

Estimate changes

TP change

Rating change



Bloomberg	EXID IN
Equity Shares (m)	850
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USD\$)	150 / 1.8
52-Week Range (INR)	194 / 130
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	0/9/-3
12M Avg Val (INR M)	463

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E MARCH	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Net Sales	148.3	166.5	185.6
EBITDA	16.6	18.7	22.2
Adj. PAT	9.8	11.1	13.3
Adj. EPS (INR)	11.5	13.0	15.7
EPS Gr. (%)	16.2	13.5	20.4
BV/Sh. (INR)	133.0	142.9	155.3

Ratio

RoE (%)	8.6	9.1	10.1
RoCE (%)	9.1	9.6	10.7
Payout (%)	27.9	24.6	20.4

Valuations

P/E (x)	15.8	13.9	11.6
P/BV (x)	1.4	1.3	1.2
Div Yield (%)	1.8	1.8	1.8
FCF Yield (%)	7.9	6.6	8.3

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Dec-22	Sep-22	Dec-21
Promoter	46.0	46.0	46.0
DII	19.6	17.8	20.6
FII	11.0	10.5	9.6
Others	23.5	25.7	23.8

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR176

TP: INR215 (+22%)

Buy

Benefits of softening RM offset by operating leverage

Captive smelter to aid gross margin despite a rise in lead prices

- Exide (EXID)'s 3QFY23 revenue growth was below our estimate largely led by weaker mix. Softening lead prices benefitted gross margin but operating leverage restricted margin expansion. We, however, expect a sustained recovery, fueled by OEM production and after-market growth, with a continuous shift from the unorganized to the organized segment. However, disruption from new chemistries is evolving at a much faster pace and will influence both auto and industrial businesses.
- We raise our FY23E EPS to factor in the benefit from benign RM costs thus aiding margins while maintaining our FY24E EPS. Valuing the stock at ~12x standalone Dec'24E EPS + INR36/share for a stake in HDFC Life Insurance (@ 40% Holdco discount), we retain our **BUY** rating with a TP of ~INR215.

EBITDA margin expansion limited due to operating leverage

- EXID's 3QFY23 revenue/EBITDA/Adj. PAT grew 6.5%/7.5%/9% YoY to INR34.05b/INR4.0b/INR2.2b, respectively. Its revenue growth was lower than AMRJ, which grew 11.5% YoY during the quarter. EXID's revenue/EBITDA/Adj. PAT grew 23%/15%/23% YoY in 9MFY23.
- Gross margin improved 120bp YoY (170bp QoQ) to 32.2% (est. 29.5%) due to benefits of softening RM basket.
- Further, operating leverage offset the benefits of better growth margins resulting in an EBITDA margin expansion of just 10bp YoY (+70bp QoQ) to 11.8% (v/s 15% for AMRJ). EXID's EBITDA improved 7.5% YoY to INR4b (v/s est. INR3.9b).
- Adj. PAT grew 9% YoY to INR2.2b (v/s est. INR2.3b) in 3QFY23.

Highlights from the management interaction

- Growth during the quarter was largely driven by volume growth as there were no price hikes taken during the quarter. Industrial and Auto OEM segments' growth has outperformed the replacement segment. Moreover, exports declined during the quarter. Industrial segment witnessed healthy recovery in 9MFY23.
- Auto OEMs/industrials segments would be taking price hikes with a quarter lag but the overall replacement market has not seen any price hikes over the last few months.
- Exide Integra (Li-ion based UPS) has seen a good initial response with the full benefit of the product to be visible from Feb-Mar'23 onwards.
- No benefits of operating leverage were visible in 3QFY23 due to tepid revenue growth that led to higher other expenses/employee expenses (as a % of sales). These offset the benefits of better gross margin.
- FY23 capex would be INR4.0-4.5b for the standalone business wherein Li-ion business capex would be INR35-40b over the next two years.

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Investors are advised to refer through important disclosures made at the last page of the Research Report.

Motilal Oswal research is available on www.motilaloswal.com/Institutional-Equities, Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters, Factset and S&P Capital.

Valuation and view

- EXID would see a lower impact of lead price inflation due to its captive smelter. It should have a better mix, fueled by a higher after-market share. We prefer EXID as it offers superior risk-reward considering its market leadership, technological alliances, backward integration, better mix, and a strong balance sheet – post-sale of the Insurance business to support the new Li-ion cell plant.
- Lithium batteries pose a risk to the 2W and 3W segments (~15% of revenue) and the Industrial segment (~26% of revenue) as well.
- The stock trades at 13.9x/11.6x FY23E/FY24E standalone EPS. Valuing it at ~12x standalone Dec'24E EPS + INR36/share for a stake in HDFC life Insurance (@ 40% Holdco discount), **we maintain our BUY rating with TP of ~INR215.**

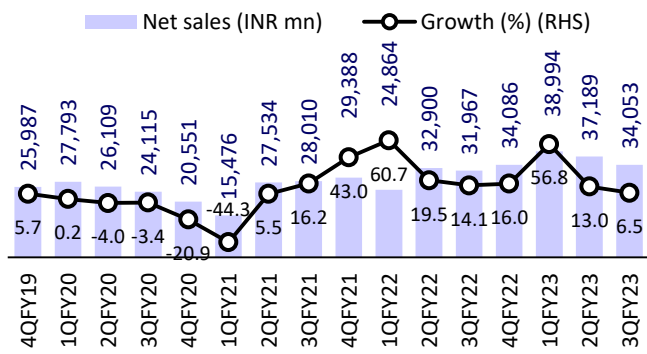
S/A Quarterly Performance**(INR m)**

Y/E March	FY22				FY23E				FY22	FY23E	
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4QE			3QE
Net Sales	24,864	32,900	31,967	34,086	38,994	37,189	34,053	38,095	1,23,817	1,48,330	37,081
Growth YoY (%)	60.7	19.5	14.1	16.0	56.8	13.0	6.5	11.8	23.3	19.8	16.0
Gross operating income	24,864	32,900	31,967	34,086	38,994	37,189	34,053	38,095	1,23,817	1,48,330	37,081
Growth YoY (%)	60.7	19.5	14.1	16.0	56.8	13.0	6.5	11.8	23.3	19.8	16
RM (%)	68.5	67.2	69.0	72.0	72.1	69.5	67.8	68.4	69.3	69.5	70.5
Employee cost (%)	7.4	6.5	6.4	5.6	5.5	5.9	6.2	5.8	6.4	5.9	5.9
Other Exp (%)	13.6	13.8	13.0	12.2	12.5	13.5	14.2	13.7	13.1	13.5	13.0
Total Cost	22,258	28,767	28,240	30,596	35,127	33,065	30,048	33,482	1,09,861	1,31,722	33,163
EBITDA	2,606	4,134	3,726	3,490	3,866	4,124	4,005	4,612	13,956	16,608	3,918
EBITDA Margin (%)	10.5	12.6	11.7	10.2	9.9	11.1	11.8	12.1	11.3	11.2	10.6
Change (%)	75.5	5.4	-7.5	-15.4	48.4	-0.2	7.5	32.2	3.0	19.0	5
Non-Operating Income	152	109	150	392	322	356	234	317	803	1,228	350
Interest	109	86	83	106	64	62	80	75	384	280	70
Depreciation	1,009	1,012	1,041	1,065	1,091	1,120	1,151	1,142	4,126	4,504	1,135
PBT after EO Exp	1,640	3,145	2,753	49,649	3,034	3,298	3,008	3,713	57,186	13,053	3,063
Effective Tax Rate (%)	23.5	25.5	25.8	17.0	25.4	25.3	25.8	24.8	18.1	25.3	25.3
Adj. PAT	1,254	2,344	2,041	2,755	2,263	2,462	2,232	2,793	8,394	9,751	2,288
Change (%)	185.4	2.4	-15.5	12.9	80.5	5.1	9.3	1.4	10.7	16.2	12.1
Key performance indicators											
Cost Break-up											
RM (%)	68.5	67.2	69.0	72.0	72.1	69.5	67.8	68.4	69.3	69.5	70.5
Employee cost (%)	7.4	6.5	6.4	5.6	5.5	5.9	6.2	5.8	6.4	5.9	5.9
Other Exp (%)	13.6	13.8	13.0	12.2	12.5	13.5	14.2	13.7	13.1	13.5	13.0
Gross Margin (%)	31.5	32.8	31.0	28.0	27.9	30.5	32.2	31.6	30.7	30.5	29.5
EBITDA Margin (%)	10.5	12.6	11.7	10.2	9.9	11.1	11.8	12.1	11.3	11.2	10.6
EBIT Margin (%)	6.4	9.5	8.4	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.4	9.1	7.9	8.2	7.5
Lead Price (INR/Kg)	156.2	172.8	174.3	175.0	169.2	157.6	173.6		169.6	137.3	
Change (%)	22.6	24.1	24.3	19.3	8.4	-8.8	-0.4		22.5	-19.0	

E: MOFSL Estimates

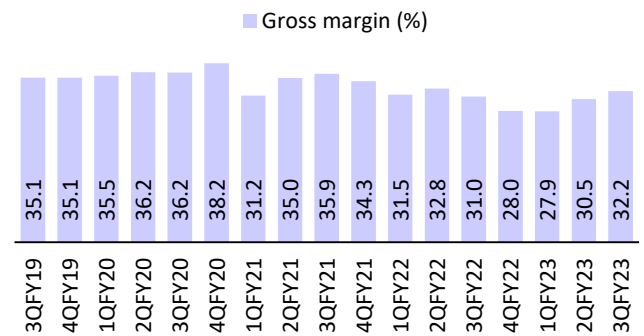
Key exhibits

Exhibit 1: Trends in revenue and growth



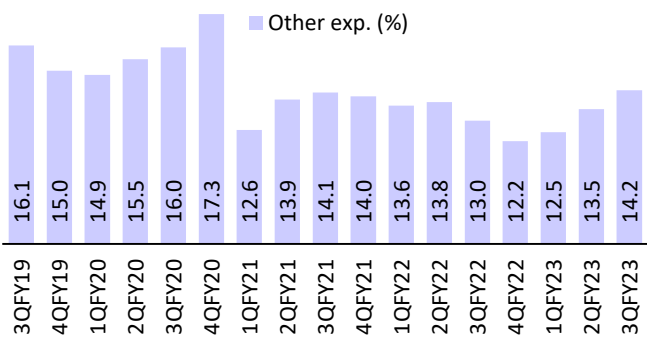
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Trend in gross margin



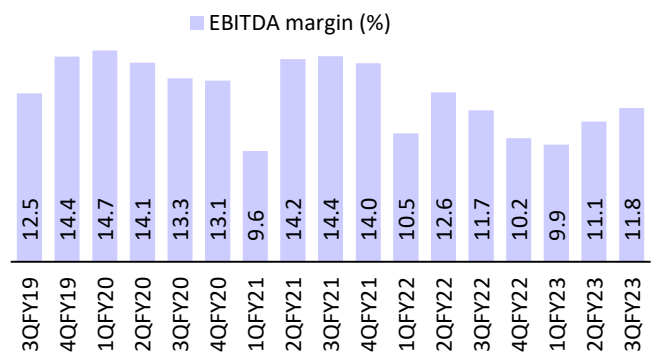
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Trend in other expenses as a percentage of sales



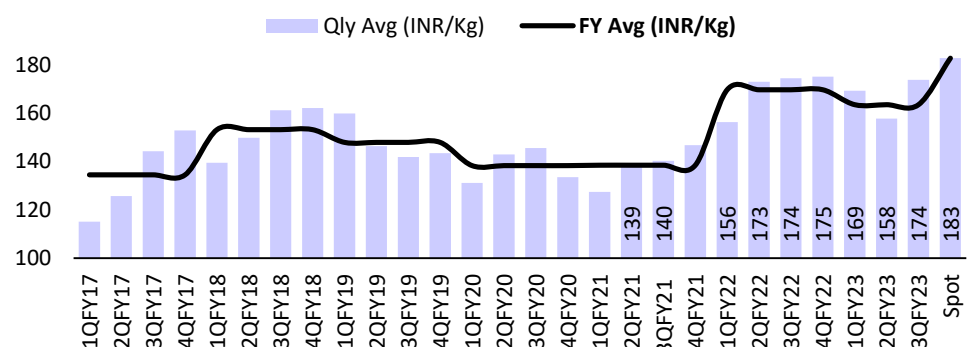
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: Trend in EBITDA margin



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Lead prices likely to soften from 2QFY23



Source: Company, MOFSL

Valuation and view

- **Industry structure remains duopoly; EXID leads:** While the industry structure remains largely a duopoly, EXID is the largest lead acid battery manufacturer in India, with leadership in auto OEMs and the Replacement segment. EXID has largely caught up with competitors by investing in technology and being more proactive in customer service and plugging the gaps in its product portfolio.
- **EXID to defend top position:** With demand recovery in auto OEMs and the Industrial segment, EXID should improve its market share. OEM demand saw a strong recovery from end-Jun'21, after the gradual opening of markets that

were shut due to Covid-induced lockdowns imposed by states. We expect value migration from unorganized to organized players, such as EXID and AMRJ, in the Replacement segment, driven by tax reforms such as GST and lower corporate tax rates. Healthy replacement demand would lead to better capacity utilization and margins.

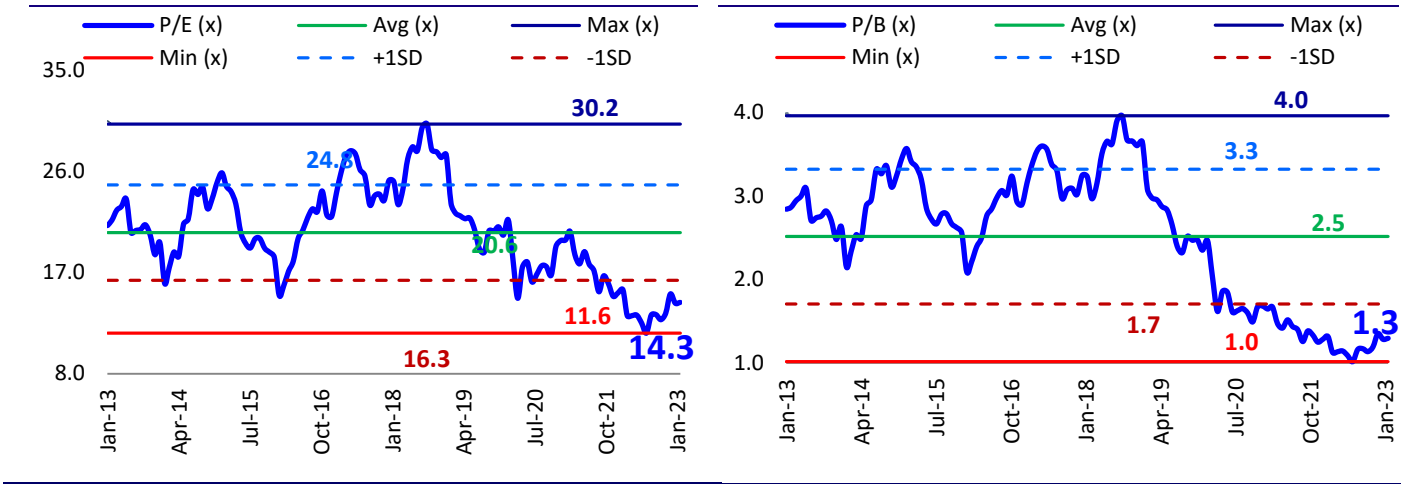
- **Electrification of 2Ws/3Ws a risk for lead acid battery players but new Li-ion battery plant a step in the right direction:** The government is pushing for the electrification of 3Ws/2Ws from CY23/CY25. The incentives offered by the government (FAME-2), coupled with the recently announced EV policies of the states, have brought e-2W prices almost at similar levels as its ICE counterparts. Unlike e-cars, e-2Ws/e-3Ws do not require a lead acid battery as an auxiliary battery. This would impact 15–20% of the revenue of lead acid battery players. Lithium further poses a risk to industrial batteries (~26% of revenue). Some concrete steps in this direction would potentially lead to the de-rating of the P/E multiple (due to decline in terminal growth). Its phase-1 6GWh Li-ion battery plant in Karnataka would be ready in the next 24-27 months and further capacities would be added, which is a step in the right direction.
- **Stake sale in Insurance business boosts EXID's balance sheet:** Over INR60b worth of stake in HDFC Life would be at its disposal after a lock-in period of one year. With EXID possibly looking to invest in lithium-ion cell manufacturing under the PLI scheme, this monetization of the Insurance business could not have come at a better time.
- **Valuation and view:** We raise our FY23E EPS to factor in the benefit from benign RM costs thus aiding margins while maintaining our FY24E EPS. EXID would see a lesser impact of lead prices inflation (v/s AMRJ) due to its captive smelter. EXID should have a better mix owing to a higher after-market share. We prefer EXID as it offers a superior risk-reward considering its market leadership, technological alliances, backward integration, better mix, and sizable war chest available to support the new proposed Li-ion cell plant. The stock trades at 13.9x/11.6x FY23E/FY24E standalone EPS. Valuing it at ~12x standalone Dec'24E EPS + INR36/share for a stake in HDFC life Insurance (@ 40% Holdco discount), **we maintain our BUY rating with TP of ~INR215.**

Exhibit 6: Revised estimates

(INR m)	FY23E			FY24E		
	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)
Net Sales	1,48,330	1,51,427	-2.0	1,66,453	1,70,111	-2.2
EBITDA Margin (%)	11.2	10.6	60bp	11.3	11.2	0bp
PAT	9,751	9,404	3.7	11,064	11,336	-2.4
EPS (INR)	11.5	11.1	3.7	13.0	13.3	-2.4

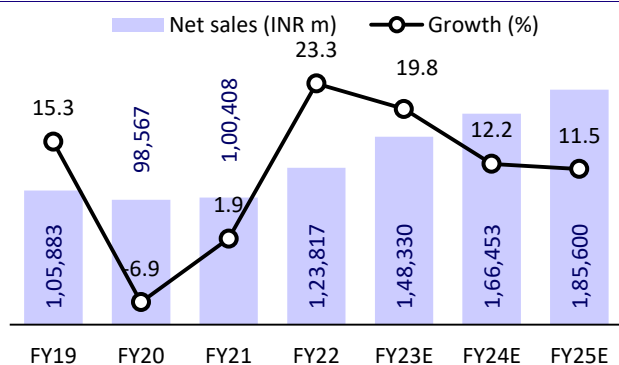
Source: MOFSL

Exhibit 7: Valuations – P/E and P/B trading bands



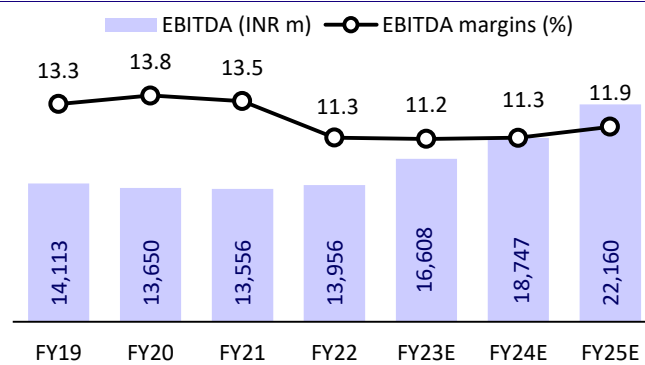
Story in charts

Exhibit 8: Trends in revenue and growth



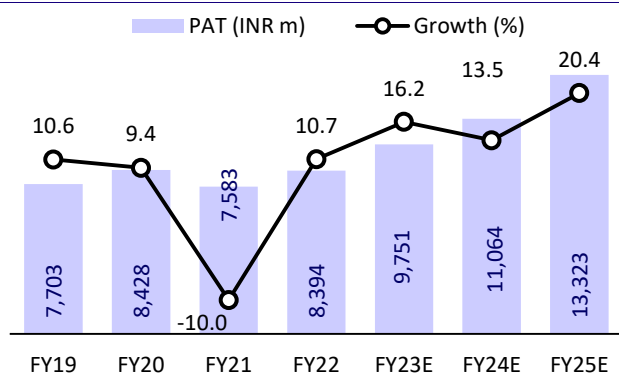
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: Trends in EBITDA and EBITDA margin



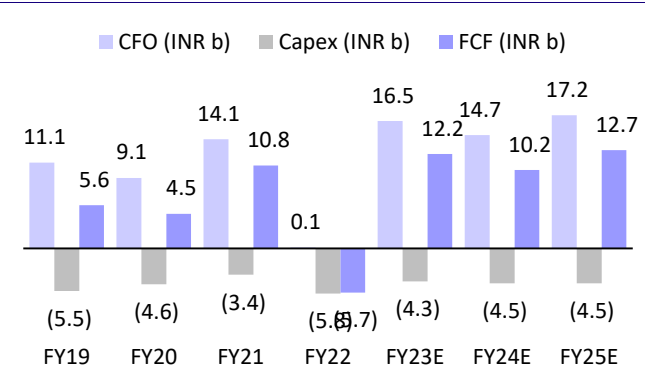
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: PAT and PAT growth trends



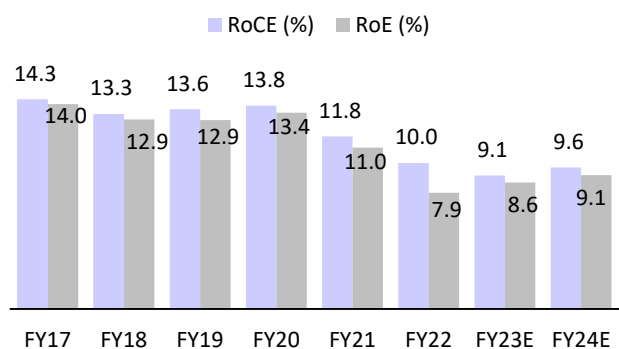
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: Strong FCF driven by healthy CFO



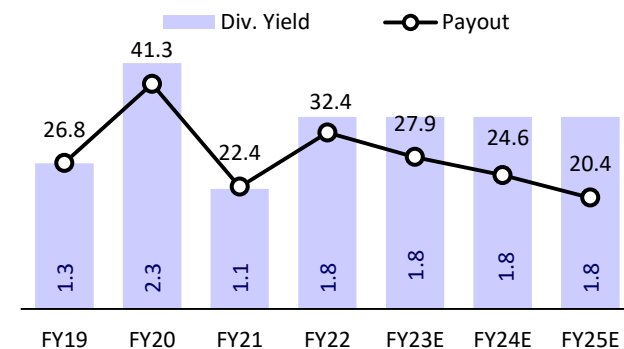
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 12: Trend in return ratios



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 13: Dividend yield and dividend payout (%) trends



Source: Company, MOFSL

Financials and valuations

Income Statement							(INR m)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Net Sales	1,05,883	98,567	1,00,408	1,23,817	1,48,330	1,66,453	1,85,600
Change (%)	15.3	-6.9	1.9	23.3	19.8	12.2	11.5
EBITDA	14,113	13,651	13,557	13,957	16,609	18,748	22,161
EBITDA Margins (%)	13.3	13.8	13.5	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.9
Change (%)	13.7	-3.3	-0.7	3.0	19.0	12.9	18.2
Depreciation	3,135	3,626	3,794	4,126	4,504	4,873	5,274
EBIT	10,978	10,025	9,763	9,831	12,106	13,874	16,888
Interest Charges	61	94	238	384	280	325	325
Other Income	385	639	654	803	1,228	1,302	1,322
EO Exp/(Inc)	(1,083)	217	-	(46,938)	-	-	-
PBT	12,386	10,352	10,179	57,186	13,053	14,851	17,883
Tax	3,945	2,097	2,596	10,351	3,302	3,787	4,560
Effective Rate (%)	31.9	20.3	25.5	18.1	25.3	25.5	25.5
Rep. PAT	8,440	8,255	7,583	46,835	9,751	11,064	13,323
Change (%)	26.3	-2.2	-8.1	517.7	-79.2	13.5	20.4
Adj. PAT	7,703	8,428	7,583	8,394	9,751	11,064	13,323
Change (%)	10.6	9.4	-10.0	10.7	16.2	13.5	20.4

Balance Sheet							(INR m)
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Share Capital	850	850	850	850	850	850	850
Reserves	59,020	62,111	68,085	1,05,206	1,12,236	1,20,580	1,31,183
Net Worth	59,870	62,961	68,935	1,06,056	1,13,086	1,21,430	1,32,033
Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred Tax Liability	1,751	1,019	771	-584	-584	-584	-584
Capital Employed	61,621	63,980	69,706	1,05,472	1,12,503	1,20,846	1,31,449
Application of Funds							
Gross Fixed Assets	32,069	36,039	42,740	48,132	52,506	57,006	61,506
Less: Depreciation	9,097	12,645	16,361	20,447	24,950	29,823	35,097
Net Fixed Assets	22,973	23,394	26,379	27,686	27,556	27,183	26,409
Capital WIP	2,549	2,969	2,008	3,124	3,000	3,000	3,000
Investments	21,994	21,050	30,924	60,765	61,237	71,237	71,237
Curr. Assets	34,208	35,008	36,978	41,273	53,780	56,205	71,500
Inventory	18,040	21,923	23,462	24,585	25,196	28,274	31,527
Sundry Debtors	10,812	8,154	8,875	11,925	14,223	15,961	17,797
Cash & Bank Balance	736	1,546	914	1,612	10,286	7,398	17,078
Loans & Advances	322	322	383	223	566	635	708
Other Current Assets	4,299	3,064	3,345	2,929	3,509	3,938	4,391
Current Liab. & Prov.	20,103	18,441	26,582	27,376	33,070	36,778	40,696
Sundry Creditors	11,428	10,361	16,483	16,175	19,378	21,745	24,247
Other Liabilities	5,539	4,478	6,856	8,009	8,940	10,033	11,187
Provisions	3,136	3,602	3,244	3,191	4,752	5,000	5,262
Net Current Assets	14,105	16,567	10,396	13,898	20,710	19,427	30,804
Application of Funds	61,621	63,980	69,706	1,05,472	1,12,503	1,20,847	1,31,450

E: MOFSL Estimates

Financials and valuations

Ratios

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Basic (INR)							
EPS	9.1	9.9	8.9	9.9	11.5	13.0	15.7
Cash EPS	12.8	14.2	13.4	14.7	16.8	18.7	21.9
Book Value per Share	70.4	74.1	81.1	124.8	133.0	142.9	155.3
DPS	2.4	4.1	2.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Payout (Incl. Div. Tax) %	26.8	41.3	22.4	32.4	27.9	24.6	20.4
Valuation (x)							
P/E	20.0	18.3	20.3	18.4	15.8	13.9	11.6
Cash P/E	14.2	12.8	13.5	12.3	10.8	9.7	8.3
EV/EBITDA	9.3	9.6	9.0	6.6	5.0	4.0	3.0
EV/Sales	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Price to Book Value	2.6	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2
Dividend Yield (%)	1.3	2.3	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Profitability Ratios (%)							
RoE	12.9	13.4	11.0	7.9	8.6	9.1	10.1
RoCE	13.6	13.8	11.8	10.0	9.1	9.6	10.7
RoIC	21.8	21.4	19.6	21.2	23.2	26.8	31.7
Turnover Ratios							
Debtors (Days)	37	30	32	35	35	35	35
Inventory (Days)	62	81	85	72	62	62	62
Creditors (Days)	39	38	60	48	48	48	48
Working Capital (Days)	60	73	58	60	49	49	49
Gross Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.0
Leverage Ratio							
Net Debt/Equity (x)	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1

Cash Flow Statement

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
(INR m)							
OP/(Loss) before Tax	12,386	10,352	10,179	57,186	12,105	13,873	16,887
Interest/Dividends Received	-217	-429	-362	-224	1,228	1,302	1,322
Depreciation & Amortisation	3,135	3,626	3,794	4,126	4,504	4,873	5,274
Direct Taxes Paid	-3,733	-2,494	-2,721	-10,475	-3,302	-3,787	-4,560
(Inc)/Dec in Working Capital	-468	-2,155	3,044	-3,525	1,940	-1,606	-1,697
Other Items	18	237	200	-46,966	0	0	0
CF from Oper. Activity	11,121	9,137	14,134	122	16,474	14,656	17,225
(Inc)/Dec in FA+CWIP	-5,510	-4,646	-3,384	-5,812	-4,250	-4,500	-4,500
Free Cash Flow	5,611	4,491	10,750	-5,690	12,224	10,156	12,725
(Pur)/Sale of Invest.	-2,147	1,397	-9,385	8,542	-472	-10,000	0
CF from Inv. Activity	-7,656	-3,249	-12,769	2,730	-4,722	-14,500	-4,500
Interest Rec./ (Paid)	-61	-100	-289	-443	-280	-325	-325
Dividends Paid	-2,459	-4,986	-1,700	-1,700	-2,720	-2,720	-2,720
CF from Fin. Activity	-2,520	-5,086	-1,989	-2,143	-3,000	-3,045	-3,045
Inc/(Dec) in Cash	-138	802	-623	709	8,752	-2,889	9,680
Add: Beginning Balance	785	647	1,449	826	1,534	10,286	7,398
Closing Balance	647	1,449	826	1,534	10,286	7,398	17,078

E: MOFSL Estimates

Explanation of Investment Rating	
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)
BUY	>=15%
SELL	< - 10%
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall be within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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