

: Not Rated Reco **CMP** : INR 360

COMPANY VISIT

Fineotex Chemical

Scouting for newer areas of growth

Fineotex Chemical (FCL) distinguishes its business model by being a customized technical solutions provider across segments. Company started with catering to the textile industry value chain. Its investment in Biotex, Malaysia (72% stake) gives FCL access to a niche product portfolio which caters to high end specialty textile chemicals applications, thus margin accretive in nature. With similar chemistry and fungibility of the manufacturing plants, in FY21, FCL forayed into a FMCG segments like cleaning and hygiene and has been focusing on scaling it up by adding new clients. Consequently, the segment contribution to overall topline in FY23 was ~40% vs negligible in FY21. Further, with strong demand and order inflow in the cleaning and hygiene business FCL expanded its Ambernath plant capacity to 61 KMT from 40 KMT in FY22, taking the overall capacity to 104 KMT. We believe that the company can show strong growth momentum in the near term driven by wallet share gain in textile chemicals, traction in newer segments, and capacity addition. We do not have a rating on the stock.

Targeting a high wallet share in the textile segment

FCL and its subsidiary Biotex, Malaysia, in which it owns 72%, has a diverse product portfolio (450+ products) that finds application across the entire textile industry value chain. Not only has it been focusing on adding new customers, but also on gaining wallet share by tapping into its a) Strong relationships with major textile clients, both in India and globally; b) Innovative product portfolio; c) Technology assistance from Biotex Malaysia; and 4) Providing high-end customized solutions. Of the entire portfolio of 25 products that FCL provides, the cost of those chemicals for any textile company, is not more than 3% creating a high entry barrier for new players, limiting competitive intensity. Additionally, if anything goes wrong due to changes in the chemical composition or product mix, it can lead to fabric damage resulting in huge losses for textile companies, making clients sticky in nature. Thus, the gestation period to onboard a client is a prolonged one.

Foray into new segments

By leveraging its technical expertise, as well as benefit of similar chemistry, FCL has successfully forayed into non-textile segments like FMCG, and drilling specialty chemicals. It ventured into cleaning and hygiene in the FMCG segment in FY21 and within 2 years, has been able to bag orders from leading detergent companies including brands of Patanjali, and RSPL (Ghadi Detergent). The company scaled up the business in a span 2 years resulting in its contribution to overall topline increasing to 40% in FY23 vs negligible in FY21. Further, it has also been providing customized solutions for drilling in oil exploratory processes. The shift into non-textile segments will enable the company to diversify its product portfolio thus, reducing dependence on single industry and drive volume growth going forward.

Capacity expansion to support growth

FCL has been expanding its capacity at its Ambernath plant taking the total capacity including the capacity of the plants in Mahape and Malaysia, to 104 KMT from 43 KMT in two years and focusing on improving the capacity utilization. On the back of increased traction and order inflow from the cleaning and hygiene segment, company has scaled up capacity utilization up to 68% in 2QFY24 (62% in 1QFY24). Additionally, it can expand the capacity by another ~20 KMT for a capex of INR 200 –250 mn. The expected asset turnover from Ambernath plant is >8x with superior margin. Given that product lines are fungible, it saved time for changeover of product line for different solutions and segments. Furthermore, FCL is also consistently looking for organic and inorganic acquisitions to expand its capacity as well as diversify into new segments.

Valuation and Outlook

FCL's revenue/EBITDA/PAT has grown at 30%/29%/31% CAGR over FY18–23 aided by capacity expansion, improving utilization levels, and increased traction in the FMCG segment. The company is net cash and has been maintaining a strong RoCE profile of +20% since FY18. Going forward, FCL believes its robust earnings growth momentum will continue, driven by expansion and ramp-up in utilization at its new facility in Ambernath. Currently, the stock is trading at 34x TTM EPS.

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Market data

Sensex	:	65,970
Sector	:	Sp. Chemicals
Market Cap (INR bn)	:	39.8
Market Cap (USD bn)	:	0.478
O/S Shares (mn)	:	110.7
52-wk HI/LO (INR)	:	368/203
Avg. Daily Vol ('000)	:	286
Bloomberg	:	FTXC IN

Source: Bloomberg

Valuation

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	FY21	FY22	FY23
EPS (INR)	3.8	5.0	8.0
P/E (x)	93.6	72.3	45.1
P/BV (x)	19.0	15.2	11.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	81.6	46.4	29.2
Dividend Yield (9	%) -	0.1	0.1

Source: Bloomberg

Returns (%)

	- (,-,			
	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	19	27	22	13
Relative	16	26	14	7

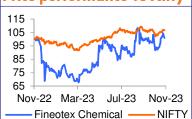
Source: Bloomberg

Shareholding pattern

Promoters	:	65%
Public	:	35%
Others	:	0%

Source: Bloomberg

Price performance *vs* Nifty



Indexed to 100 Source: Bloomberg



Textile chemicals—targeting a high wallet share

FCL manufactures chemicals for the entire value chain for the textile industry, including pretreatment, dyeing, printing, and finishing process. The segment in FY23 contributed 60% to overall topline and 40% to overall volumes. FCL has a strong global footprint with presence across 60+ countries, majorly in Europe and Asia, and enjoys longstanding relations with marquee clients in the domestic markets also.

FCL has been focusing on becoming a one-stop-shop for its clients in the textile space by expanding its portfolio and thus increasing wallet share by having a diversified product range and more solutions for textile companies. Of the entire portfolio of 25 products that FCL provides, the cost of those chemicals for any textile company, is not more than 3% creating a high entry barrier for new players, limiting competitive intensity. Additionally, if anything goes wrong due to change in the chemical composition or product mix, it can lead to fabric damage resulting in huge losses for textile companies, making clients sticky in nature. Given such a scenario, the gestation period to onboard a client is long.

Exhibit 1: Transforming to be a one-stop-shop for clients in the textile space



Source: Company, Antique

Synergies with Biotex

Biotex, a Malaysia-based subsidiary in which FCL holds a 72% stake and its Founder and MD Dr. Cedric Veniat, a technocrat with over 25 years of work experience, holds the remaining 28%. Biotex's niche portfolio of 50+ products finds application in high-end super specialty textile chemicals. The company has been focusing on developing value-added products that will aid textile companies in reducing water and energy consumption. Additionally, changing client preferences and expectations for fabrics to be water and dust-repellent, anti-microbial, and the increasing demand for such sustainable products in the textile market have resulted in an increase in the addressable market for the company. This in turn has increased the demand for its products, helping it garner more market share.

Furthermore, in partnership in Biotex, FCL has developed a unique 'Mosquito Life Cycle Controller' product, which is non-toxic and eco-friendly in nature. The product has already been approved by the Ministry of Health Malaysia, Singapore PUB, European Union, National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and relevant authorities in Vietnam and Cambodia.



Exhibit 2: Synergistic model with Biotex

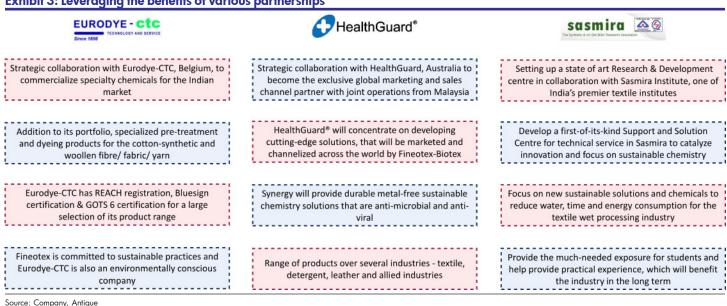
Biotex - Malaysia Fineotex - India Diverse product portfolio (400+ categories) Niche product portfolio (50+ categories) across business segments Overview High end super speciality textile chemical Applications primarily across the entire textile applications value chain: pre-treatment to finishing Sustainable and effective textile solutions Focused on textiles and rapidly entering other Grow 'Mosquito Life Cycle Controller' revenue **Focus Areas** fast growing sectors High profile India customer base High profile International customer base Textile and auxiliary sectors Textile, Cleaning and Hygiene, Drilling and Other 'Mosquito Life Cycle Controller', an eco friendly **Business Segments** Specialities non toxic solution for mosquito outbreaks used primarily across developing countries Strong brand recall in Indian markets Strong brand recall in International markets Competitive Edge Reputation for diverse product portfolio Solutions for finishing process in textile Deep customer relationships Strong R&D capabilities

Source: Company, Antique

Strategic partnerships

FCL's JV with Healthquard, Australia will concentrate on developing cutting-edge solutions that will be marketed and channelized by FCL-Biotex. The company's anti-microbial product is US EPA approved. The synergies derived are expected to provide durable metal-free sustainable chemistry solutions that are anti-microbial and anti-viral. The JV offers a range of products with wider application across several industries like textiles, detergent, leather, and allied industries. Further, FCL has set up a R&D center in collaboration with Sasmira Institute, which is India's premier textile institute. Recently, FCL entered into a strategic collaboration with Eurodye-CTC, Belgium to commercialize specialty chemical products for the Indian market. We believe that the collaboration will help FCL expand its product profile, geographical reach, and up-skill R&D.

Exhibit 3: Leveraging the benefits of various partnerships





Foray into newer segments

By utilizing the fundamental benefits of cleaning agents and chemicals required in the textile industry and leveraging its technical expertise, FCL has successfully forayed into the nontextile segments like FMCG and drilling specialty chemicals.

It ventured into the cleaning and hygiene space in the FMCG segment in FY21 and within two years has been able to bag orders from leading detergent companies, including Patanjali and RSPL (Ghadi detergent). FCL has scaled up the business within a span of two years resulting in the contribution of these products to the overall topline increasing from a negligible 1% in FY21 to 40% in FY23. Further, the cleaning and hygiene space's contribution to overall volume is now 60%. Also, in May'23 Mr. Madhukar Shenoy (ex-Dow Consumer Solutions) joined FCL as Business Head for Consumer and Industrial Care.

The company has also been providing customized solutions for drilling in oil exploratory processes. It has received sizeable orders from O&G companies, including ONGC; however, these are largely contract-based and not continuous in nature.

The shift into non-textile segments will enable the company to diversify its product portfolio, thus reducing dependence on a single industry and driving volume growth going forward.

Exhibit 4: Details of FCL's foray in to new segments

(Cleaning and Hygiene Chemicals	Drilling Speciality Chemicals	% Other Speciality Chemicals
	Customised solutions for: • Housekeeping, Kitchen Care and Disinfectants • Public Health and Hygiene The plant has been approved and certified by the Food & Drugs Administration (Maharashtra State) department. The license has been granted for production of disinfectant/antimicrobial hygiene and cleaning products ensuring safety and effectiveness. Post the outbreak of COVID-19, large addressable market for solutions used in disinfectants and sanitizers	Customised solutions for Oil and Gas Significant potential for offering effective products used for drilling in oil exploratory processes Sizable orders from a leading oil and gas company in India	 Non toxic eco-friendly solution designed with European technology in Malaysia by Biotex Approved by Ministry of Health Malaysia, Singapore PUB, European Union, NSF and relevant authorities in Vietnam and Cambodia A unique 'Mosquito Life Cycle Controller' product under development by Biotex

Key Products





Enhanced capacity coupled with better utilization at existing plants to drive growth

FCL has been expanding its capacity at its Ambernath plant taking the total capacity including the capacity of the plants in Mahape and Malaysia, to 104 KMT from 43 KMT in two years and focusing on improving the capacity utilization. On the back of increased traction and order inflow from the cleaning and hygiene segment, company has scaled up capacity utilization up to 68% in 2QFY24 (62% in 1QFY24). Additionally, it can expand the capacity by another ~20 KMT for a capex of INR 200 –250 mn. The expected asset turnover from Ambernath plant is >8x with superior margin. Given that product lines are fungible, it saved time for changeover of product line for different solutions and segments.

Exhibit 5: Details of plants and capacities

Location	Operating Facts	Strategic Advantages
Mahape and Ambernath, India	Total Production Capacity (India): 97 KMT. Mahape: 36.5 KMT Ambernath: 61 KMT	Plant located near key port close to Mumbai with logistical advantages to textile hubs across North, West, South, and Central India.
Selangor, Malaysia	Total Production Capacity: 6.5 KMT	 Easy access to high raw quality materials in the region. Malaysian plant provides raw materials to Indian facilities. Cost benefits due to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with important regional markets like Vietnam, China, and India.

Source: Company, Antique

Furthermore, FCL is also consistently looking for organic and inorganic acquisitions to expand its capacity as well as diversify into new segments.

Diversified geographical presence

The company has widespread presence in India and globally with sales spread across 70+ countries including Brazil, Bangladesh, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Syria, Thailand, USA, Venezuela, and Vietnam. It has 34+ technical marketing experts and 110+ dealers in India and the global markets. As of FY23, domestic/ export contribution was 77%/ 23% vs. 59%/ 41% in FY22. The decline in export contributions was largely on account of weakness in textile business demand as well as the increasing contribution from the cleaning and hygiene business.

Exhibit 6: Geographic break-up

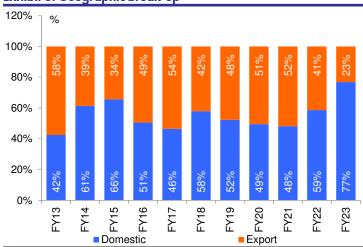


Exhibit 7: Widespread presence



Source: Company, Antique



ESG accreditations

The company has been awarded various certifications like Green Screen Certificate, Beehive Certificate, Bluesign, ECO Passport, to name a few. These certifications pertaining to sustainability standards guarantee the highest level of security for clients and considers the chemical composition of textile products to ensure healthy and safe materials. It was also rewarded ESG Registered Badge by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), which is a testament to FCL's dedication and adherence to ESG initiatives. Recently, the company's R&D laboratory in collaboration with Sasmira Institute was accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

Exhibit 8: ESG accreditations

	Bhive certified				
bluesign	Blue Sign certified	Certificates			
<u>(8)</u>	Dun and Bradstreet Badge	ISO 9001	ISO 14001	ISO 14045	ISO 45001
.000.	ECO Passport by OEKO-TEX	ISO 20000	SA 8001	OHSAS18001	ISO 22000
0	Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certified				
*	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Certification				
	Indian Green Building Council	Awards and Re	cognitions		
	REACH certified	Received Dun a	nd Bradstreet ESG	i Badge	
@	SA 8000 - Social Accountability Certification	Recognized with	h the Women at V	Vork Leadership Awa	rd by Times Ascent
₹	Scivera				
(Star Export House				
②	US The Environmental Protection Agency				
STATE OF THE PARTY	The Great Place to Work				
Θ	WHO Good Manufacturing Practice certified				
Ø ZDHC	Zero Discharge Hazardous Chemical				

Source: Company, Antique

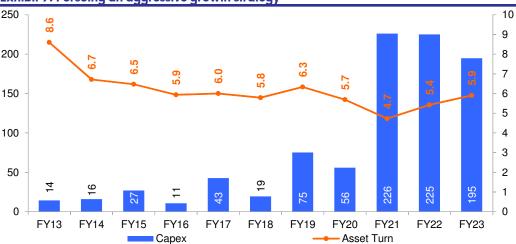
In line with its effort to encourage sustainability and its endeavor to minimize its environmental footprint, the company recently commissioned a 100 kWp solar power plant at its Ambernath facility.



Product innovation to add value and support margins

FCL has been focusing on becoming a one-stop-shop for clients in the textile space by expanding its portfolio and thus increasing wallet share by having a diversified product range and more solutions for textile companies. Further, the company has also diversified its product portfolio and end-user industry by foraying into non-textile segments like FMCG i.e. cleaning and hygiene, and drilling specialty chemicals.

Exhibit 9: Pursuing an aggressive growth strategy

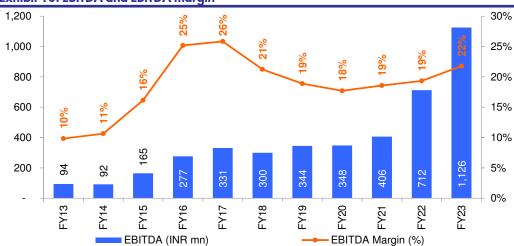


Source: Company, Antique

Continued focus on high-margin specialty chemicals

FCL posted a consolidated revenue stream growth CAGR of 19% from FY12-23 and recorded a significant EBITDA growth CAGR of 28% during the same period. The company also witnessed it EBITDA margin expand to 22% in FY23 from 9% in FY12. It has been able to maintain its EBITDA margin at +18% level since FY16. Expansion in margin was primarily backed by a superior product mix. Going forward, the company is confident of healthy revenue growth on the back of enhanced capacities coming on-stream in the near term, which are high-yielding products fetching better margins.

Exhibit 10: EBITDA and EBITDA margin





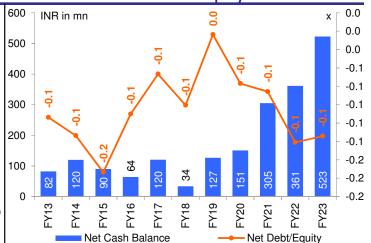
Net cash balance sheet

FCL has net cash of INR 523 mn as of FY23 and a comfortable balance sheet to support organic and inorganic growth. The company has also recorded healthy OCF, which would aid to grow its operations. We believe that a healthy balance sheet would in turn help the company to execute further growth plans. According to recent ratings assigned by ICRA, FCL's long-term rating stands at A+ Stable and short-term rating at A1+, which further demonstrates the company's strong balance sheet.

Exhibit 11: Healthy OCF to aid future growth plans







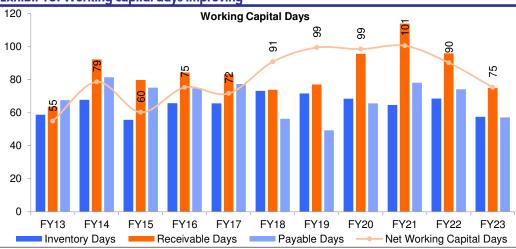
Source: Company, Antique

Source: Company, Antique

Improvement in working capital

With its foray in to the FMCG business, the company has been able to improve its working capital cycle. As of FY23, the company's net working capital stood at 75 days, down from 90 as of FY22. The improvement was largely on the back of improvement in inventory and receivable days which stood at 58/75 days as of FY23 vs. 69/96 days as of FY22.

Exhibit 13: Working capital days improving





Company Background

Mumbai-based Fineotex group was founded by Mr. Surendra Tibrewala in 1979. Fineotex group is one of the leading manufacturers of chemicals for the textiles, construction, watertreatment, fertilizer, leather, and paint industries. Fineotex manufactures and provides an entire range of products for pre-treatment, dyeing, printing, and finishing for textile processing to clients globally. The company has a diverse product portfolio (450+ categories) across business segments with business in 70+ countries across the globe. The company has manufacturing facilities located at Mahape Mumbai, Ambernath (Maharashtra) and Selangor, Malaysia with a combined production capacity of 104 KMT. The company recently forayed into the home care and hygiene division with products across house-keeping, kitchen care, and disinfectant categories. FCL has two R&D laboratories in Mumbai with all modern-age equipment. The company has a network of 100+ dealers in the Indian and international markets. The company has been certified as Great Place to Work in May'22.

Exhibit 14: Revenue and revenue growth (%)

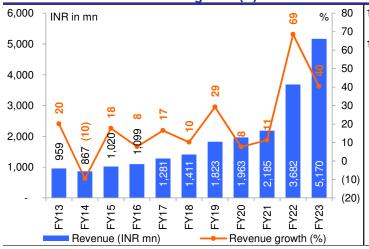
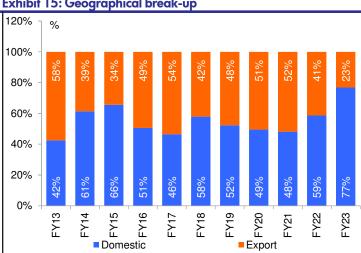


Exhibit 15: Geographical break-up



Source: Company, Antique

Source: Company, Antique

Exhibit 16: EBITDA and EBITDA growth (%)

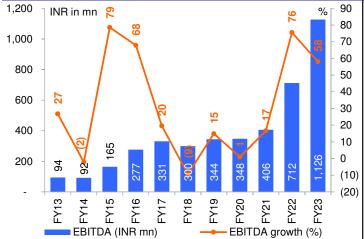
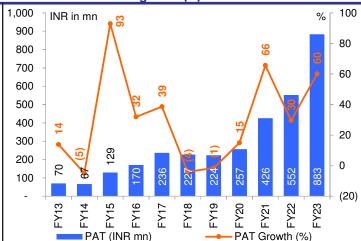
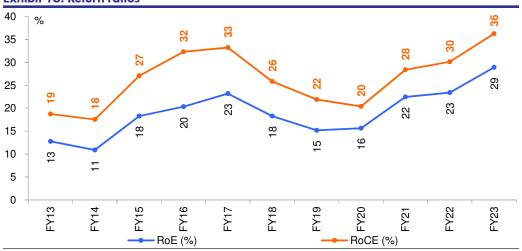


Exhibit 17: PAT and PAT growth (%)



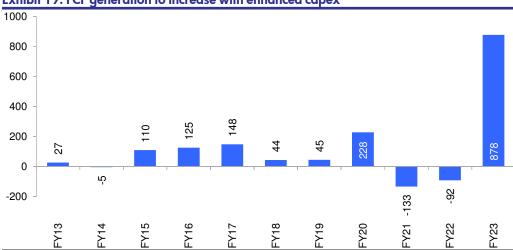
Source: Company, Antique

Exhibit 18: Return ratios



Source: Company, Antique

Exhibit 19: FCF generation to increase with enhanced capex





Financials

Profit and loss account (INR mn)

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
1,823	1,963	2,185	3,682	5,170
1,479	1,615	1,779	2,970	4,044
344	348	406	712	1,126
10	12	15	25	43
334	336	391	687	1,083
9	16	175	55	73
8	6	7	9	8
(2)	126	-	-	-
333	472	559	733	1,148
93	77	113	164	252
240	396	446	569	896
so. 18	12	20	17	12
258	408	465	586	908
224	257	426	552	883
2.0	2.3	3.8	5.0	8.0
	1,823 1,479 344 10 334 9 8 (2) 333 93 240 so. 18 258 224	1,823 1,963 1,479 1,615 344 348 10 12 334 336 9 16 8 6 (2) 126 333 472 93 77 240 396 so. 18 12 258 408 224 257	1,823 1,963 2,185 1,479 1,615 1,779 344 348 406 10 12 15 334 336 391 9 16 175 8 6 7 (2) 126 - 333 472 559 93 77 113 240 396 446 so. 18 12 20 258 408 465 224 257 426	1,823 1,963 2,185 3,682 1,479 1,615 1,779 2,970 344 348 406 712 10 12 15 25 334 336 391 687 9 16 175 55 8 6 7 9 (2) 126 - - 333 472 559 733 93 77 113 164 240 396 446 569 so. 18 12 20 17 258 408 465 586 224 257 426 552

Balance sheet (INR mn)

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Share Capital	223	223	221	221	221
Reserves & Surplus	1,365	1,474	1,872	2,400	3,265
Networth	1,588	1,697	2,093	2,621	3,487
Debt	21	28	34	19	73
Minority Interest	57	63	67	73	70
Net deferred Tax liabilities	2	(5)	7	11	21
Capital Employed	1,667	1,783	2,202	2,724	3,651
Gross Fixed Assets	345	403	605	813	1,004
Accumulated Depreciation	23	35	49	74	116
Capital work in progress	1	6	46	-	4
Net Fixed Assets	323	374	602	740	892
Goodwill	-	-		61	61
Investments	519	563	362	212	933
Non Current Investments	519	563	362	212	933
Current Assets, Loans & Adv.	1,105	1,136	1,707	2,381	2,341
Inventory	251	211	288	596	473
Debtors	491	538	827	1,109	1,014
Cash & Bank balance	147	179	339	381	596
Loans & advances and others	215	207	254	296	259
Current Liabilities & Provisions	280	290	469	671	576
Liabilities	209	234	368	588	474
Provisions	71	56	101	83	103
Net Current Assets	825	846	1,238	1,711	1,765
Application of Funds	1,667	1,783	2,202	2,724	3,651

Per share data

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
No. of shares (mn)	111	111	111	111	111
Diluted no. of shares (mn)	111	111	111	111	111
BVPS (INR)	14.3	15.2	18.9	23.7	31.5
CEPS (INR)	2.2	3.7	4.2	5.4	8.5
DPS (INR)	0.1	0.1	-	0.4	0.3

Source: Company, Antique

Cash flow statement (INR mn)

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
PBT	336	220	559	733	1,148
Depreciation & amortization	10	12	15	25	43
Interest expense	8	6	7	9	8
(Inc)/Dec in working capital	(128)	6	(237)	(422)	179
Tax paid	(96)	(80)	(96)	(171)	(264)
Less: Interest/Div. Income Recd.	(3)	(7)	(16)	(10)	(11)
Other operating Cash Flow	(7)	126	(138)	(31)	(31)
CF from operating activities	120	284	93	133	1,073
Capital expenditure	(79)	(63)	(242)	(225)	(195)
Inc/(Dec) in investments	107	(134)	263	173	(686)
Add: Interest/Div. Income Recd.	14	7	(86)	45	(137)
CF from investing activities	42	(190)	(65)	(8)	(1,018)
Inc/(Dec) in share capital	-	-	(18)	-	-
Inc/(Dec) in debt	(1)	(1)	-	-	-
Dividend Paid	(26)	(32)	(13)	(50)	(67)
Others	(32)	(57)	94	65	223
CF from financing activities	(59)	(90)	62	15	156
Net cash flow	103	4	90	141	210
Opening balance	44	176	230	206	289
Closing balance	147	179	339	381	596

Growth indicators (%)

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Revenue (%)	29.2	7.7	11.3	68.5	40.4
EBITDA (%)	14.9	1.0	16.6	75.5	58.1
Adj PAT (%)	-1.5	15.0	65.6	29.6	60.1
Adj EPS (%)	-1.5	15.0	66.5	29.6	60.1

Valuation (x)

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
P/E (x)	179.2	155.8	93.6	72.3	45.1
P/BV (x)	25.2	23.6	19.0	15.2	11.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	96.6	95.6	81.6	46.4	29.2
EV/Sales (x)	18.2	16.9	15.1	9.0	6.4
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	-	0.1	0.1

Financial ratios

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
RoE (%)	15.2	15.7	22.5	23.4	28.9
RoCE (%)	21.9	20.4	28.4	30.1	36.3
Asset/T.O (x)	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.0
Net Debt/Equity (x)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
EBIT/Interest (x)	41.2	55.9	78.2	80.4	140.9

Margins (%)

Year ended 31 Mar	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
EBITDA Margin (%)	18.9	17.7	18.6	19.3	21.8
EBIT Margin (%)	18.3	1 <i>7</i> .1	17.9	18.7	21.0
PAT Margin (%)	12.2	13.0	18.0	14.8	16.8





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