



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	✗	↔	✗

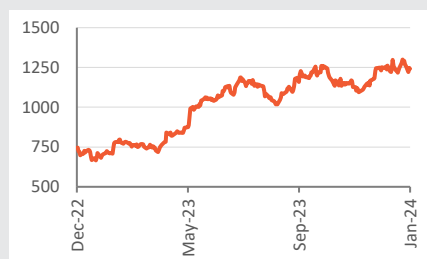
Company details

Market cap:	Rs. 1,03,329 cr
52-week high/low:	Rs. 1,310 / 696
NSE volume: (No of shares)	16.5 lakh
BSE code:	511243
NSE code:	CHOLAFIN
Free float: (No of shares)	40.3 cr

Shareholding (%)

Promoters	51.4
FII	25.0
DII	18.4
Others	6.5

Price chart



Price performance

(%)	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	0.4	6.6	8.7	73.1
Relative to Sensex	-0.1	-5.6	0.5	52.2

Sharekhan Research, Bloomberg

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd

Steady quarter Q3

NBFC	Sharekhan code: CHOLAFIN		
Reco/View: Buy	↔	CMP: Rs. 1,231	Price Target: Rs. 1,425 ↔
↑ Upgrade	↔ Maintain	↓ Downgrade	

Summary

- We reiterate our Buy rating on stock with an unchanged PT of Rs. 1,425. PAT grew by 28% y-o-y/15% q-o-q to Rs. 876 crore (4% higher than our estimate) led by lower credit cost. Other income is likely to remain high as the company received insurance brokerage license.
- Credit cost (cal as avg. AUM) declined to 1.1% (vs 1.3% q-o-q) on improvement in the assets quality. GS3 ratio declined to 2.82% as compared to 2.96% in previous quarter.
- AUM grew at healthy rate of 40% y-o-y/8% q-o-q to Rs. 134 bn (in line with our estimate). Disbursements growth, however, slowed down to 4% q-o-q (vs 7.6% q-o-q in last quarter) due to low growth in new businesses.
- At CMP, the stock trades at P/BV 4.2x/3.4x to its FY2025E/FY2026E BV estimates.

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company (CIFIC) reported high business and profit growth despite sequential slowdown in disbursements. NII grew 35.8% y-o-y/7.7% q-o-q to Rs. 2,171 crore (in line with our estimate of Rs. 2,152 crore) on the back of strong AUM growth. Though NIM (cal. on avg. AUM) remained flat at 6.7% on q-o-q basis. Yield on AUM (YoA) declined to 13.9% (14.1% q-o-q), while CoB rose to 8% (7.8% q-o-q). Fee and other income also remained strong at 16% q-o-q boosted core income growth (41% y-o-y/9% q-o-q). Other income was boosted by insurance income, as the company received insurance broker licences. Insurance income will now accrue in the company's book. Opex stood elevated at 41% y-o-y/12.5% q-o-q, leading to an increase in C/I ratio to 41.2% (40% q-o-q). PPOP grew 40.4% y-o-y/6.7% q-o-q to Rs. 1,516 crore (vs. our estimate of Rs. 1,500 crore) on the back of strong NII growth. Provisioning declined by 10% q-o-q, led by improvement in assets quality. Credit cost (cal. as avg. AUM) declined to 1.1% (vs. 1.3% q-o-q). GS3 declined 2.82% (vs. 2.96% q-o-q). NNPA reduced to 1.55% (vs. 1.56% q-o-q). GS3 in the new businesses reduced to 1.08% (vs. 1.42% q-o-q), as management adopted a cautious approach towards growth and quality amid emerging stress in the partnership-led CSEL business. PAT grew 28% y-o-y/15% q-o-q to Rs. 876 crore (4% higher than our estimate of Rs. 842 crore) on strong NII growth and lower credit cost. Business growth during the quarter remained strong as AUM grew 40.1% y-o-y/7.1% q-o-q on strong vehicles finance (5.6% q-o-q) and LAP (8.8% q-o-q).

Key positives

- Strong AUM growth (40% y-o-y/8% q-o-q)
- Improvement in assets quality, as GS3 declined to 2.82% vs. 2.96% q-o-q

Key negatives

- Disbursements growth was lower in new businesses
- Higher opex (C/I ratio rose to 41.2% vs 40% q-o-q)

Management Commentary

- GS3 ratio down to 2.7% (vs. 4.7% q-o-q) for partnership-led CSEL business. The company has tightened the underwriting process with existing partners.
- The company is at comfortable position at the funding front despite liquidity pressure. The bank's funding cost may increase maximum 15-20 bps. However, management does not expect upside risks to overall CoF from the current level.
- Elevated opex was due to investment in business expansion and some additional costs. Management guided for cost-to-assets ratio at 3%.
- Growth to remain strong in some segments like used vehicles, LAP, and home loans.

Our Call

Valuation – Maintain Buy rating with an unchanged price target of Rs. 1,425: At the CMP, the stock trades at P/BV 4.2x/3.4x to its FY2025E/FY2026E. We are optimistic on CIFIC's ability to deliver industry-leading growth aided by focus on diversification in product mix and steadily gaining market share. Further, healthy NIM level along with contained credit cost to keep earnings trajectory upgraded. We believe CIFIC would continue to sustain premium valuation relative to its peers given its ability to deliver industry leading growth, contained credit cost and healthy RoE ~20%.

Key Risks

Economic slowdown can result in slower loan growth, higher-than-anticipated credit cost, lower-than-expected margin, and emerging stress in partnerships-led new business.

Valuation

Particulars	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
NII	5,268	6,334	8,224	10,844	13,695
Gr.	3.7%	26.3%	41.8%	27.6%	23.8%
NIM	7.5%	7.1%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%
PPOP	3,750	4,450	5,913	8,098	10,152
A.PAT	2,147	2,666	3,313	4,834	6,050
AUM	76,908	1,06,498	1,37,079	1,76,069	2,19,397
RoE	20.2%	20.5%	19.7%	22.4%	22.6%
RoA	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%	2.9%	2.9%
C/I	35.6%	38.5%	38.2%	34.8%	35.2%
P/E (x)	47.2	37.9	31.2	21.4	17.1
P/BV (x)	8.6	7.0	5.2	4.2	3.4

Source: Company; Sharekhan estimates

Business growth momentum remains strong; disbursements in the consumers segment slows down

AUM growth remained strong at 40.1% y-o-y/7.7% q-o-q despite slowdown in the disbursements momentum. Vehicles finance (VF), which accounts for 60% of the book, grew 5.6% q-o-q (vs. 3.8% in the last quarter) on improving demand for UVs and CVs. Disbursements for VFs rose 5.3% q-o-q (3.8% in the last quarter). Overall disbursements growth slowed down to 27.5% y-o-y/3.9% q-o-q due to weak expansion in housing loans/new business segments. Disbursements in LAP grew by 6.8% q-o-q. As per management, the LAP segment has been performing well as it has all-time low delinquency and LTVs stood at 50%. Disbursements for new businesses remained flat sequentially, as management intentionally slowed down the segment's growth due to emerging stress in partnership-led CSEL business. Management expects segments like used vehicles, home, and LAP to record strong growth momentum.

Profitability remains intact despite NIM contraction

PAT grew 28% y-o-y/14.9% q-o-q to Rs. 876 crore (4% higher than our estimate of Rs. 842 crore), led by strong NII growth and low credit cost. Though NIM (cal. on avg. AUM) remained flat at 6.7% on q-o-q basis). CoB rose to 8.0% (vs. 7.8% q-o-q). Management expects the bank's funding cost may increase by 15-20 bps on liquidity constraints, while it does not expect upside risks to overall CoF as the company has multiple funding sources and recent positive development in rating [ICRA has reaffirmed the Ratings and Outlook upgraded to AA+ (Positive) from AA+ (Stable)]. Opex remained elevated as despite strong core income, C/I ratio rose to 41.2% (40% q-o-q). Credit cost (cal. as avg. AUM) declined to 1.1% (vs. 1.3% q-o-q).

Assets quality improves; GNPA for new businesses declines

GS3/NS3 ratio declined 2.82%/1.55% (vs. 2.96%/1.56% q-o-q). GS3 in the new businesses reduced to 1.08% (vs. 1.42% q-o-q) as the management adopted a cautious approach towards growth and quality amid emerging stress in the partnership-led CSEL business. Credit cost (cal. as avg. AUM) declined to 1.1% (vs. 1.3% q-o-q). PCR on stage-3 assets reduced to 45.1% (47.3% q-o-q). Gross stage-2/AUM reduced to 3.10% (vs. 3.25% q-o-q) and gross stage-2 PCR at 10.3% (vs. 10.2% q-o-q).

Results

Particulars	Q3FY23	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Y-o-Y (%)	Q-o-Q (%)
Interest Earned	3,142	4,221	4,610	46.7%	9.2%
Interest Expended	1,543	2,205	2,439	58.0%	10.6%
NII	1,598	2,015	2,171	35.8%	7.7%
Other Income	233	351	409	75.1%	16.3%
Total Income	1,832	2,367	2,580	40.8%	9.0%
Operating Expenditures	752	946	1,064	41.4%	12.5%
PPOP	1,079	1,421	1,516	40.4%	6.7%
P&C	159	400	359	125.8%	-10.3%
PBT	921	1,021	1,157	25.7%	13.3%
Tax	236	258	281	18.7%	8.7%
Net Profit	684	763	876	28.0%	14.9%
Dil. EPS (Rs./share)	8	9	10	25.2%	11.2%
Balance sheet items	Q3FY23	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY	QoQ
AUM	95,468	1,24,246	1,33,794	40.1%	7.7%
Disbursements	17,559	21,542	22,383	27.5%	3.9%
Loan book	93,546	1,22,889	1,32,532	41.7%	7.8%
Borrowings	89,305	1,19,470	1,23,103	37.8%	3.0%
Net worth (NW)	13,366	15,643	18,430	37.9%	17.8%
Key operating ratios	Q3FY23	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY	QoQ
NIM (cal)	7.0%	6.7%	6.7%		
C/I ratio	41.1%	40.0%	41.2%		
D/Ex	6.6	7.6	6.6		
CAR (standalone)		16.6%	19.4%		
Fee income/NII	8.9%	8.5%	14.9%		
Assets Quality	Q3FY23	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY	QoQ
GS3	3,367	3,719	3,811	13.2%	2.5%
GS/AUM)	3.51%	2.96%	2.82%		
NS3	1,988	1,959	2,091	5.2%	6.7%
NS3/AUM	2.07%	1.56%	1.55%		
Stage 3 Coverage Ratio (%)	41.0%	47.3%	45.2%		
AUM Break-Up	Q3FY23	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY	QoQ
AUM	95,468	1,24,246	1,33,794	40.1%	7.7%
Vehicles Finance	61,285	75,396	79,640	30.0%	5.6%
LAP	19,997	24,721	26,891	34.5%	8.8%
HL/AL	7,278	10,801	12,049	65.6%	11.6%
New Business	6,907	13,327	15,214	120.3%	14.2%
Disbursements Break-Up	Q3FY23	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY	QoQ
Disbursements	17,559	21,542	22,383	27.5%	3.9%
Vehicles Finance	10,446	11,731	12,354	18.3%	5.3%
LAP	2,255	3,192	3,409	51.2%	6.8%
HL/AL	1,072	1,575	1,587	48.0%	0.8%
New Business	3,787	5,044	5,033	32.9%	-0.2%

Source: Company; Sharekhan Research

Outlook and Valuation

■ Sector Outlook – Growth prospects look encouraging

The growing importance of NBFCs is reflected in the consistent rise of their credit as a proportion to GDP as well as in relation to credit extended by SCBs to the NBFC sector. Retail credit demand continues to remain robust, driven by strong macro tailwinds. Volumes continue to see an uptick. Urban demand has been strong and recovered fully from pandemic-induced disruptions. There are some green shoots related to improvement in rural demand. Asset-quality trends are encouraging. NBFCs with a diverse product offering strategy, strong asset-liability management, robust liquidity buffers, strong risk management framework, and healthy liability franchise have ample growth opportunities and are well placed.

■ Company Outlook – Attractive franchise

CIFC has a strong business model, demonstrated by superior performance across economic cycles. A robust collection mechanism aided by a strong credit risk assessment framework has helped it to navigate past business cycles and would enable it to navigate in the future also. Pristine asset quality has been the hallmark of the franchise. The company is likely to deliver a sustainable RoE of 18-20%. We are confident about the longevity of the franchise and best-in-class management in terms of execution capabilities and strong governance. The company is confident of sustaining strong business momentum by penetrating deeper into geographies.

■ Valuation – Maintain Buy rating with a revised price target of Rs. 1,425

Maintain Buy with an unchanged PT of Rs. 1,425: At the CMP, the stock trades at P/BV 4.2x/3.4x to its FY2025E/FY2026E. We are optimistic on the company's ability to deliver industry-leading growth, aided by focus on diversification in the product mix and steadily gaining market share. Further, healthy NIM level along with contained credit cost to keep earnings trajectory upgraded. PAT is expected to register a CAGR of 31% over FY2023-FY2026E, which would drive ~20bps ROA expansion to ~2.9%. We believe CIFC would continue to sustain premium valuation relative to its peers, given its ability to deliver industry-leading growth, low credit cost, and healthy RoE >20%.

One-year forward P/BV trend



Source: Sharekhan Research

Peer valuation

Particulars	CMP (Rs / Share)	MCAP (Rs Cr)	P/E (x)		P/B (x)		RoE (%)		RoA (%)	
			FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Cholamandalam	1,231	1,04,236	31.2	21.4	5.2	4.2	19.7	22.4	2.5	2.9
M&M Finance	279	34,422	20.0	12.9	2.0	1.8	9.9	14.5	1.6	2.1

Source: Company, Sharekhan estimates

About company

Cholamandalam was incorporated in 1978 as the financial services arm of the Murugappa Group. CIFIC commenced business as an equipment financing company and today has emerged as a comprehensive financial services provider offering vehicle finance, home equity loans, home loans, consumer loans, SME loans, wealth management, stock broking, and a variety of other financial services to customers.

Investment theme

CIFIC is a leading vehicle financier diversifying its product segments. A strong collection mechanism and rigorous risk-management practices provide comfort, reflected in pristine asset quality. We believe while the vehicle financing business will continue to be the mainstay for the company, home equity (LAP) has also been a significant contributor to the company's growth. The home loans segment has great potential to be built into a solid portfolio, considering the expertise of the company in handling typical customer profiles along with new consumer and SME business.

Key Risks

Economic slowdown can result in slower loan growth, higher-than-anticipated credit cost, lower than-expected margin, and emerging stress in partnership-led new business

Additional Data

Key management personnel

Vellayan Subbiah	Chairman
Ravindra Kumar Kundu	ED
Arul Selvan	CFO

Source: Company Website

Top 10 shareholders

Sr. No.	Holder Name	Holding (%)
1	AXIS ASSET MANAGEMENT CO. LTD.	4.50
2	AMBADI INVESTMENTS LTD.	4.02
3	VANGUARD GROUP INC.	1.93
4	CAPITAL GROUP COS INC.	1.90
5	BLACKROCK INC.	1.66
6	SMALLCAP World Fund Inc/Fund Paren	1.55
7	SBI FUNDS MANAGEMENT LTD.	1.54
8	HDFC ASSET MANAGEMENT CO. LTD.	1.50
9	Motilal Oswal Assets Management	1.43
10	Norges Bank	1.25

Source: Bloomberg

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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

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