# Clean Science and Technology IBUY

## Subdued quarter; growth outlook strong

Clean Science's 2QFY25 earnings print was lower than our and consensus expectations. Reported EBITDA was ~7%/12% below JMFe and consensus on account of gross margin contraction and higher other expenses. The company didn't pass on the increase in raw material prices to focus on volumes. As a result, sales growth was largely driven by volume growth with end product prices being steady. Going forward, the company will continue to focus on market share gain. We highlight that ramp-up of three new HALS products and new pharma intermediate will be key growth drivers in FY25. For FY26 and beyond, growth drivers are likely to be additional contribution from the pharma intermediate and contributions from two new performance chemicals. In our view, with expected EBITDA break-even of Unit-4 by end-FY25, we see positive operating leverage flowing through from FY26 onwards. Factoring in 2QFY25 results and management commentary, we have revised our estimates downwards by ~4%. We believe Clean has a decent runway for growth at least for the next 4-5 years. We expect 32% sales CAGR and 27% EBITDA/EPS CAGR over FY24-27E. In case there is a pick-up in product prices, there could be an upside risk to our estimates while any delay in new product approvals could be a downside risk to our estimates. We roll forward to Mar'26 TP (from Sep'25 TP earlier). We maintain BUY with a revised Mar'26 TP of INR 1,845 (based on 40x Mar'27E EPS).

- EBITDA miss on account of gross margin contraction and higher other expenses: Clean Science's 2QFY25 consolidated gross profit came 1% below JMFe at INR 1.5bn (up 1%/25% QoQ/YoY) on account of lower-than-anticipated gross margin of 62.4% (vs. JMFe of 65.0% and 65.4% in 1QFY25) while revenue came 3% above JMFe (1% below consensus) at INR 2.4bn (up 6%/31% QoQ/YoY). During the guarter, other expenses were higher at INR 447mn (vs. JMFe of INR 400mn and INR 389mn in 1QFY25). As a result, EBITDA came in 7%/12% below JMFe/consensus at INR 897mn (down 5% QoQ while up 20% YoY). Further, on account of high depreciation charge and tax rate, PAT was 19% below JMFe/consensus at INR 587mn (down 11% QoQ while up 13% YoY).
- Subsidiary to achieve EBITDA breakeven by end FY25: During the quarter, large part of ~31% YoY sales growth was driven by volumes while prices were steady. During 2QFY25, performance chemicals sales stood at INR 1.6bn (same as JMFe of INR 1.6bn and up from INR 1.5bn in 1QFY25). Pharma and agro intermediates sales stood at INR 429mn (vs. JMFe of INR 420mn and INR 403mn in 1QFY25). FMCG chemicals sales stood at INR 310mn (vs. JMFe of INR 297mn and INR 291mn in 1QFY25). Going forward, the subsidiary CFCL, which is EBITDA-negative in 1HFY25, is expected to achieve EBITDA breakeven by end-FY25 with increase in utilisation of HALS and pharma intermediate.
- Expect 27% EPS CAGR over FY24-27E; maintain BUY: In the medium term, the company has indicated EBITDA margin of ~40+% for the parent and 25% for HALS in standalone entity. Factoring in 20FY25 results and management commentary, we have lowered our FY25/26/27 EBITDA and EPS estimates by ~4%. We expect Clean to register 27% EPS CAGR over FY24-27E. We maintain BUY with a revised Mar'26 TP of INR 1,845 (from Sep'25 TP of INR 1,760 earlier) (based on 40x Mar'27E EPS).

JM	<b>FINANCIAL</b>

Krishan Parwani

krishan.parwani@jmfl.com | Tel: (91 22) 6630 3073

Siddhinathan KN

siddhinathan.kn@jmfl.com | Tel: (91 22) 6630 3048

Recommendation and Price Target	
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	1,845
Upside/(Downside)	24.4%
Previous Price Target	1,760
Change	4.8%

Key Data – CLEAN IN	
Current Market Price	INR1,484
Market cap (bn)	INR157.7/US\$1.9
Free Float	25%
Shares in issue (mn)	106.2
Diluted share (mn)	106.2
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR289.0/US\$3.4
52-week range	1,690/1,243
Sensex/Nifty	79,542/24,199
INR/US\$	84.4

Price Performar	nce		
%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	-1.5	14.0	8.7
Relative*	0.4	5.4	-11.2

\* To the BSE Sensex

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	9,358	7,915	9,895	14,149	18,239
Sales Growth (%)	36.6	-15.4	25.0	43.0	28.9
EBITDA	4,021	3,321	3,988	5,243	6,730
EBITDA Margin (%)	43.0	42.0	40.3	37.1	36.9
Adjusted Net Profit	2,952	2,440	2,836	3,872	4,972
Diluted EPS (INR)	27.8	23.0	26.7	36.5	46.8
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	29.2	-17.3	16.2	36.5	28.4
ROIC (%)	46.6	27.4	25.2	28.6	31.7
ROE (%)	33.2	22.1	21.1	23.2	23.7
P/E (x)	53.4	64.6	55.6	40.7	31.7
P/B (x)	15.6	13.1	10.7	8.5	6.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	38.3	46.4	38.5	29.0	22.2
Dividend Yield (%)	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1

Source: Company data, JM Financial, Note: Valuations as of 07/Nov/2024

JM Financial Research is also available on: Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>, Thomson Publisher & Reuters, S&P Capital IQ, FactSet and Visible Alpha

Please see Appendix I at the end of this report for Important Disclosures and Disclaimers and Research **Analyst** Certification.

### **2QFY25 Result Review**

### Key takeaways from post-results conference call

- Volume-driven QoQ growth in all segments The management informed that the sales increase of 6% QoQ in 2QFY25 was led by increase in volumes across segments and improvement in realisation in the pharma segment. The company is planning to focus on improving product volumes and market share in the next couple of quarters. In future, the management expects growth to be driven by upcoming products like a pharma intermediate to be launched in 3QFY25, performance and water treatment chemicals and new HALS product series.
- Target ex-HALS margin of 40+%, HALS margin to be 25% The management said that it has a target EBITDA margin of 40+% for its ex-HALS product portfolio. EBITDA margin target for HALS products in the subsidiary is 25% at optimum utilisation of 80%. The subsidiary is expected to be EBITDA neutral in FY25.
- ~70% capacity utilisation achieved across product segments The management indicated an overall capacity utilisation of 70% for products other than HALS. Specifically, TBHQ capacity utilisation has reached 70%. The company is not planning to expand capacity at the parent level, as it has already carried out debottlenecking in parent facilities. Utilisation for HALS products at the subsidiary plant was 10-15%, and ramp-up is expected in the coming quarters.
- Reiterates HALS volume offtake at ~2,000MT for FY25 The management said that HALS volume offtake would reach 2,000MT in FY25; it was 135MT/month in 2QFY25 (vs. 125MT/month in 1QFY25). Currently, the company is primarily supplying a basket of four base products. Commercialisation of more products is on track with approvals and distributors already in place. With full ramp-up, the company expects to achieve 7-8% global market share for HALS.
- Average HALS realisation to reach USD 6/kg, currently at USD 4/kg The company said that the base HALS products currently being produced have a realisation of USD 4/kg. The new HALS products set to be ramped up in the coming quarters are expected to have a realisation of USD 8/kg. The company expects average HALS realisation to reach USD 6/kg once it has fully ramped up the all products in the series with both existing and new customers.
- INR 1.5bn capex in 1HFY25, INR 1.8bn in FY25, INR ~2.8bn in FY26 The management said that capex was INR 1.5bn in 1HFY25, largely invested in the subsidiary. The total capex for FY25 is expected to be INR 1.8bn primarily for the subsidiary facilities. INR 300mn worth pharma capex is expected to be commissioned in Nov'24. Capex for FY26 could be INR ~2.8bn.
- Performance and water treatment chemical combined peak sales potential of INR 6.5bn-6.7bn The new performance chemical product is expected to be commercialised by Jul'25 with a peak sales potential of INR 3.5bn. The water treatment chemical is set to be commercialised by Dec'25 with a peak sales potential of INR 3bn-3.2bn with an asset turn of 2x.
- Pharma intermediate an import substitution opportunity, capacity 50% of Indian imports The new pharma intermediate is set to be an import substitution opportunity for the company as currently it is being imported from China. The validation and approval for this intermediate is expected to take 1-3 months at the customers' end. The company's capacity for this intermediate is 50% of India's imports.

Exhibit 1. Clean Science q	uarterly fi	nancial sr	apshot									
Consolidated (INR mn)	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25	2QFY25E	% QoQ	% YoY	% difference
Net Sales	2,374	2,169	1,881	1,811	1,947	2,275	2,240	2,381	2,309	6%	31%	3%
COGS	779	641	726	618	646	780	775	895	808	16%	45%	
Gross Profit	1,595	1,528	1,155	1,193	1,301	1,495	1,465	1,486	1,501	1%	25%	-1%
Gross margin	67.2%	70.5%	61.4%	65.9%	66.8%	65.7%	65.4%	62.4%	65.0%	-300 bps	-347 bps	
Employee cost	118	128	117	119	116	135	130	142	135	10%	20%	
Employee cost as % of sales	5%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	18 bps	-58 bps	
Other expenditure	396	349	277	326	319	415	389	447	400	15%	37%	
Other expenditure as % of sales	17%	16%	15%	18%	16%	18%	17%	19%	17%	142 bps	77 bps	
EBIDTA	1,081	1,051	761	748	866	945	947	897	966	-5%	20%	-7%
EBITDA margin	46%	48%	40%	41%	44%	41.5%	42.3%	37.7%	41.8%	-460 bps	-366 bps	
Depreciation	89	101	108	111	113	127	158	175	135	11%	57%	
EBIT	992	950	653	637	753	818	789	722	831	-8%	13%	
Interest expense	0.6	1.3	0.5	2.5	0.5	5.7	1.1	0.5	6.0	-58%	-82%	
Other income	126	126	134	60	78	141	99	111	145	11%	84%	
PBT	1,117	1,075	787	695	830	953	887	832	970	-6%	20%	
Tax	280	270	198	173	204	250	228	245	242	7%	42%	
PAT	837	805	589	522	626	703	659	587	727	-11%	13%	-19%
PAT margin	35%	37%	31%	29%	32%	30.9%	29.4%	24.7%	31.5%	-476 bps	-414 bps	
Basic EPS (INR)	7.88	7.58	5.55	4.91	5.90	6.62	6.21	5.53	6.85	-11%	13%	
Tax rate	25.1%	25.1%	25.1%	24.9%	24.6%	26.3%	25.7%	29.4%	25.0%	372 bps	453 bps	

Source: Company, JM Financial

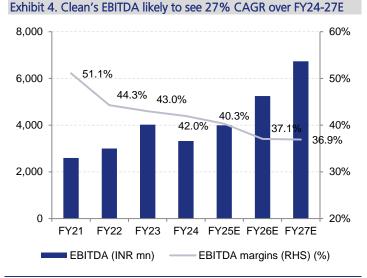
Exhibit 2. Clean Science s	Exhibit 2. Clean Science segment-wise revenue breakup											
INR mn	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25	2QFY25E	%QoQ	%YoY	% diff vs JMFe
Performance chemicals	1,699	1,568	1,260	1,213	1,304	1,525	1,546	1,643	1,592	6%	35%	3%
Pharma and agro intermediates	396	412	357	344	370	432	403	429	420	6%	25%	2%
FMCG chemicals	261	239	245	272	216	296	291	310	297	6%	14%	4%
Total	2,374	2,169	1,881	1,811	1,947	2,275	2,240	2,381	2,309	6%	31%	3%
% of overall revenues												
Performance chemicals	72%	72%	67%	67%	67%	67%	69%	69%	69%	0bps	200bps	
Pharma and agro intermediates	17%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	18%	18%	18%	0bps	-100bps	
FMCG chemicals	11%	11%	13%	15%	11%	13%	13%	13%	13%	0bps	-204bps	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0bps	0bps	

Source: Company, JM Financial

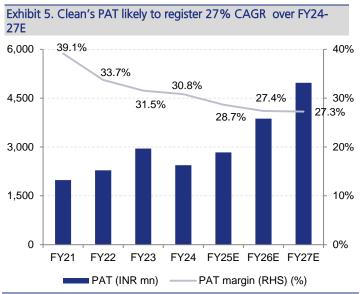
## **Assumptions and Estimates**

Exhibit 3. Clean's revenue likely to witness 32% CAGR over FY24-60% 20,000 43% 40% 15,000 37% 34% 25% 29% 10,000 20% 22% 5,000 0% 0 -20% FY24 FY25E FY26E FY27E FY22 FY23 Revenue from operations (INR mn) — — YoY growth (RHS) (%)

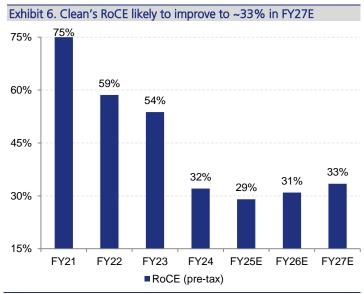
Source: Company, JM Financial



Source: Company, JM Financial



Source: Company, JM Financial



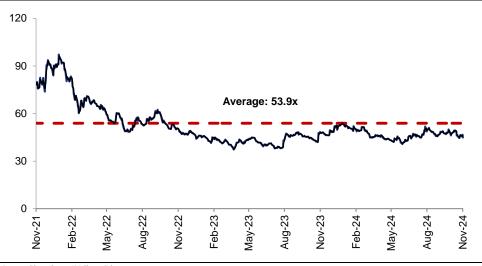
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 7. Change in estimates									
	New	Old	Change						
Revenue (INR Mn)									
FY25	9,895	10,100	-2.0%						
FY26	14,149	14,207	-0.4%						
FY27	18,239	18,396	-0.9%						
EBITDA (INR Mn)									
FY25	3,988	4,164	-4.2%						
FY26	5,243	5,470	-4.2%						
FY27	6,730	7,027	-4.2%						
PAT (INR Mn)									
FY25	2,836	2,984	-4.9%						
FY26	3,872	4,069	-4.8%						
FY27	4,972	5,227	-4.9%						
EPS (INR)									
FY25	26.7	28.1	-4.9%						
FY26	36.5	38.3	-4.8%						
FY27	46.8	49.2	-4.9%						

Source: JM Financial

## Valuation

Exhibit 8. Clean Science is currently trading at ~44.8x 1-year forward consensus P/E multiple



Source: Bloomberg, JM Financial

Exhibit 9. Chemical comp	anies pe	er valuatio	n																
Company	Rating	CMP (INR)	TP (INR)		P/E	(x)			P/B	3 (x)			EV/EBI	TDA (x)			ROE	(%)	
Company	Raung	CIVIT (IIVII)	IT (IIVITY)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
SRF	BUY	2,374	2,660	52.6	56.3	36.5	28.4	6.1	5.6	4.9	4.3	28.8	27.4	20.9	16.9	12.3	10.4	14.3	16.1
PI Industries	HOLD	4,694	4,340	42.7	43.4	37.2	32.2	8.2	6.9	5.8	4.9	33.5	28.5	24.4	21.0	21.0	17.2	16.9	16.5
Deepak Nitrite	BUY	2,816	3,180	48.1	39.9	32.2	27.0	8.1	6.8	5.7	4.8	34.7	26.0	21.4	17.6	18.2	18.6	19.3	19.3
Clean Science	BUY	1,484	1,845	64.6	55.6	40.7	31.7	13.1	10.7	8.5	6.7	46.6	38.6	29.1	22.2	22.1	21.1	23.2	23.7
Navin Fluorine	BUY	3,543	4,105	76.8	63.0	46.2	36.1	7.4	6.7	6.1	5.3	46.0	37.3	28.8	23.5	10.0	11.2	13.8	15.7
Fine Organics	SELL	5,131	3,890	42.7	39.8	39.2	38.7	8.5	7.2	6.3	5.5	30.7	27.8	27.1	26.4	21.8	19.5	17.1	15.2
Galaxy Surfactants	HOLD	3,107	2,700	36.5	33.4	30.8	28.5	5.1	4.4	3.9	3.4	23.2	20.8	19.1	17.6	14.8	14.1	13.4	12.8
PCBL Ltd.	BUY	431	620	33.1	30.3	21.3	16.1	5.0	4.3	3.6	2.9	19.9	14.0	11.6	9.8	16.2	15.2	18.3	20.0
Aether Industries	BUY	862	1,135	119.1	67.1	45.1	34.1	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.1	83.8	44.9	31.2	22.9	5.8	8.0	10.8	12.7
Ami Organics	BUY	2,063	2,055	104.3	70.2	41.6	30.6	12.5	6.6	5.8	4.9	66.9	44.3	27.9	20.8	12.7	12.3	14.8	17.4
Anupam Rasayan	HOLD	736	725	176.2	201.1	110.1	70.2	8.2	7.8	7.3	6.5	61.9	66.6	48.4	36.5	5.0	4.0	6.8	9.8
Archean Chemicals	BUY	686	830	28.4	23.0	16.0	12.8	5.3	4.4	3.5	2.8	18.9	15.0	10.0	7.5	20.4	20.9	24.4	24.3
Tatva Chintan Pharma Chem	SELL	908	705	70.0	148.5	63.8	38.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	30.8	46.5	28.0	19.9	4.8	1.9	4.4	6.9

Source: Companies, JM Financial

## Financial Tables (Consolidated)

Income Statement				(	INR mn)
Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	9,358	7,915	9,895	14,149	18,239
Sales Growth	36.6%	-15.4%	25.0%	43.0%	28.9%
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	9,358	7,915	9,895	14,149	18,239
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp	3,260	2,771	3,859	5,957	7,733
Personnel Cost	452	487	544	778	1,003
Other Expenses	1,625	1,337	1,503	2,171	2,772
EBITDA	4,021	3,321	3,988	5,243	6,730
EBITDA Margin	43.0%	42.0%	40.3%	37.1%	36.9%
EBITDA Growth	34.1%	-17.4%	20.1%	31.5%	28.4%
Depn. & Amort.	361	459	635	788	930
EBIT	3,660	2,861	3,353	4,456	5,801
Other Income	298	413	429	509	573
Finance Cost	2	9	0	0	0
PBT before Excep. & Forex	3,957	3,265	3,782	4,964	6,374
Excep. & Forex Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
PBT	3,957	3,265	3,782	4,964	6,374
Taxes	1,005	825	945	1,092	1,402
Extraordinary Inc./Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	0	0	0	0	0
Reported Net Profit	2,952	2,440	2,836	3,872	4,972
Adjusted Net Profit	2,952	2,440	2,836	3,872	4,972
Net Margin	31.5%	30.8%	28.7%	27.4%	27.3%
Diluted Share Cap. (mn)	106.2	106.2	106.2	106.2	106.2
Diluted EPS (INR)	27.8	23.0	26.7	36.5	46.8
Diluted EPS Growth	29.2%	-17.3%	16.2%	36.5%	28.4%
Total Dividend + Tax	319	319	76	99	127
Dividend Per Share (INR)	3.0	3.0	0.7	0.9	1.2

Balance Sheet					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Shareholders' Fund	10,100	12,032	14,793	18,565	23,410
Share Capital	106	106	106	106	106
Reserves & Surplus	9,994	11,925	14,686	18,459	23,303
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Total Loans	1	0	0	0	0
Def. Tax Liab. / Assets (-)	257	323	323	323	323
Total - Equity & Liab.	10,358	12,354	15,115	18,888	23,732
Net Fixed Assets	4,806	6,935	8,601	9,814	10,885
Gross Fixed Assets	5,561	7,792	10,092	12,092	14,092
Intangible Assets	13	7	8	9	10
Less: Depn. & Amort.	1,345	1,805	2,439	3,227	4,156
Capital WIP	205	573	573	573	573
Investments	3,276	3,026	3,026	3,026	3,026
Current Assets	3,436	4,003	5,303	8,445	12,779
Inventories	1,088	1,237	1,546	2,210	2,849
Sundry Debtors	1,462	1,637	2,047	2,927	3,773
Cash & Bank Balances	125	104	686	2,284	5,132
Loans & Advances	0	0	0	0	0
Other Current Assets	761	1,024	1,024	1,024	1,024
Current Liab. & Prov.	1,160	1,608	1,814	2,397	2,957
Current Liabilities	805	1,085	1,356	1,939	2,499
Provisions & Others	355	524	458	458	458
Net Current Assets	2,276	2,394	3,489	6,049	9,822
Total – Assets	10,358	12,354	15,115	18,888	23,732

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement				(	INR mn)
Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Profit before Tax	3,957	3,265	3,782	4,964	6,374
Depn. & Amort.	361	459	635	788	930
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	-3	-20	-29	-29	-29
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	-428	-295	-513	-962	-925
Others	-148	-284	0	0	0
Taxes Paid	-945	-755	-945	-1,092	-1,402
Operating Cash Flow	2,794	2,371	2,929	3,669	4,948
Capex	-1,834	-2,323	-2,301	-2,001	-2,001
Free Cash Flow	960	48	628	1,668	2,947
Inc (-) / Dec in Investments	-1,410	385	0	0	0
Others	546	80	29	29	29
Investing Cash Flow	-2,698	-1,859	-2,272	-1,972	-1,972
Inc / Dec (-) in Capital	-1	0	0	0	0
Dividend + Tax thereon	0	0	0	0	0
Inc / Dec (-) in Loans	0	-1	0	0	0
Others	-549	-531	-76	-99	-127
Financing Cash Flow	-550	-532	-76	-99	-127
Inc / Dec (-) in Cash	-455	-20	581	1,598	2,848
Opening Cash Balance	579	124	104	686	2,284
Closing Cash Balance	124	104	686	2,284	5,132

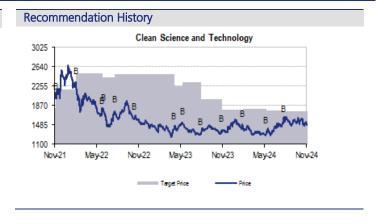
Dupont Analysis					
Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Margin	31.5%	30.8%	28.7%	27.4%	27.3%
Asset Turnover (x)	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Leverage Factor (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
RoE	33.2%	22.1%	21.1%	23.2%	23.7%

Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
BV/Share (INR)	95.1	113.3	139.3	174.8	220.4
ROIC	46.6%	27.4%	25.2%	28.6%	31.7%
ROE	33.2%	22.1%	21.1%	23.2%	23.7%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
P/E (x)	53.4	64.6	55.6	40.7	31.7
P/B (x)	15.6	13.1	10.7	8.5	6.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	38.3	46.4	38.5	29.0	22.2
EV/Sales (x)	16.4	19.5	15.5	10.7	8.2
Debtor days	57	76	76	76	76
Inventory days	42	57	57	57	57
Creditor days	55	86	84	79	79

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

History of Recommendation and Target Price				
Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.	
1-Sep-21	Buy	1,820		
11-Nov-21	Buy	2,195	20.6	
7-Feb-22	Buy	2,500	13.9	
30-May-22	Buy	2,425	-3.0	
7-Jun-22	Buy	2,425	0.0	
27-Jul-22	Buy	2,485	2.5	
20-Oct-22	Buy	2,485	0.0	
11-Apr-23	Buy	2,255	-9.2	
18-May-23	Buy	2,325	3.1	
4-Aug-23	Buy	1,995	-14.2	
2-Nov-23	Buy	1,790	-10.3	
4-Feb-24	Buy	1,805	0.8	
15-May-24	Buy	1,765	-2.2	
1-Aug-24	Buy	1,760	-0.3	



### **APPENDIX I**

### JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

Member of BSE Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

SEBI Registration Nos.: Stock Broker - INZ000163434, Research Analyst - INH000000610

Registered Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025, India.

ard: +91 22 6630 3030 | Fax: +91 22 6630 3488 | Email: jmfinancial.research@jmfl.com | www.jmfl.com

Board: +91 22 6630 3030 | Fax: +91 22 6630 3488 | Email: jmfinancial.research@jmfl.com | www.jmfl.com Compliance Officer: Mr. Sahil Salastekar | Tel: +91 22 6224 1073 | Email: sahil.salastekar@jmfl.com Grievance officer: Mr. Sahil Salastekar | Tel: +91 22 6224 1073 | Email: instcompliance@jmfl.com

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Definition of ratings			
Rating	Meaning		
Buy	Total expected returns of more than 10% for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and more than 15% for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.		
Hold	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and in the range of 10% downside to 15% upside from the current market price for all other stocks, over the next twelve months.		
Sell	Price expected to move downwards by more than 10% from the current market price over the next twelve months.		

<sup>\*</sup> REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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