



03 August 2025

## India | Equity Research | Results Update

## Nestle India

Consumer Staples & Discretionary

## Hasta la vista, Suresh

Over the last three decades, Suresh Narayanan's tenure (ten years) as CMD of Nestlé India has been one of the most celebrated. Notable achievements: (1) steering it through the Maggi crisis and maintaining market leadership by rebuilding consumer trust, (2) doubling down on volume-led growth (~8%), driving revenue/PAT CAGR of 10%/ 12%, resulting in 18% TSR (vs. FMCG 12%), (3) accelerating growth in core brand with aggressive NPD (over 150 new products), thereby increasing contribution to 7% from 1.5% of sales, (4) expanding its retail footprint - especially in rural areas through the RURBAN strategy (adding 1.3mn retail outlets). Misses: (1) milk products and nutrition (a high-margin segment) underperformed due to weak volume growth (declined 1% CAGR), probably driven by reduced affordability

(for example, parts of nutrition portfolio have seen ~11% price CAGR over last two decades – probably the highest for any consumption category), (2) limited efforts on D2C and M&A, and expansion into adjacencies and emerging health categories was conservative. HOLD rating retained.

## **Overall Performance**

- Over the past decade, Nestle India delivered volume/ revenue/ PAT CAGR of 8%/ 10%/ 12% outperforming the industry. Nestle's premium portfolio grew at 16% CAGR.
- Market capitalisation expanded 3.9x, translating into a total shareholder return (TSR) CAGR of 18%, while FMCG index delivered 12% CAGR.

## **Accelerated Innovation**

- Nestle significantly improved its pace of innovation—now four times faster than a decade ago—expanding its portfolio with over 150 new product launches.
- These include millet-based, plant-based, sugar-reduced offerings and nutrition-forward variants like sugar-free Cerelac and Ceregrow,
- NPD now contributing around 7% to overall sales vs. 1.5% in 2017.

# **Financial Summary**

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Net Revenue	194,671	200,775	217,475	241,515
EBITDA	46,543	46,497	49,934	56,420
EBITDA Margin (%)	23.9	23.2	23.0	23.4
Net Profit	31,870	30,237	33,927	38,794
EPS (INR)	33.1	31.4	35.2	40.2
EPS % Chg YoY	33.3	(5.1)	12.2	14.3
P/E (x)	68.9	72.6	64.7	56.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	47.0	47.3	43.9	38.7
RoCE (%)	107.1	72.5	63.9	65.5
RoE (%)	109.9	81.1	77.0	77.9

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#### **Market Data**

2,195bn
25,075mn
NEST IN
NEST.BO
2,778 /2,110
37.0
26.3

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(4.7)	(2.2)	(8.4)
Relative to Sensex	(5.1)	(6.2)	(6.8)

ESG Score	2023	2024	Change
ESG score	74.2	69.6	(4.6)
Environment	54.0	57.2	3.2
Social	74.5	65.4	(9.1)
Governance	86.5	82.4	(4.1)

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher score indicating higher ESG disclosures.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

#### **Previous Reports**

25-07-2025: **Q1FY26** results review 24-04-2025: Q4FY25 results review



## **Distribution Expansion & RURBAN Strategy**

- Earlier, Nestle was (appropriately) perceived as an urban-centric company. Since 2015, Nestle focused on penetration-led volume growth strategy.
- Since then, it has added 1.3 million retail outlets (reaching 5.3mn outlets), recording the highest expansion among peers in 2024.
- The RURBAN initiative, launched in 2019, increased rural distribution points to 28,240 from 12,331, with presence now in ~209,050 villages vs. 68,578 in 2020.
- Nestle has also invested in technology to improve last mile connectivity. Key initiatives were (RD DMS (Distributor Management Solution), NesMitra (retailer self-ordering app), and RACE (real-time execution tool)—enhanced sales automation and execution.
- E-commerce, especially Quick Commerce, grew rapidly and now contributes 8.6% of sales vs. 1% in 2016.

## Milk Products & Nutrition (38% of revenue)

- This high-margin category had value CAGR of 6% over the decade but faced a 1% volume decline.
- Its contribution to overall revenue declined to 38% from 45%, largely due to reduced affordability, over-reliance on pricing, and probably lower innovation intensity.
- While Milkmaid doubled its value sales and Cerelac/ Ceregrow expanded into sugar-free variants, newer launches like GERBER and Resource (adult nutrition) probably achieved limited traction.

## Prepared Dishes & Culinary (31% of revenue)

- Despite the 2015 Maggi crisis, this segment rebounded strongly, with 16% volume and 9% value CAGR.
- The relaunch, supported by Project MIDAS (data-driven hyperlocal strategy) and emotional campaigns "We Miss you" and regained market leadership.
- Maggi noodles went from market leadership to near extinction and recovered to ~60% market share within months of relaunch.
- However, recent price hikes of "Maggi Chotu" entry price packs (from INR 5 to INR 7) led to market share losses, though corrective actions have been initiated.

#### Beverages (14% of revenue)

- This segment recorded 3% volume and 9% value CAGR.
- Nescafé's market share rose from 48.4% to 55.5%, but growth was constrained by inflation and slower momentum in ready-to-drink (RTD) formats.

## Confectionery (17% of revenue)

- It is the best-performing category with 9%/ 13% volume/ value CAGR over the last decade. The success was driven by distribution expansion in villages with accessible price points of INR 5 and 10.
- Its contribution increased to 17% from 12%.
- KitKat emerging as India's fastest-growing chocolate brand and becoming Nestlé's second-largest KitKat market globally. Munch and Milkybar also doubled their business.



## **New Growth Engines**

- Nestle entered new segments like Breakfast Cereals and Petcare in 2018 and partnered with Dr. Reddy's for healthcare nutrition in 2024. In 2024, Nestle also launched Nespresso.
- The Out-of-Home (OOH) business evolved beyond vending into premium food and beverage services, expanding across geographies. India is now Nestle's second-largest OOH market in Asia and Africa.

#### **Limited D2C and M&A Initiatives**

- Nestlé launched its D2C platform (mynestle.in) in 2022 with limited traction.
- Unlike peers (e.g., Marico, Tata Consumer), it didn't pursue strategic investments in emerging digital-first or health brands. Experiments with launching products adjacencies categories to support its core categories was also restricted, limiting its TAM expansion.

## **Capacity Expansion**

 To support growth, Nestlé increased capex from 1.8% of sales in 2015 to 10% in FY25, investing INR 75bn over 2020–2025 to build new facilities and upgrade existing ones—especially in Confectionery and Culinary categories.

## **Diversity & Inclusion**

 Female representation in the management committee doubled to 21%, with women now making up 50% of board members and 45% of the Sanand factory workforce—among the highest in FMCG industry.

#### Valuation and risks

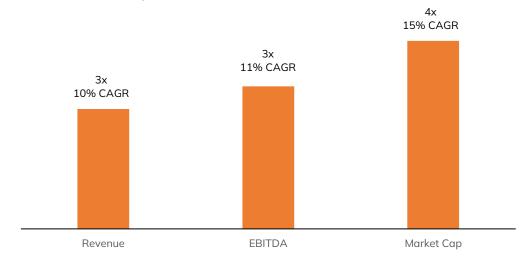
We model revenue / EBITDA / PAT CAGR of 10% / 10% / 13% over FY25-27E. Maintain HOLD with a DCF-based target price of INR 2,400. Upside risk: Faster-than-anticipated recovery in demand environment. Downside risk: Higher-than-expected inflation in key raw material prices.

Exhibit 1: 13.4% CAGR wealth creation for investors

Financial Year	Nestle* (INR)	HUL* (INR)	% NEST Return	% HUL return
2015	621	728		
2016	493	742	-21%	2%
2017	600	807	22%	9%
2018	755	1,188	26%	47%
2019	1,030	1,521	36%	28%
2020	1,471	1,997	43%	31%
2021	1,632	2,232	11%	12%
2022	1,663	1,901	2%	-15%
2023	1,852	2,483	11%	31%
2024	2,584	2,202	40%	-11%
2025	2,241	2,235	-13%	1%
2026E	2,275	2,415	-12%	10%
FY15-FY25-TD	3.7x	3.3x	13.4% CAGR	12.3% CAGR

Source: Company data, I-Sec research \* Share price

Exhibit 2: FY15-FY25 performance of Nestle



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 3: 1-year forward P/E over last decade

Financial Year	NEST (PE)	HUVR (PE)	CLGT (PE)
2015	73	38	40
2016	53	43	45
2017	43	39	40
2018	39	46	40
2019	49	56	41
2020	61	57	39
2021	72	61	38
2022	64	58	39
2023	65	52	37
2024	58	50	36
2025	55.8	46.4	43.1
FY15-25	1.2X	2.1X	1.0X

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

**Exhibit 4: CAPEX investment in India** 





**Exhibit 5: Category leading brands** 

4.5 Billion serves 12.5 Billion cups 3,700 Million fingers 33 Million tins 940+ One Nestlé Kiosks 20 million + footfall NESCAFE 2,100 Million units

# A Nestlé product reaches 2 out of 3 households in India

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

**Exhibit 6: Key Strategy** 



# **The Virtuous Circle**

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 7: Premiumisation trends**



Prepared dishes and cooking aids



Milk products and Nutrition















Confectionery

**Pet Care** 



**Exhibit 8: Global portfolio** 



Source: Company data, I-Sec research





Prepared dishes and cooking aids

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

50% MORE

### Exhibit 10: Out of Home market expected to double by 2030

FS market to get more organized in coming years Cafés driving coffee culture

Gen Z & Millennials seeking new food experiences

4,000 + Employees 23 sites

----- 'Nestlé prepared with' portfolio ------





### **Exhibit 11: E-comm acceleration**

#### Portfolio tailored to shopper needs















### Targeted media/communication intervention





Brand/Co-create Thematic / Leading Platform Events

Holistic supply chain approach for Q-Comm







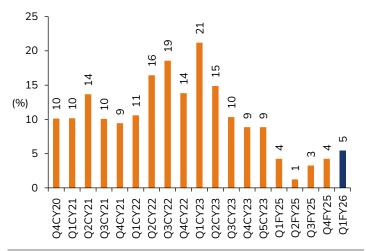
Region Level Planning Accuracy via Collaborative planning

Dynamic Fast Replenishment

Best Service Levels

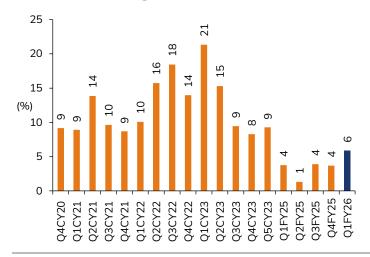


### Exhibit 12: Domestic revenue growth



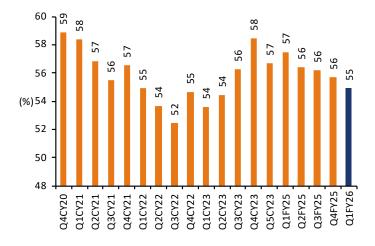
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

### **Exhibit 13: Revenue growth**



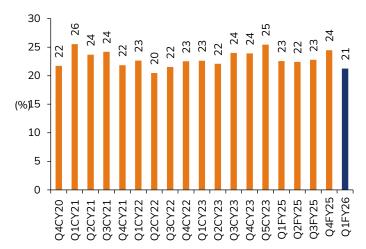
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 14: Gross margin**



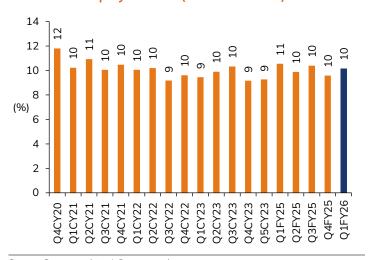
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 15: EBITDA margin**



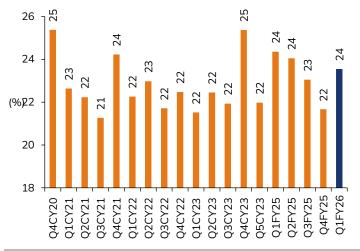
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

### Exhibit 16: Employee costs (as a % of sales)



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

### Exhibit 17: Other expenses (as a % of sales)



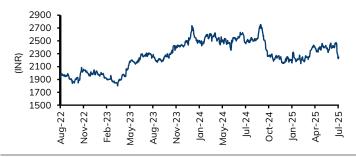


# **Exhibit 18: Shareholding pattern**

%	Dec'24	Mar'25	Jun'25
Promoters	62.8	62.8	62.8
Institutional investors	21.0	21.3	20.9
MFs and others	4.4	4.4	4.0
Fls/Banks, Insurance	6.3	6.8	6.6
FIIs	10.3	10.1	10.3
Others	16.2	15.9	16.3

Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

**Exhibit 19: Price chart** 



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research



# **Financial Summary**

## **Exhibit 20: Profit & Loss**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	194,671	200,775	217,475	241,515
Operating Expenses	148,128	154,279	167,541	185,095
EBITDA	46,543	46,497	49,934	56,420
EBITDA Margin (%)	23.9	23.2	23.0	23.4
Depreciation & Amortization	4,373	5,399	5,929	6,283
EBIT	42,170	41,097	44,005	50,136
Interest expenditure	1,133	1,360	1,313	1,450
Other Non-operating Income	2,106	1,829	2,647	3,157
Recurring PBT	43,142	41,567	45,339	51,843
Profit / (Loss) from Associates	-	-	-	-
Less: Taxes	11,022	11,330	11,412	13,049
PAT	32,120	30,237	33,927	38,794
Less: Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	92	2,908	-	-
Net Income (Reported)	31,962	33,145	33,927	38,794
Net Income (Adjusted)	31,870	30,237	33,927	38,794

Source Company data, I-Sec research

### Exhibit 21: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total Current Assets	34,947	37,342	48,891	62,585
of which cash & cash eqv.	8,188	957	9,658	19,214
Total Current Liabilities & Provisions	33,188	36,322	39,463	43,957
Net Current Assets	1,759	1,019	9,429	18,628
Investments	4,239	7,056	7,056	7,056
Net Fixed Assets	30,557	49,257	48,112	46,901
ROU Assets	-	-	-	-
Capital Work-in-Progress	17,417	11,726	11,726	11,726
Total Intangible Assets	-	-	-	-
Long Term Loans & Advances	14,025	12,380	13,409	14,892
Deferred Tax assets	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	72,042	86,917	95,211	104,682
Liabilities				
Borrowings	311	7,533	7,533	7,533
Deferred Tax Liability	120	536	536	536
Provisions	29,172	30,902	33,472	37,172
Other Liabilities	9,030	6,774	6,774	6,774
Equity Share Capital	964	964	964	964
Reserves & Surplus	32,445	40,207	45,932	51,702
Total Net Worth	33,409	41,172	46,896	52,666
Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	72,042	86,917	95,211	104,682

Source Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 22: Quarterly trend**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Net Sales	50,748	47,621	54,476	50,740
% growth (YOY)	1.2	3.3	4.2	5.5
EBITDA	11,385	10,851	13,327	10,781
Margin %	22.4	22.8	24.5	21.2
Other Income	69	44	84	40
Extraordinaries	2,908	-	-	-
Adjusted Net Profit	6,955	6,961	8,854	6,592

Source Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 23: Cashflow statement**

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Operating Cashflow	41,748	29,364	41,406	47,153
Working Capital Changes	(2,489)	(7,112)	1,833	2,574
Capital Commitments	(14,045)	(18,864)	(4,784)	(5,072)
Free Cashflow	27,703	10,499	36,621	42,081
Other investing cashflow	1,670	755	1,596	1,949
Cashflow from Investing Activities	(12,374)	(18,109)	(3,188)	(3,123)
Issue of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Interest Cost	(16)	(67)	(1,313)	(1,450)
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Dividend paid	(30,082)	(24,586)	(28,203)	(33,024)
Others	(1,251)	6,172	-	-
Cash flow from Financing Activities	(31,349)	(18,481)	(29,516)	(34,474)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	(1,976)	(7,227)	8,702	9,556
Closing cash & balance	7,480	562	9,658	19,214

Source Company data, I-Sec research

## **Exhibit 24: Key ratios**

(Year ending March)

( can arraing maran,				
	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	33.1	31.4	35.2	40.2
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	33.1	31.4	35.2	40.2
Cash EPS	37.6	37.0	41.3	46.8
Dividend per share (DPS)	32.3	24.3	29.3	34.3
Book Value per share (BV)	34.6	42.7	48.6	54.6
Dividend Payout (%)	97.6	77.3	83.1	85.1
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	15.9	3.1	8.3	11.1
EBITDA	27.5	(0.1)	7.4	13.0
EPS (INR)	33.3	(5.1)	12.2	14.3
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	68.9	72.6	64.7	56.6
P/CEPS	60.6	61.6	55.1	48.7
P/BV	65.7	53.3	46.8	41.7
EV / EBITDA	47.0	47.3	43.9	38.7
P / Sales	11.3	10.9	10.1	9.1
Dividend Yield (%)	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.5
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	56.5	56.4	56.6	56.7
EBITDA Margins (%)	23.9	23.2	23.0	23.4
Effective Tax Rate (%)	25.5	27.3	25.2	25.2
Net Profit Margins (%)	16.5	15.1	15.6	16.1
Net Debt / Equity (x)	(0.2)	0.2	0.0	(0.2)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	(0.2)	0.1	0.0	(0.2)
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	3.6	2.9	2.6	2.8
Working Capital Days	(14)	0	0	(1)
Inventory Turnover Days	42	53	54	54
Receivables Days	6	7	7	7
Payables Days	45	44	45	46
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%)	107.1	72.5	63.9	65.5
RoE (%)	109.9	81.1	77.0	77.9
RoIC (%)	112.5	75.8	67.7	69.6
Source Company data, I-Sec resea	rch			



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