

# Castrol India HOLD

# Volume Lead Growth Derives Steady Performance

# **Summary**

Castrol India's revenue and PAT was in-line with our expectations. Castrol's top-line increased by 7% YoY and by 5% QoQ to Rs14.2bn. Sales volume grew 8.6% YoY and 6.8% QoQ, driven by strong volume growth in the low priced premium portfolio. The Personal Mobility and CVs reported double digit volume growth in Q1CY25. EBITDA increased by 5% YoY to Rs3.1bn, however the EBITDA margin contracted by 55bps YoY to 21.6% (down 615bps QoQ), primarily due to higher advertisement spends on Castrol active campaign. Management will be focusing on expanding the distribution network across rural and urban India. We value the stock at a PER of 20x CY26E EPS to derive a target price of Rs223 (Rs219 earlier), and we downgrade our rating from BUY to HOLD on the stock due to recent rally in the stock price limiting the upside.

# **Key Highlights and Investment Rationale**

- Realization flattish: Castrol's realization decreased by 1.2% YoY to Rs226/litre. Similarly, EBITDA per litre decreased by 3.7% YoY to Rs49/litre, driven by an increase in advertisement spends and additional Rs 140mn investment in Joint Business Loyalty program with OEM partners.
- Other updates: Castrol expanded its service and maintenance network in India during Q1CY25, with a special focus on rural. The company has crossed 40,000 workshop assets and retail outlets in the rural areas. Additionally, the company broadened its national footprint, exceeding 148,000 outlets, strengthening its distribution network.
- **Downgrade to HOLD:** Strong free cash flow generation, minimal capital requirements, high ROEs and robust payouts make Castrol an attractive investment. However, rich valuations limit potential upside, so we await a better entry point in the stock.

TP F	Rs <b>223</b>
CMP F	Rs203
Potential upside/downside	10%
Previous Rating	BUY

Price Performance (%)							
	-1m	-3m	-12m				
Absolute	0.0	15.7	(4.4)				
Rel to Sensey	(3.7)	10.8	(11 9)				

V/s Consensus		
EPS (Rs)	CY25E	CY26E
IDBI Capital	10	11
Consensus	11	10
% difference	(6.8)	10.7

# Key Stock Data

Rey Stock Butu	
Bloomberg / Reuters	CSTRL IN / CAST.BC
Sector	Lubricants
Shares o/s (mn)	989
Market cap. (Rs mn)	200,891
3-m daily avg Trd value	e (Rs mn) 6.0
52-week high / low	Rs284 / 163
Sensex / Nifty	80,288 / 24,336

Shareholding Pattern (%)	
Promoters	51.0
FII	10.6
DII	14.6
Public	23.8

## **Financial snapshot**

(Rs mn)

-					
Year	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25E	CY26E
Revenue	47,745	50,746	53,649	57,295	61,362
Change (yoy, %)	14	6	6	7	7
EBITDA	11,111	12,024	12,782	13,865	15,095
Change (yoy, %)	4	8	6	8	9
EBITDA Margin(%)	23.3	23.7	23.8	24.2	24.6
Adj. PAT	8,152	8,641	9,272	10,214	11,051
EPS (Rs)	8	9	9	10	11
Change (yoy, %)	7.5	6.0	7.3	10.2	8.2
PE(x)	24.6	23.2	21.7	19.7	18.2
Dividend Yield (%)	3.4	3.7	6.4	6.9	7.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.7	15.3	14.2	13.3	12.5
RoE (%)	46.2	43.1	42.1	48.7	64.0
RoCE (%)	58.3	55.4	53.6	60.9	80.6

Source: IDBI Capital Research

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**Exhibit 1: Quarterly Snapshot** 

(Rs mn)	Q1CY25	Q4CY24	% QoQ	Q1CY24	% YoY
Total Revenues	14,220	13,539	5.0	13,252	7.3
Total expenditure	11,146	9,780	14.0	10,315	8.1
EBIDTA	3,074	3,759	(18.2)	2,937	4.6
EBITDA margin (%)	21.6%	27.8%	-615bps	22.2%	-55bps
Depreciation and amortization	246	254	(3.4)	237	3.5
Interest costs	23	27	(13.1)	21	9.9
Other income	322	232	39.1	241	33.6
PBT	3,127	3,709	(15.7)	2,921	7.1
Tax	793	995	(20.4)	758	4.6
Net profit	2,335	2,714	(14.0)	2,162	8.0
EPS (Rs)	2.4	2.7	(14.0)	2.2	8.0

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

**Exhibit 2: Actual vs. Estimates** 

(Rs mn)	Q4CY24E	Q4CY24A	Variance (%)
Total Revenues	13,994	14,220	1.6
EBITDA	3,215	3,074	(4.4)
EBITDA margin (%)	23.0%	21.6%	-136bps
Net profit	2,329	2,335	0.2
EPS	2.4	2.4	0.2

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research



Exhibit 3: Volumes increased by 9% YoY

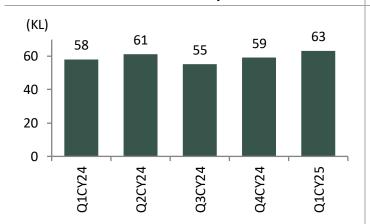
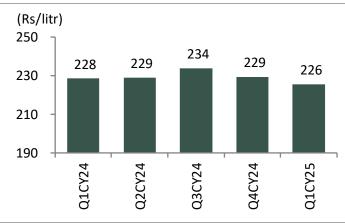


Exhibit 4: Realization down by 1.2% YoY



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

**Exhibit 5: Change in estimates** 

		CY25E		CY26E		
	Old	New	(%) Chg	Old	New	(%) Chg
Revenue (Rs bn)	57,540	57,295	-0.4	61,626	61,362	-0.4
EBITDA (Rs bn)	13,752	13,865	0.8	14,790	15,095	2.1
EBITDA margin (%)	23.9	24.2	30.0	24.0	24.6	60.0
Adj. Net profit (Rs bn)	10,129	10,214	0.8	10,823	11,051	2.1
Adj. EPS (Rs)	10.24	10.3	0.8	10.9	11.2	2.1

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research



# **Conference call takeaways**

## **Volume and Market Strategy**

- Overall volumes grew 8% in Q1 2025 vs Q1 2024.
- Delivered over 63 million litres of volume.
- Automotive segment (85% of business) was the primary driver, with growth seen across commercial vehicles, cars, and two-wheelers.
- Double-digit volume growth in commercial vehicles and cars. Higher single-digit volume growth in twowheeler business. Industrial segment saw single-digit growth and is building momentum.

### **Strategic Initiatives & Network Expansion**

- Pan India network expanded to approximately 1,48,000 outlets.
- Rural reach crossed 40,000 workshop assets and retail outlets.
- Double-digit growth in rural areas at similar profitability.
- Re-launched Castrol Activ with a refreshed pack and campaign featuring Shah Rukh Khan, reaching over 220 million consumers.
- Signed supply agreement with Triumph for Castrol POWER1.
- Industrial CMS business added a major gearbox manufacturer.
- Auto care products seeing increased adoption across over 60,000 outlets and e-commerce; a largely unbranded INR2,500 crore market where Castrol is in the seeding stage, expecting significant growth and accretive P&L.

#### **Future Focus & Outlook**

- Cautiously optimistic about the ongoing fiscal year.
- Strategy includes delivering high-quality products, expanding rural footprint with innovative services, and making Castrol more accessible and affordable.
- Committed to driving growth with execution excellence.



# **Financial Summary**

# **Profit & Loss Account**

(Rs	m	n١

Year-end: March	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25E	CY26E
Net sales	41,920	47,745	50,746	53,649	57,295	61,362
Change (yoy, %)	40	14	6	6	7	7
Operating expenses	(31,261)	(36,634)	(38,722)	(40,867)	(43,429)	(46,267)
EBITDA	10,659	11,111	12,024	12,782	13,865	15,095
Change (yoy, %)	31	4.2	8	6	8	9
Margin (%)	25.4	23.3	23.7	23.8	24.2	24.6
Depreciation	(827)	(814)	(924)	(998)	(1,099)	(1,182)
EBIT	9,832	10,297	11,100	11,784	12,767	13,914
Interest paid	(24)	(40)	(75)	(94)	(90)	(99)
Other income	485	670	787	886	979	959
Pre-tax profit	10,293	10,928	11,811	12,576	13,655	14,774
Tax	(2,711)	(2,776)	(3,170)	(3,304)	(3,441)	(3,723)
Effective tax rate (%)	26.3	25.4	26.8	26.3	25.2	25.2
Net profit	7,582	8,152	8,641	9,272	10,214	11,051
Exceptional items	30.1	7.5	6.0	7.3	10.2	8.2
Adjusted net profit	7.7	8.2	8.7	9.4	10.3	11.2
Change (yoy, %)	6.0	7.0	7.5	13.0	14.0	15.0
EPS	78.3	84.9	85.8	138.7	136	134
Dividend per share	7,582	8,152	8,641	9,272	10,214	11,051
Dividend Payout (%)	30.1	7.5	6.0	7.3	10.2	8.2



Balance Sheet						(Rs mn)
Year-end: March	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25E	CY26E
Shareholders' funds	16,456	18,861	21,217	22,784	19,150	15,364
Share capital	4,946	4,946	4,946	4,946	4,946	4,946
Reserves & surplus	11,510	13,915	16,271	17,838	14,205	10,419
Total Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curr Liab & prov	10,915	11,829	12,982	13,569	16,221	17,210
Current liabilities	10,584	11,489	12,641	13,229	15,881	16,870
Provisions	331	340	342	340	340	340
Total liabilities	10,584	11,829	12,982	13,569	16,221	17,210
Total equity & liabilities	27,040	30,690	34,200	36,353	35,371	32,575
Net fixed assets	2,512	3,216	3,672	3,789	3,990	4,109
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other non-curr assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets	24,528	27,475	30,528	32,564	31,381	28,466
Inventories	4,917	5,344	5,329	5,242	6,542	6,881
Sundry Debtors	3,117	3,504	4,228	4,377	4,321	4,861
Cash and Bank	13,002	15,427	16,873	18,865	16,437	12,644
Other Current Asset	1,375	3,200	4,097	4,080	4,080	4,080
Total assets	27,040	30,690	34,200	36,353	35,371	32,575



Cash Flow Statement						(Rs mn
Year-end: March	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25E	CY26E
Pre-tax profit	10,293	10,928	11,811	12,576	13,655	14,774
Depreciation	827	814	924	998	1,099	1,182
Tax paid	(2,798)	(2,740)	(3,185)	(3,141)	(3,441)	(3,723)
Chg in working capital	(1,827)	304	(706)	369	1,408	111
Other operating activities	(194)	(150)	(313)	(361)	(889)	(860)
Cash flow from operations (a)	6,302	9,156	8,530	10,441	11,832	11,483
Capital expenditure	(832)	(1,097)	(916)	(927)	(1,300)	(1,300)
Chg in investments	(380)	1,269	(2,054)	(2,400)	-	-
Other investing activities	382	448	456	658	979	959
Cash flow from investing (b)	(831)	620	(2,513)	(2,669)	(321)	(341)
Equity raised/(repaid)	<u>-</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Debt raised/(repaid)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend (incl. tax)	(5,425)	(5,935)	(6,429)	(7,913)	(13,848)	(14,837)
Chg in minorities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other financing activities	(151)	(140)	(209)	(278)	(90)	(99)
Cash flow from financing (c)	(5,576)	(6,075)	(6,638)	(8,191)	(13,938)	(14,936)
Net chg in cash (a+b+c)	(104)	3,701	(621)	(419)	(2,427)	(3,793)



# **Financial Ratios**

Year-end: March	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25E	CY26E
Book Value (Rs)	16.6	19.1	21	23	19	16
Adj EPS (Rs)	7.7	8.2	8.7	9.4	10.3	11.2
Adj EPS growth (%)	30.1	7.5	6	7	10	8
EBITDA margin (%)	25.4	23.3	23.7	23.8	24.2	24.6
Pre-tax margin (%)	24.6	22.9	23.3	23.4	23.8	24.1
Net Debt/Equity (x)	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.8
ROCE (%)	64.3	58.3	55	54	61	81
ROE (%)	49.6	46.2	43	42	49	64
DuPont Analysis						
Asset turnover (x)	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8
Leverage factor (x)	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.0
Net margin (%)	18.1	17.1	17.0	17.3	17.8	18.0
Working Capital & Liquidity ratio						
Inventory days	42.8	41	38	36	42	41
Receivable days	27.1	27	30	30	28	29
Payable days	72	68	67	63	81	80

# **Valuations**

Year-end: March	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25E	CY26E
PER (x)	26.5	24.6	23.2	21.7	19.7	18.2
Price/Book value (x)	12.2	10.6	9.5	8.8	10.5	13.1
EV/Net sales (x)	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.6	16.7	15.3	14.2	13.3	12.5
Dividend Yield (%)	3.0	3.4	3.7	6.4	6.9	7.4

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research



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**Key to Ratings Stocks:** 

BUY: 15%+; HOLD: -5% to 15%; SELL: -5% and below.

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