# MOTILAL OSWAL

# FINANCIAL SERVICES

Estimate change	1
TP change	1
Rating change	$ \longleftarrow $

Bloomberg	VBL IN
Equity Shares (m)	1299
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	1692.4 / 20.4
52-Week Range (INR)	1380 / 550
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	2/46/104
12M Avg Val (INR M)	2228

### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

	•	-	
Y/E Dec	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	160.4	200.1	243.7
EBITDA	36.1	44.7	54.8
Adj. PAT	20.6	25.8	34.0
EBITDA (%)	22.5	22.3	22.5
EPS (INR)	15.8	19.8	26.2
EPS Gr. (%)	37.3	25.3	32.1
BV/Sh. (INR)	53.4	70.7	94.4
Ratios			
Net D/E	0.7	0.6	0.2
RoE (%)	34.2	31.9	31.7
RoCE (%)	22.1	21.7	24.8
Payout (%)	15.8	12.6	9.5
Valuations			
P/E (x)	82.3	65.7	49.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	48.2	39.1	31.3
Div Yield (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2
FCF Yield (%)	-0.5	0.1	1.9

### Shareholding pattern (%)

	Dec-23	Sep-23	Dec-22
Promoter	63.1	63.1	63.9
DII	3.6	3.4	3.4
FII	26.6	27.6	26.5
Others	6.8	6.5	6.2
N			

Note: FII includes depository receipts

# Varun Beverages

Buy

	-			
	CI	MP: INR1,302	TP: INR1,500 (+15%)	Buy
	St	trong volume g	rowth drives sales	
	Ea	rnings in line with c	our estimates	
VBL IN		Varun Beverages (VI	BL) reported a revenue growth of 21% YoY	' in 4QCY23,
1299		led by strong volume	e growth (up 18% YoY) and high realizatio	n (up 2% YoY
/ 20.4		to INR171/case).		

While we maintain our CY24 earnings, we increase our CY25 earnings estimate by 7%, integrating the recently acquired South African beverage company BevCo's financials and also increasing volume growth estimate of the existing business to 16%/14% for CY24/25 from 14%/13% earlier estimated. However, higher interest cost, led by increase in debt (capex and acquisition-led increase) partly offsets the increase in earnings. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR1,500.

# Margin expansion led by favorable operating leverage

- VBL's revenue grew 21% YoY to INR26.7b (est. in line), driven by healthy volume (+18% YoY to 156m cases), while realization grew 2% YoY to INR171/case. Volume growth was driven by both India (18.7% YoY) and international markets (16% YoY).
- EBITDA margin expanded 180bp YoY to 15.7% (est. 15.4) on the back of favorable operating leverage. EBITDA grew 36% YoY to INR4.2b (est. in line).
- Adj. PAT increased 77% YoY to INR1.3b (est. in line), driven by higher sales growth and improvement in margins.
- CSD/Juices/water volumes grew 25%/14%/5% YoY to 106m/8m/42m unit cases in 3QFY24; for CY23, volumes grew 17%/1%/9%, respectively.
- For CY23, Revenue/EBITDA/PAT grew 22%/29%/37% to INR163b/INR36.1b/INR20.6b. Volumes grew 14% YoY to ~913m cases.
- Net debt as of Dec'23 stood at INR47.3b vs. INR34.1b as of Dec'22, while debt/equity ratio reduced to 0.67x vs. 1.31x.

# Highlights from the management commentary

- New business: The management is expecting strong growth in Gatorade, Juice, and value-added dairy segment as the production capacity has increased 200%.
- Capex: VBL has capitalized ~INR21b in CY23 across greenfield and brownfield expansions, resulting in 45% capacity expansion in CY24. In CY24, the management guided to capitalize ~INR36b.
- Deepening of Distribution in India: The company is enhancing its go-tomarket strategy by annually expanding to 400-500k outlets and alongside adding more chilling equipment.

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(INDm)

## Valuation and view

- We expect VBL to maintain its earnings momentum, aided by: 1) increased penetration in newly acquired territories in India and Africa, 2) higher acceptance of newly launched products, 3) continued expansion in capacity and distribution reach, 4) growing refrigeration in rural and semi-rural areas, and 5) a scale-up in international operations.
- We expect a CAGR of 23%/23%/29% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over CY23-25.
- While we maintain our CY24 earnings, we increase our CY25 earnings estimate by 7%, on account of integrating the recently acquired South African beverage company BevCo's financials (assumed only six months of integration in CY24) and also increasing the volume growth estimate of the existing business to 16%/14% for CY24/25 from 14%/13% earlier estimated. However, higher interest cost led by an increase in debt (capex and acquisition led increase) partly offsets the increase in earnings.
- We value the stock at 57x CY25E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,500. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock.

Y/E December		CY	22			CY	22		CY22	CY23	CY23E	Var
f/E December				-			-	-	C122	C125		
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q			4Q	%
Gross Sales	28,275	49,548	31,766	22,142	38,930	56,114	38,705	26,677	1,31,731	1,60,425	26,737	0
YoY Change (%)	26.2	102.3	32.5	27.7	37.7	13.3	21.8	20.5	49.3	21.8	20.8	
Total Expenditure	22,965	37,042	24,776	19,067	30,949	41,004	29,884	22,494	1,03,850	1,24,331	22,631	
EBITDA	5,310	12,506	6,990	3,075	7,980	15,110	8,821	4,183	27,881	36,095	4,106	2
Margins (%)	18.8	25.2	22.0	13.9	20.5	26.9	22.8	15.7	21.2	22.5	15.4	
Depreciation	1,313	1,531	1,531	1,797	1,722	1,719	1,708	1,660	6,172	6,809	1,795	
Interest	470	464	453	475	626	694	625	737	1,861	2,681	570	
Other Income	85	105	106	92	101	416	185	91	388	794	106	
PBT before EO expense	3,612	10,616	5,112	896	5,734	13,113	6,673	1,878	20,236	27,398	1,847	
РВТ	3,612	10,616	5,112	896	5,734	13,113	6,673	1,878	20,236	27,398	1,847	
Тах	901	2,596	1,157	81	1,348	3 <i>,</i> 057	1,529	442	4,735	6,375	406	
Rate (%)	25.0	24.5	22.6	9.0	23.5	23.3	22.9	23.5	23.4	23.3	22	
MI & Profit/Loss of Asso. Cos.	169	146	144	68	95	118	130	118	527	461	78	
Reported PAT	2,542	7,874	3,810	748	4,291	9,938	5,015	1,318	14,974	20,561	1,363	
Adj PAT	2,542	7,874	3,810	748	4,291	9,938	5,015	1,318	14,974	20,561	1,363	-3
YoY Change (%)	96.7	155.5	58.7	353.3	68.8	26.2	31.6	76.3	115.8	37.3	82.3	
Margins (%)	9.0	15.9	12.0	3.4	11.0	17.7	13.0	4.9	11.4	12.8	5.1	

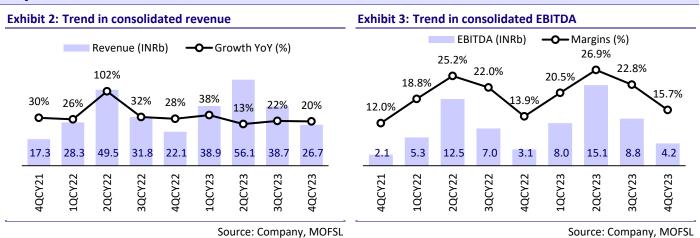
### **Exhibit 1: Key performance indicators**

Y/E December	3QCY21	4QCY21	1QCY22	2QCY22	3QCY22	4QCY22	1QCY23	2QCY23	3QCY23	4QCY23
Segment Volume Gr.										
CSD	22	24	18	85	23	25	27	6	19	25
NCB	33	50	18	139	38	17	23	-13	0	14
Water	54	36	21	140	25	5	17	7	8	5
Cost Break-up										
RM Cost (% of sales)	47	45	48	49	46	44	48	48	45	43
Employee Cost (% of sales)	11	15	10	6	10	14	9	6	10	14
Other Cost (% of sales)	21	28	23	19	22	28	23	19	23	27
Gross Margins (%)	53	55	52	51	54	56	52	52	55	57
EBITDA Margins (%)	21	12	19	25	22	14	20	27	23	16
EBIT Margins (%)	15	5	14	22	17	6	16	24	18	9

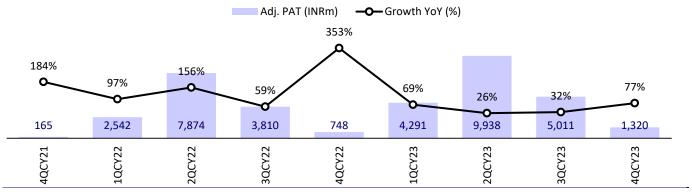
Source: Company, MOFSL

# Consolidated - Quarterly Farning Model

# **Key exhibits**



### Exhibit 4: Trend in consolidated adjusted PAT



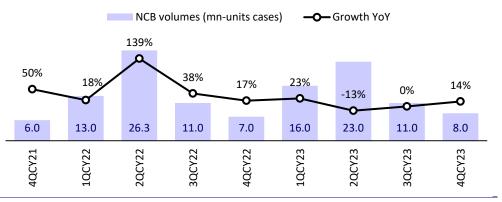
Source: Company, MOFSL

#### CSD volumes (mn-units cases) -O- Growth YoY 85% 27% 25% 25% 24% 23% 18% 19% 6% 0 Ο Ο O 106.0 68.2 125.7 218.3 133.4 85.0 160.1 232.0 159.0 2QCY22 3QCY22 .QCY22 4QCY22 1QCY23 4QCY21 2QCY23 3QCY23 4QCY23

Source: Company, MOFSL

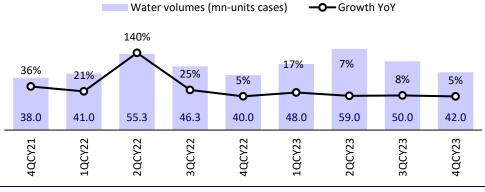
# Exhibit 5: CSD sales volumes trend

### Exhibit 6: NCB sales volume trend



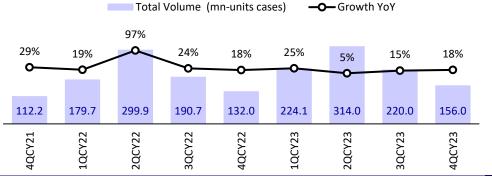
# Exhibit 7: Water sales volumes trend

Source: Company, MOFSL



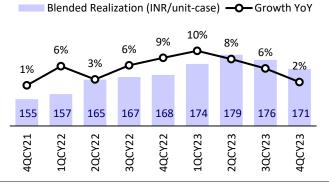
#### Source: Company, MOFSL

#### Exhibit 8: Strong Total Volume growth trend



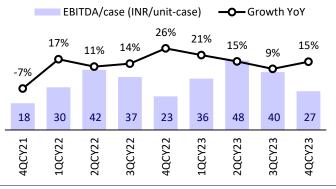
#### Source: Company, MOFSL

#### Exhibit 9: Trend in blended realization



Source: Company, MOFSL

## Exhibit 10: Trend in EBITDA/case



Source: Company, MOFSL



# Highlights from the management interaction

# **Operating Performance**

- Net Revenue from operations grew 22% YoY in CY23, driven by volume growth in both Indian & International markets and an increase in net realization per case.
- Net realization per case increased 7% in CY23, driven by continued improvement in the mix of smaller SKUs (250ml) in Indian Markets and improved realization per case in International markets.
- Gross margins improved during the year, primarily because of softening of PET chips prices, although sugar prices increased slightly during the year. EBITDA margin improved in CY23, led by increased realization and higher gross margins.
- Working capital days have remained steady with both inventory days and trade payable days reducing slightly.

# Outlook

- The period from Mar to Jul is the peak season for the company. Even after witnessing a washout peak season in CY23, the company delivered healthy volume growth of ~14% in CY23. This, coupled with an increase in capacity, gives management the confidence to continue the growth momentum.
- Going ahead, the company will focus on improving the go-to-market (expanding to 400-500k outlets every year) and adding more chilling equipment. It will focus on going deeper into the existing market.

## Capex

- In CY23, the net capex capitalized amounted to ~INR21b. This primarily includes

   (a) the establishment of new greenfield production facilities in Bundi (Rajasthan)
   & Jabalpur (MP) for INR8.5b (b) Brownfield expansion at six existing facilities in
   India for ~INR8b (c) the acquisition of land in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh for
   construction of plant in the future, amounting to INR1.5b.
- Balance capex comprises international projects, factoring in write-offs and forex fluctuations
- Post this capex, the company expects capacity in CY24 to increase by ~45% over CY22 capacity.
- The company expects to incur a capex of ~INR12b in CY24.

## Debt

- Net debt stood at INR47.3b as on 31 Dec'23 vs. INR34.1b as on 31 Dec'22.
- Net debt majorly increased due to an increase in CWIP and capital advances (incremental addition by ~INR12b). This increase was on account of a new facility in Maharashtra, which was about near completion (commissioned on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan'24).

# **African business**

- VBL already got approval from Botswana for setting up a facility and is awaiting approval for Namibia and South Africa, which is likely to expected by the end of February'24.
- PepsiCo's share is ~1.5% in the African market, while BevCo's share is ~12%.

## Sting

- Generally, energy drink mix constitutes ~14-15% of the total beverage market in most countries. Sting has achieved a market share of ~14-15% within the overall volume of PepsiCo at VBL.
- Sting has reached ~3.5m outlets in India.

# **Dairy segment**

- Going ahead, VBL is expecting huge growth in Gatorade, Juice, and value-added dairy segment as the production capacity has increased by 200%.
- Currently, the Dairy share is just ~0.5% of the total volume and the company expects to double this in CY24.
- Currently, the dairy plant was just within the Northern part of India. Now the company has commissioned a plant in the Western region and will be soon setting up a plant in the Eastern market.

# Others

- VBL's PET recycling plant will start production in CY25 and will cater to ~25% of the volume.
- VBL's new facility in Maharashtra is already being commissioned and the Gorakhpur facility is likely to commission in Mar/Apr'24.
- The international market has grown by ~16%/18% for 4QCY23/CY23. Zimbabwe has grown by ~23% YoY in CY23.
- The company is looking to add ~30m cases in DRC.
- The company has incorporated a new subsidiary 'VBL Mozambique, SA' in Mozambique, South Africa, to carry on the business of distribution of Beverages.
- In Oct'23, the company has acquired a 5.03% shareholding in Lunarmech Technologies Private Limited for a purchase consideration of INR100m, taking its total holding in the company to ~60.07%.

# Valuation and view

- We expect VBL to maintain its earnings momentum, aided by: 1) increased penetration in newly acquired territories in India and Africa, 2) higher acceptance of newly launched products, 3) continued expansion in capacity and distribution reach, 4) growing refrigeration in rural and semi-rural areas, and 5) a scale-up in international operations.
- We expect a CAGR of 23%/23%/29% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT over CY23-25.
- While we maintain our CY24 earnings, we increase our CY25 earnings estimate by 7%, integrating the recently acquired South African beverage company BevCo's financials (assumed only six months of integration in CY24) and also increasing volume growth estimate of its existing business to 16%/14% for CY24/25 from 14%/13% earlier estimated. However, higher interest cost led by increase in debt (capex and acquisition led increase) partly offsets the increase in earnings.
- We value the stock at 57x CY25E EPS to arrive at a TP of INR1,500. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock.

Earnings change	Old				New		Change			
(INR m)	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	
Revenue	1,60,485	1,87,565	2,16,908	1,60,426	2,00,086	2,43,747	0%	7%	12%	
EBITDA	36,018	42,765	49,889	36,095	44,662	54,843	0%	4%	10%	
Adj. PAT	20,602	25,731	31,709	20,559	25,752	34,021	0%	0%	7%	

### Exhibit 11: Revision in our estimates

# **Financials and valuations**

V/E December	CV(1.9	CV/1.0	01/20	0/21	01/22	01/22	0/245	CVOFF
Y/E December	CY18	CY19	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
Total Income from Operations	51,053	71,296	64,501	88,232	1,31,731	1,60,426	2,00,086	2,43,747
Change (%)	27.5	39.7	-9.5	36.8	49.3	21.8	24.7	21.8
RM Cost	22,441	32,194	27,639	40,347	62,612	74,049	92,640	1,12,611
Employees Cost	5,830	8,108	8,897	10,077	12,166	14,466	17,765	21,450
Other Expenses	12,716	16,517	15,946	21,262	29,072	35,816	45,019	54,843
Total Expenditure	40,987	56,819	52,483	71,686	1,03,850	1,24,331	1,55,424	1,88,904
% of Sales	80.3	79.7	81.4	81.2	78.8	77.5	77.7	77.5
EBITDA	10,066	14,477	12,019	16,546	27,881	36,095	44,662	54,843
Margin (%)	19.7	20.3	18.6	18.8	21.2	22.5	22.3	22.5
Depreciation	3,851	4,886	5,287	5,313	6,172	6,809	8,758	9,824
EBIT	6,215	9,590	6,732	11,234	21,709	29,286	35,904	45,019
Int. and Finance Charges	2,126	3,096	2,811	1,847	1,861	2,681	3,441	2,397
Other Income	218	425	370	679	388	794	1,201	1,706
PBT bef. EO Exp.	4,308	6,919	4,290	10,066	20,236	27,398	33,663	44,328
EO Items	0	0	-665	0	0	0	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	4,308	6,919	3,625	10,066	20,236	27,398	33,663	44,328
Total Tax	1,339	2,241	52	2,606	4,735	6,375	7,406	9,752
Tax Rate (%)	31.1	32.4	1.4	25.9	23.4	23.3	22.0	22.0
Share of profit from associates	30	44	0	0	0	-5	0	0
Minority Interest	70	32	283	520	527	459	505	555
Reported PAT	2,928	4,690	3,290	6,941	14,974	20,559	25,752	34,021
Adjusted PAT	2,928	4,690	3,251	6,941	14,974	20,559	25,752	34,021
Change (%)	39.3	60.1	-30.7	113.5	115.8	37.3	25.3	32.1
Margin (%)	5.7	6.6	5.0	7.9	11.4	12.8	12.9	14.0

Consolidated - Balance Sheet								(INRm)
Y/E December	СҮ18	CY19	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
Equity Share Capital	1,826	2,887	2,887	4,330	6,496	6,496	6,496	6,496
Total Reserves	18,158	30,397	32,353	36,469	44,528	62,869	85,373	1,16,146
Net Worth	19,985	33,284	35,240	40,799	51,024	69,365	91,869	1,22,642
Minority Interest	78	307	648	1,168	1,131	1,482	1,986	2,542
Total Loans	27,649	34,172	32,059	33,418	36,948	51,944	53,944	25,944
Deferred Tax Liabilities	1,588	2,697	2,149	3,087	3,368	3,430	3,430	3,430
Capital Employed	49,299	70,459	70,096	78,473	92,471	1,26,221	1,51,230	1,54,558
Gross Block	61,697	87,203	90,086	94,420	1,06,807	1,28,385	1,73,625	1,83,625
Less: Accum. Deprn.	17,847	22,655	26,242	31,555	37,727	44,536	53,294	63,118
Net Fixed Assets	43,850	64,548	63,844	62,865	69,080	83,849	1,20,331	1,20,507
Goodwill on Consolidation	19	242	242	242	242	242	4,202	4,202
Capital WIP	3,524	638	668	4,966	6,066	19,222	8,222	8,222
Total Investments	112	0	0	0	0	211	211	211
Current Investments	0	0	0	0	0	211	211	211
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	12,808	18,327	19,719	27,721	40,794	48,347	52,599	63,214
Inventory	5,784	8,815	9,288	14,481	19,939	21,505	26,883	32,674
Account Receivables	1,280	1,726	2,418	2,212	2,993	3,594	4,482	5,460
Cash and Bank Balance	935	1,711	1,901	3,366	2,853	4,599	2,225	3,142
Loans and Advances	4,809	6,076	6,113	7,661	15,009	18,649	19,008	21,937
Curr. Liability & Prov.	11,015	13,297	14,378	17,322	23,711	25,651	34,336	41,798
Account Payables	3,168	4,777	5,114	7,118	8,243	7,582	10,645	12,939
Other Current Liabilities	6,435	6,517	6,893	7,622	13,135	15,117	20,009	24,375
Provisions	1,412	2,003	2,371	2,583	2,333	2,952	3,682	4,485
Net Current Assets	1,793	5,031	5,342	10,399	17,083	22,696	18,263	21,416
Appl. of Funds	49,299	70,459	70,096	78,473	92,471	1,26,221	1,51,230	1,54,558

# **Financials and valuations**

Y/E December	CY18	CY19	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	2.3	3.6	2.5	5.3	11.5	15.8	19.8	26.2
Cash EPS	5.2	7.4	6.6	9.4	16.3	21.1	26.6	33.7
BV/Share	15.4	25.6	27.1	31.4	39.3	53.4	70.7	94.4
DPS	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.7	2.5	2.5	2.5
Payout (%)	17.5	16.7	21.9	15.6	15.2	15.8	12.6	9.5
Valuation (x)								
P/E	577.7	360.7	520.4	243.7	113.0	82.3	65.7	49.7
Cash P/E	249.5	176.7	198.1	138.1	80.0	61.8	49.0	38.6
P/BV	84.6	50.8	48.0	41.5	33.2	24.4	18.4	13.8
EV/Sales	33.7	24.2	26.7	19.5	13.1	10.8	8.7	7.0
EV/EBITDA	170.7	119.1	143.3	104.1	61.9	48.2	39.1	31.3
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
FCF per share	1.5	4.4	5.5	2.8	3.4	-6.2	1.2	25.3
Return Ratios (%)								
RoE	15.5	17.6	9.5	18.3	32.6	34.2	31.9	31.7
RoCE	10.0	11.8	10.4	12.5	20.9	22.1	21.7	24.8
RoIC	10.1	11.5	9.8	12.1	21.6	24.2	23.1	24.8
Working Capital Ratios								
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Asset Turnover (x)	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.6
Inventory (Days)	41	45	53	60	55	49	49	49
Debtor (Days)	9	9	14	9	8	8	8	8
Creditor (Days)	23	24	29	29	23	17	19	19
Leverage Ratio (x)								
Current Ratio	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5
Interest Cover Ratio	2.9	3.1	2.4	6.1	11.7	10.9	10.4	18.8
Net Debt/Equity	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.2
Consolidated - Cash Flow Statement								(INRm)
Y/E December	CY18	СҮ19	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	4,308	6,919	3,625	10,066	20,236	27,398	33,663	44,328
Depreciation	3 851	4 826	5 287	5 313	6 172	6 809	8 758	9 8 2 4

T/E Determber	0110	0115	0120	0121	CILL	0120	CILTE	CILDE
OP/(Loss) before Tax	4,308	6,919	3,625	10,066	20,236	27,398	33,663	44,328
Depreciation	3,851	4,826	5,287	5,313	6,172	6,809	8,758	9,824
Interest & Finance Charges	1,986	2,948	2,441	1,168	1,473	2,681	2,241	690
Direct Taxes Paid	-733	-1,201	-52	-2,606	-4,735	-6,679	-7,406	-9,752
(Inc)/Dec in WC	-501	-827	-1,181	-1,627	-5,246	-6,735	2,059	-2,235
CF from Operations	8,911	12,665	10,120	12,314	17,900	23,474	39,315	42,855
Others	1,087	411	0	0	0	434	505	0
CF from Operating incl EO	9,998	13,076	10,120	12,314	17,900	23,908	39,820	42,855
(Inc)/Dec in FA	-8,088	-7,331	-2,913	-8,632	-13,487	-31,939	-38,200	-10,000
Free Cash Flow	1,910	5,745	7,207	3,682	4,414	-8,031	1,620	32,855
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	0	0	0	0	0	-216	0	0
Others	-647	-15,862	-1,798	-1,474	-3,559	-744	1,201	1,706
CF from Investments	-8,734	-23,192	-4,711	-10,106	-17,046	-32,899	-36,999	-8,294
Issue of Shares	7	9,002	0	0	0	44	0	0
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	4,566	6,487	-2,113	1,359	3,530	15,064	2,000	-28,000
Interest Paid	-1,886	-3,011	-2,811	-1,847	-1,861	-2,694	-3,441	-2,397
Dividend Paid	-456	-690	-722	-1,083	-2,274	-2,273	-3,248	-3,248
Others	-3 <i>,</i> 505	-895	427	829	-763	596	-505	0
CF from Fin. Activity	-1,273	10,893	-5,219	-742	-1,368	10,737	-5,194	-33,645
Inc/Dec of Cash	-10	776	190	1,466	-514	1,746	-2,374	917
Opening Balance	945	935	1,711	1,901	3,367	2,853	4,599	2,225
Closing Balance	935	1,711	1,901	3,367	2,853	4,599	2,225	3,142

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# NOTES

# MOTILAL OSWAL

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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