

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Page 2

# **Consumer Goods**

### Health and Hygiene products to drive the show

#### **MARKET DATA**

	Close	1D (%)	1M (%)	YTD (%)
Nifty	14,347	1.5	6.2	2.6
Sensex	48,783	1.4	5.8	2.2
Nifty FMCG	34,277	0.7	(0.3)	0.3
USD/INR	73.2	0.1	0.4	(0.2)

#### **COVERAGE STOCKS**

COVERAGE STOCKS								
Company	Current Price (INR)	Target* (INP)	Upside	Market Cap.	Fwd P/E	Recommendation*		
Company	(INR)	raiget (iiit)	(%)	(INR mn)	2022E (x)			
Nestle India	18,306	19,640	7.3%	1,765,000	56.8	ACCUMULATE		
Britannia Industries	3,575	4,125	15.4%	868,000	42.6	ACCUMULATE		
Hindustan Unilever	2,391	2,556	6.9%	5,723,000	60.6	ACCUMULATE		
ITC Ltd	202	228	13.2%	2,488,100	13.4	ACCUMULATE		
Colgate Palmolive	1,615	1,622	0.4%	439,257	42.7	HOLD		
Asian Paints	2,845	2,564	-9.9%**	2,726,080	71.3	HOLD		
BlueStarLtd	812	815	0.4%	77,720	53.2	HOLD		
Godrej Consumers	750	735	-2.0%**	800,910	39.1	HOLD		
Tata Consumers	610	590	-3.2%**	570,900	63.3	HOLD		
Emami Ltd	457	441	-3.5%**	204,470	44.3	HOLD		
Avenue Supermart	2,968	UR	UR	1,950,650	206.1	UR		
Berger Paints	811	UR	UR	791,490	100.3	UR		
Whirlpool India	2,494	UR	UR	315,530	53.3	UR		

<sup>\*</sup>Note: TP and recommendation has been retained from last published reports / updates; we will review it post detailed Q3FY21 results analysis and conference call of the said companies

#### **SECTOR OVERVIEW**

- Demand driven by improved sentiments, increase in discretionary spends and volume growth: We remain positive on consumer space given strong recovery of demand from rural India and gradual pickup in urban demand post unlock and normalization of supply chain. We believe that margins of the companies under coverage are likely to feel the heat given rising commodity costs and comeback of advertisement and marketing spends. Due to improvement in consumer sentiment and declining Covid-19 cases, there has been uptick in discretionary spends and volume growth. Most consumer companies witness recoveries with genuine demand coming for health products like immunity boosters. Most new launches have either been in the health and hygiene category or focused on immunity-boosting foods. Besides, despite lockdown eases; large part of population stayed indoors thereby boosting demand of ready-to-eat/cook food items, such as biscuits, salty snacks, instant noodles, beverages, edible oils, as well as hygiene products. We see companies such as HUL, Britannia, ITC, Tata Consumer and Nestle India as the key beneficiaries. Almost all the companies steadily scaled up their operations to near-normal levels in Q3 with some companies expanding production capacities for in-demand products such as food and hygiene products (HUL sanitizer production ramped up by 60x from pre-COVID level, Britannia investing in capacity for biscuits and ITC for FMCG segment).
- Demand is gradually recovering with lockdown eases: The pent-up demand noted in H1F21 in home appliances such as large capacity refrigerators, dishwashers, vacuum cleaners etc. (due to self-reliance in absence of domestic help and higher time spent indoors). Consumer durables formed a significant part of the retail sales in Q3 backed by strong uptake in rural markets. Whirlpool saw faster rebound backed by new product launches and sustained market share gains. Additionally, entry-level products estimated to fare better growth from tier 2 and smaller cities. Similarly, Paint companies such as Asian Paints and Berger paints witnessed strong rural demand; that has helped boost recovery for paints, in general. Further, the distribution networks improved progressively during the quarter with the unlocking of the economy in non-containment zones and free movement of goods. Nonetheless, consumers are cautious amid ongoing uncertainties, and some cut in the discretionary spends expected. We also believe customers in the hunt for value-for-money across the band of products from economy to luxury and cutting the clutter. Overall, the Consumer sector stocks under our coverage are expected to clock a robust growth ranging from mid-single to double digit number YoY in top-line mainly due to volume decline witnessed in the discretionary category during lockdown.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Target price achieved, and remains a Hold; we will review it post detailed Q3FY21 results analysis and conference call of the said companies Source: Bloomberg Data as of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021; UR stands for Under Review

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

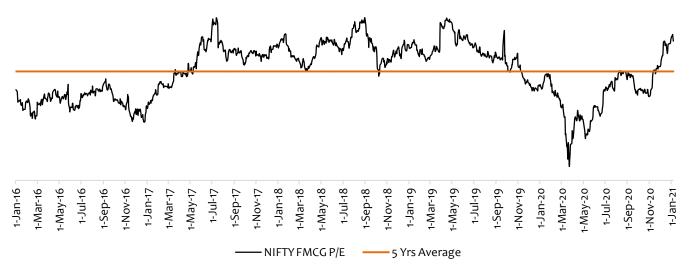
Page 3

# Consumer Goods

#### **SECTOR OVERVIEW**

- The macro-economic factors supporting the sector: India's consumer inflation for the month of December is likely to decrease sharply, below the streets target of 6% for the first time in the nine months. The YoY drop in inflation is likely due to higher base in 2019 and above satisfactory harvest season pulling down the food prices. The food inflation is also expected to ease down to 5.9% YoY driven by sharp MoM drop in vegetables prices. Further, we expect inflation to hover between 5-6% until H1FY22 and then drop to a range of 4-5% in H2FY22. In our view, a likely record harvest of the winter crop and easing of the pandemic-driven supply shock should lead to lower inflation. Even so, the outlook faces upside risks from a potential rise in domestic fuel prices, ongoing farmer protests and excess money supply. The above macro-economic factors will play catalyst for the consumer sector and will lead to margin expansion for the companies under coverage.
- New normal is shaping new trends in consumer behaviour: i) With rise in unemployment, job losses, wage cuts, and a general uncertainty in future, consumers are opting for cheaper alternatives focusing on core essentials (eatables) based products which have impacted demand for premium products. ii) Consumers are focusing more on immunity, health and hygiene (fruit & veggie washes/disinfectant wipes/surface disinfectants in sachets). iii) Demand for convenience products such dish washers, large refrigerators, larger LED TVs, RACs, etc. is on rise iv) Manufacturers have laid focus on deepening their partnership with ecommerce retailers as online sales jumped manifold since customers are veering towards online shopping to avoid social distancing. Most of these trends have lasting impact on consumer behavior and likely to remain for quite sometime.
- Sector Valuation: Currently, Nifty FMCG is trading at an average P/E of 44.1x compared to its five-year average of 39.6x (implies premium of ~13.1%). In our view, stock specific valuation premium will continue for Nestle (+29% over sector), Hindustan Unilever (+37% over sector), Blue Star (+21% over sector) and Whirlpool (+21% over sector) on back of their solid market positioning and high demand for essentials in the light of COVID-19. We see mispricing on ITC shares, the ~70% valuation discount to sector as unwarranted and therefore attracts investor interest even at current levels.

### NIFTY FMCG P/E and 5 Yrs Average



Source: NSF

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Page 4

# **Consumer Goods**

Exhibit 1	Exhibit 1: Quarterly result expectation for companies under coverage							
INR Mn	Q4CY20E	Q4CY19A	YoY	Q3CY20A	QoQ	Remarks		
Nestle Ind	ia							
Sales	33,705	31,493	7.0%	35,417	-4.8%	We expect Nestle India to report a revenue growth of 7% YoY in Q4CY20 on the back of increase in demand for ready-to-eat product such as Maggi, Dairy products, KitKat and Coffee as well as volume		
EBITDA	8,359	6,941	20.4%	8,836	-5.4%	led growth from online delivery channels. We foresee an increase in EBITDA margin due to operational efficiencies undertaken by the		
Net Profit	5,740	4,726	21.5%	5,871	-2.2%	company and reduction in variable expenses particularly ad spends offset by rise in milk prices. The net profit margin is expected to increase by 200 bps YoY.		
EBITDA (%)	24.8%	22.0%	276 bps	24.9%	-15 bps	Key Parameters: (1) Guidance on price and volume (2) Capacity utilization levels (3) Mix of segmental products (4) New product		
NPM (%)	17.0%	15.0%	202 bps	16.6%	45 bps	launches/Innovations (5) Cost control initiatives		
INR Mn	Q3FY21E	Q <sub>3</sub> FY <sub>2</sub> oA	YoY	Q2FY21A	QoQ	Remarks		
Britannia	ndustries							
Sales	31,318	29,827	5.00%	34,191	-8.40%	Sales expected to grow 5% YoY/ -8.1% QoQ mainly due to higher sale of biscuits (~75-% of portfolio) on account of increase in in-home consumption. Proactive measures undertaken by the company such		
EBITDA	5,637	5,020	12.29%	6,754	-16.53%	as tie up with online delivery platforms, launching WhatsApp based store locator and efficient distribution chain is also expected to lead		
Net Profit	4,221	3,723	13.38%	4,995	-15.49%	to market share gains. Net profit to grow strongly.  Key Parameters: (1) Investment in new product launches and their		
EBITDA (%)	18.00%	16.83%	117 bps	19.75%	-175 bps	marketing spends (2) Commencement of manufacturing faci and capacity utilization (3) Inventory levels (4) Store coverage Commentary on Inter-corporate loans		
NPM (%)	13.48%	12.48%	100 bps	14.61%	-113 bps	Commentary of meet corporate found		
Hindustan Unilever Ltd								
Sales	115,318	98,080	17.6%	114,420	0.8%	We expect overall sales to grow by 17.6% YoY/ 1% QoQ led by health, hygiene and nutrition categories which will be partially offset by the volume decline in Discretionary category such as ice cream and out		
EBITDA	28,829	24,450	17.9%	28,690	0.5%	of home consumption category. Sales in the health food category (Horlicks/Boost) will grow on the back of strong distribution		
Net Profit	20,026	16,160	23.9%	20,090	-0.3%	network of HUL. Net profit expected to grow 24% YoY  Key Parameters: (1) Guidance on volume and price in 2HFY21 (2)		
EBITDA (%)	25.0%	24.9%	7 bps	25.07%	-7 bps	Impact on premiumization and new product launches (3) Supply disruptions for raw materials and corresponding impact on cost (4) GSKCH portfolio performance		
NPM (%)	17.4%	16.5%	89 bps	17.56%	-19 bps	of the report of		
ITC Ltd		,						
Sales	132,143	120,130	10.0%	131,478	0.5%	We expect sales to grow sequentially by 10%; driven by hygiene product (soaps handwash - Savlon), Floor disinfectant (Nimyle) and FMCG products such as Noodles, Packaged Atta and biscuits.		
EBITDA	51,404	46,127	11.4%	44,010	16.8%	Further, the company has launched 41 new products in last 3-4 months; which will also boost sales. Cigarette segment will likely be		
Net Profit	38,503	41,419	-7.0%	33,682	14.3%	under pressure despite small size pack. In terms of margins, FMCG margins are on a robust trajectory on scale advantages and premiumization efforts		
EBITDA (%)	38.9%	38.4%	50 bps	33.5%	543 bps	Key parameters: (1) Guidance on price and volume (2) Cigarette		
NPM (%)	29.1%	34.5%	-534 bps	25.6%	352 bps	inventory levels (2) Adoption of pourly levels de products		

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Page 5

# **Consumer Goods**

### Exhibit 1: Quarterly result expectation for companies under coverage

INR Mn	Q3FY21E	Q <sub>3</sub> FY <sub>2</sub> 0A	YoY	Q2FY21A	QoQ	Remarks
Colgate P	almolive					
Sales	11,765	11,472	2.6%	12,855	-8.5%	We expect Colgate Palmolive to witness revenue growth of 2.6 YoY, driven by increase in volume in the toothpaste categor
EBITDA	3,607	3,161	14.1%	4,093	-11.9%	Recently launched hygiene product is expected to continue see growth. Advertisement spending is likely to be on an increasing trajectory as per the company strategy. EBITDA is expected to
Net Profit	2,508	1,991	26.0%	2,742	-8.5%	increase by 14.1% YoY, while PAT is likely to grow by 26%YoY.
EBITDA (%)	30.7%	27.6%	311 bps	31.8%	-118 bps	Key Parameters: (1) Status check of distribution channels (2) Volume and Price impact (3) Market share gains (4) Outlook on advertisement spends (5) Ramping up of new products
NPM (%)	21.3%	17.4%	396 bps	21.3%	-2 bps	
Asian Pai	nts					
Sales	54,240	54,203	0.1%	53,502	1.4%	We expect sales to remain flat during quarter on YoY basis, however, marginally up by 1.4% QoQ led by pent-up demand noted
EBITDA	12,597	11,894	5.9%	12,652	-0.4%	during the quarter. Volume surge attributed to unlock after sharp decline in April/May-20. International revenues (~12-13% of revenue) will be subdued due to global supply disruption and
Net Profit	7,919	7,644	3.6%	8,304	-4.6%	lesser demand in foreign countries. Reduction in Brent crude oil and Titanium dioxide likely to aid gross margin. EBITDA is expected to grow by 6% YoY and PAT to grow by 3.6% YoY.
EBITDA (%)	23.2%	21.9%	128 bps	23.6%	-42 bps	Key Parameters: (1) Sustainable volume growth and price after Unlock (2) Raw material price trends (3) Inventory levels (4) Rural
NPM (%)	14.6%	14.1%	50 bps	15.5%	-92 bps	demand outlook (5) Demand for newly launched home décor product.
Blue Star						
Sales	12,119	12,359	-1.9%	9,021	34.3%	Sales expected to decline 2% YoY whereas up by 34.3% sequentially followed by recovery in discretionary spending in rural market. The
EBITDA	691	570	21.1%	551	25.4%	company noted pent-up in demand in the past quarters. Sa expected to be mainly driven by Unitary segment post lock as well as new launches that offers protections from Covid-19
Net Profit	300	196	53.1%	153	95.7%	other virus. However, margin likely to be stressed due to provisioning of doubtful receivables in the EMS segment on YoY basis.
EBITDA (%)	5.7%	4.6%	109 bps	6.1%	-41 bps	Key Parameters: (i) Guidance on price and volume (2) Plans and
NPM (%)	2.5%	1.6%	89 bps	1.7%	78 bps	strategies for consumer revival (3) New launches and pro innovations (4) Cost cutting measures (5) Extension of c period(6) Impact of price cut across industry

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Page 6

# **Consumer Goods**

## Exhibit 1: Quarterly result expectation for companies under coverage

INR Mn	Q3FY21E	Q <sub>3</sub> FY <sub>2</sub> oA	YoY	Q2FY21A	QoQ	Remarks
Godrej Co	onsumer Pr	oducts				
Sales	29,170	27,781	5.0%	29,151	0.1%	As per the disclosures by the company the demand transmitted remained stable and improved sequentially across geographies. We expect sales to grow by 5% YoY because of
EBITDA	6,709	6,307	6.4%	6,729	-0.3%	high base in corresponding period last year, led by hygiene (including soap) and household insecticide categories. The notable recovery witnessed in hair color and air fresheners on
Net Profit	4,636	4,452	4.1%	4,586	1.1%	quarterly basis. Within International business, Indonesia revenue is expected to marginally decline due to challenging macroeconomic factors, however, the growth momentum
EBITDA (%)	23.0%	22.7%	30 bps	23.1%	-8 bps	continued in rest of regions.
NPM (%)	15.9%	16.0%	-13 bps	15.7%	16 bps	Key Parameters: (1) Impact on working capital (2) Strategies to manage the supply disruption (3) Capacity utilization levels (4) Tie-up with food delivery startups- Zomato and supply chain startup Shopkirana (5) Cost cutting measures
Tata Cons	sumer Prod	lucts				
Sales	25,260	25,215	0.18%	27,813	-9.18%	We expect overall sales to remain flat during the quarter, however, we expect the incremental revenue from merger with Tata Chemical consumer business segment as well as with volume
EBITDA	2,619	3,181	-17.68%	3,996	-34.46%	growth across all segments will support the topline. In addition, demand for essential products such as salt, staples and tea expected to be higher due to higher in-house consumption amid
Net Profit	1,189	1,694	-29.80%	2,571	-53.75%	recovery in consumption level. While EBITDA margin may remain under pressure during the quarter.
EBITDA (%)	10.37%	12.62%	-225 bps	14.37%	-400 bps	Key Parameters (1) Performance of the FMCG portfolio (2) Digitalization of distribution channels / Cancellation of agreement with distributors(3) Outlook for H2FY21E (4) Steps undertaken to
NPM (%)	4.71%	6.72%	-201 bps	9.24%	-454 bps	mitigate the supply disruptions
EmamiLt	d					
Sales	8,179	8,126	0.6%	7,348	11.3%	We expect sales to improve 0.6% YoY/ 11.3% QoQ due to increase in volume for Zandu, and hygiene products. Gross margin expansion expected mainly due to softening of Mentha and Light Liquid
EBITDA	2,587	2,640	-2.0%	2,571	0.6%	Paraffin (LLP prices) which are the key raw materials. Coupled with cost rationalization and low advertising spends, we expect margins to remain at the same level.
Net Profit	1,312	1,444	-9.2%	1,184	10.8%	Key Parameters (1) Guidance on price and volume for H2FY21E (2) Lockdown impact on manufacturing facilities and capacity
EBITDA (%)	31.6%	32.5%	-86 bps	35.0%	-336 bps	utilization (3) COVID-19 impact on international business (4) Strategies to be undertaken for consumer revival (5) Diversification into hygiene space (6) Promoter pledging details.
NPM (%)	16.0%	17.8%	-173 bps	16.1%	-7 bps	(7) Rural outlook (8) Performance of new hygiene category space

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Page 7

# **Consumer Goods**

### Exhibit 1: Quarterly result expectation for companies under coverage

EXHIDIC I.		<u> </u>						
INR Mn	Q3FY21E	Q3FY20A	YoY	Q2FY21A	QoQ	Remarks		
Avenue S	upermarts							
Sales	81,023	67,519	20.0%	52,182	55.3%	We expect sales to grow by 20% YoY/+55% YoY to INR 81,023 Mn. on the back of increasing footfall in the stores, store expansion and festival season. EBITDA margin is set to grow by 2.5% YoY/+88% QoQ		
EBITDA	6,077	5,931	2.5%	3,239	87.6%	to INR 6,077 Mn. while PAT is expected to grow by 7.9% YoY/+103% QoQ due to low corporate taxation.		
Net Profit	4,254	3,943	7.9%	2,095	103.0%	Key Parameters: (1) New store additions (60 stores in FY21 and FY22) (2) Penetrate further into its e-commerce operations (3) Product/ category mix (4) DMart Ready outlet additions (5)		
EBITDA (%)	7.5%	8.8%	-128 bps	6.2%	129 bps	Measures to tackle supply disruptions		
NPM (%)	5.2%	5.8%	-59 bps	4.0%	123 bps			
Berger Pa	Berger Paints							
Sales	21,009	16,959	23.9%	17,426	20.6%	We expect Berger paints revenue to grow 24% YoY led by recovery in rural economy including tier II, III, and IV towns. However, there		
EBITDA	3,364	2,963	13.5%	3,352	0.3%	is slower improvement in decorative paint sale in metro and other urban markets. 70% of the demand is for repainting. International		
Net Profit	2,171	1,824	19.1%	2,209	-1.7%	business (~5-7%) is expected to be affected due to disruption and halt in export. Softness in Brent crude oil is likely to support gross margin		
EBITDA (%)	16.0%	17.5%	-146 bps	19.2%	-323 bps	Key parameters: (1) Performance of industrial and automotive		
NPM (%)	10.3%	10.8%	-42 bps	12.7%	-235 bps	segment (2) Raw material cost fluctuations (3) Crude Price Impact (4) Commentary on the lockdown impact of manufacturing facilities		
Whirlpoo	I							
Sales	16,180	12,712	27.3%	10,081	60.5%	We expect sales to grow 27.3% YoY/ 60.5% QoQ mainly due to lower base in the corresponding quarter, sales are likely to be driven on		
EBITDA	1,618	897	80.4%	850	90.3%	the back of higher demand for refrigerators due to more in-home consumption mainly from Tier2-3 towns. Additionally, entry-level products would see better growth from tier 2 and smaller cities,		
Net Profit	1,206	765	57.7%	737	63.7%	which would benefit Whirlpool through its strong distribution reach.		
EBITDA (%)	10.0%	7.1%	295 bps	8.4%	157 bps	Key Parameters (1) Guidance on price and volume (2) Supply environment for domestic & international business (3) New		
NPM (%)	7.5%	6.0%	144 bps	7.3%	15 bps	product launches (4) Urban and rural mix		

Q3FY21 Earning Preview

II 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Page 8

## Consumer Goods

Rating Legend (Expected over a 12-month period)					
Our Rating	Upside				
Buy	More than 15%				
Accumulate	5% – 15%				
Hold	o – 5%				
Reduce	-5% – 0				
Sell	Less than – 5%				

#### ANALYST CERTIFICATION:

I, Parvati Rai (MBA-Finance, M.com), Head Research, author and the name subscribed to this report, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my views about the subject issuer(s) or securities. I also certify that no part of our compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) in this report.

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