

Paytm posted lower EBITDA (before ESOP) loss at Rs0.4bn vs (Emkay: Rs0.7bn), mainly due to better lending revenue (even adjusted for the higher DLG cost) and continued cost optimization measures. This, coupled with higher treasury income on proceeds from sale of the entertainment business and stake in PayPay Corp (with lower depreciation and ESOP cost), led to lower net loss of Rs2.1bn (Emkay: Rs3.5bn). Lower Net payment margin was the only minor upset in 3Q. Exit MTU improved QoQ to 72mn from 68mn (Sep-24), but the average MTU base stood slightly lower at 70mn, as consumer onboarding started after NPCI approval in Oct-24. With the merchant payment/lending business going strong, an improving MTU will create a strong funnel for the financial/marketing service business/revenue that, along with better treasury income/continued cost optimization, should put Paytm on an early path to profitability in FY26E. Thus, we recently upgraded Paytm to BUY from Add with DCF-based TP of Rs1,050, implying FY27E EV/Op Rev at 3.4x and P/BV at 3.6x.

One 97 Communications: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	79,903	99,778	73,204	97,138	121,653
EBITDA	(12,218)	(3,599)	(6,819)	10,320	18,590
Adj. PAT	(17,765)	(14,224)	(530)	2,908	11,128
Adj. EPS (Rs)	(27.8)	(21.8)	(0.8)	4.3	17.2
EBITDA margin (%)	(14.5)	(3.4)	(8.6)	9.9	14.5
EBITDA growth (%)	(40.4)	(44.4)	43.7	(124.7)	271.7
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(27.5)	(21.7)	(96.3)	(640.8)	296.2
RoE (%)	(13.1)	(10.8)	(0.4)	2.0	7.4
RoA (%)	(9.8)	(7.9)	(0.3)	1.3	4.7
EV/Op. rev. (x)	5.9	4.7	6.1	4.5	3.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	(38.6)	(130.5)	(65.4)	42.0	22.3
P/B (x)	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.6
P/E (x)	(32.3)	(41.2)	(1,120.8)	207.2	52.3

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Payment GMV accelerates, but higher UPI share hurts NPM; subscription revenue remains strong

Paytm's Payment GMV grew 13% QoQ due to seasonality (down 1% YoY) to ~Rs5trn, in line with our estimate, but net payment revenue growth was slower at 5% QoQ due to rising share of MDR-free UPI business (80-85%). Net merchant adds stood at a healthy 1mn in 3Q, as envisaged, with cumulative merchant base at 43mn, while number of device merchants increased at a faster pace to 11.7mn, with penetration now at 22% of registered merchants; thus Paytm posted strong subscription revenue. Per its strategy, Paytm is largely refurbishing its re-acquired devices and subsequently deploying these, thus leading to lower capex/depreciation; this should continue for a few more Quarters. Approval of the Payment aggregator license is pending with the RBI; once received, it will help Paytm acquire new online merchants and thus drive-up GMV growth. Exit MTU improved QoQ to 72mn from 68mn (Sep-24), but the avg MTU base stood slightly lower at 70mn as new consumer onboarding started post NPCI approval in Oct-24. Paytm believes the pace of new consumer onboarding will accelerate and thus lead to some additional acquisition cost hereon. However, higher MTU will create a strong funnel for its marketing and its financial services business, leading to better contribution margin.

Merchant lending (ML) business trends well, leading to higher gross take-rate

Overall loan disbursements were largely in line with our expectation of Rs56bn, with the merchant lending business (Rs43bn; up 12% QoQ) doing the heavy lifting as PL disbursement recedes (Rs15bn; down 16% QoQ). Strong ML disbursement with higher gross take-rate, coupled with trail income from the DLG portfolio and collection bonus as portfolio delinquencies recede, partly offset by lower broking revenue, led to a healthy 34% QoQ jump in financial services revenue. However, Paytm has increased the portfolio size under DLG to Rs42.4bn from Rs16.5bn in 3Q with SFMG, the cost of which is up-fronted and has thus led to sequential contraction in contribution margin by 100bps to 52%. Paytm is now open to explore the DLG arrangement with other lenders (in both, the ML and PL businesses) which, coupled with improving portfolio behavior, should lead to early revival of its lending business (mainly PL).

We retain BUY, with unchanged TP of Rs1,050

We recently upgraded Paytm to BUY from Add with DCF-based TP of Rs1,050, implying FY27E EV/Op Rev at 3.4x and P/BV at 3.6x, mainly due to improving visibility on business turnaround and thus on an early path to profitability. Payment aggregator license from RBI, once received, could further reduce the regulatory drag and act as a stock catalyst.

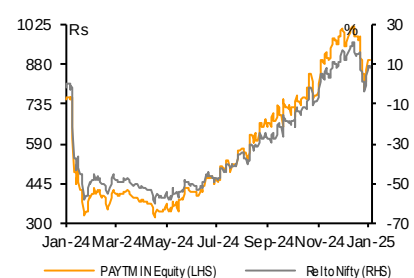
Target Price – 12M	Dec-25
Change in TP (%)	-
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Upside/(Downside) (%)	16.8
CMP (20-Jan-25) (Rs)	898.6

Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	1,063
52-week Low (Rs)	310
Shares outstanding (mn)	637.5
Market-cap (Rs bn)	573
Market-cap (US\$ mn)	6,618
Net-debt, FY25E (Rs mn)	NA
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	10
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	8,829.2
ADTV-3M (US\$ mn)	102
Free float (%)	0.5
Nifty-50	23,345
INR/US\$	86.6
Shareholding, Dec-24	
Promoters (%)	-
FPIs/MFs (%)	56.2/11.9

Price Performance

(%)	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	(4.9)	23.9	14.4
Rel. to Nifty	3.9	31.9	5.7

1-Year share price trend (Rs)



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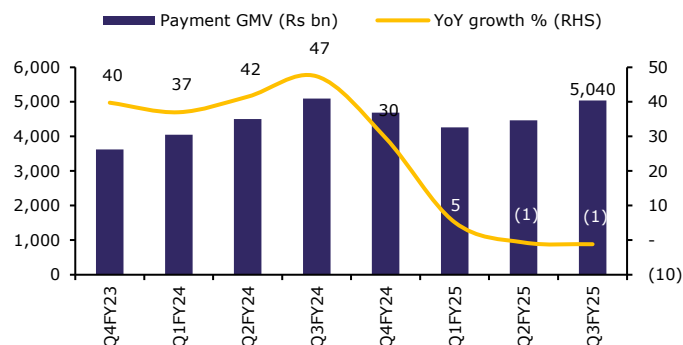
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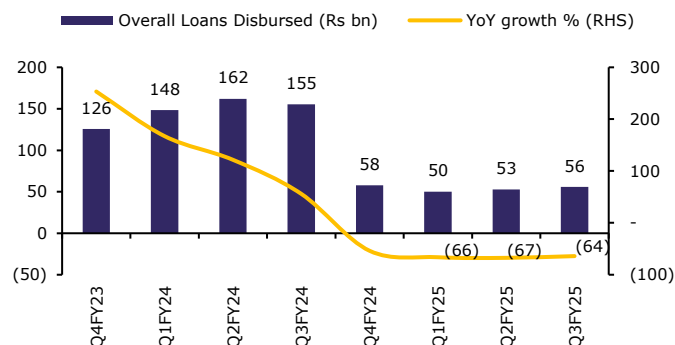
Story in Charts

Exhibit 1: Payment GMV growth has picked up due to seasonal factors



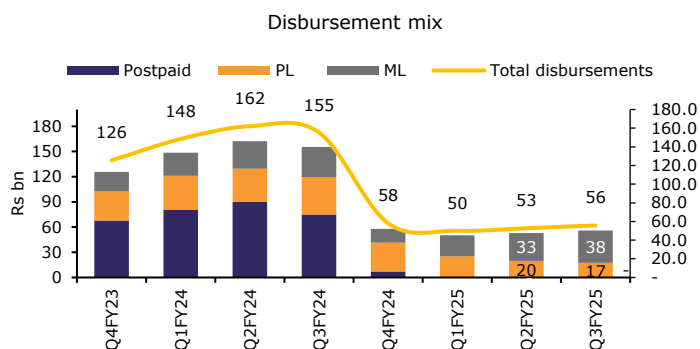
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Loan disbursements, too, are picking-up, led by merchant loans, largely offsetting the reducing PL disbursements



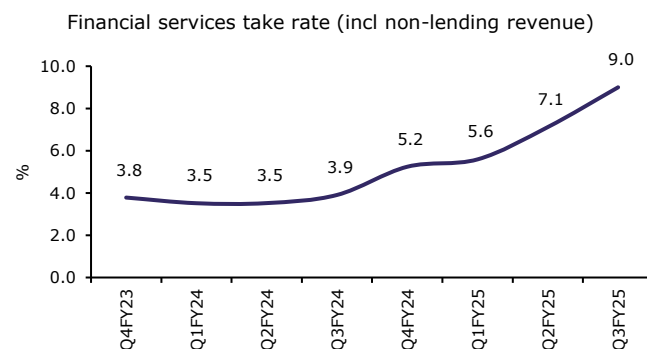
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Disbursements in the PL business continue to decline...



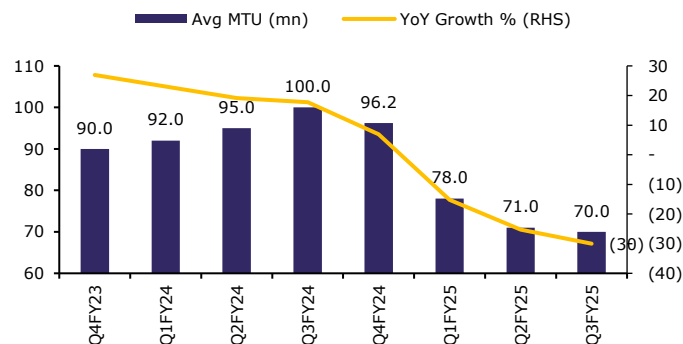
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: ...but higher share of the ML business, along with collection bonus, led to a higher financial services business take-rate in 3Q



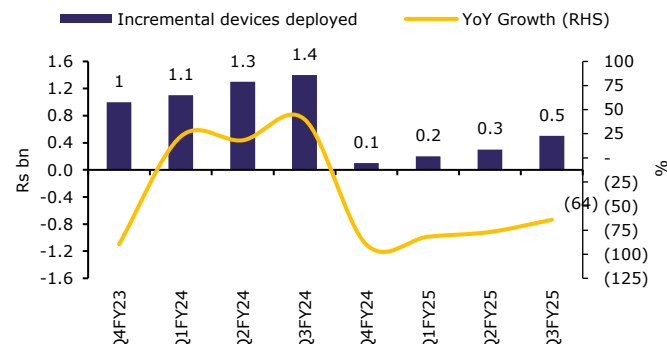
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: Terminal MTU base improved to 72mn, but the average MTU base declined, as customer onboarding started only post NPCI approval in October

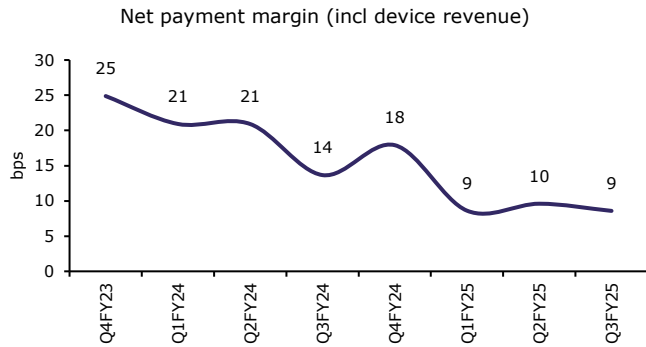


Source: Company, Emkay Research

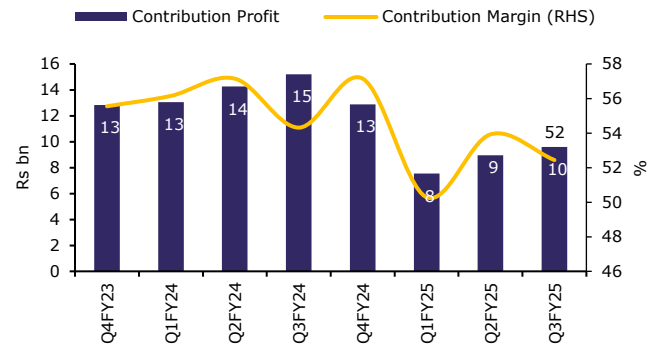
Exhibit 6: Merchant device deployment gradually picking up



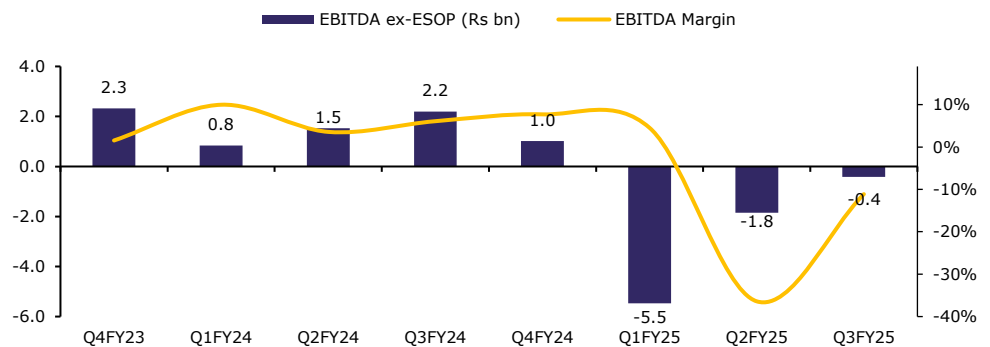
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 7: Net payment margin declined in 3Q due to rising share of UPI business

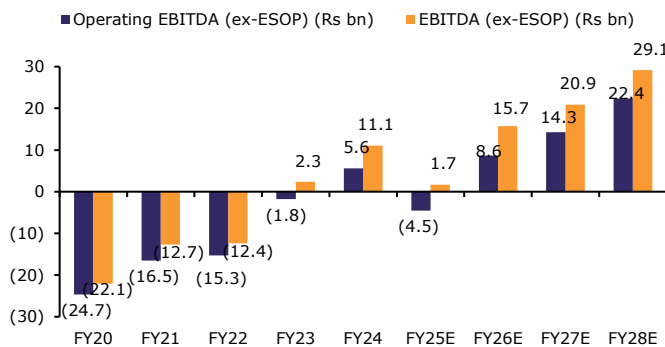
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 8: Higher DLG cost and lower net payment margin led to lower contribution margin at 52%

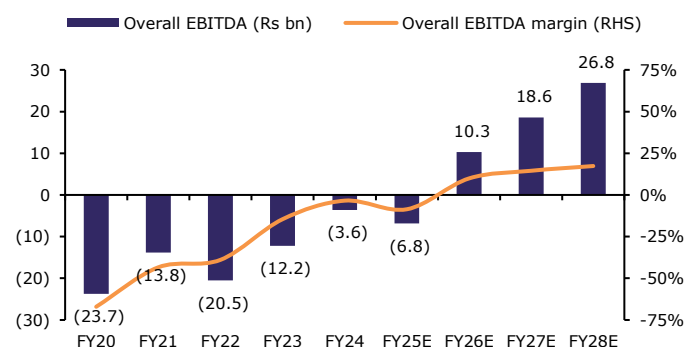
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 9: EBITDA (ex-ESOP) loss declined further, led by healthy financial services revenue and continued cost optimization

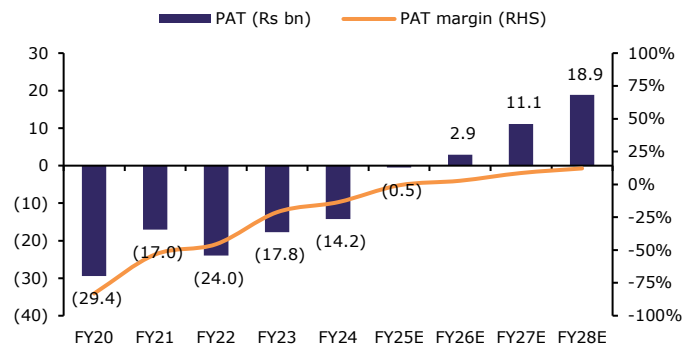
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 10: We believe the improving lending revenue and the cost optimization should help Paytm turn EBITDA (ex ESOP)-positive by 4QFY25E...

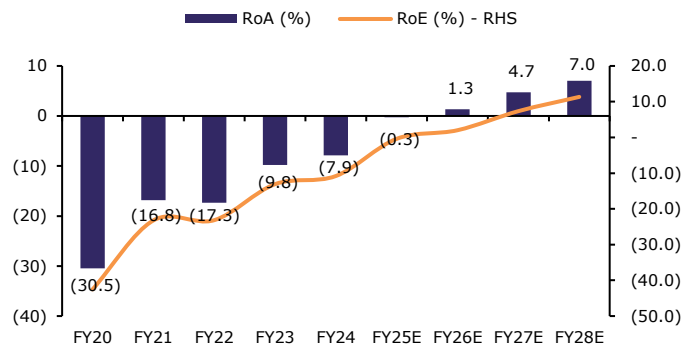
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 11: ...as also the EBITDA, as ESOP cost too is on a decline

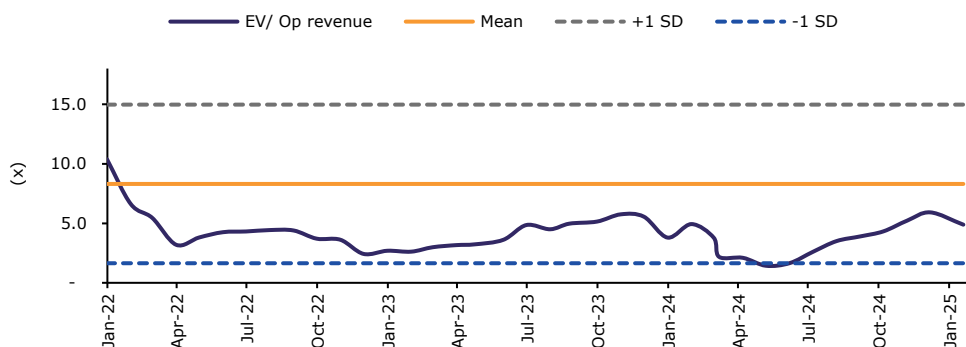
Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 12: Higher EBITDA plus lower depreciation and higher treasury income to drive Paytm into the net profit zone by FY26E...

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 13: ...and thus improve overall return ratios

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 14: The stock trades at 4.9x 1Y forward EV/Operating revenue

Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

Exhibit 15: Emkay vs Consensus (Q3FY25)

(Rs mn)	Actuals	Estimates		Variation		Comments
		Emkay	Consensus	Emkay	Consensus	
Operating Revenue	18,280	18,265	18,684	0%	-2%	Higher payment and financial revenues lead to in-line revenues
Overall EBITDA	(343)	(1,757)	(4,636)	-80%	-93%	Lower marketing, ESOP costs, and other expenses lead to lower EBITDA losses
PAT	(2,091)	(3,515)	(3,505)	-41%	-40%	Lower EBITDA losses lead to a beat on PAT estimates

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 16: Quarterly Summary

(Rs mn)	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25	3QFY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	FY24	FY25E	YoY (%)
Payment & Financial Services Revenue	22,860	18,590	11,640	13,220	15,050	(36)	14	81,312	59,749	(27)
Marketing & Other Op Revenue	5,650	4,090	3,370	3,380	3,230	(24)	0	18,466	13,455	(27)
Operating Revenue	28,510	22,680	15,010	16,600	18,280	(34)	11	99,778	73,204	(27)
Operating Expenses	26,316	21,658	20,475	18,446	18,690	(22)	(10)	108,846	86,233	(21)
- Payment gateway Cost	9,822	7,148	5,171	5,168	5,704	(37)	(0)	32,804	22,232	(32)
Operating EBITDA	2,194	1,022	(5,465)	(1,846)	(410)	(220)	(66)	(9,068)	(13,029)	44
- Depreciation	2,009	1,960	1,784	1,786	1,653	(1)	0	7,357	6,806	(7)
Operating EBIT	185	(938)	(7,249)	(3,632)	(2,063)	1,255	(50)	(16,425)	(19,835)	21
- Non Operating Revenue	1,486	1,317	1,375	1,745	1,887	21	27	5,469	6,210	14
- Finance Cost	54	52	42	34	43	(51)	(19)	243	165	(32)
PBT	1,617	327	(5,916)	(1,921)	(219)	(274)	(67)	(11,199)	(13,790)	23
Net profit (ex ESOP + Extraordinary items)	1,572	19	(5,944)	(1,970)	(271)	(300)	(67)	2,762	(5,470)	(298)
Reported Net Profit	(2,213)	(5,512)	(8,412)	9,300	(2,091)	(416)	(211)	(14,224)	(530)	(96)

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 17: Revision in estimates

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY25E			FY26E			FY27E		
	Earlier	Revised	Change	Earlier	Revised	Change	Earlier	Revised	Change
Operating Revenue	72,995	73,204	0.3%	96,429	97,138	0.7%	119,615	121,653	1.7%
Overall EBITDA	(7,783)	(6,819)	-12.4%	8,779	10,320	17.5%	16,769	18,590	10.9%
PAT	(1,511)	(530)	-64.9%	2,425	2,908	19.9%	10,266	11,128	8.4%
EPS (Rs)	(2.5)	(0.8)	-68.3%	3.6	4.3	21.2%	15.8	17.2	8.6%
BVPS (Rs)	223.0	224.5	0.7%	226.7	229.0	1.0%	242.8	246.4	1.5%

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 18: Key assumptions

(%)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Payments GMV growth	39	3	35	34
Disbursement growth	48	(59)	59	43
Net Payment take rate (% of GMV)	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Gross lending take rate (% of disbursement)	3.4	5.9	5.9	5.4

Source: Emkay Research

One 97 Communications: Consolidated Financials and Valuations

Exhibit 19: Income Statement

Year ended 31-Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Payment (P2M + P2C)	49,300	62,351	44,681	57,974	72,341	86,971
Marketing revenue	15,199	17,387	11,655	13,114	15,349	17,463
Payment + Marketing Revenue	64,499	79,738	56,336	71,087	87,690	104,434
- growth (%)	42.2	23.6	(29.3)	26.2	23.4	19.1
Financial Services & other op revenue	15,404	20,040	16,868	26,050	33,963	43,630
Operating Revenue	79,903	99,778	73,204	97,138	121,653	148,064
Operating expenses	(96,218)	(108,846)	(86,233)	(93,917)	(109,681)	(127,975)
- Payment gateway cost	(29,577)	(32,804)	(22,232)	(27,239)	(33,423)	(38,789)
-Marketing & promotional expenses	(10,764)	(9,220)	(7,114)	(9,581)	(12,782)	(16,214)
Operating EBITDA	(16,315)	(9,068)	(13,029)	3,221	11,972	20,089
- Depreciation	(4,853)	(7,357)	(6,806)	(6,469)	(6,267)	(6,040)
Operating EBIT	(21,168)	(16,425)	(19,835)	(3,249)	5,705	14,048
- Non Operating Revenue	4,097	5,469	6,210	7,099	6,618	6,759
- Finance Cost	(233)	(243)	(165)	(173)	(182)	(191)
PBT	(17,304)	(11,199)	(13,790)	3,678	12,142	20,617
Non-recurring items	-	(2,328)	13,450	-	-	-
Pre-tax profit (after non-recurring items)	(17,304)	(13,527)	(340)	3,678	12,142	20,617
Tax (current + deferred)	(336)	(320)	(170)	(919)	(1,214)	(2,062)
Tax rate (%)	1.9	2.4	50.0	(25.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)
Net profit	(17,640)	(13,847)	(510)	2,758	10,928	18,555
- growth (%)	(25.0)	(21.5)	(96.3)	(640.8)	296.2	69.8
Share of JV/Associates	(125)	(377)	(20)	150	200	300
Net income	(17,765)	(14,224)	(530)	2,908	11,128	18,855

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 20: Balance Sheet

Year ended 31-Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Cash & Cash Equivalents	81,872	78,323	124,243	137,319	155,750	180,270
Current & Non-current investments	15,765	22,943	1,274	1,210	1,150	1,035
Loans	1,564	1,731	2,077	2,493	2,991	3,589
Fixed assets (Net block)	12,202	12,609	11,309	13,904	16,976	20,326
Other assets	68,255	55,785	59,609	63,727	68,165	76,631
Total assets	179,658	171,391	198,512	218,653	245,033	281,852
Trade Payables & other ST liabilities	41,115	29,335	33,578	38,442	42,739	47,533
Borrowings	20	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities and provisions	8,367	8,790	22,079	34,448	45,404	58,573
Share capital	634	636	637	637	637	637
Reserves & surplus	129,522	132,630	142,218	145,126	156,254	175,109
Shareholders' funds	130,156	133,266	142,855	145,763	156,890	175,746
Total equity & liabilities	179,658	171,391	198,512	218,653	245,033	281,852

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 21: Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31-Mar (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
PBT	(17,304)	(11,199)	(13,790)	3,678	12,142	20,617
Others (non-cash items)	(571)	7,742	23,597	15,571	22,570	32,892
Taxes Paid	1,762	1,085	170	919	1,214	2,062
Change in NWC	6,489	(149)	1,232	1,540	632	760
Operating Cash Flow	4,156	6,508	24,659	16,192	21,988	31,591
Investing Cash Flow	26,255	3,180	(4,824)	(6,122)	(10,163)	(17,609)
Financing Cash Flow	(11,123)	(220)	(164)	(173)	(182)	(191)
Net Change in Cash	19,288	9,468	19,671	9,896	11,643	13,791

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 22: Key Valuation Ratios

Year ended 31-Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
EPS (Rs)	(27.8)	(21.8)	(0.8)	4.3	17.2	29.1
BVPS (Rs)	202.9	209.9	224.5	229.0	246.4	276.1
EBITDA per share (Rs)	(19.3)	(5.7)	(10.7)	16.2	29.2	42.2
Op Revenue per share (Rs)	126.0	156.9	115.0	152.6	191.1	232.6
PER (x)	(32.3)	(41.2)	(1,120.8)	207.2	52.3	30.8
Price/Book (x)	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.3
P/EBITDA (x)	(46.6)	(158.7)	(83.8)	55.4	30.7	21.3
P/Op Revenue (x)	7.1	5.7	7.8	5.9	4.7	3.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	(38.6)	(130.5)	(65.4)	42.0	22.3	14.5
EV/Op Revenue (x)	5.9	4.7	6.1	4.5	3.4	2.6
EV/Networth (x)	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.2

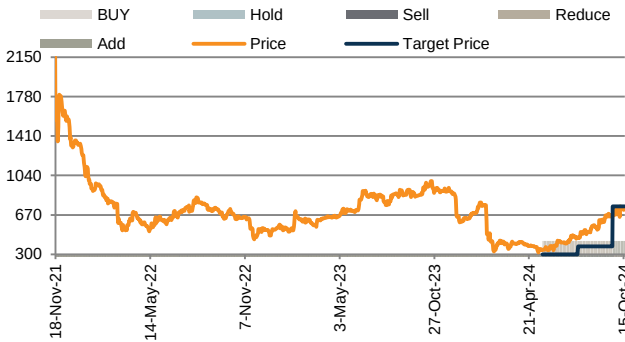
Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
07-Oct-24	652	750	Add	Anand Dama
24-Sep-24	681	750	Add	Anand Dama
22-Aug-24	554	375	Reduce	Anand Dama
21-Jul-24	459	375	Reduce	Anand Dama
18-Jun-24	417	300	Reduce	Anand Dama
23-May-24	356	300	Reduce	Anand Dama
16-May-24	343	300	Reduce	Anand Dama

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Company, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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