

Happy Forgings

Estimate changes	\longrightarrow
TP change	←
Rating change	\leftarrow

Bloomberg	HAPPYFOR IN
Equity Shares (m)	94
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	90.2 / 1
52-Week Range (INR)	1300 / 813
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-4/-18/-12
12M Avg Val (INR M)	93

Consol. Financials & Valuations (INR b)

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Y/E March	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	14.2	16.6	19.6
EBITDA	4.1	4.9	5.8
Adj. PAT	2.6	3.3	4.0
EPS (INR)	27.9	35.3	42.4
EPS growth %	8.2	26.3	20.3
BV/Sh. (INR)	194	224	259
Ratios			
RoE (%)	15.3	16.9	17.6
RoCE (%)	14.4	15.9	16.4
Payout (%)	17.0	17.0	17.0
Valuations			
P/E (x)	34.5	27.3	22.7
P/BV (x)	5.0	4.3	3.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	21.8	18.6	15.8
Div. Yield (%)	0.5	0.6	0.7

Shareholding Pattern (%)

As On	Dec-24	Sep-24	Dec-23
Promoter	78.6	78.6	78.6
DII	17.1	17.1	5.8
FII	2.3	2.3	2.1
Others	2.1	2.0	13.5

CMP: INR958 TP: INR1,140 (+19%) Buy

Operationally in-line; dependency on core business to reduce further

Announced INR6.5b capex for heavy forgings, commissioning by FY27

- Happy Forgings' (HFL) 3QFY25 results were operationally in line, though Adj. PAT was lower due to lower other income. Despite weakness in the domestic CV industry and subdued exports, revenue grew 4% YoY, while EBITDA margin expanded 80bp YoY to 28.6%, driven by growth in its industrials division, which continues to support profitability.
- In line with its plan to expand in the heavyweight industrials division, HFL has announced a capex of up to INR6.5b. This will not only drive long-term growth but will also de-risk exposure from its cyclical CV/FE segment and expand margins. New plant is likely to be commissioned by FY27, catering to diverse non-auto industries such as power, marine, and mining.
- Our FY25E/26E EPS estimates remain largely unchanged, as weakness in CV and exports is expected to be offset by growth in Industrials and rampup of new capacities. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR1,140 (based on 28x Dec'26E EPS).

ASP-led revenue growth of 4% YoY amid flat volumes

- HFL's revenue/EBITDA/adj. PAT grew 4%/7%/11% YoY to INR3.5b/INR1.02b/INR0.65b (est. INR3.6b/INR1.05b/INR0.68b). 9MFY25 revenue/ EBITDA/ adj. PAT grew 4%/5%/10% YoY.
- During the quarter, revenue from the CV segment (both domestic and exports), coupled with farm equipment and off-highway (exports), declined. However, this was partially offset by better demand in industrials and growth in the PV segment.
- Overall volume growth for the quarter remained flat while realizations improved ~4% YoY.
- Gross margins expanded 250bp (-90bp QoQ) to 58%, mainly due to a better mix (higher machining mix at 88% in 9MFY25, up from 84% in 9MFY24).
- This has resulted in a margin expansion of 80bp YoY to 28.6% (est. 29.2%).
- Lower other income led to Adj. PAT miss at INR645m (up 11% YoY, est. INR683m).
- Excluding the impact of high-realization on one order (due to air freight) in 9MFY24 and a non-recurring income of INR480m (post-tax) in 9MFY25, Revenue, EBITDA, and PAT grew 5.5%, 8.2%, and 14.3% YoY, respectively.
- Machining mix for 9MFY25 improved to 88% (84% in 9MFY24). Share of exports stood at 19% in 9MFY25 (flat YoY).

Highlights from the management interaction

CVs: Domestic CV sector remained weak due to fund release delays and slow financing, with M&HCV volumes down 7% YoY in 9MFY25. Recovery is expected in 4Q, driven by infra push and export incentives. HFL launched new CV products on its 14k-ton press line, with revenues expected from April onwards.

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

- **Industrial Segment:** Despite a global industrial slowdown, this segment is expected to contribute 18-20% of total revenue over the next two years (from 14% currently), with the potential to exceed 30% in 4-5 years if new capex ramps up on expected lines.
- Exports & Tariffs: Exports contribute ~19% directly and ~9% indirectly to revenue. While the EU and NA CV and FE sectors are experiencing a downturn, HFL's direct exposure to NA remains low at ~4%. Testing for new PV segment products is ongoing as planned, with no immediate tariff concerns.
- **Capex:** HFL announced an INR6.5b capex plan to establish advanced forging capabilities for heavyweight components (>250kg), catering to power generation, marine, mining, oil & gas, wind energy, and aerospace & defense. The company is targeting 7-8% of the INR100b global market, currently dominated by a European player with a 40% share.

Valuation & view

- HFL is expected to outperform the industry, driven by new client additions, product expansion, and capacity growth. Strong order wins in Industrials and Exports will enhance the business mix. Its superior financial track record vs. its peers reflects strong operational efficiencies, providing a key competitive edge.
- Our FY25E/26E EPS estimates remain largely unchanged as weakness in CV and exports is expected to be offset by growth in Industrials and the ramp-up of new capacities. We estimate a 13%/14%/ 18% CAGR in the standalone revenue/EBITDA/PAT during FY24-27. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR1,140 (based on 28x Dec'26E EPS).

Quarterly (Standalone) (INR Million) EVALE

		FY24 FY25E			5E	FY24 FY25I		FY25E		Variance		
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4QE			3QE	(%)
Net operating income	3,298	3,431	3,420	3,433	3,415	3,611	3,543	3,653	13,582	14,222	3,591	-1.3
Change (%)			16.2	13.5	3.5	5.3	3.6	6.4	13.5	4.7	5.0	
RM/Sales (%)	43.0	44.7	44.5	43.5	43.5	41.2	42.0	41.8	43.9	42.1	41.0	
Staff Cost (%)	7.5	8.5	9.0	8.6	8.5	8.5	9.3	9.2	8.4	8.9	8.8	
Other Exp. (%)	19.1	19.5	18.7	19.6	19.4	21.2	20.1	20.1	19.1	20.2	21.0	
EBITDA	1,002	938	952	971	976	1,054	1,015	1,056	3,875	4,100	1,049	-3.2
EBITDA Margins (%)	30.4	27.3	27.8	28.3	28.6	29.2	28.6	28.9	28.5	28.8	29.2	
Non-Operating Income	34	7	33	72	77	83	66	69	134	295	82	
Interest	27	44	38	9	14	16	21	16	118	67	14	
Depreciation	155	162	171	160	180	197	191	198	647	766	200	
EO Exp						-48						
PBT after EO items	855	738	777	875	859	973	868	911	3,244	3,563	917	
Tax	214	185	198	217	220	259	223	232	814	933	234	
Eff. Tax Rate (%)	25.1	25.1	25.5	24.8	25.6	26.6	25.7	25.4	25.1	26.2	25.5	
Rep. PAT	640	553	579	658	639	714	645	679	2,430	2,629	683	
Change (%)			39.2	29.7	-0.3	29.3	11.4	3.3	18.3	8.2	17.9	
Adj. PAT	640	553	579	658	639	666	645	679	2,430	2,629	683	-5.5
Change (%)			39.2	29.7	-0.3	20.6	11.4	3.3	16.4	8.2	17.9	

E: MOFSL Estimates

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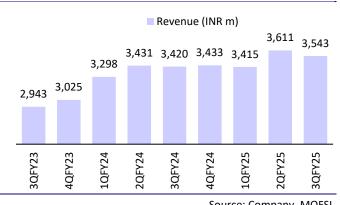
Highlights from the management interaction

- CVs: The domestic CV sector remained weak due to fund release delays and slow financing, with M&HCV volumes down 7% YoY in 9MFY25. Recovery is expected in 4Q, driven by infra push and export incentives.
- EU and NA heavy-duty truck sales declined by 10-15% in CY24, with leading OEMs reporting a 9% decline in deliveries for 9MCY24. Despite this, HFL's CV sales saw only a marginal decline, outperforming broader market trends.
- ➤ HFL launched new CV products on its 14k-ton press line, with revenues expected from April onwards.
- Farm equipment: The domestic FE segment showed signs of recovery, with HFL's sales outperforming industry production growth in 9MFY25. However, exports remained weak due to a significant decline in EU and North American markets. Strong OEM relationships and recent client additions position HFL well for a rebound when demand recovers.
- Industrial segment: Despite a global industrial slowdown, this segment is expected to contribute 18-20% of total revenue over the next two years (from 14% currently), with the potential to exceed 30% in 4-5 years if new capex ramps up on expected lines.
- Passenger vehicles: It has secured an INR1.4b order from a leading Indian OEM, with deliveries starting in FY26 and peak annual revenue expected at INR0.3-0.5b. Deliveries of e-axle components for NA clients began in 3Q. On the back of its new order wins, this segment is expected to contribute 8-10% (~4% now) of revenue over the next few years.
- Exports & Tariffs: Exports contribute ~19% directly and ~9% indirectly to revenue. While the EU and NA CV and FE sectors are experiencing a downturn, HFL's direct exposure to NA exposure remains low at ~4%. Testing for new PV segment products is ongoing as planned, with no immediate tariff concerns.
- > However, the potential tariff impositions on Mexico, Brazil, and Canada remain unclear for India, making it too early to assess any impact.
- New product development: HFL is developing small crankshafts for portable gensets and the power sector, marking a new segment for the company. It is expanding into heavy axle programs in Europe, targeting industrial, material handling, mining, and excavator applications. Lightweighting initiatives are underway in PVs, and pilot lots for front axle beams in CVs have been completed. The company plans to set up a ring rolling line for the bearing segment, though no business has been finalized yet.
- RM: Steel price decline impacted revenue by INR100m in 3Q and INR340m in 9M. The company also faced a scrap price hit of INR1.5-1.8b as this is not a pass-through in OEM contracts. Inventory correction is largely completed, and steel prices are unlikely to rise in the next 1-2 quarters unless demand from the infrastructure sector strengthens.
- Capex: HFL announced an INR6.5b capex plan to establish advanced forging capabilities for heavyweight components (>250kg), catering to power generation, marine, mining, oil & gas, wind energy, and aerospace & defense. The company is targeting 7-8% of the INR100b global market, currently dominated by a European player with a 40% share.

> Over 50% of this capex will likely be spent in FY26, with the remainder in FY27. The facility, set to be operational by FY27, will be one of the largest in Asia.

- It expects asset turns for the new heavy-duty forging business to reach 1.2-1.3x at full scale. Even at 0.8x utilization, RoCE is projected to exceed 30%, with ASP of over INR500/kg. Initial ramp-up to 0.5-0.6x utilization is expected in two years, with 0.8x utilization achievable in three years. Large orders in discussion could accelerate this timeline for which clarity is expected over the next 1-2 quarters.
- Overall, for FY26, capex is expected to be INR4b, which includes investments in heavy-duty forging lines and additions of the 10k-ton and 4k-ton press lines for forgings and machining. Utilization on the 14k-ton press line stands at ~57-58%.
- INRO.3-0.4b would be routine capex (included in total capex). The majority of new capex is focused on export-oriented non-auto large components (250kg-3T).
- The Jammu facility is awaiting government approval, with proposals filed for INR1.6b. The formation of a subsidiary has been completed but election delays have impacted the execution.

Exhibit 1: SA revenue trend



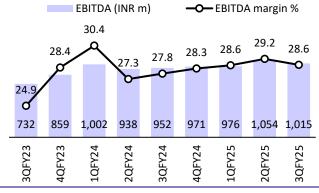
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: SA gross margin trend



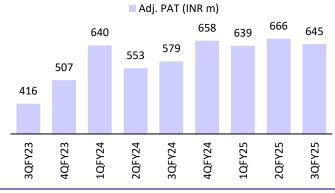
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: EBITDA and margin trends



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: Adj. PAT trend over the quarters



Source: Company, MOFSL

Valuation and view

embarked on its journey by manufacturing basic forged components, and evolved to manufacture complex and safety-critical products with tight tolerances. This transformation involved expanding capabilities in both light and heavy forgings as well as machining processes. It is the second company in India to have a 14k-ton forging press and one of the four companies to have an 8k-ton or higher press. It is a supplier to each of the top five Indian OEMs in the M&HCV industry. It has now announced a capex of INR6.5b to expand in the heavyweight forgings, which further indicates its commitment to grow in the high-margin industrials category. Transitioning from solely a forgings player, HFL has now evolved into a fully machined player, with its machining mix increasing to 88% in 9MFY25 from 53% in FY14.

- Well-diversified mix to help offset cyclical uncertainty: Over the years, HFL has successfully diversified its user industry across segments and customers. Its exports have surged to 19% in 9MFY25 from just 13% in FY23. Additionally, the contribution from its Industrials segment increased to 14% in 9MFY25 from just 4% in FY23. This diversified customer base has helped HFL reduce cyclicality to its core segments, such as CVs and tractors. It is noteworthy that despite weak demand in CVs and tractors, HFL has been able to deliver healthy revenue growth of ~13.5% YoY in FY24 due to a strong performance in the Industrials (non-tractor) segment.
- New orders to drive near-term weakness in core Autos: HFL's major revenue share is attributed to CV and Farm Equipment, constituting 38% and 32%, respectively, in 9MFY25. While the near-term demand outlook for its core division appears challenging, we believe structural drivers are in place for recovery in FY26. HFL has already secured orders from both domestic and global PV OEMs. This is expected to help drive outperformance in its core auto segments. We expect HFL's CV/tractor segment revenue to register a CAGR of 5% each over FY24-27, well ahead of our industry forecasts.
- Industrials and exports to be the key growth drivers for HFL: Following the successful installation of its 14k MT press, HFL experienced a major influx of new orders from the Industrials segment. This led to a spike in the segment's revenue contribution, which rose to 14% in 9MFY25 from just 4% in FY23. Further, due to its relatively low manufacturing costs and favorable government policies promoting localization, India is now emerging as the key beneficiary of this trend. Like its peers, HFL is also positioned as one of the beneficiaries. This is evident from its healthy share of exports in the order book. Accordingly, management expects the export contribution to rise to 30-35% by FY25 from the current level of 19%.
- Valuation & view: Given its stable performance in CVs and healthy outlook for domestic tractors, we expect HFL to continue to perform well. Further, its healthy order wins in the Industrials and Exports segments will help drive an improved mix. HFL's superior financial track record compared to its peers serves as a testament to its inherent operational efficiencies and is likely to be a key competitive advantage going forward. We expect a 13%/14%/18% CAGR in the standalone revenue/EBITDA/PAT during FY24-27E. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR1,140 (based on 28x Dec'26E EPS).

 $Motilal\ Oswal$

Exhibit 5: Our revised forecasts

(INR b)		FY25E			FY26E	
(INK D)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)	Rev	Old	Chg (%)
Net Sales	14.2	14.3	-0.6	16.6	16.7	-0.7
EBITDA Margin (%)	28.8	29.0	-20bp	29.2	29.2	0bp
PAT	2.6	2.7	-2.9	3.3	3.4	-3.1
EPS (INR)	27.9	28.7	-2.9	35.3	36.4	-3.1

Key operating indicators

Exhibit 6: Revenue mix % - Share of industrials to rise

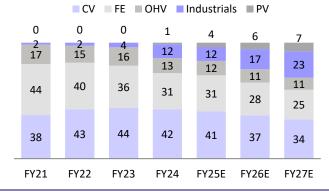
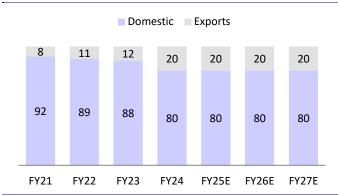


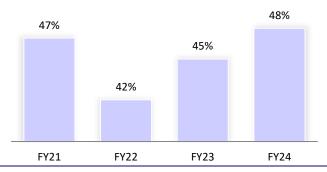
Exhibit 7: Revenue share % of exports has been growing



Source: Company, MOFSL Source: Company, MOFSL

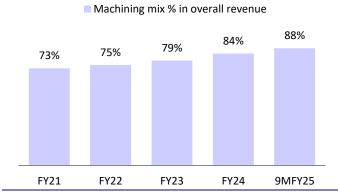
Exhibit 8: Crankshaft contribution at ~48% of revenue

■ Share % of revenue from crankshaft



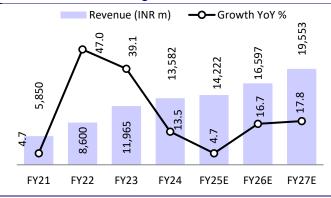
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: Focusing on increasing the machining mix



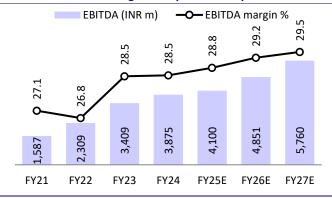
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: Revenue to register ~13% CAGR over FY24-27



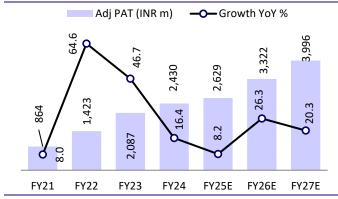
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: EBITDA margin to expand ~100bp over FY24-27



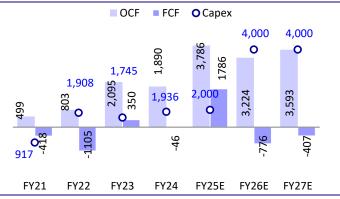
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 12: PAT to register ~18% CAGR over FY24-27



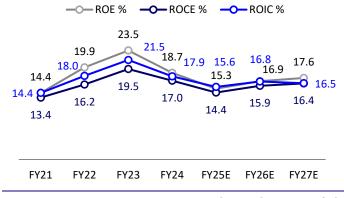
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 13: FCF/OCF expected to increase over the years



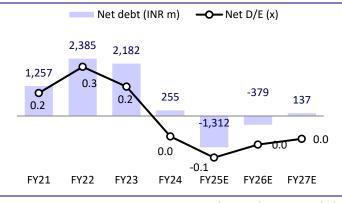
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 14: Returns to improve steadily in the coming years



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 15: Overall debt continues to decline



Source: Company, MOFSL

Financials and valuations

Appl. of Funds

Income Statement							(INR M)
Y/E March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	5,850	8,600	11,965	13,582	14,222	16,597	19,553
Change (%)	4.7	47.0	39.1	13.5	4.7	16.7	17.8
EBITDA	1,587	2,309	3,409	3,875	4,100	4,851	5,760
Margin (%)	27.1	26.8	28.5	28.5	28.8	29.2	29.5
Depreciation	358	377	542	647	766	888	1,073
EBIT	1,230	1,931	2,868	3,228	3,334	3,963	4,687
Int. and Finance Charges	118	72	125	118	67	59	79
Other Income	59	61	58	134	295	468	650
PBT after EO Exp.	1,171	1,920	2,800	3,244	3,563	4,371	5,258
Current Tax	316	471	685	748	933	1,049	1,262
Deferred Tax	-10	27	29	65.67	-	-	-
Tax Rate (%)	26.2	25.9	25.5	25.1	26.2	24.0	24.0
Reported PAT	864	1,423	2,087	2,430	2,629	3,322	3,996
Adj PAT	864	1,423	2,087	2,430	2,629	3,322	3,996
Change (%)	8	65	47	16	8	26	20
Balance Sheet							(INR M)
Y/E March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Share Capital	90	179	179	188	188	188	188
Total Reserves	6,362	7,697	9,704	15,937	18,119	20,876	24,193
Net Worth	6,452	7,876	9,883	16,125	18,307	21,065	24,381
Deferred Liabilities	202	229	230	316	316	316	316
Total Loans	1,535	2,404	2,185	1,430	1,230	1,730	2,230
Capital Employed	8,188	10,509	12,299	17,871	19,854	23,111	26,927
Gross Block	5,066	5,858	8,591	9,880	11,880	15,880	19,880
Less: Accum. Deprn.	919	1,296	1,807	2,444	3,210	4,098	5,171
Net Fixed Assets	4,147	4,562	6,784	7,437	8,671	11,782	14,710
Capital WIP	404	2,123	748	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,267
Total Investments	0	4	0	1	2,001	1,501	1,501
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	4,214	4,610	5,730	10,155	8,938	9,747	10,840
Inventory	1,216	1,840	1,696	2,242	2,062	2,406	2,834
Account Receivables	1,658	2,220	3,081	3,569	3,397	3,797	4,393
Cash and Bank Balance	278	15	3	1,174	541	608	592
Loans and Advances	1,062	535	950	3,170	2,939	2,936	3,020
Curr. Liability & Prov.	576	790	963	988	1,023	1,186	1,390
Creditors	379	442	477	555	541	631	743
Other Current Liabilities	178	321	448	388	438	511	602
Provisions	19	27	38	45	458	45	45
Net Current Assets							
Net Current Assets	3,638	3,821	4,767	9,167	7,915	8,561	9,450

10 February 2025 8

10,509

8,188

12,299

17,871

19,854

23,111

26,927

Financials and valuations

Y/E March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)							
EPS	19.3	15.9	23.3	25.8	27.9	35.3	42.4
Cash EPS	27.3	20.1	29.4	32.7	36.0	44.7	53.8
BV/Share	144.2	88.0	110.4	171.2	194.3	223.6	258.8
DPS	-	-	-	4.0	4.7	6.0	7.2
Payout (%)	-	-	-	15.5	17.0	17.0	17.0
Dividend Yield (%)	-	-	-	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7
FCF per share	-9.3	-12.4	3.9	-0.5	19.0	-8.2	-4.3
Valuation (x)							
P/E	49.8	60.5	41.3	37.3	34.5	27.3	22.7
Cash P/E	35.2	47.8	32.8	29.5	26.7	21.5	17.9
P/BV	6.7	10.9	8.7	5.6	5.0	4.3	3.7
EV/Sales	7.6	10.3	7.4	6.7	6.3	5.4	4.6
EV/EBITDA	27.9	38.3	25.9	23.5	21.8	18.6	15.8
Return Ratios (%)							
RoE	14.4	19.9	23.5	18.7	15.3	16.9	17.6
RoCE (Post-tax)	13.4	16.2	19.5	17.0	14.4	15.9	16.4
RoIC	14.4	18.0	21.5	17.9	15.6	16.8	16.5
Working Capital Ratios							
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0
Inventory (Days)	62	65	54	53	55	49	49
Debtor (Days)	95	82	81	89	89	79	76
Creditor (Days)	37	17	14	14	14	13	13
Working Capital (Days)	169	152	131	171	197	169	157
Leverage Ratio (x)							
Net Debt/Equity	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow Statement							(INR M)
Y/E March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Operating PBT	1,171	1,921	2,800	3,244	3,563	4,371	5,258
Depreciation	358	377	542	647	766	888	1,073
Interest/Div paid	-118	-72	-125	118	67	59	79
Direct Taxes Paid	-399	-431	-638	-839	-933	-1,049	-1,262
(Inc)/Dec in WC	-825	-1,088	-779	-1,230	619	-578	-905
Other items	312	96	295	-50	-295	-468	-650
CF from Operations	499	803	2,095	1,890	3,786	3,224	3,593
(inc)/dec in FA	-917	-1,908	-1,745	-1,936	-2,000	-4,000	-4,000
Free Cash Flow	-418	-1,105	350	-46	1,786	-776	-407
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	288	230	15	-2,770	-2,000	500	-
Others	41	21	5	12	295	468	650
CF from Investments	-587	-1,657	-1,725	-4,694	-3,705	-3,033	-3,350
Issue of Shares	-	-	-	3,810	-	-	_
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	351	895	-251	-755	-200	500	500
Interest Paid	-254	-68	-119	-130	-67	-59	-79
Dividend Paid	-	-	-	-116	-447	-565	-679
CF from Fin. Activity	97	825	-370	2,809	-714	-124	-258
Inc/Dec of Cash	8	-29	-0	5	-633	67	-16
Add: Beginning Balance	20	29	0	0	1,174	541	608
					E 4.4	500	

Closing Balance
E: MOFSL Estimates

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541

608

592

29

NOTES

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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