# **Muthoot Finance**

# Set to shine

### Convergence of fundamentals and tailwinds to prop growth

Muthoot Finance (MUTH IN) is in a sweet spot, given robust growth prospects backed by sound fundamentals and sectoral tailwinds. Fundamentals are underscored by 1) proven moats of leadership and higher productivity (AUM per branch at INR 145mn vs INR 80mn for IIFL Finance and a mere INR 56mn for MGFL], 2] steady-state branch and customer expansion, 3) customer segmentation with limited share of 27% in the above INR 300,000 ticket size which faces rising competition, and 4) increased thrust on marketing & digital initiatives along with enhanced customer service to strengthen MUTH's competitive positioning. We believe high productivity and staunch distribution network can add ~3% to AUM growth annual basis.

Sectoral tailwinds, such as 1) continued momentum in underlaying asset value like gold, 2) concerns regarding unsecured, systemic credit expansion fueling MSME credit via gold loans, 3) less competition from banks (refer Exhibit 15) with unit economics turning unfavorable amid tight liquidity will enable MUTH to reclaim its market positioning. We revise 14% growth to 15%+ during FY24-26E.

### Margin to stabilize as competitive positioning strengthens

Taking cognizance of high funding cost, MUTH is yet expected to clock stable margins without requiring material alteration in lending rates. Moreover, its ability to transmit high cost (we factor in 100bp COF spike in FY24E) may sustain margin at the current levels. We expect yield to stabilize in the range of 18-19%, leading to margin improvement from 11.6% in FY24 to settle at 11.8% by FY26E, as MUTH succeeds in countering increased competition in the near term.

### Benign asset quality; auctions at the lowest levels

Firm's underlying security and robust risk-management systems have ensured good credit quality across cycles. Credit cost was lower and auctions at INR 3,810mn or 0.6% of gold loan book was modest at O3FY24-end. We expect GNPA at 2.5% during FY24-26E.

### Valuation: revise to Buy with a higher TP of INR 1,948

MUTH is poised to reclaim strong market positioning in the gold finance space. Continued rise in gold prices and tight liquidity scenario for banks are leading to healthy business traction. This along with the company's moats of higher productivity and strong branch network would result in a loan CAGR of 15% during FY24-26E. Margin should stabilize as its competitive positioning strengthens. We expect a rich return profile with an ROA of 5.2% and 17% ROE during FY24-26E. MUTH also stands in conformation with regulatory norms. We revise our rating to Buy from Accumulate with a higher SOTP-based TP 1,948 from INR 1,520. We ascribe 2.5x (from 2.2x) September 2025E P/ABV for the core business and 1.2x (unchanged) for Belstar Micro finance business and 0.4x (unchanged) September 2025E P/ABV for the home finance business.



# Rating: Buy

Target Price: INR 1,948 Upside: 20%

CMP: INR 1,630 (as on 3 April 2024)

#### Kev data

Bloomberg /Reuters Code	MUTH IN/MUTTol.BO
Current / Dil Shares O/S (mn)	401/401
Mkt Cap (INR bn/USD mn)	654/7,843
Daily Volume (3M NSE Avg)	651,359
Face Value (INR)	10
1 USD = INR 83.4	

Note: \*as on 3 April 2024; Source: Bloomberg

#### Price & volume



Shareholding (%)	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
Promoter	73.4	73.4	73.4	73.4
Institutional Investor	22.0	22.4	22.8	22.9
Other Investor	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5
General Public	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.3
Source: BSE				
Price performance (	(%)	3M	6M	12M
Nifty		4.3	14.9	28.9
Muthoot Finance		10.5	32.0	66.1
LIC Housing Finance		15.0	34.4	92.3
C				

Source: Bloomberg

YΈ	NII	YoY	PPoP	YoY	PAT	YoY	EPS	Core RoE	RoA	P/E	P/ABV
March	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(X)
FY23	66,695	(6.3)	47,270	(13.0)	34,735	(12.2)	86.5	16.5	4.9	18.8	3.3
FY24E	78,910	18.3	57,483	21.6	42,376	22.0	105.6	17.3	5.3	15.4	2.7
FY25E	90,801	15.1	67,189	16.9	49,693	17.3	123.8	17.3	5.3	13.2	2.3
FY26E	104,490	15.1	77,206	14.9	57,103	14.9	142.3	16.9	5.2	11.5	2.0

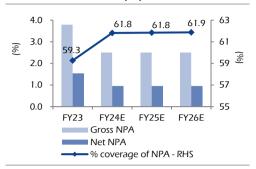
Note: pricing as on 3 April 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

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# Financials (YE March)

Income statement (INR mn)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
NII	66,695	78,910	90,801	104,490
Other income	1,751	1,962	1,962	1,962
Gross Income	68,446	80,871	92,762	106,452
Operating expenses	21,177	23,388	25,573	29,246
PPOP	47,270	57,483	67,189	77,206
Provisions	605	853	781	896
РВТ	46,664	56,630	66,408	76,310
Тах	11,929	14,254	16,715	19,207
PAT	34,735	42,376	49,693	57,103
Balance sheet (INR bn)	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Capital	4,014	4,013	4,013	4,013
Reserves and Surplus	206,605	241,568	283,774	333,390
Net worth	210,619	245,582	287,788	337,403
Borrowings	497,343	598,668	691,966	793,245
Other liabilities	18,236	20,803	39,805	49,127
Total Liabilities	726,198	865,053	1,019,559	1,179,776
Fixed assets	3,392	3,131	3,131	3,131
Loans	642,649	713,723	824,951	945,695
Investments	13,169	27,763	40,257	58,372
Cash and bank balances	64,612	117,244	146,723	167,249
Other assets	2,377	, 3,192	4,498	5,328
Total Assets	726,198	865,053	1,019,559	1,179,776
Per Share data & Valuation Ratios	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EPS- (INR)	87	106	124	142
BV (INR)	525	612	717	841
ABVS- (INR)	500	595	697	818
P/E- (x)	18.8	15.4	13.2	11.5
P/ABV-(x)	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.0
Yield and Cost (%)				
Yield on advances	17.1	18.8	18.8	18.8
Interest Income/ Avg. assets	14.5	16.0	15.6	15.4
Interest Expense/ Avg. assets	5.2	6.1	6.0	5.9
Net Interest Margin (%)	11.0	11.6	11.8	11.8
Asset Quality (%)		1110		1110
Gross NPA	3.8	2.5	2.5	2.5
Net NPA	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
% coverage of NPA	59.3	61.8	61.8	61.9
credit cost (calc)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Capital Adequacy (x)	0	011	0	011
Tier 1	28.6	27.0	25.9	26.2
CAR	29.5	27.8	26.8	27.1
Growth Rates (%)	27.5	27.0	20.0	27.1
Loan growth	8.2	11.1	15.6	14.6
Earnings growth	(12.2)	22.0	17.3	14.9
Business Ratios	[12.2]	22.0		11.7
RoAA (%)	4.9	5.3	5.3	5.2
Core RoE (%)	16.5	17.3	17.3	16.9
Leverage (x)	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3
	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.5

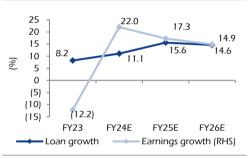
Gross and net NPA (%)



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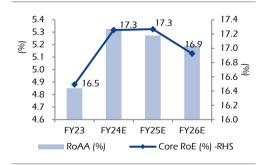
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### Loans & earnings growth trend (%)



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

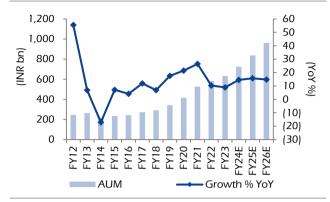
#### **Return ratios (%)**



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Note: pricing as on 3 April 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

### Exhibit 1: Growth back in the reckoning: AUM strengthening





Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### Exhibit 2: Growth driven by higher productivity and continued network expansion

Particulars	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Employees / Branch	6.9	6.1	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5
Growth % YoY	12.9	(11.6)	<i>[3.9]</i>	(8.0)	(1.1)	5.5	(3.5)	(0.3)	3.5	(0.0)	3.4	(0.6)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.9)
Average AUM / Branch (INR mn)	45.2	58.8	56.8	53.6	56.2	60.9	66.4	71.9	84.9	104.3	122.9	130.5	138.7	152.7	169.0
Growth % YoY	4.8	30.0	(3.4)	(5.6)	4.8	8.4	9.0	8.2	18.0	22.9	17.7	6.2	6.3	10.1	10.7
Average AUM / Employee (INR mn)	6.6	9.6	9.7	10.0	10.5	10.8	12.3	13.3	15.2	18.7	21.2	22.7	24.4	27.1	30.6
Growth % YoY	(7.2)	47.0	0.6	2.6	6.0	2.8	13.0	8.6	14.1	23.0	13.8	6.9	7.5	11.2	12.8
Average Salary / Employee (INR mn)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Growth % YoY	23.5	34.0	7.9	16.5	2.3	12.0	5.7	11.1	8.7	(1.4)	(5.2)	0.4	14.1	2.9	12.7

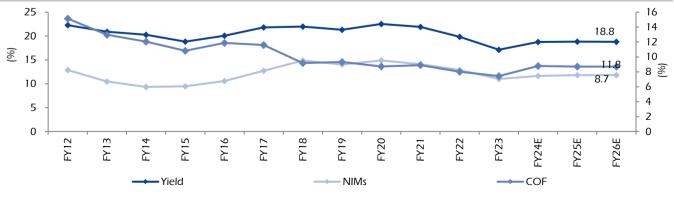
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

### Exhibit 3: Improving operational metrics with steady increase in active customer count

Particulars	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	O2FY24	Q3FY24
	QSFIZZ	QHFTZZ	UTF125	QZF125	Q3F123	046125	UIF124	QZF124	Q3F124
Active customers (INR mn)	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6
Growth % QoQ	(1.5)	(0.5)	(2.7)	0.8	0.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.9
Branches (nos.)	4,617	4,617	4,617	4,641	4,672	4,739	4,742	4,745	4,774
Growth % QoQ	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.6
Tonnage (tonnes)	178	187	178	177	175	180	182	183	184
Growth % QoQ	0.0	5.1	(4.8)	(0.6)	(1.1)	2.9	1.1	0.5	0.5

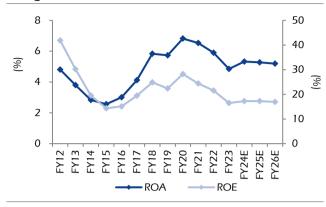
Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

### Exhibit 4: Margin to stabilize at 11.8% over FY24-26E

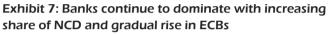


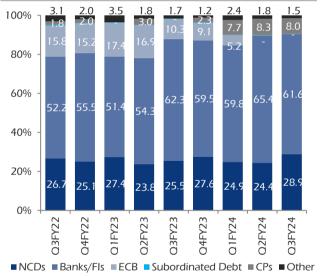
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 5: Superior ROA of 5.2% and ROE of 16.9% during FY24-FY26E

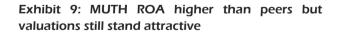


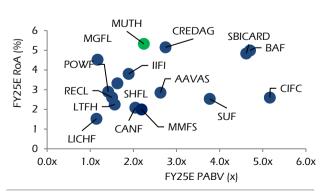
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate



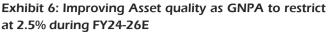


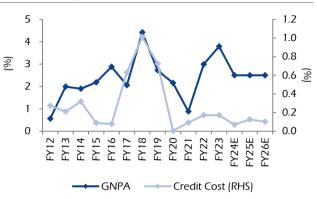
Source: Company, Elara Securities Research





Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate





Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 8: Fund raising through ECB over the past year

Date of issuance	Туре	Amount (INR mn)	Rate (%)	Tenure (months )
8-Jan-24	Secured redeemable non-convertible debentures	10,000	up to 9%	Up to 60
21-Sep-23	Secured redeemable non-convertible debentures	7,000	up to 9%	Up to 60
12-Apr-23	Secured redeemable non-convertible debentures	3,000	up to 8.6%	Up to 61
8-Feb-23	Secured redeemable non-convertible debentures	5,000	up to 8.6%	Up to 61
28-Nov- 22	Secured redeemable non-convertible debentures	3,000	up to 8.25%	Up to 60
6-Oct-22	Secured redeemable non-convertible debentures	3,000	up to 8%	Up to 60

Source: Company website, Elara Securities Research



Exhibit 10: MUTH trades in line with the five-year average of 2.2x; poised for re-rating now

Source: Bloomberg, Company, Elara Securities Research

#### Exhibit 11: SOTP valuation

	% share in overall business	September 2025E (x)	Per share (INR)
Core business	88.7	2.5	1,919.8
Home finance	2.2	0.4	4.7
Belstar Micro	8.2	1.2	29.1
Muthoot Money	0.5	0.1	1.0
Asia asset (Sri Lanka)	0.7	0.1	1.0
Total value of ventures	-	-	35.8
Less: 20% holding discount	-	-	7.2
Value of Key ventures	-	-	28.7
Target price (INR)	-	-	1,948.5
CMP (INR)	-	-	1,630.0
Upside (%)	-	-	19.5

Note: pricing as on 3 April 2023; Source: Elara Securities Estimate

#### Exhibit 12: Change in estimates

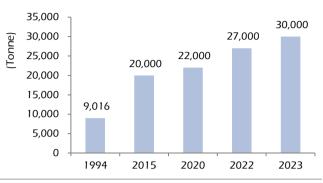
(INR mn)	NR mn) Old				Revised		Change (%)		
	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net interest income	78,029	87,968	101,235	78,910	90,801	104,490	1.1	3.2	3.2
Operating profit	56,603	64,356	73,951	57,483	67,189	77,206	1.6	4.4	4.4
Net profit	41,731	47,587	54,692	42,376	49,693	57,103	1.5	4.4	4.4
EPS (INR)	104.0	118.6	136.3	105.6	123.8	142.3	1.5	4.4	4.4
TP (INR)			1,520			1,948			28.2
Rating			Accumulate			Buy			

Source: Elara Securities Estimate

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### Annexure1: Gold loan dynamics in favor of MUTH

Exhibit 13: Gold with Indian households show increasing trend



Source: The Times of India; RBI, Elara Securities Research

#### Exhibit 14: Specialized NBFC sustain market share (%)

(INR bn)	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
MUTH	233	243	272	288	336	408	519	575	619
MGFL	92	101	111	117	130	170	191	202	197
IIFL	38	29	29	40	46	91	131	162	207
Banks	-	-	-	-	249	333	605	739	884
Overall market	1,774	1,966	2,168	2,467	2,928	3,448	4,051	4,617	6,000

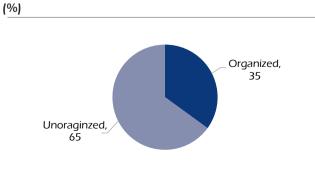
Source: ET BFSI; Company, RBI, Elara Securities Research

#### Exhibit 15: Gold loan advances decline in Q3FY24 for most banks; growth run-rate also slows

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(INR bn)	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
Federal Bank	163,780	173,160	184,690	192,990	195,200	198,410	209,270	226,080	239,170
Growth YoY %		5.7	6.7	4.5	1.1	1.6	5.5	8.0	5.8
City Union Bank	81,697	90,033	94,944	100,435	107,239	110,272	107,805	108,798	105,910
Growth YoY %		10.2	5.5	5.8	6.8	2.8	-2.2	0.9	-2.7
South Indian Bank	107,660	107,660	119,610	129,110	130,530	138,080	144,780	149,980	153,690
Growth YoY %		0.0	11.1	7.9	1.1	5.8	4.9	3.6	2.5
State Bank of India	220,630	230,630	246,480	264,510	271,880	287,050	294,030	302,580	308,810
Growth YoY %		4.5	6.9	7.3	2.8	5.6	2.4	2.9	2.1
Union Bank	317,070	338,280	362,340	403,030	445,110	501,650	554,130	630,760	680,720
Growth YoY %		6.7	7.1	11.2	10.4	12.7	10.5	13.8	7.9
CSB Bank	58,260	65,700	71,070	80,290	87,620	97,010	100,720	106,190	108,170
Growth YoY %		12.8	8.2	13.0	9.1	10.7	3.8	5.4	1.9

Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

### Exhibit 16: Growth opportunity for the gold financiers



Source: ET BFSI, Elara Securities Research

Customer segments	Household income segment share (%)	Household income segment	Retail credit consumption categories	Primary lenders
High income	3	Above INR 2.75mn	Housing loan, CD loan, Auto Ioan, Educational loan, Personal Ioan	Banks, NBFC
Upper mid income	21	INR 0.55mn to INR 2.75mn	Housing loan, CD loan, Auto loan, Educational loan, Personal loan, Gold loan	Banks, NBFC
Lower mid income	33	INR 0.25mn to INR 0.55mn	Housing loan, CD loan, Auto loan, Educational loan, Personal loan, Gold loan	Co-operative banks, NBFC
Low income	43	Up to INR 0.25mn	MFI/SHG loans, Gold loan	Co-operative banks, MFI, SHG, Gold finance companies

#### Exhibit 17: Customer segments availing gold loans

Source: KPMG Report. Elara Securities Research

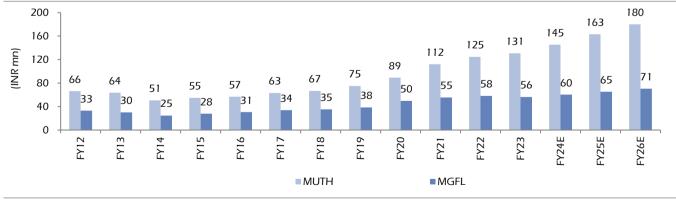
### Annexure 2: MUTH & MGFL comparative analysis

#### Exhibit 18: AUM traction remains healthy for MUTH irrespective of the gold price

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Particulars	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Gold Price per gram (INR)	2,492	2,908	2,637	2,483	2,437	2,705	2,708	3,050	4,332	4,048	4,716	5,473	5,582	6,085	6,389
YoY Growth	34.1	16.7	(9.3)	(5.8)	(1.9)	11.0	0.1	12.6	42.0	(6.6)	16.5	16.1	2.0	9.0	5.0
MUTH															
Gold AUM (INR bn)	244	260	216	233	243	272	288	336	408	519	575	619	711	822	943
YoY Growth	55.2	6.5	(16.9)	8.0	4.2	11.9	6.0	16.4	21.4	27.4	10.8	7.6	14.9	15.6	14.7
Gold Branches (units in no.)	3,678	4,082	4,270	4,245	4,275	4,307	4,325	4,480	4,567	4,632	4,617	4,739	4,889	5,039	5,239
YoY Growth	34.6	11.0	4.6	(0.6)	0.7	0.7	0.4	3.6	1.9	1.4	(0.3)	2.6	3.2	3.1	4.0
Gold Holdings (in tonnes)	137	134	118	131	142	149	155	169	176	171	187	180	192	198	215
YoY Growth	22.3	(2.2)	(11.9)	11.0	8.4	4.9	4.0	9.0	4.1	(2.8)	9.4	(3.7)	6.7	3.1	8.6
MGFL															
Gold AUM (INR bn)	96	99	82	92	101	111	117	130	170	191	202	197	213	232	253
YoY Growth	51.0	3.4	(18.0)	13.0	9.4	10.4	5.5	10.4	30.9	12.5	5.7	(2.1)	8.0	9.0	9.0
Gold Branches (units in no.)	2,908	3,295	3,293	3,293	3,293	3,293	3,330	3,372	3,529	3,524	3,524	3,985	4,065	4,146	4,146
YoY Growth	40.9	13.3	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3	4.7	(0.1)	0.0	<i>13.1</i>	2.0	2.0	0.0
Gold Holdings (in tonnes)	66	51	46	53	60	61	64	68	72	65	68	60	62	64	64
YoY Growth	23.8	(21.5)	(11.4)	16.5	12.2	2.5	4.7	5.5	7.3	(9.8)	4.1	(11.6)	3.0	3.0	0.0

Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

### Exhibit 19: MUTH gold AUM per branch higher than MGFL



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 20: MOTH maintains core book focus vs MGFL, ensuring limited asset quality concerns															
Loan mix (%)	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
MUTH															
Gold	99.0	98.5	98.9	99.7	99.8	99.8	90.4	87.7	87.0	89.1	89.2	86.5	85.6	84.9	84.1
Non Gold	1.0	1.5	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	9.6	12.3	13.0	10.9	10.8	13.5	14.4	15.1	15.9
MGFL															
Gold	82.7	99.9	99.9	96.6	88.2	81.5	74.4	66.7	67.3	70.1	66.6	55.7	49.2	44.4	39.7
Non Gold	17.3	0.1	0.1	3.4	11.8	18.5	25.6	33.3	32.7	29.9	33.4	44.3	50.8	55.6	60.3

Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate



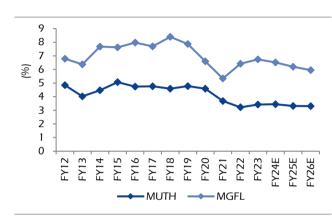
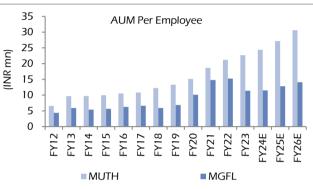
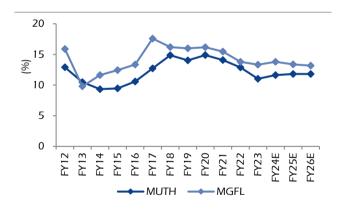


Exhibit 22: MUTH has higher AUM per employee than MGFL

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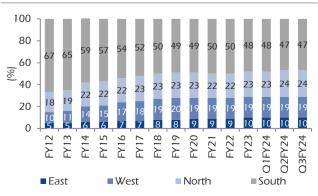


#### Exhibit 23: MGFL better placed on margin than MGFL



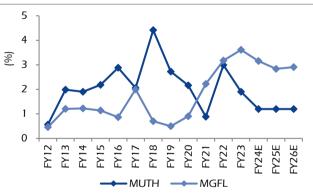
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimates

#### Exhibit 25: Non-South contributes 53% to AUM as on Q3FY24



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### Exhibit 24: Historically asset quality trends better for MUTH than MGFL



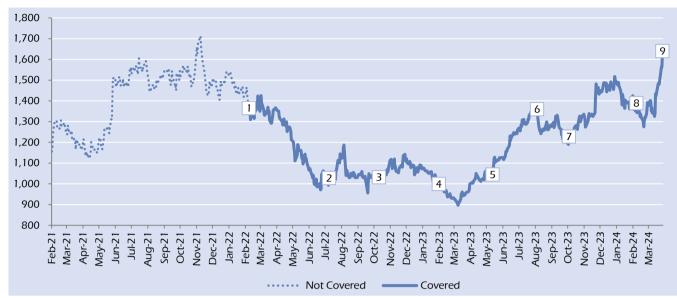
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimates

Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

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Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

# **Coverage History**



	Date	Rating	Target Price	<b>Closing Price</b>
1	14-Feb-2022	Buy	INR 1,657	INR 1,355
2	15-Jul-2022	Buy	INR 1,522	INR 1,018
3	14-Oct-2022	Accumulate	INR 1,200	INR 1,014
4	7-Feb-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,156	INR 1,011
5	19-May-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,200	INR 1,035
6	11-Aug-2023	Accumulate	INR 1,404	INR 1,350
7	10-Oct-2023	Buy	INR 1,520	INR 1,218
8	14-Feb-2024	Accumulate	INR 1,520	INR 1,379
9	3-Apr-2024	Buy	INR 1,948	INR 1,630

# **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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