

## Base set for a HIGH-FIVE!

(Improving MR productivity, focus on key brands, cost control measures, limit US contribution and limited capex)

**About the stock: Ajanta Pharma is a focused player in branded generics, which constitutes ~72% of overall sales, spread across geographies including India.**

- As of FY23, overall exports: domestic formulations ratio was at 67:33
- Among exports, Asia accounts for ~41% of export formulations, Africa 26% and the US ~34%. The company also participates in anti-malarial tenders in Africa (included in Africa)

### Key Investment Thesis:

- Increased capital allocation towards the branded generics segment** (72% of the revenues): More numbers of product launches (including higher First to Market molecules) in various geographies, with differentiated delivery systems or combinations and doubling of international workforce (up 50%)
- Reduced capital allocation to US business:** In spite of mere 22% revenue contribution, 2/3rd of working capital tied to the business (overall 141 days in FY23). To counter increased erosion in the market, Ajanta aims to selectively launch products in lower competitive business and limit US revenues to 15% of consol revenues
- Improving productivity of existing employees:** In FY23, employee costs jumped 170 bps due to expansion in international workforce. The management intends to improve productivity of entire 4500+ field team, by enabling them more digital tools and helping them to get most out of the growing product portfolio
- EBITDA margins expected to rebound 400 bps in FY24:** Margins are likely to improve amid operational leverage, expected softening of raw material cost and incremental focus on branded business. Calculated focus, healthy margins, return profile and lighter balance sheet are some key differentiators for Ajanta
- Revenues/EBITDA/PAT expected to grow at 11%/23%/25% FY23-25 CAGR.** Return ratios are expected to reach 25% levels (ROIC even higher)

### Rating and Target Price

- We value Ajanta Pharma at ₹ 1950 based on 27x FY25E P/E multiple.

### Key Financial Summary

Key Financials (₹ Crore)	FY21	FY22	FY23	5 year CAGR (FY18-23)	FY24E	FY25E	2 year CAGR (FY23-25E)
Revenues	2889.7	3341.0	3742.6	11.9	4138.7	4595.2	10.8
EBITDA	998.6	929.3	783.3	3.5	1051.2	1190.2	23.3
EBITDA margins (%)	34.6	27.8	20.9		25.4	25.9	
Net Profit	653.9	712.7	588.0	4.6	809.2	917.2	24.9
EPS (₹)	51.1	55.7	46.5		64.0	72.6	
PE (x)	30.3	27.8	33.3		24.2	21.4	
EV to EBITDA (x)	19.5	21.0	24.3		17.6	15.1	
RoCE (%)	29.0	27.0	21.3		26.5	25.7	
ROE (%)	21.8	21.8	17.4		21.6	20.8	



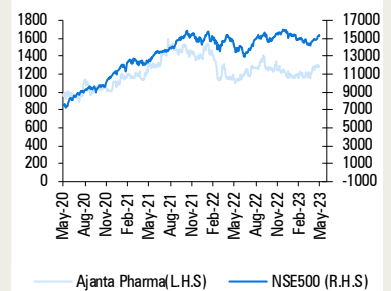
### Particulars

Particular	Amount
Market Capitalisation	₹ 18560 crore
Debt (FY23)	₹ 1 crore
Cash (FY23)	₹ 330 crore
EV	₹ 18232 crore
52 week H/L	1428/1062
Equity capital	₹ 25.3 crore
Face value	₹ 2

### Shareholding pattern

(in %)	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
Promoter	70.5	70.5	66.1	66.1
Others	29.5	29.5	33.9	33.9

### Price Chart



### Recent event & key risks

- New launches and registrations in newer markets.
- Key Risks:** (i) Lower than expected growth in branded space (ii) Failure to maintain gross margins trajectory

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## Company Background

Established in 1973, Ajanta Pharma (APL) is mainly engaged in exports as well as domestic formulations. As of FY14, the exports-domestic formulation ratio stood at 67:33. The company owns five manufacturing facilities - four in Aurangabad (Maharashtra) and one in Mauritius. Of these five facilities, only one in Aurangabad is an API facility while the rest are all formulations. Consolidated revenues, EBITDA and PAT have grown at a CAGR of 31%, 35% and 48%, respectively, in FY10-14. APL had come out with a maiden IPO in March 2000. The company raised ₹ 68 crore, which was earmarked for capacity expansion and debt repayment.

Domestic formulations constitute 33% of the total consolidated turnover (FY14). This segment has been further segregated into two sub-segments- 1) branded formulations and 2) institutional business. Initially, the company was catering to the institutional business. The institutional sub-segment accounts for ~17% of domestic formulations and is mainly confined to government and institutional tenders. It is only in the last 10 years that the focus shifted to the branded formulations business, which now accounts for ~83% of domestic formulations.

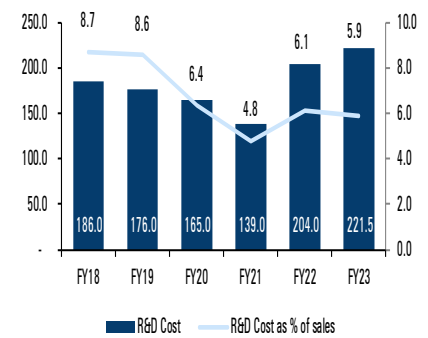
The company focuses on only a few so-called specialty therapies – ophthalmology, dermatology, cardiology, etc. Together, these therapies constitute ~75% of domestic branded formulations. APL invested heavily in the technology and field force, especially in the first five years after the changed focus. The focus was also on offering a novel delivery system. From ₹ 17 crore in FY05, branded formulations have grown at a CAGR of 34% to ₹ 319 crore in FY14. Till date, the company has launched 160 products out of which 119 are first time launches. The current MR strength is ~2500. Overall, domestic formulations have grown at a CAGR of 27% in FY10-14 to ₹ 385 crore. The company has only one product under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2011.

Export formulations constitute 67% of the total consolidated turnover (FY14). Exports are mainly confined to emerging markets and constitute branded generics. APL exports its products in ~35 emerging markets with a significant presence in Franco-African countries and Philippines.

Africa accounts for ~56% of export formulations followed by Asia. The company also participates in anti-malarial tenders in Africa. APL operates through 450+ MRs in these emerging markets and owns a portfolio of 1443 registered brands in these markets encompassing major therapies such as anti-infectives, anti-malarials, ophthalmic, dermatology, cardiovascular, GI, etc. The company also has a marginal presence in Latin America. APL has also forayed into regulated markets such as the US where it filed 25 ANDAs, received approvals for two and launched one product. Overall, export formulations have grown at a CAGR of 32% in FY10-14 to ₹ 793 crore.

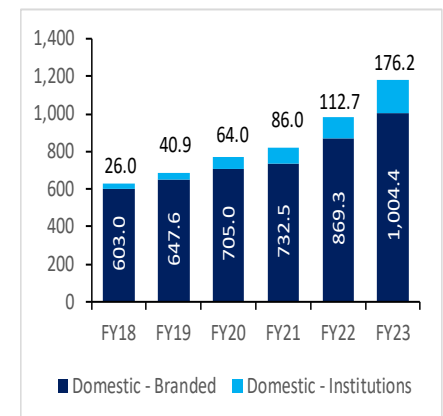
APL has five subsidiaries in the Philippines, the US and one step-down subsidiary in Mauritius. The Mauritius subsidiary, with an independent manufacturing base, mainly caters to the Franco-African markets. The subsidiary in Philippines, which is a marketing arm, caters to the Philippines market. The US subsidiary is an administrative office to facilitate US operations.

### R&D Cost



Source: Company

### Sales break-up: Branded & tender business



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

## Investment Rationale

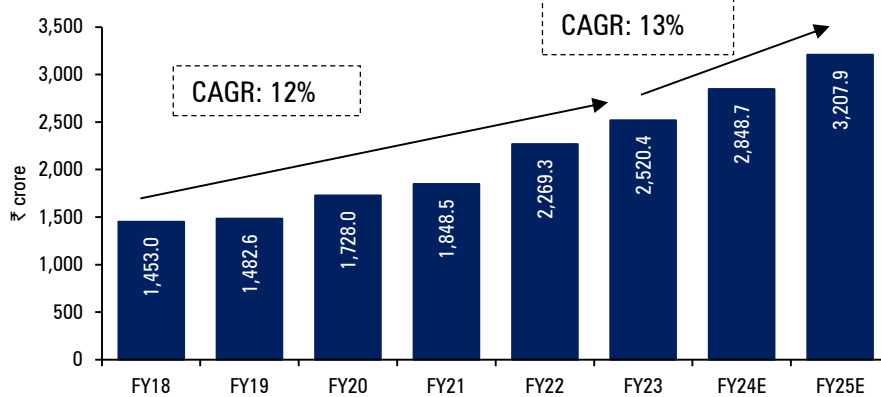
### Increased capital allocation to branded generics

In FY23, branded generics accounted for 72% of Ajanta revenues, with India/Rest of Asia/Africa accounting for 31%/26%/15% respectively. The strategic intent of the management is to increase product filings by 3x and increase the team size in rest of Asia and Africa by 50% (as evident in FY23). The company has a diverse suite of 500+ brands and its aim is to grow faster than the market by launching first to market products. Also, Ajanta product portfolio has presence in various areas such as Cardiac, Opthal, Diabetes, Derma, Anti-Malarial, Pain Management etc, with higher focus on chronic therapies across the markets, which has helped the company to build a basket of strong brands.

In India, Ajanta was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> largest in covered markets, while ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in overall India IPM. It has 9 brands in ₹25+ crore category and had 58% concentration from top 10 brands in India (FY23). It launched 23 molecules in FY23 (6 were FTF). In Rest of Asia, the company business has spread to over 10 countries in the Middle East, SE Asia and Central Asia (Philippines and Middle East are key markets) and has grown at 12% revenues CAGR (FY20-23). Ajanta launched 38 new products in FY23, across these geographies. In Africa, revenues have grown at 16% CAGR (8 new launches in FY23) and the business is spread in 20 countries.

We expect the branded generics division to grow at 13% FY23-25E CAGR

#### Exhibit 1: Branded Business



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

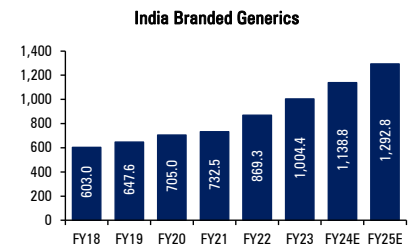
### Reduce capital allocation to US business

The US generics business (22% of rev) has been growing strongly at 17% CAGR (FY20-23). The company also filed 5 ANDA applications in FY23 and received 4 final and 1 tentative approval. Overall, the company has 46 final ANDA approvals, 3 tentative approvals and 21 pending approvals. The management expects the flow of ANDA to accelerate going forward. On the launch front, Ajanta has launched a new product in FY23 and expects around 5-6 new launches in FY24. Overall, it has 40 products on shelf. The company has invested ~₹400 crore in the US plant and its Dahej and Aurangabad facilities are also USFDA approved.

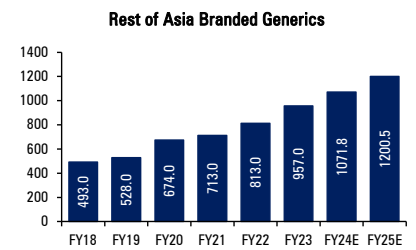
However, US has been experiencing severe price erosion, which has now stabilised at mid to high single digits. The company also saw gross margin erosion in FY23 (contracted 315 bps) and had 2/3rd of its working capital tied to the US business. The management intends to selectively play in the US market with the launch of limited competition products and keep revenue exposure to 15% in the market, which may improve working capital days

We expect the US division to grow at 34% FY23-25E CAGR

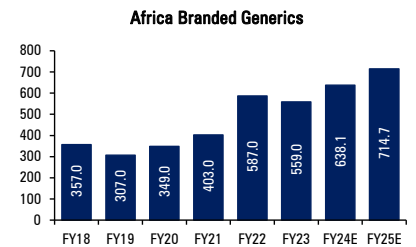
#### Branded generics segmental (₹ crore)



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

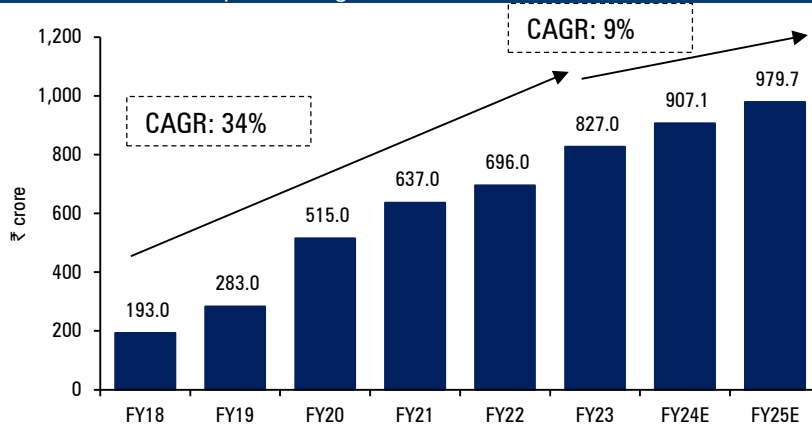


Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 2: US Business expected to grow at 9% CAGR



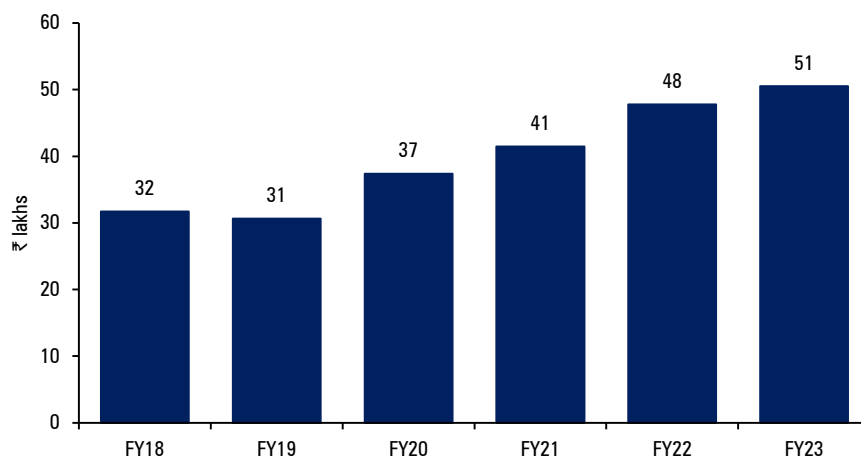
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

### Increase productivity of existing employees

Employee expense in FY23 jumped to 21% of the revenues from earlier 19%. The increase has been mainly due to expansion in Rest of Asia and Africa field force by 50% and smaller additions in the production and R&D. The company has 2800+ MR in India (strength maintained since last four years) which cover 2.8 lakhs doctors (productivity up 20% YoY) and have led to the domestic branded segment to grow at 12% CAGR (FY19-23), thereby consistently improving employee productivity

The management intends to improve productivity of entire 4500+ field team spread across India and RoW markets, by enabling them more digital tools and helping them to get most out of the growing product portfolio (via training, communications etc).

Exhibit 3: Per employee productivity strengthening up



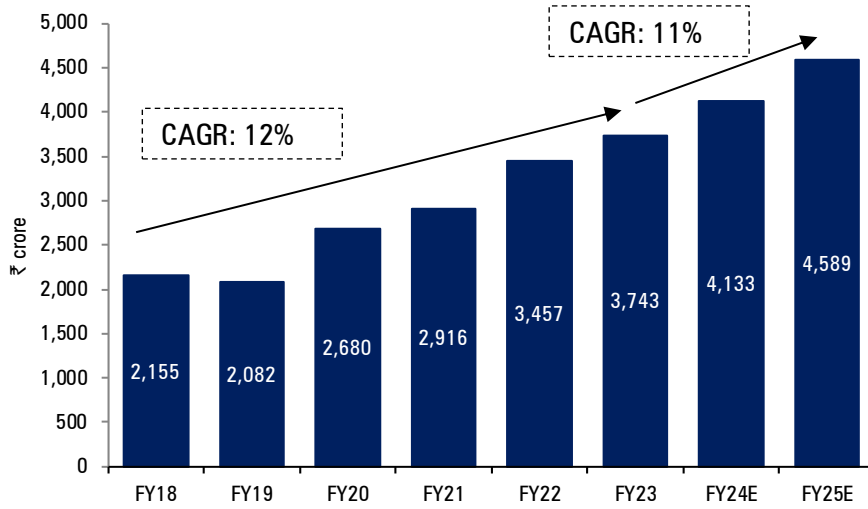
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

### EBITDA margins expected to expand 400 bps in FY24

In FY23, the company saw contraction in gross margins to 71.9% in FY23, led by US price erosion, higher raw material prices and Euro appreciation vs INR. As per the management is witnessing US price erosion normalisation and appreciation in Euro-INR exchange rate would help gross margins to rebound 200 bps in FY24.

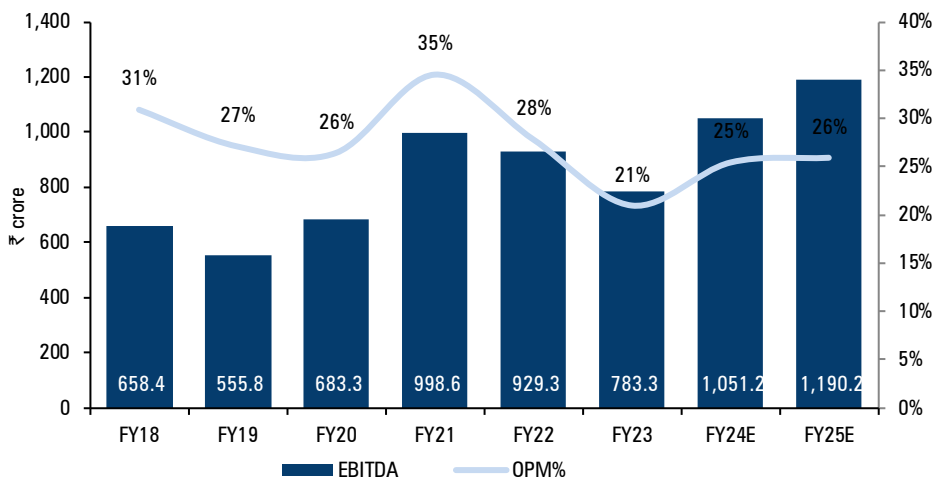
Also, logistics costs incrementally impacted 2% on EBITDA in FY23, which has normalised in FY24YTD. Thereby, 200 bps benefit from each gross margins and logistics costs would lift operational profitability in FY24.

Exhibit 4: Ajanta consol revenues expected to grow at 11% CAGR (FY23-25E)



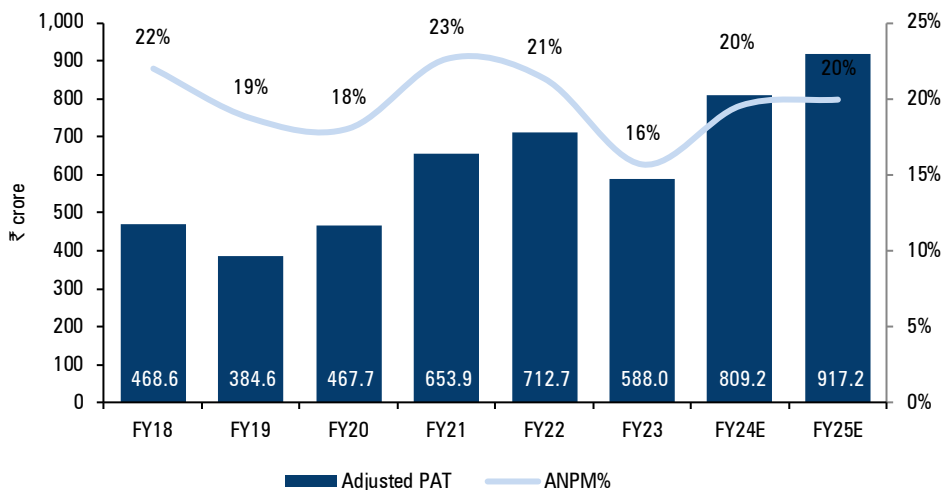
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 5: EBITDA expected to grow at 22% CAGR (FY23-25E)



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 6: PAT expected to grow at 24% CAGR (FY23-25E)



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

## Key risks and Concerns

### Government initiated price controls in some export markets

Branded exports constitute ~40% of revenues. Although most exports comprise branded generics, price controls or product tenderisation in any of the geographies may affect the margins. Philippines has already imposed price controls on some products in that country

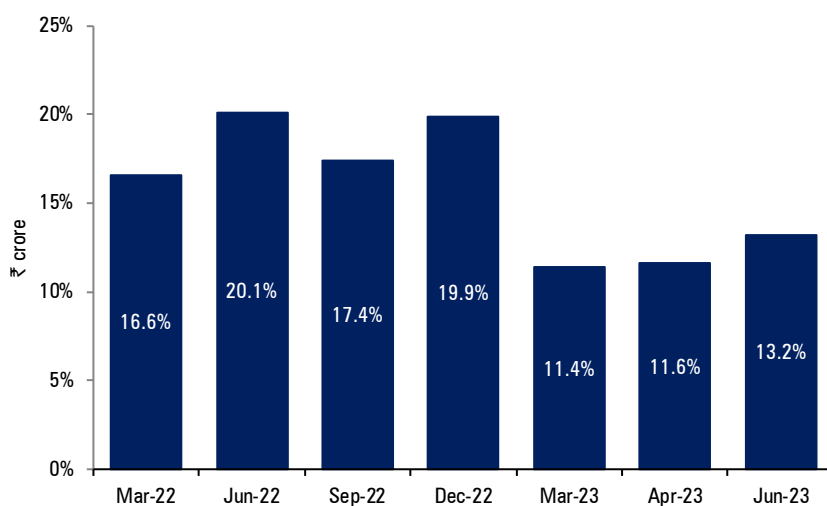
### US a high reward but high-risk proposition

Although highly rewarding, the US market is a risky proposition as the benefits of scalability come at the cost of high inventory, frequent price erosions due to the influence of pharmacy chains and above all stringent USFDA requirements. Also, there is a significant increase in ANDA filing costs as well

### Pledging of promoter's shares may give rise to share price volatility

In a bear market scenario, pledging of shares turns risky as falling of stock price leads to diminishing of collateral value. In June 2022, promoter's shares were pledged at 20.1% which was ultimately reduced to 11.4% in March 2023. In the last 3 months the pledged has increased to 13.2% from 11.4%. However, cash flow from operating activities remains strong over the years.

Exhibit 7:



Source: ICICI Direct Research

## Financial Summary

Exhibit 8: Profit and loss statement		₹ crore			
(Year-end March)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	
Total Operating Income	3,341.0	3,742.6	4,138.7	4,595.2	
Growth (%)	15.6	12.0	10.6	11.0	
Raw Material Expenses	832.3	1,050.4	1,062.5	1,171.8	
Gross Profit	2,508.7	2,692.2	3,076.2	3,423.4	
Gross Profit Margins (%)	75.1	71.9	74.3	74.5	
Employee Expenses	645.8	785.1	856.9	946.6	
Other Expenditure	933.6	1,123.9	1,168.1	1,286.7	
Total Operating Expenditure	2,411.7	2,959.4	3,087.5	3,405.0	
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>929.3</b>	<b>783.3</b>	<b>1,051.2</b>	<b>1,190.2</b>	
Growth (%)	-6.9	-15.7	34.2	13.2	
Interest	10.2	5.8	4.2	4.5	
Depreciation	125.3	130.8	141.4	156.3	
Other Income	115.7	98.6	125.3	139.1	
<b>PBT before Exceptional Items</b>	<b>909.5</b>	<b>745.3</b>	<b>1,030.8</b>	<b>1,168.5</b>	
Less: Exceptional Items	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
PBT after Exceptional Items	909.5	745.3	1,030.8	1,168.5	
Total Tax	196.8	157.3	221.7	251.3	
PAT before MI	712.7	588.0	809.2	917.2	
<b>PAT</b>	<b>712.7</b>	<b>588.0</b>	<b>809.2</b>	<b>917.2</b>	
Growth (%)	9.0	-17.5	37.6	13.4	
<b>EPS (Adjusted)</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>72.6</b>	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: Cash flow statement		₹ crore			
(Year-end March)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	
Profit/(Loss) after taxation	670.4	588.0	809.2	917.2	
Add: Depreciation & Amortization	125.3	130.8	141.4	156.3	
Net Increase in Current Assets	-245.0	-3.5	504.4	-151.1	
Net Increase in Current Liabilities	44.6	70.1	-288.4	27.0	
Others	-33.2	0.5	4.2	4.5	
<b>CF from Operating activities</b>	<b>562.1</b>	<b>785.9</b>	<b>1,170.8</b>	<b>953.8</b>	
(Purchase)/Sale of Fixed Assets	-130.5	-173.8	-200.0	-150.0	
Investments	56.4	-385.8	-500.0	-500.0	
Others	-25.7	0.0	0.5	0.5	
<b>CF from Investing activities</b>	<b>-99.8</b>	<b>-559.6</b>	<b>-699.5</b>	<b>-649.5</b>	
(inc)/Dec in Loan	0.2	-0.5	0.0	0.0	
Dividend & Dividend tax	-82.2	-89.7	-442.4	-252.8	
Other	-378.1	-18.0	-4.2	-4.5	
CF from Financing activities	-460.0	-108.2	-446.6	-257.3	
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>118.1</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>47.0</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	209.6	211.8	329.9	354.6	
<b>Cash</b>	<b>211.8</b>	<b>329.9</b>	<b>354.6</b>	<b>401.6</b>	
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	<b>431.6</b>	<b>612.1</b>	<b>970.8</b>	<b>803.8</b>	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 10: Balance Sheet		₹ crore			
(Year-end March)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	
Equity Capital	17.2	25.3	25.3	25.3	
Reserve and Surplus	3,247.2	3,362.7	3,729.5	4,393.9	
Total Shareholders funds	3,264.4	3,388.0	3,754.7	4,419.1	
Total Debt	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	
Deferred Tax Liability	101.9	87.3	89.1	90.8	
Long-Term Provisions	19.3	24.2	24.6	25.1	
Other Non Current Liabilities	21.0	28.6	29.2	29.8	
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>3,408.5</b>	<b>3,529.5</b>	<b>3,899.1</b>	<b>4,566.3</b>	
Gross Block - Fixed Assets	2,217.8	2,282.8	2,482.8	2,632.8	
Accumulated Depreciation	705.8	786.4	927.8	1,084.1	
Net Block	1,512.0	1,496.4	1,555.0	1,548.8	
Capital WIP	152.9	209.5	209.5	209.5	
Fixed Assets	1,664.9	1,705.9	1,764.5	1,758.2	
Investments	147.0	535.4	1,035.4	1,535.4	
Other non-Current Assets	101.2	114.0	116.3	118.6	
Inventory	791.1	815.0	231.4	255.2	
Debtors	1,019.8	1,056.9	1,133.9	1,259.0	
Other Current Assets	119.9	111.5	113.7	116.0	
Cash	211.8	329.9	354.6	401.6	
Total Current Assets	2,142.6	2,313.3	1,833.6	2,031.7	
Creditors	327.2	422.8	120.0	132.4	
Provisions	10.8	14.0	14.3	14.6	
Other Current Liabilities	309.1	702.3	716.4	730.7	
Total Current Liabilities	647.1	1,139.1	850.7	877.6	
Net Current Assets	1,495.5	1,174.2	982.9	1,154.1	
<b>Application of Funds</b>	<b>3,408.5</b>	<b>3,529.5</b>	<b>3,899.0</b>	<b>4,566.3</b>	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 11: Key ratios					
(Year-end March)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	
<b>Per share data (₹)</b>					
Reported EPS	55.7	46.5	64.0	72.6	
Cash EPS	56.0	49.8	40.2	64.9	
BV per share	255.0	268.0	297.1	349.6	
Cash per Share	16.5	26.1	28.1	31.8	
Dividend per share	9.5	7.1	35.0	20.0	
<b>Operating Ratios (%)</b>					
Gross Profit Margins	75.1	71.9	74.3	74.5	
EBITDA margins	27.8	20.9	25.4	25.9	
PAT Margins	21.3	15.7	19.6	20.0	
Cash Conversion Cycle	162.1	141.3	109.8	109.8	
Asset Turnover	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	
EBITDA conversion Rate	60.5	100.3	111.4	80.1	
<b>Return Ratios (%)</b>					
RoE	21.8	17.4	21.6	20.8	
RoCE	27.0	21.3	26.5	25.7	
RoC	27.5	26.3	39.1	42.3	
<b>Valuation Ratios (x)</b>					
P/E	27.8	33.3	24.2	21.4	
EV / EBITDA	21.0	24.3	17.6	15.1	
EV / Net Sales	5.8	5.1	4.5	3.9	
Market Cap / Sales	5.9	5.3	4.8	4.3	
Price to Book Value	6.1	5.8	5.2	4.4	
<b>Solvency Ratios</b>					
Debt / EBITDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Debt / Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Current Ratio	3.0	1.7	1.7	1.9	
<b>Quick Ratio</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## RATING RATIONALE

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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