

# **Chemicals**

### **Our published reports**







## Global markets still in turmoil; export trends mixed

- The global chemicals sector would experience mixed conditions in CY25, with a selective recovery to be observed in the specialty, industrial, and life sciences segments, while macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds continue to pose challenges. Companies focus on cost management, portfolio diversification, and sustainability to navigate pricing pressures and demand volatility.
- Exports displayed a mixed trend in Jan'25, with most companies reporting a MoM decline in volumes, while AACL, and VO witnessed strong YoY growth. Export realizations improved MoM but deteriorated YoY for many, with INR depreciation impacting revenue figures across companies.
- We currently prefer SRF, ATLP, and VO, while we maintain our Sell rating on FINEORG. SRF's chemicals business is recovering, with specialty chemicals and fluorochemicals driving strong growth, while packaging and technical textiles witness a steady expansion. ATLP and VO focus on capacity expansion and new product launches, with the latter benefiting from ATBS demand and integration synergies.

## Cautious optimism amid market volatility

- The global chemical sector in CY25 is expected to face mixed conditions, with some recovery in demand but ongoing macroeconomic challenges. Companies such as LG Chem and Mitsubishi Chemical anticipate modest growth in specialty and high-value applications, although uncertainties persist due to geopolitical risks and global policy shifts. LyondellBasell and Dow Chemical expect a gradual improvement in polyolefin demand, while cost rationalization and operational efficiencies remain key priorities to navigate volatile raw material pricing.
- The industrial chemicals segment is likely to undergo selective recovery, with Eastman Chemical and Huntsman focusing on innovation and cost-cutting measures to offset weak construction and automotive demand. Honeywell and Chemours highlighted growth in long-cycle aerospace and building automation segments, but near-term industrial automation remains weak. Companies in electronics and life sciences, such as DuPont and Bayer, project stable growth, driven by innovation in semiconductor materials and pharmaceuticals despite regulatory and pricing pressures.
- The agricultural and packaging chemicals face headwinds, with Bayer and Corteva anticipating pricing pressure in crop protection, while FMC Chemical projects lower demand due to inventory destocking. Lotte Chemical and Borealis foresee stable polyolefin margins but constrained operating rates in certain regions. Overall, the sector outlook remains cautious, with companies focusing on strategic cost management, portfolio diversification, and sustainability-driven innovations to retain profitability amid a challenging macro landscape.

## Export trends remain mixed in Jan'25

Exports have displayed a mixed trend in Jan'25, with nine of the 12 companies we cover showing a MoM decline in export volumes and four experiencing a decline on a YoY basis. UPL's exports surged 103% MoM in Jan'25, while AACL and VO's exports jumped 61% each on a YoY basis. The highest decline MoM was recorded by ATLP (-37%), while on a YoY basis, the highest decline was registered by UPL (-31%).

Research Analyst: Aman Chowdhary (Aman.Chowdhary@MotilalOswal.com)

Research Analyst: Sumant Kumar (Sumant.Kumar@MotilalOswal.com)

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■ Export realizations, on the other hand, appear to have improved MoM for most companies while the same declined for eight companies YoY. Realization improved the most for ATLP to the tune of 49% MoM, while it was also the highest for ATLP (+55%) on a YoY basis. The dip in realization was the highest for DN (-20%) MoM, while it declined the highest for UPL (-42%) on a YoY basis.

Regarding the export value in INR terms, seven companies have shown a decline in export revenue in INR terms on a MoM basis, while the decline was only for three companies on a YoY basis. This might also have been because the INR vs. USD has depreciated ~4% on a YoY basis in Jan'25, which would leave the export revenue to be optically higher in the month. The highest increase on a MoM and YoY basis was for UPL (+156%) and VO (+82%), while the highest decline on a MoM and YoY basis was for DN (-40%) and UPL (-59%), respectively.

### Valuation and view

- SRF: The chemicals business is recovering, with specialty chemicals experiencing a demand revival and fluorochemicals benefiting from export growth, driving an estimated CAGR of ~29% over FY25-27E. Margins are expected to improve due to operating leverage and a higher VAP mix, while the packaging and technical textiles businesses are expected to post ~14% and ~8% CAGR, respectively.
- ATLP: The end-user demand improved in 9MFY25, and ATLP is expanding capacities, debottlenecking operations, and increasing its global presence. Key projects, such as the 50ktpa liquid epoxy resins plant and the caustic soda facility, are ramping up, with risks tied to execution delays and margin pressures. We value the stock at 35x Dec'26E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR8,455.
- VO: VOPL's new products (MEHQ, Guaiacol, Anisole, 4- MAP, Iso Amylene) are likely to start in 4QFY25, driving growth. Meanwhile, VO, now India's only double-integrated AO maker following the VAPL merger, is expected to grow on the back of robust ATBS demand. We value VO at 45x Dec'26E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR2,600. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock.

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**Exhibit 1: Export volumes (mt)** 

Export volumes (mt)	AACL	ATLP	CLEAN	DN- Consol	FINEORG	GALSURF	NFIL- Consol	NOCIL	PI	SRF	UPL	VO- Consol
Jan-24	1,397	10,498	769	6,062	2,688	6,844	1,459	1,355	960	9,093	2,075	3,412
Feb-24	1,864	7,675	933	8,486	2,937	6,617	1,944	1,323	946	10,763	718	5,475
Mar-24	1,656	10,539	878	7,654	3,450	7,748	2,558	1,225	696	11,101	1,282	6,157
Apr-24	1,935	8,822	786	4,831	2,773	5,597	1,583	1,359	922	12,043	1,147	6,162
May-24	2,184	10,781	965	6,289	3,504	4,229	1,952	1,274	1,052	11,821	1,878	4,410
Jun-24	1,733	8,346	795	6,694	3,153	5,842	2,019	1,569	1,046	11,032	2,268	4,416
Jul-24	1,913	11,593	934	4,466	3,727	6,622	1,078	1,171	917	12,469	2,488	4,696
Aug-24	2,092	13,611	1,047	4,689	4,180	6,937	2,065	1,550	1,035	10,440	1,782	5,158
Sep-24	2,286	10,415	1,123	6,689	4,100	6,332	2,027	1,621	1,057	10,676	729	4,655
Oct-24	2,188	10,929	880	5,120	3,679	7,239	1,490	1,005	950	8,657	634	4,355
Nov-24	1,482	8,979	796	5,063	2,436	5,959	2,071	911	952	9,710	263	4,398
Dec-24	1,971	13,883	960	8,022	3,225	6,991	2,187	1,853	738	10,219	708	4,368
Jan-25	2,246	8,741	815	6,293	3,205	6,913	1,607	1,196	734	9,759	1,436	5,506
MoM (%)	14%	-37%	-15%	-22%	-1%	-1%	<b>-27</b> %	-35%	0%	-5%	103%	26%
YoY (%)	61%	-17%	6%	4%	19%	1%	10%	-12%	-24%	7%	-31%	61%

Source: Industry, MOFSL

**Exhibit 2: Export realizations (USD/kg)** 

Realization (USD/kg)	AACL	ATLP	CLEAN	DN- Consol	FINEORG	GALSURF	NFIL- Consol	NOCIL	PI	SRF	UPL	VO- Consol
Jan-24	1.9	1.6	6.8	1.6	3.7	1.7	6.5	3.5	78.3	6.1	7.8	2.7
Feb-24	2.1	2.1	6.1	1.7	3.6	1.6	5.5	3.3	61.7	4.8	7.3	2.5
Mar-24	1.9	2.0	6.5	2.1	3.7	1.7	9.5	3.3	58.6	4.1	4.9	2.7
Apr-24	1.8	2.3	7.0	1.9	3.8	1.6	4.8	3.4	64.2	3.4	5.2	2.4
May-24	1.5	2.0	6.8	1.9	3.7	1.6	6.0	3.6	65.1	3.3	7.1	2.5
Jun-24	1.6	2.3	6.4	1.9	3.6	1.8	9.5	3.4	62.8	3.9	6.4	2.6
Jul-24	1.8	2.0	6.3	1.7	3.7	1.7	5.1	3.6	61.6	4.1	6.7	2.4
Aug-24	2.1	1.5	6.3	2.1	3.6	1.7	6.6	3.4	65.2	3.5	7.4	2.6
Sep-24	1.7	2.3	6.4	1.8	3.7	1.8	6.0	3.3	63.2	3.8	7.6	2.5
Oct-24	1.6	1.7	6.6	1.6	3.7	1.8	9.4	3.6	63.1	4.3	6.7	2.6
Nov-24	1.5	1.9	7.1	1.9	3.5	1.8	7.2	3.5	49.3	3.6	6.7	2.5
Dec-24	2.0	1.7	6.2	1.9	3.8	1.9	7.7	3.3	49.3	4.5	3.6	2.4
Jan-25	1.7	2.5	6.6	1.5	3.6	1.9	8.3	3.2	65.6	6.2	4.5	2.6
MoM (%)	-15%	49%	8%	-20%	-5%	1%	8%	-3%	33%	38%	24%	11%
YoY (%)	-9%	55%	-2%	-2%	-4%	13%	28%	-9%	-16%	2%	-42%	-1%

Source: Industry, MOFSL

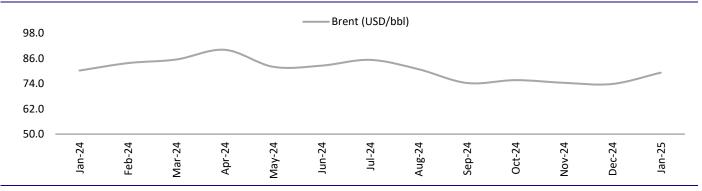
Exhibit 3: Export values (INR b)

Export value (INR b)	AACL	ATLP	CLEAN	DN- Consol	FINEORG	GALSURF	NFIL- Consol	NOCIL	PI	SRF	UPL	VO- Consol
Jan-24	0.2	1.4	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.4	6.3	4.6	1.3	0.7
Feb-24	0.3	1.3	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.4	4.8	4.3	0.4	1.1
Mar-24	0.3	1.8	0.5	1.6	1.1	1.1	2.0	0.3	3.4	3.8	0.5	1.4
Apr-24	0.3	1.7	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.4	4.9	3.5	0.5	1.2
May-24	0.3	1.8	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.7	3.2	1.1	0.9
Jun-24	0.2	1.6	0.4	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.6	0.5	5.5	3.6	1.2	1.0
Jul-24	0.3	1.9	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.3	4.7	4.3	1.4	0.9
Aug-24	0.4	1.7	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.4	5.7	3.1	1.1	1.1
Sep-24	0.3	2.0	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.4	5.6	3.4	0.5	1.0
Oct-24	0.3	1.6	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.3	5.0	3.1	0.4	1.0
Nov-24	0.2	1.4	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.3	4.0	3.0	0.1	0.9
Dec-24	0.3	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.3	0.5	3.1	3.9	0.2	0.9
Jan-25	0.3	1.9	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.3	4.2	5.3	0.6	1.3
MoM (%)	-1%	-5%	-7%	-40%	-4%	1%	-28%	-37%	34%	34%	156%	42%
YoY (%)	<b>52</b> %	34%	7%	2%	18%	18%	24%	-16%	-34%	14%	-59%	82%

Source: Industry, MOFSL

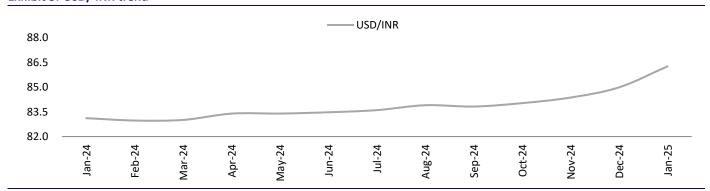
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## Exhibit 4: Brent (USD/bbl) trend



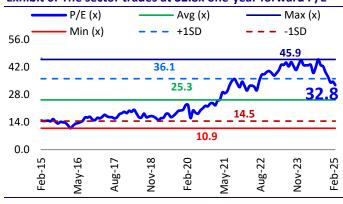
Source: Bloomberg, MOFSL

## Exhibit 5: USD/ INR trend



Source: Bloomberg, MOFSL

Exhibit 6: The sector trades at 32.8x one-year forward P/E





Source: MOFSL Source: MOFSL

**Exhibit 8: Peer comparison for our coverage universe** 

Company	Reco	TP (INR)	Е	PS (INI	R)		P/E (x)		P/BV (x)		EV/EBITDA (x)		4 (x)	ROE (%)		)	
Company	Reco	IP (INK)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Alkyl Amines	Neutral	1,900	36.2	51.4	67.3	46.9	33.0	25.2	6.2	5.6	4.9	28.9	21.2	16.3	13.9	17.8	20.6
Atul	Buy	8,455	164.2	210.6	251.8	33.5	26.1	21.8	2.9	2.7	2.4	18.4	15.4	13.1	9.1	10.8	11.7
Clean Science	Neutral	1,450	24.0	35.1	43.6	54.4	37.1	29.9	9.7	7.9	6.4	36.2	27.3	22.1	19.4	23.5	23.8
Deepak Nitrite	Neutral	1,835	44.8	66.2	73.4	43.1	29.2	26.3	4.9	4.3	3.8	28.0	19.2	17.3	12.1	15.8	15.3
Fine Organic Industries	Sell	3,570	132.6	118.1	119.3	29.0	32.5	32.2	5.3	4.6	4.1	21.7	23.8	22.8	19.9	15.1	13.4
Galaxy Surfactants	Buy	2,825	83.7	95.5	113.0	27.2	23.9	20.2	3.4	3.0	2.7	17.2	14.9	12.7	13.0	13.4	14.3
Navin Fluorine Int.	Neutral	3,715	59.4	81.0	92.9	67.9	49.8	43.4	7.7	6.9	6.2	40.4	31.2	27.4	11.8	14.6	15.1
NOCIL	Neutral	210	6.8	7.6	11.5	28.4	25.2	16.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	23.2	17.6	11.6	6.6	7.1	10.1
PI Industries	Buy	4,100	109.9	117.9	135.4	28.6	26.7	23.2	4.7	4.0	3.5	20.1	17.7	15.0	17.6	16.2	16.1
SRF	Buy	3,540	42.7	72.0	100.4	65.0	38.6	27.7	6.8	6.0	5.1	32.1	22.8	17.4	10.7	16.4	19.8
Tata Chemicals	Neutral	1,030	17.7	41.3	56.6	47.7	20.5	14.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	12.3	8.5	6.8	2.0	4.7	6.2
Vinati Organics	Buy	2,600	38.9	50.3	60.3	40.6	31.4	26.2	5.9	5.1	4.5	29.4	22.7	19.1	15.4	17.5	18.3

Source: Company, MOFSL

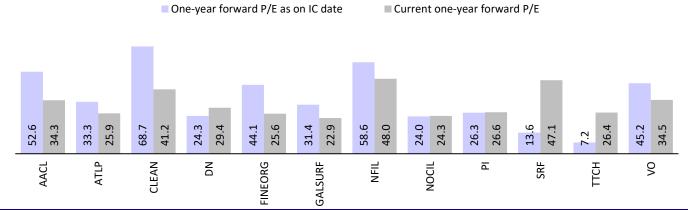
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Exhibit 9: The sector is trading at a premium to historical averages, except for the 5-year average

Camanania.	Current		Average P/E (x)		P	Prem / Disc P/E (%	5)
Companies	P/E (x)	15-YR	10-YR	5-YR	15-YR	10-YR	5-YR
Chemicals	32.8	19.6	25.3	34.1	67.5	29.8	-3.7
Alkyl Amines	35.0	25.7	35.4	58.9	36.0	-1.2	-40.5
Atul	28.2	22.8	30.9	43.7	23.7	-8.8	-35.6
Clean Science	40.2	-	61.5	61.5	NA	-34.7	-34.7
Deepak Nitrite	28.9	18.4	22.4	29.3	57.0	28.7	-1.6
Fine Organic	34.4	33.7	33.7	35.1	2.2	2.2	-2.0
Galaxy Surfactants	25.6	26.5	26.5	28.9	-3.3	-3.3	-11.5
Navin Fluorine	51.3	26.1	36.6	58.2	96.8	40.2	-11.8
NOCIL	27.2	16.5	20.1	27.1	64.9	35.6	0.4
P I Inds.	29.2	26.4	32.7	35.4	10.3	-10.8	-17.6
SRF	40.4	19.8	26.7	35.8	103.6	51.4	12.7
Tata Chemicals	22.5	12.2	16.1	24.1	84.0	39.3	-6.7
Vinati Organics	34.4	27.6	35.5	47.3	24.5	-2.9	-27.2

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: The sector is currently trading at a 10% discount to what it was trading as on our sector/respective company IC dates

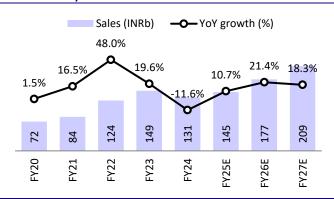


Source: Bloomberg, MOFSL

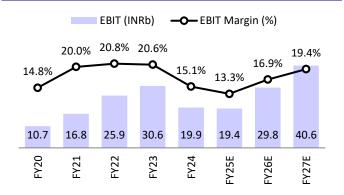
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# SRF - Financial summary and assumptions (TP: INR3,540) - BUY

Exhibit 11: Expect 17% revenue CAGR over FY24-27



**Exhibit 12: EBIT margin to improve** 



**Exhibit 13: Financial summary** 

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Y/E MARCH	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	72.1	84.0	124.3	148.7	131.4	145.5	176.6	209.0
EBITDA	14.6	21.3	31.0	36.3	26.6	27.3	38.7	50.7
Adj. PAT	9.2	11.9	18.2	22.7	14.1	12.7	21.4	29.9
Cons. Adj. EPS (INR)	30.9	39.9	61.1	76.2	47.5	42.7	72.0	100.4
EPS Gr. (%)	49.4	29.0	53.1	24.8	(37.7)	(10.1)	68.5	39.5
BV/Sh. (INR)	166	231	288	347	386	411	466	549
Ratios								
Net D:E	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
RoE (%)	20.3	20.1	23.6	24.0	13.0	10.7	16.4	19.8
RoCE (%)	13.3	13.4	17.2	17.9	10.5	9.0	12.8	15.4
Payout (%)	9.6	12.1	26.4	9.9	16.0	37.3	23.6	16.9
Valuations								
P/E (x)	89.4	69.3	45.3	36.3	58.2	64.7	38.4	27.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	58.9	39.8	27.4	23.5	32.4	31.7	22.5	17.2
Div. Yield (%)	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6
FCF Yield (%)	(0.1)	0.7	0.4	(0.0)	(0.2)	0.7	0.3	1.1

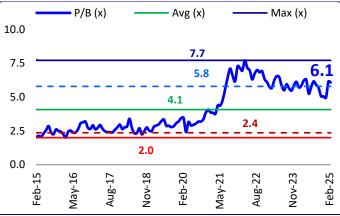
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 14: One year forward P/E trades at 40.4x

- P/E (x) Avg (x) Max (x) 80.0 40.4 59.9 60.0 40.2 40.0 26.7 13.2 20.0 12.4 0.0 Feb-25 Feb-20 Aug-22 May-21

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 15: One year forward P/B trades at 6.1x

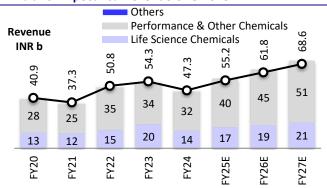


Source: Company, MOFSL

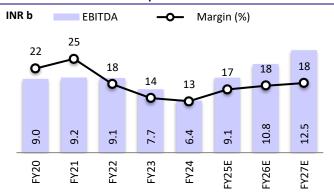
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# ATLP - Financial summary and assumptions (TP: INR8,455) - BUY

Exhibit 16: Expect 13% revenue CAGR over FY24-27



**Exhibit 17: EBITDAM to improve** 



Source: Company, MOFSL

Source: Company, MOFSL

 Exhibit 18: Financial summary
 (INR b)

 Y/E March
 FY20
 FY21
 FY22
 FY23
 FY24
 FY25E
 FY26E
 FY27E

 Sales
 40.9
 37.3
 50.8
 54.3
 47.3
 55.2
 61.8
 68.6

 FRITDA
 9.0
 9.2
 9.1
 7.7
 6.4
 9.1
 10.8
 12.5

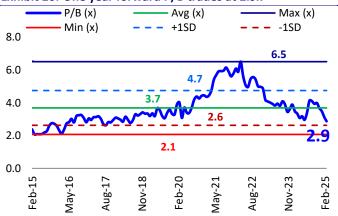
Sales	40.9	37.3	50.8	54.3	47.3	55.2	61.8	68.6
EBITDA	9.0	9.2	9.1	7.7	6.4	9.1	10.8	12.5
PAT	6.7	6.6	6.0	5.1	3.2	4.8	6.2	7.4
EPS (INR)	226.6	222.9	204.2	171.6	110.0	164.2	210.6	251.8
EPS Gr. (%)	53.9	-1.6	-8.4	-16.0	-35.9	49.2	28.3	19.6
BV/Sh.(INR)	1,065.5	1,292.3	1,495.8	1,581.9	1,736.0	1,870	2,043	2,249
Ratios								
Net D:E	0.0	(0.1)	0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.0
RoE (%)	22.8	18.9	14.7	11.1	6.6	9.1	10.8	11.7
RoCE (%)	21.2	17.7	13.7	10.5	6.2	8.3	9.8	11.0
Payout (%)	16.7	8.9	12.2	14.5	18.2	18.2	18.2	18.2
Valuations								
P/E (x)	23.2	23.6	25.7	30.6	47.7	32.0	24.9	20.8
P/BV (x)	4.9	4.1	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.3	16.7	17.1	20.0	24.5	17.3	14.4	12.3
Div. Yield (%)	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9
FCF Yield (%)	3.3	2.6	(2.3)	-1.1	1.1	-0.4	2.0	2.8

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 19: One year forward P/E trades at 28.2x



Exhibit 20: One year forward P/B trades at 2.9x



Source: Company, MOFSL Source: Company, MOFSL

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## VO – Financial summary and assumptions (TP: INR2,600) – BUY

Exhibit 21: : Expect 19% revenue CAGR over FY24-27

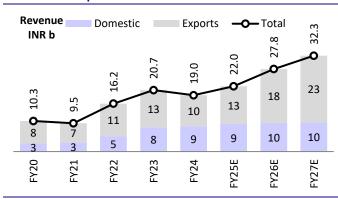
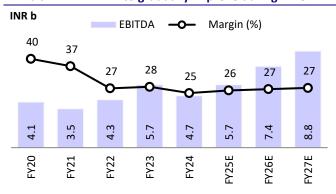


Exhibit 22: EBITDAM to gradually improve during FY25-27



Source: Company, MOFSL

Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 23: Financial summary** 

(INR b)
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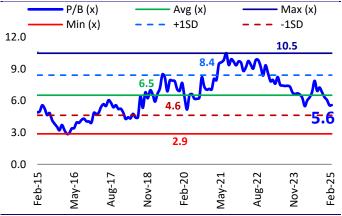
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Y/E March	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	10.3	9.5	16.2	20.7	19.0	22.0	27.8	32.3
EBITDA	4.1	3.5	4.3	5.7	4.7	5.7	7.4	8.8
PAT	3.3	2.7	3.5	4.2	3.2	4.0	5.2	6.3
EPS (INR)	32.2	26.0	33.4	40.4	31.2	38.9	50.3	60.3
EPS Gr. (%)	18.2	-19.3	28.7	20.9	-22.8	24.6	29.3	20.0
BV/Sh.(INR)	123.4	148.9	176.3	213.5	237.7	267.9	306.9	353.6
Ratios								
Net D:E	-0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
RoE (%)	28.6	19.1	20.6	20.7	13.8	15.4	17.5	18.3
RoCE (%)	26.9	18.1	19.5	19.6	13.1	13.7	15.1	16.6
Payout (%)	31.6	23.1	19.4	17.3	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4
Valuations								
P/E (x)	48.0	59.5	46.2	38.2	49.5	39.7	30.7	25.6
P/BV (x)	12.5	10.4	8.8	7.2	6.5	5.8	5.0	4.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	38.6	45.4	36.9	28.1	34.1	28.5	22.0	18.3
Div. Yield (%)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9
FCF Yield (%)	0.7	1.1	-0.2	1.4	0.7	-0.9	1.6	2.5

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 24: One year forward P/E trades at 34.4x

P/E (x) - Max (x) Avg (x) Min (x) +1SD - -1SD 72.0 62.6 49.6 54.0 36.0 18.0 13.8 0.0 May-16 Feb-20 Feb-25 Aug-17 May-21 Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 25: One year forward P/B trades at 5.6x



Source: Company, MOFSL

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Explanation of Investment Rating	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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Nainesh Rajani

Email: nainesh.rajani@motilaloswal.com Contact: (+65) 8328 0276

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