Ashok Leyland (ASHLEY)

CMP: ₹ 154 Target: ₹ 180 (17%)

Target Period: 12 months

BUY

ICI direc



Bottomed-out margins; steady road ahead...

About the stock: Ashok Leyland (ALL) is a pure-play CV manufacturer domestically, with FY22 market share pegged at 16.4%. The company is present in M&HCV trucks and buses as well as LCV goods segments.

FY22 product mix – LCV goods 42%, trucks 52%, buses 6%

Q1FY23 Results: ALL reported muted results in Q1FY23

- Standalone operating income for Q1FY23 was down 17.4% QoQ to ₹ 7,223 crore, amidst 18.6% sequential decline in volumes at 39,651 units.
- EBITDA came in at ₹ 320 crore with margins at 4.4%, down 444 bps QoQ.
 All line items witnessed an increase with gross margins down 105 bps QoQ
- Consequent PAT came in at ₹ 68 crore. Muted PAT performance was due to lower than expected margins and higher effective tax rate at 36.8%

What should investors do? ALL's share price has grown at ~7% CAGR over the past five years (from ~₹ 110 levels in August 2017), outperforming Nifty Auto index

We retain **BUY** rating amidst cyclical recovery underway in the CV space, impending equity raise and consequent valuation pegging for its EV arm

Target Price and Valuation: We value ALL at revised SOTP based target price of ₹ 180 (16x core FY24E EV/EBITDA, 2.5x P/BV for investments; earlier TP ₹ 160)

Key triggers for future price performance:

- Pure play beneficiary of impending M&HCV revival riding on government's infra push and pickup in core industrial activity with passenger (bus) segment to benefit from reopening of workplaces, schools and colleges.
- Blended ASPs to rise amid exports push & improved product mix.
- We build 20% volume & 28% net sales CAGR over FY22-24E; margins seen rising to 8% levels by FY24E on the back of operating leverage benefits and normalized input cost. Return ration are seen ~17% levels by FY24E
- Expected equity raise in its electric mobility arm i.e. "Switch Mobility" with traction in EV demand from both private as well as government sector.

Alternate Stock Idea: Besides ALL, in our auto OEM coverage we like M&M.

- Focused on prudent capital allocation, UV differentiation & EV proactiveness
- BUY with target price of ₹ 1,500



Particulars	
Particular	₹ crore
Market Capitalization	45,077.4
Total Debt (FY22)	3,507.1
Cash & Inv. (FY22)	2,345.0
EV (₹ Crore)	46,239.5
52 week H/L (₹)	158 / 93
Equity capital (₹ crore)	293.6
Face value (₹)	1.0

Silarenoiumy pattern									
	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22					
Promoter	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5					
FII	16.3	15.1	13.5	15.0					
DII	19.6	20.7	21.9	21.7					
Other	12.6	12.8	13.1	11.7					



Recent event & key risks

- Posted muted Q1FY23 Results.
- Key Risk: (i) slower than anticipated pickup in M&HCV sales volume, (ii) continued pressure on o/p margins amid high discounting in market place

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Key Financial Summary								
Key Financials	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 year CAGR (FY17-22)	FY23E	FY24E	2 year CAGR (FY22-24E)
Net Sales	29,055.0	17,467.5	15,301.5	21,688.3	1.6%	29,339.7	35,309.0	27.6%
EBITDA	3,135.7	1,173.6	535.1	994.5	-14.7%	1,636.0	2,833.2	68.8%
EBITDA Margins (%)	10.8	6.7	3.5	4.6		5.6	8.0	
Net Profit	1,983.2	239.5	(313.7)	541.9	-15.0%	501.9	1,401.1	60.8%
EPS (₹)	6.8	0.8	(1.1)	1.8		1.7	4.8	
P/E	22.8	188.8	NM	83.4		90.1	32.3	
RoNW (%)	24.3	4.7	(4.4)	0.2		6.5	17.1	
RoCE (%)	25.7	4.5	(1.9)	2.1		7.6	17.7	



Key takeaways of recent quarter & conference call highlights

Q1FY23 Results: Margins bottomed out ...

- Standalone operating income came in at ₹ 7,223 crore (down 17.4% QoQ).
 Total volumes for the quarter were at 39,651 units, down 18.6% sequentially with ASPs for the quarter coming in at ₹ 18.2 lakh/unit, up 1.5% QoQ.
- M&HCV volumes in the total sales volume mix (~63% in Q1FY23 vs. ~66% in Q4FY22). The company also gained market share in the truck segment which as of Q1FY23 was at 31.1% vs 30.6% in Q4FY22.
- EBITDA for the quarter came in at ₹ 320 crore with corresponding margins at 4.4%, down 444 bps QoQ. Gross margin declined was ~105 bps QoQ however was further aggravated by rise in employee cost and other expense which rose 116 bps & 222 bps QoQ respectively.
- Consequent reported profit after tax stood at ₹ 68 crore. Muted PAT
 performance was due to lower than expected margins and higher effective
 tax rate at 36.8% vs 9.7% in Q4FY22.

Q1FY23 Earnings Conference Call highlights

- Q1FY23 witnessed strong momentum in domestic market compared to export market with domestic market share increasing QoQ aided by new model launches.
- Company witnessed revival in demand from fleet aggregators & witnessed increase in fleet utilization levels & improvement of free cash flow in hands of fleet operators amidst reduced operating cost.
- Management expects M&HCV truck industry to grow at 15-20% for FY23 primarily led by capex by government & revival in bus demand largely benefitting from reopening of schools and work places.
- Company has taken ~1.5-2% hike during the quarter to offset rising input costs & would take further hikes to recover unrecovered cost, however company is still unable to recover hiked freight rates for which it is in discussion with clients.
- Rise in other expense was largely due to various agreements entered into by company during FY22 and same have been revised due to inflationary scenario, further management expects it to taper gradually going forward.
- Company expects to sustain market share amidst: (i) Increase in truck demand as a result of government spending, (ii) strong product offering with its CNG variant launch in Q1FY22 gaining good traction, (iii) offering existing LCV portfolio in CNG variants in coming 8-9 months
- Hinduja Leyland Finance AUM stood~₹30k crores with disbursement of ~₹3,500 crores during Q1FY23, it has GNPA at ~3.7% & NNPA at ~2.3%
- Capex incurred in Q1FY23 is ~₹115 crores with guidance for FY23 revised to ~₹750 crores vs ~₹550 crores in Q4FY22.

Due to chip shortage company witnessed 500-1000 units as loss of production in the LCV domain for Q1.

Rise in steel price was ~₹4-5/kg for Q1FY23 and is now stabilizing with cost reduction program in place management expects to improve margins in coming quarters.

Peer comparison

Exhibit 1: Peer Comparison (4-W)																
Compony	CMP	TP	Rating	Мсар	Tota	l lakh vo	lumes	EBITD	A margi	in (%)	ı	RoCE (%	6)	EV/	EBITDA (x)
Company	₹	₹		₹ crore	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Ashok Leyland (ASHLEY)	154	180	Buy	45,077	1.3	1.6	1.9	4.6	5.6	8.0	2.1	7.6	17.7	46.5	28.3	16.1
Tata Motors (TATMOT)	479	530	Buy	1,83,505	7.3	9.1	10.2	12.2	12.3	14.1	4.8	8.2	14.5	7.6	6.3	4.7
M&M (MAHMAH)	1,236	1,500	Buy	1,47,917	4.7	6.1	6.8	12.3	12.3	13.0	9.3	11.9	13.6	20.3	15.8	13.1

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research; Note - volume data above is for Tata Motors' India business and M&M's automotive business only

We believe ALL would be an outsized beneficiary of the impending CV revival domestically given its presence across industry segments. Blended realisations are set to improve amid exports focus and improved mix. Riding on operating leverage gains, margins and RoCE are set to expand to 8%, 17% by FY24E, respectively.

Exhibit 2: Variance A	nalysis						
	Q1FY23	Q1FY23E	Q1FY22	YoY (%)	Q4FY22	QoQ (%)	Comments
Total Operating Income	7,222.9	6,975.6	2,951.0	144.8	8,744.3	-17.4	Topline came in ahead of estimates tracking beat on ASP's despite Ω o Ω decline in share of M&HCV in sales mix
Raw Material Expenses	5,728.1	5,472.1	2,187.3	161.9	6,842.2	-16.3	RM costs came in ahead of estimates at 79.3% of sales, up 110 bps QoQ
Employee Expenses	445.4	418.5	424.3	5.0	437.6	1.8	
Other expenses	729.1	627.8	479.5	52.0	688.5	5.9	Other came in much higher than estimates at 10.1% of sales, up 220 bps QoQ
EBITDA	320.3	457.1	-140.1	-328.6	776.0	-58.7	
EBITDA Margin (%)	4.4	6.6	-4.7	918 bps	8.9	-444 bps	EBITDA margins came in lower at 4,4% tracking more than anticipated rise in all line items
Other Income	25.6	18.5	13.4	91.3	24.2	6.1	
Depreciation	182.4	202.3	183.5	-0.6	195.4	-6.6	
Interest	68.9	67.7	70.7	-2.6	76.5	-9.9	Interest expense came in on expected lines
Tax	39.6	52.9	-100.3	-139.5	97.3	-59.3	
Reported PAT	68.0	161.0	-282.3	124.1	901.4	NM	PAT came in substantially lower tracking miss on margins which were down ${\sim}440~\text{bps}~\Omega\text{o}\Omega$
EPS	0.2	0.5	-1.0	124.1	3.1	NM	
Key Metrics							
ASPs (₹ lakh/unit)	18.2	17.6	16.4	11.0	17.9	1.5	ASP's for the quarter stood at ₹ 18.2 lakh/unit up 1.5%QoQ and was ahead of our estimates

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

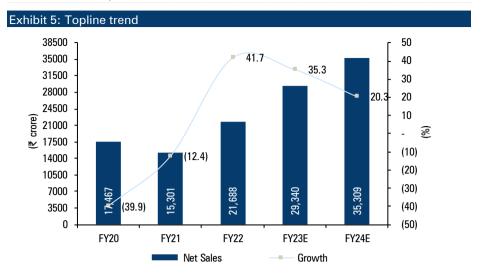
Exhibit 3: Change	e in estima	tes					
		FY23E			FY24E		
(₹ Crore)	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	Comments
Revenue	29,421	29,340	-0.3	34,935	35,309	1.1	Our revenue estimates remain largely unchanged. We expect sales to grow at a CAGR of \sim 28% over FY22-24E
EBITDA	1,765	1,636	-7.3	2,779	2,833	2.0	
EBITDA Margin (%)	6.0	5.6	-42 bps	8.0	8.0	7 bps	Muted margins reported in Q1FY23 leads to moderation in our margin estimates for FY23E
PAT	604	502	-17.0	1,357	1,401	3.3	
EPS (₹)	2.1	1.7	-17.0	4.6	4.8	3.3	At the PAT level, we expect earnings at the company to grow at a CAGR of \sim 61% CAGR over FY22-24E building in \sim 340 bps improvement in EBITDA margins

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 4: Assum	xhibit 4: Assumptions								
					Current		Earl	ier	Comments
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	Comments
M&HCV Passenger volumes	19,871	23,323	5,629	7,799	12,527	15,012	11,270	13,523	With cyclical recovery underway in the domestic CV space, we expect total
M&HCV Goods volumes	1,22,987	55,231	46,178	66,086	87,185	1,04,623	89,102	1,06,923	volumes at the company to grow at a CAGR of 20% over FY22-24E. M&HCV space is
Total M&HCV Sales Volume	1,42,858	78,554	51,807	73,885	99,712	1,19,635	1,00,372	1,20,446	seen leading the volume growth at ~27% CAGR in the aforesaid period with LCV
LCV volumes	54,508	46,646	48,908	54,441	59,890	65,879	59,861	65,847	space expected to grow at a CAGR of
Total Sales Volume	1,97,366	1,25,200	1,00,715	1,28,326	1,59,602	1,85,515	1,60,233	1,86,294	~10% CAGR over FY22-24E led by its export initiatives as well as e-commerce play. We
YoY Growth (%)		-37%	-20%	27%	24%	16%			have largely retained our volume estimates
ASPs (₹ lakh/unit)	14.4	12.8	15.2	16.9	18.2	19.0	18.4	18.8	for FY23E & FY24E

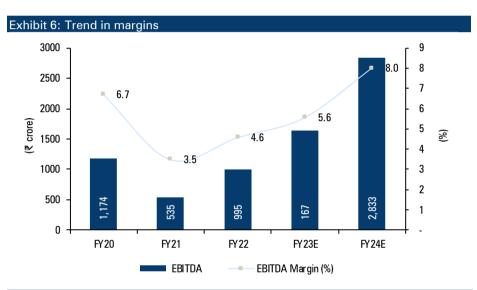
Source: ICICI Direct Research

Financial story in charts



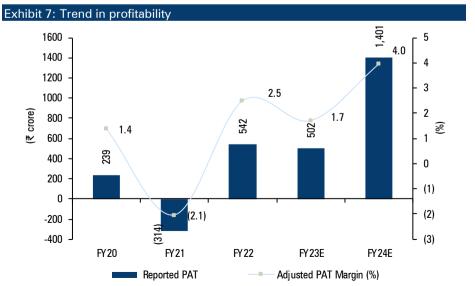
We expect sales to grow at a CAGR of 27.6% over FY22-24E backed by 20.2% volume CAGR in the aforesaid period, led my M&HCV segment

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research



We expect ALL margins to be at 8.0% by FY24E, riding on substantial operating leverage gains and cost control measures

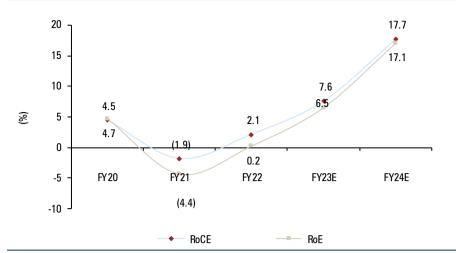
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

PAT is expected to reach ₹ 1,401 crore in FY24E

Exhibit 8: Trend in return ratios



The company is positioned to post healthy double digit return ratios in FY24E

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: SOTP-based valuation	
SOTP	
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	16.0
EBITDA (₹ crore; FY24E)	2,833
Enterprise Value (₹ Crore)	45,331
Net Debt (₹ crore; FY24E)	454
Target Market cap Core business (₹crore)	44,877
Value/Share (A)	155
Strategic Investments FY24E (₹ crore)	3,922
P/BV(x)	2.5
Total Value/Share post applying 20% Holdco. Discount (B)	25
Price target (₹, A+B)	180

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 10	Exhibit 10: Valuation Summary									
	Sales	Growth	EPS	Growth	PE	EV/EBITDA	RoNW	RoCE		
	(₹ cr)	(%)	(₹)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)		
FY18	26,356	31.7	5.9	36.6	26.2	14.2	24.0	25.6		
FY19	29,055	10.2	6.8	15.1	22.8	14.1	24.3	25.7		
FY20	17,467	(39.9)	0.8	(87.9)	NM	40.1	4.7	4.5		
FY21	15,301	(12.4)	(1.1)	NA	NM	89.7	(4.4)	(1.9)		
FY22	21,688	41.7	1.8	NM	NM	46.5	0.2	2.1		
FY23E	29,340	35.3	1.7	NM	90.1	28.3	6.5	7.6		
FY24E	35,309	20.3	4.8	179.2	32.3	16.1	17.1	17.7		

Financial Summary

Exhibit 11: Profit and los	s statement			₹ crore
(Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Total operating Income	15,301.5	21,688.3	29,339.7	35,309.0
Growth (%)	-12.4	41.7	35.3	20.3
Raw Material Expenses	11,403.4	16,761.1	23,064.7	27,250.3
Employee Expenses	1,583.9	1,694.6	1,808.9	1,941.7
Other Expenses	1,779.1	2,238.1	2,830.2	3,283.7
Total Operating Expenditure	14,766.4	20,693.8	27,703.7	32,475.8
EBITDA	535.1	994.5	1636.0	2833.2
Growth (%)	-54.4	85.9	64.5	73.2
Depreciation	747.7	752.8	792.2	829.8
Interest	306.8	301.1	271.9	225.6
Other Income	119.5	76.1	102.7	95.4
PBT	-399.9	16.8	674.6	1873.2
Exceptional chages	12.1	-510.8	-13.0	0.0
Total Tax	-98.2	-14.2	185.8	472.0
PAT	-313.7	541.9	501.9	1401.1
Growth (%)	-231.0	-272.7	-7.4	179.2
EPS (₹)	-1.1	1.8	1.7	4.8

Research

Exhibit 12: Cash flow state	ement		,	₹ crore
(Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Profit after Tax	-313.7	541.9	501.9	1,401.1
Add: Depreciation	747.7	752.8	792.2	829.8
(Inc)/dec in Current Assets	-2,495.2	-511.2	-1,761.8	-1,465.5
Inc/(dec) in CL and Provisions	2,031.6	1,787.7	1,777.1	1,653.6
CF from operating activities	277.2	2872.2	1581.2	2644.7
(Inc)/dec in Investments	-349.1	-1,750.9	400.0	-300.0
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	-681.5	-249.7	-750.0	-550.0
Others	86.3	57.3	-149.2	-143.9
CF from investing activities	-944.3	-1943.3	-499.2	-993.9
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inc/(dec) in loan funds	447.4	-221.7	-500.0	-500.0
Dividend paid & dividend tax	-176.1	-293.6	-293.6	-733.9
Others	-103.7	-189.8	-271.9	-225.6
CF from financing activities	167.6	-705.0	-1065.4	-1459.5
Net Cash flow	-499.4	223.9	16.6	191.3
Opening Cash	1,322.4	823.0	1,046.9	1,063.5
Closing Cash	823.0	1046.9	1063.5	1254.7

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 13: Balance Sheet				₹ crore	
(Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	
Liabilities					
Equity Capital	293.6	293.6	293.6	293.6	
Reserve and Surplus	6,683.7	7,043.4	7,251.7	7,918.9	
Total Shareholders funds	6977.2	7336.9	7545.2	8212.5	
Total Debt	3,728.8	3,507.1	3,007.1	2,507.1	
Deferred Tax Liability	170.8	144.4	144.4	144.4	
Other non-current liabilities	280.5	254.4	254.4	254.4	
Total Liabilities	11346.9	11443.0	11151.3	11318.5	
Assets					
Gross Block	8,706.7	9,134.0	9,978.2	10,578.2	
Less: Acc Depreciation	3,107.5	3,860.3	4,652.4	5,482.2	
Net Block	5599.2	5273.7	5325.8	5096.0	
Capital WIP	371.9	194.3	100.0	50.0	
Total Fixed Assets	5,971.0	5,468.0	5,425.8	5,146.0	
Investments	3,068.7	3,521.6	3,721.6	3,921.6	
Inventory	2,142.3	2,075.2	2,813.4	3,385.8	
Debtors	2,816.0	3,111.0	4,019.1	4,836.8	
Loans and Advances	20.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Other current assets	1686.7	1990.6	2106.1	2181.5	
Cash	823.0	1046.9	1063.5	1254.7	
Total Current Assets	7,488.6	8,223.7	10,002.1	11,658.9	
Creditors	5,164.7	6,875.2	8,440.2	9,673.7	
Provisions	465.0	470.3	577.3	661.7	
Other current Liabilties	1,473.5	1,545.3	1,650.4	1,986.2	
Total Current Liabilities	7,103.1	8,890.8	10,667.9	12,321.5	
Net Current Assets	385.5	-667.1	-665.8	-662.7	
Application of Funds	11346.9	11443.0	11151.3	11318.5	

Source:	Company.	ICICI	Direct	Research

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Exhibit 14: Key ratios (Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
	ГІДІ	F1 ZZ	F1 Z3E	F1 Z4E
Per share data (₹)		1.0	4.7	4.0
EPS	-1.1	1.8	1.7	4.8
Cash EPS	1.5	4.4	4.4	7.6
BV	23.8	25.0	25.7	28.0
DPS	0.6	1.0	1.0	2.5
Cash Per Share	2.8	3.6	3.6	4.3
Operating Ratios (%)				
EBITDA Margin	3.5	4.6	5.6	8.0
PBT / Net sales	-2.6	0.1	2.3	5.3
PAT Margin	-2.1	2.5	0.9	1.5
Inventory days	51.1	34.9	35.0	35.0
Debtor days	67.2	52.4	50.0	50.0
Creditor days	123.2	115.7	105.0	100.0
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	-4.4	0.2	6.5	17.1
RoCE	-1.9	2.1	7.6	17.7
RoIC	-2.1	2.7	9.1	21.7
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	-144.1	83.4	90.1	32.3
EV / EBITDA	89.7	46.5	28.3	16.1
EV / Net Sales	3.1	2.1	1.6	1.3
Market Cap / Sales	2.9	2.1	1.5	1.3
Price to Book Value	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.5
Solvency Ratios				
Debt/Equity	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Current Ratio	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Quick Ratio	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6

Sector / Company	CMP	TP		M Cap	EPS (₹)			P/E (x)			EV/EBITDA (x)			RoCE (%)			RoE (%)		
	(₹)	(₹)	Rating	(₹ Cr)	FY22P	FY23E	FY24E	FY22P	FY23E	FY24E	FY22P	FY23E	FY24E	FY22P	FY23E	FY24E	FY22P	FY23E	FY24E
Apollo Tyre (APOTYR)	222	230	Buy	14,114	10.1	12.7	19.4	22.1	17.5	11.4	7.3	6.3	4.8	6.3	7.3	10.3	5.4	6.6	9.4
Ashok Leyland (ASHLEY)	154	180	Buy	45,077	1.8	1.7	4.8	83.4	90.1	32.3	46.5	28.3	16.1	2.1	7.6	17.7	0.2	6.5	17.1
Bajaj Auto (BAAUTO)	3,975	4,180	Hold	1,15,038	173.4	218.4	247.2	22.9	18.2	16.1	17.8	13.2	11.5	18.4	27.1	29.3	17.6	24.5	26.3
Balkrishna Ind. (BALIND)	2,384	2,475	Buy	46,077	73.0	81.4	103.2	32.7	29.3	23.1	24.2	19.6	15.3	15.9	18.0	21.7	20.4	19.4	20.7
Bharat Forge (BHAFOR)	750	840	Buy	34,904	23.1	23.9	30.0	32.4	31.4	25.0	18.9	16.6	13.9	9.6	10.7	12.6	15.2	15.1	16.8
Eicher Motors (EICMOT)	3,089	2,480	Hold	84,418	61.3	87.6	107.2	50.4	35.3	28.8	35.0	24.9	20.3	13.3	17.3	18.7	13.3	16.9	18.2
Escorts Kubota (ESCORT)	1,722	1,840	Hold	22,725	55.8	70.1	82.2	30.9	24.6	20.9	18.8	15.5	12.7	10.4	10.9	11.5	9.3	10.6	11.2
Hero Moto (HERHON)	2,841	2,495	Hold	56,730	123.8	156.1	176.3	22.9	18.2	16.1	14.5	11.3	9.9	16.3	20.7	22.2	15.7	18.7	19.9
M&M (MAHMAH)	1,236	1,500	Buy	1,47,917	41.2	49.9	59.3	30.0	24.8	20.9	20.3	15.8	13.1	9.3	11.9	13.6	13.1	13.8	14.6
Maruti Suzuki (MARUTI)	9,004	10,000	Buy	2,71,993	124.7	236.8	333.3	72.2	38.0	27.0	40.7	22.8	16.6	5.1	11.5	15.2	7.0	12.1	15.3
Minda Industries (MININD)	524	575	Buy	29,928	6.2	9.6	12.5	84.1	54.8	42.0	34.4	26.7	21.6	10.2	13.1	15.9	10.3	13.9	15.6
Tata Motors (TATMOT)	479	530	Buy	1,83,505	-29.9	-9.5	17.9	-16.0	-50.2	26.8	7.6	6.3	4.7	4.8	8.2	14.5	-23.5	-8.1	13.2

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Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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