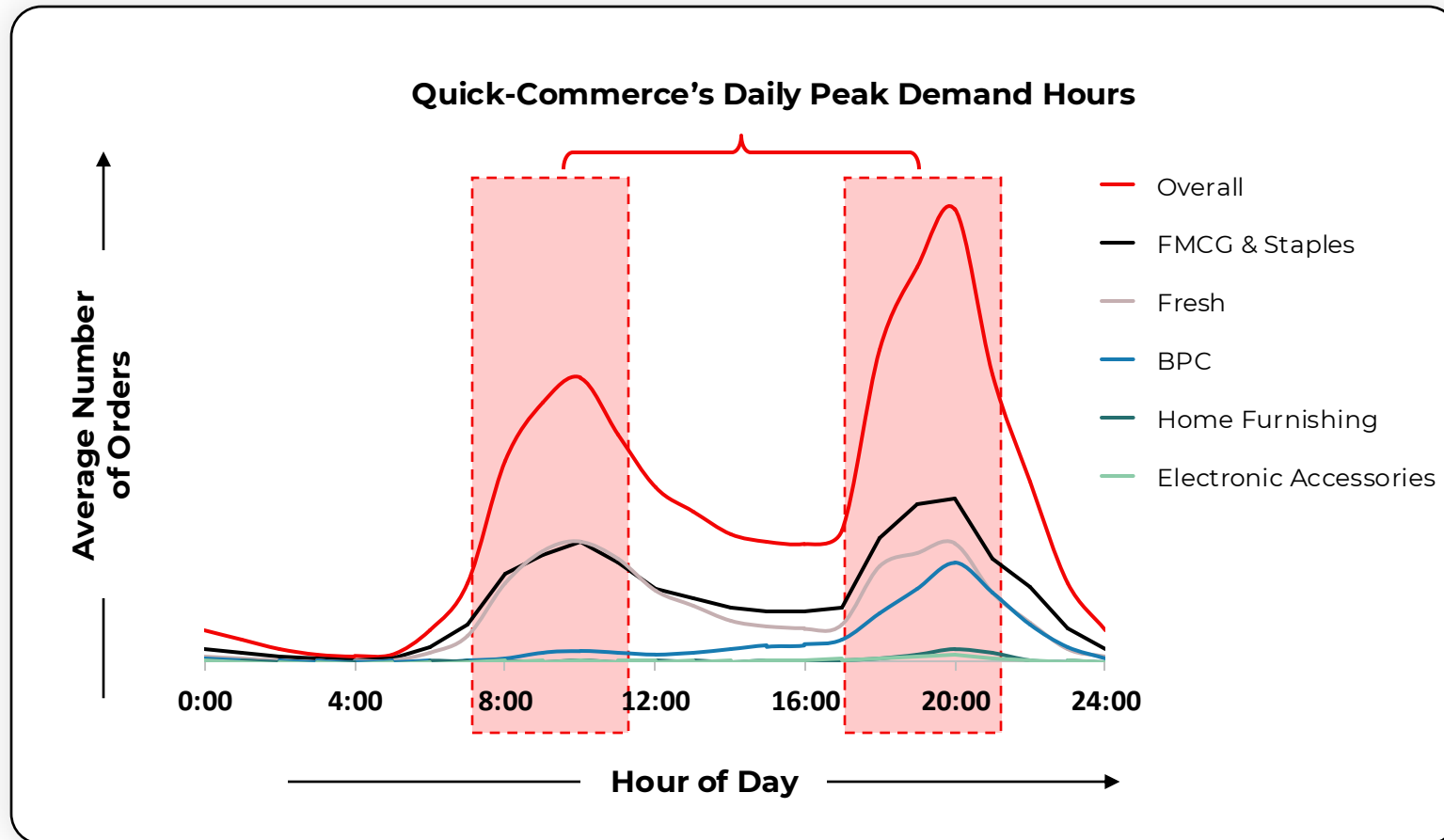


Fashion, Electronics, and Others exhibit diverse and **less predictable weekly demand curves**

**Note(s):** Others include General Merchandise, Home & Furniture, Pharma, Jewellery, etc.

# Two demand peaks typically emerge within a day – in the morning and in the evening

## Typical daily demand pattern on QC – by category



### Key Highlights



Grocery demand peaks twice daily, **morning (7-11 AM)** and **evening (6-10 PM)**, aligned with household routines



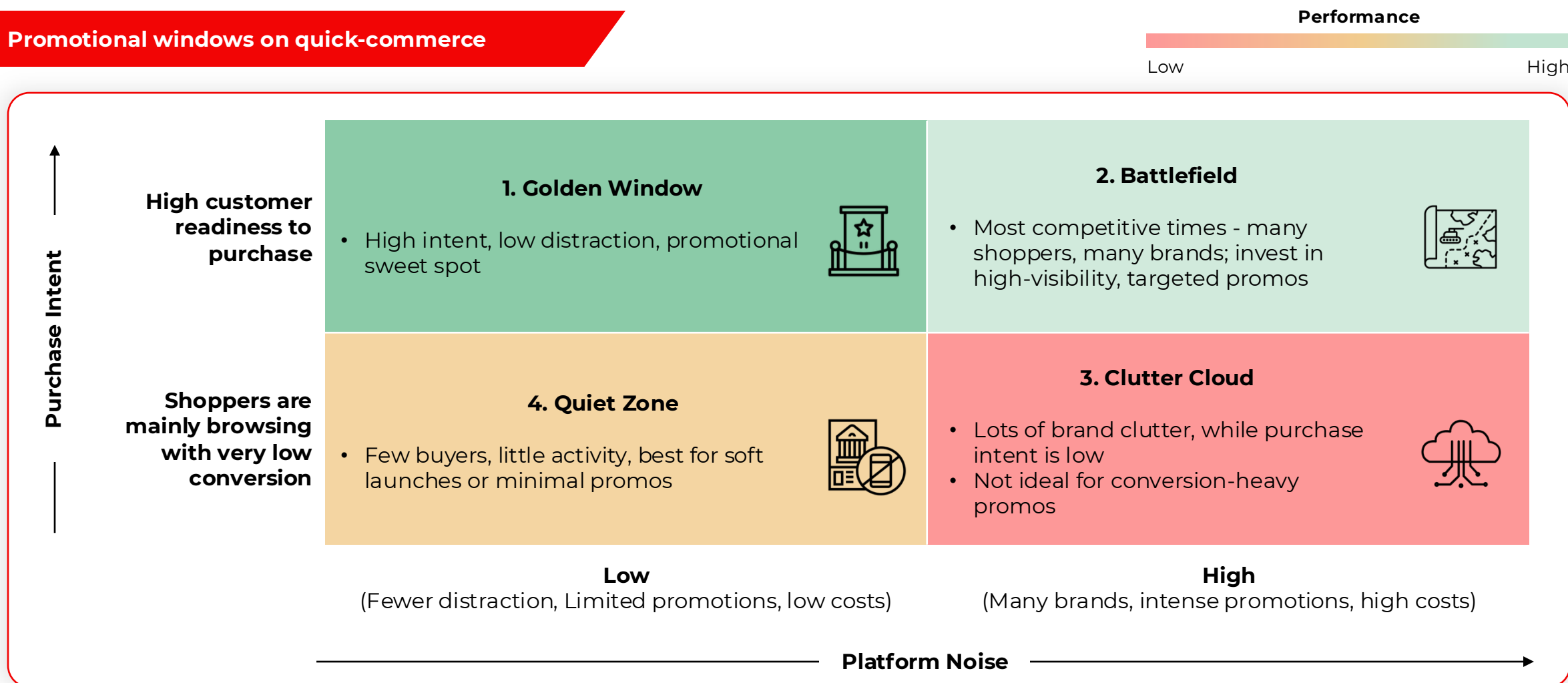
BPC demand is heavily evening-skewed, with **maximum conversions between 7-10 PM**



Others follow **Grocery's rhythm**, with **moderate morning and evening peaks**, often driven by **bundling or convenience**

# Crucial for brands to align their promo & ad spends as per the demand patterns, while also factoring in competitive intensity (1/2)

## Promotional windows on quick-commerce





# Crucial for brands to align their promo & ad spends as per the demand patterns, while also factoring in competitive intensity (2/2)

## Promo AD spend ROI window – Illustrative

| Parameters                                                                                                     | Tea Biscuits                                                                                                                                                                           | Fizzy Beverage                                                                                                                                                                    | Face Sheet Mask                                                                                                                                                                | Bluetooth Speaker                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Golden window</b><br>   | <b>Tue/Wed morning (7–11 AM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock-up mindset</li> <li>• Low platform noise</li> <li>• Refill with essentials</li> </ul>                  | <b>Mon/Wed evening (6–8 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light weekday indulgence</li> <li>• Post-work craving</li> <li>• Low clutter for impulse buys</li> </ul> | <b>Tue/Thu night (8–10 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-weekend skincare prep</li> <li>• Low distraction</li> <li>• Relaxation-oriented mindset</li> </ul> | <b>Wed/Thu evening (3 PM–7 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User in exploration mode</li> <li>• Low noise</li> <li>• Leisure items get attention</li> </ul> |
| <b>2. Battlefield</b><br>     | <b>Sat/Sun evening (2 PM–6PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peak grocery sale window</li> <li>• High platform clutter</li> <li>• Needs high promo investment</li> </ul> | <b>Sat/Sun evening (6–10 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Party/snacking triggers</li> <li>• Competes with multiple beverage/snack brands</li> </ul>              | <b>Sat/Sun night (8–10 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High competition from beauty brands</li> <li>• User overwhelmed by promos</li> </ul>                   | <b>Sat/Sun afternoon (2–6 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popular for gift shopping</li> <li>• High brand activity in electronics</li> </ul>               |
| <b>3. Quiet zone</b><br>      | <b>Mon late night (10 PM–2 AM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very low activity</li> <li>• Good for A/B testing or soft campaigns</li> </ul>                             | <b>Tue/Wed morning (10 AM–1 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal demand</li> <li>• Not a beverage-consumption window</li> </ul>                               | <b>Mon early morning (8 AM–12 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not skincare primetime</li> <li>• Low conversion intent</li> </ul>                              | <b>Thu early morning (10 AM–2 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero engagement hours</li> <li>• Not suitable for leisure products</li> </ul>                |
| <b>4. Clutter cloud</b><br> | <b>Sat/Sun afternoon (2–5 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High site traffic</li> <li>• Users distracted</li> <li>• Not pantry-buying time</li> </ul>                  | <b>Sat/Sun afternoon (2–6 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promo overload</li> <li>• Low conversion despite visibility</li> </ul>                                 | <b>Sat/Sun afternoon (2–6 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowded with beauty offers</li> <li>• User fatigue reduces conversion</li> </ul>                | <b>Sat/Sun evening (6–8 PM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy promo clutter</li> <li>• Users browse, rarely convert on discretionary items</li> </ul>      |

## Customize visibility efforts as per category & brand maturity

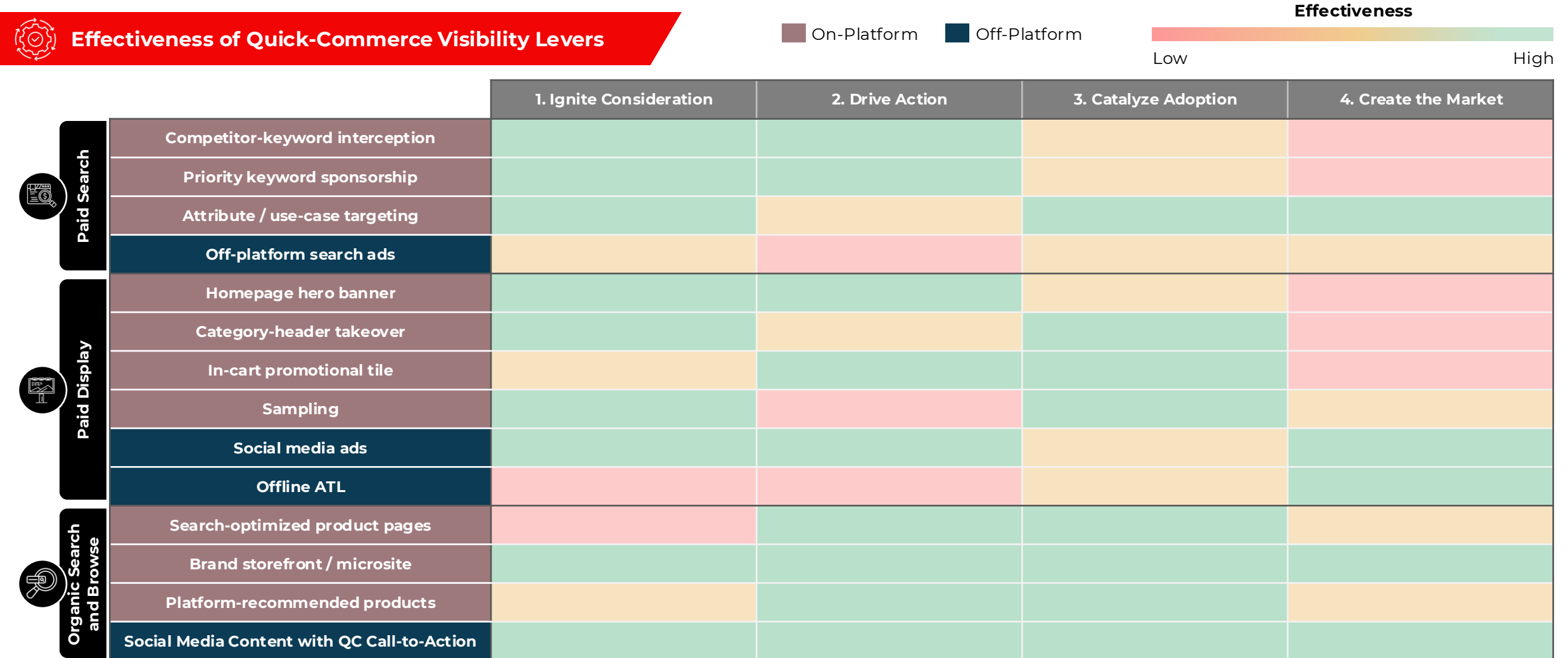
- Visibility efforts (across search & browse journeys) must align with the brand X category maturity on QC
- Off-platform efforts are critical for insurgents, while on-platform efforts are universally relevant

# AD objectives on QC depend on the brand X category maturity

## Advertising Strategy by Brand and Category Maturity



# Brands' visibility efforts must align accordingly





# Off-platform is essential for insurgents (brands / categories) to seed awareness



## Driving Visibility via Off-Platform Levers

### Create the Market



#### Offline ATL + QC Call-to-Action (Paid Display, off-platform)

- The Whole Truth executed high-impact OOH marketing by wrapping 17 commuter buses in Mumbai with full-body ads, transforming daily commutes into mobile brand touchpoints

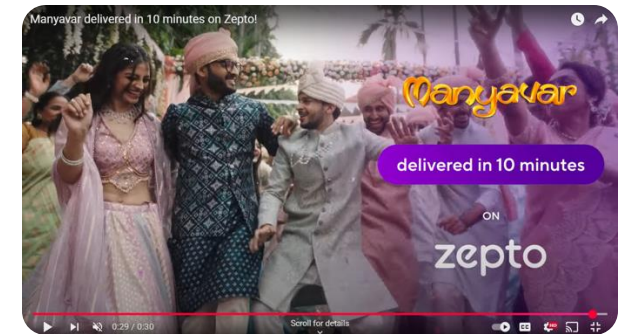


### Catalyze Adoption



#### Social/video AD + QC Call-to-Action (Paid Display, off-platform)

- Manyavar marketed on YouTube to generate buzz about its presence on quick commerce platforms like Zepto.



YouTube Advertisement

Off-platform bursts create the initial demand signal—making consumers **aware, curious, and primed**—so that on-platform levers can capture and convert that intent with maximum efficiency

# On-platform remains universally relevant, for both insurgents and established brands/ categories

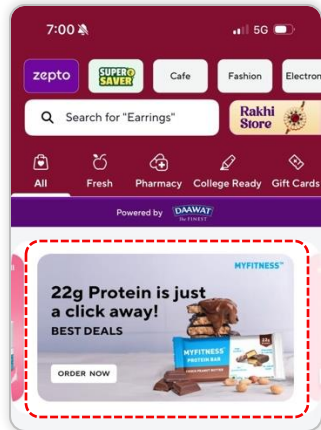


## Driving Visibility via On-Platform Levers

### On-Platform Visibility Assets<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Ignite Consideration

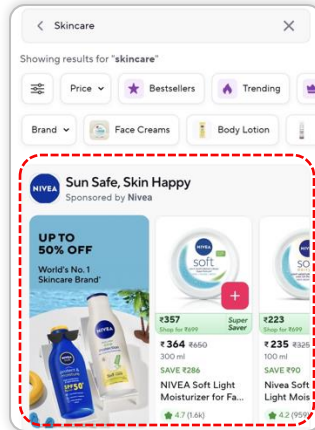
##### Homepage Hero Banner



Maximize homepage visibility to accelerate brand recall.

#### 2A. Drive Action

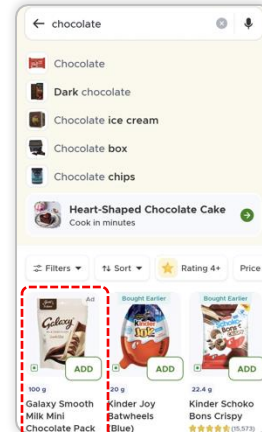
##### Category Header Takeover



Own category shelf-space to drive visibility during exploration.

#### 2B. Drive Action

##### Search Optimized Product Pages



Target high-intent queries to capture demand at the point of decision.

#### 3. Catalyze Adoption

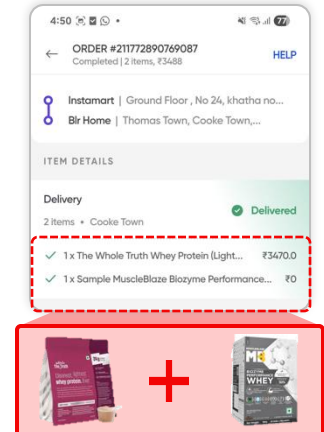
##### Brand Storefront/Microsite



Create immersive brand destinations within the platform.

#### 4. Create Market

##### Sampling



Offer risk-free trials to jump-start adoption and drive repeat purchase

**Note(s):** 1. The list is not exhaustive

# Gamification on QC is gaining traction and could emerge as a key engagement driver



## Gamified Brand Engagement on Quick-Commerce Platforms

### 01 Gamified Co-branded Modules

- A **co-branded endless-runner game** integrated into Instamart's app funnel **to create buzz around Vadilal's new gourmet tubs** and deliver a timed discount coupon.
- Top-of-funnel awareness** for a legacy ice-cream brand in quick commerce



### 02 Gamified Contest Activations

- Quick commerce platforms** enabled consumers to chase rare Oreo Pokémon designs through fast reordering, supported by **high-visibility banners and time-sensitive offers**
- Fast deliveries triggered immediate unboxing and content sharing**, amplifying excitement and driving organic buzz around the contest.



Platforms use **gamified ad formats** to (i) deliver differentiated awareness in a crowded feed and (ii) lock in repeat behaviour through reward-loop mechanics





## Win spike days with event-led agility

Quick commerce lets brands win small, sudden demand surges through agile, low-effort activations

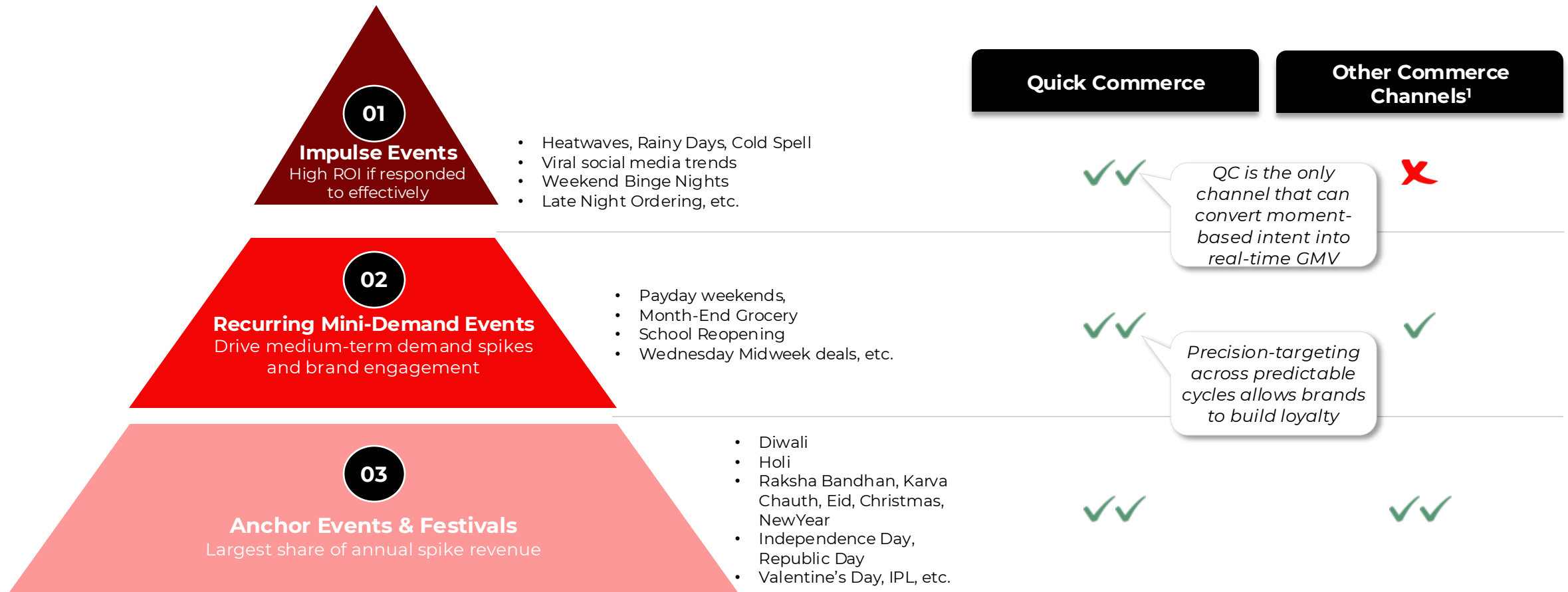
# QC offers the unique ability to target a wide range of events, including impulse and recurring mini-demand events



## Quick commerce events segmentation – split by demand predictability

### Brand's Ability to Target Events

✓✓ High ✓ Moderate ✗ Limited



**Note(s):** 1. Other commerce channels include E-commerce (Excl. Quick commerce), modern trade and general trade



# These events can be targeted with relatively low-effort and planning

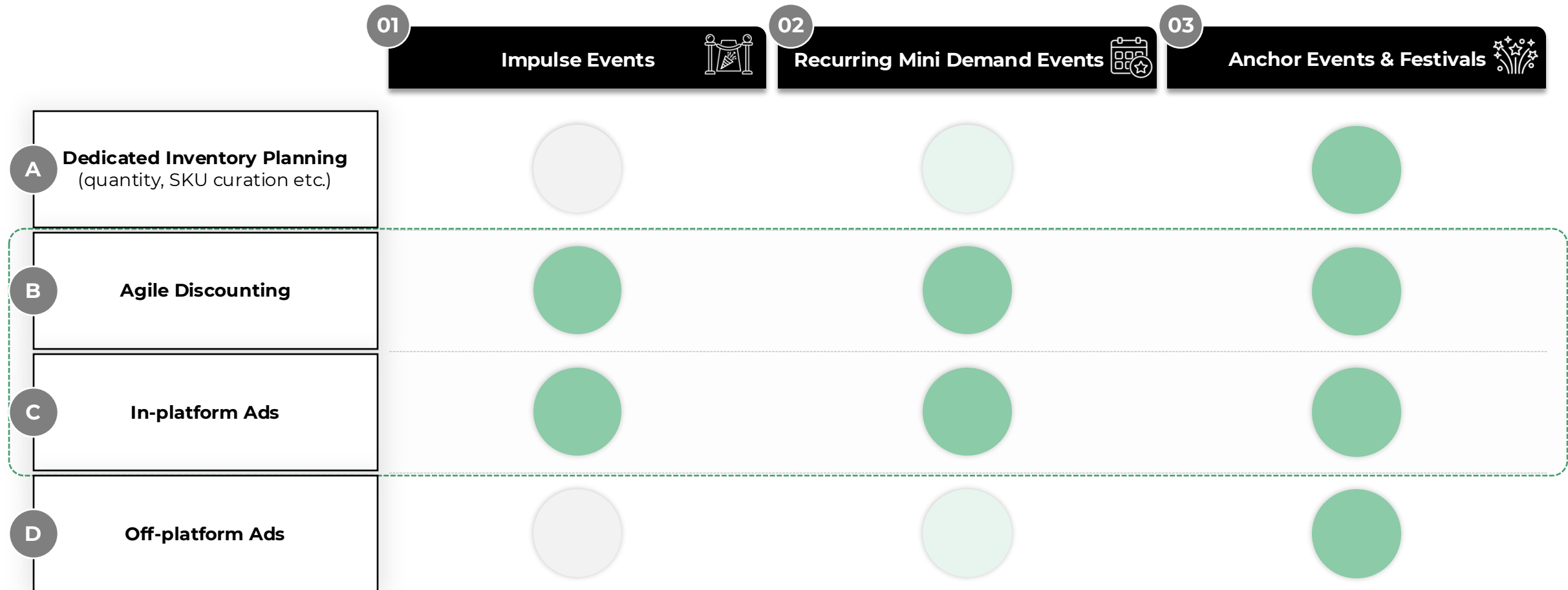


## Planning & execution efforts by brands to win spike days – by types of events

Extent of Planning &amp; Execution Effort

Low

High

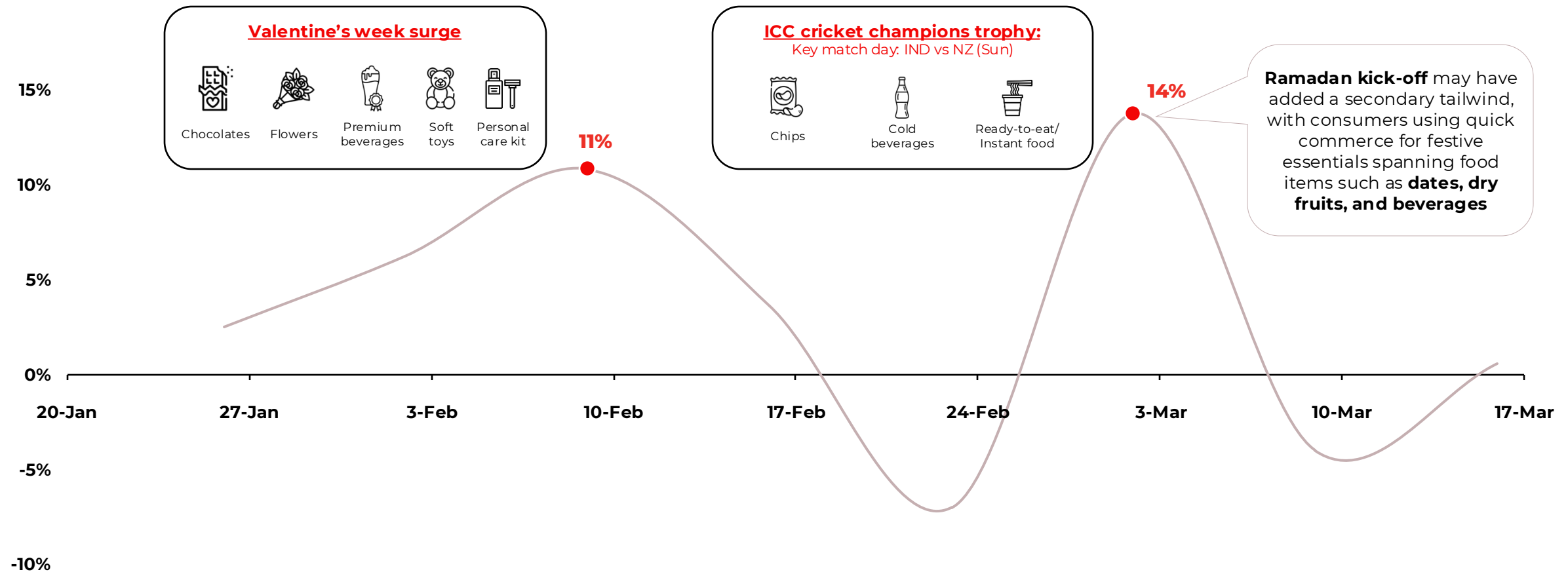


# The resulting spikes are sharp and provide clear revenue upside opportunity for brands



## GMV growth trend - Leading quick commerce platform

Week-on-week growth %, Week-ending Date 2025



## Deploy an agile team, paired with responsive supply chain engine

- QC account management is uniquely intense
- Ownership spans multiple functions: platform relationships, catalogue & content, supply chain, and digital marketing
- Agile supply chain is critical to enable the real-time actionability



# QC account management is a different beast – requires daily firefighting

## Account Management – QC vs E-commerce

|                                       | Quick Commerce                                                                     | E-commerce (Excl. Quick Commerce)                                         |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Speed &amp; Cadence</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hour-to-hour changes; daily or multiple daily performance reviews</li> </ul>                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly/monthly reviews; changes planned weeks in advance.</li> </ul>                                                  |
| <b>Assortment Strategy</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tight, high-velocity SKU set</li> </ul>                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep catalogue; includes niche, and long-tail SKUs</li> </ul>                                                         |
| <b>Inventory Management</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed across 1,000s of dark stores</li> <li>Requires micro-fulfilment visibility and rapid replenishment</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized in few warehouses; bulk supply, easier to manage stock.</li> </ul>                                        |
| <b>Promotions &amp; Pricing</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-burst promos</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer planned promos (weeks/months ahead)</li> </ul>                                                                 |
| <b>Visibility &amp; Merchandising</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly pay-to-play, limited real estate</li> <li>Constant fight for top placement</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mix of organic + paid visibility</li> <li>Strong product details, reviews etc. can sustain organic ranking</li> </ul> |
| <b>Data &amp; Measurement</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real-time metrics such as out-of-stock %, days of inventory, share of search; yesterday's data is considered "old".</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer-term KPIs (category share over months, ad ROI over time, review base growth).</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>Cross-platform efforts</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited differentiation among platforms leads to constant race for replicating efforts</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearer platform positioning allows more targeted and creative brand strategies</li> </ul>                            |



**Brands Team's  
Focus>**

**Rapid daily decision-making, high-velocity hero SKUs, and hyper-local inventory accuracy.**

**Long-term planning, broad assortment depth, and sustained visibility through content, reviews, and promotions.**



# Responsibilities are typically spread across 3-4 key roles, structured as per brand's portfolio breadth and scale of QC business

## Key roles for effective QC Account Management

### Key Roles part of QC Account Management Team...

#### A. Commercial & Relationship Management

- Manages commercial targets
- Oversees platform relationship and key campaign rollouts

#### B. Catalogue & Content Management

- Manage SKU onboarding
- Content management (images, descriptions)
- Algorithm-driven slot optimization

#### C. Supply Chain & Inventory Planning

- Maintain optimal DOI targets  
Ensure timely replenishment
- Prevent stock-outs
- Optimize dark store inventory

#### D. Digital Marketing

- Liaise with media agencies
- Plan promotions
- Assess campaign ROI
- Recommend adjustments based on data insights

### ...Typically aligned in the following structures

#### Category-oriented Structure

Relevant for multi-portfolio brand requiring significant category / sub-brand level decision making (e.g. FMCG conglomerate)

#### Platform-oriented Structure

Relevant for brand with a focused portfolio and sizeable QC business or having ambition to grow QC business (e.g. innerwear or beauty brand)

#### Central digital-commerce team

Relevant for emerging brand (e.g. D2C) or legacy brand with emerging QC focus (e.g. apparel or toys brand)

**Dedicated QC teams**

# The appropriate team needs to be paired with agile supply chain capabilities for industry-best execution



## Agile Supply Chain – Best Practices

01

### Strong data loops & collaboration with Platforms

- **Regular Sell-Through Reports:** Automate ingestion of platform sales + stock data into the planning system
- **Event-Based Spike Readiness:** Pre-align inventory for predictable surges (weekends, IPL, festivals) in advance
- **Joint Demand Planning:** SKU-led planning with platform supply chain teams

02

### Micro-demand Forecasting

- **Granularity:** Forecast by platform + city + dark store cluster
- **Shorter cycles:** Daily or 2–3 day rolling forecasts using platform sell-through data
- **Trigger-based replenishment:** Create replenishment alerts when inventory dips below X days of cover per store.

03

### Agile Replenishment Capabilities

- **Near-Store Warehousing:** Hold QC inventory in platform-linked micro-warehouses or distributors located close to dark stores
- **Smaller, More Frequent Drops**
- **Hybrid Push-Pull Model:** Push core SKUs regularly but pull via platform demand signals for volatile SKUs.
- **Flex Logistics Partners:** Have multiple B2B logistics tie-ups to avoid platform stockouts when one partner's capacity is tight.

04

### Packaging & Pack-size Adaptation

- **QC-friendly packs:** Smaller, easy-to-pick packs that fit dark store shelving standards.
- **Shelf-Ready Packaging (SRP):** Reduce handling time with cases that can be directly shelved.
- **Durability:** Products must survive high-touch, high-speed handling without damage

## Expert Quotes

“We are deeply engaged with all platforms, as we do with any other customer. These platforms are growing faster than the overall e-commerce channel. For instance, I've spent a whole day with a key partner to explore ways to increase and grow categories within their channel. I've also visited dark stores to understand their operations”

-Executive, Leading FMCG Brand

“The demand forecasting is far more stable in a marketplace versus quick commerce. And, therefore, you have to have different fill rates of products. We realised that the back end and logistics and supply and demand planning has to be different”

-Executive, Leading FMCG Brand

“We are now servicing quick commerce with stock replenishment almost every alternate day as compared to one-two times a week for ecommerce”

-Executive, Leading FMCG Brand

“Quick commerce dark stores keep an inventory of not more than three days. Distributors can't fill this; only a direct connection can, on a replenishment basis”

-Executive, Leading FMCG Brand

“Quick commerce helps us earn better profits because customers buy premium packs, while our distribution costs are lower. This channel gives us higher margins through selling more expensive, premium items”

-Executive, Leading Oral Care Brand

# Glossary (1/3)

|                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Conversion Rate</b>                         | US\$1 = ₹85                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Metro Cities</b>                            | Metro includes top 8 cities with a population over 5 million, comprising of Mumbai (Maharashtra), Delhi (NCT), Bangalore (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune (Maharashtra), and Ahmedabad (Gujarat)                                                         |
| <b>Retail Market</b>                           | Comprises purchase of products across categories, including grocery, fashion, electronics, pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medication, beauty and personal care and general merchandise                                                                                                                  |
| <b>General Trade (GT) / Unorganized Retail</b> | Comprises the purchase of goods through small, independent outlets with minimal standardization and regulatory oversight. It includes Kirana stores, local vendors.                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Modern Trade (MT) / Organised B&amp;M</b>   | Includes the purchase of goods with large-scale, standardized operations, professional management, and regulatory adherence which provides better product assortment and access to the consumers. It includes chain stores, supermarkets, hypermarkets, malls, etc.                                           |
| <b>Branded Market</b>                          | Comprises products sold by national brands (Pan-India), direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands, and regional brands                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Legacy Brands</b>                           | Brands belonging to a company that has an offline distribution presence in three or more regions (each region defined as North, South, East, West, and Central) in India and had a revenue of more than INR 100 Cr in FY24 (excluding D2C brands)                                                             |
| <b>New-age / D2C Brands</b>                    | Brands with a large portion of their sales from online channels (more than 50%) and have own website/app                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Unbranded Market</b>                        | Products that lack distinct branding and are typically sold without a proprietary label, often sourced from manufactures and sold under various retailer or distributor names                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Quick Commerce</b>                          | Hyperlocal Players who deliver retail groceries (fresh foods like fruits & vegetables, meat, dairy etc., staples and packaged foods), fashion, electronics, beauty and personal care, and general merchandise, home/ kitchen goods and pharmaceutical products) to consumers within 30 minutes                |
| <b>Ecommerce (Excl. Quick commerce)</b>        | Refers to online product sales through horizontal marketplaces (Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho, Snapdeal), vertical marketplaces (Myntra, Nykaa), and brand-owned websites or apps of digital-native and traditional brands, while excluding quick commerce platforms, offline sales, and service-based e-commerce. |



# Glossary (2/3)

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Insurgent Brands</b>            | Challenger brands that typically target niche consumer needs and have a sharp differentiation;                                                                               |
| <b>Regional Brands</b>             | Primarily dominant in one or two states, catering to local preferences and maintaining a strong regional footprint                                                           |
| <b>Fresh</b>                       | Fresh includes fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, dairy, and other perishable products                                                                                       |
| <b>Staples &amp; FMCG</b>          | Staples & FMCG includes grains, pulses, packaged foods, beverages, toiletries, cleaning supplies etc. excluding personal care & baby care consumables                        |
| <b>BPC</b>                         | Consists of beauty and personal care products such as Makeup, Hair Care, Skin Care, Fragrances Personal hygiene, Oral Care, Deo & fragrances etc.                            |
| <b>Electronics</b>                 | Include Mobiles, Electronic Accessories, Large and Small household Appliances.                                                                                               |
| <b>Large Appliances</b>            | Include refrigerators, washing machines, ACs, TVs, home entertainment systems, etc.                                                                                          |
| <b>Small Household Appliances</b>  | Include water heaters, vacuum cleaners, air purifiers, ironing/heating devices, kitchen & cooking appliances, and personal care gadgets.                                     |
| <b>Electronics Accessories</b>     | Include mobile covers, screen protectors, chargers, cables, headphones, adapters, smartwatches, and batteries.                                                               |
| <b>Fashion</b>                     | Includes apparel, footwear and accessories (belts, bags, watches, hair accessories, wallets, wearables, scarfs & stoves, caps & hats etc.)                                   |
| <b>Furniture</b>                   | Includes core household furniture such as beds, sofas, wardrobes, dining tables, chairs, study/work desks, storage units, and cabinets                                       |
| <b>Home Décor &amp; Furnishing</b> | Includes home textiles and décor items including curtains, carpets, rugs, cushions, bedding, mattresses, wall décor, lighting, decorative pieces, kitchenware, and tableware |
| <b>Pharma</b>                      | Pharma (includes OTC) includes ePharma and over-the-counter drugs                                                                                                            |

# Glossary (3/3)

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General Merchandise</b> | Includes, Toys, Baby Care, stationery, office supplies etc.                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Jewellery</b>           | Ornaments made from precious metals, gemstones, or other materials, worn for decoration or cultural significance. Includes items like rings, necklaces, earrings, and bracelets |
| <b>Coffee</b>              | Includes instant, filter coffee, flavoured instant, roasted beans, ground coffee, cold brew, and ready-to-drink beverages                                                       |
| <b>Sauces</b>              | Sauces include tomato ketchup, mayo spreads, peri-peri, Schezwan, soy, mustard, BBQ, pasta sauces, Asian stir-fry, and curry bases                                              |
| <b>Male Grooming</b>       | Include razors, shaving creams, beard oils, face wash, body lotions, fragrances, and hair removal products                                                                      |
| <b>Bakery Products</b>     | Include cake mixes, brownie mixes, pancake batters, frosting, ready-to-bake cookie dough, baking powders, cocoa powders, premade pie crusts, and dessert toppings               |
| <b>Skincare</b>            | Includes face washes, moisturizers, serums, sunscreens, face masks, toners, scrubs, under-eye creams, lip balms, cleansing oils, anti-acne treatments, and night creams.        |





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# Thank You

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