# **Divi's Laboratories**

India | Pharmaceuticals | Result Update

### In-line quarter; valuation still high

Divi's Laboratories (DIVI IN) reported Q3FY25 in line with our estimates. Revenue grew 25% YoY and EBITDA margin 540bps YoY, continuing the string of strong numbers that started in Q4FY24. This likely came from a step-jump in the custom synthesis part of the business. This higher revenue run-rate has assimilated into the base for Q4FY25, and could present a challenge to growth in Q4. Management commentary suggests that major margin expansion from current levels is unlikely. Meanwhile, narratives around China + 1 and GLP-1 have kept the stock extremely expensive. We raise our FY25E-27E core EPS estimates by 5-6%. Retain Sell with a higher TP of INR 4,098.

**Strong growth in Q3; challenge in Q4:** Q3FY25 revenue grew 25% YoY. Topline has been broadly flat for the past four quarters although reported YoY growth came in the range of 18-25%. This was supported by a low base of comparison before the step-jump in revenue from the custom synthesis business in Q4FY24. With higher revenue run-rate coming into the base, we expect growth rates to normalize, starting from Q4FY25. Long-term revenue growth has been at 13% in INR terms and 9% in USD terms.

**Margin recovery is not a given:** EBITDA margin came off from 35-38% in FY12-19 to 28% in FY24 and has improved to ~31% in 9MFY25. Management commentary suggests that major margin expansion from the current levels is unlikely – various factors including regulatory compliance requirements have added significantly to the costs in the past decade. While there is no visibility of any jump in margin, we continue to build in an EBITDA margin of 33.3% in FY26E and 35.2% in FY27E. Despite that, valuation remains expensive.

**Capex intensity does not suggest major pick-up in growth**: FY25 capex guidance at INR 16-17bn is higher than the usual run-rate of INR 7-10bn. The management has attributed this to setting up of a greenfield project at Kakinada. We do not see this spike in capex being indicative of any major pick-up in growth.

Several narratives built into the stock price: The valuation has built in narratives that are unlikely to materialize at the pace of investor expectations. The stock has run ahead of what the company can achieve in terms of growth in its existing business plus the potential growth from GLP-1 agonists and the US Biosecure Act, in our opinion.

**Retain Sell with a higher TP at INR 4,098:** We raise our core EPS estimates by 5-6% for FY25E-27E. The stock trades at 64.9x FY26E core P/E. We raise our TP from INR 3,890 to INR 4,098, based on 37x FY27E core P/E plus cash per share. However, we reiterate **Sell** as the stock is expensive.

Any large product opportunity in the custom synthesis business is a key upside risk to our call and estimates.

#### **Key financials**

| YE March          | FY23   | FY24   | FY25E  | FY26E   | FY27E   |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Revenue (INR mn)  | 77,675 | 78,450 | 93,083 | 105,649 | 119,384 |
| YoY (%)           | (13.3) | 1.0    | 18.7   | 13.5    | 13.0    |
| EBITDA (INR mn)   | 23,678 | 22,050 | 29,228 | 35,692  | 42,617  |
| EBITDA margin (%) | 30.5   | 28.1   | 31.4   | 33.8    | 35.7    |
| Adj PAT (INR mn)  | 18,234 | 16,000 | 21,597 | 25,770  | 30,793  |
| YoY (%)           | (38.4) | (12.3) | 35.0   | 19.3    | 19.5    |
| Fully DEPS (INR)  | 68.7   | 60.3   | 81.4   | 97.1    | 116.0   |
| RoE (%)           | 15.5   | 12.5   | 15.9   | 17.3    | 18.3    |
| RoCE (%)          | 17.3   | 14.3   | 18.6   | 20.6    | 22.3    |
| P/E (x)           | 97.9   | 113.0  | 80.4   | 65.9    | 54.2    |
| EV/EBITDA (x)     | 64.4   | 69.2   | 52.2   | 42.7    | 35.8    |

Note: Pricing as on 3 February 2025; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### 3 February 2025

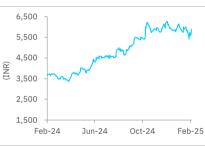
| Rating: <mark>Sell</mark> |
|---------------------------|
| Target Price: INR 4,098   |
| Downside: 30%             |
| CMP: INR 5,884            |
| As on 3 February 2025     |

#### Kev da

| Key data                            |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Bloomberg                           | DIVI IN    |
| Reuters Code                        | divi. Ns   |
| Shares outstanding (mn)             | 265        |
| Market cap (INR bn/USD mn)          | 1562/17918 |
| Enterprise Value (INR bn/USD mn)    | 1526/17503 |
| Avg daily volume 3M (INR mn/USD mn) | 3469/40    |
| 52 week high/low                    | 6449/3350  |
| Free float (%)                      | 48         |

Note: as on 3 February 2025; Source: Bloomberg

#### Price chart



| Shareholding (%) | Q4<br>FY24 | Q1<br>FY25 | Q2<br>FY25 | Q3<br>FY25 |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Promoter         | 51.9       | 51.9       | 51.9       | 51.9       |
| % Pledged        | -          | -          | -          | -          |
| FII              | 14.7       | 16.2       | 17.3       | 18.0       |
| DII              | 22.2       | 21.8       | 21.2       | 20.6       |
| Others           | 11.2       | 10.1       | 9.6        | 9.5        |
| Source: BSE      |            |            |            |            |

| Price performance (%) | ЗM     | 6M     | 12M  |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|------|
| Nifty                 | (3.9)  | (5.5)  | 6.9  |
| Divi's Laboratories   | (0.3)  | 17.9   | 59.1 |
| NSE Mid-cap           | (6.2)  | (8.5)  | 9.3  |
| NSE Small-cap         | (11.6) | (11.6) | 2.1  |
| Source: Bloomberg     |        |        |      |

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## Financials (YE March)

| FY23                           | FY24  | FY25E   | FY26E   | FY27E  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 77,675                         | 78,450  | 93,083  | 105,649   | 119,384  |
| 23,678                         | 22,050  | 29,228  | 35,692  | 42,617   |
| 3,447                          | 3,390   | 3,520   | 3,520   | 3,520  |
| 27,125                         | 25,440  | 32,748  | 39,212  | 46,137   |
| 3,432                          | 3,780   | 3,950   | 4,840   | 5,067  |
| 23,693                         | 21,660  | 28,798  | 34,372  | 41,069   |
| 7                              | 30  | 12  | 12  | 12   |
| 23,686                         | 21,630  | 28,786  | 34,360  | 41,057   |
| 5,453                          | 5,630   | 7,189   | 8,590   | 10,264   |
| 18,234                         | 16,000  | 21,597  | 25,770  | 30,793   |
| 18,234                         | 16,000  | 21,597  | 25,770  | 30,793   |
| FY23                           | FY24  | FY25E   | FY26E   | FY27E  |
| 127,671                        | 135,710   | 149,343   | 168,477   | 192,633  |
| 33                             | -   | 149   | 168   | 193  |
| 5,678                          | 6,210   | 6,210   | 6,210   | 6,210  |
| 133,382                        | 141,920   | 155,702   | 174,855   | 199,036  |
| 49,292                         | 55,130  | 67,180  | 70,340  | 74,073   |
| 53                             | 40  | 40  | 40  | 40   |
| 771                            | 820   | 820   | 820   | 820  |
| 42,131                         | 39,800  | 37,385  | 46,300  | 59,045   |
| 39,981                         | 44,170  | 48,318  | 55,394  | 63,098   |
| 1,155                          | 1,960   | 1,960   | 1,960   | 1,960  |
| 133,382                        | 141,920   | 155,702   | 174,855   | 199,036  |
| FY23                           | FY24  | FY25E   | FY26E   | FY27E  |
| 20,409                         | 18,680  | 22,039  | 27,102  | 32,352   |
| 4,188                          | (6,070)   | (4,148)   | (7,077)   | (7,704)  |
| 24,597                         | 12,610  | 17,892  | 20,025  | 24,649   |
| (4,730)                        | (10,030)  | (16,000)  | (8,000)   | (8,800)  |
| 19,867                         | 2,580   | 1,892   | 12,025  | 15,849   |
| (5,925)                        | (4,911)   | (4,307)   | (3,110)   | (3,105)  |
| 13,942                         | (2,331)   | (2,415)   | 8,916   | 12,744   |
| FY23                           | FY24  | FY25E   | FY26E   | FY27E  |
|                                |   |   |   |  |
| (13.3)                         | 1.0   | 18.7  | 13.5  | 13.0   |
| (39.0)                         | (6.9)   | 32.6  | 22.1  | 19.4   |
| (45.7)                         | (13.4)  | 40.5  | 22.0  | 21.7   |
| 30.5                           | 28.1  | 31.4  | 33.8  | 35.7   |
| 23.5                           | 20.4  | 23.2  | 24.4  | 25.8   |
|                                |   |   |   |  |
| (0.3)                          | (0.3)   | (0.2)   | (0.3)   | (0.3)  |
| 15.5                           | 12.5  | 15.9  | 17.3  | 18.3   |
| 17.3                           | 14.3  | 18.6  | 20.6  | 22.3   |
|                                |   |   |   |  |
|                                |   | 81.4  | 97.1  | 116.0  |
| 68.7                           | 60.3  |   |   |  |
| 68.7<br>(45.7)                 | (13.4)  |   |   |  |
| (45.7)                         | (13.4)  | 40.5  | 22.0  | 21.7   |
| (45.7)<br>30.0                 | (13.4)<br>30.0  | 40.5<br>25.0  | 22.0<br>25.0  | 21.7<br>30.0   |
| (45.7)<br>30.0<br>97.9         | (13.4)<br>30.0<br>113.0   | 40.5<br>25.0<br>80.4  | 22.0<br>25.0<br>65.9  | 21.7<br>30.0<br>54.2   |
| (45.7)<br>30.0<br>97.9<br>64.4 | (13.4)<br>30.0<br>113.0<br>69.2   | 40.5<br>25.0<br>80.4<br>52.2  | 22.0<br>25.0<br>65.9<br>42.7  | 21.7<br>30.0<br>54.2<br>35.8   |
| (45.7)<br>30.0<br>97.9         | (13.4)<br>30.0<br>113.0   | 40.5<br>25.0<br>80.4  | 22.0<br>25.0<br>65.9  | 21.7<br>30.0<br>54.2   |
|                                | 77,675<br>23,678<br>3,447<br>27,125<br>3,432<br>23,693<br>7<br>7<br>23,686<br>5,453<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>18,234<br>13,382<br>49,292<br>53<br>771<br>42,131<br>39,981<br>1,155<br>133,382<br>FY23<br>20,409<br>4,188<br>24,597<br>(4,730)<br>19,867<br>(5,925)<br>13,942<br>FY23<br>(13,3)<br>(39,0)<br>(45,7)<br>3,0,5<br>2,3,5 | 77,675 78,450   23,678 22,050   3,447 3,390   27,125 25,440   3,432 3,780   23,693 21,660   7 30   23,686 21,630   5,453 5,630   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 16,000   18,234 141,920   5,678 6,210   133,382 141,920   42,131 39,800   39,981 44,170   1,155 1,960   133,382 141,920   FY23 FY24   20,409 18,680   4,188 | 77,675   78,450   93,083     23,678   22,050   29,228     3,447   3,390   3,520     27,125   25,440   32,748     3,432   3,780   3,950     23,693   21,660   28,798     7   30   12     23,686   21,630   28,786     5,453   5,630   7,189     18,234   16,000   21,597     18,234   16,000   21,597     FY23   FY24   FY25E     127,671   135,710   149,343     33   -   149     5,678   6,210   6,210     133,382   141,920   155,702     49,292   55,130   67,180     53   40   40     771   820   820     42,131   39,800   37,385     39,981   44,170   48,318     1,155   1,960   1,960     133,382   141,920   155,702 | 77,675   78,450   93,083   105,649     23,678   22,050   29,228   35,692     3,447   3,390   3,520   3,520     27,125   25,440   32,748   39,212     3,432   3,780   3,950   4,840     23,693   21,660   28,798   34,372     7   30   12   12     23,686   21,630   28,786   34,360     5,453   5,630   7,189   8,590     18,234   16,000   21,597   25,770     18,234   16,000   21,597   25,770     FY23   FY24   FY25E   FY26E     127,671   135,710   149,343   168,477     33   -   149   168     5,678   6,210   6,210   6,210     133,382   141,920   155,702   174,855     49,292   55,130   67,180   70,340     53   40   40   40     771 |

Note: Pricing as on 3 February 2025; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### **Quarterly financials**

| YE March (INR mn)   | Q3FY25 | Q3FY24 | YoY (%) | Q2FY25 | QoQ (%)   | FY24   | FY23   | YoY (%) |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|---------|
| Net sales           | 23,190 | 18,550 | 25.0    | 23,380 | (0.8)     | 78,450 | 77,675 | 1.0     |
| Gross profit        | 13,970 | 11,260 | 24.1    | 13,690 | 2.0       | 47,160 | 47,138 | 0.0     |
| Gross margins (%)   | 60.2   | 60.7   | (45.9)  | 58.6   | 168.7     | 60.1   | 60.7   | (57.1)  |
| EBITDA              | 7,430  | 4,890  | 51.9    | 7,160  | 3.8       | 22,050 | 23,678 | (6.9)   |
| EBITDA margins (%)  | 32.0   | 26.4   | 567.8   | 30.6   | 141.5     | 28.1   | 30.5   | (237.7) |
| Other income        | 820    | 950    | (13.7)  | 1,060  | (22.6)    | 3,390  | 3,447  | (1.6)   |
| Interest            | -      | -      | #DIV/0! | 10     | (100.0)   | 30     | 7      | 347.8   |
| Depreciation        | 990    | 950    | 4.2     | 990    | -         | 3,780  | 3,432  | 10.1    |
| PBT                 | 7,260  | 4,890  | 48.5    | 7,220  | 0.6       | 21,630 | 23,686 | (8.7)   |
| Tax                 | 1,370  | 1,310  | 4.6     | 2,120  | (35.4)    | 5,630  | 5,453  | 3.3     |
| Tax rate (%)        | 18.9   | 26.8   | (791.9) | 29.4   | (1,049.2) | 26.0   | 23.0   | 300.9   |
| PAT                 | 5,890  | 3,580  | 64.5    | 5,100  | 15.5      | 16,000 | 18,234 | (12.3)  |
| Adjusted net income | 5,890  | 3,580  | 64.5    | 5,100  | 15.5      | 13,492 | 15,581 | (13.4)  |
| NPM (%)             | 25.4   | 19.3   | 610.0   | 21.8   | 358.5     | 17.2   | 20.1   | (286.0) |

Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

#### **Exhibit 1: Valuation**

|                        | FY23   | FY24   | FY25E | FY26E | FY27E |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Core EPS (INR)         | 58.7   | 50.8   | 71.4  | 87.1  | 106.1 |
| Core EPS growth (%)    | (45.7) | (13.4) | 40.5  | 22.0  | 21.7  |
| Cash per share (INR)   | 158.7  | 149.9  | 140.8 | 174.4 | 222.4 |
| Current Core P/E (INR) | 97.7   | 112.8  | 80.3  | 65.8  | 54.1  |
| Core ROIC (%)          | 22.7   | 21.4   | 26.4  | 27.5  | 30.7  |

Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### Q3FY25 conference call takeaways

#### **Business highlights**

- DIVI reported a consolidated total income of INR 24.0bn in Q3FY25, reflecting a 25% YoY growth compared with INR 19.5bn in Q3FY24.
- Profit before tax (PBT) for the quarter stood at INR 7.3bn, up from INR 4.9bn in Q3FY24.
- DIVI recorded a forex gain of INR 100mn in the current quarter, compared with INR 180mn in Q3FY24.
- Raw material prices remained stable throughout Q3FY25.
- Material consumption accounted for 40% of total sales in Q3FY25.
- > DIVI has opted for the new tax regime starting this financial year.
- Supply chain pressures have been gradually easing in the recent quarters.
- Disruptions in the Red Sea in Q3FY25 led to challenges on the logistics front, causing delays and higher costs as vessels were rerouted via South Africa. Additionally, increased demand for air cargo added further strain to global transportation networks.
- Export sales contributed 87% of total revenue in Q3, with exports to the US and Europe accounting for 72%.
- The generics-to-custom synthesis ratio stood at 48:52 for 9MFY25, while in Q3FY25, the mix was 47:53.
- Nutraceutical sales amounted to INR 5.8bn for 9MFY25 and INR 1.7bn for Q3FY25.
- As of 31 December 2024, DIVI held cash reserves of INR 36.6bn, receivables worth INR 23.7bn, and inventories valued at INR 29.9bn.



#### **Custom synthesis**

- DIVI is seeing heightened customer engagement, as indicated by a growing number of RFPs and on-site visits. The impact of past investments and capacity expansions is becoming increasingly evident, solidifying its reputation as a trusted partner for complex, high-value, and sustainable chemistry solutions.
- DIVI is actively working on multiple new projects across various stages of the product lifecycle and remains committed to closely collaborating with customers to develop innovative solutions that align with their evolving needs.

#### **Contrast media**

- The custom synthesis business remains highly dynamic, and the management is enthusiastic about the new opportunities it brings. DIVI's strong customer relationships and technological expertise provide a unique advantage in the contrast media space.
- DIVI is actively collaborating with customers in this segment, with products at various stages of development, from qualification to commercial supply.
- Significant progress is being made on several gadolinium-based compounds used in MRIs. While these are still in the qualification phase, the management is optimistic about commercializing them within the next 1-2 years.
- For iodine-based compounds used in CT scans, some molecules are in the qualification stage, while others have already been commercialized by the customers. DIVI has established longterm agreements with these customers and expects product volumes to increase in the coming quarters.

#### Kakinada project

- A portion of the Kakinada Project (Unit-III) commenced commercial operations on 1 January 2025, while the remaining phases are under implementation and expected to become operational in the next six months.
- DIVI's ongoing investments in backward integration and capacity expansion are beginning to deliver results, particularly with the initiation of starting material and registered starting material manufacturing at Unit-III. This strategic move enhances responsiveness to customer needs while strengthening its competitive position.
- DIVI capitalized assets worth INR 4.3bn in Q3 and INR 5.6bn for 9MFY25, with INR 4.2bn allocated to the Kakinada Project. As of 31 December 2024, the company's CWIP stands at INR 11.6bn, of which INR 7.5bn is attributed to the Kakinada Project.
- The total expenditure on the Kakinada project, including capitalized assets as of 31 December 2024, amounts to INR 13.4bn.

#### GLP-1

- DIVI has the capability to produce both amino acid fragments and the complete peptide molecule.
- DIVI can manufacture peptides using both Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis (SPPS) and Liquid-Phase Peptide Synthesis (LPPS) methods.
- > DIVI produces its own building blocks, including protected amino acids.
- Amino acids are primarily sourced through imports or procured locally.

#### Generics

- In the generic business, despite ongoing pricing pressures across the industry, DIVI has maintained stability. The management expects these pressures to gradually ease and remains focused on strengthening the overall performance.
- Looking ahead, with a wave of patent expirations on the horizon, the management anticipates that expanding the generic portfolio will be a key driver of future growth.

- The nutraceutical portfolio continues to capture market share. DIVI's focus on improving production efficiencies and introducing high-value products aligns with its long-term vision of establishing a strong foothold in this growing market.
- In the generics segment, volume growth has been in double digits. However, overall growth appears subdued due to pricing pressures.

#### Guidance

- DIVI is focused on building a strong pipeline, expanding its capabilities, and maintaining a commitment to innovation.
- Freight rates are expected to stabilize in the coming quarters.
- > The management aims to achieve stable double-digit growth in the coming years.
- Operational costs, as a percentage of revenue, are expected to remain consistent in the years ahead.
- > DIVI's tax rate will be 25% going forward, as it has opted for the new tax regime.

### 70

Exhibit 2: Rolling P/E trading at a 22.6% premium to STD +1 P/E



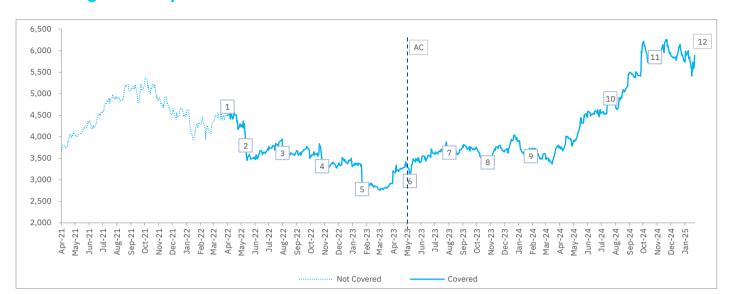
Source: Bloomberg, Company, Elara Securities Research

#### Exhibit 3: Change in estimates

| (INR mn)  |        | Earlier |         |        | Revised |         |       | % Change |       |  |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|----------|-------|--|
|           | FY25E  | FY26E   | FY27E   | FY25E  | FY26E   | FY27E   | FY25E | FY26E    | FY27E |  |
| Sales     | 91,238 | 103,555 | 117,017 | 93,083 | 105,649 | 119,384 | 2.0   | 2.0      | 2.0   |  |
| EBITDA    | 28,130 | 34,447  | 41,207  | 29,228 | 35,692  | 42,617  | 3.9   | 3.6      | 3.4   |  |
| PAT       | 20,496 | 24,479  | 29,314  | 21,597 | 25,770  | 30,793  | 5.4   | 5.3      | 5.0   |  |
| EPS (INR) | 77.2   | 92.2    | 110.4   | 81.4   | 97.1    | 116.0   | 5.4   | 5.3      | 5.0   |  |
| TP (INR)  |        | 3,890   |         |        | 4,098   |         |       | 5.3      |       |  |

Source: Elara Securities Estimate

### Coverage History



|    | Date        | Rating | Target Price | <b>Closing Price</b> |
|----|-------------|--------|--------------|----------------------|
| 5  | 3-Feb-2023  | Reduce | INR 2,765    | INR 2,884            |
| 6  | 19-May-2023 | Sell   | INR 1,980    | INR 3,098            |
| 7  | 14-Aug-2023 | Sell   | INR 2,199    | INR 3,731            |
| 8  | 6-Nov-2023  | Sell   | INR 2,443    | INR 3,507            |
| 9  | 9-Feb-2024  | Sell   | INR 3,017    | INR 3,652            |
| 10 | 2-Aug-2024  | Sell   | INR 3,288    | INR 4,991            |
| 11 | 8-Nov-2024  | Sell   | INR 3,890    | INR 5,950            |
| 12 | 3-Feb-2025  | Sell   | INR 4,098    | INR 5,884            |
|    |             |        |              |                      |

### Guide to Research Rating

| BUY        | Absolute Return >+20%       |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| ACCUMULATE | Absolute Return +5% to +20% |
| REDUCE     | Absolute Return -5% to +5%  |
| SELL       | Absolute Return < -5%       |



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