

APL Apollo Tubes

Estimate change	<u> </u>
TP change	↓
Rating change	←

Bloomberg	APAT IN
Equity Shares (m)	278
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	397.7 / 4.7
52-Week Range (INR)	1806 / 1305
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-6/-7/-33
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1430

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Tillulicials & Valuations (IIVIV b)								
Y/E Mar	FY24	FY25E	FY26E					
Sales	181.2	218.2	276.1					
EBITDA	11.9	14.3	19.7					
PAT	7.3	9.1	13.6					
EBITDA (%)	6.6	6.5	7.1					
EPS (INR)	26.4	32.9	48.9					
EPS Gr. (%)	14.1	24.6	48.7					
BV/Sh. (INR)	130.0	156.9	199.8					
Ratios								
Net D/E	0.2	-0.1	-0.3					
RoE (%)	22.2	22.9	27.4					
RoCE (%)	19.0	20.2	25.8					
Payout (%)	18.9	18.2	12.3					
Valuations								
P/E (x)	54.6	43.8	29.4					
EV/EBITDA (x)	34.2	27.7	19.6					
Div Yield (%)	0.3	0.4	0.4					
FCF Yield (%)	1.1	3.4	2.8					

Shareholding pattern (%)

As on	Jun-24	Mar-24	Jun-23
Promoter	28.3	29.4	30.6
DII	14.9	14.1	12.7
FII	31.6	30.7	25.1
Others	25.2	25.8	31.6

Note: FII includes depository receipts

CMP: INR1,433 TP: INR1,720 (+20%) Buy

Muted earnings as volume growth offset by margin

contraction

Earnings below our estimates

- APL Apollo Tubes (APAT) reported healthy sales volume of 721kmt (up 9% YoY/6% QoQ) in 1QFY25, led by the ramp-up of its Raipur and Dubai plants. However, EBITDA/MT fell ~10% YoY to ~INR4,183, due to high operational expenses (high employee, freight, power cost and ad spending in 1Q).
- We cut our FY25E/FY26E earnings by 13%/12%, primarily due to lower EBITDA/MT (reduced by 8% for both years). We value the stock at 35x FY26E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,720. Reiterate BUY.

Higher operational expenses hurt margins

- Consolidated revenue grew 9% YoY/4% QoQ to INR49.7b (est. INR50b) in 1QFY25, led by volume growth of 9% YoY/6% QoQ to 721kmt.
- VAP mix stood at 60% in 1QFY25 vs. 57%/60% in 1QFY24/4QFY24. VAP mix improved YoY, led by the ramp-up of the Raipur and Dubai plants.
- Gross profit/MT stood at INR9,772 (up 4% YoY/5% QoQ), led by favorable product mix. EBITDA/MT stood at INR4,183 down 10% YoY (up 1% QoQ) due to high employee, freight and power costs and high ad spend on branding in 1Q. EBITDA fell 2% YoY (up 8% QoQ) to INR3b (est. INR3.3b).
- Adjusted PAT was flat YoY but up 13% QoQ to INR1.9b (est. INR2b).

Highlights from the management commentary

- Demand scenario: Demand in 2Q is expected to remain under pressure. Dealers are wary of restocking due to falling steel prices (can fall further by 3,000-4,000/MT in 2Q). 2HFY25 is expected to be solid.
- **Guidance**: APAT has lowered its volume guidance to 3.2mtpa in FY25. It targets ~20-25% volume growth in FY26 and aims to reach 5mmt by FY27. In FY25, the company targets to match EBITDA/MT of FY24. It expects net debt to be near zero by the end of FY25.
- Market share: APAT is expected to gain market share from secondary scrap steel manufacturers amid the narrowing pricing gap (~5%) in primary and secondary steel. If HR Coil prices stabilizes at ~INR45-48K/MT, then the company is confident of gaining this market share.

Valuation and view

- The incremental capacity from the upcoming plants and debottlenecking, along with the addition of high-margin products from the Raipur and Dubai units, should result in strong volume growth and margin expansion going forward.
- We expect a CAGR of 23%/28%/36% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-26. We cut our FY25E/FY26E earnings by 13%/12% primarily due to lower EBITDA/MT (reduced by 8% for both years). We value the stock at 35x FY26E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,720. **Reiterate BUY**.

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Consolidated - Quarterly Earning N	/lodel											(INRm)
Y/E March		FY	24			FY	′ 25		FY24	FY25E	FY24E	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE	 '		1QE	%
Gross Sales	45,449	46,304	41,778	47,657	49,743	54,666	53,117	60,696	1,81,188	2,18,222	49,969	0
YoY Change (%)	32.2	16.7	-3.5	7.6	9.4	18.1	27.1	27.4	12.1	20.4	9.9	
Total Expenditure	42,377	43,054	38,982	44,854	46,727	51,291	49,466	56,466	1,69,266	2,03,950	46,708	
EBITDA	3,072	3,250	2,795	2,804	3,016	3,375	3,651	4,230	11,922	14,273	3,261	-8
Margins (%)	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.9	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.5	
Depreciation	409	413	471	466	465	535	560	603	1,759	2,163	490	
Interest	271	266	285	311	278	255	200	155	1,134	888	290	
Other Income	217	196	150	186	247	235	188	246	749	916	249	
PBT before EO expense	2,608	2,767	2,190	2,212	2,520	2,821	3,079	3,718	9,777	12,138	2,731	
Extra-Ord expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PBT	2,608	2,767	2,190	2,212	2,520	2,821	3,079	3,718	9,777	12,138	2,731	
Tax	672	738	535	508	589	710	775	936	2,453	3,009	687	
Rate (%)	25.8	26.7	24.4	23.0	23.4	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.1	24.8	25.2	
Minority Interest & Profit/Loss of Asso. Cos.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Reported PAT	1,936	2,029	1,655	1,704	1,932	2,111	2,304	2,782	7,324	9,128	2,043	
Adj PAT	1,936	2,029	1,655	1,704	1,932	2,111	2,304	2,782	7,324	9,128	2,043	-5
YoY Change (%)	60.5	35.1	-2.2	-15.5	-0.2	4.0	39.2	63.2	14.1	24.6	5.5	
Margins (%)	4.3	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.2	4.1	

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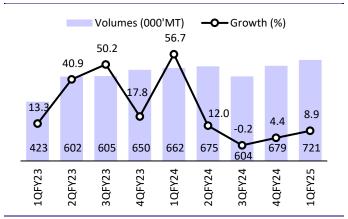
Y/E March	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	YOY	QOQ
Segment Volumes ('000 MT)							
Apollo Structural							
Big Section	45	51	62	64	58	31%	-9%
Super Heavy Section	4	5	7	8	11	146%	44%
Light Structures	112	113	95	102	110	-2%	7%
General Structures	282	301	249	272	288	2%	6%
Apollo Z - Rust-proof structures	170	144	124	156	168	-1%	8%
Apollo Z- Coated Products	19	29	36	40	52	165%	29%
Apollo Galv - Agri/Industrial	30	32	30	37	34	13%	-6%
TOTAL	662	675	604	679	721	9%	6%
Value Added Products	381	374	355	407	433	14%	6%
Segment EBITDA/MT (INR/MT)							
Apollo Structural							
Big Section	7,618	8,481	8,177	7,845	7,901	4%	1%
Super Heavy Section	8,777	10,014	9,551	9,210	9,425	7%	2%
Light Structures	5,775	6,258	5,771	5,187	5,169	-10%	0%
General Structures	2,252	2,152	1,771	1,802	1,944	-14%	8%
Apollo Z - Rust-proof structures	6,749	6,721	6,144	4,865	4,958	-27%	2%
Apollo Z- Coated Products	4,044	7,472	7,516	6,023	5,757	42%	-4%
Apollo Galv - Agri/Industrial	6,196	7,196	6,452	5,725	5,698	-8%	0%
Cost Break-up							
RM Cost (% of sales)	86%	86%	86%	87%	86%	-43bps	-88bps
Employee Cost (% of sales)	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	28bps	14bps
Other Cost (% of sales)	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	85bps	56bps
Gross Margins (%)	14%	14%	14%	13%	14%	43bps	88bps
EBITDA Margins (%)	6.8%	7.0%	6.7%	5.9%	6.1%	-70bps	18bps

Key Exhibits

Exhibit 1: Consolidated revenue trend



Exhibit 2: Volume trend



Source: Company, MOFSL

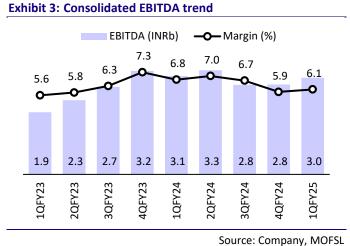
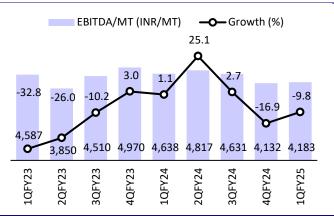
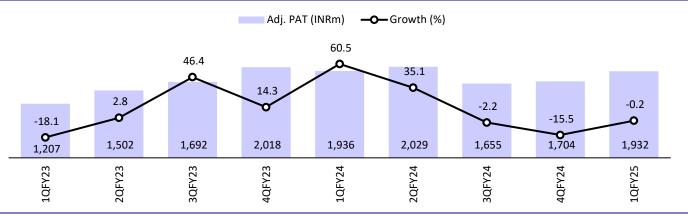


Exhibit 4: EBITDA/MT trend



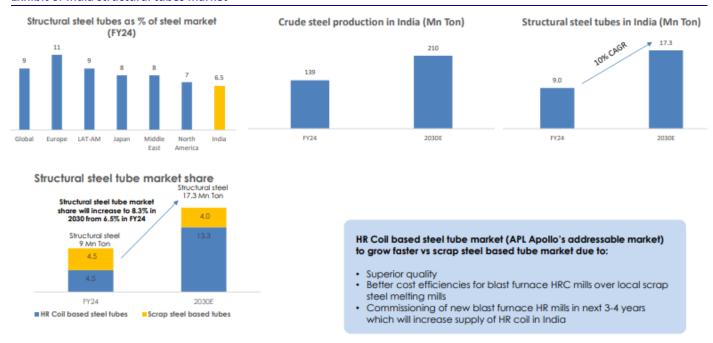
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 5: Consolidated Adj. PAT trend



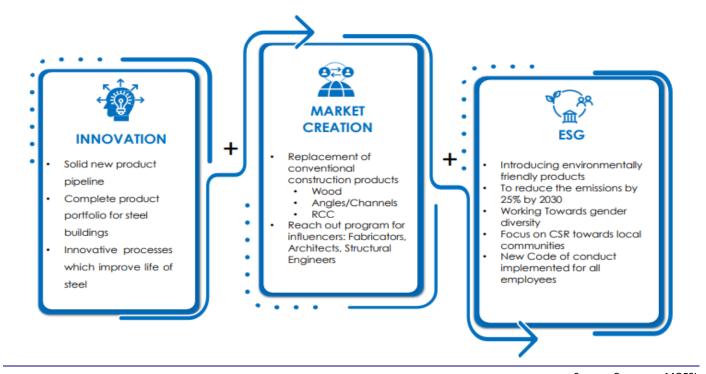
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: India structural tubes market



Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 7: The company's vision



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 8: Growth drivers for APAT

Growth Drivers

A Capacity expansion

Raipur project

- Capacity: 1.0 MTPA (infrastructure of 1.5 MTPA)
- Capex: Rs13bn (90% already incurred)
- · Potential financials:
 - Revenue: Rs70bn+
 - EBITDA: Rs6bn+

Products

В

Project specifically focused at High-value added products 3 key product categories:

High Diameter High Thickness Tubes

New products

- 500m x 500m and 1000m x 1000m
- · Capacity: 0.3 MTPA
- · Suitable for high rise, high load bearing structures
- · Reduces project cost by ~20% for the developer

Coated Tubes

- · Colored and galvanized
- Capacity: 0.3 MTPA
- Suitable for Warehousing, infrastructure & industrial segments

Coated Products

- · Narrow cold rolled and flat products
- · Capacity: 0.4 MTPA
- New age products to replace existing products of wood, PVC etc.

Geographic expansion

East India

Capacity: 0.2 MTPA Project to help deeper penetration in the Eastern India market Land acquisition in process COD: FY 25

Dubai

Capacity: 0.3 MTPA First plant outside India for catering to Middle East and European markets COD: FY 25

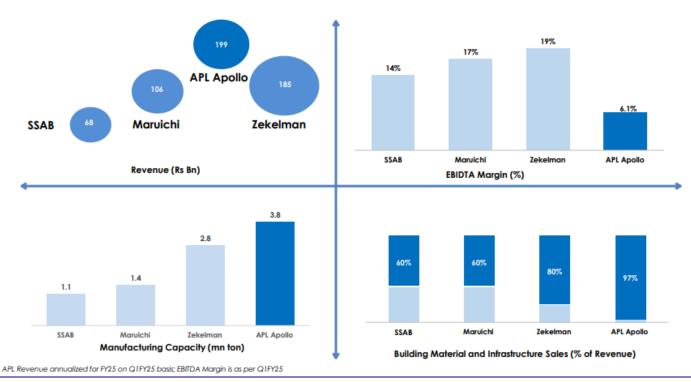


Focus on high margin

products

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: Global peer benchmarking



Source: Company, MOFSL

Highlights from the management commentary

Operating Performance

- Freight cost/ton went up during the quarter; power and fuel costs also increased in Raipur as there is no renewable source as of now. The company is working on this aspect.
- Brand spending was higher in 1Q and the company expects it to be significantly lower in the upcoming quarters.
- Employee costs increased by INR50m YoY due to ESOPs. The company expects a run rate of ~INR750m for the remaining quarters in FY25.

Outlook and Guidance

- 2Q is expected to remain under pressure. Dealers are still wary of restocking due to falling steel prices. Also, some inventory write-downs can happen.
- For FY25, the company targets to match EBITDA/MT of FY24.
- APAT has guided for volume of 3.2mtpa in FY25. It targets ~20-25% volume growth in FY26 and aims to reach 5mmt by FY27.
- The company expects net debt to be near zero by the end of FY25.

New facilities

- Currently the capacity is ~4.5mtpa, which is expected to reach 5mtpa by FY25 end. APAT is adding three small plants for tubes.
- The company is coming up with Siliguri facility for the eastern markets (~200ktpa capacity).
- Another plant in Gorakhpur will cater to UP and Bihar markets (~200ktpa). This facility is shifted from another location.
- APAT will also set up Ahmedabad facility (~200ktpa; shifted from another location).
- The company will incur a capex of ~INR5-6b for this expansion. Till now, it has already spent INR2-2.5b on land and building of these plants.
- It is not adding many new plants, but the majority of the plants will be shifted from other locations (such as from Old Bangalore and new Raipur).
- After this expansion, the total capacity will be ~5mmt.
- **Dubai plant** has capacity of ~300ktpa. It has a strong product portfolio (from 15mm x 15mm to 300mm x 300mm). Capacity utilization in 1Q stood at ~31%. The company expects a strong ramp-up of capacities.

Steel Prices

- The steel prices are down by INR3,000/MT from the recent high, while they are down INR7,000-8,000/MT on a YoY basis.
- APAT is witnessing a deflationary steel price environment. With additional capacities coming in, the company expects the situation to remain the same over for next one year.
- Steel prices can further go down by 3,000-4,000/MT in 2QFY25, while 2HFY25 is expected to be solid.
- There is good visibility of steel capacity expansion in the next 2-3 years, which was consolidating over the last five years. HR coil capacity from blast furnace is expected to increase by 50% over Dec'23 to Dec'25 in India.

Key demand drivers

- APAT expects healthy demand traction due to restocking by dealers and distributors.
- The company also expects to gain market share from secondary scrap steel (due to narrowing pricing gap to 5%).
- If the HR Coil prices stabilize at ~INR45,000-48,000/MT, then the company is confident of gaining market share from secondary steel manufacturers.
- Strong infra push by the government in recent budget also implies healthy demand going ahead.

Other key highlights

- APAT's super valued-added products face no threat from secondary tube manufacturers. The company only faces higher competition within general product category.
- Rust-proof products are only present in the coastal market. Currently it is facing huge competition. The company is looking to expand it to non-coastal markets.
- The company maintains its market share of 65-70%
- The growth in the structural steel tubes market in FY24 was mainly driven by scrap-based steel tubes manufacturers due to better arbitrage.
- Dubai plant has slightly higher working capital days than Indian plants.
- Steel tube consumption for data center is ~20kg/sqft; for high-rise buildings, consumption is ~5kg/sqft.
- **Export market:** The company has recently commissioned its 300 x 300mm tubes in Dubai and is also selling 500 x 500mm tube from India to the international market. This is creating awareness for APAT in the global markets. APAT is currently clocking exports of ~100ktpa.

Valuation and View

- We believe APAT would sustain its earnings momentum on the back of: 1) growing demand across segments, 2) increased product penetration with a robust distribution network, 3) healthy capacity expansion, 4) an increase in the share of VAP, thus driving margins, and 5) its market leadership.
- The incremental capacity from the upcoming plants and debottlenecking, along with the addition of high-margin products from the Raipur and Dubai units, should result in strong volume growth and margin expansion going forward.
- We expect a CAGR of 23%/28%/36% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-26. We cut our FY25E/FY26E earnings by 13%/12%, primarily due to lower EBITDA/MT (reduced by 8% for both years). We value the stock at 35x FY26E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,720. **Reiterate BUY**.

Exhibit 10: Revisions to our estimates

Earnings change	0	Old		ew	Change		
(INR m)	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	
Revenue	2,29,496	2,89,490	2,18,222	2,76,079	-5%	-5%	
EBITDA	16,235	22,243	14,273	19,661	-12%	-12%	
Adj. PAT	10,525	15,444	9,128	13,574	-13%	-12%	

Financials and valuations

Provisions

Account Receivables

Loans and Advances

Account Payables

Net Current Assets

Appl. of Funds

Curr. Liability & Prov.

Other Current Liabilities

Cash and Bank Balance

Consolidated - Income Statement Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	(INRm
Total Income from Operations	53,348	71,523	77,232	84,998	1,30,633	1,61,660	1,81,188	2,18,222	2,76,079
Change (%)	36.0	34.1	8.0	10.1	53.7	23.8	12.1	20.4	26.5
RM Cost	45,483	63,077	65,786	71,648	1,12,231	1,40,178	1,56,172	1,86,298	2,34,944
Employees Cost	862	1,079	1,422	1,296	1,530	2,062	2,576	3,064	3,451
Other Expenses	3,292	3,439	5,252	5,266	7,419	9,204	10,518	14,588	18,024
Total Expenditure	49,637	67,595	72,459	78,210	1,21,181	1,51,444	1,69,266	2,03,950	2,56,419
% of Sales	93.0	94.5	93.8	92.0	92.8	93.7	93.4	93.5	92.9
EBITDA	3,710	3,928	4,773	6,787	9,453	10,216	11,922	14,273	19,661
Margin (%)	7.0	5.5	6.2	8.0	7.2	6.3	6.6	6.5	7.1
Depreciation	534	643	959	1,028	1,090	1,383	1,759	2,163	2,363
EBIT	3,176	3,286	3,814	5,759	8,363	8,832	10,162	12,110	17,298
Int. and Finance Charges	813	1,134	1,073	661	445	671	1,134	888	400
Other Income	80	117	222	359	405	472	749	916	1,242
PBT bef. EO Exp.	2,443	2,269	2,963	5,458	8,323	8,633	9,777	12,138	18,140
EO Items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
PBT after EO Exp.	2,443	2,269	2,963	5,458	8,323	8,633	9,777	12,138	18,140
Total Tax	862	787	403	1,381	2,133	2,215	2,453	3,009	4,566
Tax Rate (%)	35.3	34.7	13.6	25.3	25.6	25.7	25.1	24.8	25.2
Minority Interest	0	0	180	475	617	0	0	0	C
Reported PAT	1,581	1,482	2,380	3,602	5,573	6,419	7,324	9,128	13,574
Adjusted PAT	1,581	1,482	2,380	3,602	5,573	6,419	7,324	9,128	13,574
Change (%)	4.0	-6.2	60.5	51.3	54.7	15.2	14.1	24.6	48.7
Margin (%)	3.0	2.1	3.1	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.9
Consolidated - Balance Sheet									(INR m
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Equity Share Capital	237	239	249	250	501	555	555	555	555
Total Reserves	8,141	9,402	13,313	16,697	22,139	29,501	35,491	42,955	54,866
Net Worth	8,379	9,641	13,562	16,947	22,640	30,056	36,046	43,511	55,421
Minority Interest	0	0	954	1,383	2,000	0	0	0	(
Total Loans	7,751	8,581	8,338	5,203	5,806	8,729	11,246	6,246	2,246
Deferred Tax Liabilities	994	1,200	1,012	1,112	1,187	1,171	1,258	1,258	1,258
Capital Employed	17,124	19,422	23,865	24,644	31,633	39,957	48,550	51,014	58,924
Gross Block	9,617	11,626	17,246	18,568	20,677	29,513	38,099	41,472	44,447
Less: Accum. Deprn.	988	1,548	2,507	3,535	4,625	6,008	7,767	9,930	12,293
Net Fixed Assets	8,628	10,078	14,738	15,033	16,053	23,505	30,331	31,542	32,154
Goodwill on Consolidation	230	230	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375
Capital WIP	460	275	101	1,077	5,037	3,740	2,030	2,156	1,681
Total Investments	11	494	15	15	913	960	1,027	4,527	8,027
Current Investments	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	3,500	7,000
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	12,483	16,663	16,431	16,491	21,147	28,936	37,105	35,747	46,313
Inventory	5,915	7,835	7,842	7,599	8,472	14,799	16,379	18,439	23,183

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8,346

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108

478

Financials and valuations

Ratios									
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Basic (INR)	-								
EPS	5.7	5.3	8.6	13.0	20.1	23.1	26.4	32.9	48.9
Cash EPS	7.6	7.7	12.0	16.7	24.0	28.1	32.8	40.7	57.5
BV/Share	30.2	34.8	48.9	61.1	81.6	108.4	130.0	156.9	199.8
DPS	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.5	5.0	6.0	6.0
Payout (%)	25.3	27.7	0.0	0.0	17.4	15.1	18.9	18.2	12.3
Valuation (x)									
P/E	252.7	269.6	167.9	111.0	71.7	62.3	54.6	43.8	29.4
Cash P/E	188.9	188.1	119.7	86.3	60.0	51.2	44.0	35.4	25.1
P/BV	47.7	41.5	29.5	23.6	17.7	13.3	11.1	9.2	7.2
EV/Sales	7.6	5.7	5.3	4.7	3.1	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.4
EV/EBITDA	109.8	103.8	85.6	59.3	42.7	39.6	34.2	27.7	19.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
FCF per share	3.5	4.7	-5.4	24.1	1.6	-2.3	15.3	48.5	40.9
Return Ratios (%)									
RoE	20.5	16.5	20.5	23.6	28.2	24.4	22.2	22.9	27.4
RoCE	14.5	12.9	17.4	20.8	25.8	20.6	19.0	20.2	25.8
RoIC	14.1	12.4	15.9	19.9	29.7	24.5	20.6	22.9	33.6
Working Capital Ratios									
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	5.5	6.2	4.5	4.6	6.3	5.5	4.8	5.3	6.2
Asset Turnover (x)	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.4	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.3	4.7
Inventory (Days)	40	40	37	33	24	33	33	31	31
Debtor (Days)	30	28	23	6	10	3	3	3	3
Creditor (Days)	26	36	36	34	30	36	40	34	33
Leverage Ratio (x)									
Current Ratio	2.7	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
Interest Cover Ratio	3.9	2.9	3.6	8.7	18.8	13.2	9.0	13.6	43.2
Net Debt/Equity	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.3
Consolidated - Cash Flow Statement									(INR m)
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	2,443	2,269	2,963	5,458	8,323	8,633	9,777	12,138	18,140
Depreciation	534	0	959	1,028	1,090	1,383	1,759	2,163	2,363
Interest & Finance Charges	789	0	851	302	40	199	385	-28	-842
Direct Taxes Paid	-602	-673	-403	-1,381	-1,993	-2,161	-2,453	-3,009	-4,566
(Inc)/Dec in WC	-2,342	287	725	3,577	-1,154	-1,475	1,646	5,682	-1,240
CF from Operations	823	1,884	5,096	8,983	6,306	6,580	11,115	16,946	13,854
Others	91	1,693	0	0	211	321	0	0	0
CF from Operating incl EO	914	3,576	5,096	8,983	6,517	6,901	11,115	16,946	13,854
(Inc)/Dec in FA	48	-2,261	-6,591	-2,298	-6,070	-7,539	-6,876	-3,500	-2,500
Free Cash Flow	961	1,316	-1,495	6,685	447	-638	4,239	13,446	11,354
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	2	-390	479	0	-898	-48	-67	-3,500	-3,500
Others	-1,703	13	1,763	-4,171	1,666	-1,171	-2,214	916	1,242
CF from Investments	-1,654	-2,639	-4,349	-6,468	-5,301	-8,757	-9,157	-6,084	-4,758
Issue of Shares	100	56	10	1	251	1,284	0	0	0
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	1,807	830	-244	-3,135	603	2,924	2,516	-5,000	-4,000
Interest Paid	-772	-1,014	-1,073	-661	-445	-671	-1,134	-888	-400
Dividend Paid	-283	-400	0	0	-971	-971	-1,387	-1,664	-1,664
Others		0	538	4,403	-469	-949	-2,004	0	0
	-59								
CF from Fin. Activity	-59 792	-528	-768	609	-1,031	1,617	-2,008	-7,553	-6,064
Inc/Dec of Cash			-768 -22	609 3,123	-1,031 185	1,617 -240	-2,008 -49	-7,553 3,310	-6,064 3,033
-	792	-528							

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NOTES

Explanation of Investment Rating							
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)						
BUY	>=15%						
SELL	< - 10%						
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%						
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change						
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation						

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