



3R MATRIX

	+	=	-
Right Sector (RS)	✓	■	■
Right Quality (RQ)	✓	■	■
Right Valuation (RV)	✓	■	■

+ Positive = Neutral - Negative

What has changed in 3R MATRIX

	Old		New
RS	■	↔	■
RQ	■	↔	■
RV	■	↔	■

ESG Disclosure Score

NEW

ESG RISK RATING	11.62			
Updated Aug 08, 2023				
Low Risk				
NEGL	LOW	MED	HIGH	SEVERE
0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40+

Source: Morningstar

Company details

Market cap:	Rs. 62,028 cr
52-week high/low:	Rs. 3,242/ 2,246
NSE volume: (No of shares)	5.5 lakh
BSE code:	500182
NSE code:	HEROMOTOCO
Free float: (No of shares)	13.0 cr

Shareholding (%)

Promoters	34.8
FII	28.1
DII	27.3
Others	9.8

Price chart



Price performance

(%)	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	4.0	9.9	27.3	8.4
Relative to Sensex	0.6	2.9	14.0	-3.5

Sharekhan Research, Bloomberg

Hero MotoCorp Ltd

Festive cheer with premiumization

Automobiles	Sharekhan code: HEROMOTOCO		
Reco/View: Buy	↔	CMP: Rs. 3,105	Price Target: Rs. 3,629
↑ Upgrade	↔ Maintain	↓ Downgrade	

Summary

- Healthy uptick in retail sales during Onam and Ganesh festivals builds up sales momentum for a 42-day festive period in Q3FY2024.
- Post receiving over 25,000 bookings for Harley Davidson X 440, the company is focussing on volume ramp up.
- We maintain our Buy rating on the stock with a revised TP of Rs. 3,629 on healthy recovery in EBITDA margin, strong response to HD X 440, continuous focus on premiumisation, expansion of its EV markets, and attractive valuation.
- The stock trades at a P/E multiple of 15.3x and EV/EBITDA multiple of 9.0x its FY2025 estimates.

With the start of the festive season beginning with Onam and now the Ganesh festival, we believe that traditional demand for two-wheelers, even in the entry-level segment, is likely to return, as has been seen in the recent past that traditional demand emerges on auspicious periods even in rural segments. In certain places, dealers are showing a significant customer interest in a delivery on Ganesh Chaturthi. Further, the launch of new products continues to stir the market, given the management is strategically planning to launch multiple products at numerous price points in FY2024 to improve its market share. Along with building up its in-house electric vehicle (EV) brand, VIDA, HMCL continues to invest in Ather Energy to strengthen its position in the domestic EV market. We continue to like the shift in gear in HMCL as with increased focus on premiumisation and new product launches, the probability of improvement in profitability along with the market share has enhanced. HMCL entered the premium iconic motorcycle industry with the launch of Harley Davidson X 440 (HD 440), and the company has already received healthy response for over 25,000 units for the HD 440. We believe the company's entry into the iconic luxury motorcycle segment is a significant change in the lifecycle of HMCL, as it is now getting advance bookings for HD 440, when as a mass market participant, it used to build up inventory and then stimulate demand development. We retain our Buy recommendation on the stock with a revised PT of Rs. 3,629.

- Festive cheer to drive volume performance:** We understand the uneven spread of the monsoon season may have some unfavourable weight on rural demand, but new product launches and expectation of the return of traditional demand during the festive period is expected to drive its performance in the near term. It has been observed that despite challenges, vehicle demand has been strong during the auspicious period in the recent past. It is understood that HMCL has witnessed a healthy uptick in retail sales during Onam in specific regions and dealer enquiries have been healthy for Ganesh festival in certain regions. Dealer inventory is assumed to be at 6.0-6.5 weeks. Given inventory levels are under control and festive demand is ahead, we expect wholesale dispatches are likely to remain healthy on a sequential basis in the near term.
- New launches building up an excellent portfolio:** In line with its guidance, HMCL has been consistently launching new products, given HMCL has strategically planned to launch multiple products in FY2024 to expand its market share. Our dealer check indicates that customers like HMCL's new products, which offer value-added features. HMCL is deliberately aiming to plug the gap in its portfolio and improving its strength in its strong segments. The company has revamped its entry-level offerings via new HF Deluxe and is expecting a traction in the entry-level segment through it. HMCL's latest launch in the premium iconic motorcycle segment – Harley Davidson X440 – has gained a healthy response in the market and received advance booking of over 25,000 units. Similarly, the company has also launched Karizma XMR with a price tag of Rs. 1.73 lakh. While HMCL has been launching new products in the market, we believe the real benefit of the new launches would be visible during the festive season as HMCL would have a wide portfolio to offer to customers and natural demand is expected to revive during the festive season. Though the premium products would not deliver volume growth like entry-level products, they would result in a sharp jump in ASPs and, hence, in the company's profitability.
- Continue to invest in Ather – A concrete strategy for EVs:** HMCL is following a two-pronged strategy in the domestic market. On one hand, the company has been building up its own brand, VIDA, while on the other, it continues to invest in Ather Energy. Recently, the leading electric two-wheeler player, Ather Energy, has raised Rs. 900 crore via rights issue from its existing shareholders. HMCL has also participated in the rights issue and invested Rs. 550 cr. In Ather Energy, Ather Energy enjoys an 11% market share in the domestic electric scooter market. Ather has been consistently building up its space in the domestic market, as recently it has launched three new electric scooters in India. The new line-up includes a brand-new model, Ather 450S, and two revised versions of Ather 450X. Price range of the new scooters starts from Rs. 1.30 lakh to Rs. 1.68 lakh. During CY2024, the company plans to expand VIDA's presence to over 100 cities (from 36 cities currently) by leveraging its existing distribution strength along with adding 100 exclusive outlets. We assume despite its late entry, the company's continued focus on EV would help it gain significant market positioning in the domestic EV market, subject to its long understanding of domestic customers.

Our Call

Valuation – Maintain Buy with a revised PT of Rs. 3,629: With healthy sales during Onam in specific regions, we expect retail sales during Ganesh Festival to be reassuring and build up sales momentum for the 42-day festive period beginning from Navratri, in Q3FY2024. With recovery in underline EBITDA margin for its ICs business over 14% in the recent quarter, HMCL is now focusing on volume growth and market share expansion and continues to target EBITDA margin in the range of 14-16%. Harley Davidson X 440 has received a healthy response in the market, reflected in order booking of over 25,000 units and, hence, the company is enhancing its focus on the premiumisation of its product portfolio. With its Hero 2.0 stores, the company continues to focus on bringing premiumisation in its distribution system. The company assumes that improvement in the customer's buying experience and increased digitisation would provide a long-lasting customer relationship, which would drive its replacement demand. Exclusive stores for premium products and upgradation of the existing dealership network would help it in attracting a new set of customers. With the introduction of earnings estimates for FY2026, we maintain our Buy rating on the stock with a revised target price (TP) of Rs. 3,629 on healthy recovery in EBITDA margin, strong response to HD X 440, continuous focus on premiumisation, expansion of its EV markets, and expectation of robust festive sales.

Key Risks

HMCL is looking for aggressive product launch plans and, hence, is exposed to product failure risk. Rise in raw-material cost and increased competition along with delayed recovery in the rural market would stem its growth prospects.

Valuation (Standalone)

Particulars	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	30,801	29,245	33,806	37,524	41,120	44,427
Growth (%)	6.8	-5.0	15.6	11.0	9.6	8.0
EBIDTA	4,019	3,369	3,986	4,766	5,551	6,220
OPM (%)	13.0	11.5	11.8	12.7	13.5	14.0
PAT	2,964	2,473	2,911	3,422	4,042	4,530
Growth (%)	0.3	-16.6	17.7	17.6	18.1	12.1
FD EPS (Rs)	148	124	146	171	202	227
P/E (x)	20.9	25.1	21.3	18.1	15.3	13.7
P/B (x)	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.1	2.8
EV/EBIDTA (x)	12.9	15.3	12.8	10.7	9	8
RoE (%)	19.5	15.7	17.4	18.9	20.2	20.3
RoCE (%)	18.9	15.3	17.0	18.4	19.7	19.9

Source: Company; Sharekhan estimates

Harley Davidson X 440: Nascent stage but a promising potential

- ◆ HMCL has been receiving a healthy response for its recently launched co-based Harley Davidson X 440. In a short span of time, the company has received more than 25,000 bookings and is now focussing on ramping up volumes. The company has stopped online bookings currently and would re-open them on volume ramp up. Initially, HMCL is expected to focus on HD X 440 only and over the period would expand its portfolio in the iconic premium motorcycle segment.
- ◆ Currently, demand is chasing supply (for HD X 440), which is not the case for mass market players (HMCL), where demand follows supply (inventory) in the mass market product area, which we like the most. Currently, Harley has 26 exclusive stores and, over the period, the expansion of Hero 2.0 stores would enhance the reach of Harley's product in the market. HMCL has already launched 38 Hero 2.0 stores and is continuously looking to enhance customer experience.

EV business: Expanding reach

- ◆ Post launching VIDA in the premium electric scooter segment, the company is planning to launch electric scooters at multiple price points over the period. Currently, it is focussing on expanding its dealer network and EV ecosystem in the market.
- ◆ The company plans to enter 100 cities by the end of the year. While HMCL has lately entered the EV space, it has been aspiring for a leadership position in the electric two-wheeler market.

Targeting underline EBITDA margin in the range of 14%-16%

- ◆ While urban demand continues to be healthy, we believe rural demand would come back during the auspicious and festive season. Management is expecting and preparing for a robust festive season sale in CY2023. Replacement demand is gradually improving. The return of replacement demand is a positive development for the industry.
- ◆ Management is looking for double-digit revenue growth for the two-wheeler industry in FY2024. Management has guided for double-digit growth in the industry's revenue for FY2024. Post recouping over 14% EBITDA margin in the ICs business, HMCL is now focussing on volume growth and market share gain. The company is focussing on its 125-cc portfolio for market share gain in the current year.
- ◆ HMCL has strategically reduced its inventory in Q1FY2024, though its market share improved by 300 bps q-o-q to 26.6% in Q1FY2024. Currently, channel inventory stood at 6.0-6.5 weeks. We believe HMCL is launching multiple products at numerous price points to gain market share and continues to focus on the premiumisation of its product portfolio.
- ◆ The company continues to target its EBITDA margin to be in the range of 14-16%, and assumes that in the near term, the EV business would impact its margin by 100 bps.

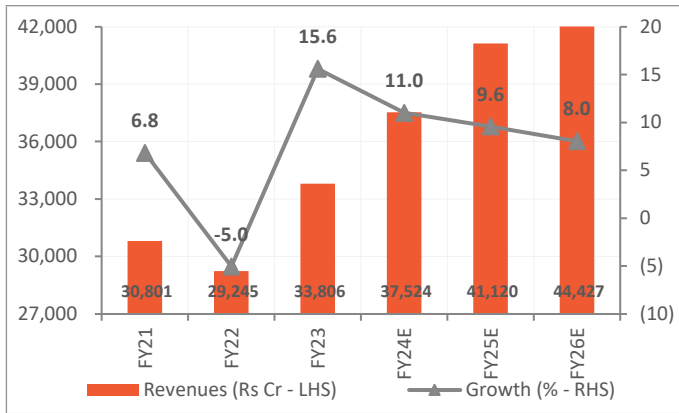
Results (Consolidated)

Particulars	Earlier		New		% change		Rs cr
	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	Introduction
							FY26E
Volumes	5743545	6168545	5743545	6168545	0.0%	0.0%	6593545
Revenue	37,524	41,120	37,524	41,120	0.0%	0.0%	44,427
EBITDA	4,766	5,551	4,766	5,551	0.0%	0.0%	6,220
EBITDA margin	12.7%	13.5%	12.7%	13.5%			14.0%
PAT	3,422	4,042	3,422	4,042	0.0%	0.0%	4,530
EPS	171	202	171	202	0.0%	0.0%	227

Source: Company; Sharekhan Research

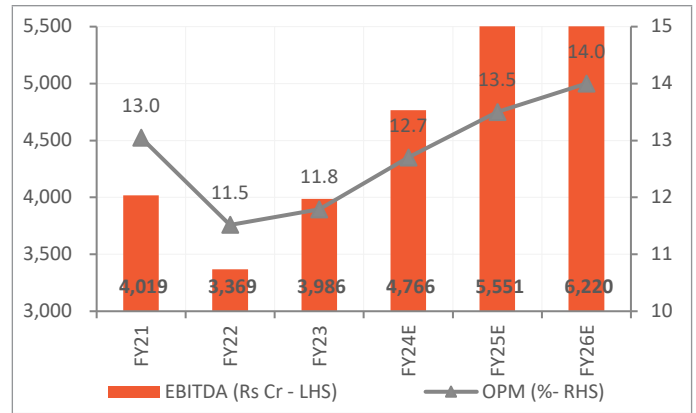
Financials in charts

Revenue and Growth Trend



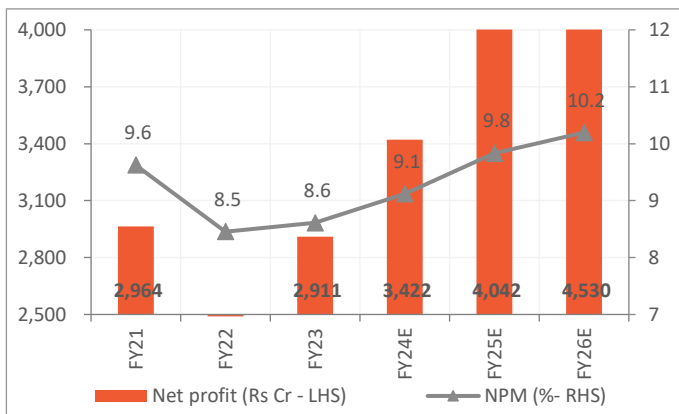
Source: Company, Sharekhan Research

EBITDA and OPM Trend



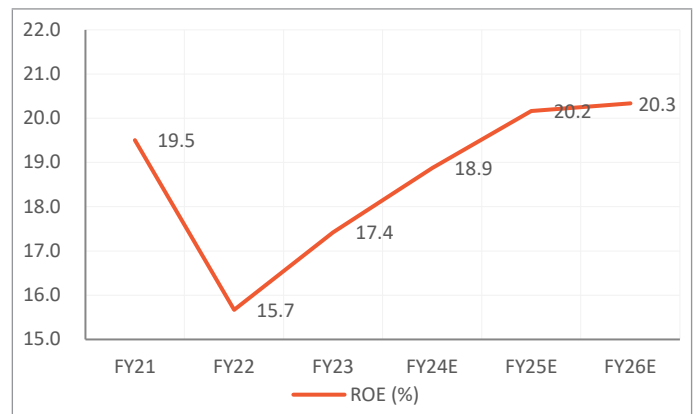
Source: Company, Sharekhan Research

Net Profit and NPM Trend



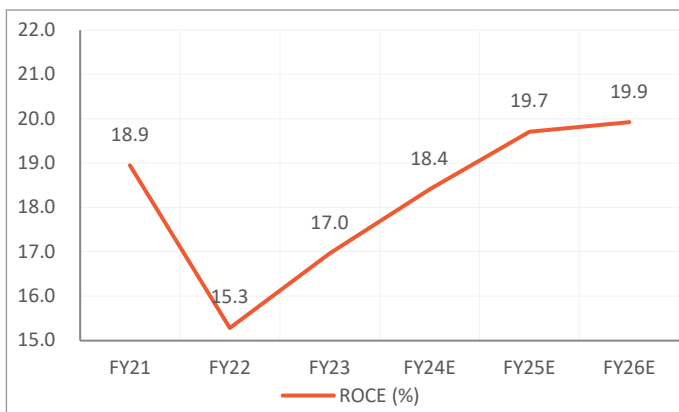
Source: Company, Sharekhan Research

ROE Trend



Source: Company, Sharekhan Research

ROCE Trend



Source: Company, Sharekhan Research

Outlook and Valuation

■ Sector Outlook – Steady improvement is on the cards

We expect growth momentum to recover in FY2024E, driven by improvement in rural sentiments in the domestic market. The government's expenditure on the infra segment coupled with increased preference for personal transport is expected to improve volumes. With rise in ownership cost due to price hikes and implementation of new regulations, the entry-level segment is facing headwinds; however, the premium segment is continuously performing. While export volumes have been muted but reaching to bottom. Export volumes are expected to improve gradually in the coming months. A positive recovery in African markets would augur well for two-wheeler exports from India.

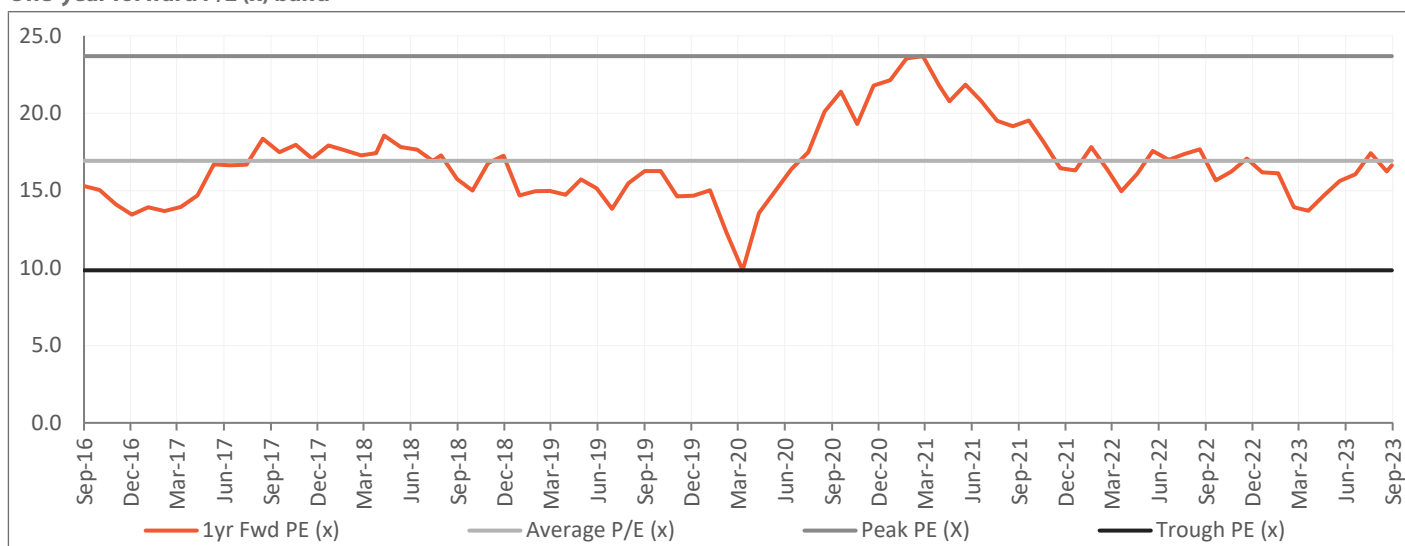
■ Company Outlook – Entered late but eyeing on a significant pie in the EV space

HMCL is the market leader commanding ~32.5% market share in the 2W space. Moreover, the company has the highest rural exposure with rural sales contributing about half of the volume. With strong farm sentiments on account of a good monsoon and higher crop production, we expect HMCL to retain its leadership position. The company has a strong balance sheet with net cash. HMCL has a healthy dividend pay-out ratio of 55-65%. The company is expected to benefit from the premiumisation of its products, stronghold in the economy, executive motorcycle segments, and aggressive product offerings in the premium bike and scooter segments. In addition, the company is well positioned to benefit from the adoption of electric 2W vehicles through its strong R&D, investments in Ather Energy, and strategic partnership with Taiwan-based Gogoro, a global leader in the battery swapping network. We remain positive on the company's growth prospects.

■ Valuation – Maintain Buy with a revised PT of Rs. 3,629

With healthy sales during Onam in specific regions, we expect retail sales during Ganesh Festival to be reassuring and build up sales momentum for the 42-day festive period beginning from Navratri, in Q3FY2024. With recovery in underline EBITDA margin for its ICs business over 14% in the recent quarter, HMCL is now focusing on volume growth and market share expansion and continues to target EBITDA margin in the range of 14-16%. Harley Davidson X 440 has received a healthy response in the market, reflected in order booking of over 25,000 units and, hence, the company is enhancing its focus on the premiumisation of its product portfolio. With its Hero 2.0 stores, the company continues to focus on bringing premiumisation in its distribution system. The company assumes that improvement in the customer's buying experience and increased digitisation would provide a long-lasting customer relationship, which would drive its replacement demand. Exclusive stores for premium products and upgradation of the existing dealership network would help it in attracting a new set of customers. With the introduction of earnings estimates for FY2026, we maintain our Buy rating on the stock with a revised target price (TP) of Rs. 3,629 on healthy recovery in EBITDA margin, strong response to HD X 440, continuous focus on premiumisation, expansion of its EV markets, and expectation of robust festive sales.

One-year forward P/E (x) band



Source: Sharekhan Research

About company

HMCL is the market leader in the 2W industry with a market share of 32.5%. HMCL is present in both the motorcycles and scooter segments, with a market share of about ~47% and ~7%, respectively. Motorcycles form the major chunk of revenue, contributing about ~93% to volumes, while scooters contribute ~7% to volumes. HMCL is a domestically focused company, deriving about 97% of its volumes from the Indian market. Further, HMCL has entered into the electric scooter space via its brand – VIDA.

Investment theme

HMCL is a market leader in the Indian 2W industry. The company commands a leadership position in the executive motorcycle segment. HMCL has strong penetration in semi-urban and rural areas, aided by its largest distribution network in the 2W industry. We expect HMCL to be the beneficiary of rural demand and increased personal mobility. The company is also making in-roads in the premium bike segment in partnership with Harley Davidson. Operating leverage, price hikes, and cost-saving under the leap programme would result in margin improvement. HMCL is expected to reach its historical margin of 14-16%. Hence, we retain our Buy rating on the stock.

Key Risks

- ◆ Success of rival products in the entry and executive bike segments can impact HMCL's market share in the segments. HMCL is expanding its product portfolio aggressively in the premium bikes segment.
- ◆ Failure in the premium segment can restrain its growth path.

Additional Data

Key management personnel

Dr. Pawan Munjal	Chairman,
Niranjan Gupta	CEO
Dhiraj Kapoor	Company Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer

Source: Company Website

Top 10 shareholders

Sr. No.	Holder Name	Holding (%)
1	Bahadur Chand Investments Pvt. Ltd.	20.03
2	Munjal Pawan Kant	14.01
3	Life Insurance Corp of India	11.22
4	ICICI prudential Asset Management Co Ltd/India	3.31
5	Norges Bank	2.48
6	BlackRock Inc.	2.43
7	WGI Emerging Markets Smaller Com	2.35
8	The Vanguard Group Inc.	2.23
9	SBI Funds Management Ltd.	2.13
10	Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd. (India)	1.68

Source: Bloomberg

Sharekhan Limited, its analyst or dependant(s) of the analyst might be holding or having a position in the companies mentioned in the article.

Understanding the Sharekhan 3R Matrix

Right Sector	
Positive	Strong industry fundamentals (favorable demand-supply scenario, consistent industry growth), increasing investments, higher entry barrier, and favorable government policies
Neutral	Stagnancy in the industry growth due to macro factors and lower incremental investments by Government/private companies
Negative	Unable to recover from low in the stable economic environment, adverse government policies affecting the business fundamentals and global challenges (currency headwinds and unfavorable policies implemented by global industrial institutions) and any significant increase in commodity prices affecting profitability.
Right Quality	
Positive	Sector leader, Strong management bandwidth, Strong financial track-record, Healthy Balance sheet/cash flows, differentiated product/service portfolio and Good corporate governance.
Neutral	Macro slowdown affecting near term growth profile, Untoward events such as natural calamities resulting in near term uncertainty, Company specific events such as factory shutdown, lack of positive triggers/events in near term, raw material price movement turning unfavourable
Negative	Weakening growth trend led by led by external/internal factors, reshuffling of key management personal, questionable corporate governance, high commodity prices/weak realisation environment resulting in margin pressure and deteriorating balance sheet
Right Valuation	
Positive	Strong earnings growth expectation and improving return ratios but valuations are trading at discount to industry leaders/historical average multiples, Expansion in valuation multiple due to expected outperformance amongst its peers and Industry up-cycle with conducive business environment.
Neutral	Trading at par to historical valuations and having limited scope of expansion in valuation multiples.
Negative	Trading at premium valuations but earnings outlook are weak; Emergence of roadblocks such as corporate governance issue, adverse government policies and bleak global macro environment etc warranting for lower than historical valuation multiple.

Source: Sharekhan Research

Sharekhan

by BNP PARIBAS

DISCLAIMER

This information/document has been prepared by Sharekhan Ltd. (SHAREKHAN) and is intended for use only by the person or entity to which it is addressed to. This Document may contain confidential and/or privileged material and is not for any type of circulation and any review, retransmission, or any other use is strictly prohibited. This information/ document is subject to changes without prior notice.

Recommendation in reports based on technical and derivatives analysis is based on studying charts of a stock's price movement, trading volume, outstanding positions, as opposed to focusing on a company's fundamentals and as such, may not match with a report on a company's fundamentals. However, this would only apply for information/document focused on technical and derivatives research and shall not apply to reports/documents/information focused on fundamental research.

This information/document does not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument or as an official confirmation of any transaction. Though disseminated to all customers who are due to receive the same, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. SHAREKHAN will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this information/report.

The information contained herein is obtained from publicly available data or other sources believed to be reliable and SHAREKHAN has not independently verified the accuracy and completeness of the said data and hence it should not be relied upon as such. While we would endeavour to update the information herein on reasonable basis, SHAREKHAN, its subsidiaries and associated companies, their directors and employees ("SHAREKHAN and affiliates") are under no obligation to update or keep the information current. Also, there may be regulatory, compliance, or other reasons that may prevent SHAREKHAN and affiliates from doing so. This document is prepared for assistance only and is not intended to be and must not alone be taken as the basis for an investment decision. Recipients of this report should also be aware that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and value of investments can go down as well. The user assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. Each recipient of this document should make such investigations as it deems necessary to arrive at an independent evaluation of an investment in the securities of companies referred to in this document (including the merits and risks involved) and should consult its own advisors to determine the merits and risks of such an investment. The investment discussed or views expressed may not be suitable for all investors. We do not undertake to advise you as to any change of our views. Affiliates of Sharekhan may have issued other recommendations/ reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusions from the information presented in this recommendations/report.

This information/recommendation/report is not directed or intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law, regulation or which would subject SHAREKHAN and affiliates to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. The securities described herein may or may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain category of investors. Persons in whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of and to observe such restriction.

The analyst certifies that the analyst might have dealt or traded directly or indirectly in securities of the company and that all the views expressed in this document accurately reflect his or her personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities and do not necessarily reflect those of SHAREKHAN. The analyst and SHAREKHAN further certifies that either he or his relatives or Sharekhan associates might have direct or indirect financial interest or might have actual or beneficial ownership of 1% or more in the securities of the company at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of the research report. The analyst and SHAREKHAN encourages independence in research report/material preparation and strives to minimize conflict in preparation of research report. The analyst and SHAREKHAN does not have any material conflict of interest or has not served as officer, director or employee or engaged in market making activity of the company. The analyst and SHAREKHAN has not been a part of the team which has managed or co-managed the public offerings of the company, and no part of the analyst's compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly related to specific recommendations or views expressed in this document. Sharekhan Ltd or its associates or analysts have not received any compensation for investment banking, merchant banking, brokerage services or any compensation or other benefits from the subject company or from third party in the past twelve months in connection with the research report.

Either SHAREKHAN or its affiliates or its directors or employees / representatives / clients or their relatives may have position(s), make market, act as principal or engage in transactions of purchase or sell of securities, from time to time or may be materially interested in any of the securities or related securities referred to in this report and they may have used the information set forth herein before publication. SHAREKHAN may from time to time solicit from, or perform investment banking, or other services for, any company mentioned herein. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall SHAREKHAN, any of its affiliates or any third party involved in, or related to, computing or compiling the information have any liability for any damages of any kind.

Forward-looking statements (if any) are provided to allow potential investors the opportunity to understand management's beliefs and opinions in respect of the future so that they may use such beliefs and opinions as one factor in evaluating an investment. These statements are not a guarantee of future performance and undue reliance should not be placed on them. Such forward-looking statements necessarily involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which may cause actual performance and financial results in future periods to differ materially from any projections of future performance or result expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Sharekhan/its affiliates undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking statements if circumstances or management's estimates or opinions should change except as required by applicable securities laws. The reader/investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements and use their independent judgement before taking any investment decision.

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks, read all the related documents carefully before investing. The securities quoted are for illustration only and are not recommendatory. Registration granted by SEBI, and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors.

Client should read the Risk Disclosure Document issued by SEBI & relevant exchanges and the T&C on www.sharekhan.com

Registration and Contact Details: Name of Research Analyst - Sharekhan Limited, Research Analyst Regn No.: INH000006183. CIN): - U99999MH1995PLC087498. Registered Office: The Ruby, 18th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai – 400 028, Maharashtra, INDIA. Tel: 022-6115000.

Correspondence/Administrative Office: Gigaplex IT Park, Unit No 1001, 10th Floor, Building No.9, TTC Industrial Area, Digha, Airoli-West, Navi Mumbai – 400 708. Tel: 022 61169000 / 61150000, Fax No. 61169699.

Other registrations of Sharekhan Ltd.: SEBI Regn. Nos.: BSE / NSE / MSEI (CASH / F&O / CD) / MCX - Commodity: INZ000171337; DP: NSDL/CDSL-IN-DP-365-2018; PMS: INP000005786; Mutual Fund: ARN 20669.

Compliance Officer: Ms. Binkle Oza; Tel: 022-62263303; email id: complianceofficer@sharekhan.com

For any complaints/grievance, email us at igc@sharekhan.com or you may even call Customer Service desk on - 022- 41523200/022 - 33054600