17 December 2024 Update | Sector: Automobiles

CIE India

BSE SENSEX 80,684





MOTILAL OSWAL

FINANCIAL SERVICES

CIE India

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Bloomberg	CIEINDIA IN
Equity Shares (m)	379
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	184.3 / 2.2
52-Week Range (INR)	628 / 401
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	0/-18/-12
12M Avg Val (INR M)	259
Free float (%)	34.3

Financials Snapshot (INR b)					
INR b	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E		
Sales	89.0	96.2	104.9		
EBITDA (%)	15.3	15.2	15.7		
Adj. PAT	8.3	9.2	10.7		
EPS (INR)	21.8	24.4	28.4		
EPS Growth (%)	3.5	11.5	16.7		
BV/Share (INR)	175	193	214		
Ratio					
RoE (%)	13.1	13.2	14.0		
RoCE (%)	12.0	12.5	13.5		
Payout (%)	20.0	20.0	20.0		
Valuations					
P/E (x)	22.2	19.9	17.1		
P/BV (x)	2.8	2.5	2.3		
Div. Yield (%)	0.9	1.0	1.2		
FCF Yield (%)	2.2	3.3	4.0		

Shareholding Pattern (%)

shareholding rattern (70)					
As On	Sep-24	Jun-24	Sep-23		
Promoter	65.7	65.7	65.7		
DII	20.4	19.5	15.4		
FII	4.3	5.0	6.6		
Others	9.6	9.8	12.3		

FII includes depository receipts

S&P CNX 24,336 CMP: INR486

TP: INR575 (+18%)

Buy

Indian business to remain the growth driver

Europe business unlikely to recover soon

We recently met with the management of CIE Automotive India (CIEINDIA), and following are the KTAs from the discussion. For YTDCY24, India business has grown in line with industry trends – underperforming management's guidance of target to outperform the industry by 5-10%, largely due to the underperformance of its end segments/OEMs that it is exposed to. Going forward, we expect the Indian business to post much better growth, led by: 1) an expected pick-up in CVs and PVs in FY26 post the correction seen in FY25; and 2) a positive rural sentiment, which is expected to drive healthy growth in tractors in CY25. Additionally, the ramp-up of some of the delayed orders and focus on non-anchor customers would also drive growth. Europe's demand outlook, however, remains weak even for CY25E. Demand at Metalcastello is likely to have bottomed out and should see an uptick from H2CY25 onwards. While the management aims to sustain the margins of its European business at current levels, it is targeting to expand margins of the Indian business to 19% over the next 2-3 years. In order to factor in continued weakness in Europe's auto demand, we have lowered our estimates for CY25-26E by 4%/5%. CIE possesses some financial attributes which are unique to a global ancillary player, and include: being net debt-free, having strict capex/inorganic expansion guidelines, generating positive FCF, and tracking an improving return trajectory. The stock trades at 19.9x/17.1x CY25E/CY26E consolidated EPS. We reiterate BUY with a revised TP of INR575 (based on ~21x Sep'26E consol. EPS).

India's growth lagging behind management guidance

One of the key queries on investors' minds has been that while CIEINDIA management has guided for outperformance over core industry growth, its growth in the last few quarters has been largely in line with industry trends at 5% for 9MCY24. However, it is crucial to understand that the company's slower growth in India is a function of overall weak demand trends in its core segments as highlighted in the table below:

CIEINDIA's core segments witnessed slower growth for 9M CY24

_		
	Industry growth (%)	Contribution in mix (%)
PVs + LCVs	4.5	52
2Ws	19	21
Tractors	-3.5	18
MHCV	-5.8	9
Blended Industry growth (%)	5.2	
CIE growth (%)	5.3	
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Source: Company, MOFSL

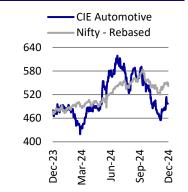
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Investors are advised to refer through important disclosures made at the last page of the Research Report.

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

Stock Performance (1-year)



- Further, while the 2W industry posted 19% growth, CIEINDIA's largest 2W customer, BJAUT, has actually underperformed the 2W industry on a YTD basis. Even in PVs, while M&M is its largest customer, one needs to be cognizant that only M&M's UV segment performed significantly well for 9MCY24. Besides, MM tractor (-3%) and pick-ups (-9%) witnessed very weak demand trends during the same period. MSIL, which is its third-largest customer, also grew only 5% during this period. Apart from this, there have been delays in the ramp-up of some of its new order wins, which include the Stellantis order at CIE Hosur and certain EV orders from domestic OEMs. Additionally, given the weak demand in Europe, its exports offtake has lagged expectations. As a result, exports contribution has come down to 10-11% for Q3 from 14% in CY23.
- While the management's focus is to outperform core industry growth, the abovementioned factors led to its growth being capped at industry levels for 9MCY24.

India likely to remain the key growth driver going forward

- The domestic 2W industry posted a strong 15% YoY growth on a YTD basis and is likely to end FY25 with around 12% growth. Even after that, the industry is likely to be about 7% lower than its previous peak achieved in FY19. We expect the domestic 2W industry to post a high single-digit growth even in FY26E.
- Further, the PV industry witnessed only under 1% YoY growth for YTDFY25 and is likely to experience flat growth for FY25E. Given this demand moderation in Fy25E, we expect the PV industry to post mid-single-digit growth for FY26E.
- We have witnessed a healthy pick-up in demand from the tractor segment from Oct onwards on the back of positive rural sentiments, with most industry experts indicating a mid-single-digit growth for FY25E (translating into doubledigit growth for H2). Given healthy reservoir levels, industry experts are optimistic about the continued growth momentum in the industry, even for FY26E.
- Further, the CV industry is currently experiencing a weak demand macro and has posted a 4% YoY decline for H1FY25. With elections now behind us, we expect the government to resume its focus on capex spending going forward. Moreover, it is important to note that the industry enjoys favorable demand tailwinds that include: 1) average fleet age has now increased to over nine years; 2) healthy fleet operator profitability; and 3) an expected decline in interest rates going forward. Given these and a corrected base for FY25, we expect the domestic CV industry to post a 6-7% YoY growth for FY26E.
- While the core industry demand is likely to pick up in FY26, we also expect some of its delayed orders to start ramping up from next year. Further, the company continues to focus on growing from some of the non-anchor customers, such as Toyota, Hyundai, and VW. It has several projects in the pipeline from both Hyundai and TTMT. Thus, given the expected demand revival in most of its key segments and ramp-up of new orders, we expect CIEINDIA to post a much better performance in CY25. Overall, we factor in its Indian business to post a 9% revenue CAGR over CY24-26E.

EU headline numbers hurt by sharper weakness at Metalcastello

- In Europe, revenues for 9MCY24 were down almost 12% YoY, relative to the Europe LV market decline of 5% in the same period. While it may seem from headline numbers that CIEINDIA's Europe business has underperformed broader industry growth, it is crucial to note that this underperformance has largely been a function of demand weakness at Metalcastello. Additionally, the management has indicated that the revenue decline is largely in line with the weighted average decline in the LV market in Europe and the OHV market in the US.
- European OEMs continue to experience a very weak production offtake: 1) the single most important reason cited by most European OEMs for the weak offtake is the sharp decline in China's demand; 2) weak demand in Europe; 3) regulatory push toward EV transition in Europe, wherein European OEMs are losing to Chinese counterparts. Apart from this, European OEMs are also wary of the risk of the new Trump administration levying duties on European goods.
- On the other hand, the off highway market in the US is witnessing a sharp decline in demand as customers are shying away from discretionary purchases. Additionally, Metalcastello had won USD 30m worth of orders for EV pick-up applications for US-based OEMs, which has also not taken off as yet. Each of these factors led to a slower-than-expected ramp-up in the Europe business revenues in CY24.

EU business unlikely to recover soon but Metalcastello likely to have bottomed out

While CY24 has been a challenging year in Europe, most industry estimates seem to suggest that CY25 is also likely to be weak in Europe. We tabulate below comments from leading European OEMs who have largely put out profit warnings for 2024 and are looking to sharply reduce costs given the lack of demand visibility for CY25.

feedback from EU OEMs seems to suggest a continued slowdown

OEM	Management commentary	
	The demand in Europe has not recovered since the pandemic, with industry-wide auto deliveries in the region are short of peak.	ound 2m
Volkswagen	In CY23, VW sold about 9m vehicles vs its capacity of 14m, which hurt its profitability, creating an urgency to productivity and reduce costs.	increase
	VW is considering shutting down a few German plants, slashing salaries by 10%, and freezing salary hikes for 202	25-26.
Stellantis	In September, Stellantis issued a profit warning due to waning demand and increased competition from Chine particularly in EVs. It slashed operating profit margin guidance to 5.5-7% from the double-digit guidance earlier.	
	Stellantis plans to shut down its Vauxhall plant in England, putting more than 1k jobs at risk.	
Faul Matan Ca	 Ford decided to lay off 14% of its Europe workforce, amid weak EV demand, poor government support for the and tough competition from subsidized Chinese rivals. 	EV shift,
Ford Motor Co.	It is expected to cut 4000 jobs (2.3% of its workforce), primarily in Germany and Britain. The company mentioned layoffs would happen by the end of 2027, pending union discussions.	l that the
Mercedes Benz	Mercedes Benz cut its 2024 profit margin for CY24 to 7.5%-8.5% (from 10-11% earlier) for the second time in I two months in September, due to weak demand in China and Europe.	less than
	 Volvo has lowered its volume growth forecast for 2024 to 8% from 15% earlier. 	
Volvo	Management said: "This is a confirmation that the next 12 months will be incredibly challenging as the impacts o China tariff and rising competition from lower-priced EV models come in."	f the EU-
Paccar	Much softer conditions in Central and Eastern Europe took a heavy toll on overall European deliveries for Pace brand of trucks.	car's DAF
Daimler truck	Daimler Truck Holding AG lowered its outlook for 2024, cutting its EBIT guidance by 15% YoY, led by softening demand in Europe and Asia weakens.	sales as

Source: Company, MOFSL

- Even CIEINDIA management expects the European industry to remain flat in CY25E. However, it is important to note that despite weak demand trends, the business of CIE Auto Europe continues to sustain healthy profitability. Given the ongoing challenging macro environment, it expects to witness industry consolidation, which is likely to benefit financially sound players such as CIEINDIA in the long run.
- Further, post the sharp correction, revenue at Metalcastello is likely to remain stable for the next couple of quarters. To put things in perspective, the monthly revenue run-rate at Metalcastello has dropped to EUR4-4.5m from around EUR6-6.5m earlier, which is about a 30% decline. Management has indicated that it expects demand at Metalcastello to revive in H2CY25 (expects Metalcastello to start hitting EUR5-5.5m monthly run-rate in Q3-Q4CY25), once the new government policies come into effect. By then, some of its new order wins would also start seeing a gradual ramp-up.
- Overall, for its Europe business, we factor in CIEINDIA to post a 7% revenue CAGR over CY24-26E.

Europe demonstrates margin resilience; India expects to focus on further improvement

- India business
- On the back of the guiding principles of CIEINDIA's parent company, Indian business margins witnessed a significant recovery to 16.7% in CY23 from 11.5% in CY16. Given that CIEINDIA is largely a build-to-print company, such significant margin expansion is commendable, especially since it has achieved most of this by improving operational efficiencies. CIEINDIA's parent company specializes in automation/digitization initiatives globally. It incentivizes production managers and measures their performance, not only on the production output but also on the ROI delivered from their respective plants. CIEINDIA's management targets to expand the Indian business margins to about 19% in the next 2-3 years by continuing to focus on operational efficiencies. However, management has also indicated that it will not pursue growth without ensuring a requisite level of profitability. In addition, it is crucial to note that subsidy at CACIL is expected to end by Jan'25, which will have some impact on India business overall financials (estimated at ~40bp).

Europe business has shown significant resilience

- As highlighted above, despite a 12% decline in revenue for 9MCY24, European business margins are down just 170bp YoY to 16.3%, commendable given the rising costs and the high fixed cost nature of the business. Management has indicated that it would strive to sustain margins at current levels in the coming quarters. We understand that there are very few companies in Europe that would continue to post double-digit margins in this tough macro. This resilience is expected to position the company favorably, as large OEMs are likely to seek partnerships with vendors who demonstrate resilience in tough times. Moreover, once the Europe demand revives, it is expected to post a much stronger performance compared to the past.
- Overall, we factor in the consolidated margins to expand ~40bp over CY24-26E to 15.7%, led by a steady revival in demand in India and Europe as well as the company's consistent focus on improving operational efficiencies across all plants.

CIE India

Exhibit 1: Historical EBITDA margins

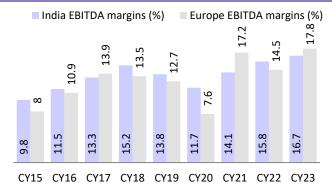
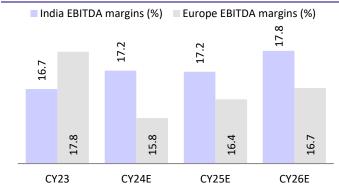


Exhibit 2: Estimated margins



Source: Company, MOFSL

Note: EBITDA margin consists of other income

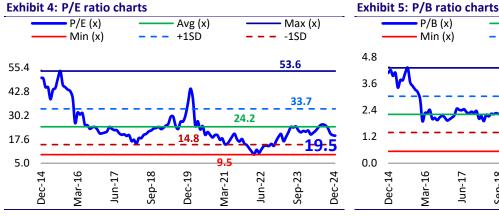
Source: Company, MOFSL Note: EBITDA margins consist of other income

Valuation and view

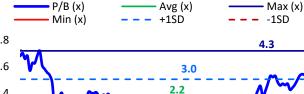
We expect the Indian business to be the primary growth driver for the company in the near future. However, the weak outlook for its EU business and Metalcastello is likely to weigh on the overall performance in the near term. In order to factor in continued weakness in Europe's auto demand, we have lowered our estimates for CY25-26E by 4%/5%. The company will continue to strive to enhance efficiencies in the coming years. CIE possesses some financial attributes which are unique to a global ancillary player, and include: being net debt-free, having strict capex/inorganic expansion guidelines, generating positive FCF, and tracking an improving return trajectory. The stock trades at 19.9x/17.1x CY25E/CY26E consolidated EPS. We reiterate BUY with a revised TP of INR575 (based on ~21x Sep'26E consol. EPS).

(1510 5.4)	CY24E			CY25E			
(INR M)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	
Net Sales	89,046	89,689	(0.7)	96,160	99,471	(3.3)	
EBITDA	13,623	13,722	(0.7)	14,654	15,463	(5.2)	
EBITDA margin %	15.3	15.3	0bp	15.2	15.5	-30bp	
Adj. PAT	8,257	8,306	(0.6)	9,211	9,625	(4.3)	
EPS	21.8	22.0	(0.6)	24.4	25.5	(4.3)	
-			()			Source:	

Exhibit 3: Our revised estimates



Source: Company, MOFSL



Sep-18

Jun-17

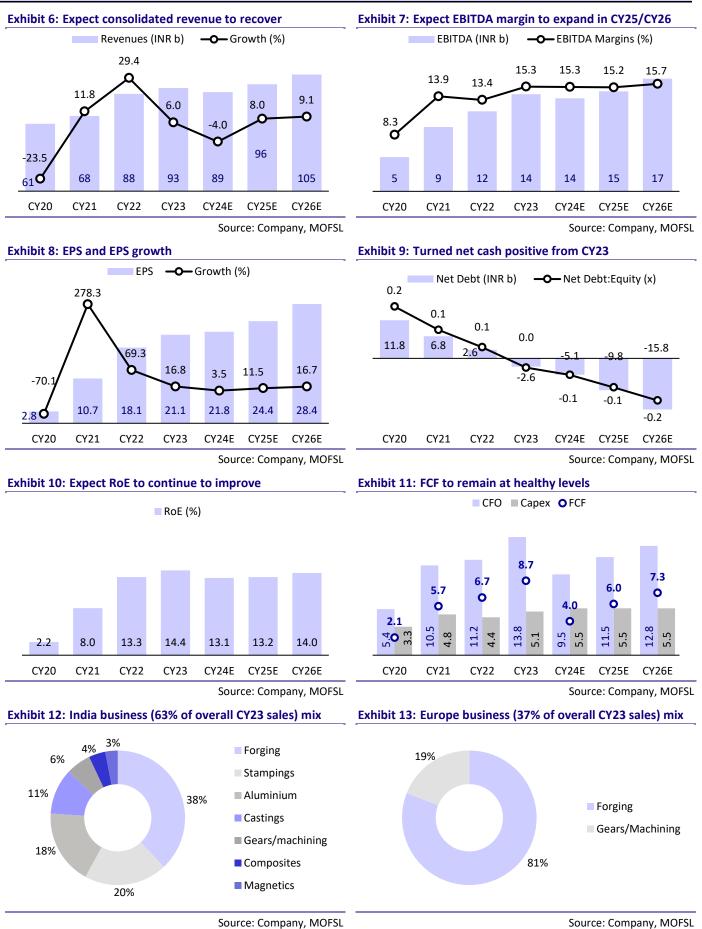
Mar-16

0.5

24

Dec-19 Sep-23 Mar-21 lun-22 Dec-Source: Company, MOFSL

Key operating indicators



Financials and valuations

Consolidated - Income Statement	0/00	0/24	0100	0/22	0/245	•	INR Million
Y/E December	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
Total Income from Operations	60,501	67,652	87,530	92,803	89,046	96,160	1,04,916
Change (%)	-23.5	11.8	29.4	6.0	-4.0	8.0	9.1
Total Expenditure	55,485	58,234	75,810	78,565	75,423	81,506	88,396
% of Sales	91.7	86.1	86.6	84.7	84.7	84.8	84.3
EBITDA	5,016	9,417	11,720	14,239	13,623	14,654	16,521
Margin (%)	8.3	13.9	13.4	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.7
Depreciation	3,064	2,733	2,962	3,222	3,310	3,594	3,784
EBIT	1,952	6,684	8,758	11,017	10,312	11,060	12,737
Int. and Finance Charges	548	348	227	1,074	723	605	466
Other Income	549	468	583	820	1,327	1,643	1,822
PBT bef. EO Exp.	1,953	6,805	9,114	10,763	10,916	12,098	14,093
EO Items	0	-128	379	0	0	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	1,953	6,677	9,492	10,763	10,916	12,098	14,093
Total Tax	886	2,731	2,401	2,782	2,708	2,937	3,400
Tax Rate (%)	45.4	40.9	25.3	25.8	24.8	24.3	24.1
Share of profit from associate	0	12	22	-5	49	50	52
Reported PAT	1,066	3,958	7,113	7,976	8,257	9,211	10,745
Adj. PAT	1,066	4,034	6,829	7,976	8,257	9,211	10,745
Change (%)	-70.1	278.3	69.3	16.8	3.5	11.5	16.7
Margin (%)	1.8	6.0	7.8	8.6	9.3	9.6	10.2
Consolidated - Balance Sheet Y/E December	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	(II CY25E	NR Million) CY26E
Equity Share Capital	3,790	3,791	3,793	3,794	3,794	3,794	3,794
Total Reserves	45,290	48,175	47,192	56,086	62,279	69,187	77,246
Net Worth	49,080	51,966	50,985	59,880	66,073	72,981	81,040
Total Loans	16,476	12,816	9,234	8,033	5,533	3,033	533
Deferred Tax Liabilities	1,236	2,459	3,199	3,238	3,238	3,238	3,238
Capital Employed	66,792	67,241	63,418	71,151	74,844	79,252	84,811
Gross Block	53,135	50,226	48,348	53,792	58,828	64,328	69,828
Less: Accum. Deprn.	23,204	20,624	20,921	24,228	27,538	31,133	34,917
Net Fixed Assets	29,931	29,602	27,427	29,564	31,290	33,195	34,911
Goodwill on Consolidation	37,554	36,265	28,040	28,540	28,540	28,540	28,540
Capital WIP	123	1,247	1,195	537	1,001	1,001	1,001
Total Investments	2,340	4,380	5,756	8,206	8,206	11,206	15,206
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	23,686	26,712	36,780	30,679	30,246	31,713	33,842
Inventory	10,062	13,486	12,108	11,626	12,192	13,175	14,289
Account Receivables	7,054	6,687	8,608	6,331	8,539	9,221	10,060
	2,380	1,595	859	2,387	2,392	1,625	1,100
Cash and Bank Balance		•					
Cash and Bank Balance Loans and Advances	4,190	4,943	15,205	10,334	7,124	7,693	8,393
Loans and Advances	4,190 26,843	4,943 30,965	15,205 35,780	10,334 26,374	7,124 24,437		
Loans and Advances Curr. Liability & Prov.	26,843	30,965	35,780	26,374	24,437	26,402	28,688
Loans and Advances Curr. Liability & Prov. Account Payables	26,843 14,590	30,965 19,385	35,780 21,350	26,374 19,341	24,437 16,738	26,402 18,088	28,688 19,617
Loans and Advances Curr. Liability & Prov. Account Payables Other Current Liabilities	26,843 14,590 7,909	30,965 19,385 7,605	35,780 21,350 12,876	26,374 19,341 5,505	24,437 16,738 6,233	26,402 18,088 6,731	28,688 19,617 7,344
Loans and Advances Curr. Liability & Prov. Account Payables	26,843 14,590	30,965 19,385	35,780 21,350	26,374 19,341	24,437 16,738	26,402 18,088	8,393 28,688 19,617 7,344 1,727 5,154

E: MOFSL Estimates

Financials and valuations

Ratios							
Y/E December	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
Basic (INR)							
EPS	2.8	10.7	18.1	21.1	21.8	24.4	28.4
Cash EPS	10.9	17.9	25.9	29.6	30.6	33.9	38.4
BV/Share	129.8	137.4	134.8	158.4	174.8	193.0	214.3
DPS	0.0	2.5	2.5	5.0	4.4	4.9	5.7
Payout (%)	0.0	23.9	13.3	23.8	20.0	20.0	20.0
Valuation (x)							
P/E	172.0	45.5	26.9	23.0	22.2	19.9	17.1
Cash P/E	44.4	27.1	18.7	16.4	15.9	14.3	12.6
P/BV	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.3
EV/Sales	3.3	2.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.7
EV/EBITDA	39.5	20.7	16.4	13.3	13.7	12.7	11.1
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2
FCF per share	5.4	15.1	17.8	23.0	10.5	15.8	19.3
Return Ratios (%)							
RoE	2.2	8.0	13.3	14.4	13.1	13.2	14.0
RoCE (Post-tax)	2.1	6.3	10.7	13.0	12.0	12.5	13.5
RoIC	1.8	6.5	11.3	14.1	12.6	13.0	14.5
Working Capital Ratios							
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5
Asset Turnover (x)	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Inventory (Days)	61	73	50	46	50	50	50
Debtor (Days)	43	36	36	25	35	35	35
Creditor (Days)	88	105	89	76	69	69	68
Leverage Ratio (x)							
Net Debt/Equity	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Consolidated - Cash Flow Statement						(IN	IR Million)
Y/E December	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	1,953	6,689	9,514	10,759	10,965	12,148	14,145
Depreciation	3,064	3,431	3,537	3,222	3,310	3,594	3,784
Interest & Finance Charges	548	533	454	1,074	-604	-1,038	-1,356
Direct Taxes Paid	-503	-1,053	-1,981	-3,579	-2,708	-2,937	-3,400
(Inc)/Dec in WC	761	1,364	-97	-309	-1,499	-270	-368
CF from Operations	5,823	10,963	11,427	11,166	9,465	11,498	12,805
Others	-430	-452	-245	2,667	0	0	0
CF from Operating incl EO	5,393	10,511	11,182	13,833	9,465	11,498	12,805
(Inc)/Dec in FA	-3,343	-4,778	-4,434	-5,122	-5,500	-5,500	-5,500
Free Cash Flow	2,050	5,733	6,749	8,711	3,965	5,998	7,305
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-1,376	-1,880	-1,273	-2,213	0	-3,000	-4,000
Others	502	-967	-661	-1,714	1,327	1,643	1,822
CF from Investments	-4,217	-7,625	-6,368	-9,049	-4,173	-6,857	-7,678
Issue of Shares	0	10	36	7	0	0	0
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	506	-2,787	-3,936	396	-2,500	-2,500	-2,500
Interest Paid	-477	-465	-378	-1,035	-723	-605	-466
Dividend Paid	0	0	-948	-948	-1,651	-1,842	-2,149
Others	-409	-385	349	-2,691	0	0	0
CF from Fin. Activity	-380	-3,627	-4,877	-4,272	-4,875	-4,947	-5,115
Inc/Dec of Cash	796	-740	-63	512	417	-306	12
Opening Balance	1,590	2,386	1,646	1,583	2,095	2,512	2,206
Closing Balance	2,386	1,646	1,583	2,095	2,512	2,206	2,218

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

Explanation of Investment Rating

Investment Rating

ected return (over 12-month)
5%

CIE India

>=15%
< - 10%
> - 10 % to 15%
Rating may undergo a change
We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

Disclosures:

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