

CV recovery pushed back further, green shoots awaited

Ashok Leyland (ALL) reported a better-than-expected QFY20 operational performance amid challenging volume scenario. Standalone revenues at ₹ 3,838 crore were down 56.6% YoY, with ASPs rising 1.3% YoY, 17% QoQ to ₹ 15.1 lakh/unit. Total CV sales volumes in Q4FY20 were at 25,490 units (down 57% YoY), with LCV to MHCV mix at 34:66 vs. 42:58 in the previous quarter. Reported EBITDA margins at 4.8% were down 84 bps QoQ despite 240 bps gross margin expansion amid 390 bps rise in employee costs on percentage of sales basis. ALL reported loss at PAT level to the tune of ₹ 57 crore, largely tracking impairment charges on equity investments.

Demand picture muted, elongated trough in the offing

The domestic CV space, M&HCV segment in particular, stays a clear laggard vis-à-vis rest of the automotive industry (in FY20, CV volumes down 28.8% YoY, M&HCV volumes down 42.5% YoY, truck volumes down 47.4% YoY with industry volumes down 18% YoY). Demand side issues (poor freight movement amid weak economic activity), supply side factors (industry overcapacity due to revised axle load norms, high installed base) continue to plague segment, with Covid disruption expected to further elongate recovery while negatively impacting public transport (buses) in the short-term. We believe the CV space would be the last to recover pre Covid run rate, with recent Vahan registration readings (ALL June retails on average at ~10% of February levels vs. ~55% for overall auto industry) affirming our stance. We build ~22% volume decline in FY21E followed by 25% volume growth in FY22E, implying -1% CAGR in FY20- FY22E. Introduction of firm, incentive-based scrappage policy is an upside risk to our estimates.

Derisking progress from India truck business key monitorable

As of FY20, the domestic truck segment formed 42.5% of ALL's overall volumes (**Exhibit 10**), with contribution of domestic buses at 14.5% (total domestic M&HCV at 57%). Domestic LCV, exports formed 36%, 7% of total volumes, respectively. Amid wide ranging issues facing the Indian truck industry at present, the company's progress on augmenting domestic bus operations, LCVs and exports in a meaningful manner assumes greater significance. ALL's upcoming Project Phoenix aims to strengthen LCV business. Left hand drive capability in newly introduced modular programme (AVTR,) Phoenix are important to increasingly leverage exports.

Valuation & Outlook

For ALL, muted volume outlook is also expected to weigh on margins in FY21E, with recovery on both fronts pushed back to FY22E at the earliest. Consequently, return metrics are also expected to be subdued (<10%) till FY22E. We assign **HOLD** rating to ALL, valuing it at ₹ 58 (SOTP; 10x FY22E CV EV/EBITDA, 1.5x P/B for investments).

Key Financial Summary

Key Financials	FY18	FY19	FY20P	FY21E	FY22E	CAGR (FY20P-22E)
Net Sales	26,356.4	29,055.0	17,467.5	14,041.6	18,267.5	2.3%
EBITDA	2,963.5	3,135.7	1,173.6	847.0	1,642.7	18.3%
EBITDA Margins (%)	11.2	10.8	6.7	6.0	9.0	
Net Profit	1,717.7	1,983.2	239.5	19.6	603.2	58.7%
EPS (₹)	5.9	6.8	0.8	0.1	2.1	
P/E	8.9	7.7	63.7	777.9	25.3	
RoNW (%)	24.0	24.3	4.7	0.3	8.0	
RoCE (%)	27.8	26.9	5.6	2.2	8.6	

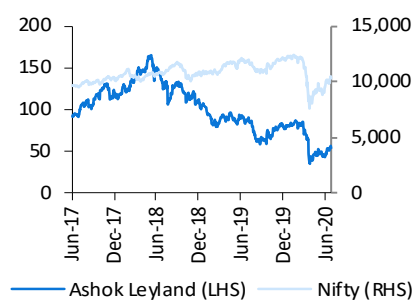
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company



Particulars

Particular	Amount
Market Capitalization (₹ Crore)	15,220.9
Total Debt (FY 20P) (₹ Crore)	3,327.2
Cash & Inv. (FY 20P) (₹ Crore)	1,322.5
EV (₹ Crore)	17,225.7
52 week H/L (₹)	91 / 34
Equity capital (₹ crore)	293.6
Face value (₹)	1.0

Price chart



Key Highlights

- Q4FY20 revenues fell 56.6% YoY tracking similar decline in overall CV volumes. ASPs up 17% QoQ, however due to better product mix and lower discounting
- Margins at 4.8% were down 84 bps QoQ as steep rise in employee costs negated healthy gross margin expansion
- Demand overhangs to persist for FY21E, present retails far behind overall industry. Pace of progress on buses, LCV and exports to be keenly watched
- Downgrade from BUY to HOLD with revised target price of ₹ 58

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Exhibit 1: Variance Analysis

	Q4FY20	Q4FY20E	Q4FY19	YoY (%)	Q3FY20	QoQ (%)	Comments
Total Operating Income	3,838.5	3,429.0	8,845.9	-56.6	4,015.7	-4.4	Topline came in ahead of estimates tracking beat on ASP
Raw Material Expenses	2,729.0	2,512.8	6,429.2	-57.6	2,953.2	-7.6	RM costs came in lower by 240 bps QoQ at 71.1% of sales
Employee Expenses	409.7	342.9	573.5	-28.6	272.8	50.2	Employee costs came in higher at 10.7% of sales
Other expenses	516.8	480.1	857.8	-39.7	564.5	-8.4	
EBITDA	183.0	93.2	985.4	-81.4	225.1	-18.7	
EBITDA Margin (%)	4.8	2.7	11.1	-637 bps	5.6	-84 bps	EBITDA margins came in higher than estimates tracking healthy gross margin expansion. The benefits, however, were limited due to higher employee costs
Other Income	34.4	13.4	9.1	279.3	22.3	54.2	
Depreciation	187.7	157.5	159.8	17.5	157.5	19.2	Depreciation came in higher at ₹ 188 crore
Interest	33.1	39.7	16.6	99.3	33.7	-1.7	
Tax	-14.8	-22.8	153.5	-109.6	26.4	-155.9	
Reported PAT	-57.3	-67.7	653.0	-108.8	27.7	-306.7	The company reported loss at the PAT level despite healthy operational performance primarily tracking impairment hit on equity investments
EPS	-0.2	-0.2	2.2	-108.8	0.1	-306.7	
Key Metrics							
ASPs (₹ lakh/unit)	15.1	13.4	14.9	1.3	12.9	17.0	ASP for the quarter was at ₹ 15.1 lakh/unit vs. our estimate of ₹ 13.4 lakh/unit, partly attributed to better

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 2: Change in estimates

(₹ Crore)	FY21E			FY22E			Comments
	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	
Revenue	19,666	14042	-28.6	22588	18268	-19.1	Prolonged lockdown and muted economic activity lead to sharp downward revision in our estimates for FY21E-22E
EBITDA	1,420	847	-40.4	2027	1643	-19.0	
EBITDA Margin (%)	7.2	6.0	-119 bps	9.0	9.0	2 bps	Negative operating leverage is expected to dampen margins in FY21E, which are, thereafter, expected to stage impressive recovery to 9% in FY22E
PAT	498	20	-96.1	943	603	-36.0	
EPS (₹)	1.7	0.1	-96.1	3.2	2.1	-36.0	Downward revision in sales and margin estimates leads to sharp downward revision in earnings estimates, going

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 3: Assumptions

			Current		Earlier		Comments
	FY19	FY20P	FY21E	FY22E	FY21E	FY22E	
M&HCV Passenger volumes	19,871	23,397	20,533	25,666	25,563	28,092	We expect CV industry to be a laggard in recovery amid domestic automobile space post Covid led disruption. We build in ~22% volume decline for Ashok Leyland for FY21E to ~98,000 units. Thereafter, 25% volume growth in FY22E to ~1.22 lakh units
M&HCV Goods volumes	122,987	55,197	39,869	49,847	57,729	63,512	
LCV volumes	54,508	46,560	37,625	47,031	50,373	55,411	
Total Sales Volume	197366	125154	98027	122544	133,665	147,014	
YoY Growth (%)		-37%	-22%	25%			
ASPs (₹ lakh/unit)	14.4	12.8	14.3	14.9	14.7	15.4	ASPs set to improve on account of BS-VI

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Conference Call Highlights

Demand and management guidance/outlook

- On the demand front, tippers segment is showing some improvement at present. The company expects incremental QoQ betterment overall on the M&HCV side, going forward, with relative strength seen returning post Q2FY21E. Customisation benefits and TCO advantage (particularly in fluid consumption) of recently launched modular programme (AVTR) is expected to stand the company in good stead. It also expects the bus market to revive after initial worries over public transport dissipate
- Phoenix project would be rolled out in Q2FY21E
- The company's M&HCV market share as of FY20 was at 31.8%, down 200 bps YoY

Longer term strategy

- The company outlined that focus on exports would be a key part of achieving longer term vision of emerging as a global CV player. To this end, left hand drive option provided by modular programme and Project Phoenix would help. ALL has also strengthened dealerships in the Middle East, Africa and Saarc regions
- ALL said that in defence, it is witnessing possible opportunities open up in retrofitting and spares

Sales, costs and margins

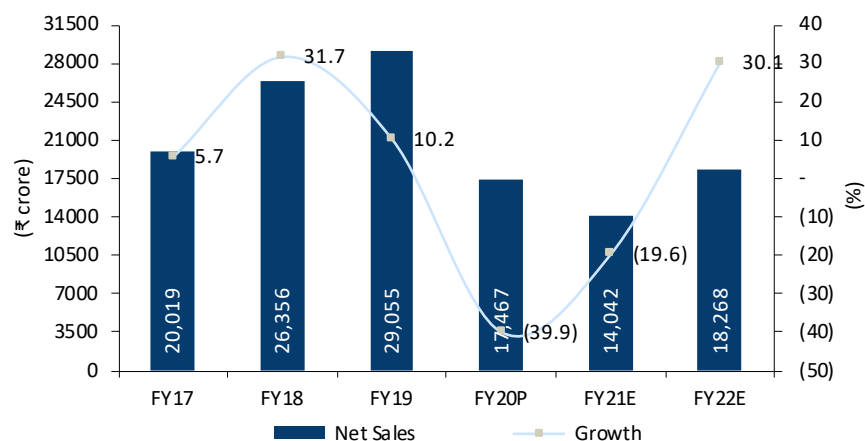
- ASP increase QoQ was on account of improved product mix, while better vendor pricing helped gross margins. ASPs were also supported by full transition to BS-VI at factory gate as well as dealer level, resulting in lack of aggressive discounting
- ALL did not participate in the overall industry's discounting trend and would continue to stay away from trying to buy market share
- Impairment charges were on account of overseas EV business i.e. Optare PLC

Others

- Capex for FY20 was at ₹ 1,227 crore. Majority of the capex is on ALL
- Net debt as of FY20 was at ₹ 2,005 crore (with gross debt at ~₹ 3,100 crore and gearing at ~0.3x). The company had ~₹ 1,100 crore in cash apart from ~₹ 500 crore in intercorporate deposits. The company explained that these deposits in group companies provide higher earnings potential than money market/bank instruments
- Gross debt currently is at ~₹ 5,200 crore with net debt at ~₹ 4,100 crore
- Hinduja Leyland Finance is witnessing no liquidity related issues, with moratorium rate also not troublesome

Financial story in charts

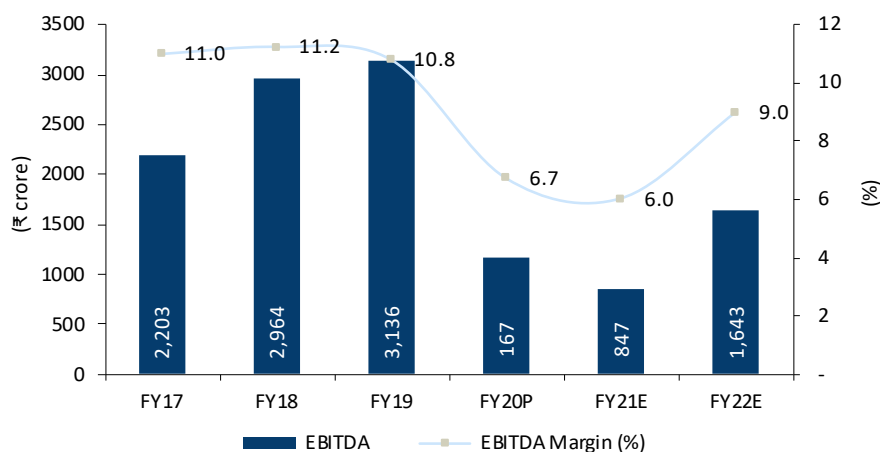
Exhibit 4: Topline trend



We expect sales to grow at 2.3% CAGR over FY20P-22E to ₹ 18,268 crore amid -1% volume CAGR

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

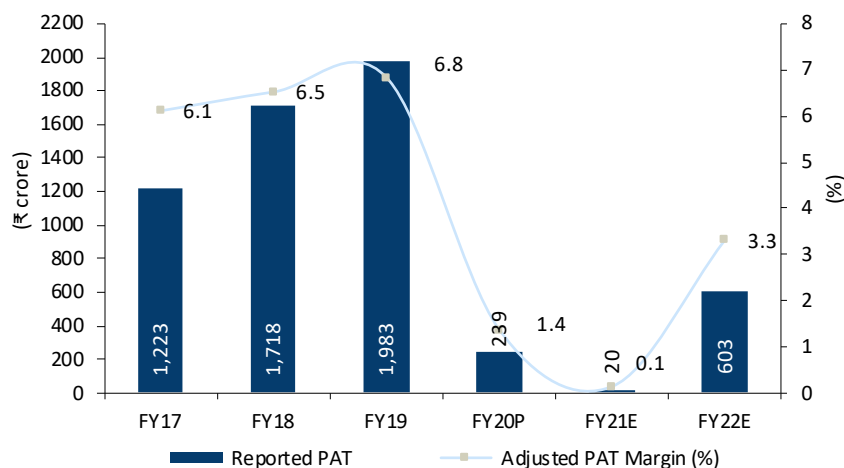
Exhibit 5: EBITDA and EBITDA margin trend



Margins seen growing to 9% by FY22E, aided by expected volume support in that year. For FY21E, however, margins are expected to slide further to 6%

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

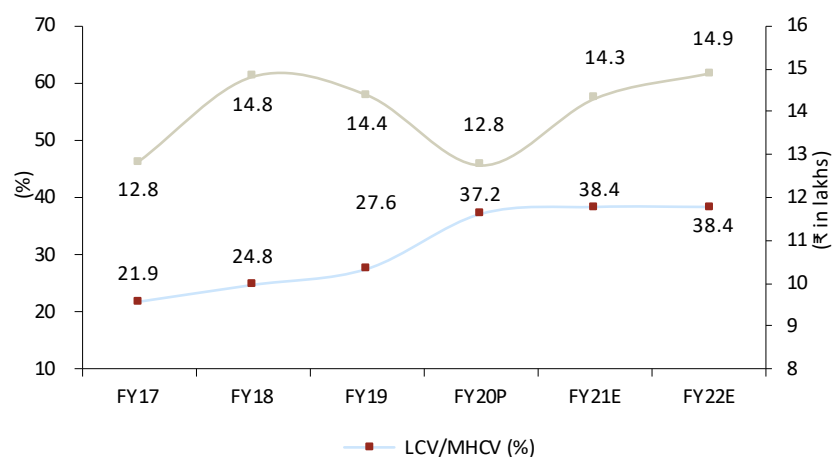
Exhibit 6: Profitability trend



PAT expected to grow to ₹ 603 crore by FY22E

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

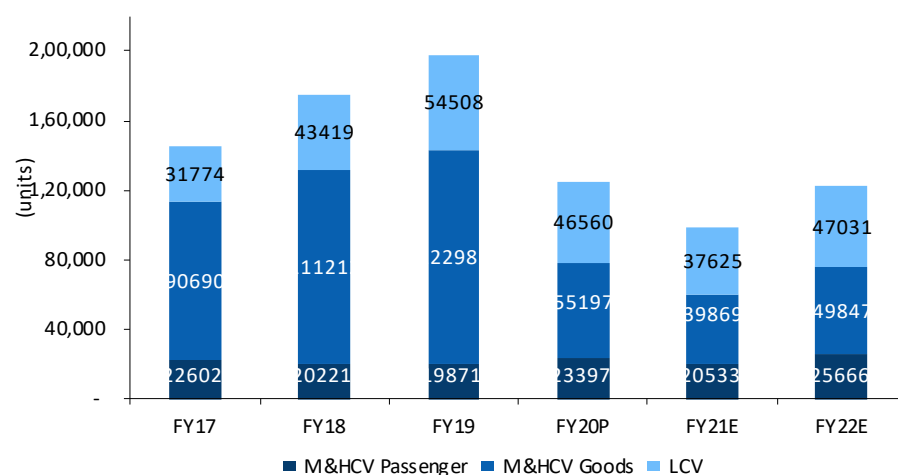
Exhibit 7: Product mix and realisation trend



LCV share of overall CV volumes is seen growing to the 38% mark in coming years given increased strategic focus on the segment and efforts to reduce dependence on M&HCV business

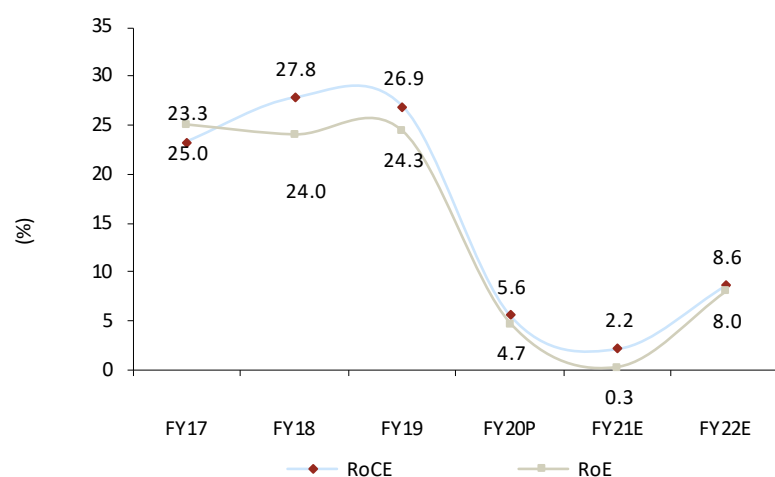
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 8: Segment wise volume break-up



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: Return ratio profile



Despite gradual improvement in return ratios over FY20E-22E, they are still seen to be far away from historical highs

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 10: Segment-wise FY20 volumes at ALL

	Domestic			Exports			Total			Domestic market share (%)
	FY19	FY20	YoY (%)	FY19	FY20	YoY (%)	FY19	FY20	YoY (%)	
I. M&HCV	1,31,936	71,408	-45.9%	10,922	7,186	-34.2%	1,42,858	78,594	-45.0%	31.8
Passenger i.e. Bus	16,323	18,141	11.1%	3,548	4,952	39.6%	19,871	23,093	16.2%	45.1
Goods i.e. Trucks	1,15,613	53,267	-53.9%	7,374	2,234	-69.7%	1,22,987	55,501	-54.9%	28.9
II. LCV	53,129	44,912	-15.5%	1,379	1,734	25.7%	54,508	46,646	-14.4%	9.1
Passenger	1,489	1,197	-19.6%	163	164	0.6%	1,652	1,361	-17.6%	2.6
Goods	51,640	43,715	-15.3%	1,216	1,570	29.1%	52,856	45,285	-14.3%	9.8
CV (A +B)	1,85,065	1,16,320	-37.1%	12,301	8,920	-27.5%	1,97,366	1,25,240	-36.5%	16.2
Total domestic	1,85,065	1,16,320	-37.1%							
Total exports	12,301	8,920	-27.5%							
Grand total	1,97,366	1,25,240	-36.5%							16.2

Source: SIAM, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 11: SOTP based target price calculation

SOTP	
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	10.0
EBITDA (FY 22E)	1,642.7
Net Debt	2,126.9
Enterprise Value (₹ Crore)	16,426.9
Target Market cap Core business (₹ crore)	14,300.0
Value/Share (A)	49
Strategic Investments FY 22E (₹ crore)	3,069.6
P/BV (x)	1.5
Total Value/Share post applying 40% Holdco. Discount (B)	9
Price target (₹, A +B)	58

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 12: Key valuation metrics

	Sales (₹ cr)	Growth (%)	EPS (₹)	Growth (%)	PE (x)	EV/EBITDA (x)	RoNW (%)	RoCE (%)
FY 18	26,356	31.7	5.9	36.6	8.9	4.1	24.0	27.8
FY 19	29,055	10.2	6.8	15.1	7.7	4.6	24.3	26.9
FY 20P	17,467	(39.9)	0.8	(87.9)	63.7	14.7	4.7	5.6
FY 21E	14,042	(19.6)	0.1	(91.8)	NM	21.0	0.3	2.2
FY 22E	18,268	30.1	2.1	NM	25.3	10.6	8.0	8.6

Source: Bloomberg, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 13: Shareholding pattern

(in %)	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20
Promoter	51.1	51.1	51.1	51.1	51.5
FII	19.1	18.8	17.1	19.2	16.9
DII	10.0	10.9	13.0	12.3	15.0
Others	19.8	19.2	18.9	17.3	16.5

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Financial Summary

Exhibit 14: Profit and loss statement ₹ crore				
(Year-end March)	FY19	FY20P	FY21E	FY22E
Total operating Income	29,055.0	17,467.5	14,041.6	18,267.5
Growth (%)	10.2	-39.9	-19.6	30.1
Raw Material Expenses	20,679.6	12,369.2	10,124.4	13,075.7
Employee Expenses	2,098.8	1,615.1	1,509.2	1,612.3
Other Expenses	3,140.9	2,309.6	1,561.0	1,936.9
Total Operating Expenditure	25,919.3	16,293.8	13,194.6	16,624.9
EBITDA	3135.7	1173.6	847.0	1642.7
Growth (%)	5.8	-62.6	-27.8	94.0
Depreciation	621.0	669.8	688.0	712.4
Interest	70.4	109.5	232.6	214.6
Other Income	109.9	123.3	99.9	90.8
PBT	2554.2	517.7	26.2	806.4
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Tax	513.6	122.4	6.6	203.2
PAT	1983.2	239.5	19.6	603.2
Growth (%)	15.5	-87.9	-91.8	2,973.9
EPS (₹)	6.8	0.8	0.1	2.1

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 15: Cash flow statement ₹ crore				
(Year-end March)	FY19	FY20P	FY21E	FY22E
Profit after Tax	1,983.2	239.5	19.6	603.2
Add: Depreciation	621.0	669.8	688.0	712.4
(Inc)/dec in Current Assets	-2,988.0	2,683.8	453.4	-1,118.7
Inc/(dec) in CL and Provisions	354.1	-3,351.9	-992.7	1,237.1
CF from operating activities	40.7	350.6	400.9	1648.6
(Inc)/dec in Investments	2,970.2	-83.1	-250.0	-100.0
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	-850.6	-1,243.4	-300.0	-500.0
Others	-152.5	-318.0	-118.6	-132.8
CF from investing activities	1967.0	-1644.5	-668.6	-732.8
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inc/(dec) in loan funds	-560.7	2,660.2	550.0	-300.0
Dividend paid & dividend tax	-1,095.6	-176.7	-29.4	-293.6
Others	-20.0	-1,240.8	-232.6	-214.6
CF from financing activities	-1676.4	1242.8	288.0	-808.2
Net Cash flow	331.4	-51.1	20.3	107.6
Opening Cash	1,042.2	1,373.6	1,322.5	1,342.8
Closing Cash	1373.6	1322.5	1342.8	1450.4

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 16: Balance Sheet ₹ crore				
(Year-end March)	FY19	FY20P	FY21E	FY22E
Liabilities				
Equity Capital	293.6	293.6	293.6	293.6
Reserve and Surplus	8,039.0	6,970.4	6,960.7	7,270.3
Total Shareholders funds	8332.5	7264.0	7254.3	7563.9
Total Debt	667.0	3,327.2	3,877.2	3,577.2
Deferred Tax Liability	249.7	264.8	264.8	264.8
Other non-current liabilities	270.7	249.9	249.9	249.9
Total Liabilities	9769.5	11286.6	11826.8	11836.5
Assets				
Gross Block	6,496.0	7,802.9	8,447.0	9,047.0
Less: Acc Depreciation	1,690.0	2,359.8	3,047.8	3,760.3
Net Block	4806.0	5443.1	5399.2	5286.8
Capital WIP	657.6	594.1	250.0	150.0
Total Fixed Assets	5,463.6	6,037.2	5,649.2	5,436.8
Investments	2,636.5	2,719.6	2,969.6	3,069.6
Inventory	2,684.7	1,238.0	1,154.1	1,501.4
Debtors	2,505.5	1,179.8	1,154.1	1,501.4
Loans and Advances	22.5	23.0	18.5	24.1
Other current assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash	1373.6	1322.5	1342.8	1450.4
Total Current Assets	6,586.3	3,763.3	3,669.5	4,477.3
Creditors	5,018.9	2,623.9	2,115.9	2,752.6
Provisions	802.8	624.9	503.9	655.5
Other current Liabilities	1,266.9	685.5	551.0	716.9
Total Current Liabilities	5,821.7	3,248.8	2,619.7	3,408.2
Net Current Assets	764.6	514.5	1,049.7	1,069.1
Application of Funds	9769.5	11286.6	11826.8	11836.5

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 17: Key ratios				
(Year-end March)	FY19	FY20P	FY21E	FY22E
Per share data (₹)				
EPS	6.8	0.8	0.1	2.1
Cash EPS	8.9	3.1	2.4	4.5
BV	28.4	24.7	24.7	25.8
DPS	3.1	0.5	0.1	1.0
Cash Per Share	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.9
Operating Ratios (%)				
EBITDA Margin	10.8	6.7	6.0	9.0
PBT / Net sales	8.8	3.0	0.2	4.4
PAT Margin	6.8	1.4	0.1	3.3
Inventory days	33.7	25.9	30.0	30.0
Debtor days	31.5	24.7	30.0	30.0
Creditor days	63.0	54.8	55.0	55.0
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	24.3	4.7	0.3	8.0
RoCE	26.9	5.6	2.2	8.6
RoIC	34.9	6.0	1.8	10.3
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	7.5	44.6	NM	25.3
EV / EBITDA	4.6	14.7	21.0	10.6
EV / Net Sales	0.5	1.0	1.3	0.9
Market Cap / Sales	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.8
Price to Book Value	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.0
Solvency Ratios				
Debt/Equity	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5
Current Ratio	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2
Quick Ratio	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 18: ICICI Direct coverage universe (Auto & Auto Ancillary)

Sector / Company	CMP	TP	Rating	M Cap (₹ Cr)	EPS (₹)			P/E (x)			EV/EBITDA (x)			RoCE (%)			RoE (%)		
	(₹)	(₹)			FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Apollo Tyre (APOTYR)	111	100	Hold	6,350	8.3	2.4	7.6	13.3	46.7	14.5	6.4	6.0	4.7	4.8	3.5	6.1	4.8	1.2	4.3
Ashok Leyland (ASHLEY)	52	58	Hold	15,221	0.8	0.1	2.1	63.7	777.9	25.3	14.7	21.0	10.6	5.6	2.2	8.6	4.7	0.3	8.0
Bajaj Auto (BAAUTO)	2,860	2,840	Hold	82,760	176.3	134.9	162.1	16.2	21.2	17.6	13.2	16.3	12.6	23.8	23.2	25.1	25.6	17.7	19.1
Bharat Forge (BHAFOR)	350	320	Hold	16,295	10.8	7.0	12.7	32.3	49.8	27.6	16.3	18.9	14.0	8.4	6.3	9.4	9.4	5.7	9.8
Eicher Motors (EICMOT)	18,300	18,070	Hold	49,886	670.4	495.4	690.9	27.3	36.9	26.5	21.1	26.4	18.6	22.5	15.9	19.1	18.3	12.2	14.9
Escorts (ESCORT)	1,010	1,020	Buy	12,381	39.6	40.8	50.3	25.5	24.8	20.1	16.9	16.4	13.1	18.9	13.3	14.2	14.2	10.1	11.1
Exide Industries (EXIIND)	150	170	Hold	12,750	9.7	8.1	9.7	15.4	18.5	15.5	9.2	9.7	8.2	16.7	13.8	15.2	13.4	10.3	11.4
Hero Moto (HERHON)	2,550	2,500	Hold	50,924	181.9	109.8	147.6	14.0	23.2	17.3	11.4	15.0	10.9	26.5	18.7	23.2	22.7	14.5	17.9
M&M (MAHMAH)	502	600	Buy	62,409	10.7	28.4	39.7	46.9	17.7	12.6	10.2	10.8	7.9	13.0	11.1	14.2	6.4	9.5	12.0
Maruti Suzuki (MARUTI)	5,700	4,650	Reduce	1,72,186	187.1	138.4	194.4	30.5	41.2	29.3	18.8	22.2	15.9	7.4	4.8	7.9	11.7	8.2	10.6
Minda Industries (MININD)	287	300	Buy	7,525	7.0	7.6	11.8	40.9	37.6	24.3	13.1	11.7	9.4	11.3	11.8	15.0	11.5	11.6	15.4
Tata Motors (TATMOT)	102	90	Hold	37,281	-32.8	-27.4	2.4	NM	NM	42.4	4.5	6.9	3.8	3.0	-0.1	7.2	-4.3	-12.3	8.5

Source: Bloomberg, ICICI Direct Research

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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