## **Quarterly Update/Target price change**

# **Mphasis**

India | IT Services



## ivipi icisis

### Not out of the woods yet...

#### Q3 dragged down by Communication; Banking turnaround intact

USD revenue growth for Mphasis (MPHL IN) came in at just 1.6%, way below our and street estimates. This was despite a tailwind of ~USD 15mn from the Silverline acquisition. Excluding the Silverline fillip, revenue contracted 2.8% QoQ USD, in a sharp deterioration from the growth journey since the past two quarters, dragged down by the Communication vertical.

The QoQ growth was led by Insurance/ Logistics and Transportation, up 6.9%/3.2%, QoQ USD. Banking growth was at 0.9%, in keeping with the turnaround journey after QoQ contraction over last four quarters. This indicates ebbing concerns over regional banks' health. 'Others' was up the most at 11%, in line with the results announced yet. The biggest drag was Communication, with a 9.1% QoQ USD drop. Adjusted EBIT margin was at 16%, up 50bps QoQ, ahead of our estimates. Headcount addition of 221 QoQ is a key positive.

#### Banking - Green shoots visible

Banking Capital Markets reported a growth of 0.9% QoQ in INR terms, after four quarters of revenue contraction. Insurance also fared well with 7.6% QoQ growth. Segmental gross margin improved 55/145/47bps for BCM/Insurance/logistics. The effort was to spike segmental margin across-the-board. This indicates better-quality deals and higher end work being done in the BCM vertical. With the interest rate cycle turning positive, growth for the top client may revive and MPHL may be the prime beneficiary given its highest exposure to BFSI among tier-II players.

#### Valuations: Retain Accumulate; TP raised to INR 2,710

We are positive as pain in mortgages seems to be ebbing (albeit slowly), revenue growth has turned around and margin sustainability is there. We factor in Q3 print and raise FY25E-26E EPS 2.5-7% on green shoots in Banking and positive fallout from the interest rate cycle turning favorable, thus the better performance by Mortgage. We maintain Accumulate, with a raised TP of INR 2,710 (from INR 2,380), on 25.5x Dec-25E, in line with five-year average adjusted with +0.5 STD.

## Rating: Accumulate

Target Price: INR 2,710

Upside: 6%

CMP: INR 2,560 (as on 2 February 2024)

Key data*	
Bloomberg / Reuters Code	MPHL IN/MBFL.BO
Current /Dil. Shares O/S (mn)	188/188
Mkt Cap (INR bn/USD mn)	483/5,833
Daily Volume (3M NSE Avg)	523,914
Face Value (INR)	10

1 USD = INR 82.9

Note: \*as on 2 February 2024; Source: Bloomberg

Price & \	Volume			
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500	Abrillia (bil)		<u>akirillaririk</u>	0.0
Feb-	23 May-23	Aug-23	Nov-23	Feb-24
	■ Vol. in mn (R	RHS) —	— Mphas	is (LHS)

Source: Bloomberg

Shareholding (%)	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
Promoter	55.6	55.6	55.6	55.5
Institutional Investors	38.7	38.3	39.3	39.5
Other Investors	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3
General Public	4.1	4.6	3.7	3.6

Source: BSE

Price performance (%)	ЗМ	6M	12M
Nifty	14.2	11.9	24.1
Mphasis	17.0	16.0	22.2
LTIMindtree	9.3	12.7	19.6
Coforge	27.1	35.1	44.9

Elara Securities (India) Private Limited

Source: Bloomberg

(INR mn)	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY (%)	Q2FY24	QoQ (%)
Revenues (USD mn)	400.8	425.9	(5.9)	396.0	1.2
Revenues - ex hedging gain/loss (USD mn)	402.3	429.4		398.5	
Revenue	33,380.0	35,062.0	(4.8)	32,765.0	1.9
Operating Expenditure	27,373	28,887	(5.2)	26,809	2.1
EBITDA	6,007	6,175	(2.7)	5,956	0.9
Depreciation	1,035	821	26.1	889	16.4
EBİT	4,972	5,354	(7.1)	5,067	(1.9)
Other Income	542	400		490	
PBT	4,986	5,510	(9.5)	5,217	(4.4)
Total Tax	1,250	1,387	(9.9)	1,297	(3.6)
Adjusted PAT	3,736	4,123	(9.4)	3,920	(4.7)
APAT after MI	3,736	4,123	(9.4)	3,920	(4.7)
Reported PAT	3,736	4,123	(9.4)	3,920	(4.7)
Reported EPS	19.8	21.9	(9.4)	20.8	(4.7)

March         (INR bn)         (%)         (INR bn)         margin (%)         (INR bn)         (%)         (INR)         (%)         (%)         (x)           FY23         138.0         15.4         24.3         17.6         16.4         14.5         87.7         21.2         29.7         29.0         16           FY24E         133.0         (3.6)         24.4         18.3         15.7         (4.2)         84.0         19.2         25.9         30.3         16	Key fina	ncials										
FY23     138.0     15.4     24.3     17.6     16.4     14.5     87.7     21.2     29.7     29.0     16       FY24E     133.0     (3.6)     24.4     18.3     15.7     (4.2)     84.0     19.2     25.9     30.3     16	YE	Revenue	YoY	EBITDA	EBITDA	Adj PAT	YoY	Fully DEPS	ROE	ROCE	P/E	EV/EBITDA
FY24E 133.0 (3.6) 24.4 18.3 15.7 (4.2) 84.0 19.2 25.9 30.3 10	March	(INR bn)	(%)	(INR bn)	margin (%)	(INR bn)	(%)	(INR)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)
	FY23	138.0	15.4	24.3	17.6	16.4	14.5	87.7	21.2	29.7	29.0	16.9
FY25F 1464 10.1 27.8 19.0 18.0 14.7 96.3 19.4 26.6 26.4 14	FY24E	133.0	(3.6)	24.4	18.3	15.7	(4.2)	84.0	19.2	25.9	30.3	16.2
11252 110.1 10.1 27.0 17.0 10.0 11.7 70.5 17.1 20.0 20.1 1	FY25E	146.4	10.1	27.8	19.0	18.0	14.7	96.3	19.4	26.6	26.4	14.0
FY26E 164.1 12.1 31.5 19.2 21.0 16.7 112.4 20.6 27.8 22.6 12	FY26E	164.1	12.1	31.5	19.2	21.0	16.7	112.4	20.6	27.8	22.6	12.2

Note: Pricing as on 2 February 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate **Ruchi Mukhija** • ruchi.mukhija@elaracapital.com • +91 22 6164 8583 **Seema Nayak** • seema.nayak@elaracapital.com • +91 22 4204 8687

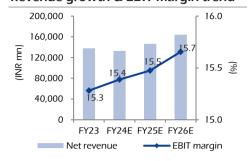


## Consolidated Financials (YE March)

Income Statement (INID rem)		TV24E		EV2/E
Income Statement (INR mn)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Revenues	137,984	133,037	146,425	164,081
EBITDA	24,339	24,363	27,827	31,497
Less :- Depreciation & Amortization	3,253	3,890	5,168	5,808
EBIT	21,086	20,473	22,658	25,689
Add:- Non operating Income	1,165	1,925	2,252	3,035
PBT	21,730	20,906	23,971	27,972
Less:-Taxes	5,351	5,209	5,974	6,970
Adjusted PAT	16,379	15,697	17,997	21,001
Reported PAT	16,379	15,697	17,997	21,001
Balance Sheet (INR mn)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Share Capital	1,884	1,884	1,884	1,884
Reserves	75,426	82,588	90,687	100,137
Borrowings	2,038	2,038	2,038	2,038
Other Liabilities	11,558	11,558	11,558	11,558
Total Liabilities	90,906	98,068	106,167	115,617
Gross Block	11,481	13,477	15,673	18,134
Less:- Accumulated Depreciation	7,938	11,828	16,996	22,804
Net Block	3,543	1,780	(1,192)	(4,539
Investments	17,526	17,526	17,526	17,520
Cash & cash equivalents	10,558	20,009	29,171	39,454
Net Working Capital	19,478	18,953	20,861	23,370
Other Assets	39,801	39,801	39,801	39,80
Total Assets	90,906	98,068	106,167	115,617
Cash Flow Statement (INR mn)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26I
Cash profit adjusted for non-cash items	20,396	19,154	21,853	24,527
Add/Less: Working Capital Changes	(5,779)	525	(1,907)	(2,515
Operating Cash Flow	14,617	19,678	19,945	22,01
Less:- Capex	(1,112)	(1,996)	(2,196)	(2,461
Free Cash Flow to Firm	15,728	21,674	22,141	24,47
Financing Cash Flow	(14,402)	(8,500)	(9,898)	(11,551
Investing Cash Flow	1,825	(1,695)	(884)	(178
Net change in Cash	2,257	9,483	9,163	10,283
Ratio Analysis	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26
Income Statement Ratios (%)	1123	I IZTL	11232	1 120
Revenue Growth	6.6	(6.3)	9.5	12.
EBITDA Growth	14.9	0.1	14.2	13.2
PAT Growth	14.5	(4.2)	14.7	16.7
EBITDA Margin	17.6	18.3	19.0	19.2
Net Margin	11.9	11.8	12.3	12.8
Return & Liquidity Ratios	11.7	11.0	12.3	12.0
Net Debt/Equity (x)	(0.1)	10.21	(0.3)	10.4
ROE (%)	(0.1) 21.2	(0.2) 18.6	(0.3) 19.4	(0.4 20.0
ROE (%)	21.2	25.9	26.6	20.0
Per Share data & Valuation Ratios	27.7	23.7	20.0	27.0
	07.2	02.7	05.0	1110
Diluted EPS (INR)	87.3	83.7	95.9 14.7	111.9
EPS Growth (%)	14.5	(4.2)	14.7	16.7
BVPS (INR)	414	452	495	540
DPS (INR)	49.8	46.0	52.8	61.6
P/E (x)	29.5	30.8	26.8	23.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	20.0	19.6	16.8	14.
Price/Book (x)	6.2	5.7	5.2	4.1
Dividend Yield (%)	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.4

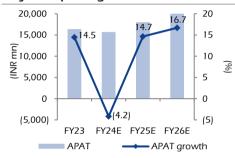
Note: Pricing as on 2 February 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

## Revenue growth & EBIT margin trend



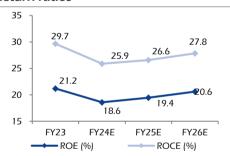
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### Adjusted profit growth trend



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### **Return ratios**



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate



### Earnings call – Highlights

#### **Demand commentary**

- The market is seeing duality, with macro headwinds and digital investments at the same time (especially in AI). MPHL is leading with design/architecture and its engineering DNA, via building AI platform. Q3 saw higher-than-expected furloughs.
- The softening of 30-year interest rate cycle may be a tailwind for the banking business (read mortgages).
   Mortgage rates may drop slowly through CY24, resulting in benefit for MPHL's banking vertical.
- QoQ constant-currency growth was at 1%, down 6.8% YoY.
- Top-10 client declined by 4.3% QoQ USD because of higher-than-expected furloughs.

#### Vertical-wise read: Optimism surrounds Banking

- BCM/ Insurance/Logistics/Others were up 0.2%/6.9%/3.2%/11% QoQ USD while IT-CME was down 9.1%. Logistics transportation saw its best growth since the past seven quarters. BCM is improving, validated by 2.2% QoQ USD growth in North America, unlike the contraction reported by peers in the geography.
- Banking is stretched in sub-segments of market making, Investment Banking, deal volumes and IPO volumes. Consumer Banking, Asset management, governance and risk and Al-fication to improve customer experience are doing well. The Mortgages business bottomed out in Q2 and is doing well now. It performed well in Q3, due to deals won in Q2.
- 'Others' vertical was led by wallet share gain in the Healthcare vertical.
- Segmental gross margin improved 55/145/47bps for BCM/Insurance/Logistics. An effort was made to increase segmental margins across-the-board.
- Application services/ BPS/ Infrastructure services grew 1.3%/-0.6%/1.2% QoQ USD.

### Deal wins down QoQ; pipeline strong

- TCV was at USD 241mn, down 5.5% QoQ. This represents net new deals. The BFS and non BFS pipeline was intact. Deal conversion from TCV pickedup, especially in January. Most deal wins were proactive.
- A large deal has been signed in Telecom. Media did not see much activity.
- MPHL is focused on vertical-based cohort structure.
- Margin was hit by Silverline acquisition costs.

- EBIT margin at 14.9% was down 60bps QoQ. This saw 1.1% impact from the Silverline acquisition. The acquisition led to fillip to gross margin and impact on SG&A. There was an impact from heightened furloughs as well (50bps tailwind came in from efficient operation). Deprecaition was up 16.4% QoQ.
- Adjusted EBIT margin was at 16%. Employee cost was up 220bps QoQ. SG&A rose 290bps QoQ, also impacted partially by the Silverline acquisition. Onsite was up 110bps QoQ, resulting in a drag on margin. The management has tried to balance margin headwinds with increasing fixed price by 100bps QoQ. Utilization drag of 300bps QoQ also hit margin.

#### Q4FY24 outlook

- O4 outlook is positive, with the Silverline acquisition and synergy benefits pitching in. O4 margin may be in the range of 15.25%-16.25%. BCM is expected to continue to grow in O4.
- Q3 saw majority impact from furloughs. Hence, Q4 may see improved revenue growth aided by some furlough reversal.
- Growth for top-10 client may increase in Q4 as Banking may see a turnaround.
- The focus is on converting deal wins to revenue.

#### Miscellaneous

- Other income rose 16% QoQ. PAT was down 5% QoQ.
- Headcount was up by 221 QoQ.
- DSO was at 69 days, down from 70 in O2.

#### **Exhibit 1: Valuations**

(INR)	
Current trailing twelve months (TTM) EPS	83.1
Current market price (CMP)	2,560
Target EPS	107.5
Target EPS period	Dec'24E-Dec'25E
Target multiple (x)	25.25
Target price	2,710
Upside (%)	5.9

Note: Pricing as on 2 February 2024; Source: Elara Securities Estimate



**Exhibit 2: Change in estimates** 

		New			Old		% Change		
	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Reported revenue (USD mn)	1,605	1,758	1,970	1,626	1,774	1,962	(1.3)	(0.9)	0.4
YoY (%)	(6.3)	9.5	12.1	(5.0)	9.1	10.6			
Revenue (ex-hedging) (USD mn)	1,610	1,754	1,966	1,630	1,770	1,958	(1.2)	(0.9)	0.4
Revenue	133,037	146,425	164,081	134,718	147,625	163,270	(1.2)	(8.0)	0.5
EBIT	20,473	22,658	25,688	20,972	22,875	25,522	(2.4)	(0.9)	0.7
EBIT margin (%)	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.6			
Net Profit	15,697	17,997	21,001	16,233	17,553	19,649	(3.3)	2.5	6.9
EPS (INR)	84.0	96.3	112.4	86.9	93.9	105.2	(3.3)	2.5	6.9
Target price (INR)			2,710			2,380			14

Source: Elara Securities Estimate

#### **Exhibit 3: Valuations**

	Ticker	Currency	Rating	Мсар	Price	TP	Upside	Turnover' 23	FY23	-26E	EV/s	ales	P/	E	Div. yiel	ld (%)	ROE	(%)
				USD bn	INR	INR	(%)	USD mn	Sales CAGR %	EPS CAGR %	FY24E (x)	FY25E (x)	FY24E (x)	FY25E (x)	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Large Indian IT																		
services cos. TCS	TCS IN	INR	Buy	167.7	3,959	4,430	12	27,927	5.8	9.4	5.9	5.5	31.3	28.8	1.3	1.4	47.9	42.9
Infosys	INFO IN	INR	Sell	83.4	1,693	1,260	(26)	18,212	4.7	6.3	4.3	4.1	28.6	27.2	1.7	1.8	29.4	29.1
	WPRO IN	INR	Reduce	29.5	484	450	(7)	11,232	1.9	6.8	2.5	2.3	22.5	20.8	0.4	0.5	12.7	12.3
HCL	HCLT IN	INR	Sell	50.6	1,584	1,430	(10)	12,586	8.1	9.2	3.7	3.4	27.2	24.1	2.8	3.1	23.6	25.9
Technologies Tech Mahindra	TECHM IN	INR	Buy	15.5	1,340	1,660	24	6,607	5.3	13.7	2.4	2.1	43.2	19.7	0.9	1.9	9.5	18.5
Tier-1 IT AVG	I LCI IIVI IIV	IIVIX	Buy	13.5	1,540	1,000	24	15,313	5.1	9.1	3.8	3.5	30.6	24.1	1.4	1.7	24.6	25.7
Tier-1 IT Median								12,586	5.3	9.2	3.7	3.4	28.6	24.1	1.3	1.8	23.6	25.9
Mid-sized Indian								1.42.00										
IT services cos. LTIMindtree	LTIM IN	INR	Accumulate	19.6	5,495	6,570	20	4,106	10.4	16.8	4.3	3.9	33.0	25.3	1.2	1.6	27.6	31.0
Mphasis	MPHL IN	INR	Accumulate	5.7	2,575	2,710	5	1,712	4.8	8.6	3.4	3.1	30.7	26.7	1.8	2.0	18.9	19.9
	PSYS IN	INR	Accumulate	7.8	8,500	8,300	(2)	1,036	14.4	23.2	6.4	5.5	57.3	45.0	0.7	0.9	23.4	24.2
Coforge	COFORGE IN	INR	Buy	4.6	6,454	8,100	26	1,002	14.6	31.2	4.2	3.6	42.9	30.2	2.3	3.3	25.9	30.8
eclerx	ECLX IN	INR	Accumulate	1.5	2,687	2,841	7	333	10.7	13.6	4.2	3.7	25.2	21.5	0.6	0.7	27.5	28.6
Sonata Software	SSOF IN Equity	INR	NR	2.5	766	NA	-	897	9.2	20.3	2.8	2.4	40.5	32.5	1.3	1.6	36.7	38.4
Hanniest Minds	HAPPSTMN IN Equity	INR	NR	1.6	872	NA	-	172	16.6	11.2	7.6	6.4	54.8	43.8	0.0	0.0	23.3	23.3
Firstsource	FSOL IN Equity	INR	NR	1.6	200	NA	-	721	8.0	10.6	2.4	2.1	26.3	21.5	2.2	2.5	15.7	17.9
Rirlasoft	BSOFT IN Equity	INR	NR	2.7	844	NA	-	578	11.8	46.1	4.0	3.5	39.3	33.0	0.8	0.9	22.5	22.7
Zensar Tech	ZENT IN Equity	INR	NR	1.6	562	NA	-	584	5.0	38.7	2.4	2.2	20.2	20.1	1.3	1.4	19.5	16.9
Intellect design		INR	NR	1.5	898	NA	-	269	14.3	27.8	4.8	4.2	35.6	27.6	0.3	0.4	16.1	17.9
	INDA IN Equity  MAST IN Equity	INR	NR	1.0	2,908	NA	-	309	17.7	14.9	2.8	2.4	30.5	22.6	1.1	1.0	16.5	19.4
Mid-size IT AVG								977	11.5	21.9	4.1	3.6	36.4	29.2	1.1	1.4	22.8	24.2
Mid-size IT Median								653	11.2	18.6	4.1	3.5	34.3	27.2	1.1	1.2	22.9	23.0
Indian IT ER&D																		
cos. L&T Tech	LTTS IN	INR	Sell	6.9	5,529	4,240	1221	990	14.3	11.9	5.5	5.0	44.9	39.8	0.8	0.9	25.5	24.8
Cyient	CYL IN	INR	Buy	2.7	2,115	2,590	(23)	746	12.8	25.4	3.3	2.9	27.9	23.4	1.8	2.1	22.7	24.0
-	TELX IN	INR	Accumulate	5.7	7,635	8,610	13	390	15.9	15.0	12.7	10.5	58.3	49.2	0.7	0.8	40.2	32.2
	KPIT IN	INR	Accumulate	4.7	1,575	1,570	(0)	418	25.8	39.6	8.7	7.1	71.8	56.2	0.5	0.6	32.4	33.4
	TATATECH IN	INR	NR	5.6	1,100	NA		532	10.7	13.7	11.0	9.8	83.2	72.6	1.0	1.1	21.0	23.0
technologies Mid-tier IT AVG	Equity				.,			615.1	15.9	21.1	8.2	7.0	57.2	48.2	0.9	1.1	28.3	27.5
Mid-tier IT								532	14.3	15.0	8.7	7.1	58.3	49.2	0.8	0.9	25.5	24.8
Median Global peers								332	14.5	13.0	0.7	7.1	30.3	77.2	0.0	0.7	23.3	24.0
	IBM US	USD	NA	158.8	186	NA		60,530	5.2	129.1	3.2	3.1	18.6	17.7	3.9	3.9	35.1	35.1
Accenture	ACN US	USD	NA	246.1	373	NA		61,594	7.3	10.4	3.7	3.4	30.6	27.8	1.4	1.5	28.2	28.2
Cognizant	CTSH US	USD	NA	38.6	78	NA		19,428	0.8	7.2	1.9	1.9	17.7	16.9	1.5	1.6	17.3	16.6
Capgemini	CAP FP	EUR	NA	38.3	206	NA		23,167	4.6	14.9	1.7	1.7	16.2	15.6	1.8	1.9	18.5	18.0
	DAVA US	USD	NA	4.4	72	NA		871	16.1	18.3	4.2	3.6	34.3	25.7	-	-	14.4	18.1
EPAM	EPAM US	USD	NA	16.6	290	NA		4,825	0.4	23.1	3.2	3.1	28.2	27.4	-	-	19.0	16.2
Globant	GLOB US	USD	NA	9.8	250	NA		1,780	17.7	28.5	4.7	4.0	43.8	37.8	-	-	14.1	14.8
NAGARRO SE	NA9 GY Equity	USD	NA	1.4	89	NA		902	10.4	-5.1	1.6	1.5	20.2	16.5	-	-	32.0	30.5
Global IT AVG								24,599	7.4	33.1	3.2	3.0	27.0	24.1	2.1	2.2	20.9	21.0
Global IT Median								19,428	5.2	18.3	3.2	3.1	28.2	25.7	1.6	1.8	18.5	18.0

Note: Pricing as on 2 February 2024; Bloomberg Consensus for Not Rated companies; Source: Elara Securities Estimate



## **Coverage History**



AC – Analyst Change

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
16	20-Jan-2022	Buy	INR 3,945	INR 3,051
17	22-July-2022	Reduce	INR 2,160	INR 2,276
18	1-Aug-2022	Sell	INR 1,940	INR 2,300
19	20-Jan-2023	Sell	INR 1,910	INR 2,025
20	28-Apr-2023	Sell	INR 1,700	INR 1,814
21	23-Jun-2023	Sell	INR 1,760	INR 1,831
22	21-Jul-2023	Accumulate	INR 2,530	INR 2,331
23	20-Oct-2023	Accumulate	INR 2,380	INR 2,170
24	2-Feb-2024	Accumulate	INR 2,710	INR 2,560

## **Guide to Research Rating**

BUY	Absolute Return >+20%
ACCUMULATE	Absolute Return +5% to +20%
REDUCE	Absolute Return -5% to +5%
SELL	Absolute Return < -5%

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## Elara Securities (India) Private Limited

Managing Director



India Elara Securities (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Harendra Kumar

One International Center, Tower 3, 21st Floor, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road (West) Mumbai – 400 013, India Tel : +91 22 6164 8500

Europe Elara Capital Plc. Edira Capital Mc. 6th Floor, The Grove, 248A Marylebone Road, London, NW1 6JZ, United Kingdom Tel: +44 20 7486 9733

USA Elara Securities Inc. 230 Park Avenue, Suite 2415, New York, NY 10169, USA Tel: +1 212 430 5870 Fax: +1 212 208 2501

harendra.kumar@elaracapital.com

Asia / Pacific Elara Capital (Asia) Pte.Ltd. One Marina Boulevard, Level 20, Singapore 018989 Tel: +65 6978 4047

+91 22 6164 8571

Sales				
Ashok Agarwal	India		ashok.agarwal@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8558
Hitesh Danak	India		hitesh.danak@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8543
Karan Rathod	India		karan.rathod@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8570
Lekha Nahar	India		lekha.nahar@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8512
Prashin Lalvani	India		prashin.lalvani@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8544
Shraddha Shrikhande	India			+91 22 6164 8567
			shraddha.shrikhande@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8508
Sudhanshu Rajpal	India		sudhanshu.rajpal@elaracapital.com	
Joshua Saldanha	Asia	6.6.6.6.	joshua.saldanha@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8541
Anita Nazareth			anita.nazareth@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8520
Tina D'souza	Corporate Acco		tina.dsouza@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8595
Quantitative, Alternatives,				
Sunil Jain	Quantitative &		sunil.jain@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8531
Nandish Patel			nandish.patel@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8564
Biren Mehta	Head - Sales Tr	ading	biren.mehta@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8500
Kalpesh Parekh	India		kalpesh.parekh@ElaraCapital.com	+91 22 6164 8555
Manoj Murarka	India		manoj.murarka@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8551
Anil Pawar	India		anil.pawar@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8552
Nilesh Chheda	India		nilesh.chheda@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8554
Nupur Barve	India		nupur.barve@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8532
Research				
	Hoad of Passar-I-	Healtheare Pharmacourtisals Strategy	hino pathiparameil@elaraeaeital.e	±01 22 61/4 0/00
Dr Bino Pathiparampil		Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Strategy	bino.pathiparampil@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8689
Amit Purohit	Analyst	Building Materials, FMCG, Paints	amit.purohit@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8594
Ankita Shah	Analyst	Infrastructure, Ports & Logistics, Industrials	ankita.shah@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8516
Biju Samuel	Analyst	Quantitative & Alternate Strategy	biju.samuel@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8505
Gagan Dixit	Analyst	Aviation, Chemicals, Oil & Gas	gagan.dixit@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8504
Garima Kapoor	Economist		garima.kapoor@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8527
Harshit Kapadia	Analyst	Capital Goods, Consumer Electronics	harshit.kapadia@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8542
Jay Kale, CFA	Analyst	Auto & Auto Ancillaries	jay.kale@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8507
Karan Taurani	Analyst	Media & Entertainment, Alcobev, QSR, Internet		+91 22 6164 8513
Prakhar Agarwal	Analyst	Banking & Financials	prakhar.agarwal@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8502
Prashant Biyani	Analyst	Agrochemicals, Fertilisers, Hotels, Sugar	prashant.biyani@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8581
Prerna Jhunjhunwala	Analyst	Textiles, Retail	prerna.jhunjhunwala@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8519
Ravi Sodah	Analyst	Cement, Metals & Mining	ravi.sodah@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8517
Ruchi Mukhija	Analyst	IT Services	ruchi.mukhija@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8583
Rupesh Sankhe	Analyst	Utilities, Renewables, Capital Goods, Real Estat	e rupesh.sankhe@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8518
Shweta Daptardar	Analyst	Diversified Financials, Non Lending Financials	shweta.daptardar@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8559
Saurabh Mitra	Sr. Associate	Cement, Metals & Mining	saurabh.mitra@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8546
Aditya Jaiswal	Associate	Strategy	aditya.jaiswal@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8683
Amogh Deshpande	Associate	Aviation, Chemicals, Oil & Gas	amogh.deshpande@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8664
Bhavi Shah	Associate	Cement, Metals & Mining	bhavi.shah@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8521
Gaurang Sakare	Associate	Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals	gaurang.sakare@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8618
Heet Van	Associate	Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals	heet.van@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8545
Himanshu Dhyawala	Associate	Diversified Financials, Non Lending Financials	himanshu.dhyawala@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8661
Jinesh Kothari	Associate	Infrastructure, Ports & Logistics	jinesh.kothari@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8500
Kartik Solanki	Associate	Banking & Financials	kartik.solanki@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8604
Ketul Dalal	Associate	Auto & Auto Ancillaries	ketul.dalal@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8693
Keval Shah	Associate	Strategy	keval.shah@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8669
Mudit Kabra	Associate	Capital Goods, Consumer Electronics	mudit.kabra@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8611
Nemish Sundar	Associate	Capital Goods, Consumer Electronics	nemish.sundar@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8683
Nishant Chowhan, CFA	Associate	Auto & Auto Ancillaries	nishant.chowhan@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8667
Palak Shah	Associate	Banking & Financials	palak.shah@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8682
Ragini Pande	Associate	Utilities, Renewables	ragini.pande@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8500
Rohit Harlikar	Associate		rohit.harlikar@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8562
Rounak Ray	Associate	Building Materials, FMCG, Paints Media & Entertainment, Alcobev, QSR, Internet		+91 22 4204 8684
Seema Nayak	Associate	IT Services, Internet Economics	seema.nayak@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8687
Shweta Roy	Associate	Economics	shweta.roy@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8500 +91 22 4204 8688
Subhankar Sanyal	Associate		subhankar.sanyal@elaracapital.com	
Tanvi Tambat	Associate	Real Estate	tanvi.tambat@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8537
Ujwal Wadighare	Associate	Agrochemicals, Fertilisers, Hotels, Sugar	ujwal.wadighare@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8684
Vaibhav Chechani	Associate	IT Services, Internet	vaibhav.chechani@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8682
Vidhi Puj	Associate	Building Materials, FMCG, Paints	vidhi.puj@elaracapital.com	+91 22 4204 8692
Vinayak Patil	Database		vinayak.patil@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8510
Priyanka Sheth	Editor		priyanka.sheth@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8568
	Editor		prakriti.singh@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8500
Prakriti Singh				
	Production Production		gurunath.parab@elaracapital.com jinesh.bhansali@elaracapital.com	+91 22 6164 8515 +91 22 6164 8537

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Elara Securities (India) Private Limited

Registered Office Address: One International Center, Tower 3, 21st Floor, Senapati Bapat Marg,
Elphinstone Road (West) Mumbai – 400 013, India Tel: +91 22 6164 8500

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Investor Grievance Email ID: investor.grievances@elaracapital.com - Tel. +91 22 6164 8509

Compliance Officer: Mr. Anand Rao - Email ID: anand.rao@elaracapital.com - Tel. +91 22 6164 8509