

Market snapshot



Today's top research idea

Equities - India	Close	Chg .%	CYTD.%
Sensex	69,551	-0.5	14.3
Nifty-50	20,906	-0.4	15.5
Nifty-M 100	44,556	-0.4	41.4
Equities-Global	Close	Chg .%	CYTD.%
S&P 500	4,644	0.5	20.9
Nasdaq	14,533	0.7	38.9
FTSE 100	7,543	0.0	1.2
DAX	16,792	0.0	20.6
Hang Seng	5,615	1.5	-16.3
Nikkei 225	32,844	0.2	25.9
Commodities	Close	Chg .%	CYTD.%
Brent (US\$/Bbl)	74	-3.1	-9.6
Gold (\$/OZ)	1,980	-0.1	8.5
Cu (US\$/MT)	8,260	0.1	-1.3
Almn (US\$/MT)	2,075	0.3	-11.7
Currency	Close	Chg .%	CYTD.%
USD/INR	83.4	0.0	0.8
USD/EUR	1.1	0.3	0.8
USD/JPY	145.5	-0.5	10.9
YIELD (%)	Close	1MChg	CYTD chg
10 Yrs G-Sec	7.3	-0.01	-0.1
10 Yrs AAA Corp	7.7	-0.01	0.0
Flows (USD b)	12-Dec	MTD	CYTD
FII	0.0	2.60	17.0
DII	0.23	1.03	21.6
Volumes (INRb)	12-Dec	MTD*	YTD*
Cash	110	1027	690
F&O	3,85,508	3,37,299	2,72,392

Note: Flows, MTD includes provisional numbers.

*Average

ITC: Earning visibility continues to drive performance

- ❖ Despite pandemic, inflation, and taxation challenges, ITC showcased robust performance with a 10% revenue CAGR and 11.6% PAT CAGR from FY18-23. Urban areas drove consumption growth, especially in the thriving premium portfolio.
- ❖ The non-cigarette segment excelled with a 14% Revenue CAGR, 20% PAT CAGR, and improved EBITDA margins. Growth drivers include urbanization, nuclearization, and rising per capita income. ITC's strategic growth framework focuses on core business, emerging sectors, and future opportunities. Cost optimization, Omni-channel network strengthening, and a diversified capex plan contribute to its resilience.
- ❖ ITC stands out as a top choice in the FMCG sector, offering a 3-4% dividend yield and a resilient, defensive business model. The PBT-level earning CAGR is a solid 8.5%, projected to reach 13% in FY23-25. The justified multiples underscore its BUY rating, with a target price of INR535, based on a 28x FY25E EPS.

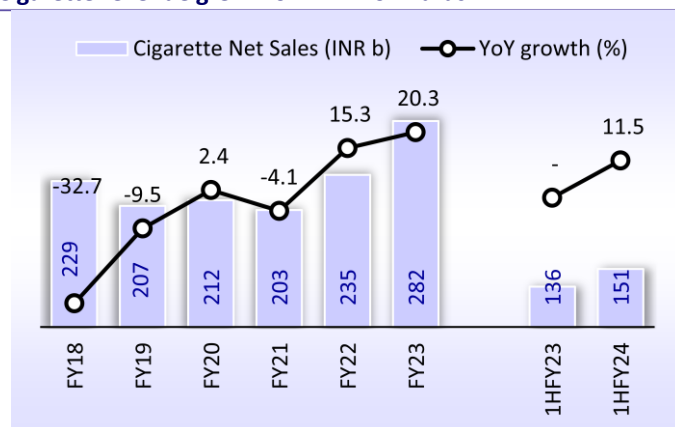


Research covered

Cos/Sector	Key Highlights
ITC	Earning visibility continues to drive performance
Fund Folio	AUM at a new peak; equity inflows moderate
NMDC	Volume growth and capacity expansion to drive performance
PI Industries	Is PI facing pressure due to global macro headwinds and new Chinese capacities for its key molecule?
EcoScope	Retail inflation lower than expected, industrial output remains robust

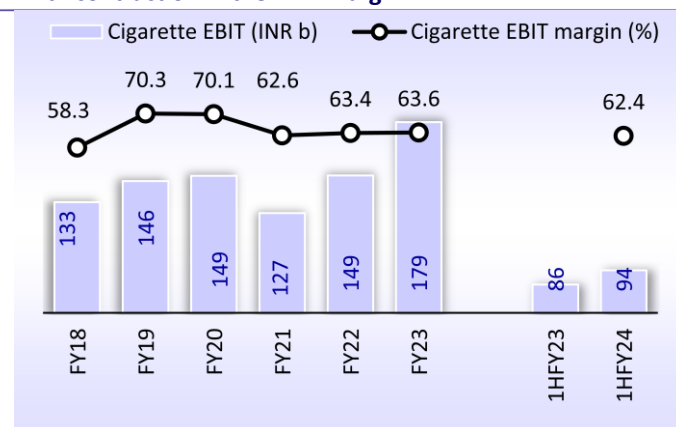
Chart of the Day: ITC (Earning visibility continues to drive performance)

Cigarette revenue grew from FY22 onwards...



Source: Company, MOFSL

...with contraction in the EBIT margin



Source: Company, MOFSL

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Investors are advised to refer through important disclosures made at the last page of the Research Report.

Motilal Oswal research is available on www.motilaloswal.com/Institutional-Equities, Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters, Factset and S&P Capital.



Kindly click on textbox for the detailed news link

1

Adani Ports gets board nod to raise up to Rs 5,250 crore via NCDs

The company intends to use the funds for capex, refinancing of its existing debt and general corporate purposes, APSEZ said in a stock exchange update.

2

RIL, Brookfield Infra, Digital Realty set up data centre JV; first project launch in January

"With this announcement, the joint venture will assume a new identity as Digital Connexion: A Brookfield, Jio and Digital Realty Company succeeding and building on the strong foundation laid by BAM Digital Realty," Digital Connexion said in a statement.

3

ITC's FMCG biz grows at 14% CAGR in last 3 yrs, Aashirvaad becomes Rs 8,000 cr brand

ITC is "one of the fastest growing FMCG Businesses in India" with rapid scale in revenues, which is largely "driven by brands developed in-house", ITC in an investor presentation released on Tuesday.

4

Shriram Finance to tap ABS route to raise \$500 million overseas

The non-banking financial company (NBFC) plans to securitise part of its loan portfolio and then sell it to international investors, with major global banks set to meet investors in Hong Kong and Singapore this week to arrange the transaction, said people with knowledge of the matter.

5

Yes Bank puts Rs 4,200 crore of corporate and retail bad loans on sale, seeks all-cash offers

The bank's corporate loan portfolio comprises eight accounts totalling rs 3,091 crore, while the retail portfolio is worth Rs 1,142 crore.

6

Auto companies log best-ever November sales on robust festive demand

The annual growth rate in wholesale despatches from factories to dealerships moderated to 3.7% compared with 15.9% growth in October, in absolute numbers, it hit a new high for November at 334,130 units.

7

DoT revises methodology for levying spectrum charges on captive users

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has revised its methodology to charge spectrum charges on captive users, rationalizing fees paid by such players.



BSE SENSEX 69,551 S&P CNX 20,906

CMP: INR453 TP: INR535 (+18%) Buy



Bloomberg	ITC IN
Equity Shares (m)	12259
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	5651.5 / 67.8
52-Week Range (INR)	500 / 323
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-4/-9/19
12M Avg Val (INR M)	4760

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

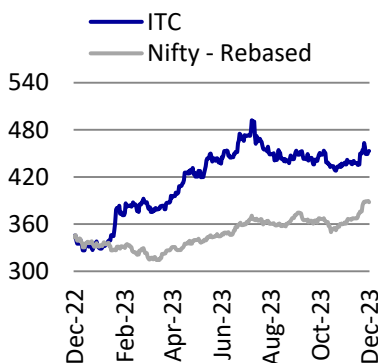
Y/E March	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	660.4	682.5	759.4
Sales Gr. (%)	17.2	3.3	11.3
EBITDA	239.8	261.1	297.0
EBITDA mrg. (%)	36.3	38.3	39.1
Adj. PAT	186.8	206.3	236.6
Adj. EPS (INR)	15.0	16.6	19.0
EPS Gr. (%)	23.0	10.5	14.7
BV/Sh.(INR)	54.4	57.2	60.4
Ratios			
RoE (%)	29.0	29.8	32.4
RoCE (%)	28.2	29.0	31.6
Payout (%)	102.7	85.0	85.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	30.1	27.3	23.8
P/BV (x)	8.3	7.9	7.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	21.7	19.8	17.3
Div. Yield (%)	3.4	3.1	3.6

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Sep-23	Jun-23	Sep-22
Promoter	0.0	0.0	0.0
DII	41.9	38.8	42.4
FII	43.4	46.8	42.7
Others	14.7	14.4	14.9

FII Includes depository receipts

Stock performance (one-year)



Earning visibility continues to drive performance

The management of ITC held an analyst meeting where each business head and the senior management team delivered a comprehensive overview of their respective businesses.

- Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, inflation, and taxation, ITC demonstrated better performance, achieving a revenue CAGR of 10% and PAT CAGR of 11.6% over FY18-23.
- The overall consumption growth in the industry has been better in urban areas than the rural regions. Although there are signs of improvement in rural markets, its sustainability remains uncertain. The premium portfolio is thriving, particularly in urban settings.
- **Non-Cigarette Business Outperformance:** The non-cigarette segment outperformed, exhibiting a robust Revenue CAGR of 14% and a remarkable PAT CAGR of 20% over FY18-23. This impressive performance was accompanied by a notable improvement in EBITDA margin contribution, which increased 920bp to 27.3%. Return on Capital Employed (RoCE) doubled, reaching 22% from an initial 11% in FY18.
- **Growth Drivers and Market Trends:** The growth narrative is shaped by various drivers, including urbanization, nuclearization, an aging population with increased spending capacity, the rise of online shoppers, expanding internet penetration, and a growing per capita income.
- **Strategic Growth Framework:** ITC adopts a three-pronged horizon growth framework: a) Extending and defending the core business. b) Building emerging businesses, such as beverages, frozen foods, liquid wash, homecare, and nicotine, and c) Creating visible options for future growth opportunities, including chocolates, premium skincare, and food tech.
- **Cost Optimization and Productivity Enhancement:** The company is committed to optimizing costs and enhancing productivity through strategic initiatives, including ICMLs, vertical integration, import substitution, digitalization, and the utilization of renewable energy sources.
- **Omni-channel Network Strengthening:** ITC boasts a smart omni-channel network, consolidating a robust presence in general trade, modern trade, and e-commerce. The coverage in the general trade market experienced a threefold surge and the stockiest network expanded by eightfold, comparing FY23 to FY18. The company also scaled up in modern trade and e-commerce, increasing the share to 25% in FY23 from 17% in FY20.
- **Capex plan** - Capital allocation is a strategic process that entails investing in driving business innovation, nurturing future business generations such as food tech, and capitalizing on inorganic or M&A opportunities. ~35% of investments are in FMCG, 30-35% in the paper business, and the rest in agri/tech and sustainability.

Key components of its growth strategy

- **Cigarette** - The cigarette market has experienced a prolonged period of stagnancy, witnessing a decline from 100 in FY13 to 83 in FY19, a further dip to 70 in FY21, and a recent recovery to 96 in FY23, a decade marked by varying volumes. It also contributes to the government tax revenues. Despite India constituting 18% of the world's population, its share of global cigarette consumption remains below 2%, highlighting a significant gap. Legal cigarettes, constituting 9% of total tobacco consumption, contribute a substantial 80% to tobacco tax revenues in India, underscoring the fiscal significance of this segment. Illicit cigarettes command a noteworthy one-third share of the legal market in India, positioning the country as the third-largest illicit cigarette market globally.
- **FMCG** - ITC Foods emerges as the most rapidly expanding entity in the food industry, achieving a remarkable growth rate of 1.8x that of the industry. Over the past three years, the company has demonstrated a robust revenue growth, registering a CAGR of 14%, coupled with a commendable expansion in EBITDA margin by 310bp. The company introduced an impressive 300 new products over the last three years. ITC Foods has firmly established its presence in three out of four households in India. The company's distribution network extends to an impressive 7 million outlets, with a significant direct reach to 2.6 million points. Presently, it operates 11 ICMLs units, underscoring its commitment to operational efficiency and robust manufacturing infrastructure. Its strengthens its growth by reinforcing core product lines, expanding into adjacent product categories, and introducing innovative value addition vectors.
- **Agri Business** – Agri business has seen the revenue stress in FY24 due to a ban on the exports of wheat and rice. However, value-added tobacco unlocks opportunities, particularly in nicotine and derivatives, alongside other agri products. The opportunity to add value in spices is significant, considering the company is the largest producer globally, contributing to 42% of the market. Furthermore, it leads in key spices such as chili, turmeric, and cumin, holding a substantial market share of 60-80%.
- **Paperboards, Paper & Packaging business** - In the current fiscal year, the performance was adversely impacted by low price Chinese supplies in the global markets and also a sharp reduction in the global pulp prices. There are also some near-term headwinds in domestic wood prices due to the uptick in real estate activity. However, global pulp prices are expected to stabilize, showing initial signs of demand recovery. The EBIT margin in 1HFY24 came at 19% from 25% in FY23.
- **ITC Hotels** - ITC boasts a robust hotel portfolio, comprising 131 establishments spanning 80 destinations, with a cumulative room count of 12,000. Post-pandemic, ITC has demonstrated superior competitive performance, evident in both Average Room Rate (ARR) and Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR). ITC drives margin expansion through heightened productivity and cost-optimization measures.
- **Sustainability**- Sustainability 2.0 Strategy focuses on creating enduring value for all stakeholders through a comprehensive approach. Decarbonization and Climate Resilience are key pillars, with renewable energy accounting for 43% to

date and a targeted increase to 50% by 2030. Green Infrastructure initiatives include the ground-breaking achievement of 40 Platinum Green Buildings globally, with the distinction of having the world's first 12 LEED Zero Carbon Hotels.

Valuation and view

- The analyst meeting was a welcome move by the management as it provided a platform for a comprehensive discussion on the prospects and concerns of its various businesses.
- ITC has benefited from a consistent and stable tax environment for cigarettes in recent years. This stability has empowered the company to carefully adjust pricing strategies, avoiding disruptions in demand. We anticipate this trend to persist, leading to enhanced cigarette volumes and improved earnings visibility in the medium term.
- ITC benefits from the extensive range of FMCG products in its portfolio, providing an edge in a dynamically evolving demand landscape. The company's leadership in specific categories not only allows it to wield pricing power, but also enable the exploration of value-added adjacencies and the promotion of premiumization strategies.
- The resilient nature of its core business, amid an uncertain environment in the sector, and 3-4% dividend yield makes it a good defensive bet in the ongoing volatile interest rate environment.
- Earning CAGR at the PBT level stood at 8.5% over FY18-23. We expect ITC to post 13% earnings CAGR over FY23-25.
- We believe the premium multiples are justified, given its strong visibility over the medium-term and the defensive nature of its business, especially in a volatile macro environment. We reiterate our BUY rating with a TP of **INR535, based on 28x FY25E EPS.**

Key Takeaways from the meeting

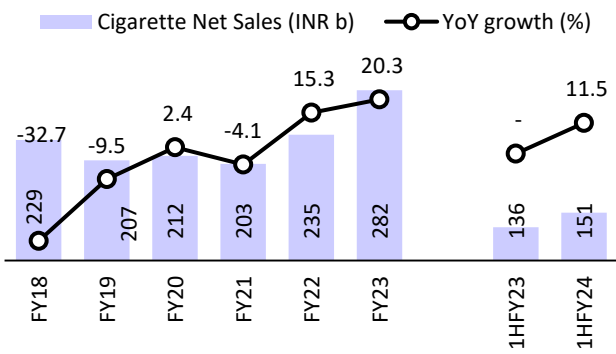
Cigarette Business

- The cigarette market has experienced a prolonged period of stagnancy, witnessing a decline from 100 in FY13 to 83 in FY19, a further dip to 70 in FY21, and a recent recovery to 96 in FY23, a decade marked by varying volumes. It also contributes to the government tax revenues.
- Despite India constituting 18% of the world's population, its share of global cigarette consumption remains below 2%, highlighting a significant gap.
- Legal cigarettes, constituting 9% of total tobacco consumption, contribute a substantial 80% to tobacco tax revenues in India, underscoring the fiscal significance of this segment.
- Illicit cigarettes command a noteworthy one-third share of legal market in India, positioning the country as the third-largest illicit cigarette market globally.
- The growth trajectory is propelled by a commitment to innovation and premiumization, with new launches experiencing over a fivefold increase in the past five years, now accounting for approximately 17% of the overall volumes. It

also serves as a strategic counter measure against illegal and illicit trade, solidifying its position among legal players.

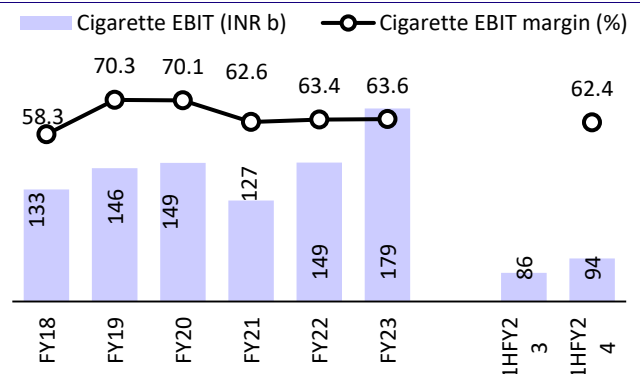
- Classic, a prominent King-size trademark, launches four new variants in the last five years, which collectively contribute to approximately 25% of portfolio.
- Gold Flake, the largest trademark spanning multiple segments, geographies, and price points. Its launches in the last five years constitutes 19% of the portfolio.
- ITC's brands are available in over 7 million outlets, with a diverse product portfolio comprising around 120 SKUs. Servicing 640,000 outlets daily, this is made possible through an expansive network, including over 10,000 redistribution channels, 8,200 mobile units reaching 'Bharat,' and a direct network spanning over 140,000 markets.

Cigarette revenue grew from FY22 onwards...



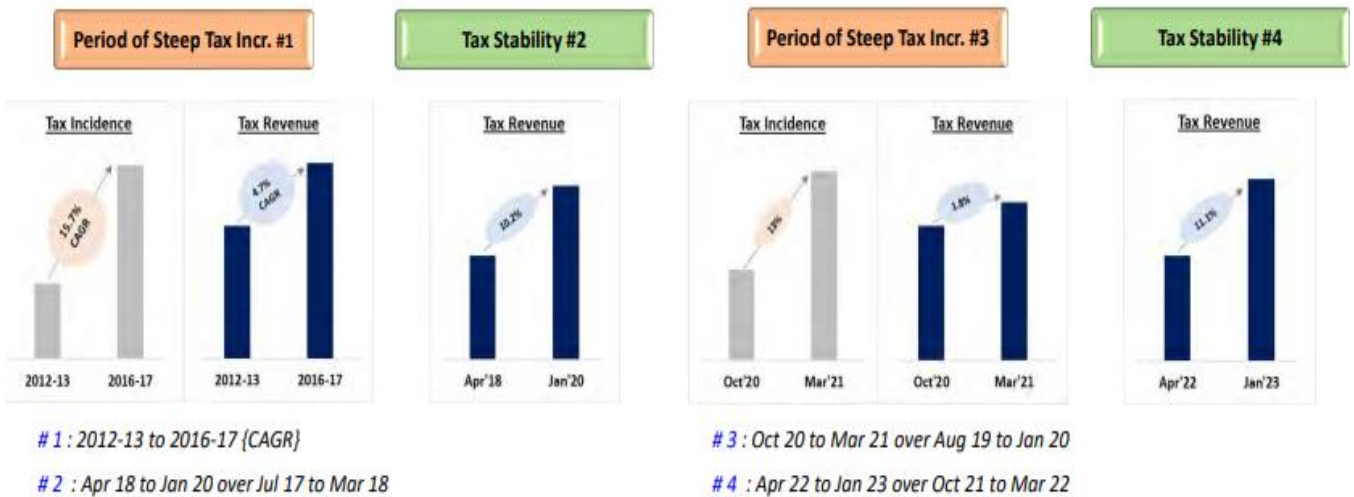
Source: Company, MOFSL

...with contraction in the EBIT margin



Source: Company, MOFSL

Recouping volume from illicit trade



Source: Company

FUND FOLIO (December 2023): AUM at a new peak; equity inflows moderate

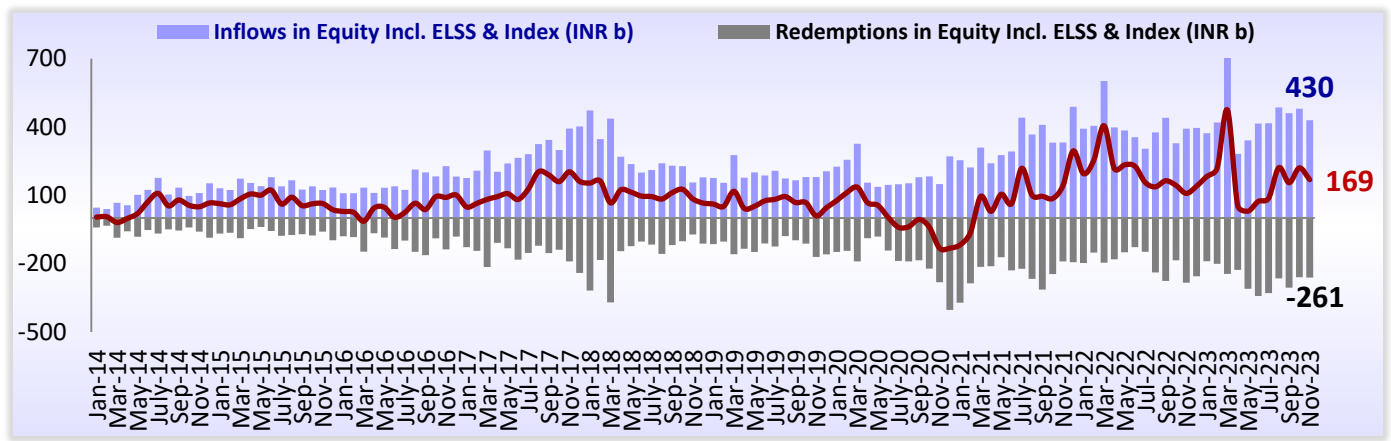
Key observations

- The Nifty, after consolidating in Oct'23, bounced back in Nov'23 with a 5.5% MoM gain. Notably, the index was extremely volatile and swung around 1,185 points before closing 1,054 points higher. The global and domestic markets made a smart comeback as investors remained convinced that the US Federal Reserve was done with its rate-hike cycle, and institutional flows were strong. FIIs turned buyers of USD2.3b in Nov'23 after remaining net sellers for two months. DIIs recorded inflows of USD1.7b in Nov'23 after USD3.4b of inflows in Oct'23.
- The MF industry's AUM scaled new highs to reach INR49t in Nov'23 (+5% MoM), primarily led by a MoM increase in AUM for equities (INR1,614b), other ETFs (INR282b), balanced (INR246b), arbitrage (INR114b), and liquid (INR36b) funds. Notably, AUM was up MoM across categories.
- Equity AUM for domestic MFs (including ELSS and index funds) increased 7.8% MoM to INR22.3t in Nov'23, fueled by a rise in market indices (Nifty up 5.5% MoM). Notably, the month saw a decline in sales of equity schemes (down 10.5% MoM to INR430b). The pace of redemptions was unchanged at INR261b (up 0.4% MoM). Consequently, net inflows moderated to INR169b in Nov'23 from INR220b in Oct'23.
- Investors continued to park their money in mutual funds, with inflows and contributions in systematic investment plans (SIPs) reaching a new high of INR170.7b in Nov'23 (up 0.9% MoM and 28.3% YoY).

Some interesting facts

- The month saw notable changes in the sector and stock allocation of funds. On a MoM basis, the weights of Healthcare, Real Estate, Technology, Utilities, Retail, and Metals increased, while that of Banks (Private & PSU), Consumer, Chemicals, and Consumer Durables moderated.
- Healthcare's weight jumped to a 19-month high of 7.0% (+20bp MoM and +70bp YoY) in Nov'23.
- Technology's weight, after moderating in the last two months, scaled back in Nov'23 to 9.5% (+10bp MoM, -70bp YoY).
- Private Banks' weight moderated for the fifth consecutive month to 18.2% (-50bp MoM, -70bp YoY) in Nov'23.
- Consumer's weight declined to 6.5% (-30bp MoM, -20bp YoY) in Nov'23 - the lowest since Jun'22.
- In terms of value change MoM, divergent interests were seen within sectors: The top 5 stocks that saw an increase in value were HDFC Bank (+INR86.9b), Infosys (+INR57.4b), Bharti Airtel (+INR53.1b), Reliance Industries (+INR52.1b), and ICICI Bank (+INR49.3b).

Monthly trends in sales, redemptions, and net amount raised by MFs (towards equities)





BSE SENSEX 69,551 S&P CNX 20,906



Stock Info

Bloomberg	NMDC IN
Equity Shares (m)	2931
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USD b)	536.4 / 6.4
52-Week Range (INR)	189 / 104
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-1/57/34
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1459
Free float (%)	39.2

Financials Snapshot (INR b)

Y/E MARCH	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	206	232	249
Adj EBITDA	68	80	87
Adj. PAT	56	64	69
EBITDA Margin (%)	33	35	35
Cons. Adj. EPS (INR)	19	22	24
EPS Gr. (%)	15	14	8
BV/Sh. (INR)	88	100	113

Ratios

Net D:E	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
RoE (%)	23.3	23.3	22.2
RoCE (%)	29.4	29.4	28.2
Payout (%)	45.0	45.0	45.0

Valuations

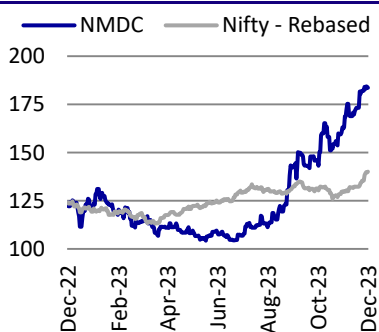
P/E (x)	9.5	8.4	7.8
P/BV (x)	2.1	1.8	1.6
EV/EBITDA(x)	6.8	5.7	5.0
Div. Yield (%)	4.7	5.4	5.8

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Sep-23	Jun-23	Sep-22
Promoter	60.8	60.8	60.8
DII	17.7	18.0	21.0
FII	8.3	7.0	6.0
Others	13.2	14.2	12.3

FII Includes depository receipts

Stock Performance (1-year)



CMP: INR183 TP:INR210 (+15%) Buy

Volume growth and capacity expansion to drive performance

- NMDC is on track to produce ~46mt of iron ore in FY24E (Apr-Nov production was up 17% YoY to 27.3mt). Over FY25, NMDC is likely to surpass a production of 50mt. The traction in production volumes would be driven by improved capacity and strong domestic demand.
- NMDC is undertaking multiple evacuation and capacity enhancement capex, which are likely to expand the production capacity to 67mt by FY26-27E from the current 51.8mt, and eventually to 100mt by FY28-30E.
- Demand is expected to remain robust going forward, as Tier-I steel manufacturers are expanding their capacities significantly. This expansion is projected to increase the industry-level crude steel capacity to 300mt by FY30-31. This would drive the iron ore demand to ~437mt and we believe NMDC is well placed to capitalize on the growth opportunities ahead.
- In line with the recent price hike observed in the international market, due to higher BoF utilization rates and lower inventory at Chinese ports, NMDC implemented its second price hike in 3QFY24 resulting in a total increase of INR450/t.
- We believe NMDC is very well placed, given the robust demand, capacity additions, and improvement in iron ore prices. NMDC trades at an EV/EBITDA of 5x and a P/B of 1.6x FY26E. We roll forward our estimates to FY26 and reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a revised TP of INR210 (premised on 6x FY26E EV/EBITDA).
- Key risk: Over 110 iron ore blocks have been auctioned since FY16. Of these ~30 mines are operational. As the remaining captive mines become operational, it would increase the supply of iron ore, thus intensifying the competition for NMDC.

Evacuation and capacity expansion to drive volumes

- NMDC has earmarked INR20b as capex for FY24E and intends to spend a higher amount in FY25E (INR10b of capex incurred in 1HFY24).
- NMDC is currently improving the evacuation volumes from its Chhattisgarh mines. With the addition of Bailadila Deposit 13, the company is expected to add ~10mt of incremental volumes from Chhattisgarh.
- Currently, the evacuation via railways from the Bailadila sector is capped at 30mt. Hence, the doubling of the 150.5km Kirandul-Jagdalpur 'KK line' railway corridor will enhance the evacuation capacity to 40mt from 28mt. Over 100km of the line is already completed, and the remaining portion is expected to be finished by Mar'24. The construction of a slurry pipeline spanning over 70km from Bailadila to Nagarnar has been completed, and the order for the remaining capex has been placed.
- NMDC plans to undertake the abovementioned capex, which is expected to increase the total capacity to 100mt under its 'Vision 2025' strategic management plan.

Robust domestic demand at play

- Indian crude steel production for 10M-CY23 witnessed the highest growth among the top ten steel-producing nations. Crude steel production rose 8% YoY to ~112.5mt, surpassing that of China (up 1% YoY), Japan (down 3% YoY), the US (down 2% YoY) and the world (flat YoY).

- India is poised to increase its capacity, as all major Tier-I ferrous manufacturers are undertaking significant capacity expansions to meet the continuously growing domestic demand. For example, JSPL, JSW, TATA, and AMNS are expected to reach capacities of 16mt, 38mt, 40mt, and 15mt, respectively.
- Steel demand growth is poised to surpass the GDP growth rate in the coming years and the demand for steel is expected to rise by ~8-12mt YoY over the next few years. This would lead to an annual increase of ~15-20mt in iron ore demand.

Valuations remain attractive; reiterate BUY

- NMDC is trading at 5x and 1.6x on FY26E EV/EBITDA and P/B, respectively.
- For the company, 2H is a stronger period with a pick-up in heavy capex infrastructure and construction activities.
- NMDC is on track to exceed 55mt of volumes in FY26. We roll forward our estimates to FY26 and reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a revised TP of INR210 (premised on 6x FY26E EV/EBITDA).

Key operating metrics

Key metrics	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Iron ore sales (mt)	35.6	36.1	32.4	31.5	33.0	40.1	38.2	46.5	53.0	57.0
Blended realization (INR/t)	2,479	3,220	3,756	3,713	4,663	6,455	4,623	4,461	4,409	4,370
EBITDA (INR/t)	1,262	1,752	2,207	1,974	2,669	3,138	1,584	1,470	1,509	1,533

Source: MOFSL, Company

PI Industries

BSE SENSEX 69,551 S&P CNX 20,906

CMP: INR3,484 TP: INR4,480 (+29%) Buy



Bloomberg	PI IN
Equity Shares (m)	152
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	528.6 / 6.3
52-Week Range (INR)	4011 / 2869
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-13/-19/-13
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1140
Free float (%)	53.9

Financials Snapshot (INR b)

Y/E MARCH	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	64.9	82.9	97.4
Adj EBITDA	15.4	20.6	24.5
Adj. PAT	12.3	16.5	18.9
EBITDA Margin (%)	23.8	24.9	25.1
Cons. Adj. EPS (INR)	80.9	108.5	124.5
EPS Gr. (%)	45.7	34.2	14.8
BV/Sh. (INR)	474	572	685

Ratios

Net D:E	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.4)
RoE (%)	18.5	20.8	19.8
RoCE (%)	18.5	20.9	19.7
Payout (%)	12.4	9.2	9.2

Valuations

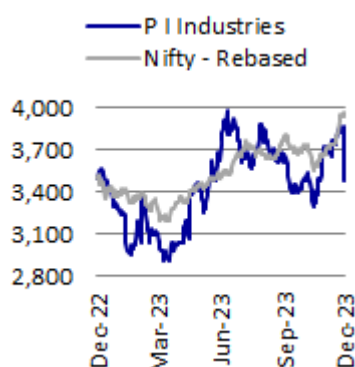
P/E (x)	43.1	32.1	28.0
P/BV (x)	32.9	24.9	20.5
EV/EBITDA(x)	0.3	0.3	0.3
Div. Yield (%)	2.2	(0.0)	3.0

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Sep-23	Jun-23	Sep-22
Promoter	46.1	46.1	46.1
DII	23.3	24.0	26.2
FII	20.0	19.2	16.8
Others	10.6	10.8	11.0

FII Includes depository receipts

Stock performance (one-year)



Is PI facing pressure due to global macro headwinds and new Chinese capacities for its key molecule?

PI Industries (PI) is an outlier in the Indian agrochemical space, with a healthy double-digit growth backed by its CSM business, which focuses on patented molecules. However, recent media articles indicate pressure on the company's key product due to capacity additions in China. Is PI facing pressure due to the new capacity in China and global stress? We will talk about it in this note.

- PI has a track record of industry-beating revenue growth (18% CAGR in FY16-23) and a sustainable margin profile (over 20% in FY16-23; ~24% in FY23).
- PI's moat lies in its strong export-focused CSM business, as no other Indian player offers the width and consistency that PI does. The company is banking on this factor by consistently launching new molecules.
- In FY23, the CSM business accounted for 78% of consolidated revenue and 83% of EBITDA. Pyroxasulfone is one of PI's key molecules (~35% of revenue as per media article), which it manufactures for Kumiai Chemicals (Japan).
- Global demand for pyroxasulfone has been robust, as reported by Kumiai Chemicals (developer) in 2022, with 53% YoY growth. Pyroxasulfone was one of the key factors for PI's strong performance over the years, shielding it from global headwinds in the agrochemical industry.
- However, PI's stock price has been under pressure over the last few weeks due to several events related to pyroxasulfone such as:
 - Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical, a Chinese company, has announced its foray into the manufacturing of pyroxasulfone. It is setting up a 2,000MTPA plant with an investment of RMB300m.
 - This is the third Chinese company announcing a capacity for pyroxasulfone, which can have a negative impact on PI's exports.
 - Kumiai has cut its FY24 guidance, thereby indicating demand pressure. Since Kumiai is one of the largest clients of PI, a guidance cut translates into a weak outlook for the company.
 - Further, the global agrochemical industry is still witnessing oversupply from China and lower demand in key geographies such as Latin America. The anticipation of global stress catching up with PI is another reason why the stock has been under pressure.
- However, the management has denied any such news of negative impact on the company, calling it mere speculation, and indicated that there is no such stress on the company's full-year guidance and growth. It further highlighted that pyroxasulfone is a patented product (until 2025 in developed markets) and will not have much impact from the upcoming Chinese facilities.**

Valuation and view

- We expect PI to sustain near-term growth momentum, led by: 1) consistent growth in the CSM business, driven by a strong order book (USD1.8b), faster commercialization of new molecules (plans 4-5 launches every year), and sales ramp-up in existing molecules; 2) product launches in the domestic market (7 launches in FY23 and plans 5 launches in FY24); and 3) recent acquisitions in the pharma API and CDMO space.
- However, the new capacities, demand scenario and realization of pyroxasulfone will remain key monitorables.
- We expect revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 22%/26%/24% over FY23-25E.
- We value the stock at 36x EPS (in line with its 3/5-year avg one-year forward P/E) to arrive at a TP of INR4,480. Maintain **BUY**



Retail inflation lower than expected, industrial output remains robust

Keeping prospects of interest rate cuts far away

- **Headline CPI inflation inched up to 5.6% YoY in Nov'23 (3-month high) vs. 4.9% in Oct'23, mainly led by higher food inflation. It was partly offset by lower core inflation and sharper deflation in fuel and light. The number was lower than the Bloomberg consensus of 5.8% and our forecast of 5.9%.**
- **Food inflation went up sharply to 8.7% YoY in Nov'23 vs. 6.6% in Oct'23 and 4.7% in Nov'22. Sequentially, it increased 1% MoM in Nov'23. Details suggest that the acceleration in food inflation was mainly due to vegetables (6% weight), which rose 17.7% YoY, following a 2.8% YoY increase in Oct'23. CPI ex-veggies slid to a 47-month low of 4.7% YoY (lowest since Dec'19) from 5% last month. At the same time, inflation in cereals, pulses, and spices remained sticky in double digits. Inflation in pulses increased to 20.2% in Nov'23 (1.6% MoM) vs. 18.9% last month, led by lower rabi sowing and below-normal rainfall in pulses-growing states.**
- **Notably, core CPI (excluding food & beverages and fuel & light) came down to 4.1% in Nov'23 from 4.3% in Oct'23, the lowest in almost 44 months.**
- **Other details suggest that: (1) Goods inflation remained firm at 6.2% in Nov'23, while services inflation came in at 3.5% (vs. 3.6% in Oct'23), lowest since 2015. Core services inflation was unchanged at 3.4%, the lowest since 2015. (2) Details of 299 items suggest that 42% of the basket posted 5%+ inflation last month, similar to that in Oct'23 and the lowest since mid-2021.**
- **Industrial production growth (IIP) accelerated to a 16-month high of 11.7% YoY in Oct'23 (vs. 6.2% in Sep'23, revised higher from 5.8%). The acceleration in growth was mainly led by a low base (-4.1% in Oct'22) and the onset of the festive season. The number is higher than the BMBG consensus of 10.5% and our forecast of 11%. During Apr-Oct'23, industrial output posted a growth of 6.9%.**
- **Electricity output clocked a 17-month high growth of 20.4% in Oct'23 vs. a growth of 9.9% in Sep'23 and 1.2% in Oct'22. At the same time, mining activity too remained strong on the back of higher coal production. Mining output grew 13.1% in Oct'23 (highest in 26 months) vs. 11.5% in Sep'23 and 2.6% in Oct'22.**
- **Manufacturing activity grew 10.4% in Oct'23 vs. 4.9% growth in Sep'23 and 5.8% contraction in Oct'22. The higher growth in manufacturing output is mainly due to a low base effect and lower input prices. Sequentially, it posted a meagre growth of 0.4% in Oct'23. Details of the manufacturing sector confirm that only 32.5% of the items within the sector saw less than 5% growth (vs. 59.9% in Sep'23) and only 4.1% of the items posted a contraction (25.1% in Sep'23).**
- **Output of capital goods and infra & construction goods remained robust in Oct'23. Capital goods output grew 22.6% in Oct'23 vs. 8.4% growth in Sep'23 and 2.9% decline in Oct'22. Infra & construction goods grew 11.3% in Oct'23 vs. 8.9% in Sep'23 and 1.7% in Oct'22. Consumer goods output saw some recovery in growth in Oct'23.**
- **Overall, a great set of data, with lower-than-expected inflation and stronger-than-expected industrial output growth. Going forward, we expect moderation in 3QFY24 real GDP growth and expect inflation to remain ~5.2% YoY in 4QFY24. The RBI, thus, does not need to think about easing at all. However, poor rabi sowing and deteriorating reservoir levels are upside risks to the food inflation trajectory and need to be monitored.**

- **CPI inflation at 5.6% in Nov'23, lower than market expectations:** Headline CPI inflation inched up to 5.6% YoY in Nov'23 (3-month high) vs. 4.9% in Oct'23, mainly led by higher food inflation. It was partly offset by lower core inflation and sharper deflation in fuel and light (Exhibit 1). The number was lower than the Bloomberg consensus of 5.8% and our forecast of 5.9%. The RBI has forecast inflation at 5.6% for 3QFY24. With CPI inflation for Oct-Nov'23 averaging 5.3%, headline inflation for Dec'23 would come out to be 6.1-6.2%.
- **Food inflation at 3-month high of 8.7% in Nov'23:** Food inflation went up sharply to 8.7% YoY in Nov'23 vs. 6.6% in Oct'23 and 4.7% in Nov'22.

Sequentially, it increased 1% MoM in Nov'23. Details suggest that the acceleration in food inflation was mainly due to vegetables (weight = 6%), which witnessed a rise of 17.7% YoY, following a 2.8% YoY increase in Oct'23. CPI ex-veggies slid to a 47-month low of 4.7% YoY (lowest since Dec'19) from 5% last month. At the same time, inflation in cereals, pulses, and spices remained sticky in double digits. Inflation in pulses increased to 20.2% in Nov'23 (1.6% MoM) vs. 18.9% last month, led by lower rabi sowing and below-normal rainfall in pulses-growing states. Inflation in protein-based products came down slightly in Nov'23. The prices of fuel and light items contracted 0.8% YoY in Nov'23, lowest since Nov'19. Standard core CPI came in at a 41-month low of 4.2% in Nov'23 vs. 4.4% in Oct'23. (*Exhibit 2*)

- **Core inflation at a 44-month low in Nov'23:** Core CPI (excluding food & beverages and fuel & light) came down to 4.1% in Nov'23 from 4.3% in Oct'23, the lowest in almost 44 months. The deceleration is broad-based. All the components within core came in lower, except for personal care & effects, which grew 7.8% in Nov'23 similar to Oct'23 and 7% in Nov'22.
- **Other details suggest that:** (1) Goods inflation remained firm at 6.2% in Nov'23, while services inflation came in at 3.5% (vs. 3.6% in Oct'23), lowest since 2015. Core services inflation was unchanged at 3.4%, the lowest in record (since 2015) (*Exhibit 3*). (2) Details of 299 items suggest that 42% of the basket posted 5%+ inflation last month, similar to that in Oct'23 and the lowest since mid-2021. (*Exhibit 4*)
- **Our view:** Overall, a great set of data, with lower-than-expected inflation and stronger-than-expected industrial output growth. Going forward, we expect moderation in 3QFY24 real GDP growth and expect inflation to remain ~5.2% YoY in 4QFY24. The RBI, thus, does not need to think about easing at all. However, poor rabi sowing and deteriorating reservoir levels are upside risks to the food inflation trajectory and need to be monitored.



PNB Housing Finance: Co Will Be Aggressive In The Affordable Housing Business; Girish Kousgi, MD & CEO

- Have a loan growth guidance of 17-18% for FY24
- Have opened 100 branches in last one year
- In last 10-12 yrs, have categorised affordable & prime in the housing finance sector
- Will be eligible for loans from NHB this year onwards
- Cost of funds will decline
- Will maintain net interest margin in the range of 3.90-3.95%

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Dixon Technologies: Total Market Size For I.T. Hardware Products Is \$20 Bn; Saurabh Gupta, CFO

- Total market size for IT hardware product is \$20 bn
- Total ₹4,500 cr IT hardware opportunity in FY26 led by Lenovo
- Looking to capture 10-15% volume next year
- Have committed to an investment of ₹250 cr
- Margin will be around 2.8-3% for next couple of years
- Not in any discussion with Jio for laptops as of now

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Tata Power: Have ₹15,000 Cr Capex For FY24, 50% Of Which Is Towards Clean Energy Solutions; Praveer Sinha, MD & CEO

- Have ₹15,000 cr capex for FY24, 50% of which is towards clean energy solutions
- On track to double revenue, EBITDA & PAT in the next 3-4 years
- For Mundra plant hope that we will be able to come to acceptable solution before June 24
- Future projects will move towards solar, wind & battery storage

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Kolte-Patil Developers: We Have Multiple Launches In Multiple Markets In Coming Quarters; Rahul Talele, Group CEO

- Will be able to do business development of Rs 8,000 cr in FY24
- Looking at diversification by FY25
- Mumbai contribution will be around 30% in coming years
- Looking at value accretive deals in Bengaluru
- 15-18% sales are coming from referrals
- Mumbai and Bengaluru will contribute 30% to sales
- Confident of Rs 3,500 cr of sales in FY25

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NCC: Our Current Orderbook Is At The Highest-Ever Level Of ₹62,349 Crore; Neerad Sharma, Head Strategy

- Our current order book is at highest-ever level of Rs 62,349 crore
- Confident of our ability to execute these orders
- Have already achieved order inflow of Rs 21,000 crore which is 80% of guidance
- Will achieve 20% revenue growth guidance, margin guidance of 10%+
- Jal jeevan Mission government outlay is of 3.6 lakh crore
- Have bagged several orders under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme

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EaseMyTrip: Hotel Business Is Growing 100% YoY Which Contributes Approx 10% To Overall Revenue; Prashant Pitti, Co-Founder

- This will be a block buster quarter for EaseMyTrip and the industry
- Advance booking for the Christmas, December week is up 20-30% YoY
- Hotel business is growing 100% YoY, contributes approximately 10% to revenue
- Acquired 3 holiday companies in the last quarter
- Biggest driver of our growth will be launching an Online Travel Agents platform for foreign countries

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NEUTRAL	> - 10 % to 15%
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NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

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