Systematix

Institutional Equities

Apollo Pipes

30 January 2024

Weak 3Q volume likely to strongly rebound in 4Q

Apollo Pipes (APOLP) large miss in 3Q PAT was on lower-than-expected volume (up 5% YoY, down 5% QoQ), realisation (down 11% YoY and 7% QoQ) and EBITDA margin (down 59bps YoY at 9.1%). Volume was impacted by below normal channel inventory due to falling trend in PVC prices. Agri (sales mix 42%) segment was more impacted than residential. After a weak 3Q, APOLP sees strong rebound in 4Q volume and end FY24 with a 25% growth. A Rs 5bn capex plan over FY24-26 will more than double capacity to 286kt (North 50%, other regions 15-20%) and will drive 30% volume CAGR. After Varanasi (land worth Rs 500mn near acquisition, production likely in 2HFY25), it further plans to acquire lands worth Rs 1bn in Maharashtra and South India in FY25. Rise in A&P spend, employee cost and other expenses on aggressive expansion plans will restrict EBITDA/ kg (FY23/26E: ~Rs 10/Rs 15). However, focus on cash sales would reduce NWC cycle to <40 days in 2-3 quarters. Considering APOLP's weak 3Q and management's focus for volumes over margins, we have cut FY24E/25E/26E earnings estimates by 17%/12%/4% mainly on lower than earlier estimated volumes. We now estimate 25%/23%/42%/68% CAGR in volume/revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY23-26E, with RoIC of ~17% in FY26E. At ~24x FY26E P/E, we maintain HOLD rating with a revised target price of Rs 717 (earlier Rs 745), based on 25x FY26E P/E. While APOLP has maintained its industry leading volume growth status, margin trajectory is the key monitorable in coming quarters.

3Q – large earnings miss on lower volume, realisation and margins: APOLP's weak 3Q revenue (down 6% YoY and 11% QoQ) was due to soft volumes (up 5% YoY, down 5% QoQ) and realisation (down 11% YoY and 7% QoQ). Gross margin increased 65bps QoQ at 29.2%; EBITDA margin contracted 59bps YoY at 9.1%. EBITDA per kg remained low at Rs 10.7 (down 12% QoQ). The 3Q volume was impacted by below normal channel inventory due to the falling trend in PVC prices. Agri (sales mix 42%) segment was more impacted than residential. A small inventory loss was booked on fall in PVC prices. Per management, Supreme's better volume growth was likely driven by project sales where Apollo is thinly present (<10% sales mix).

A Rs 5bn capex plan over FY24-26 to drive 30% volume CAGR: APOLP has planned to double its capacity to 286kt in 3-4 years. It plans to invest Rs 1.3bn in FY24E and Rs 2.1bn in FY25E. The company is close to acquire land worth ~Rs 500mn near Varanasi (UP) and is on track to start production in 2HFY25. It further plans to acquire lands worth Rs 1bn in FY25 in Maharashtra and South India. Projects in Eastern UP and Maharashtra each will entail Rs 1.35bn capex. Of the 286kt capacity planned by FY28, North will likely contribute ~50% and 15-20% in other three regions. (concall KTAs)

Pan-India aspirations, plants in all regions, VAP and better-plant utilisation to drive performance: After a weak 3Q, APOLP sees strong rebound in 4Q and aims 30% CAGR in volumes over 4 years. Plants and distribution expansion in East and West will drive pan India aspiration and reduce revenue concentration in North (70%+ currently). Rise in A&P spend (2-2.5% of revenue vs. 1.5% currently), employee cost and other expenses on aggressive growth plans will restrict EBITDA /kg (FY23/26E: ~Rs 10/Rs 15). Focus on cash sales will take NWC cycle to <40 days in 2-3 quarters.

We adjust earnings forecast after a weak 3Q; Maintain HOLD: Considering APOLP's weak 3QFY24 performance and management's focus for volumes over margins, we have cut FY24E/25E/26E earnings estimates by 17%/12%/4% mainly on lower than earlier estimated volumes. We now estimate 25%/23%/42%/68% CAGR in volume/revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY23-26E, with RoIC of ~17% in FY26E.

RESULT UPDATE Sector: Plastic Pipes Rating: HOLD CMP: Rs 698 Target Price: Rs 717

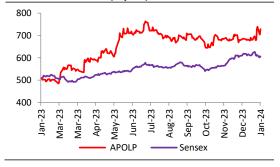
Stock Info	
Sensex/Nifty	71,942/21,738
Bloomberg	APOLP IN
Equity shares (mn)	39
52-wk High/Low	764/485
Face value	Rs 10
M-Cap	Rs 28bn/ USD 330mn
3-m avg turnover	USD 0.6mn
·	

Financial Snapsho	ot (Rs mn)		
Y/E Mar	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net sales	10,111	13,144	17,088
EBITDA	997	1,401	1,958
OPM (%)	9.9	10.7	11.5
PAT (adj.)	518	768	1,128
EPS (adj.) (Rs)	13.2	19.5	28.7
PE (x)	53.0	35.7	24.3
P/B (x)	5.5	3.3	2.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	27.9	19.0	12.8
RoE (%)	10.3	9.3	9.6
RoCE (%)	13.6	14.4	14.3
Net-D/E (x)	0.1	(0.1)	(0.2)

Shareholding Pattern (%)

	Dec'23	Sep'23	Jun'23
Promoter	50.8	50.8	50.8
- Pledged			
FII	3.2	2.7	2.6
DII	15.2	15.4	13.6
Others	30.7	31.1	33.0

Stock Performance (1-year)



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Systematix Research is also available on Bloomberg SSSL <Go>, Thomson & Reuters

3QFY24 concall takeaways

3Q volume was impacted by below normal channel inventory given falling trend in PVC prices

- Agri (sales mix 42%) segment was more impacted than residential
- Small inventory loss booked in 3Q
- Supreme's better volume growth was likely driven by project sales where Apollo is thinly present (<10% sales mix)

Business dynamics & Outlook

- Sees strong volume recovery in 4Q (~25% YoY) and end FY24 at ~25% volume growth (9M up 25% YoY)
- NWC days is expected to fall below 40 days in 2-3 quarters
- Aims 30% CAGR in volumes over 4 years; will incur >Rs 5bn capex to double capacity and reach ~290kt capacity, 210k volume, Rs 15-16 EBITDA/kg, Rs 30bn Revenue, Rs 3.5bn EBITDA and 30% RoCE
- Revenue mix from North stands at 70%; plants and distribution expansion in East and West will drive pan India aspiration
- No plans to get into non-PVC products
- Product mix: CPVC (18% vs. 12-15% a year ago); HDPE 10-12%

Capex – FY24E Rs 1.3bn, FY25E Rs 2.1bn to drive 30% volume CAGR

- Close to acquire land worth ~Rs 500mn near Varanasi (UP) and is on track to start production in 2HFY25
- Plans to acquire lands worth Rs 1bn in FY25 in Maharashtra and South India
- Working on Rs 1.35bn capex each in Eastern UP and Maharashtra
- Maharashtra plant is also likely to be operational by FY25
- Off the 286kt capacity planned by FY28, North will likely contribute ~50% with 15-20% by other three regions.

Exhibit 1: Apollo Pipes - Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	9MFY24	9MFY23	YoY (%)
Operating matrices										
Volume (tons)	18,011	18,685	21,219	19,803	18,868	5	(5)	59,890	47,882	25
Realisation (Rs /kg)	131	135	123	126	117	(11)	(7)	122	138	(12)
EBITDA (Rs /kg)	8.9	15.7	12.3	12.2	10.7	20	(12)	12	8	46
P&L										
Total Income	2,367	2,519	2,603	2,495	2,216	(6)	(11)	7,314	6,626	10
Raw material costs	1,794	1,810	1,904	1,782	1,569	(13)	(12)	5,255	5,118	3
Employee costs	140	124	152	164	154	10	(6)	471	393	20
Other expenses	271	292	285	306	291	7	(5)	883	728	21
EBITDA	161	294	262	241	201	25	(17)	704	386	82
Depreciation	74	76	67	72	75	1	4	214	208	3
Finance costs	21	24	15	7	14	(33)	101	36	64	(44)
PBT	66	201	192	175	123	86	(30)	490	126	289
Tax	17	51	52	46	33	86	(29)	131	37	254
PAT	49	150	139	129	91	87	(30)	359	89	304
EPS (Rs)	1.2	3.8	3.5	3.3	2.3	87	(30)	9.1	2.3	304
As % Total Income						YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps)			YoY (bps)
Gross margin	24.2	28.2	26.9	28.5	29.2	502	65	28.1	22.8	539
Employee costs	5.9	4.9	5.8	6.6	7.0	104	37	6.4	5.9	50
Other expenses	11.5	11.6	11.0	12.3	13.1	168	87	12.1	11.0	108
EBITDA margin	6.8	11.7	10.1	9.7	9.1	229	(59)	9.6	5.8	380
Depreciation	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.4	25	48	2.9	3.1	(22)
Finance costs	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.6	(25)	35	0.5	1.0	(48)
Other income	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	48	(3)	0.5	0.2	30
PBT	2.8	8.0	7.4	7.0	5.6	277	(146)	6.7	1.9	480
Effective tax rate	26.4	25.4	27.4	26.2	26.4	(7)	13	26.7	29.4	(269)
PAT	2.1	6.0	5.3	5.2	4.1	204	(108)	4.9	1.3	357

Exhibit 2: Volume growth - quarterly trend

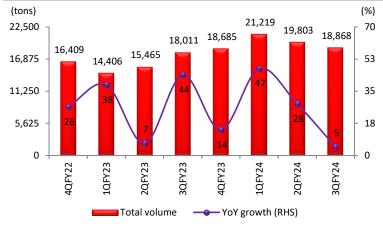


Exhibit 3: Realisation growth - quarterly trend

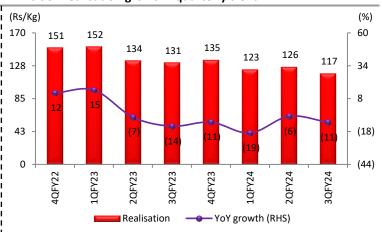
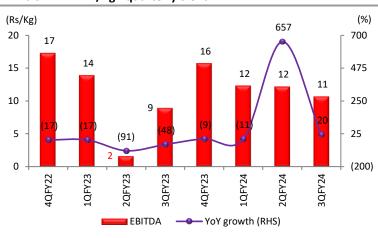




Exhibit 5: EBITDA margin - quarterly trend



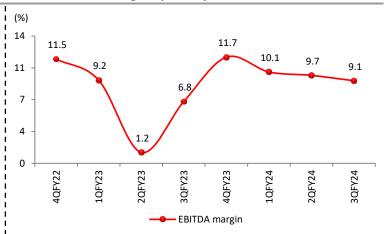
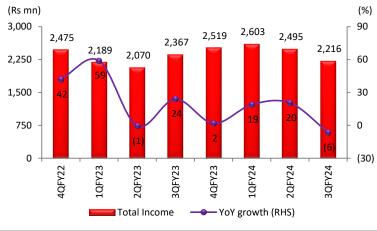


Exhibit 6: Revenue growth - quarterly trend

Exhibit 7: Expenses as percentage of income – quarterly trend



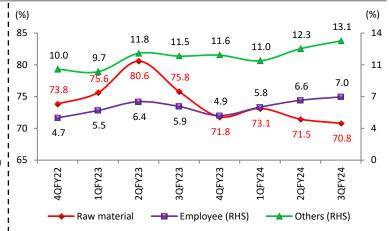


Exhibit 8: EBITDA, PAT, margin – quarterly trends

Exhibit 9: Earnings growth - quarterly trend

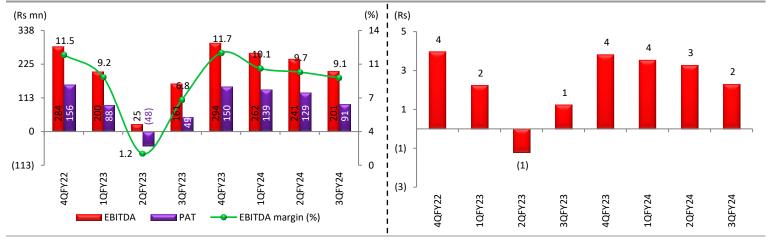


Exhibit 10: Capacity and Utilisation - annual trend

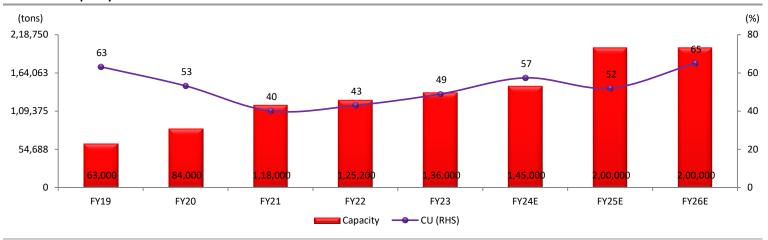


Exhibit 11: Volume growth - annual trend

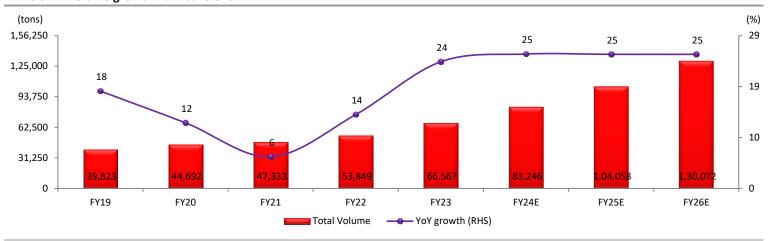


Exhibit 12: Realisation growth - annual trend

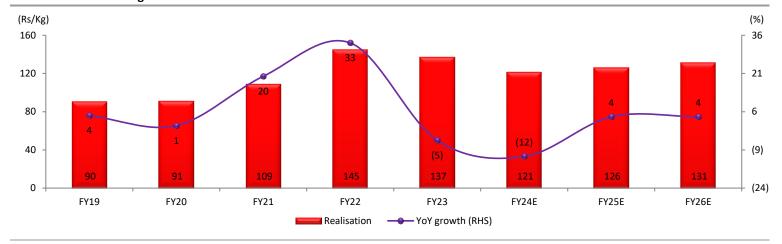


Exhibit 13: EBITDA/Kg and margin - quarterly trend

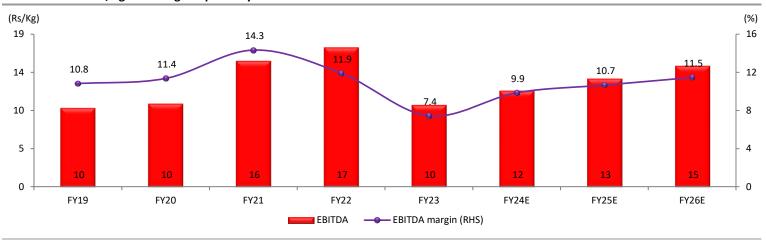


Exhibit 14: Income - Annual growth trend

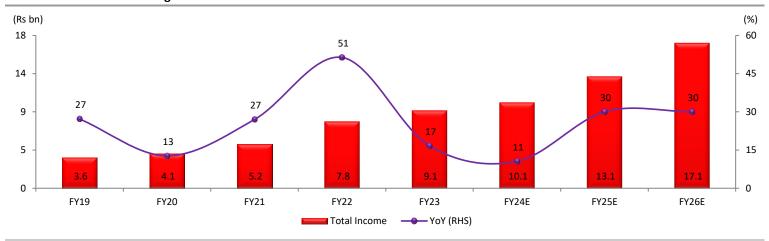
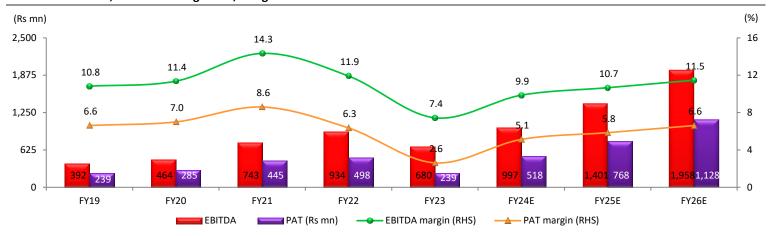


Exhibit 15: EBITDA, PAT - Annual growth, margin trends



Valuation and View

India's fastest-growing plastic pipes company, APOLP, benefits from its association with APL Apollo Tubes, which enjoys strong brand recall and a vast distribution network. Regular capacity additions have enabled APOLP to add SKUs to its existing product lines, as also expand into newer categories. We laud the company's aspiration to emerge as a leading pan-India player in the pipes and fittings industry.

Considering APOLP's weak 3Q and management's focus on volumes over margins, we have cut FY24E/25E/26E earnings estimates by 17%/12%/4% mainly on lower than earlier estimated volumes. We now estimate 25%/23%/42%/68% CAGR in volume/revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY23-26E, with RoIC of ~17% in FY26E.

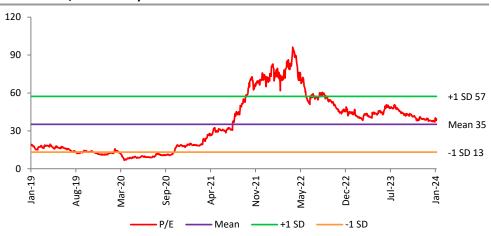
At \sim 24x FY26E P/E, we maintain HOLD rating with a revised target price of Rs 717 (earlier Rs 745), based on 25x FY26E P/E. While APOLP has maintained its industry leading volume growth status, margin trajectory is the key monitorable in coming quarters.

Exhibit 16: Change in estimates

(Da)	Old estimates			New estimates			% Var		
(Rs mn)	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Total Income	10,906	14,177	18,431	10,111	13,144	17,088	(7)	(7)	(7)
EBITDA	1,121	1,528	2,023	997	1,401	1,958	(11)	(8)	(3)
EBITDA margin (%)	10.3	10.8	11.0	9.9	10.7	11.5			
PAT	621	877	1,172	518	768	1,128	(17)	(12)	(4)
EPS	15.8	22.3	29.8	13.2	19.5	28.7	(17)	(12)	(4)

Source: Systematix Institutional Research

Exhibit 17: P/E band - 1-year-forward and standard deviation



Source: BSE, Systematix Institutional Research

Risks

- Slowdown in real-estate activities and the economy
- An unfavourable monsoon and high product prices
- Intensifying competition from large, organised and small regional players
- Price volatility in PVC

FINANCIALS

Profit & Loss Statement

YE: Mar (Rs mn) FY22 FY23 FY24E FY25E FY26E Net revenues (Rs mn) 7,841 9,145 10,111 13,144 17,088 Growth (%) 51 17 11 30 30 Direct costs 5,732 6,928 7,256 9,366 12,091 Gross Margin (%) 26.9 24.2 28.2 28.7 29.2 SG&A 1,175 1,537 1,859 2,377 3,038 EBITDA 934 680 997 1,401 1,958 EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8<						
Growth (%) 51 17 11 30 30 Direct costs 5,732 6,928 7,256 9,366 12,091 Gross Margin (%) 26.9 24.2 28.2 28.7 29.2 SG&A 1,175 1,537 1,859 2,377 3,038 EBITDA 934 680 997 1,401 1,958 EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 <	YE: Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Direct costs 5,732 6,928 7,256 9,366 12,091 Gross Margin (%) 26.9 24.2 28.2 28.7 29.2 SG&A 1,175 1,537 1,859 2,377 3,038 EBITDA 934 680 997 1,401 1,958 EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Net revenues (Rs mn)	7,841	9,145	10,111	13,144	17,088
Gross Margin (%) 26.9 24.2 28.2 28.7 29.2 SG&A 1,175 1,537 1,859 2,377 3,038 EBITDA 934 680 997 1,401 1,958 EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Growth (%)	51	17	11	30	30
SG&A 1,175 1,537 1,859 2,377 3,038 EBITDA 934 680 997 1,401 1,958 EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Direct costs	5,732	6,928	7,256	9,366	12,091
EBITDA 934 680 997 1,401 1,958 EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Gross Margin (%)	26.9	24.2	28.2	28.7	29.2
EBITDA margins (%) 11.9 7.4 9.9 10.7 11.5 - Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	SG&A	1,175	1,537	1,859	2,377	3,038
- Depreciation 257 284 291 381 501 Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 Adjusted income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	EBITDA	934	680	997	1,401	1,958
Other income 38 20 48 79 120 Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 Adjusted income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	EBITDA margins (%)	11.9	7.4	9.9	10.7	11.5
Interest Exp 43 89 51 56 56 PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities)	- Depreciation	257	284	291	381	501
PBT 672 327 703 1,043 1,521 Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - <	Other income	38	20	48	79	120
Effective tax rate (%) 25.9 26.9 26.3 26.3 25.8 + Associates/(Minorities) - - - - - - - Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 Adjusted income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Interest Exp	43	89	51	56	56
+ Associates/(Minorities)	PBT	672	327	703	1,043	1,521
Net Income 498 239 518 768 1,128 Adjusted income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Effective tax rate (%)	25.9	26.9	26.3	26.3	25.8
Adjusted income 498 239 518 768 1,128 WANS 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	+ Associates/(Minorities)	-	-	-	-	-
WANS 39 39 39 39 39 39 FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Net Income	498	239	518	768	1,128
FDEPS (Rs/share) 12.7 6.1 13.2 19.5 28.7	Adjusted income	498	239	518	768	1,128
	WANS	39	39	39	39	39
FDEPS growth (%) 12 (52) 116 48 47	FDEPS (Rs/share)	12.7	6.1	13.2	19.5	28.7
	FDEPS growth (%)	12	(52)	116	48	47

Balance Sheet

Dalance Sticet					
YE: Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Share capital	393	393	393	393	393
Net worth	4,053	4,572	5,031	8,220	11,731
Total debt	387	437	957	977	997
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	-
DT Liability/(Asset)	14	44	43	42	41
Capital Employed	4,454	5,053	6,030	9,239	12,768
Net tangible assets	2,153	2,597	3,556	5,175	6,673
Net Intangible assets	211	210	210	210	210
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	-
CWIP	71	56	46	36	26
Investments (Strategic)	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Financial)	43	401	401	401	401
Current Assets	2,543	3,008	3,090	3,797	4,702
Cash	418	348	190	1,430	3,005
Current Liabilities	985	1,567	1,462	1,808	2,248
Working capital	1,558	1,442	1,628	1,988	2,454
Capital Deployed	4,454	5,053	6,030	9,239	12,768
Contingent Liabilities	392	307			

Cash Flow

YE: Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EBIT (before other incom	e) 681	401	706	1,043	1,521
+ Non-cash items	257	284	291	381	501
OCF before WC	938	685	997	1,424	2,022
- Incr./(decr.) in WC	417	(146)	186	360	466
Others including taxes	158	144	187	276	393
Operating cash-flow	363	687	624	788	1,163
- Capex	405	712	1,240	1,990	1,990
Free cash-flow	(41)	(25)	(616)	(1,202)	(827)
Acquisitions					
- Dividend	-	39	59	79	118
+ Equity raised	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
+ Debt raised	(256)	51	520	20	20
- Fin Investments	14	(3)	-	-	-
- Misc. Items (CFI + CFF)	(7)	60	3	-	-
Net cash-flow	(304)	(70)	(158)	1,239	1,575

Ratios @ Rs 698

Ratios @ KS 698					
YE: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
P/E (x)	55.2	114.8	53.0	35.7	24.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	29.3	39.9	27.9	19.0	12.8
EV/sales (x)	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.0	1.5
P/B (x)	6.8	6.0	5.5	3.3	2.3
RoE (%)	12.3	5.2	10.3	9.3	9.6
RoCE (%)	16.6	8.8	13.6	14.4	14.3
ROIC	18.5	9.2	14.1	15.1	16.7
DPS (Rs per share)	1.0	0.6	1.5	2.0	3.0
Dividend yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
Dividend payout (%)	7.9	9.9	11.4	10.2	10.5
Net debt/equity (x)	(0.0)	(0.1)	0.1	(0.1)	(0.2)
Receivables (days)	33	26	25	24	23
Inventory (days)	61	68	63	63	63
Payables (days)	26	47	37	37	37
CFO:PAT (%)	73	287	121	103	103

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