

Rossari Biotech

HPPC steady; outlook bright backed by capex, market gain; Buy

Rating: **Buy**

Target Price (12-mth): Rs.1,085

Share Price: Rs.831

With a diversified product portfolio and a strong balance sheet, we believe Rossari Biotech is well positioned to capitalise on emerging opportunities and drive healthy growth in coming years. We expect it is likely to deliver 18%/22%/25% revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGRs over FY25-27 due to swelling demand, capacity expansion and mounting exports. We expect a consistently better performance aided by capacity expansion, product launches and better margins. We value the stock at 25x FY27e EPS at a TP of Rs1,085.

Q2 performance. Supported by growth momentum continuing in HPPC, Rossari's Q2 revenue was Rs5bn, up 3.1% y/y, 1.8% q/q. Continuing headwinds in the textile business however, (down 12.4% y/y, 14.3% q/q, to Rs840m) and the mixed performance of AHN (up 17.1% y/y, down 11.1% q/q, to Rs240m) restrained revenue growth in Q2. Management expects the growth momentum in HPPC will continue with recovery in textile chemicals in CY25. Exports doing well, grew 32% y/y in H1 FY25 supported by new customers in both new and existing regions and increasing wallet share with partners. The gross margin expanded 253bps y/y, 126bps q/q, to 31.6%. Despite the strong GM expansion, the EBITDA margin was 13.2% vs 13.1% last year and 13.3% the prior quarter due to higher operating and employee expenses.

Guidance. The focus on expansion continued as Rossari purchased land adjoining its Dahej plant for Rs150m, to be used for future expansion and developing the present facility. Further, focusing on exports, it expects export growth to outpace domestic growth, further strengthening its position globally. Management maintained its guidance of ~13-14% revenue growth with a ~13.5% EBITDA margin.

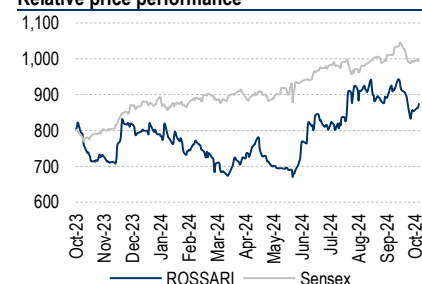
Valuation. Considering the steady Q2 but less-than-expected recovery in the textile chemicals, we slightly trim our FY25e/FY26e and introduce FY27e, valuing the company at 25x FY27 EPS at a TP of Rs1,085. **Risks:** Delay in Textile Specialty Chemical segment recovery, inability to scale up AHN segment, unexpected demand slowdown in HPPC.

Key data	ROSSARI IN
52-week high / low	Rs.973 / 657
Sensex / Nifty	81,151 / 24,781
3-m average volume	\$2.4m
Market cap	Rs.46bn / \$546.1m
Shares outstanding	55m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Sep'24	Jun'24	Mar'24
Promoters	68.3	68.3	68.3
- of which, Pledged			
Free float	31.7	31.7	31.7
- Foreign institutions	3.7	3.8	4.0
- Domestic institutions	17.3	16.9	17.8
- Public	10.7	11.0	9.9

Estimates revision (%)	FY25e	FY26e
Revenue	(1.2)	(1.9)
EBITDA	(3.3)	(1.9)
PAT	(5.1)	(0.9)

Relative price performance



Source: Bloomberg

Key financials (YE Mar)	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
Sales (Rs m)	16,559	18,306	20,796	24,716	29,001
Net profit (Rs m)	1,073	1,307	1,528	2,001	2,393
EPS (Rs)	19.4	23.7	27.7	36.2	43.3
P/E (x)	42.7	35.1	30.0	22.9	19.2
EV / EBITDA (x)	20.1	18.4	16.2	12.7	10.3
P/BV (x)	5.0	4.4	3.8	3.3	2.8
RoE (%)	12.5	13.3	13.6	15.5	15.9
RoCE (%)	12.8	12.8	12.7	14.4	14.8
Dividend yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Net debt / equity (x)	(0.1)	0.0	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.1)

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

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Bhawana Israni
Research Analyst

Bhavini Soni
Research Associate

Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations

Fig 1 – Income statement (Rs m)

Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
Net revenues	16,559	18,306	20,796	24,716	29,001
Growth (%)	11.7	10.5	13.6	18.9	17.3
Direct costs	11,713	12,935	14,453	17,178	20,155
SG&A	2,615	2,873	3,535	4,029	4,640
EBITDA	2,230	2,498	2,807	3,510	4,205
EBITDA margins (%)	13.5	13.6	13.5	14.2	14.5
- Depreciation	629	604	659	744	932
Other income	55	74	62	74	87
Interest expenses	223	194	182	182	182
PBT	1,433	1,774	2,029	2,657	3,178
Effective tax rates (%)	25.8	26.4	25.2	25.2	25.2
+ Associates / (Minorities)	10	2	10	13	16
Net income	1,073	1,307	1,528	2,001	2,393
Adj. income	1,073	1,307	1,528	2,001	2,393
WANS	55	55	55	55	55
FDEPS (Rs)	19.4	23.7	27.7	36.2	43.3
FDEPS growth (%)	9.6	21.6	16.9	31.0	19.6
Gross margins (%)	29.3	29.3	30.5	30.5	30.5

Fig 3 – Cash-flow statement (Rs m)

Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
PBT before OI and Interest	1,601	1,894	2,149	2,765	3,273
+ Non-cash items	629	604	659	744	932
Oper. prof. before WC	2,230	2,498	2,807	3,510	4,205
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	838	2,272	160	964	1,053
Others incl. taxes	491	558	511	670	801
Operating cash-flow	901	(332)	2,136	1,876	2,351
- Capex (tang. + intang.)	558	838	1,450	1,000	1,000
Free cash-flow	344	(1,170)	686	876	1,351
Acquisitions					
- Div. (incl. buyback & taxes)	28	28	38	50	60
+ Equity raised	50	0	-	-	-
+ Debt raised	655	449	200	-	-
- Fin investments	153	117	-	-	-
- Misc. (CFI+CFF) (adj OI & int)	153	71	110	95	79
Net cash-flow	716	(937)	738	731	1,212

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

Fig 5 – Price movement



Source: Bloomberg

Fig 2 – Balance sheet (Rs m)

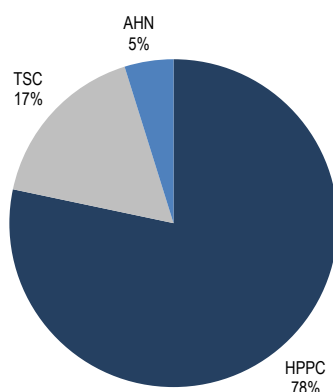
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
Share capital	110	110	110	110	110
Net worth	9,152	10,477	11,967	13,917	16,250
Debt	739	1,188	1,388	1,388	1,388
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	-
DTL / (Assets)	555	467	467	467	467
Capital employed	10,446	12,132	13,821	15,772	18,105
Net tangible assets	3,136	3,147	3,833	4,366	4,433
Net intangible assets	1,529	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442
Goodwill	1,187	1,187	1,187	1,187	1,187
CWIP (tang. & intang.)	161	472	577	300	300
Investments (strategic)	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (financial)	512	629	629	629	629
Current assets (excl. cash)	5,879	8,495	9,088	10,801	12,673
Cash	1,239	302	1,041	1,772	2,984
Current liabilities	3,198	3,542	3,975	4,724	5,543
Working capital	2,682	4,953	5,113	6,077	7,131
Capital deployed	10,446	12,132	13,821	15,772	18,105

Fig 4 – Ratio analysis

Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e	FY27e
P/E (x)	42.7	35.1	30.0	22.9	19.2
EV / EBITDA (x)	20.1	18.4	16.2	12.7	10.3
EV / Sales (x)	2.7	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5
P/B (x)	5.0	4.4	3.8	3.3	2.8
RoE (%)	12.5	13.3	13.6	15.5	15.9
RoCE (%) - after tax	12.8	12.8	12.7	14.4	14.8
RoIC	14.8	14.6	14.2	16.6	18.0
DPS (Rs)	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1
Dividend yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Dividend payout (%) - incl. DDT	2.6	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.5
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.1	0.02	-0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Receivables (days)	78	85	80	80	80
Inventory (days)	42	56	51	51	51
Payables (days)	40	44	38	38	38
CFO : PAT %	84.0	-25.4	139.9	93.8	98.3

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

Fig 6 – Revenue break-up, by category (Q2 FY25)



Source: Company

Company update

Financial highlights

- Q2 consolidated revenue rose 3.1% y/y, 1.8% q/q to Rs4.9bn, growth mainly driven by HPPC while TSC fell
- Domestic and export volumes grew but pricing pressure on account of RM volatility subdued the performance
- The gross margin rose 253bps y/y, 126bps q/q, mainly on the better product mix
- Despite the strong q/q gross-margin improvement, EBITDA was flat at 13.2%, hurt by higher employee and operating expenses.
- Profit rose 7.2% y/y, despite lower other income and a higher tax rate, to Rs353m.

Fig 7 – Quarterly trend

(Rs m)	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	% Y/Y	% Q/Q	H1 FY24	H1 FY25	% Y/Y
Income	3,893	4,065	4,106	4,835	4,638	4,727	4,897	4,984	3.1	1.8	8,941	9,880	10.5
RM costs	2,724	2,863	2,897	3,428	3,230	3,383	3,409	3,407	(0.6)	(0.1)	6,325	6,816	7.8
Employee expenses	242	268	245	275	260	250	286	326	18.3	13.9	520	611	17.5
Other expenses	385	388	388	496	511	458	553	591	19.2	7.0	884	1,144	29.4
EBITDA	542	546	575	636	637	636	649	659	3.7	1.6	1,211	1,308	8.0
Depreciation	160	160	141	151	151	161	154	152	0.3	(1.4)	292	305	4.5
Interest	47	43	63	50	43	25	37	37	(26.8)	(0.1)	113	74	(35.1)
Other income	11	28	22	14	35	4	9	7	(47.3)	(24.2)	36	17	(53.1)
PBT	347	370	393	448	478	454	468	478	6.8	2.2	841	946	12.5
Tax	90	83	102	119	134	114	121	128	7.7	5.7	221	249	12.5
Reported PAT	257	288	291	329	344	339	347	350	6.4	1.0	620	697	12.5
MI	0	2	(0)	0	0	2	2	3	-	-	(0)	5	NA
Consol. PAT	257	290	290	329	344	341	349	353	7.2	1.2	620	702	13.3
EPS (Rs)	4.6	5.2	5.3	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.1	1.1	11.2	12.7	13.3

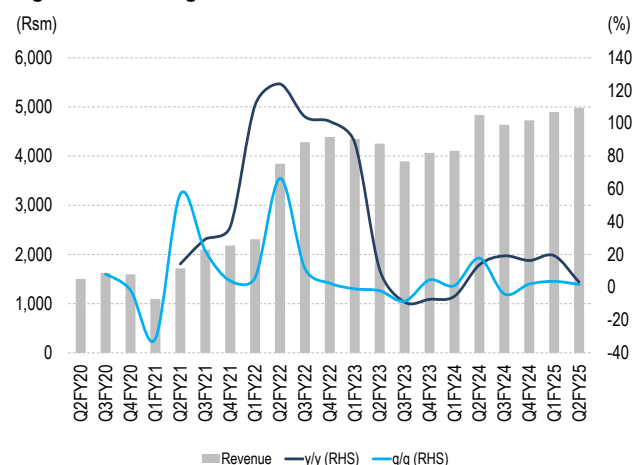
Source: Company

Fig 8 – Quarterly trend

As % sales	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	bps y/y	bps q/q	H1 FY24	H1 FY25	bps y/y
Gross margins	30.0	29.6	29.4	29.1	30.4	28.4	30.4	31.6	253	126	29.3	31.0	175
Employee costs	6.2	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.8	6.5	84	70	5.8	6.2	37
Other expenses	9.9	9.6	9.5	10.3	11.0	9.7	11.3	11.9	161	58	9.9	11.6	169
EBITDA margins	13.9	13.4	14.0	13.1	13.7	13.5	13.3	13.2	8	(2)	13.5	13.2	(30)
Depreciation	4.1	3.9	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.0	(8)	(10)	3.3	3.1	(18)
Interest	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.7	(30)	(1)	1.3	0.7	(52)
Other income	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	(14)	(5)	0.4	0.2	(23)
PBT margins	8.9	9.1	9.6	9.3	10.3	9.6	9.6	9.6	33	4	9.4	9.6	17
Effective tax rates	25.9	22.3	26.0	26.5	28.0	25.2	25.8	26.7	24	88	26.3	26.3	1
Adj. PAT margins	6.6	7.1	7.1	6.8	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0	22	(5)	6.9	7.1	12

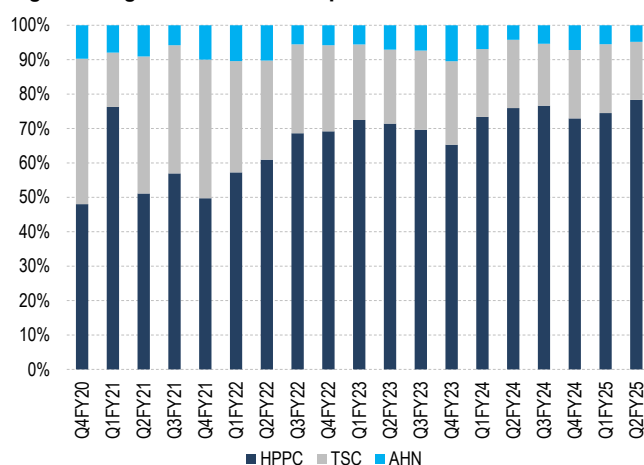
Source: Company

Fig 9 – Revenue growth trend



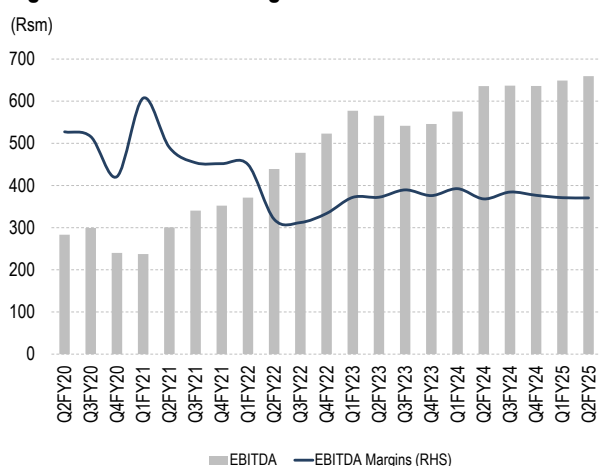
Source: Company

Fig 10 – Segment-wise break-up



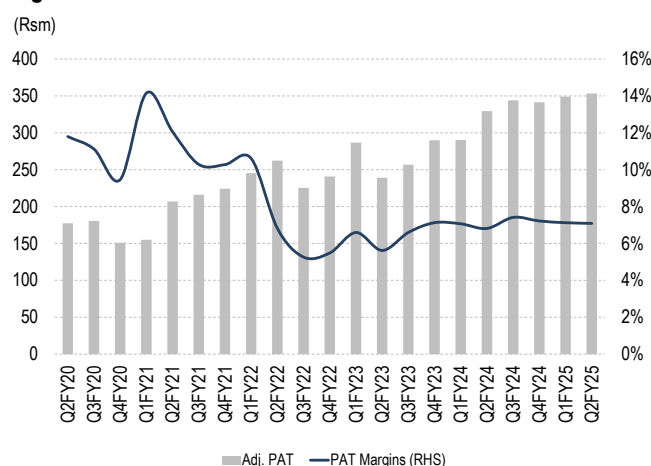
Source: Company

Fig 11 – EBITDA and margin trends



Source: Company

Fig 12 – Profit trend



Source: Company

Fig 13 – Quarterly trend (Rs m)

Particulars	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	H1 FY24	H1 FY25	% Y/Y
HPPC	2,712	2,654	3,012	3,671	3,554	3,450	3,650	3,900	6,683	7,550	13.0
Growth y/y %	-7.8	-12.6	-4.8	20.8	31.0	30.0	21.2	6.2			
% to sales	69.6	65.3	73.4	75.9	76.6	72.9	74.5	78.3	74.7	76.4	167 bps
Textile chemicals	895	985	809	959	834	940	980	840	1,768	1,820	2.9
Growth y/y %	-19.1	-10.3	-15.6	4.9	-6.8	-4.6	21.1	-12.4			
% to sales	23.0	24.2	19.7	19.8	18.0	19.9	20.0	16.9	19.8	18.4	-135 bps
AHN	287	425	285	205	250	340	270	240	490	510	4.1
Growth y/y %	20.6	66.7	17.2	-32.1	-12.9	-20.0	-5.3	17.1			
% to sales	7.4	10.5	6.9	4.2	5.4	7.2	5.5	4.8	5.4	5.2	-32 bps
Total	3,894	4,064	4,106	4,835	4,638	4,730	4,900	4,980	8,941	9,880	10.5

Source: Company

Performance; Concall highlights

Operating highlights

- Navigated through tough and Dynamic market environment, TSC recovery next CY; AHN stable during the quarter.
- Several regions emerging as key for export growth. Successfully targeted new customers in new and existing regions while increasing wallet share with existing customers
- Global expansion key driver, but well placed to capture domestic growth
- Business mix
 - HPPC 78%
 - TSC 17%
 - AHN 5%.
- Geographic mix
 - Exports ~ 25% of overall sales, rest domestic.
- Exports grew 21% y/y to Rs1.3bn (Rs1.2bn the previous quarter, Rs1.1bn a year ago); domestic flat.
- Part of other expenses rose in Q2 vs Q1 as freight expense increased due to more exports and the company unable to pass them on. Also, some professional expenses that came up in Q2 due to global restructuring plans.
- Export markets. Major traction in home and personal care and cosmetics and key areas (Europe, South America). Exploring Mid-East and Turkey; gaining market and wallet shares with customers.

HPPC

- Domestic business pressured due to softer demand from FMCG, home and personal care and pricing. Domestic volume growth was only 6-7%. Domestic textile volumes were better than last year but pricing pressure hurt performance.
- The company expects the pricing trend to continue in the near term. To maintain the growth momentum, it is focusing more on exports, considering better realisations than in the domestic market, and better business terms.
- Currently, of the total HPPC segment, ~60-70% is contributed by ethylene oxide (EO)-based products. Due to non-availability of EO and capacity constraints of ethylation, the domestic business was weak. With coming capacities ahead, the company expects a better performance.
- Its Institutional Cleaning business has done ~Rs700m-730m in Q2 and Rs1.3bn in H1 FY25. Management maintained its guidance to generate ~Rs2.5bn in FY25. It is adding more customers at airport, railway and nuclear facilities. Further, its re-branded brands, aiding business growth.
- Surfactants – (ethoxylates major part of surfactants); introduced many products

TSC

- Onboarded Mr. Gurudas, as additional director non-executive Independent Director; 40+ years' experience in textiles
- The company's Bangladesh business was hit by recent geo-political issues. It reduced exposure considering payment and collection delays. No major shipments in the last two months. Per teams, the situation is expected to improve in 1-2 months and business growth to recover.
- No loss of market share in domestic textiles. Only pricing pressure hurting the performance while volumes were up 6-7%. Volumes in Bangladesh and Egypt declined ~4-5% due to the geo-political situation.
- Acetic acid and butyl acrylate prices dropped, creating pressure on the pricing front.
- Management remains optimistic about recovery in TSC next CY.
- TSC side. Looking to expand in Bangladesh, assuming recovery toward end-Q3, then Vietnam and Egypt, and looking at North Africa for TSC as its received promising feedback

AHN

- On the seasonality of the business due to festivals, Q2 was subdued for AHN. Further, the company became stricter regarding revenue collection, which impacted the business.
- It focused on feed components last year, but the strategy did not work out as margins were falling. Now, it has changed strategy and is focusing more on animal health and nutrition (special additives), which would drive growth. Further, hiring consultants and launching therapeutics would drive growth
- Besides, the company is setting up a pre-mix plant, which would support growth.
- It expects growth to be strong in H2 FY25 compared to H1.
- It is focusing more on exports and new markets (Turkey, Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Egypt).

Capex

- Adding capex of Rs182m on account of design modifications, which were necessary to meet revised project specifications and structural integrity at the Unitop plant.
- Capex is progressing at the Unitop and Dahej plants. The company has already spent Rs600m-650m and will invest the same amount in the coming six months. The project would be commissioned in phases over the next three quarters.
- The company expects 3x-4x asset turnover.

Outlook

- The company guided to ~13-14% revenue growth in FY25.
- The EBITDA margin remains at ~13.5%. The company expects the margin to improve in future with more export revenue, capacity expansion and operating leverage.
- Exports to outpace domestic growth.

Valuation

Fig 14 – Change in estimates

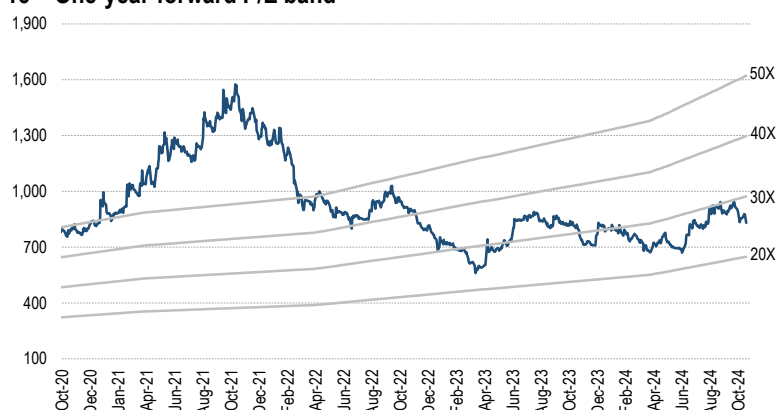
	Old		New		% change	
(Rs m)	FY25e	FY26e	FY25e	FY25e	FY25e	FY26e
Revenue	21,042	25,192	20,796	24,716	(1.2)	(1.9)
EBITDA	2,904	3,577	2,807	3,510	(3.3)	(1.9)
PAT	1,610	2,018	1,528	2,001	(5.1)	(0.9)

Source: Anand Rath Research

With its diversified product range and a strong balance sheet, we believe Rossari Biotech is well positioned to capitalise on emerging opportunities and drive healthy growth in coming years. We expect the performance to improve, driven by recovery in TSC and AHN, coupled with steady growth and market-share gains in HPPC exports.

The company is likely to deliver 18%/22%/25% revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGRs over FY25-27, due to swelling demand, capacity expansion and mounting exports. Considering the improvement and retaining of guidance, we retain our Buy rating, with a higher TP of Rs1,085, at 25x FY27e EPS.

Fig 15 – One-year-forward P/E band



Source: Anand Rath Research

Risks

- Delay in Textile Specialty Chemical recovery
- Inability to scale up AHN
- Unexpected demand slowdown in HPPC.

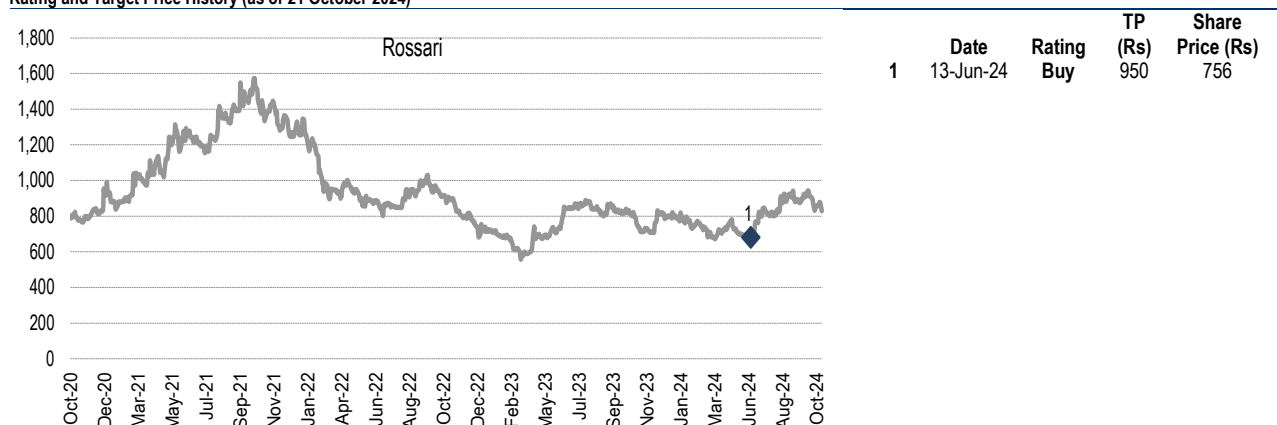
Appendix

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Rating and Target Price History (as of 21 October 2024)



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	Buy	Hold	Sell
Large Caps (Top 100 companies)	>15%	0-15%	<0%
Mid Caps (101st-250th company)	>20%	0-20%	<0%
Small Caps (251st company onwards)	>25%	0-25%	<0%

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Compliance officer-Deepak Kedia, email id - deepakkedia@rathi.com, Contact no. +91 22 6281 7000

Grievance officer-Madhu Jain-email id- grievance@rathi.com, Contact no. +91 22 6281 7191

ARSSBL registered address: Express Zone, A Wing, 9th Floor, Western Express Highway, Diagonally Opposite Oberoi Mall, Malad (E), Mumbai – 400097.
Tel No: +91 22 6281 7000 | Fax No: +91 22 4001 3770 | CIN: U67120MH1991PLC064106.