RESULT REPORT Q2 FY25 | Sector: Cement

Ambuja Cements

Weak pricing and sluggish demand to result lower EBITDA/tn. Reinitiating with SELL

Result Synopsis

In 2QFY25, ACL's consolidate numbers were better than other peers. Revenue/ EBITDA/Volume/ Realization/ EBITDA per tonne is broadly in line with our estimates. Revenue up by 1.2% YoY (-9.6% QoQ), is 4% ahead of our estimate. Higher revenue despite seasonal impacts led by better realization and volume numbers. Volumes up by 9.1% YoY (-10% QoQ), is 1.4% ahead of our estimate. Realization down by 7.2% YoY (flattish QoQ), is 2.6% ahead of our estimates. EBITDA in absolute figure down by 14.6% YoY (- 10.5% QoQ), is 3.5% ahead of our estimates. While EBITDA margin stood at 14.8% in 2Q FY25 vs. 17.5% in 2Q FY24. EBITDA/tn stood at Rs783 (-21.8% YoY, flattish QoQ) as compared to our estimate of Rs767. Better EBITDA/tn led by decline in overall opex/tn (-4.2% YoY, +1% QoQ). Adj. PAT decline by 27.7% YoY (-4.7% QoQ), is 14.6% below our estimate. Adj. PAT miss due to exceptional item of Rs1562mn.

Ongoing capacity expansion to drive volume, factoring 11.6% volume CAGR over FY24-27E: On consolidated basis, ACL at present capacity of 95mtpa enjoys 15% of market share and expected to reach 20% by FY28. The company is doubling the capacity by FY28 by adding ~45mt of capacity across the demand rich regions though organic and inorganic roots. At present the avg. capacity utilization stands at 63% (1HFY25). We believe, avg. capacity utilization at 63% due to higher addition and near-term sluggish demand. However, recent acquisition with Penna (in southern region), Master Supply Agreement with Sanghi Industry (Western region) and ACC to gain volumes going ahead at lower cost. As per our observation, higher capacity addition is southern region to dent ROE as the avg. capacity utilization in the region is lower at 55-60%. Until unless any sharp movement in government projects in southern region, we don't see improvement in capacity utilization. Recently the company has done binding agreement with Orient Cement (in southern region) and the deal is expected to conclude in near-term is likely to have synergy benefits.

Cost initiatives to save margins: Despite regional and weak pricing challenges, the company is able to deliver bottom line growth during the quarter, primarily driven by improved cost efficiency level. We see, ACL's EBITDA to improve further led by various cost initiative programme i.e., higher usage of green energy, usage of captive coal mining, reduction in lead distances through warehouse optimization, and operating leverage benefits. The long-term target for cost savings of Rs450-500/tn looks feasible but can expect it may take 1-2 years of time to reflect in numbers. We are couscous on margin front due to weak pricing and sluggish demand. And building EBITDA/tn of Rs913/ Rs993/ Rs1166 for FY25E/ FY26E/ FY27E.

Outlook & Valuation:

We see the volume growth of 18.3% CAGR over FY24-FY27E, while factoring lower realization of -0.7% / -0.4%/ +0.4% realization for FY25E/ FY26E/ FY27E. We believe, some improvement in realization from mid of FY26E and volume as well. And building Revenue/ EBITDA/ PAT growth of ~11.4%/ ~14.5%/ ~12.6% CAGR over FY24-27E. At CMP the stock is trading at 14x forward FY27E EV/EBITDA. We believe the stock is over valued at present. Considering the weak pricing and sluggish demand we are valuing the stock at 16x Sep'26 EV/EBITDA to arrive at a target price of Rs471, recommend SELL. Any sharp price hike and demand coupled higher cost saving are the key upside risk to our recommendation.

Exhibit 1: Actual vs estimates

Rs Mn	Actual	Estimate YSec Consensus		% Va	Remarks	
K2 IVIII	Actual			sensus YSec Consensus		Remarks
Sales	75,161	72,269	75,077	4.0	0.1	Numbers are
EBITDA	11,114	10,738	11,494	3.5	-3.3	broadly in-line with our
Margin (%)	14.8	14.9	15.3	-10 bps	-50 bps	estimates
Rept. PAT	5,731	6,710	7,111	-14.6	-19.4	

Source: Company, YES Sec



Reco	:	SELL
СМР	:	Rs 580
Target Price	:	Rs 471
Potential Return	:	-19%

Stock data (as on Oct 31, 2024)

Nifty	24,241
52 Week h/I (Rs)	707 / 404
Market cap (Rs/USD mn)	1416296 / 16845
Outstanding Shares (mn)	2,463
6m Avg t/o (Rs mn):	2,142
Div yield (%):	0.3
Bloomberg code:	ACEM IN
NSE code:	AMBUJACEM

Stock performance



Shareholding pattern (As of Sep'24 end)

Promoter	67.5%
FII+DII	25.8%
Others	6.6%

Δ in stance

(1-Yr)	New	Old
Rating	SELL	NA
Target Price	578	NA

Δ in earnings estimates

	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
EPS (New)	11.8	17.0	10.8
EPS (Old)	NA	NA	NA
% Change	NA	NA	NA

Financial Summary

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(Rs mn)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	349,010	404,453	457,812
Growth	5%	16%	13%
EBITDA	57,284	72,529	96,025
Margin	16%	18%	21%
Adj PAT	26,555	35,461	51,042
Growth	-30%	34%	44%
EPS	11.8	17.0	10.8
ND/EBITDA	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3
ROE	5%	7%	9%
ROCE	5%	6%	8%
EV/EBITDA	23.9	18.5	13.5

GIRIJA SHANKAR RAY Lead Analyst







QUARTERLY RESULT ANALYSIS

Exhibit 2: Quarterly snapshot (Standalone)

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	2QFY25	2QFY24	YoY %	1QFY25	QoQ%	Our Est.	Var. (%)	1HFY25	1HFY24	YoY%
Net Revenue	75,161	74,240	1.2	83,115	(9.6)	72,269	4.0	158,276	161,369	(1.9)
Total Expenses	64,047	61,221	4.6	70,317	(8.9)			134,364	131,681	2.0
COGS	14,202	10,330	37.5	15,773	(10.0)			29,975	23,039	30.1
Employee Expenses	3,486	3,412	2.2	3,170	9.9			6,656	7,189	(7.4)
Power & fuel	18,175	18,635	(2.5)	20,670	(12.1)			38,845	41,756	(7.0)
Freight Exp	18,252	18,004	1.4	20,961	(12.9)			39,213	40,123	(2.3)
Other Expenses	9,932	10,840	(8.4)	9,743	1.9			19,674	19,574	0.5
EBITDA	11,114	13,018	(14.6)	12,798	(13.2)	10,738	3.5	23,912	29,688	(19.5)
EBITDA (%)	14.8	17.5	-275 bps	15.4	-61 bps			15.1	18.4	-329 bps
D&A	5,520	3,809	44.9	4,761	15.9			10,280	7,526	36.6
Other income	3,740	4,760	(21.4)	3,547	5.4			7,288	7,393	(1.4)
Interest Expense	669	613	9.1	678	(1.4)			1,347	1,133	18.8
Exceptional/EO items	(1,562)	-	NA	-	NA			(1,562)	-	NA
Share JV/Associates	22	40	(44.5)	34	(34.5)			56	93	(39.4)
EBT	7,127	13,397	(46.8)	10,941	(34.9)			18,011	28,421	(36.6)
Tax	2,398	3,525	(32.0)	3,109	(22.9)			5,507	7,287	(24.4)
Minority Interest	169	1,943	(91.3)	1,433	(88.2)			1,603	4,241	(62.2)
Reported PAT	4,560	7,930	(42.5)	6,399	(28.7)			12,505	21,134	(40.8)
Adjusted PAT	5,731	7,930	(27.7)	6,399	(10.4)	6,710	(14.6)	13,676	21,134	(35.3)
Adjusted PAT (%)	7.6	10.7	-306 bps	7.7	-7 bps			8.6	13.1	-446 bps
Adj. EPS	2.9	4.0	(27.7)	3.2	(10.4)			5.6	8.6	(35.3)

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 3: Quarterly Operational Performance Analysis (Standalone)

Particulars (Rs m)	2QFY25	2QFY24	YoY %	1QFY25	Q ₀ Q%	Our Est.	Var. (%)	1HFY25	1HFY24	YoY%
Total Volumes (MMT)	14.20	13.01	9.1	15.77	(10.0)	14.00	1.4	29.97	28.41	5.5
NSR/te (Blended)	5,293	5,706	(7.2)	5,270	0.4	5,160	2.6	5,281	5,680	(7.0)
RM/te	1,000	794	26.0	1,000	(0.0)			1,000	811	23.3
Employees/te	245	262	(6.4)	201	22.1			222	253	(12.2)
Power/te	1,280	1,432	(10.6)	1,311	(2.3)			1,296	1,470	(11.8)
Freight/te	1,285	1,384	(7.1)	1,329	(3.3)			1,308	1,412	(7.4)
Others/te	699	833	(16.1)	618	13.2			656	689	(4.7)
Opex/te (Blended)	4,510	4,706	(4.2)	4,459	1.2			4,483	4,635	(3.3)
EBITDA/te (Blended)	783	1,001	(21.8)	812	(3.6)	767	2.0	798	1,045	(23.6)



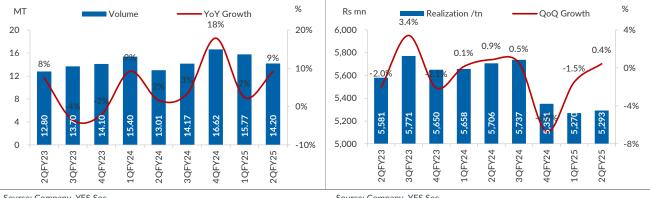
ADANI CEMENTS KEY CON-CALL HIGHLIGHTS & ANALYSIS

- Pricing and Demand: No comments on pricing while demand is expected to at grow ~4%-5% in FY25E.
- Capacity Expansion and capex guidance: 4mtpa clinker (Bhatapara + Sankrail + Farakka + Sindri) and 6.4mtpa cement capacity is expected to commence by 4Q FY25. In 1HFY25, total capex outlay was Rs14700Cr (incl. Rs12500 towards organic and inorganic growth Tuticorin GU, Penna acquisition and on-going capex). Besides the announced expansion, the company has identified 13 additional GU projects for which land acquisition and statutory approvals are under progress. This is likely to achieve long-term capacity target of 140mtpa by FY28E.
- Energy Efficiency: Fuel costs reduced by 13% to rupees Rs1.59/ kcal from Rs1.82/kcal 2Q FY24. 4mtpa clinker line in Maratha, Chandrapur would have 42MW of WHRS and provision for utilizing 30% Alternative Fuels. Targeting to reach 218MW WHRS by FY26 from the current level of 196MW vs. 40MW at the time of takeover. Targeting to reach 1000MW of renewable energy (RE) is expected to commission by FY26E which will make sure of 60% of power sourcing from green energy.
- Logistic cost savings Lead Distance: Secondary lead distance reduced by 7 km to 47 km. The direct dispatch to customers increased to 55%. Targeting to reduce the average primary road lead distance by about 100 kilometers. Primary lead distance in the 2QFY25 was 271 vs. 272 and secondary lead distance at 47 vs. 54.
- Orient Cement update: Binding agreement of 46.8% stake in OCL would help to reduce overall lead distance, logistic cost and improve market share. The acquisition will be met through internal accruals. Post the acquisition total capacity would reach to 97.4mtpa.
- Penna Cement update: Penna clinker utilization is 70% in 45days have helped to meet clinker requirements in other plants. So, there is a high clinker sale from Penna as well. ACL is targeting Penna utilization to be at 85% in next three years. Penna volumes stood at 0.1mtpa to 0.15mtpa in 2QFY25 excluding clinker.
- Limestone update: In 2Q FY25, the company has secured 70mt of new limestone reserves in MP and Maharashtra.
- Other Details: Blended cement is 84%, Premium segment is 26% of total trade segments. Share of AFR in fuel mix has improved to 9.5% from 7%. Green power in fuel mix has increased from 15.6% to 18.2%.

QUATERLY CHARTS & ANALYSIS

Exhibit 4: Volume up by 9% YoY and down by 10% QoQ basis

Exhibit 5: Realisation/tn down by 7.2 YoY and flattish QoQ basis



Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 6: Revenue up by 1.2% YoY and down by 9.6% **QoQ** basis

Exhibit 7: EBITDA down by 14.6%/13.2% on YoY/QoQ basis respectively



Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 8: EBIDTA Margin down by 275 bps/51 bps on YoY/QoQ basis respectively

Exhibit 9: Adj. PAT down by 27.7%/10.4% on YoY/QoQ basis respectively



Source: Company, YES Sec

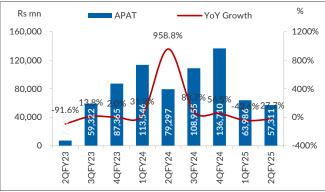
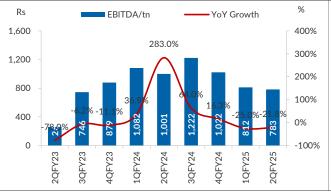
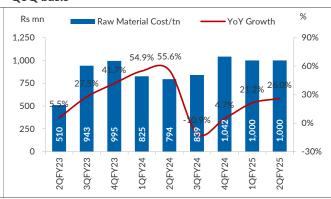




Exhibit 10: EBIDTA/tn down by 21.8%/3.6% on Exhibit 11: RM Cost/tn up by 26% YoY and flattish on YoY/QoQ basis respectively QoQ basis





Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 12: P&F Cost/tn down by 10.6%/2.3% on YoY/QoQ basis respectively



Exhibit 13: Freight Cost/tn down by 7.1%/3.3% on YoY/QoQ basis respectively



Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 14: Employee Cost/tn down by 6.4% YoY and up by 22.1% on QoQ basis

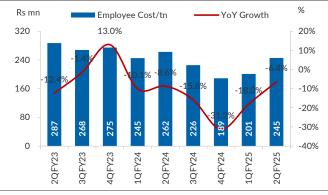


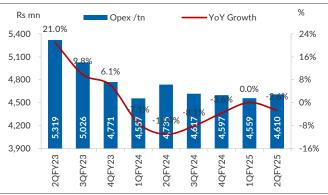
Exhibit 15: Other Exp/tn down by 16.1% YoY and up by 13.2% on QoQ basis

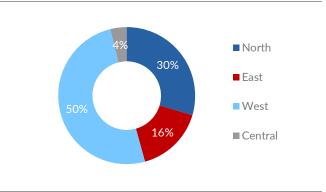


Source: Company, YES Sec



Exhibit 16: Opex/tn down by 4.2% YoY and up by 1.2% Exhibit 17: Regional Mix as on date and further adding on QoQ basis 45mtpa by FY28





Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 18: Change in estimates

Rs mn	New Estimates			Old Estimates			Change (%)		
RS IIIII	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	349,010	404,453	457,812	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
EBITDA	57,284	72,529	96,025	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
EBITDA Margin (%)	16.4	17.9	21.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
APAT	26,555	35,461	51,042	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adj. EPS (Rs)	11.8	17.0	10.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 19: Annual Operational Performance Estimates (Console)

				-	
Operating Details	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Volume (mt)	69	59	63	73	82
YoY (%)	26.6	(14.3)	6.0	16.4	12.7
Utilization (%)	102	76	66	63	64
Realization (Rs)	5,635	5,601	5,561	5,536	5,560
YoY (%)	6.2	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.4)	0.4
Cost per tonne (Rs)					
Raw Material Cost (Rs/mt)	740	832	942	1,012	1,072
Employee Cost/tn (Rs)	269	229	244	254	259
Power & Fuel Cost (Rs/mt)	1,702	1,370	1,310	1,185	1,035
Freight Cost/tn (Rs)	1,378	1,351	1,376	1,326	1,266
Other Expenses (Rs/mt)	812	741	779	769	764
Blended EBITDA(Rs/tn)	741	1,081	913	993	1,166



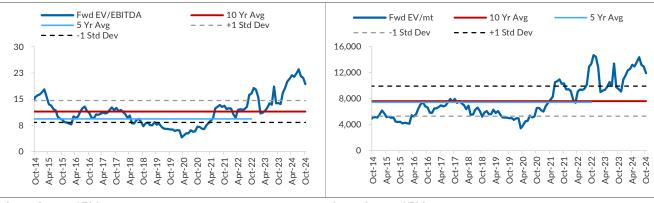
Exhibit 20: Valuation Summary

Valuation	Rs mn
Sep'26E EBITDA	84,277
Target EBITDA (x)	16
EV	1,348,436
Less. ACC Minority Interest	272,863
Less. Sanghi Minority Interest	8,447
Less Net Debt & CWIP	(92,365)
ACEM's Eq Value	1,159,491
No. of Shares	2,463
Target Price (Rs)	471
CMP (Rs)	580
Up/Downside	-19%

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 21: 1-yr forward EV/EBITDA band

Exhibit 22: 1-yr forward EV/te (\$) band



Source: Company, YES Sec Source: Company, YES Sec



FINANCIALS

Exhibit 23: Balance Sheet (Console)

YE March (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sources of funds					
Eq. Share Capital	3,971	4,395	4,926	4,926	4,926
Reserves & Surplus	313,011	410,155	404,271	434,961	480,001
Shareholders' Funds	316,982	414,551	409,197	439,887	484,927
Total Loan Funds	70,584	93,908	103,299	123,959	148,751
Other liabilities	5,227	6,990	6,871	7,781	8,899
Total Liabilities	10,025	18,051	18,368	18,825	19,265
Application of funds	517,215	652,978	669,624	742,040	832,788
Net Block					
Capital WIP	150,937	234,109	307,330	332,855	347,463
Investments	5,882	7,583	7,583	7,583	7,583
Other non-current assets	25,259	26,585	17,810	8,843	9,000
Inventories	2,137	8,486	8,524	8,601	8,678
Trade Receivables	140,508	135,281	141,771	151,165	160,205
Cash & Bank Balances	32,728	36,086	31,256	35,248	39,434
Other current Assets	11,544	12,131	11,705	12,931	13,736
Total Current Assets	29,610	110,689	51,437	77,959	125,738
Trade Payables	118,612	82,029	92,206	106,854	120,951
Other Current Liabilities	192,494	240,935	186,604	232,992	299,859
Total Current Liabilities	27,739	31,088	32,531	36,446	40,614
Net Current Assets	86,658	88,391	99,357	115,141	130,332
Total Assets	114,397	119,478	131,888	151,587	170,946



Exhibit 24: Income statement (Console)

YE March (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	389,370	331,596	349,010	404,453	457,812
Expenses:					
Raw Materials	51,109	49,228	59,095	73,901	88,237
Employee Cost	18,565	13,528	15,284	18,521	21,287
P&F Cost	117,619	81,093	82,209	86,560	85,212
Freight cost	95,237	80,006	86,392	96,908	104,287
Other Expenses	55,616	43,746	48,746	56,034	62,764
EBITDA	51,224	63,995	57,284	72,529	96,025
Depreciation & Amortization	16,447	16,234	24,603	27,659	30,236
EBIT	34,777	47,761	32,681	44,871	65,790
Other Income	7,377	11,664	5,235	5,258	5,494
Finance cost	1,949	2,764	2,509	2,847	3,227
Exceptional items	3,190	(2,116)	-	-	-
PBT	37,015	58,777	35,407	47,281	68,057
Tax Expenses	7,051	11,626	8,852	11,820	17,014
Share in Profit / (Loss) of Asso and JV	280	229	-	-	-
Minority Interest	4,410	11,612	-	-	-
RPAT	25,834	35,768	26,555	35,461	51,042
APAT	23,441	37,355	26,555	35,461	51,042

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 25: Cash Flow (Console)

YE March (Rs mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Operating profit before WC changes	49,463	63,673	62,519	77,787	101,519
Net chg in working capital	(34,729)	1,941	7,691	125	552
Income tax Paid	(7,385)	(9,156)	(8,852)	(11,820)	(17,014)
CFO	7,349	56,458	61,358	66,091	85,057
Adj. CFO	5,400	53,694	58,849	63,244	81,830
Capital expenditure	(40,659)	(39,611)	(89,050)	(44,217)	(45,000)
Other Investments	(104,148)	(49,893)	(6,529)	(9,470)	(9,117)
CFI	(144,808)	(89,504)	(95,579)	(53,687)	(54,117)
Adj FCF	(35,259)	14,083	(30,201)	19,028	36,830
Change in Equity	50,000	66,610	(18,122)	20,815	24,947
Debt (Incl. Interest)	(2,735)	(3,874)	(2,514)	(1,771)	(1,949)
Dividend	(17,955)	(5,848)	(4,395)	(4,926)	(6,158)
CFF	29,310	56,888	(25,031)	14,117	16,840
Net chg in cash	(108,148)	23,842	(59,252)	26,522	47,779
Opening Cash & Eq	116,930	29,610	110,689	51,437	77,959
Othe Adj:	20,829	57,237	-	-	-
Closing Cash & Eq	29,610	110,689	51,437	77,959	125,738

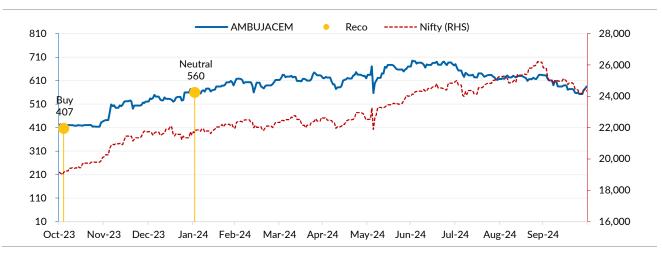


Exhibit 26: Ratio Analysis (Console)

YE March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Growth Ratio (%)					
Revenue	34.4	(14.8)	5.3	15.9	13.2
EBITDA	(17.5)	24.9	(10.5)	26.6	32.4
Adjusted PAT	(12.9)	59.4	(28.9)	33.5	43.9
Margin Ratios (%)					
Gross Profit	86.9	85.2	83.1	81.7	80.7
EBITDA	13.2	19.3	16.4	17.9	21.0
EBIT	8.9	14.4	9.4	11.1	14.4
Core PBT	6.5	10.1	7.1	9.1	12.
Adjusted PAT	6.0	11.3	7.6	8.8	11.
Return Ratios (%)					
ROE	6.6	8.3	5.2	6.6	8.5
ROCE	7.8	8.4	4.7	6.2	8.:
Turnover Ratios (days)					
Gross Block Turnover (x)	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
Adj OCF/Adj PAT (%)	23.0	143.7	221.6	178.3	160.
Inventory	13.0	9.6	10.4	12.2	12.
Debtors	43.9	28.0	29.3	32.8	34.
Creditors	13.7	11.3	11.0	11.7	11.
Cash conversion cycle	9.8	18.5	14.4	10.0	9.
Solvency Ratio (x)					
Debt-equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net debt-equity	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2
Gross Debt/EBITDA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.
Current Ratio	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.
Interest coverage ratio	17.8	17.3	13.0	15.8	20.
Dividend					
DPS	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.5	3.0
Dividend Yield (%)	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.
Dividend Payout (%)	21.2	11.8	18.6	17.4	14.
Per share Ratios (Rs)					
Basic EPS (reported)	13.0	16.3	10.8	14.4	20.
Adjusted EPS	11.8	17.0	10.8	14.4	20.
CEPS	20.1	24.4	20.8	25.6	33.
BVPS	195	231	208	229	25
Valuation (x)					
Adj P/E	31.3	27.6	53.6	40.1	27.
P/BV	1.9	2.0	2.8	2.5	2.
EV/EBITDA	13.9	14.4	23.9	18.5	13.
EV/Sales	1.8	2.8	3.9	3.3	2.
Adj Mcap / Core PBT	27.7	27.4	54.7	36.4	22.
Adj Mcap / Adj OCF	130.5	17.0	23.2	21.1	15.
ource: Company, YES Sec					



Recommendation Tracker





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