

JK Lakshmi Cement

Estimate change

TP change

Rating change



Bloomberg	JKLC IN
Equity Shares (m)	118
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	101.4 / 1.2
52-Week Range (INR)	1000 / 607
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-8/-23/12
12M Avg Val (INR M)	254

Financial Snapshot (INR b)

Y/E Mar	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	67.4	78.5	91.2
EBITDA	10.6	14.1	16.9
Adj. PAT	4.1	5.4	6.2
EBITDA Margin (%)	15.8	17.9	18.6
Adj. EPS (INR)	34.5	45.9	52.9
EPS Gr. (%)	-12.9	33.3	15.3
BV/Sh. (INR)	299	339	386

Ratios

Net D:E	0.5	0.6	0.7
RoE (%)	12.1	14.4	14.6
RoCE (%)	10.0	12.0	12.2
Payout (%)	16.4	14.0	12.3

Valuations

P/E (x)	25.0	18.8	16.3
P/BV (x)	2.9	2.5	2.2
EV/EBITDA(x)	10.9	8.5	7.8
EV/ton (USD)	78	71	66
Div. Yield (%)	0.7	0.7	0.7
FCF Yield (%)	-1.5	-3.2	-1.9

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Jun-24	Mar-24	Jun-23
Promoter	46.3	46.3	46.3
DII	25.4	25.8	28.3
FII	11.3	11.3	11.5
Others	17.0	16.5	13.9

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR862

TP: INR1,080 (+25%)

Buy

Weak realization: a near-term challenge

Announces merger of UCWL and two more subsidiaries into JKLC

- JK Lakshmi Cement (JKLC)'s 1QFY25 operating performance was below our estimate due to lower-than-estimated realization and volume, which was partly offset by lower-than-expected opex/t. Consol. EBITDA was INR2.2b (11% miss) and EBITDA/t was INR732 (est. INR802). PAT dipped 10% YoY to INR703m (est. INR1.0b) during the quarter.
- Management highlighted that lower volume and weak realization impacted overall performance. However, the company has implemented various efficiency measures since the last one year, which helped to reduce costs. It is expecting further cost savings of INR50-75/t in the coming years. The merger of UCWL and other wholly owned subsidiaries will drive synergies, simplify corporate structure, and strengthen the balance sheet and cash flows for enabling faster growth.
- We cut our EBITDA/EPS by 10%/18% for FY25E to factor in pricing pressure and 1Q underperformance. We, however, retain our FY26E/FY27E earnings. We value JKLC at 10x Jun'26E EV/EBITDA to arrive at our TP of INR1,080. **Reiterate BUY.**

Consolidated volume flat YoY, while realization dips 10% YoY

- JKLC 's consolidated revenue/EBITDA/PAT stood at INR15.6b/INR2.2b/INR703m (down 10%/up 13%/down 10% YoY and down 6%/11%/30% vs. our estimate) in 1QFY25. Sales volume was flat YoY at 3.04mt (-2% vs. our est.). Realization dipped 10% YoY/6% QoQ to INR5,149/t (-4% vs. our est.).
- Opex/t declined 13% YoY (-3% vs. our estimate), led by a decline in variable/freight/other expenses by 17%/8%/3%. OPM improved 2.9pp YoY at ~14% and EBITDA/t rose 13% YoY to INR732 in 1QFY25.
- Depreciation/finance costs increased 29%/46% YoY. Other income was up 18% YoY. PAT was down 10% YoY at INR703m.

Highlights from the management commentary

- Cement demand growth is now expected at 6-7% in FY25 vs. the earlier estimate of 7-8%. Further, the price declined INR5-7/bag in Jul'24.
- Focus on geo-mix optimization, supply chain efficiency, an increase in AFR and green power led to cost reduction. Green power share stood at ~48%.
- It expects cost savings of INR50-70/t through initiatives in manufacturing cost rationalization and product mix optimization.

Valuation and view

- JKLC's 1QFY25 performance was below our estimates due to higher decline in realizations. However, its cost-efficiency measures, geo-mix optimization, increasing green energy, AFR share, digitization, and automation helped it to reduce overall cost/t. It is expanding its market footprint and aims to raise the grinding capacity to 30mtpa by 2030 from its current capacity of 16.4mtpa.

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- Given the accelerated capex plans, we estimate JKLC's net debt to mount to INR30b from INR16.4b as of Jun'24. However, its net debt-to-EBITDA ratio is likely to be comfortable at <2.0x by FY27E. The stock trades at 8.5x FY26E EV/EBITDA (consolidated). We value JKLC at 10x Jun'26E EV/EBITDA to arrive at our TP of INR1,080. **We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock.**

Quarterly performance (consolidated)

	FY24				FY25				FY24	FY25E	FY25	Var.
Y/E March	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE			1QE	(%)
Sales Volumes (mt)	3.04	2.73	2.96	3.26	3.04	2.92	3.26	3.74	11.99	12.95	3.10	(2)
YoY Change (%)	1.2	12.3	7.6	0.9	0.0	6.8	10.1	14.6	5.0	8.0	2.1	
Net Sales	17.3	15.7	17.0	17.8	15.6	14.9	17.1	19.8	67.9	67.4	16.7	(6)
YoY Change (%)	4.6	14.6	9.0	(4.4)	(9.6)	(5.7)	0.3	11.1	5.2	(0.8)	(3.6)	
EBITDA	2.0	2.2	3.0	3.4	2.2	1.8	2.7	4.0	10.5	10.6	2.5	(11)
Margin (%)	11.3	13.8	17.7	18.9	14.2	12.1	15.5	20.1	15.5	15.8	14.9	
Depreciation	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.5	2.9	0.7	0
Interest	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	2.0	0.5	3
Other Income	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.2	(28)
PBT before EO expense	1.2	1.4	2.1	2.5	1.2	0.8	1.6	3.0	7.2	6.5	1.5	(22)
Extra-Ord. expense	-	-	(0.1)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.1)	-	-	
PBT	1.2	1.4	2.2	2.5	1.2	0.8	1.6	3.0	7.3	6.5	1.5	(22)
Tax	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.9	2.4	2.2	0.5	
Prior period tax adj.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rate (%)	32.7	32.0	32.7	35.1	43.6	34.3	34.3	30.7	33.4	34.3	32.6	
Reported PAT	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.6	0.7	0.5	1.1	2.0	4.9	4.3	1.0	(35)
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	(0.1)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	-	
Adj. PAT	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.9	2.0	4.7	4.1	1.0	(30)
YoY Change (%)	(29.4)	51.9	80.1	42.7	(10.4)	(54.5)	(31.5)	26.6	29.9	(12.9)	27.5	
Per ton analysis (INR)												
Net realization	5,699	5,763	5,753	5,459	5,149	5,089	5,239	5,296	5,662	5,201	5,379	(4)
RM Cost	1,385	1,255	1,066	1,140	1,269	1,269	1,204	427	1,210	1,010	1,140	11
Employee Expenses	357	382	370	292	334	381	348	317	348	343	341	(2)
Power, Oil, and Fuel	1,508	1,574	1,492	1,273	1,127	1,107	1,167	1,822	1,455	1,333	1,333	(15)
Freight and Handling Outward	1,131	1,094	1,117	1,064	1,038	1,028	1,038	1,065	1,101	1,044	1,074	(3)
Other Expenses	672	663	687	658	650	690	670	600	670	650	688	(6)
Total Expenses	5,053	4,968	4,732	4,428	4,417	4,474	4,426	4,233	4,784	4,379	4,577	(3)
EBITDA	646	795	1,021	1,032	732	615	813	1,064	878	822	802	(9)

Source: Company, MOFSL



Highlights from the management commentary

Demand and pricing

- Lower realization and lower volume hit profitability. Post-Holi, demand continued to be weak followed by the general elections. A few markets have higher dependency on migrant labor, which hurt overall demand. Further, price was under pressure and in Jul'24, prices further declined (down INR5-7/bag on an average). The company's realization drop was higher due to change in distribution mix and slightly higher clinker sales (which has lower realization). Cement demand growth is now expected 6-7% in FY25 vs. (earlier est. of 7-8%).

Operational efficiency

- Focus on geo-mix optimization, supply chain efficiency, increase in AFR, and green energy led to cost reduction. AFR share increased to 12% vs. 7% in 1QFY24. Green energy share was ~48% vs. 39% in FY24. Further lead distance declined to 372km vs. 384 in 1QFY24. Premium product share was at ~30%.

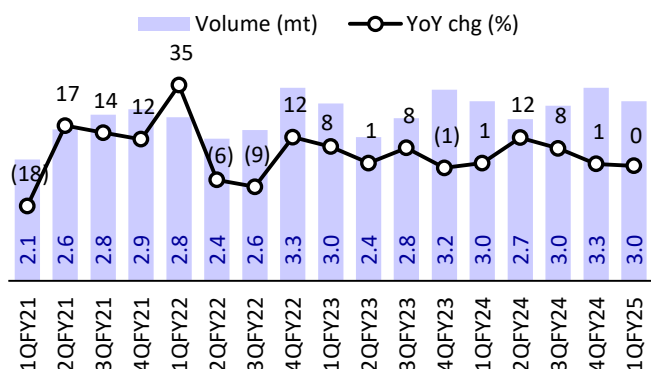
- Non-cement revenue stood at INR1.32b vs. INR1.33b in 1QFY24. RMC revenue stood at INR720m vs. INR630m in 1QFY24. Margin stood at ~5%.
- Average fuel cost stood at INR1.63/kcal vs. INR1.68/Kcal in 4QFY24. It expects fuel cost to be at INR1.62-INR1.65/kcal.
- Expects cost savings of INR50-70/t through various initiatives i.e. increasing AFR share, as Phase I commissioned at Sirohi and planning 2nd Phase to increase AFR share to 17-18%. At Durg, the AFR share stood at 10% and trying to increase to upto 12%. Further, adding more solar power plant to reduce cost and increase green power share. Working on technology side to optimize pyro process, which will drive some savings. Secondly, product mix optimization will also lead to some savings. While the company maintaining its Geo-mix strategy.

Capacity expansion and capex

- **UCWL line 2 ramp up** is expected to be gradual as the grinding capacity was commissioned in Mar'24 only. It expects capacity utilization to reach ~60% by 4QFY25 and further ramp-up upto 75% in FY26.
- The brownfield expansion of 1.35mtpa grinding capacity at its GU in Surat, Gujarat, is as per schedule and expected to be commissioned in CY24. Further, 4.6mtpa expansion in East and Central will be commissioned in phases. Phase-I of Durg expansion, which includes – 1) brownfield clinker/cement expansion of 2.3mtpa/1.2mtpa at Durg, Chhattisgarh; and 2) greenfield split location grinding units at Prayagraj by FY26-end. The remaining two split location GUs in Madhubani, Bihar, and Patratu, Jharkhand, are expected to be commissioned in FY27. Total project cost for 2.3mtpa clinker and 4.6mtpa cement is estimated to be INR25b.
- The company is in the process of land acquisition and getting external approvals, such as environment clearance, etc., which is expected to materialize by end-FY25. After these approvals and land acquisitions, it will take 14-18 months to set up the cement plant in the Northeast. It expects north-east plant on stream by FY26-end vs. earlier estimate of FY27-end.
- Awaiting approval for the conveyor belt at Durg plant it is in the final stage and is expected in next one months, final approvals taking longer time.
- The company has limestone reserves at Sirohi for 15-20 years', which are due for renewal in 2030. The Udaipur limestone reserves are available until another 40-50 years and it acquired adjacent mines with a life of at least another 10 years. The company also has a limestone mine in Nagaur, with reserves of 50-60 years.
- Consolidated capex stood at INR1.5b in 1QFY25, with an expected spending of INR15-16b over 9MFY25. Consolidated gross debt stood at INR20.5b and net debt stood at INR16.5b as of Jun'24.

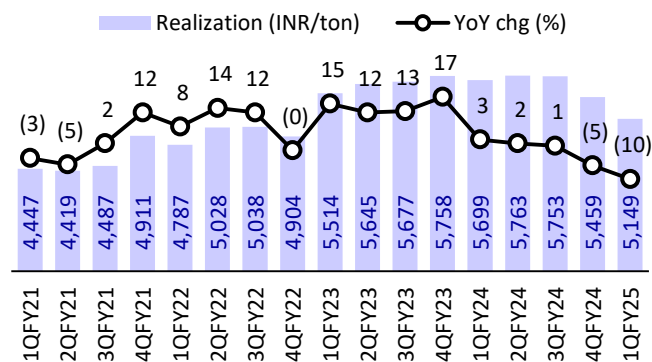
Story in charts

Exhibit 1: Sales volume (consolidated) flat YoY



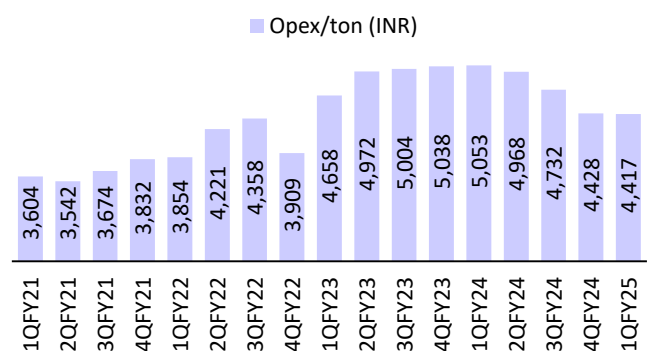
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Blended realization was down 10%/6% YoY/QoQ



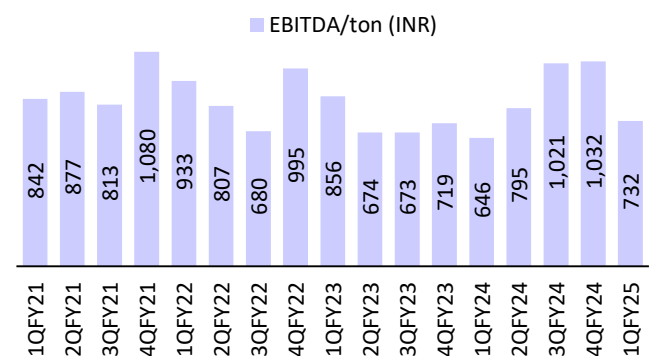
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Opex/t declined 13% YoY



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: EBITDA/t was up 13% YoY



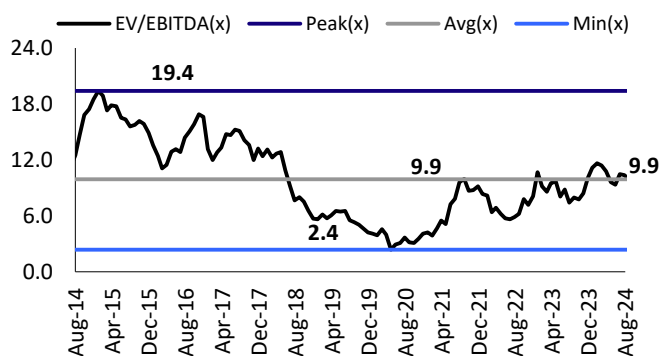
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Key performance indicators – per ton analysis

INR/t	1QFY25	1QFY24	YoY (%)	4QFY24	QoQ (%)
Net realization	5,149	5,699	(9.6)	5,459	(5.7)
RM Cost	1,269	1,385	(8.4)	1,140	11.3
Employee Expenses	334	357	(6.6)	292	14.3
Power, Oil, and Fuel	1,127	1,508	(25.3)	1,273	(11.5)
Freight and Handling Outward	1,038	1,131	(8.2)	1,064	(2.5)
Other Expenses	650	672	(3.3)	658	(1.3)
Total Expenses	4,417	5,053	(12.6)	4,428	(0.2)
EBITDA	732	646	13.3	1,032	(29.0)

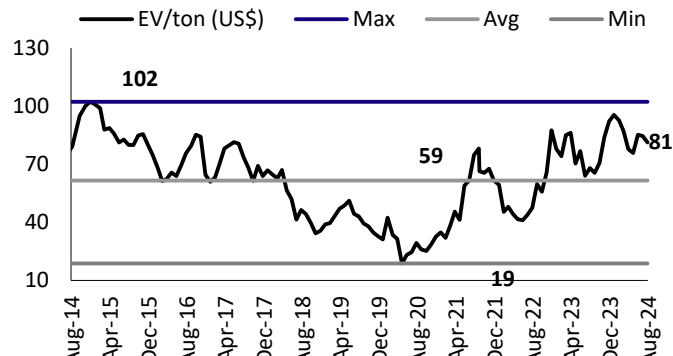
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: One-year forward EV/EBITDA chart



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 7: One-year forward EV/t chart



Source: Company, MOFSL

Financials and valuations (consolidated)

Income Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	43,641	47,274	54,199	64,515	67,885	67,363	78,520	91,198
Change (%)	1.1	8.3	14.6	19.0	5.2	-0.8	16.6	16.1
EBITDA	7,981	9,386	9,507	8,387	10,522	10,645	14,061	16,937
Margin (%)	18.3	19.9	17.5	13.0	15.5	15.8	17.9	18.6
Depreciation	2,198	2,253	2,235	2,283	2,460	2,883	3,452	4,302
EBIT	5,782	7,133	7,272	6,104	8,062	7,762	10,609	12,636
Int. and Finance Charges	2,250	1,920	1,422	1,334	1,504	1,997	2,325	2,642
Other Income – Rec.	460	726	683	575	681	758	828	903
PBT bef. EO Exp.	3,993	5,939	6,534	5,345	7,239	6,524	9,111	10,896
EO Expense/(Income)	302	379	270	0	-89	0	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	3,690	5,561	6,264	5,345	7,328	6,524	9,111	10,896
Total Tax	1,161	1,349	1,488	1,654	2,446	2,240	2,899	3,446
Tax Rate (%)	31.4	24.3	23.7	30.9	33.4	34.3	31.8	31.6
Reported PAT	2,530	4,211	4,776	3,691	4,882	4,284	6,213	7,450
Minority Interest	49	157	140	105	163	228	807	1,218
PAT Adj. for EO items and MI	2,686	4,311	4,073	3,586	4,658	4,056	5,406	6,231
Change (%)	464.9	60.5	-5.5	-12.0	29.9	-12.9	33.3	15.3
Margin (%)	6.2	9.1	7.5	5.6	6.9	6.0	6.9	6.8

Balance Sheet								(INR m)
Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Share Capital	589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589
Total Reserves	16,281	20,357	24,463	27,450	31,278	34,627	39,327	44,853
Net Worth	16,869	20,946	25,052	28,039	31,867	35,216	39,916	45,441
Minority Interest	(29)	128	267	370	1,704	1,932	2,738	3,956
Deferred Liabilities	(390)	68	531	1,327	2,651	2,651	2,651	2,651
Total Loans	19,871	16,531	18,565	18,463	20,249	24,306	30,506	36,206
Capital Employed	36,322	37,672	44,415	48,199	56,470	64,104	75,811	88,254
Gross Block	44,722	44,138	47,469	49,667	68,338	75,328	87,078	1,11,828
Less: Accum. Deprn.	9,598	11,748	13,992	16,275	18,734	21,638	25,111	29,434
Net Fixed Assets	35,124	32,390	33,477	33,392	49,604	53,690	61,967	82,394
Capital WIP	1,662	2,738	2,425	8,902	3,832	9,592	12,592	5,892
Total Investments	4,583	5,922	7,677	6,421	5,222	5,222	5,222	5,222
Goodwill	723	723	723	723	725	725	725	725
Curr. Assets, Loans, and Adv.	9,146	11,090	14,959	15,971	17,118	14,644	16,659	18,672
Inventory	4,806	3,662	5,810	8,416	9,912	7,463	9,473	10,862
Account Receivables	959	545	352	654	443	468	474	543
Cash and Bank Balance	328	3,719	5,729	3,390	2,673	2,473	2,354	2,787
Loans and Advances	3,054	3,164	3,068	3,511	4,090	4,240	4,359	4,479
Curr. Liability and Prov.	14,917	15,190	14,847	17,210	20,030	19,769	21,354	24,651
Account Payables	5,102	4,368	3,660	5,860	5,560	5,298	6,884	10,181
Other Liabilities	9,610	10,609	10,894	11,098	14,261	14,261	14,261	14,261
Provisions	205	212	293	252	209	209	209	209
Net Current Assets	(5,770)	(4,100)	112	(1,239)	(2,913)	(5,125)	(4,695)	(5,979)
Appl. of Funds	36,322	37,672	44,415	48,199	56,470	64,104	75,811	88,254

Source: Company, MOFSL estimates

Financials and valuations (standalone)

Ratios

Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	22.8	36.6	34.6	30.5	39.6	34.5	45.9	52.9
Cash EPS	41.5	55.8	53.6	49.9	60.5	59.0	75.3	89.5
BV/Share	143.3	178.0	212.8	238.2	270.7	299.2	339.1	386.1
DPS	3.1	3.8	5.0	3.8	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0
Payout (%)	19.6	12.1	13.8	13.3	18.0	16.4	14.0	12.3
Valuation (x)								
P/E	37.8	23.5	24.9	28.3	21.8	25.0	18.8	16.3
Cash P/E	20.8	15.5	16.1	17.3	14.3	14.6	11.5	9.6
P/BV	6.0	4.8	4.0	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.2
EV/Sales	2.8	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4
EV/EBITDA	15.2	12.1	11.8	13.0	11.2	10.9	8.5	7.8
EV/t (USD)	110	102	98	95	87	78	71	66
Dividend Yield (%)	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Return Ratios (%)								
RoE	16.9	22.8	17.7	13.5	15.6	12.1	14.4	14.6
RoCE	11.7	16.0	15.0	10.2	11.8	10.0	12.0	12.2
RoIC	12.2	17.2	17.4	11.6	14.0	12.3	14.3	14.0
Working Capital Ratios								
Asset Turnover (x)	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Inventory (Days)	40.2	28.3	39.1	47.6	53.3	40.4	44.0	43.5
Debtor (Days)	9	5	3	4	3	3	3	3
Creditor (Days)	43	34	25	33	30	29	32	41
Leverage Ratio (x)								
Current Ratio	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8
Interest Coverage Ratio	2.6	3.7	5.1	4.6	5.4	3.9	4.6	4.8
Debt/Equity ratio	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8

Cash Flow Statement

Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
(INR m)								
OP/(Loss) before Tax	3,993	5,939	6,534	5,345	7,325	6,523	9,111	10,896
Depreciation	2,198	2,253	2,235	2,283	2,460	2,904	3,473	4,323
Interest and Finance Charges	2,250	1,920	1,422	1,334	1,504	1,997	2,325	2,642
Direct Taxes Paid	(761)	(871)	(888)	(909)	(1,126)	(2,240)	(2,899)	(3,446)
(Inc.)/Dec. in WC	(483)	2,060	(1,526)	(1,135)	(430)	2,013	(549)	1,718
CF from Operations	7,196	11,301	7,776	6,918	9,733	11,197	11,462	16,132
Others	(701)	(983)	(976)	(576)	(741)	-	-	-
CF from Operations incl. EO	6,495	10,318	6,800	6,342	8,992	11,197	11,462	16,132
(Inc.)/Dec. in FA	(1,047)	(1,661)	(3,661)	(7,320)	(10,060)	(12,750)	(14,750)	(18,050)
Free Cash Flow	5,449	8,658	3,138	(978)	(1,069)	(1,553)	(3,288)	(1,918)
(Pur.)/Sale of Investments	(951)	(2,678)	(3,264)	4,070	818	-	-	-
Others	-	-	274	255	442	-	-	-
CF from Investments	(1,997)	(4,339)	(6,651)	(2,995)	(8,800)	(12,750)	(14,750)	(18,050)
Issue of Shares	-	-	-	-	931	-	-	-
Inc./(Dec.) in Debt	(1,552)	(3,392)	2,042	(431)	1,601	4,057	6,200	5,700
Interest Paid	(2,489)	(2,130)	(1,401)	(1,505)	(2,033)	(1,997)	(2,325)	(2,642)
Dividend Paid	(455)	(5)	(443)	(587)	(674)	(706)	(706)	(706)
Others	-	-	(90)	(136)	(181)	-	-	-
CF from Fin. Activity	(4,496)	(5,526)	108	(2,658)	(356)	1,354	3,168	2,351
Inc./Dec. in Cash	2	453	257	689	(164)	(199)	(120)	434
Opening Balance	29	30	484	2,701	2,837	2,673	2,473	2,354
Closing Balance	30	484	740	3,390	2,673	2,473	2,354	2,787

Source: Company, MOFSL estimates

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Explanation of Investment Rating	
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BUY	>=15%
SELL	< - 10%
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UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change
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