Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. | BUY

Inline quarter; Robust outlook

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance (CIFC) reported an in-line PAT of INR 9.4bn (+30% YoY, -11% QoQ) as NII grew (+40% YoY, +9.3% QoQ, +4% JMFe) to INR 25.7bn. However, NIMs were down -20bps QoQ as yields declined -10bps QoQ while CoFs moved up +10bps QoQ. Opex was down (-8% QoQ) on account of salary increments given in Q4. This led to PPoP of INR 18.5bn (+38% YoY, +14% QoQ). Credit costs were elevated at INR 5.8bn (155bps of AUM vs 135bps QoQ) due to usually weaker collections in Q1. AUM growth continued to remain robust at INR 1,554bn (+35%YoY, +6.8%QoQ) which was driven by healthy disbursements growth (+22% YoY, -1.8% QoQ) largely coming in from new businesses (SME, CSEL and SBPL), three wheeler and MUV. GS3/NS3 moved up +14bps/+11bps QoQ to 2.62%/1.49%. PCR declined -95bps QoQ at 45.5%. Mgmt guided for opex to decline in new businesses as it scales up while credit costs are likely to normalize in 2H on the back of healthy collections due to good monsoon. We believe that the new businesses (SME, CSEL and SBPL) and expansion of LAP and HL into rural areas will continue to aid strong growth momentum going forward and margins would start improving as VF book is gradually re-priced and mix shift continues toward high-yielding segments. The 5year trajectory as indicated by management: i) 25-30% AUM growth ii) margins expansion led by high-yield product expansion and rural expansion followed by rate cuts, iii) improving operational efficiencies, and iv) steady credit cost target of ~1-1.2%; was the key positive that instilled confidence on achieving strong RoA-PBT of 4% over next 5 years. Given the strong execution track record, we believe this will contribute to sustained strong performance going forward. We revise our earnings estimates upward for FY25E/FY26E by +4%/+7% and continue to value CIFC at 22x FY26E EPS entailing a TP of INR 1,650. Maintain BUY.

- Stellar growth: CIFC witnessed robust AUM growth (INR 1,554bn, +35% YoY, +6.8% QoQ) on the back of healthy overall disbursements (+22% YoY, -1.8% QoQ) led by strong growth across the segments with continued momentum in new business growth viz. SME+SBPL+CSEL (+77% YoY, +13% QoQ), home loans (+53% YoY, +8.7% QoQ), LAP (+41% YoY, +7.6% QoQ) and vehicle finance (+25% YoY, +4.9% QoQ). CIFC continues to diversify its loan book across segments (VF-57%, LAP-21%, HL-9% and new business-13% as of 1Q25). Management plans to further increase its exposure in HL and LAP up to 35% of total book by expanding more branches in rural regions and VF book to gradually taper down to c.50% of total book due to higher growth from other segments. New businesses to be restricted to 15% out of which CSEL would be capped at 8% of total book. We believe that the new business aided cross-selling, strong traction in housing/LAP/SME and increased momentum in vehicle demand would sustain strong AUM growth. We build-in AUM CAGR of 28% over FY24-26E.
- Steady operating performance: CIFC reported strong NII of INR 25.7bn (+40%YoY, +9.3% QoQ, +4% JMFe), however NIMs were down -20bps QoQ due to strong AUM growth. Yields declined -10bps QoQ while CoFs moved up +10bps QoQ. Mgmt. expects

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Profit	21,467	26,662	34,228	48,007	61,823
Net Profit (YoY) (%)	41.7%	24.2%	28.4%	40.3%	28.8%
Assets (YoY) (%)	10.5%	37.8%	37.8%	28.0%	27.5%
ROA (%)	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%
ROE (%)	20.2%	20.5%	20.2%	22.0%	22.9%
EPS	26.1	32.4	40.7	57.1	73.6
EPS (YoY) (%)	41.5%	24.0%	25.6%	40.3%	28.8%
P/E (x)	54.8	44.2	35.2	25.1	19.5
BV	143	174	233	287	357
BV (YoY) (%)	22.3%	22.0%	33.9%	23.3%	24.4%
P/B∨ (x)	10.05	8.24	6.16	4.99	4.02

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Recommendation and Price Target	
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	1,650
Upside/(Downside)	15.1%
Previous Price Target	1,500
Change	10.0%

Key Data – CIFC IN	
Current Market Price	INR1,433
Market cap (bn)	INR1,204.4/US\$14.4
Free Float	50%
Shares in issue (mn)	840.3
Diluted share (mn)	
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR1,979.2/US\$23.6
52-week range	1,477/997
Sensex/Nifty	81,356/24,836
INR/US\$	83.7

Price Performance %	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	0.7	16.5	26.0
Relative*	-2.2	1.8	2.5

* To the BSE Sensex

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. the NIMs to gradually inch-up going ahead led by changing mix towards high-yield new business loans. Opex was down (-8% QoQ) on account of salary increments given in Q4. This led to PPoP of INR 18.5bn (+38% YoY, +14% QoQ). Credit costs were elevated at INR 5.8bn (155bps of AUM vs 135bps QoQ) due to usually weaker collections in Q1. This led to an in-line PAT of INR 9.4bn (+30% YoY, -11% QoQ). Mgmt guided for opex to decline in new businesses as it scales up while credit costs are likely to normalize in 2H on the back of healthy collections due to good monsoon. We build in NIMs expansion of +c.30bps over FY24-26E and improvement in opex ratio to 2.8% in FY26E (from 3% in FY24) which should aid in RoA-PBT of 3.6% in FY26E (vs 3.4% in FY24).

- Seasonally weaker asset quality: Asset quality slightly deteriorated during the quarter with GS3 at 2.62% (+14bps QoQ) and NS3 at 1.45% (+11bps QoQ) on account of seasonally weaker collections during Q1. Mgmt guided for asset quality to normalize in 2H as monsoon is expected to be healthy which should aid healthy collections. GS3 for VF (+25bps QoQ), LAP (-8bps QoQ), HL (+9bps QoQ), SME (+36bps QoQ), CSEL (+8bps QoQ) and SBPL (+18bps QoQ). Overall stress pool (stage2+stage3) was up +44bps QoQ at 5.11%. PCR on stage 3 was down -95bps QoQ at 45.5%. We build in avg credit cost of 1.2% over FY25-26E as guided by mgmt.
- Valuation and view: We believe that the new businesses (SME, CSEL and SBPL) and expansion of LAP and HL into rural areas will continue to aid strong growth momentum going forward and margins would start improving as VF book is gradually re-priced and mix shift continues toward high-yielding segments. The 5-year trajectory as indicated by management: i) 25-30% AUM growth ii) margins expansion led by high-yield product expansion and rural expansion followed by rate cuts, iii) improving operational efficiencies, and iv) steady credit cost target of ~1-1.2%; was the key positive that instilled confidence on achieving strong RoA-PBT of 4% over next 5 years. Given the strong execution track record, we believe this will contribute to sustained strong performance going forward. We revise our earnings estimates upward for FY25E/FY26E by +4%/+7% and continue to value CIFC at 22x FY26E EPS entailing a TP of INR 1,650. Maintain BUY.

CIFC - 1QFY25 trends

Exhibit 1. 1QFY25 – key highlights					/- />
Earnings Table (INR mn)	1Q'24	4Q'24	1Q'25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Net Interest Income	18,421	23,548	25,738	39.7%	9.3%
Total Income	21,265	29,127	30,333	42.6%	4.1%
Employees Cost	3,279	7,658	6,835	108.5%	-10.8%
Other opex + depreciation	4,588	5,192	5,000	9.0%	-3.7%
Total Operating Expenses	7,867	12,850	11,834	50.4%	-7.9%
Operating Profit (PPP)	13,399	16,278	18,499	38.1%	13.6%
Provisions & Write Offs	3,723	1,908	5,814	56.2%	204.7%
РВТ	9,675	14,369	12,685	31.1%	-11.7%
Tax	2,415	3,788	3,263	35.1%	-13.9%
Reported Profit	7,260	10,581	9,422	29.8%	-11.0%
Balance Sheet Data (INR bn)					
Loans	1,132	1,444	1,543	36.3%	6.8%
Assets Under Management	1,148	1,456	1,554	35.4%	6.8%
Disbursements	200	248	243	21.6%	-1.8%
Credit Quality					
GS 3 (INR mn)	35,460	36,450	41,230	16.3%	13.1%
Net S3 (INR mn)	19,360	19,520	22,470	16.1%	15.1%
Gross S3 / AUM (%)	3.09%	2.50%	2.65%	-0.4%	0.1%
Net S3 / AUM (%)	1.69%	1.34%	1.45%	-0.2%	0.1%
Coverage Ratio (%)	45.4%	46.4%	45.5%	0.1%	-0.9%
IndAS - Capital Adequacy (%)					
Tier I (%)	15.1%	15.1%	14.8%	-0.4%	-0.3%
CAR (%)	17.4%	18.6%	18.0%	0.6%	-0.5%
AUM Mix					
Vehicle Finance	710,650	844,980	886,390	24.7%	4.9%
Home Equity	228,660	298,590	321,350	40.5%	7.6%
Housing Loans	95,280	134,040	145,650	52.9%	8.7%
CSEL	68,660	114,300	129,090	88.0%	12.9%
SBPL	6,110	14,040	16,180	164.8%	15.2%
SME	38,600	49,770	55,760	44.5%	12.0%
Key Ratios					
Yield on Average loans	14.1%	14.3%	14.4%	0.3%	0.1%
Cost of Borrowed Funds	7.8%	8.0%	7.9%	0.1%	-0.1%
NII / AUM (%)	6.7%	6.7%	6.8%	0.2%	0.1%
Credit Cost (Provisions / AUM)	1.3%	0.5%	1.5%	0.2%	1.0%
Reported ROA (%)	2.4%	2.8%	2.3%	-0.1%	-0.5%
ROE (%)	19.8%	22.2%	18.9%	-0.9%	-3.3%
Cost-to-average assets	6.7%	6.9%	6.8%	0.1%	-0.1%
Source: Company, IM Einancial	0.770	0.270	0.070	0.170	0.170

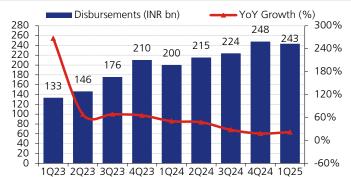
CIFC – Quarterly Trends

Exhibit 2. CIFC: Trend in AUM growth



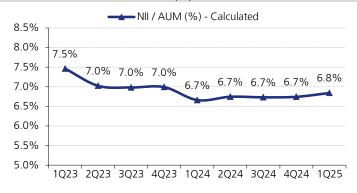
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. CIFC: Trend of disbursements



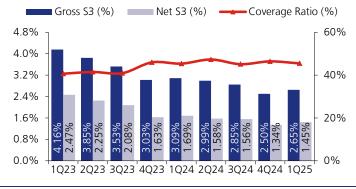
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 6. CIFC: Trend in NII/AUM (%)

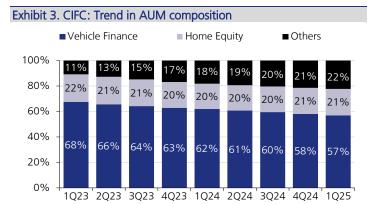


Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 8. CIFC: Trend in asset quality (%)

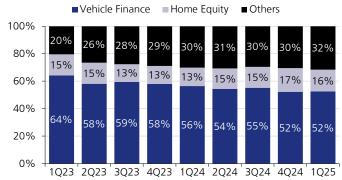


Source: Company, JM Financial

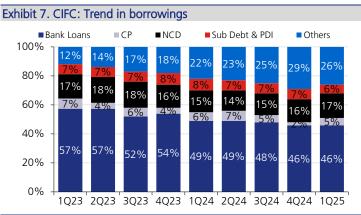


Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 5. CIFC: Trend in disbursement composition

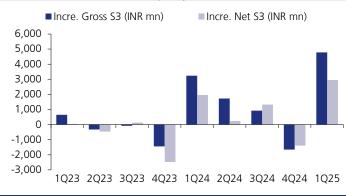


Source: Company, JM Financial



Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 9. CIFC: Trend in asset quality



50%

34%

18%

2%

-14%

-30%

146.4

YoY Growth (%)

115.

FY24 FY25E FY26E

83.8

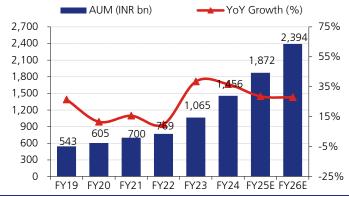
63.3

52.7

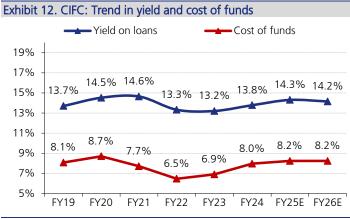
FY22 FY23

CIFC – Annual Trends

Exhibit 10. CIFC: Trend in AUM (INR bn)



Source: Company, JM Financial



FY19 Source: Company, JM Financial

30.7

160

140

120

100

80

60

40

20

0

Exhibit 11. CIFC: Trend in NII (INR bn)

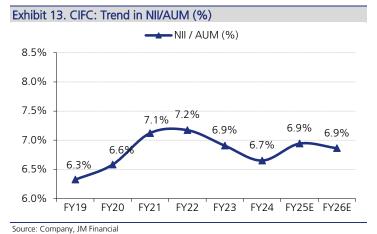
37.8

FY20

NII (INR bn)

46.5

FY21



Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 14. CIFC: Trend in cost-to-income (%)

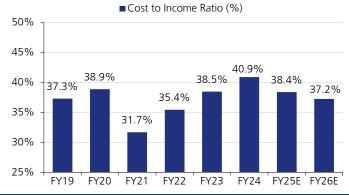
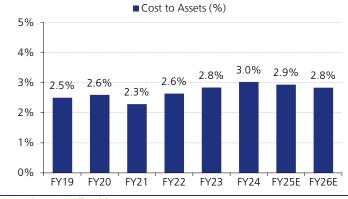


Exhibit 15. CIFC: Trend in cost-to-assets (%)



Source: Company, JM Financial

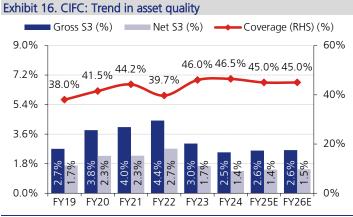
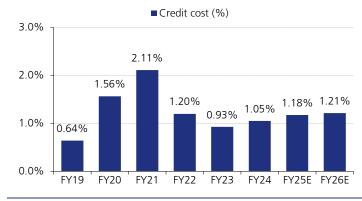
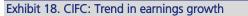
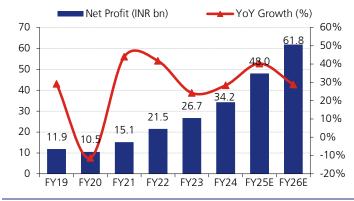


Exhibit 17. CIFC: Trend in credit cost



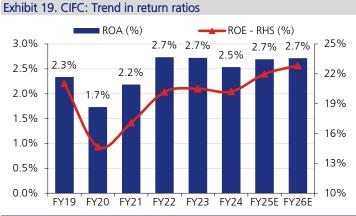
Source: Company, JM Financial





Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial



Financial Tables (Standalone)

Income Statement					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Interest Income (NII)	52,680	63,334	83,831	1,15,492	1,46,368
Non Interest Income	5,720	8,958	16,026	20,834	27,084
Total Income	58,400	72,292	99,857	1,36,326	1,73,452
Operating Expenses	20,687	27,799	40,818	52,336	64,580
Pre-provisioning Profits	37,712	44,494	59,039	83,990	1,08,872
Loan-Loss Provisions	8,799	8,484	13,102	19,551	25,888
Others Provisions	0	13	116	0	0
Total Provisions	8,803	8,497	13,218	19,551	25,888
PBT	28,909	35,997	45,821	64,439	82,984
Tax	7,442	9,335	11,593	16,432	21,161
PAT (Pre-Extra ordinaries)	21,467	26,662	34,228	48,007	61,823
Extra ordinaries (Net of Tax)	0	0	0	0	0
Reported Profits	21,467	26,662	34,228	48,007	61,823
Dividend	1,641	1,644	1,667	2,400	3,091
Retained Profits	19,826	25,018	32,560	45,607	58,732

Source: Company, JM Financial

Balance Sheet					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Equity Capital	1,643	1,645	1,681	1,681	1,681
Reserves & Surplus	1,15,434	1,41,316	1,93,885	2,39,491	2,98,223
Stock option outstanding	0	0	0	0	0
Borrowed Funds	6,91,735	9,73,561	13,44,736	16,80,920	21,51,577
Deferred tax liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Preference Shares	14,822	18,634	24,207	80,087	1,02,145
Current Liabilities & Provisions	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	8,23,634	11,35,155	15,64,508	20,02,179	25,53,626
Net Advances	7,41,492	10,47,483	14,44,243	18,52,992	23,69,724
Investments	20,762	36,200	41,002	51,884	66,352
Cash & Bank Balances	42,201	29,614	43,202	55,590	66,352
Loans and Advances	1,280	1,911	3,995	3,706	4,739
Other Current Assets	8,270	9,272	9,830	9,550	10,164
Fixed Assets	2,914	4,589	15,695	20,085	25,617
Miscellaneous Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred Tax Assets	6,714	6,085	6,542	8,371	10,677
Total Assets	8,23,634	11,35,155	15,64,508	20,02,179	25,53,626

Source: Company, JM Financial

Dupont Analysis

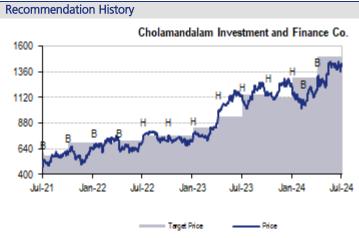
Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Growth (YoY) (%)					
Borrowed funds	8.5%	40.7%	38.1%	25.0%	28.0%
Advances	12.6%	41.3%	37.9%	28.3%	27.9%
Total Assets	10.5%	37.8%	37.8%	28.0%	27.5%
NII	13.3%	20.2%	32.4%	37.8%	26.7%
Non-interest Income	62.8%	56.6%	78.9%	30.0%	30.0%
Operating Expenses	30.6%	34.4%	46.8%	28.2%	23.4%
Operating Profits	10.4%	18.0%	32.7%	42.3%	29.6%
Core Operating profit	10.2%	16.5%	31.1%	42.6%	29.6%
Provisions	-36.1%	-3.5%	55.6%	47.9%	32.4%
Reported PAT	41.7%	24.2%	28.4%	40.3%	28.8%
Yields / Margins (%)					
Interest Spread	6.01%	5.68%	5.34%	5.50%	5.37%
NIM	6.87%	6.59%	6.33%	6.61%	6.55%
Profitability (%)					
ROA	2.74%	2.72%	2.54%	2.69%	2.71%
ROE	20.2%	20.5%	20.2%	22.0%	22.9%
Cost to Income	35.4%	38.5%	40.9%	38.4%	37.2%
Asset quality (%)					
Gross NPA	4.43%	3.03%	2.49%	2.60%	2.62%
LLP	0.52%	0.47%	0.60%	1.33%	1.37%
Capital Adequacy (%)					
Tier I	16.49%	15.46%	15.10%	14.22%	13.92%
CAR	19.62%	17.81%	18.57%	17.12%	16.42%

Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
NII / Assets	6.71%	6.47%	6.21%	6.48%	6.43%
Other Income / Assets	0.73%	0.91%	1.19%	1.17%	1.19%
Total Income / Assets	7.44%	7.38%	7.40%	7.64%	7.61%
Cost / Assets	1.14%	1.29%	1.73%	1.58%	1.42%
PPP / Assets	4.81%	4.54%	4.37%	4.71%	4.78%
Provisions / Assets	1.12%	0.87%	0.98%	1.10%	1.14%
PBT / Assets	3.68%	3.68%	3.39%	3.61%	3.64%
Tax rate	25.7%	25.9%	25.3%	25.5%	25.5%
ROA	2.74%	2.72%	2.54%	2.69%	2.71%
Leverage	7.0	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.5
ROE	20.2%	20.5%	20.2%	22.0%	22.9%
Source: Company, JM Financial					

Valuations					
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Shares in Issue	821.4	822.4	840.3	840.3	840.3
EPS (INR)	26.1	32.4	40.7	57.1	73.6
EPS (YoY) (%)	41.5%	24.0%	25.6%	40.3%	28.8%
P/E (x)	54.8	44.2	35.2	25.1	19.5
BV (INR)	143	174	233	287	357
BV (YoY) (%)	22.3%	22.0%	33.9%	23.3%	24.4%
P/BV (x)	10.05	8.24	6.16	4.99	4.02
DPS (INR)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.9	3.7
Div. yield (%)	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%

Source: Company, JM Financial

History of Rec	commendation and Ta	arget Price	
Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.
4-Jun-20	Buy	180	
2-Aug-20	Buy	230	27.8
30-Oct-20	Buy	330	43.5
2-Feb-21	Buy	520	57.6
10-May-21	Buy	600	15.4
2-Aug-21	Buy	575	-4.2
1-Nov-21	Buy	700	21.7
3-Feb-22	Buy	700	0.0
8-May-22	Buy	715	2.1
2-Aug-22	Hold	765	7.0
2-Nov-22	Hold	765	0.0
1-Feb-23	Hold	835	9.2
5-May-23	Hold	940	12.6
3-Aug-23	Hold	1,145	21.8
6-Nov-23	Hold	1,120	-2.2
30-Jan-24	Hold	1,300	16.1
11-Mar-24	Buy	1,300	0.0
2-May-24	Buy	1,500	15.4



APPENDIX I

JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

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

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Rating	Meaning
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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.
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