

# **Page Industries**

Neutral

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Bloomberg	PAG IN
Equity Shares (m)	11
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	420.4 / 5
52-Week Range (INR)	50450 / 34953
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-4/-15/-31
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1024

#### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

	(	- /	
Y/E March	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	47.9	48.3	54.3
Sales Gr. (%)	23.2	0.8	12.5
EBITDA	8.6	9.6	11.1
EBITDA Margin (%)	18.0	19.8	20.5
Adj. PAT	5.7	6.2	7.4
Adj. EPS (INR)	512.2	557.1	667.3
EPS Gr. (%)	6.5	8.8	19.8
BV/Sh.INR	1229.2	1453.0	1721.1
Ratios			
RoE (%)	41.7	38.3	38.8
RoCE (%)	40.5	37.0	40.6
Payout (%)	48.8	70.0	70.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	74.0	68.0	56.8
P/BV (x)	30.8	26.1	22.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	49.5	43.9	37.6
Div. Yield (%)	0.7	0.9	1.1

#### Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Sep-23	Jun-23	Sep-22
Promoter	45.1	46.1	46.1
DII	23.6	22.0	19.5
FII	22.0	22.0	25.3
Others	9.4	9.9	9.1

FII Includes depository receipts

# Weak results; recovery uncertain for now

CMP: INR37,687

■ PAG reported a revenue decline (8.4% YoY/8.7% QoQ) in 2QFY24 due to subdued consumer demand and a slowdown across all categories. Volume also declined by 8.8% YoY in 2Q and 7.6% YoY in 1HFY24.

TP: INR37,400 (-1%)

- GP margin contracted 130bp YoY but improved 240bp QoQ, aided by stable raw material costs. EBITDA improved YoY/QoQ on operational efficiency. The management aims to maintain EBITDA margins around 19-21% in FY24.
- The medium-term sales and earnings outlook remains uncertain for PAG.
  We maintain our Neutral rating on the stock due to elevated valuations.

### Weak revenue growth; improvement in margin

- Sales declined 8.4% YoY to INR11,251m (est. INR12,224m) in 2QFY24.
- EBITDA remained flat YoY at INR2,335m (est. INR2,396m).
- PBT was down 6.2% YoY at INR,1994m (est. INR2,110m).
- Adj. PAT fell 7.3% YoY to INR1,503m (est. INR1,580m).
- Gross margin contracted ~130bp YoY to 55.7% (est. 55.6%).
- As a percentage of sales, lower employee expenses (-60bp YoY to 18.1%) and other expenses (-200bp YoY to 16.8%) led to EBITDA margin expansion of ~140bp YoY to 20.8% (est. 19.6%).

### Highlights from the management commentary

- The management observes positive consumer demand trends in the economy and rural sectors due to festivities, but no notable improvement in urban and mid-premium segments.
- The slowdown has affected all categories, with no noticeable improvement in the urban and mid-premium segments. However, women's innerwear, particularly the innerwear and bra category, performed relatively better.
- The e-commerce channel saw a robust 31% growth, reflecting evolving consumer habits and a commitment to expanding online presence.
- PAG expects advertising expenses in the usual range of 4%-5% in 2H; they are usually low in 1H and high in 2H.
- The management has retained EBITDA margin guidance range of 19-21%.

#### Valuation and view

- Changes to our model have led to a ~4.4%/~5.9% reduction in FY24/FY25 EPS estimates due to lower volume in 1HFY24 and persistent near-term demand challenges.
- After a few years of an earnings decline (-4.3% PBT CAGR over FY18-21), PAG's performance in FY22 was encouraging with strong 57.5% EPS growth YoY. This seems to have petered out to a sedate growth of 6.5% in FY23. If demand recovers in the next half of the year, we believe that the company can still grow its earnings by ~14% over the next two years.
- PAG's medium-term earnings prospects have improved due to investments made in distribution, designs and technology. RoCE is likely to be ~40%, after falling to the late 30s in FY20 and FY21. However, given high valuation at 55x FY25E EPS, we retain Neutral on PAG with a revised **TP of INR37,400**.

Pratik Prajapati – Research Analyst (Pratik.Prajapati@MotilalOswal.com)

Tanu Jindal – Research Analyst (Tanu.Jindal@MotilalOswal.com)

Quarterly Performance												(INR m)
Y/E March		FY2	.3			FY2	24		FY23	FY24E	FY24	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE			2QE	(%)
Net Sales	13,413	12,282	12,233	9,691	12,324	11,251	13,260	11,415	47,886	48,251	12,224	-8.0%
YoY change (%)	167.4	13.3	2.8	-12.8	-8.1	-8.4	8.4	17.8	23.2	0.8	-2.6	
Gross Profit	7,311	6,999	6,408	5,488	6,562	6,262	7,412	6,350	26,207	26,586	6,796	-7.9%
Gross margin (%)	54.5	57.0	52.4	56.6	53.2	55.7	55.9	55.6	54.7	55.1	55.6	
EBITDA	2,978	2,379	1,928	1,343	2,419	2,335	2,626	2,188	8,627	9,568	2,396	-2.5%
Margins (%)	22.2	19.4	15.8	13.9	19.6	20.8	19.8	19.2	18.0	19.8	19.6	
YoY change	770.7	1.9	-23.1	-49.7	-18.8	-1.8	36.2	62.9	9.8	10.9	0.7	
Depreciation	180	188	200	213	210	246	230	221	781	907	216	
Interest	85	92	100	136	127	112	120	121	413	480	119	
Other Income	33	27	16	71	19	17	24	23	147	82	49	
PBT	2,746	2,125	1,645	1,065	2,100	1,994	2,300	1,869	7,581	8,263	2,110	-5.5%
Tax	675	504	407	282	517	491	570	471	1,869	2,049	530	
Rate (%)	24.6	23.7	24.8	26.5	24.6	24.6	24.8	25.2	24.6	24.8	25.1	
PAT	2,070	1,621	1,237	784	1,584	1,503	1,730	1,398	5,712	6,214	1,580	-4.9%
YoY change (%)	1,790.9	1.0	-29.1	-58.9	-23.5	-7.3	39.8	78.4	6.5	8.8	-2.5	

Keν	<sup>,</sup> Performa	nce l	Indicator	c

Y/E MARCH		FY23		FY24			
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
Volume growth (%)	150.0	1.0	-11.0	-15.0	-11.5	-8.8	
Realisation growth (%)	17.4	12.3	13.8	2.2	3.4	0.4	
2Y CAGR (%)							
Volume (2Y average)	110.0	22.0	6.5	-4.0	69.3	-3.9	
Sales	117.0	28.8	14.9	4.9	56.8	1.9	
EBITDA	LP	19.9	-7.7	-11.1	165.9	0.0	
PAT	LP	20.9	-10.3	-17.7	280.3	-3.2	
% of Sales							
COGS	45.5	43.0	47.6	43.4	46.8	44.3	
Employee Expenses	16.1	18.7	17.6	22.7	16.9	18.1	
Other Expenses	16.2	18.9	19.1	20.0	16.7	16.8	
Depreciation	1.3	1.5	1.6	2.2	1.7	2.2	
YoY change (%)							
COGS	187.8	7.8	4.7	-6.8	-5.6	-5.6	
Employee Expenses	41.4	30.1	13.0	9.9	-3.4	-11.4	
Other Expenses	111.8	26.1	21.0	0.8	-5.4	-18.6	
Other Income	-7.4	-50.1	-77.0	44.6	-42.5	-37.6	
EBIT	1,428.4	1.0	-26.2	-54.9	-21.1	-4.6	

E: MOFSL Estimates

MOTILAL OSWAL



## **Highlights from management interaction**

#### Performance and demand environment

- The management observes positive consumer demand in the economy and rural sectors due to festivities, but no notable improvements in urban and midpremium segments.
- Due to macro headwinds and challenging market conditions, revenue/volume declined 8.4%/8.8% in 2Q.
- In 1HFY24, revenue declined 7.6% and volume fell 10.2% YoY.
- There is a recorded decline in volume growth at the EBO channel level.
- Excess inventory accumulation in the industry has led to unsustainable business practices, impacting the overall ecosystem.
- The slowdown has affected all categories, with no noticeable improvements in the urban and mid-premium segments. However, women's innerwear, particularly the innerwear and bra category, performed relatively better.
- The management focuses on amplifying general trade distribution, expanding large format stores and exclusive brand outlets, expanding D2C business, enhancing customer experience, and fortifying product portfolio.
- The quantity and ticket size of purchases have decreased, mirroring the industry-wide pressure on volumes. Overall industry spending has risen, especially in healthcare and education, without a substantial increase in salaries.
- The e-commerce channel experienced a significant 31% growth, reflecting evolving consumer purchasing habits and a commitment to expanding online presence.
- Online business growth is evident across all categories, with the online business expected to reach high teens in the next four to five years.

#### Distribution channels and supply chain

- Distribution network expansion aligns with company plans, boasting 110,000 MBOs, 1,370 EBOs (addition of 40 In Q2), and 2,400+ large format stores as of Sep'23. Strategic focus areas include metros and tier two/three cities.
- There are total 1,372+ EBOs with 52/78 exclusive for woman/children.
- Presence over 118k+ MBOs.
- Expanding its footprint to 2,791+ cities/Towns.

#### **Costs and margins**

- Margin improvement in the quarter is attributed to rigorous cost control measures, despite prolonged price stability. While raw material prices have decreased, the weighted average cost basis means it will take time for these benefits to reflect in the P/L statement.
- Advertising expenses would be in the usual range of 4%-5% in the second half, with the first half on the lower side and the second half on the higher side.
- The management has upheld the EBITDA margin guidance range of 19% to 21%.

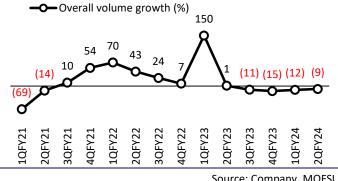
#### Other points

The base quarter numbers are restated due to the outsourcing partner supplying raw materials, converting them into finished goods, and sending them back to the company.

- Previously considered as income from operations, it is now netted off against all associated costs.
- Inventory duration reduced to 105 days by Sep'23 end, down from 150 days in 4QFY23.
- The decline aligns with industry trends, and the company has not lost any market share to its peers.

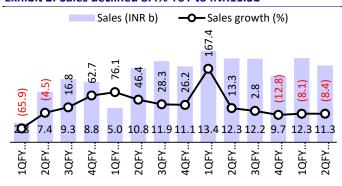
## **Key exhibits**

Exhibit 1: Overall volumes down 8.8% YoY on slow demand



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Sales declined 8.4% YoY to INR11.3b



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Gross margin contracted ~130bp YoY to 55.7%

Gross margin (%) 54.5 53.2 48.1

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: EBITDA margin expanded ~140bp YoY at 20.8%

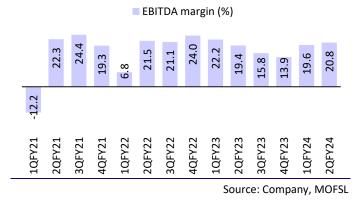
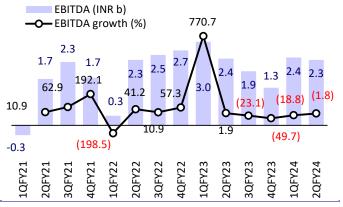
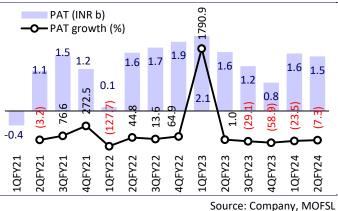


Exhibit 5: EBITDA declined 1.8% YoY to INR2.3b



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: Adj. PAT declined 7.3% YoY to INR1.5b



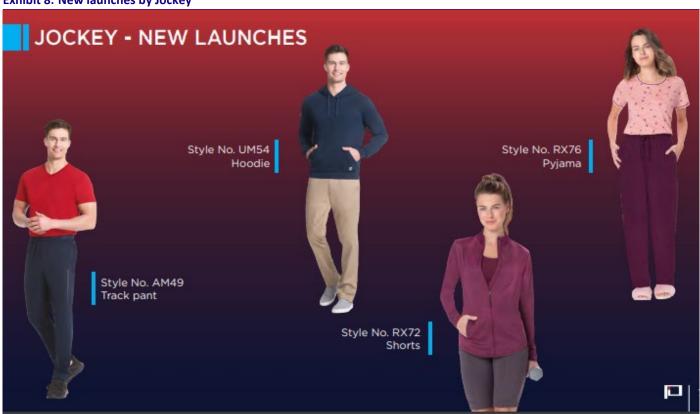
9 November 2023

#### **Exhibit 7: Sustainability focus areas**



Source: Company

**Exhibit 8: New launches by Jockey** 



Source: Company

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### Valuation and view

#### What has happened in the last 10 years?

- PAG has had a stupendous track record of revenue and earnings growth over the past decade.
- For the period ended FY23, sales/EBITDA/PAT posted a ~18.5%/~17.2%/17.7% CAGR. Earnings growth was led by best-of-breed sales growth, with lower utilization of the margin lever. With sales of ~INR47.9b in FY23, the growth potential for the Innerwear and Athleisure segments in India remains robust.
- Various factors have played an important role in driving impressive growth in financial metrics over the past decade, such as a) focus on revenue growth, b) the ability to manage a large labor force, c) design strength, d) the successful rollout of outsourcing, e) effective branding, f) premiumization with a value-formoney proposition, and g) the rapid expansion of EBO stores, facilitating crossselling.

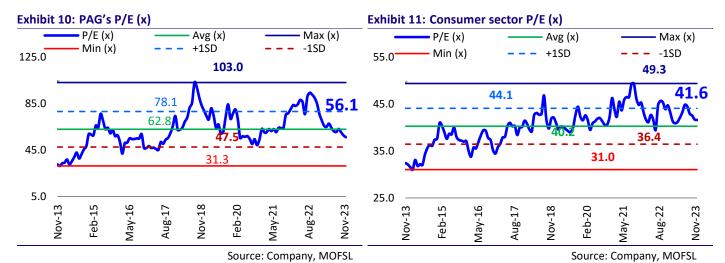
#### Our view on the stock

- Changes to our model have led to a ~4.4%/~5.9% reduction in FY24/FY25 EPS estimates because of declining volume trend in 1HFY24 and near-term demand challenges.
- After a few years of an earnings decline (-4.3% PBT CAGR over FY18-21), PAG's performance in FY22 was encouraging with strong 57.5% EPS growth YoY. This seems to have petered out to a sedate growth of 6.5% in FY23. If demand recovers in the next half of the year, we believe that the company can still grow its earnings by ~14% over the next two years.
- PAG's medium-term earnings prospects have improved because of investments made in distribution, designs, and technology. RoCE is also likely to be ~40%, after falling to the late 30s in FY20 and FY21. However, the valuation at 55x FY25E EPS is expensive; hence, we reiterate our Neutral rating on the stock with a revised **TP of INR37,400**.

Exhibit 9: We cut our FY24/FY25 EPS estimates by ~4.4/5.9% each

	Ne	ew	Old		Change (%)	
(INRm)	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Sales	48,251	54,291	50,893	57,827	-5.2	-6.1
EBITDA	9,568	11,122	9,827	11,629	-2.6	-4.4
PAT	6,214	7,443	6,503	7,913	-4.4	-5.9

Source: Company, MOFSL



## **Financials and valuations**

Income Statement	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	(INR m) 2025E
Y/E March	25,514							
Net Sales	19.9	<b>28,522</b> 11.8	<b>29,454</b> 3.3	28,330	<b>38,865</b> 37.2	<b>47,886</b> 23.2	<b>48,251</b> 0.8	<b>54,291</b> 12.5
Change (%)				-3.8				
Gross Profit	14,640	16,555	16,346	15,690	21,775	26,207	26,586	30,511
Margin (%)	57.4	58.0	55.5	55.4	56.0	54.7	55.1	56.2
Other operating expenditure	9,234	10,386	11,020	10,424	13,920	17,579	17,019	19,390
EBITDA	5,407	6,169	5,326	5,266	7,855	8,627	9,568	11,122
Change (%)	30.8	14.1	-13.7	-1.1	49.2	9.8	10.9	16.2
Margin (%)	21.2	21.6	18.1	18.6	20.2	18.0	19.8	20.5
Depreciation	280	311	614	629	655	781	907	955
Int. and Fin. Ch.	166	163	339	297	322	413	480	514
Other Inc Rec.	215	364	246	195	210	147	82	271
PBT	5,175	6,060	4,620	4,534	7,088	7,581	8,263	9,924
Change (%)	31.1	17.1	-23.8	-1.9	56.3	7.0	9.0	20.1
Tax	1,705	2,121	1,188	1,128	1,722	1,869	2,049	2,481
Tax Rate (%)	33.0	35.0	25.7	24.9	24.3	24.6	24.8	25.0
Adjusted PAT	3,470	3,939	3,432	3,406	5,365	5,712	6,214	7,443
Change (%)	30.3	13.5	-12.9	-0.8	57.5	6.5	8.8	19.8
Margin (%)	13.6	13.8	11.7	12.0	13.8	11.9	12.9	13.7
Reported PAT	3,470	3,939	3,432	3,406	5,365	5,712	6,214	7,443
Balance Sheet Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	(INR m) 2025E
Share Capital	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
Reserves	8,361	7,638	8,087	8,737	10,775	13,599	16,095	19,085
Net Worth	8,473	7,750	8,199	8,849	10,886	13,710	16,207	19,197
Loans	685	848	1,764	1,270	1,099	4,064	1,582	1,582
Capital Employed	9,158	8,598	9,963	10,119	11,985	17,774	17,789	20,779
Gross Block	3,048	3,982	5,364	5,481	5,977	7,586	10,586	13,586
Less: Accum. Depn.	669	976	1,309	1,618	1,953	2,734	3,641	4,596
Net Fixed Assets	2,379	3,006	4,055	3,863	4,024	4,852	6,945	8,990
Capital WIP	585	72	287	279	653	1,505	1,505	1,505
Investments	2,180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curr. Assets, L&A	8,979	10,427	10,787	12,835	16,356	20,521	19,332	21,534
Inventory	5,679	7,501	7,186	5,549	9,749	15,953	10,576	11,156
Account Receivables	1,480	1,238	7,130	1,371	1,651	1,461	2,247	2,529
Cash and Bank Balance	669	440	1,169	4,350	2,835	81	4,246	5,729
Others	1,152	1,247	1,694	1,564	2,122	3,026	2,263	2,121
Curr. Liab. and Prov.	4,855	4,783	5,165	6,879	9,084	9,154	10,044	11,301
Account Payables	1,363	1,220	938	2,175	3,628	2,876	3,701	4,165
Other Liabilities	3,216	3,403	3,953	4,504	5,198	5,955	5,814	
Provisions	276	159	273	200	258	322	5,814	6,542
								595
Net Curr. Assets	4,123	5,644	5,622	5,956	7,272	11,367	9,288	10,233
Def. Tax Liability	110	125	2	-22	-36	-51	-51	-51
Appl. of Funds	9,158	8,598	9,963	10,119	11,985	17,774	17,789	20,779

Appl. of Funds
E: MOFSL Estimates

# **Financials and valuations**

Ratios

Natios								
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	311.1	353.2	307.7	305.3	481.0	512.2	557.1	667.3
Cash EPS	336.2	381.0	362.7	361.8	539.7	582.2	638.4	752.9
BV/Share	759.6	694.8	735.1	793.3	976.0	1,229.2	1,453.0	1,721.1
DPS	131	344	161	250	370	250	333	399
Payout incldg DDT (%)	46.8	115.4	79.1	81.9	76.9	48.8	70.0	70.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	121.8	107.3	123.2	124.1	78.8	74.0	68.0	56.8
Cash P/E	112.7	99.5	104.5	104.8	70.2	65.1	59.4	50.3
EV/Sales	16.5	14.8	14.4	14.8	10.8	8.9	8.7	7.7
EV/EBITDA	77.8	68.6	79.5	79.7	53.6	49.5	43.9	37.6
P/BV	49.9	54.5	51.6	47.8	38.8	30.8	26.1	22.0
Dividend Yield (%)	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.1
Return Ratios (%)								
Asset Turn	2.8	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.6
Leverage	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1
Net Margin	13.6	13.8	11.7	12.0	13.8	11.9	12.9	13.7
RoE	41.0	50.8	41.9	38.5	49.3	41.7	38.3	38.8
RoCE	42.9	45.6	39.7	36.1	50.7	40.5	37.0	40.6
RoIC	55.9	55.2	42.2	49.8	77.9	47.9	46.1	59.6
<b>Working Capital Ratios</b>								
Asset Turnover (x)	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.5	3.2	2.7	2.8
Debtor Days	19	17	12	14	14	12	14	16
Creditor Days	18	17	13	20	27	25	25	26
Inventory Days	85	84	91	82	72	98	100	73
Leverage Ratio								
Debt/Equity (x)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
Cash Flow Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Profit before Tax	5,175	6,060	4,620	4,534	7,088	7,581	8,263	9,924
Depreciation	280	311	614	629	655	781	907	955
Other Non Cash & Non operating activities	46	-361	179	304	186	308	398	243
Incr in WC	690	-1,657	1,024	2,751	-2,910	-6,782	6,244	538
Direct Taxes Paid	-1,645	-2,056	-1,270	-1,259	-1,750	-1,904	-2,049	-2,481
CF from Operations	4,546	2,297	5,167	6,959	3,269	-16	13,762	9,178
Incr in FA	-565	-374	-744	-135	-979	-1,638	-3,000	-3,000
Free Cash Flow	3,981	1,923	4,423	6,824	2,290	-1,654	10,762	6,178
Pur of Investments	-1,872	2,216	400	-3,950	2,050	1,900	0	0
Others	338	65	-319	3,967	-1,891	-1,259	82	271
CF from Invest.	-2,099	1,907	-663	-119	-820	-997	-2,918	-2,729
Issue of Shares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incr in Debt	0	275	-470	-321	0	1,916	-2,482	0
Dividend Paid	-1,624	-4,545	-2,716	-2,787	-3,347	-2,900	-3,718	-4,453
Others	-359	-163	-589	-551	-617	-757	-480	-514
CF from Fin. Activity	-1,984	-4,433	-3,775	-3,659	-3,964	-1,741	-6,679	-4,967
Incr/Decr of Cash	463	-228	729	3,181	-1,515	-2,754	4,165	1,483
Add: Opening Balance	206	669	440	1,169	4,350	2,835	81	4,246
Closing Balance	669	440	1,169	4,350	2,835	81	4,246	5,729
E: MOFSL Estimates								

E: MOFSL Estimates

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing

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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Details of Compliance Officer: Neeraj Agarwal, Email Id: na@motilaloswal.com, Contact No.:022-40548085.

Grievance Redressal Cell:

Chovando redicada cen.							
Contact Person	Contact No.	Email ID					
Ms. Hemangi Date	022 40548000 / 022 67490600	query@motilaloswal.com					
Ms. Kumud Upadhyay	022 40548082	servicehead@motilaloswal.com					
Mr. Ajay Menon	022 40548083	am@motilaloswal.com					

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