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India’s Top 5 Cash–Rich Companies Hold a ₹2.5 Lakh Crore War Chest to Fuel Growth

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Leading Indian firms are sitting on massive liquidity reserves, totaling roughly ₹2.5 lakh crore. This positions them to fund expansion, acquisitions, and shareholder payouts without depending on external borrowing.

Among India’s top-five cash-rich companies, **Reliance Industries** leads the pack with a staggering ₹1.06 lakh crore in cash and equivalents as of FY25, up at a 45% CAGR over five years. Reliance is earmarking ₹75,000 crore of its reserves for investments in green energy, retail expansion, and a 20 GW solar project.

Tata Motors ranks next, with over ₹40,800 crore on its books. The automaker has already repaid its Jaguar Land Rover debt and plans to invest around ₹33,000–35,000 crore by FY30 in EV infrastructure and new model rollouts.

In the IT services segment, **Infosys** holds ₹24,455 crore, while **HCL Technologies** maintains ₹21,289 crore in reserves. Both companies plan to leverage their cash hoards to invest in AI, engineering R&D, and potential acquisitions.

These firms form part of a broader trend. Indian companies are collectively holding over ₹10.6 lakh crore in cash across 3,600+ listed firms (excluding financials), up nearly 15% year–on–year. Major sectors, like IT, auto, metals, engineering, pharma, and defence, account for over 50% of these holdings.

Individually, the 'free cash' pool (funds not earmarked for capital expenditure or debt servicing) is estimated at ₹99,100 crore as of FY24 among 66 Sensex–500 companies. Analysts question why much of this cash remains idle rather than returned to shareholders via buybacks or dividends.

How these companies plan to deploy their war chests:

- **Reliance Industries**: Investing in new energy, retail scale-up, and petrochemicals
- **Tata Motors:** Building EV capability domestically and in the UK; funding future launches
- **Infosys and HCL Technologies**: Ploughing funds into AI, engineering services, and strategic buyouts
- **Others (e.g., Ashok Leyland, Bharat Electronics):** Leveraging liquidity for R&D, debt reduction, and product launches

Overall, India Inc's ₹2.5 lakh crore cash war chest reflects a cautious yet strategic posture amid global uncertainty. According to analysts, liquidity offers optionality: for acquisitions, shareholder returns, or weathering macro shocks. While structural spending may take time, these reserves give companies a powerful buffer and the flexibility to move when conditions are favorable.