

30 June 2025

India | Equity Research | Management meet update

Honasa Consumer

Consumer Staples & Discretionary

Honasa Day: Redefining strategy – sharper focus and stronger execution

We hosted Honasa Day, which featured presentations from Varun Alagh (Co-founder & CEO), Ghazal Alagh (Co-founder & CIO) and team. Given the management conviction, the evolution in the business strategy and the strength in execution, we reiterate our high conviction positive stance on Honasa. Takeaways: 1) Redefining strategy – balanced focus between 'where to play' and 'how to play'. Earlier strategy enabled initial scale-up of brands digitally. The rebalancing should promote sustainable growth ahead. 2) It shall continue to disrupt categories with innovative products/formats (serums, micro-needle serums) and take advantage as a first mover. 3) Utilising Al/LLMs to analyse real-time digital trends, enabling faster product development and targeted customised marketing.

4) Corrective actions to improve GT execution are moving to direct distributors, reducing channel inventory, focusing on hero SKUs, and enforcing stricter cash collection norms to improve and measure channel health. 5) Continue to invest in superior formulations, blind testing against competitors, and premium product launches. Maintain **BUY**.

Honasa Day takeaways

- Growth in the beauty and personal care (BPC) category has accelerated over the past decade, driven by a shift from family-based products to personalised products tailored for individual needs.
- Honasa is leading in active-based skincare through The Derma Co (TDC), which has reached INR 5bn in revenue with mid-single-digit margins.
- Additionally, Honasa is successfully scaling up acquired brands. Since acquisition, Dr. Sheth's turnover has increased from INR 50mn to INR 2bn ARR. BBlunt's turnover increased from INR 250mn to INR 1bn ARR, which was stagnant for a long period of time in the past.
- Honasa has disrupted traditional categories. In suncare, Honasa holds a 20% market share in the online channel driven by innovative product formats such as gel-based sunscreens suited to Indian climate and skintype-specific formulations. The category now contributes over INR 5bn in revenue.

Financial Summary

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Net Revenue	19,199	20,669	23,434	27,677
EBITDA	1,371	685	1,506	2,636
EBITDA Margin (%)	7.1	3.3	6.4	9.5
Net Profit	1,118	727	1,484	2,475
EPS (INR)	3.5	2.2	4.6	7.6
EPS % Chg YoY	1,155.3	(34.9)	104.2	66.8
P/E (x)	89.8	139.6	68.4	41.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	67.6	136.0	62.1	35.5
RoCE (%)	9.4	1.7	6.0	11.0
RoE (%)	13.1	6.4	11.8	17.0

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Market Data

98bn
1,129mn
HONASA IN
HONA.BO
547 /190
42.0
3.9

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	35.1	15.8	(29.5)
Relative to Sensex	27.2	10.2	(35.8)

ESG Score	2023	2024	Change
ESG score	NA	52.3	NA
Environment	NA	32.1	NA
Social	NA	41.7	NA
Governance	NA	75.7	NA

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher score indicating higher ESG disclosures.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

Previous Reports

23-05-2025: <u>Q4FY25 results review</u> 13-02-2025: <u>Q3FY25 results review</u>



- In face serums, Honasa was a first mover, disrupting the traditional cream segment. Serums offer better efficacy due to faster absorption and deeper skin penetration. Honasa holds a mid-teen market share online and is now expanding offline.
- FY25 performance was impacted by issues in Mamaearth and offline distribution, which are now being addressed.
- It has redefined strategy by focusing on 'how to play' and 'where to play'. Going forward, Honasa would focus on select core categories, where it has a competitive advantage face wash, shampoo, sunscreen, moisturizer, face serums, lipsticks and baby care. Honasa is focusing on large consumer partitions within focus categories such as anti-dandruff in shampoos and oil control in face-wash, where it previously did not have a play.
- Honasa has taken corrective actions to improve GT execution: 1) Transitioned from super-stockists to direct distributors in the top-75 cities. 2) Reduced channel inventory and focused on hero SKUs. 3) Tightened inventory management at all distribution levels. 4) Strengthened financial discipline by tracking cash collections, reducing distributor credit from 45 to 30 days. Honasa also implemented DMS and SFA, which gives full visibility of secondary sales, schemes to outlets, and transparency in distributor claims.
- The company is also refreshing its marketing playbook by emphasising datadriven targeting, media mix optimisation, and vernacular content. A&P spend shall remain elevated in the short term, as the company sharpens its consumer engagement.
- On talent, it would prioritise a capability and growth mindset over experience. Moreover, only top leaders would be given ESOPs based on the milestones.
- Honasa aims to double FMCG growth over the long term. Aspiration is to achieve INR 50bn ARR revenue by 2030 with Mamaearth's turnover of INR 20bn, TDC's INR 10bn and two other brands' INR 5bn each. Honasa expects margin to be in double digits in 4–5 years' time and high teens in 7–8 years.
- Hero brands: Honasa has clearly identified products that could contribute INR 1–
 2.5bn of revenue each. In face wash rice, Ubtan and salicylic are hero products.
 Rice and Ubtan are INR 1bn products each. Ubtan is still growing in double digits.
- Honasa uses LLMs (Large Language Models) to identify emerging trends from platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram.
- Analysis of such data helps the company identify the categories (sunscreen, face wash, hair care, etc) and product/ingredients consumers are looking for.
- The company now receives consumer interest data more frequently than before.
- Based on the analysis of these data, Honasa can launch products that give it a first-mover edge.
- Al is also used for personalised marketing, including customised video reminders for cart abandonment.
- The company does extensive blind test of its products with competitors.
- Products are tested on three main segments sensory experience (texture, fragrance, etc.), immediate effects and long-term benefits.
- Honasa now only launches products that outperform competitors based on lab testing.



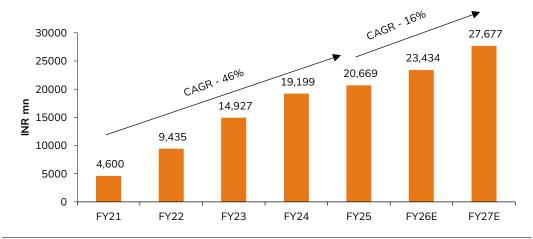
- 80% of formulations are currently proprietary, with a goal to reach 100%.
- Communication has improved—e.g., renaming 'Onion Shampoo' to 'Anti Hair Fall Shampoo' for clearer consumer value.
- Honasa is also premiumising its portfolio with higher-efficacy, high-science products (e.g., micro-needle face serum, PDRN) launched exclusively online.

Valuations and risks

We expect revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGRs of 16/96/85 (%) over FY25-27E. Maintain **BUY** with a DCF-based target price of INR 400. At our TP, the stock trades at 53x FY27E EPS.

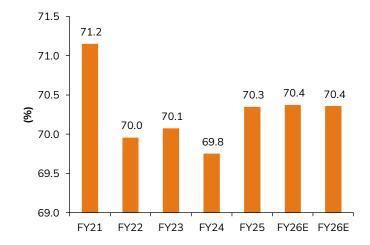
Key risks: 1) Heightened competition; 2) execution miss; 3) low success in scale-up of new brands; and 4) continued slowdown in Mamaearth.

Exhibit 1: Revenue growth



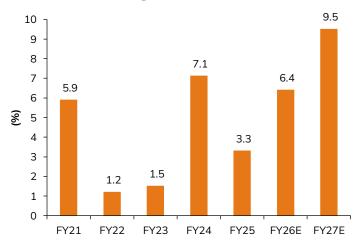
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 2: Gross margin



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

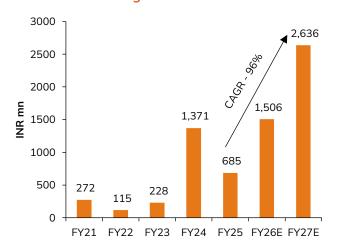
Exhibit 3: EBITDA margin



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

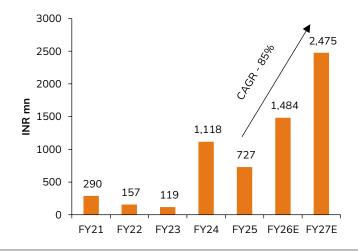


Exhibit 4: EBITDA and growth rates



Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 5: PAT and growth rates



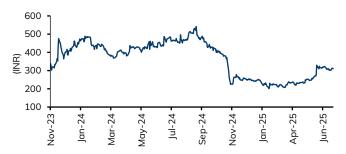
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 6: Shareholding pattern

%	Sep'24	Dec'24	Mar'25
Promoters	35.0	35.0	35.0
Institutional investors	37.4	34.0	34.1
MFs and others	3.9	3.1	2.7
Fls/Banks	0.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance	8.6	9.5	9.1
FIIs	24.9	21.4	22.3
Others	27.6	31.0	30.9

Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

Exhibit 7: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research



Financial Summary

Exhibit 8: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	19,199	20,669	23,434	27,677
Operating Expenses	17,828	19,984	21,928	25,041
EBITDA	1,371	685	1,506	2,636
EBITDA Margin (%)	7.1	3.3	6.4	9.5
Depreciation & Amortization	306	450	494	496
EBIT	1,065	235	1,012	2,140
Interest expenditure	90	126	136	143
Other Non-operating				
Income	-	-	-	-
Recurring PBT	1,471	896	1,989	3,317
Profit / (Loss) from				
Associates	-	_	-	-
Less: Taxes	366	169	505	843
PAT	1,105	727	1,484	2,475
Less: Minority Interest	12	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	-	-	-	-
Net Income (Reported)	1,105	727	1,484	2,475
Net Income (Adjusted)	1,118	727	1,484	2,475

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 9: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total Current Assets	11,283	10,115	11,939	14,731
of which cash & cash eqv.	7,774	6,361	7,682	9,703
Total Current Liabilities & Provisions	3,954	4,631	5,251	6,202
Net Current Assets	7,329	5,484	6,688	8,529
Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Fixed Assets	1,217	1,284	954	651
ROU Assets	1,243	1,210	1,210	1,210
Capital Work-in-Progress	5	1	1	1
Total Intangible Assets	528	528	528	528
Long Term Loans & Advances	2,008	4,654	5,277	6,232
Deferred Tax assets	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	12,348	13,175	14,673	17,170
Liabilities				
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Deferred Tax Liability	13	(95)	(95)	(95)
Provisions	73	108	122	144
Other Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Equity Share Capital	3,242	3,252	3,252	3,252
Reserves & Surplus	7,710	8,546	10,030	12,505
Total Net Worth	10,953	11,798	13,282	15,757
Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	12,348	13,175	14,673	17,170

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 10: Quarterly trend

(INR mn, year ending March)

	Jun 24	Sep 24	Dec 24	Mar 25
Net Sales	5,541	4,618	5,175	5,336
% growth (YOY)	19.3	(6.9)	6.0	13.3
EBITDA	461	(307)	261	270
Margin %	8.3	(6.6)	5.0	5.1
Other Income	187	200	192	208
Extraordinaries	-	-	-	-
Adjusted Net Profit	403	(186)	260	250

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 11: Cashflow statement

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Operating Cashflow	2,353	1,022	508	1,037
Working Capital Changes	1,025	(50)	(493)	(756)
Capital Commitments	(4,599)	(1,817)	(164)	(194)
Free Cashflow	(2,246)	(795)	344	843
Other investing cashflow	(99)	365	1,113	1,320
Cashflow from Investing Activities	(4,698)	(1,451)	949	1,127
Issue of Share Capital	3,633	48	-	-
Interest Cost	(8)	(8)	(136)	(143)
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Dividend paid	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from Financing Activities	3,369	(311)	(136)	(143)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	1,024	(741)	1,321	2,021
Closing cash & balance	1,704	4,116	4,634	6,655

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 12: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	3.4	2.2	4.6	7.6
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	3.5	2.2	4.6	7.6
Cash EPS	4.4	3.6	6.1	9.1
Dividend per share (DPS)	-	-	-	-
Book Value per share (BV)	34.0	36.3	40.8	48.5
Dividend Payout (%)	-	-	-	-
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	28.6	7.7	13.4	18.1
EBITDA	502.2	(50.0)	119.8	75.0
EPS (INR)	1,155.3	(34.9)	104.2	66.8
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	89.8	139.6	68.4	41.0
P/CEPS	70.5	86.2	51.3	34.1
P/BV	9.2	8.6	7.6	6.4
EV / EBITDA	67.6	136.6	62.1	35.5
P / Sales	5.2	4.9	4.3	3.6
Dividend Yield (%)	-	-	-	-
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	69.8	70.3	70.4	70.4
EBITDA Margins (%)	7.1	3.3	6.4	9.5
Effective Tax Rate (%)	24.9	18.9	25.4	25.4
Net Profit Margins (%)	5.8	3.5	6.3	8.9
Net Debt / Equity (x)	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.6)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	(5.7)	(9.3)	(5.1)	(3.7)
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	15.3	13.2	12.3	13.3
Working Capital Days	(11)	(18)	(17)	(18)
Inventory Turnover Days	26	29	30	30
Receivables Days	34	24	25	25
Payables Days	63	65	67	68
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%)	9.4	1.7	6.0	11.0
RoE (%)	13.1	6.4	11.8	17.0
RoIC (%)	9.4	1.7	6.0	11.0
Source Company data, I-Sec resea	arch			



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