

MARKET STRATEGY

2021



CY20 was a remarkable year for the global economy as well as the equity markets. From the extreme end of despair and uncertainty, the year is ending on a note of recovery and hope as the fight with the pandemic nears an end with the beginning of vaccination. Indian equities were no different from global equity markets as they staged a heroic recovery of ~84% from the lows (~15% return for CY20) after the disastrous fall of ~39% in February-March, 2020.

As we embark towards 2021, the resilient domestic setup points towards a recovery in key macroeconomic data viz. GDP, Infrastructure spending post a weak year. Corporate earnings post the dip is likely to stage a handsome growth trajectory. However, after a “V-shaped” recovery and a flush of liquidity in the capital markets in CY20, the economic recovery path ahead is likely to be uneven. Furthermore, rising commodity price led inflation and new strain led risk of restrictions and lockdowns, also persist. CY21, therefore, presents an opportunity where the basic tenet of asset allocation and sectoral/security selection will be tested and identification of micro themes across segments will hold the key.

Some micro themes for CY21 are :

1. PLI scheme boost for textile/electronics/specialty steel and benefits of import substitution
2. Food processing to utilise excess farm output for value addition
3. CRAMS – Significant capex hints at growing visible opportunities
4. Cloud based opportunities in the IT sector
5. Expected cyclical upswing of CV segment
6. Insurance on the cusp of sustained structural growth
7. Product based capital goods companies to benefit from capex upcycle
8. Roads and Highways – Resilient segment within infrastructure

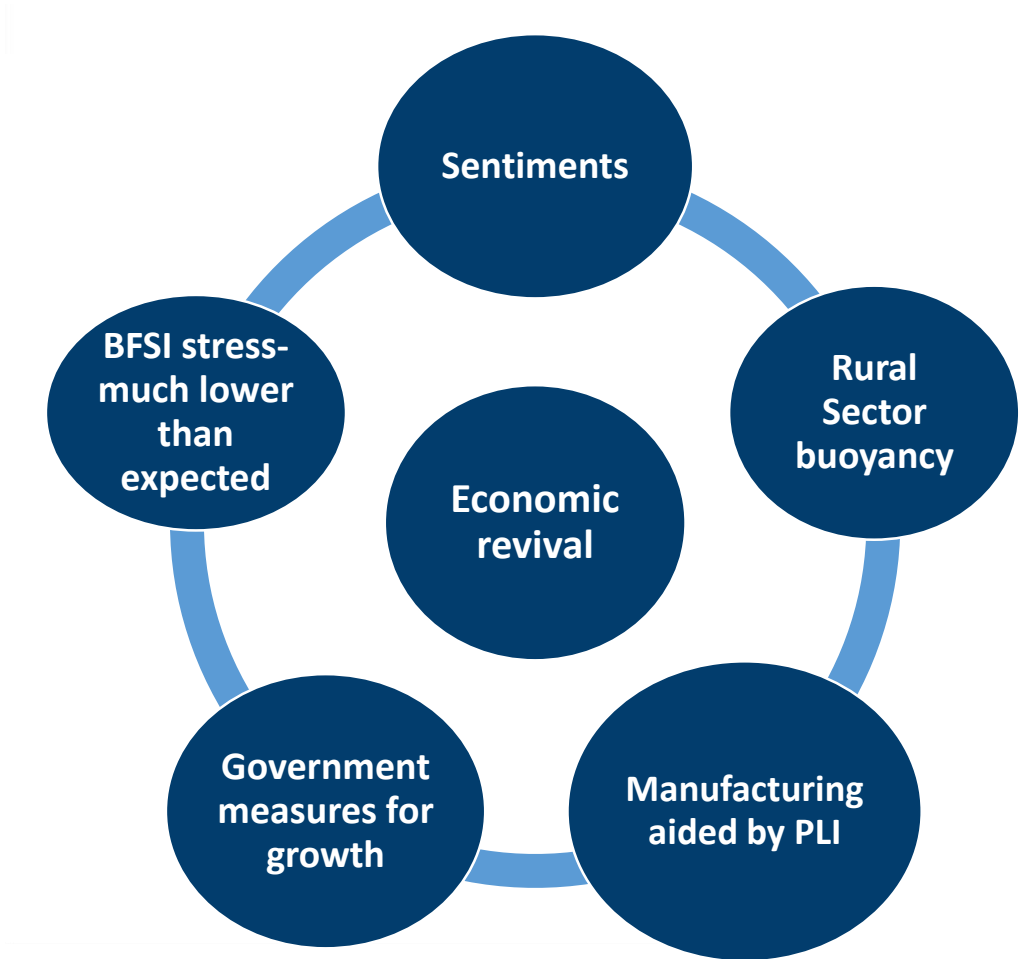
Nifty fair value pegged at 14400

With the worst of asset quality concerns behind us amid resolution of big ticket stressed assets and economic optimism in the post-Covid era, Nifty earnings CAGR is impressively placed at 22.7% in FY21E-23E. We value the Nifty at 14,400 i.e. 20x P/E on FY23E EPS of ₹ 720 with corresponding Sensex target at 50,000.

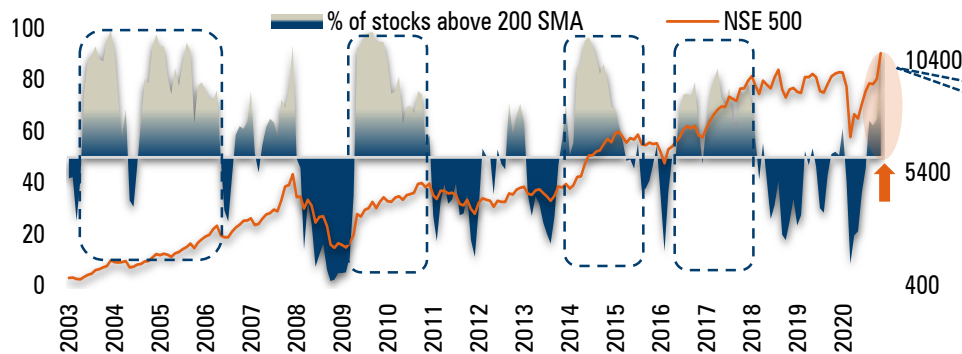
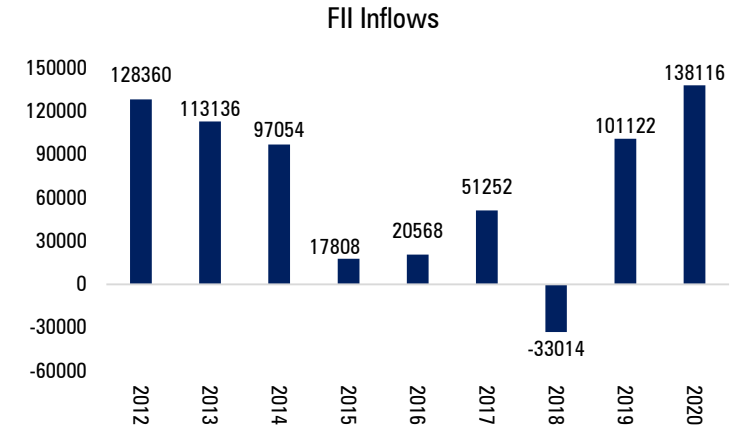
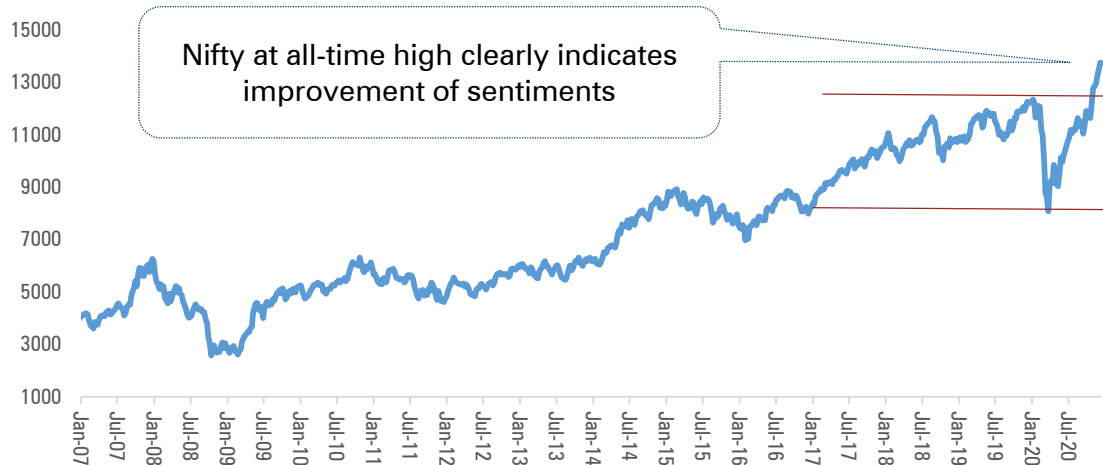
Nifty Target						
Earnings Estimates	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Nifty EPS (₹/share)	455	471	442	478	615	720
Earnings CAGR over FY21E-23E						22.7%
Target Multiple						20x
Nifty Target (at 20x FY23E EPS)						14400

For CY21, we expect midcaps and small caps to gain relatively more than the large caps. Our thesis is based on the fact that delta in earnings growth during a recovery phase will be high in midcaps and small caps vis-à-vis large caps whereas multiple expansion in the former will provide additional alpha for capital appreciation. Other macro factors like benign interest rates and structural cost rationalisation measures will also aid operating and financial leverage for this category. Hence, our top picks for CY21 are in the midcap and small cap space.

Stock Picks for 2021			
Company	CMP (₹)	Target Price (₹)	Upside (%)
Phillips Carbon Black	171	210	23
PNC Infra	174	220	26
HCL Tech	941	1105	17
Amber Enterprise	2380	2830	19
Navin Fluorine	2608	3040	17
Indoco Remedies	297	380	28
Divis Lab	3800	4425	16



Sentiment indicators – Stock market key indicator of sentiments

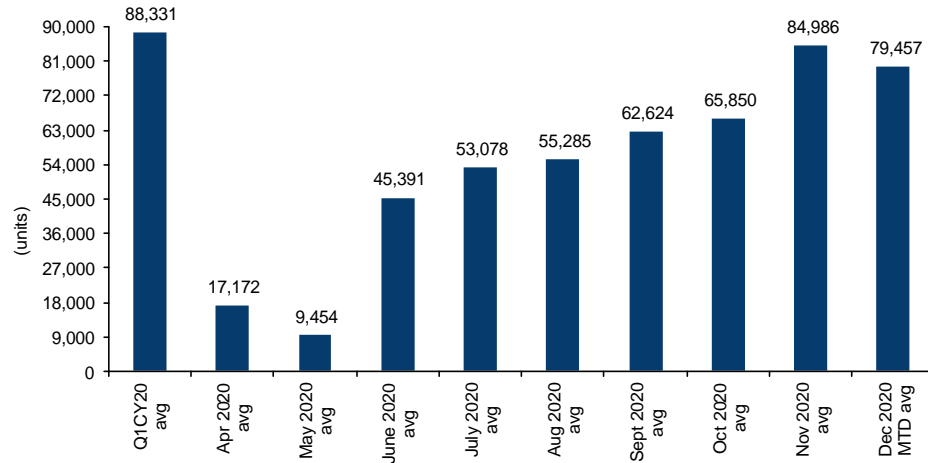


In CY20, India has been a preferred destination for FIIs, with FII inflows at life-time high, further supporting our view of improving market sentiment

Past few months' sharp rally is supported by strengthening market breadth as currently 92% component of NSE 500 is trading above their 200 days simple moving average (SMA). This highlights broad based participation and improving market sentiments

Leading economic indicators also indicate recovery

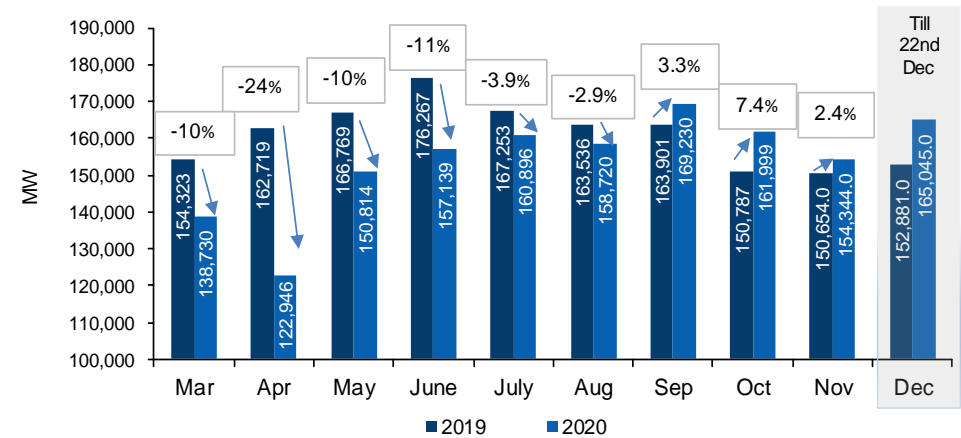
Monthly Vahan registration at pre-Covid levels



Vahan daily registrations during December (MTD) are at ~79500 units at around pre-Covid levels, a little lower than peak volumes (boosted by festive retails) clocked in November 2020

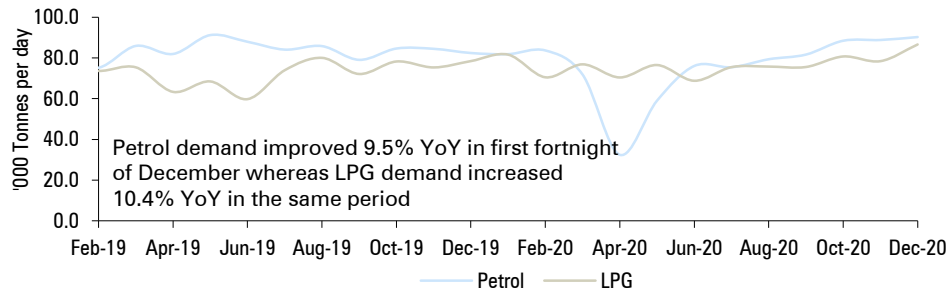
(Note – Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana are non-Vahan states. They combined form ~15% of auto volumes and ~20% of tractor volumes)

Monthly average peak power demand in 2019 & 2020

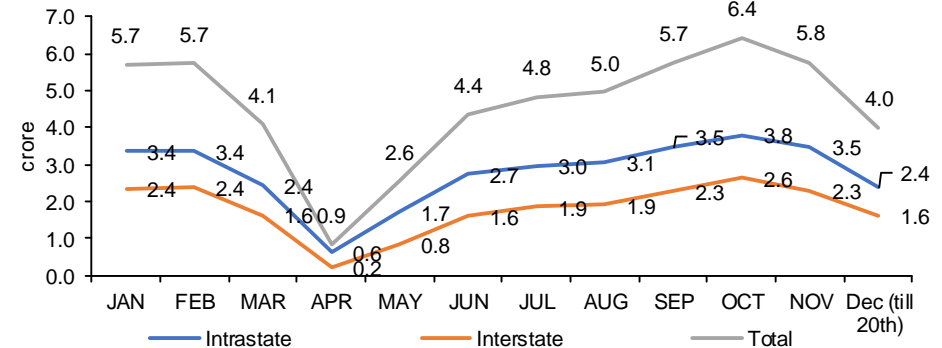


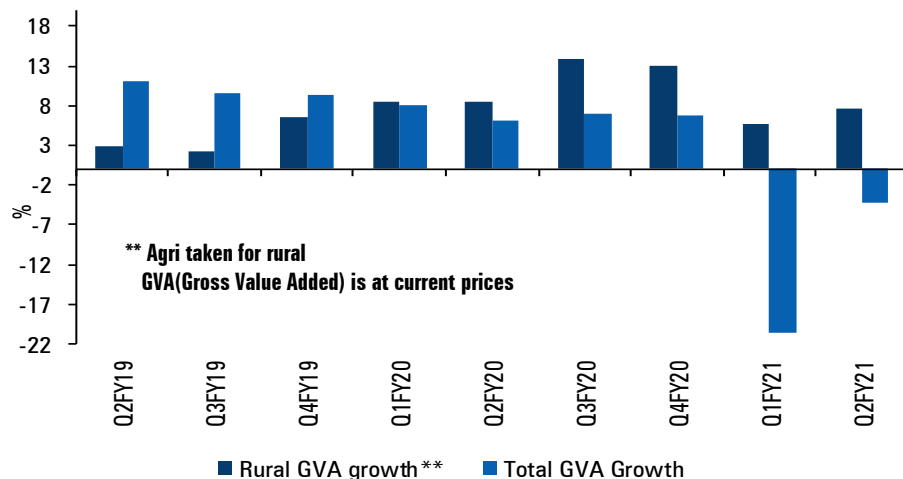
Average peak power demand started on a strong footing in December with average peak power demand till December 22 being registered at 165 GW vs. 152.8 GW YoY, an increase of 8%.

Petrol & LPG demand



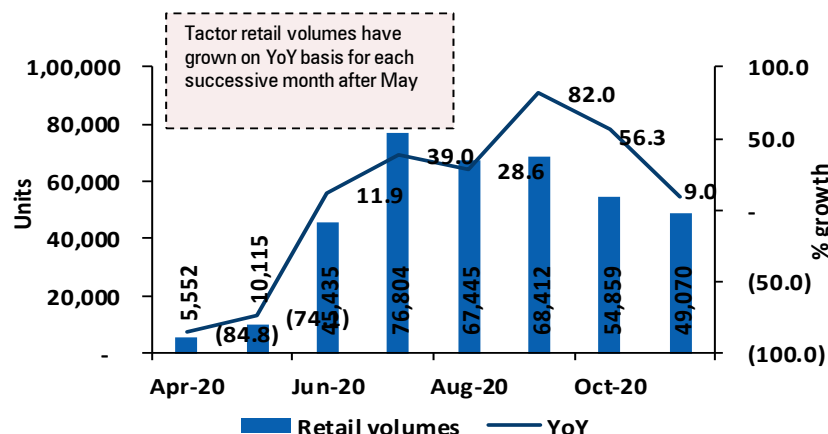
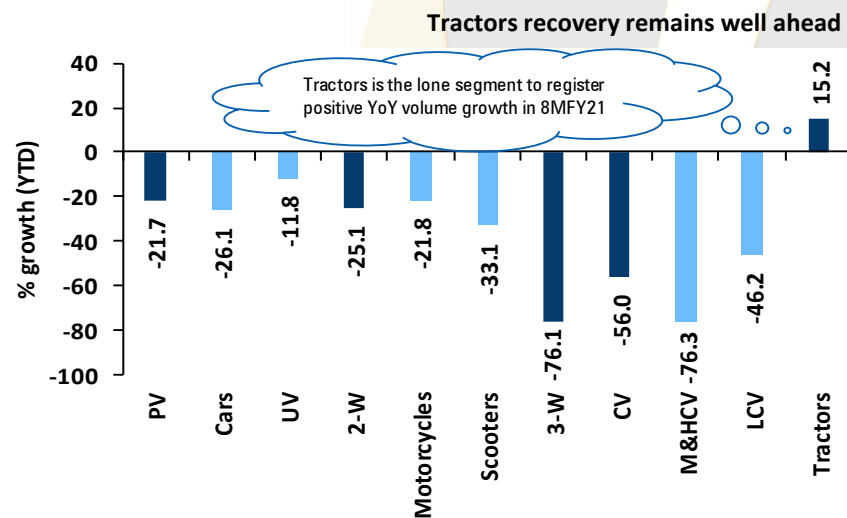
E-Way bill generation





Rural India and agriculture sector were affected the least by the containment measures. Accordingly, when GVA contracted 20.6%, agriculture was the only sector that stayed positive in Q1FY21 growing 5.7% YoY. The strength continued with growth of 7.7% YoY, despite GVA contraction of 4.2% YoY in September 2020.

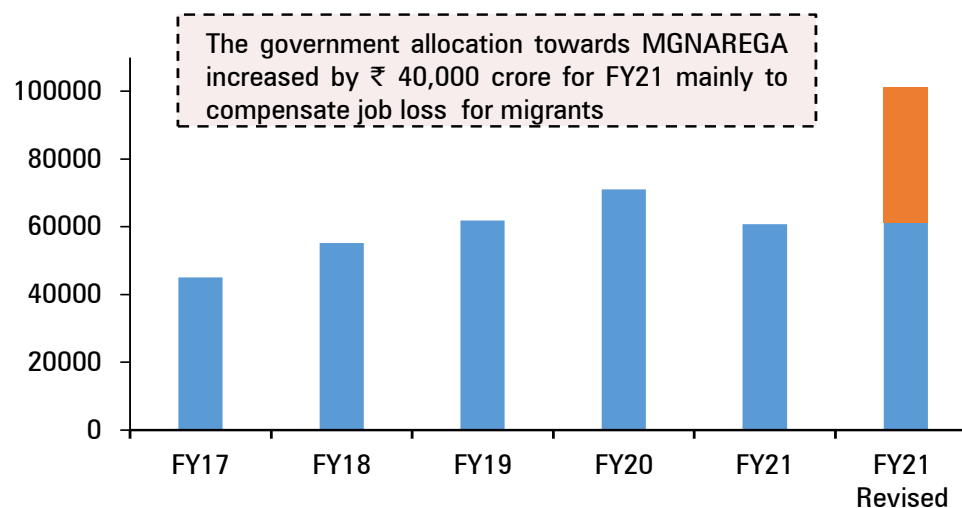
Rural incomes and sentiment remain buoyant, driven by - strong rainfall (up 9% YoY), record Kharif output (9% YoY increase as per first advance estimates for FY21), healthy reservoir levels (86% of capacity), lower pandemic incidence in the hinterlands and continued government spend on agriculture & rural development



Source:: Siam, Crisil Research, Vahan database, Industry sources, ICICI Direct Research *GVA= GDP + Subsidies on products – Taxes on products

Rural buoyancy – Driven by government spends

- Government spends increased by ₹ 1.7 lakh crore largely towards Rural India to weather the impact of the pandemic. It has distributed more than 24 million tonnes of food grain in the last eight months, transferred ₹ 30,000 crore to 20 crore women Jan-Dhan accounts and increased MGNAREGA spends by ₹ 40,000 crore
- Consequently, rural consumption has grown significantly in the last six months. This is reflected in the growth numbers for FMCG sector categories. For example, Nestlé witnessed urban & rural sales growth of 6% & 12% in September 2020 quarter compared to 13% & 6%, respectively, for the same in the March 2020 quarter. Similarly, within the consumer discretionary sector, paints and appliances have seen double digit growth largely driven by rural consumption



The government in its notification on November 11, extended the reach of production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to 10 more sectors for five years with a total outlay of ~ ₹ 1.46 lakh crore. Prior to this, the government had already approved PLI schemes for three sectors (mobile manufacturing, API, medical devices).

Sectors	Estimated Expenditure (₹ crore)
Mobile Phones Manufacturing	47,240
API and others	6,940
Manufacturing of Medical Devices	3,420
Advance Cell Chemistry Battery	18,100
Electronic/Technology Products	5,000
Automobiles & Auto Components	57,042
Pharmaceuticals Drugs	15,000
Telecom & Networking Products	12,195
Textile Products	10,683
Food Products	10,900
High Efficiency Solar PV Modules	4,500
White Goods (ACs & LED)	6,238
Specialty Steel	6,322
Total	2,03,580

Capex opportunity, albeit lower, remains decent...

- Capex numbers are likely to get revised, due to Covid impact. While there is no official release yet, overall capex is expected to be 25-33% lower than budgeted. However, this also provides a decent opportunity
- Among segments, states with stressed fiscals will have a lower capex spending. Central and private are likely to do the heavy lifting of capex spends in the near term
- Ordering of big projects is expected to provide a decent opportunity. For instance, bullet train tender for the ordering of Gujarat section, itself provides opportunity of ~₹ 60000 crore
- The road segment has been the most resilient of infra opportunity: Despite the lockdown, NHAI has awarded projects worth ₹ 50000 crore, totalling 1,900 km of highways in FY21YTD. NHAI expects to award projects of 4,500 km in FY21 and is set to exceed this target

	FY20	FY21E	% of the Total	FY21E (Estimated) - factoring in post covid impact
Urban Infra	2,98,174	4,62,298	21%	3,23,609
Energy	2,33,607	4,41,523	20%	1,67,779
Roads	3,32,559	3,83,283	18%	2,68,298
Railways	1,33,387	2,62,465	12%	1,70,602
Irrigation	1,14,463	2,00,615	9%	1,20,369
Rural Infra	1,40,313	1,76,803	8%	1,32,602
Social Infra	56,608	78,314	4%	58,736
Digital Communication	78,356	61,847	3%	43,293
Industrial infra	19,070	43,066	2%	25,840
Ports	13,357	18,104	1%	13,578
Agri, food processing	3,570	3,895	0%	2,727
Airports	18,667	21,655	1%	15,159
TOTAL (₹ crore)	14,42,131	21,53,868		13,42,590

BFSI stress much lower than anticipated

- Initial moratorium at industry level was at above 50%
- Unlocking and lenders effort has led to sharp improvement in collection efficiency (at ~90% currently)
- Restructuring is anticipated at ₹ 5.2 lakh crore i.e. ~5% of advances
- Provision on incremental stress and ageing NNPA is expected to keep credit cost at ~240 bps in FY22-23E
- Higher proportion of incremental stress & pile of earlier NNPA is likely to keep PSU bank earnings under pressure. Private banks are positioned relatively better and the earnings seemed to have bottomed out for them

Incremental stress build up	
	₹ lakh crore
Advances	103.4
Incremental stress	
Restructuring @~5% of advances	5.2
NPA accretion	1.9
Total	7.0

Credit cost to remain elevated			
₹ lakh crore	Advances	Slippages	Provision
Covid related stress			
Restructuring	5.2	1.6	1.6
NPA accretion	1.9	1.9	0.9
Total	7.0	3.4	2.5
Existing NNPA	3.2	3.2	2.6
Total	103.4		5.0
Credit cost (%)			2.4%

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Micro themes for CY21

PLI scheme boost for textile/auto/electronics

Textile

- ❖ Allocation of **₹ 10683 crore for MMF and technical textiles** over the next five years through PLI scheme will enhance the capabilities of the Indian MMF sector by attracting higher investment, improving global competitiveness and garnering higher share of global MMF trade
- ❖ As per industry estimates, about 40 product lines in MMF garments and 10 products lines in technical textiles account for nearly US\$180 billion global trade in which India has a very limited share and that could provide scalable export opportunity for Indian MMF players to enhance their market share

Auto

- ❖ Allocation towards automobile sector that was classified under two broad heads:
 - (a) **~₹ 57,000 crore for auto and auto component sector and**
 - (b) **~₹ 18,000 crore for advanced cell chemistry including EV batteries**
- ❖ Exact contours of the scheme have not yet been decided. However, media reports mention that incentives could be linked to export turnover and investments in gross block

Electronics

- ❖ In a bid to give a boost to domestic production of mobile phones, accessories and reduce import, the government has launched a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. Government plans to **boost domestic production of mobile phones and export with the aim of creating ₹ 10.5 lakh crore turnover in five years along with ~8 lakh new jobs**
- ❖ It will entail **₹ 47240 crore government expenditure** in the form of incentive and **₹ 11000 crore additional investment by private players**

PLI - Boost for domestic manufacturing of electronics

In a bid to give a boost to the domestic production of electronics goods and components like mobile phones, ACs, accessories, etc, and to reduce the imports, the government has launched a **production linked incentive (PLI) scheme**

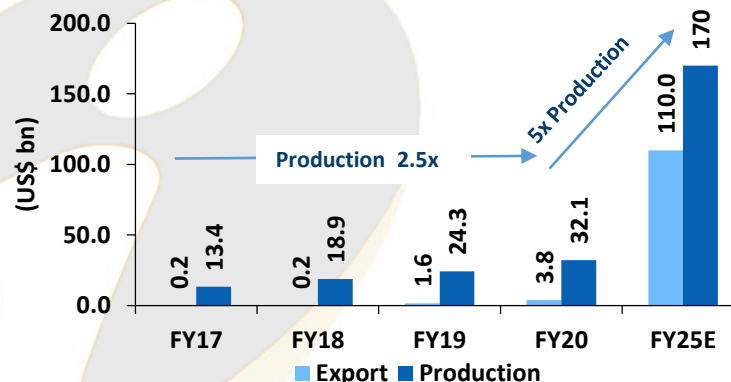
Key features of PLI scheme

- Total ~₹ 47,240 government expenditure in the form incentive for mobile phones & white goods manufacturing
- Scheme targets zero import of mobile phones from current levels of US\$1 billion
- Production target of ₹ 10.5 lakh crore (US\$170 bn) worth of mobile. ₹ 6.5 lakh crore (US\$110 bn) of production will be exported
- Domestic value addition to increase from 15-20% to 45-50% in the next five years
- Total ~8 lakh new job creation

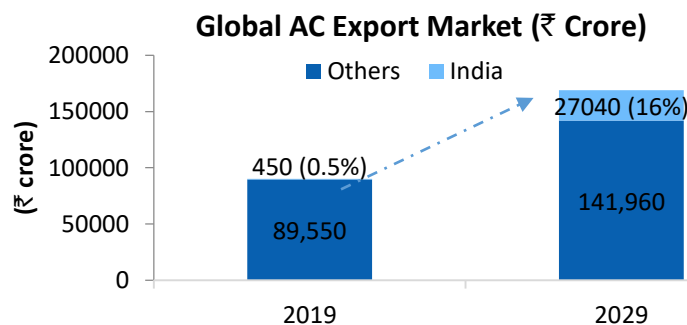
Major benefits

- ✓ Boost domestic production & lower imports (electronic goods third largest import item)
- ✓ Attracts foreign investments, preferred destination in China+1 strategy

Anticipate multifold jump in mobile production & exports



Anticipate multifold rise in India AC export market share



Major beneficiaries

Dixon Technologies

- Phone capacity (pa): 40 million units (13% of India's demand)
- Washing machine capacity (pa): 1.2 mn unit (28% of India's demand)
- LED TV capacity (pa): 4.4 mn unit (31% of India's demand)

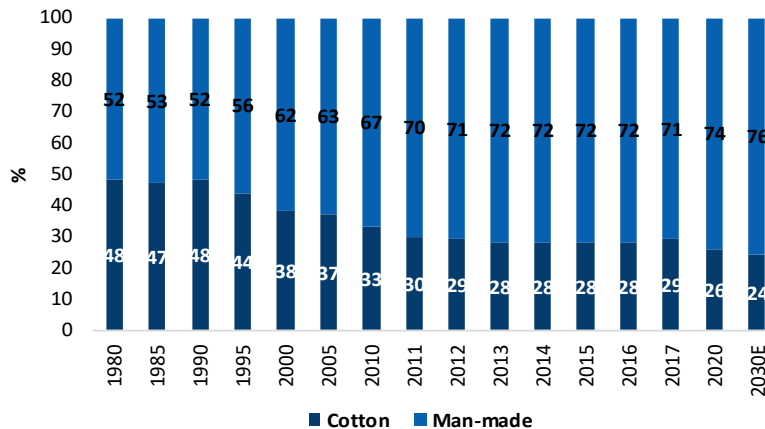
Amber Enterprises

- RAC market share: 24%
- Railways market share (static & mobility application): 51%

Source: NSDL, ICICI Direct Research

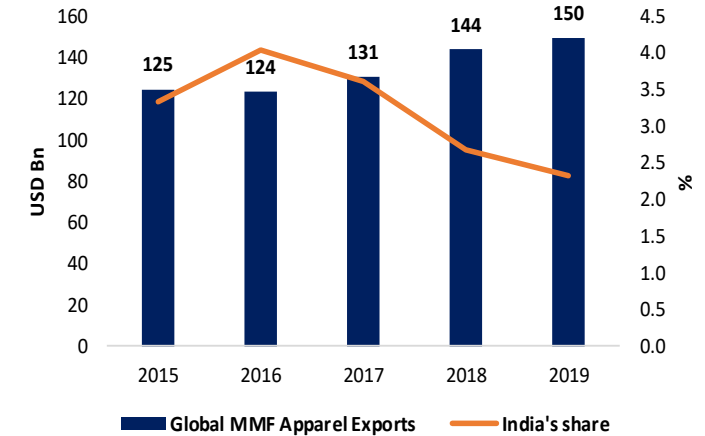
Focus on garnering higher share of MMF/technical textile value chain export opportunity

MMF to dominate global fibre consumption

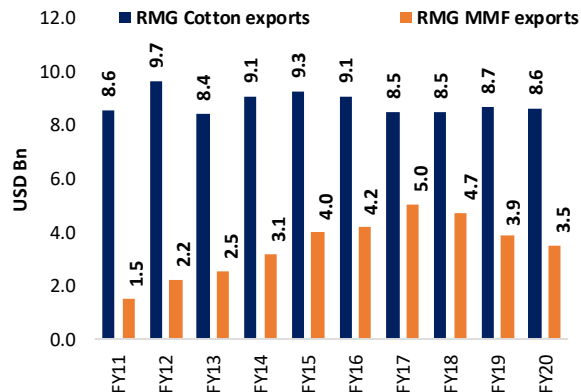


Globally MMF is the dominant fibre, while India's exports are skewed in favour of cotton based textiles with share of cotton based textile exports at ~2x to MMF based textiles. To capture the global export opportunity in MMF, the Government of India has allocated ₹ 10683 crore to support manmade fibre (MMF) and technical textiles over the next five years through production linked incentive scheme (PLI).

India's share minuscule at ~2% of global apparel MMF trade



India's strength predominantly lies with cotton based apparel exports



Polyester is becoming a preferred fibre given its unique characteristics (highly durable, wrinkle resilient) and inherent limitations of growth of cotton fibre. The PLI scheme aims to enhance capabilities of the Indian MMF sector and improve global competitiveness to garner higher share of the global MMF trade. Scaling up capacities for these products would provide a sustainable export opportunity for Indian MMF players present across the value chain (from yarn to apparels).

Key beneficiaries:

Gokaldas Exports: Major exporter of apparels with ~ 40% MMF based product portfolio (jackets)

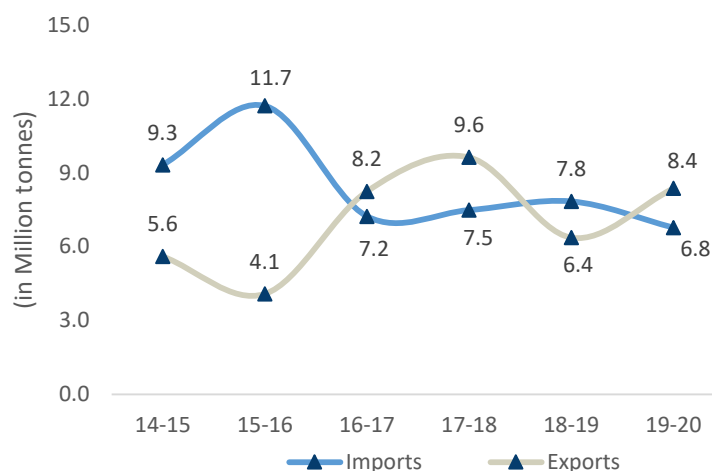
Siyaram Silk Mills: Presence in domestic B2C segment with MMF contributing ~ 85% fabric product portfolio

Filatex India: Major player in Indian MMF industry expected to benefit from increased export demand of value added MMF products (DTY, FDY)

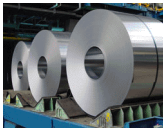
Arvind Ltd: Presence in technical textiles (segment growing in early double digits with stable margins)

Over the years, domestic steel companies have been focused towards import substitution as well as export promotion. The extension of PLI scheme to speciality steel gives a further push to this objective. Within this scheme, there is a financial outlay of ₹ 6322 crore that has been approved for five years. Under this PLI scheme, coated products, high strength steel, steel rails and alloy steel bars and rods are included. Going forward, this scheme would also aid domestic companies in enhancing their manufacturing capabilities and developing new products to promote import substitution as well as enhance exports.

Indian finished steel imports & exports (in million tonne)



Highlights of PLI for speciality steel sector

Sector	Implementing Ministry	Years	Amount	Benefits
 Specialty Steel	Ministry of Steel	Five	₹ 6322 crore	❖ Will Help in enhancing manufacturing capabilities of Value Added products.

Speciality Steel Products included in the PLI Scheme

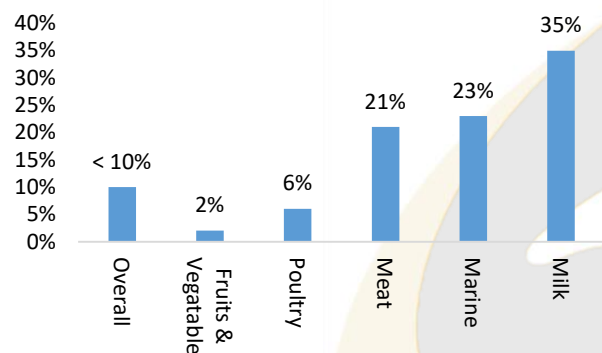
• Colled Products	• Steel Rolls
• Speciality Steel Products	• Alloy Steel Bars

- ✓ Specialty steel, a part of value added steel, finds applications in key areas within automobiles, railways, etc. This is by virtue of having critical application, value added products yields, higher EBITDA/tonne for steel companies vis-à-vis basic commodity grade. Hence, having higher proportion of value added share aids in lending stability to overall operating margins. Currently, for JSW Steel, value added, special products account for ~51% of overall sales while for Tata Steel value added, special products account for ~43% of overall sales (domestic segment for both companies). Extension of PLI scheme to specialty steel segment would give a push for domestic steel companies to increase the share of value added products in overall product mix thereby improving their earnings profile
- ✓ The PLI scheme would aid in both promoting import substitution as well as lending stability to earnings of domestic steel companies. The scheme would support in upscaling product profile for domestic steel companies thereby leading to import substitution. Furthermore, for steel companies it would also aid in increasing the share of value added products in its overall product basket thereby lending stability to overall EBITDA/tonne

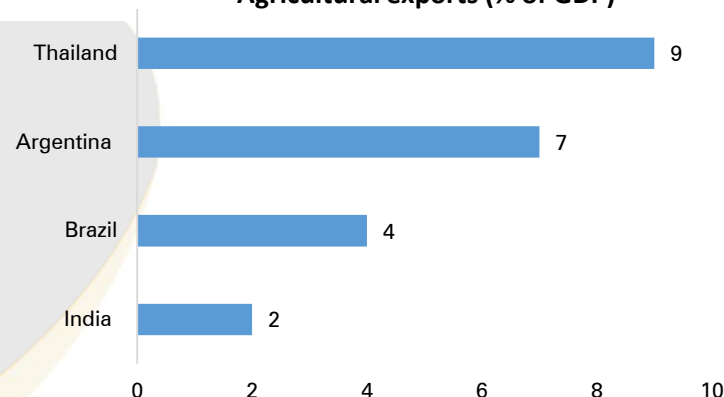
Source: Ministry of Steel, ICICI Direct Research

Food processing is essential to utilise excess agricultural production for exports but it can also be re-directed for fuel production. In turn, this would reduce dependency on crude import. In 2019-20, India sacrificed 0.8 million tonnes (MT) of sugar for additional ethanol production. We believe 5 MT of sugar (16% of production) can be diverted for additional 300 crore litre of ethanol production in the next three years.

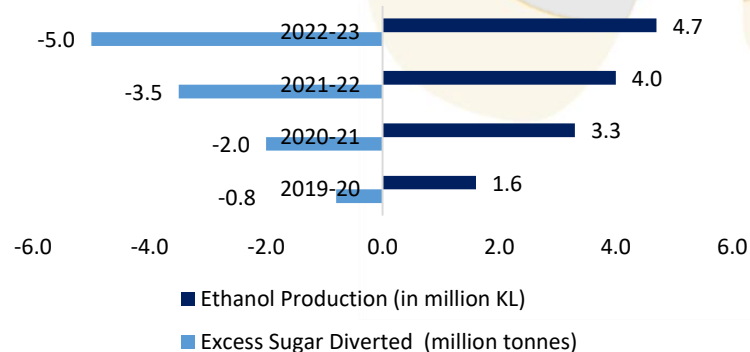
Food processing levels in different food products



Agricultural exports (% of GDP)



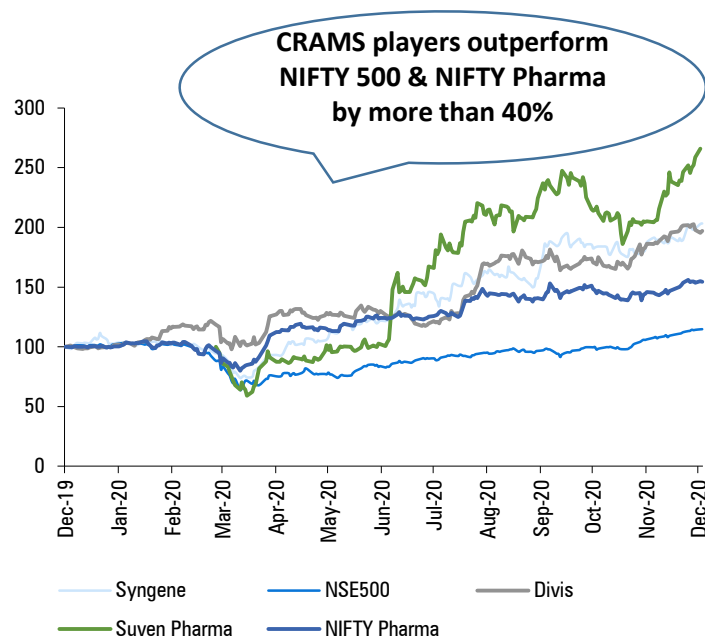
Excess sugar production diverted towards Ethanol Production



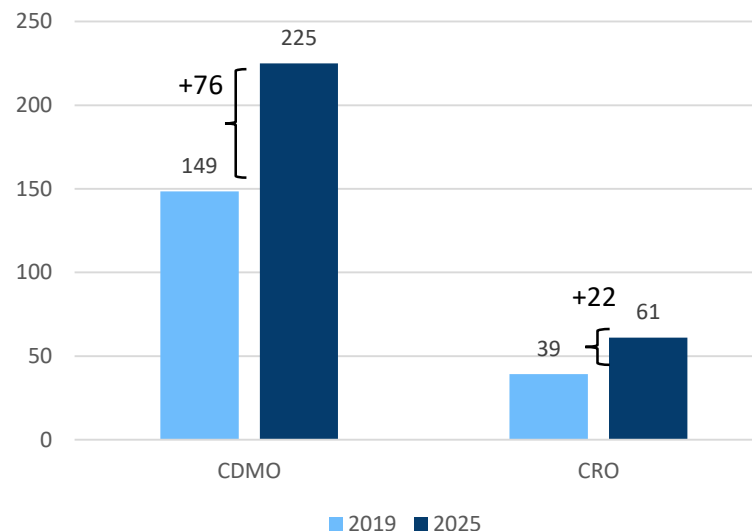
- India processes less than 10% of its agricultural produce with milk & marine products being the highest at 35% & 23%, respectively
- One of the major exports within food processing in India is seafood that shipped 12.9 lakh tonnes of seafood worth \$6.68 billion during 2019-20
- However, still agricultural exports accounts for 2% of our GDP against 9% & 7% for Thailand & Argentina, respectively
- India has been successfully been able to process excess sugarcane towards ethanol production. It is expected to sacrifice 5.0 MT of sugar & produce additional 300 crore litre of ethanol by 2022-23

Source:: NSDL, ICICI Direct Research

CRAMS – Significant visibility capex hints at growing opportunities



Opportunity size in billion US\$



Global CRAMS market is expected to grow at 7% CAGR in 2019-25 on the back of increasing costs of R&D, coupled with significant revenue loss due to impending patent cliff that has forced major pharmaceutical companies worldwide to outsource part of their research and manufacturing activities

Capex (₹crore)	FY21-23E	Past 5 years	Comments
Divi's Lab	2800	2000	Aggressive capex attributable to order book visibility in both CRAMS and API segments
Suven Pharma	600	NA	Post demerger of innovative business, declared aggressive capex for CRAMS business
Syngene	2100	1275	Aggressive capex attributable to order book visibility
Laurus Lab	1500	1500	CRAMS is 30% of overall revenues, however has strong order book visibility for it

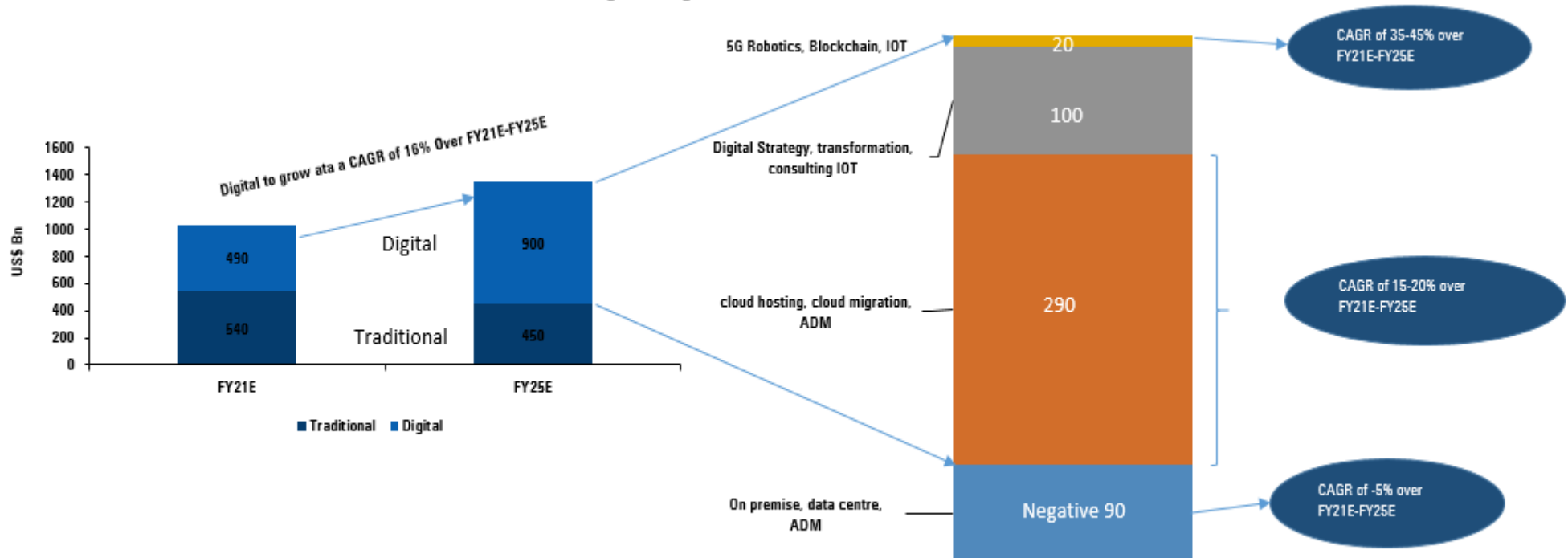
Increasing capex plans across the board on the back of stronger CRAMS demand

Besides the usual cost advantage and legacy capabilities spelled out many times in the past, the post Covid scenario would further strengthen the already strong order-book scenario. A case in point is a proposed incremental capex of ₹ 400 crore by Divi's to execute an unplanned CRAMS order at short notice

Rising adoption of smartphones, high internet speed and social distancing (due to Covid-19) has changed consumer behaviour. Consumers now prefer to transact (buy a product) virtually over the smartphone via an app instead of physical transaction. This has led to proliferation of new age technologies (expected to grow at a CAGR of 16% in FY21E-25E) and is set to be the beginning of a multi-year technology transformation phase.

In the first phase, enterprises are building a cloud-based foundation (expected to grow at a CAGR of 15-20% in FY21E-25E). In the second phase, there will be growth in ancillary technologies like AI, robotics, IOT and 5G (expected to grow at a CAGR of 35-45% in FY21E-25E). The key beneficiaries of this theme include HCL Technologies (which has higher share of revenues from infrastructure led Cloud based services) and Tech Mahindra (which generates ~40% of revenues from communication segment and an ideal play on 5G technologies).

IT, BPO, Engineering market (\$ billion) over FY21E-FY25E

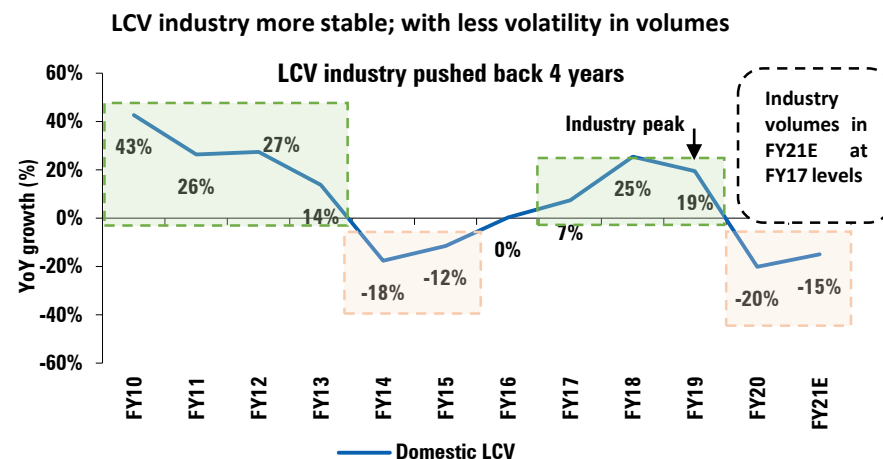
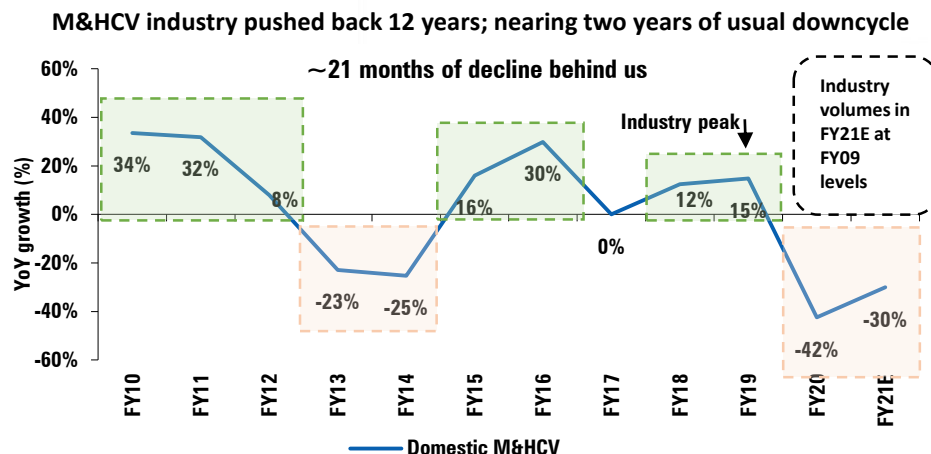


Break up of incremental revenue of US\$320 bn over FY21E-FY25E

Source: Wipro Analyst Meet Presentation, ICICI Direct Research

CV segment on cusp of cyclical upswing

The domestic CV space is expected to commence its cyclical upswing from FY22E onwards primarily tracking steady pace of road construction awarding, increased freight movement, pick-up in mining activity amid government focus on infrastructure and continued e-commerce demand.



CV cycle recovery would benefit the entire CV segment linked automotive value chain. Key beneficiaries can be classified as:

- Auto OEMs:** On the auto OEMs front, it will benefit Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, M&M and Eicher Motors (VECV).
- Auto components:** On the auto ancillary front, it will benefit forging players like Bharat Forge, MM Forging. It will also benefit other components players viz. Bosch, Wabco, Automotive Axle, Jamna Auto, Minda Corporation among others.
- Tyre & tyre chemicals:** Given high tonnage demand of tyres from CV space, it will benefit market leaders like Apollo Tyres, JK Tyres in tyre space & Phillips Carbon, Oriental Carbon in the tyre chemical space.

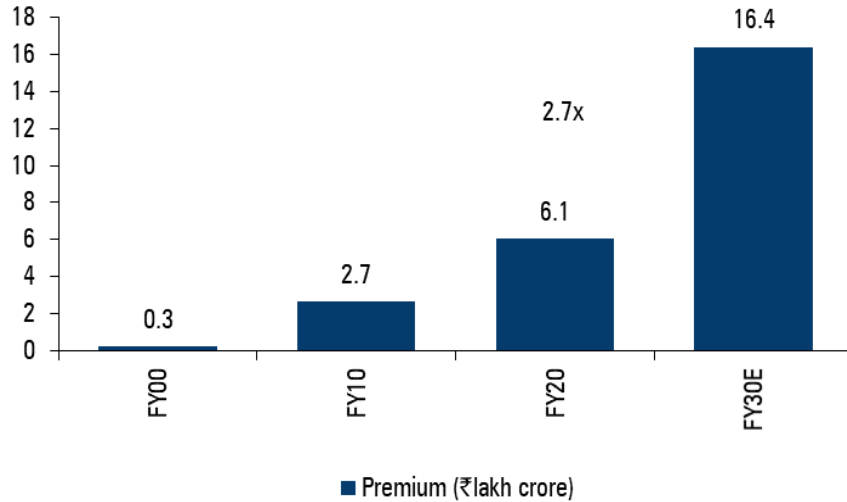
Implementation of affirmative, incentive-based scrappage policy and PLI scheme would also act as tailwinds for the CV space.

Our preferred potential winners from CV segment revival

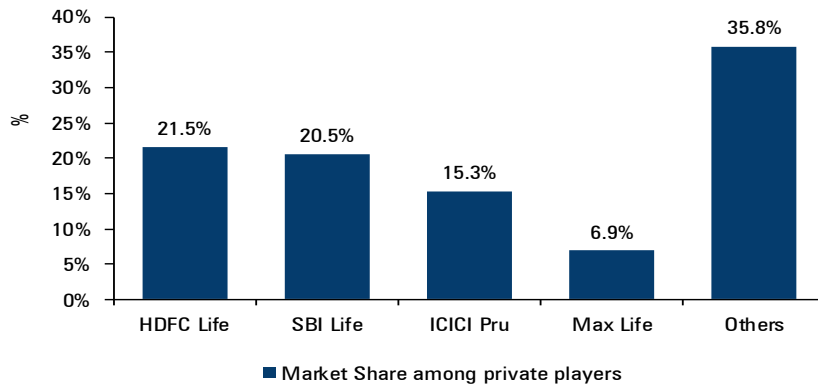
- Ashok Leyland** – pure play CV maker with volumes on the mend
- JK Tyre** – market leader in CV tyre sub-segment
- Phillips Carbon Black** – market leader of tyre consumable i.e. carbon black

Source: SIAM, Company, ICICI Direct Research

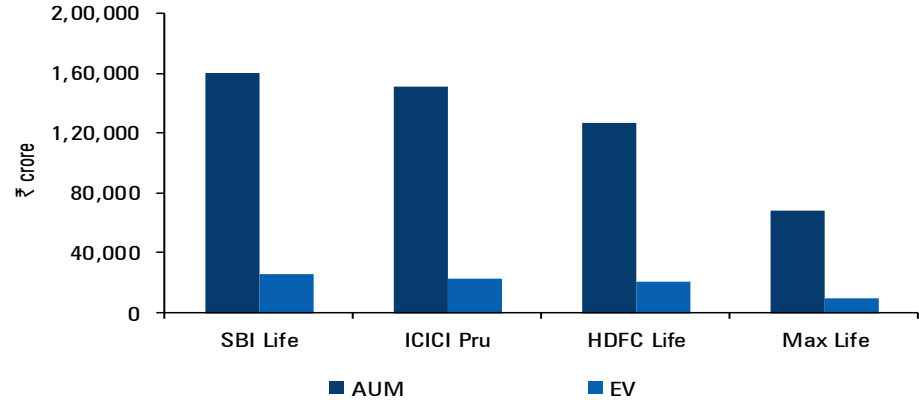
Insurance premium to surge post a slower decade



Top four private players with ~60% share well to gain incremental share

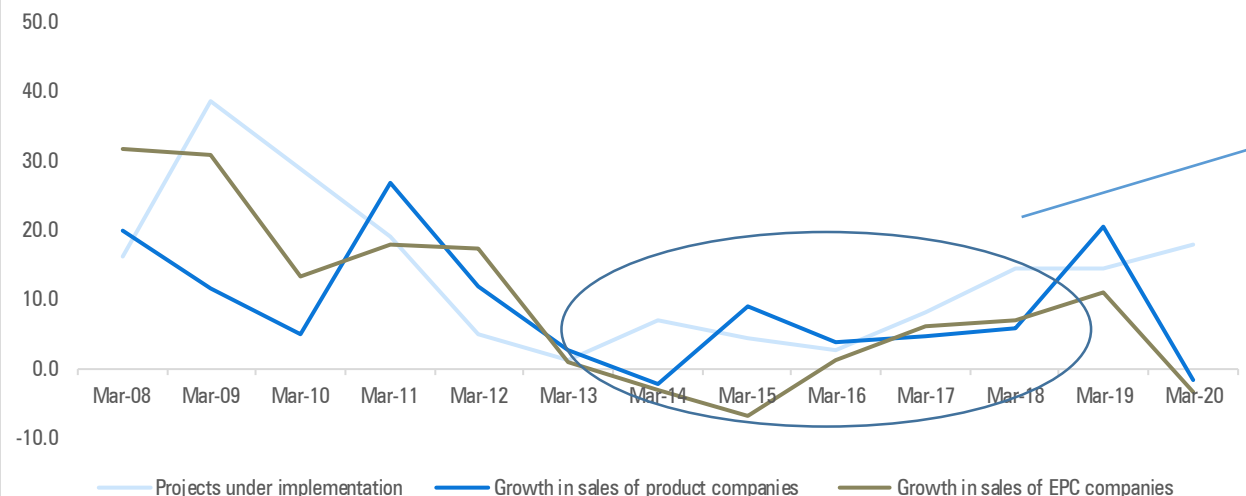


Business growth, improving mix to favour embedded value

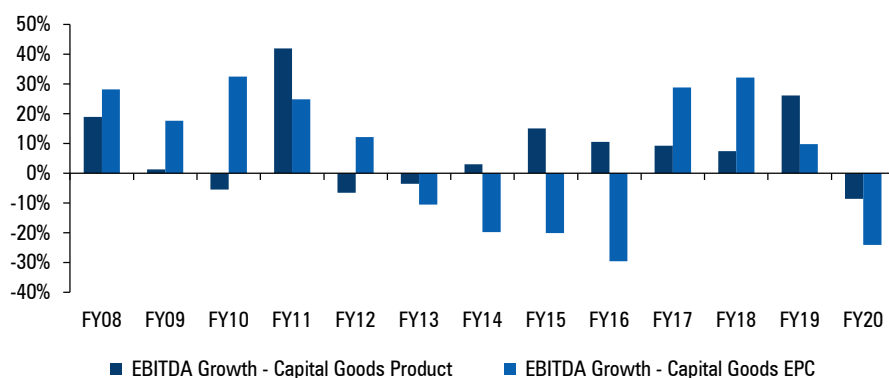


- Indian life insurance industry on cusp of structural growth as a tailwind in pandemic era
- Lower penetration at 2.4% and high protection gap to act as catalyst to sustain business growth
- **Protection, non-participating product to drive next phase of growth**
- High yielding product, improving persistency to drive margin ahead
- Large private players – **HDFC Life Insurance and SBI Life Insurance well placed to grab incremental opportunity ahead**

Product based capital goods companies fare well over EPC across capex cycles



Operating performance across cycles has been steady for product based capital goods companies



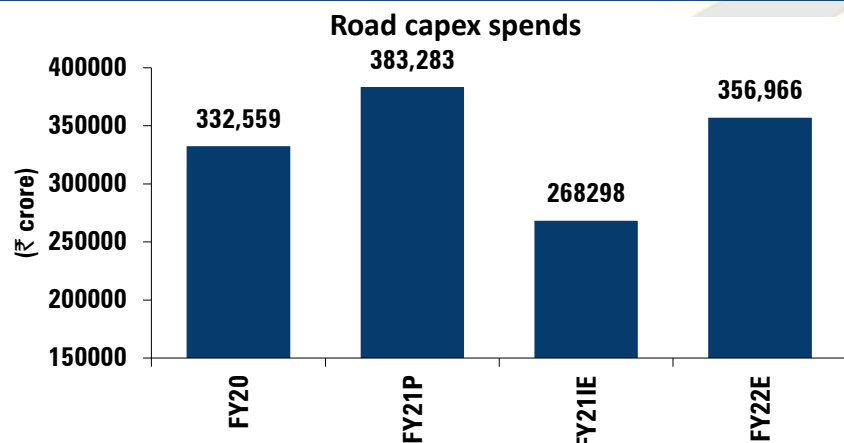
Year	Under Implementation (₹ crore)	No of Projects	Incremental Projects
Mar-08	1309837	9947	
Mar-09	1816844	12093	2146
Mar-10	2342990	13155	1062
Mar-11	2790251	14866	1711
Mar-12	2923495	15874	1008
Mar-13	2957714	15382	-492
Mar-14	3162513	15147	-235
Mar-15	3299360	15530	383
Mar-16	3388081	15399	-131
Mar-17	3660934	15797	398
Mar-18	4185482	16129	332
Mar-19	4790966	16739	610
Mar-20	5651934	17372	633
Sep-20	5867252	17842	470

With gradual improvement in fresh announcement of capex (H1FY21 saw announcement of fresh projects to the tune of ₹ 325000 crore and gradual pick-up in execution of existing projects on ground, demand for short cycle products like bearings, pumps, material handling equipment, construction equipment, abrasives, etc is likely to witness an uptick. Companies like SKF, Timken, Elgi, ACE, Ador Welding, ESAB, KSB, Grindwell to be key beneficiaries

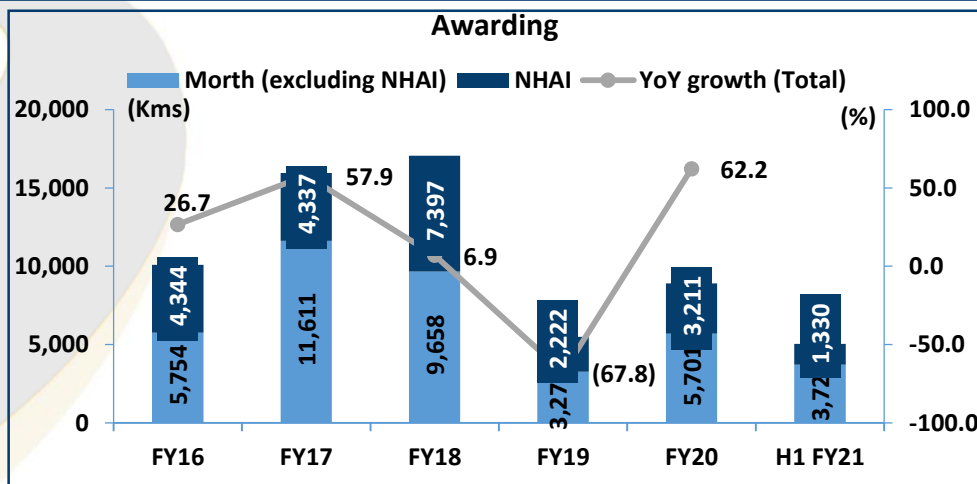
The last decade of capex cycle, FY13-17 was a difficult phase as fresh projects under implementation grew 4%. However, at the same time product based capital good companies saw steady ~4% growth whereas EPC companies saw an average decline of 0.4% in revenues.

Source: NSE, Company, ICICI Direct Research

The roads & highways segment (that formed ~23%+ of overall infrastructure spending in FY20) has put up a stellar show with robust awarding and improving construction pace. We expect players with strong execution skills and lean balance sheet position to benefit from the growing traction. Key beneficiary from our coverage universe would be KNR Constructions and PNC Infratech.



- Given the pandemic impact on the overall construction pace, we anticipate ~33% lower than estimated capex spends on roads in FY21. We note that core-highways segment (NHAI/MoRTH) would be largely on track, while state/rural roads construction traction could be the key dragger. However, the overall capex spends is expected to bounce back to ₹ 3.5+ lakh crore levels in FY22, thereby providing huge opportunities for road players
- We would, however, prefer, EPC/HAM players with strong execution skills, relatively leaner balance sheets and comfortable working capital



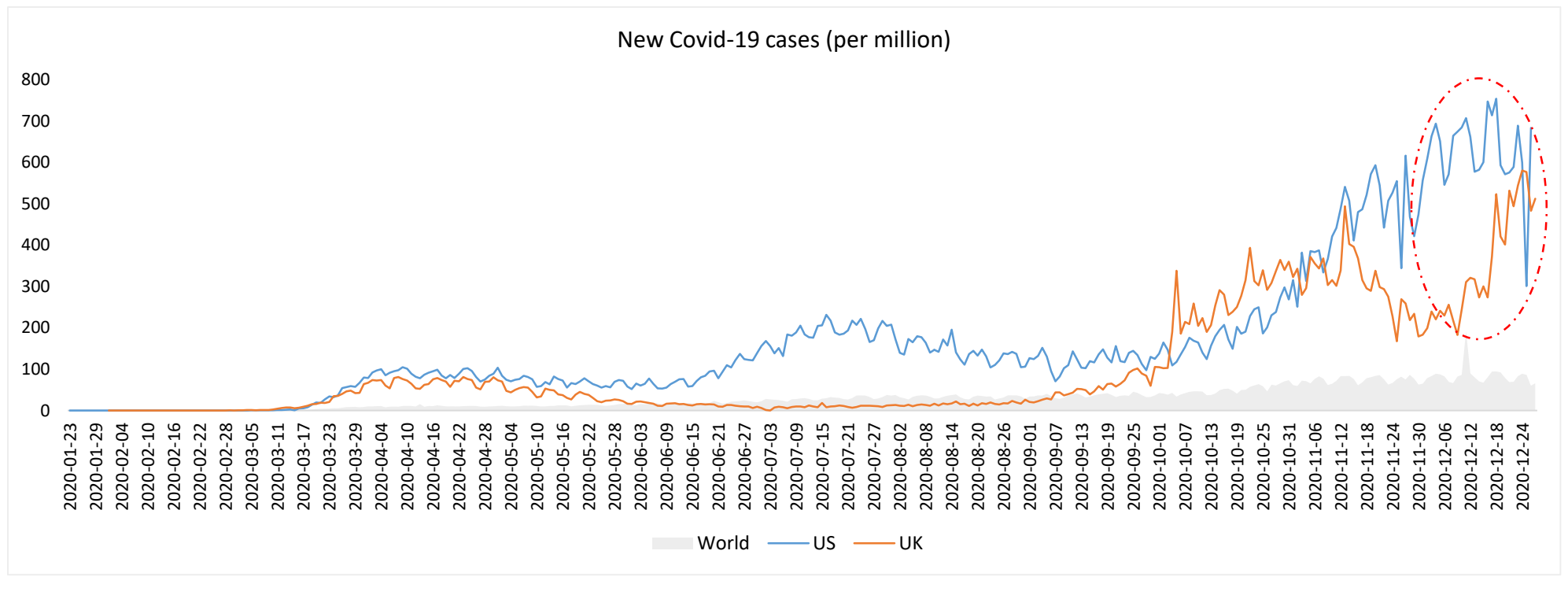
- The robust activity continued during H1FY21 even with the disturbances caused by nationwide lockdown owing to Covid-19 pandemic. NHAI, MoRTH (excluding NHAI) has awarded projects totalling 1,330 km, 3,722 km, respectively, in H1FY21. **For FY21YTD, ordering has been ~1900 km by NHAI, as per media reports**
- We expect NHAI to exceed FY21 target of 4,500 km (~₹ 2,000 bn) given
 - Strong order pipeline having 80%+ land availability along with forest and environmental approvals and clearances
 - Favourable changes in HAM/BOT models certifying higher acceptability
 - Monthly payment to contractors ensuring decent cash flows

Source:: NHAI, MoRTH, NIP, Media Articles, ICICI Direct Research *IE: IDirect Estimates *HAM= Hybrid Annuity Model



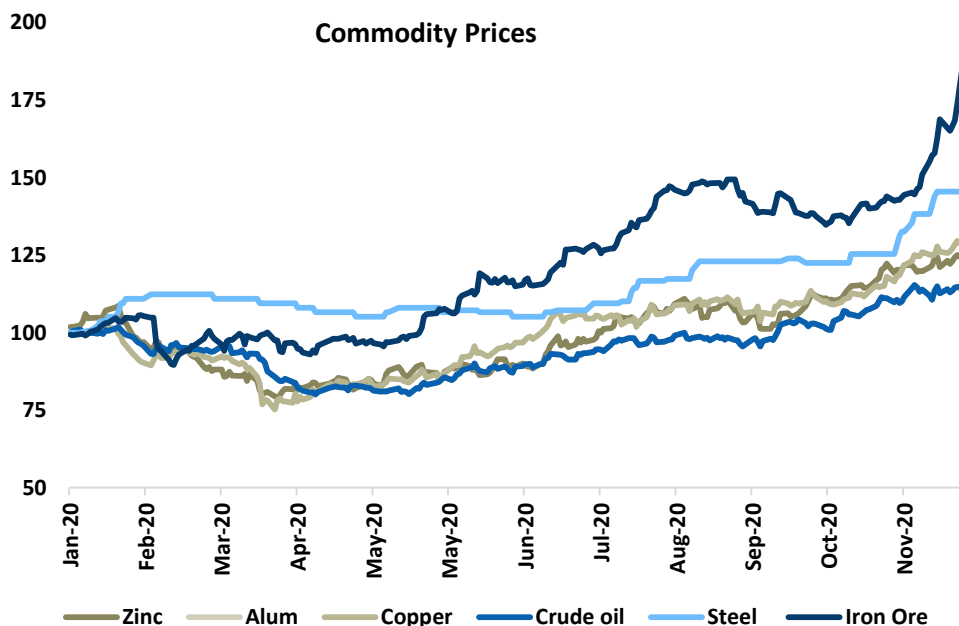
Risks

Restrictions, lockdowns may resurface in other parts of the globe if the cases in the US and Europe continue to rise instead of flattening. The newly discovered Covid-19 strain in the UK (believed to be more contagious) has already forced measured lockdowns in the UK. These mutations and restrictions may impact global vaccine development drives as well. Global growth recovery may take more time than estimated earlier.

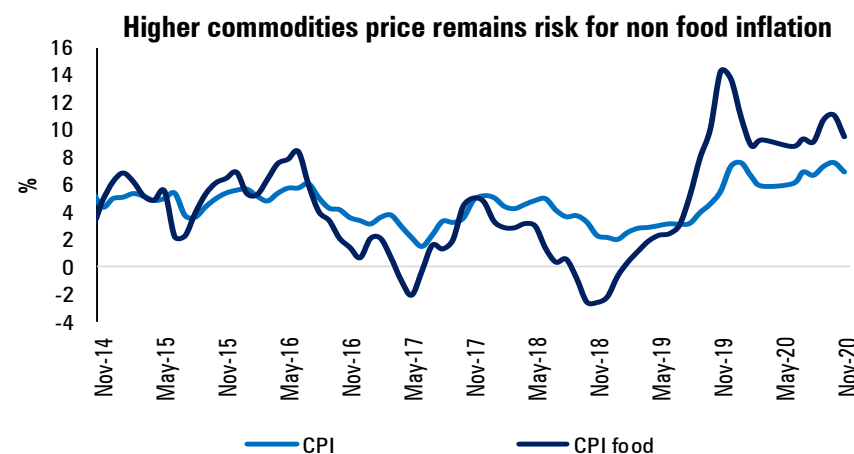
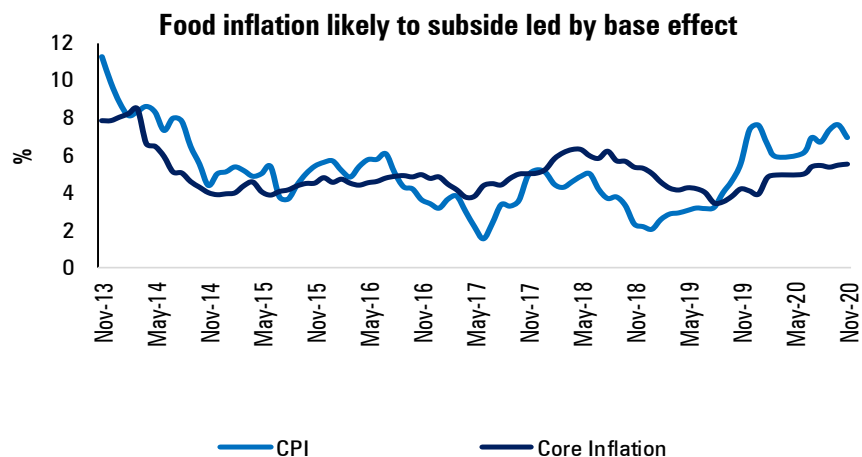


Source: ICICI Direct Research, ourworldindata.org

Uptick in commodity prices likely to push inflation higher....



- ✓ There has been an uptick in prices of all commodities, which includes likes of crude oil, ferrous metal, all major base metals, etc. The rally witnessed in commodity prices is expected to push up costs for user industries and is, therefore, likely to add to the inflationary pressure in the medium term
- ✓ Over the last two to three quarters, global commodity prices have witnessed a steady uptick primarily on the back of a sharp improvement in Chinese GDP growth rate post the decline in Q1CY20 coupled with a decline in the US dollar. Among all major commodities, iron ore has witnessed the steepest rally and is up 83% YTD



Source: RBI, Bloomberg, ICICI Direct Research

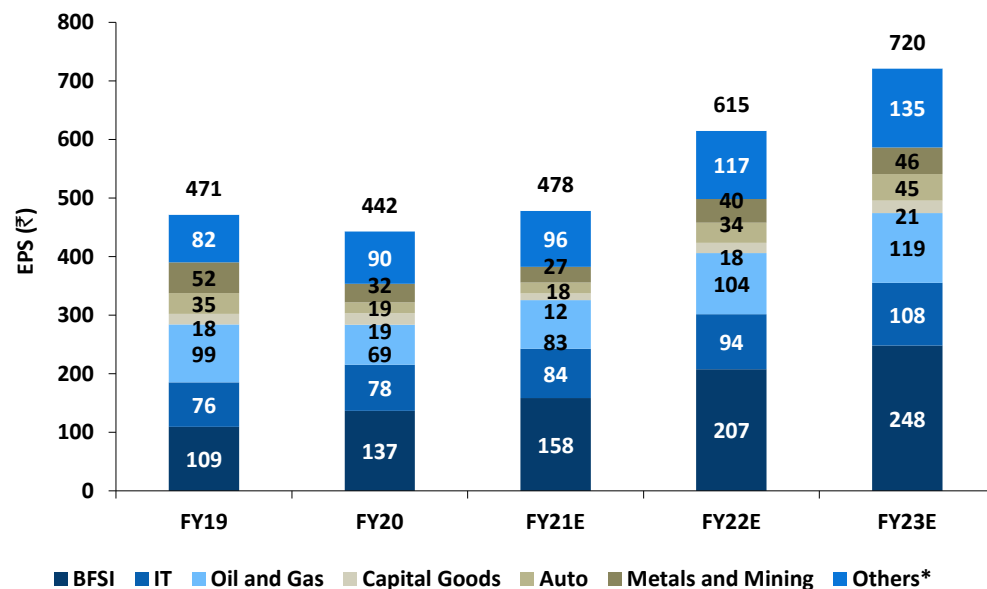
A large, light gray, stylized letter 'R' with a yellow drop shadow, serving as a background watermark for the slide.

Earnings & Market Outlook

Strong rebound in earnings: Nifty EPS to register 22.7% CAGR in FY21-23E

With the worst of asset quality concerns behind us amid resolution of big ticket stressed assets and economic optimism in the post Covid era, we expect Nifty earnings to grow at a CAGR of 17.5% over FY20-23E to ₹ 720 in FY23E vs. ₹ 442 in FY20. From the low base of FY21E, Nifty earnings CAGR is impressively placed at 22.7% in FY21E-23E.

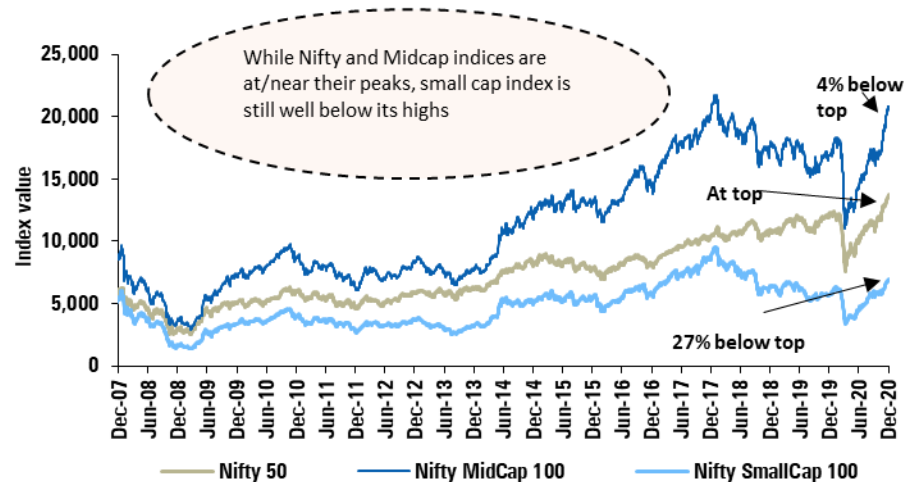
We value the Nifty at 14,400 i.e. 20x P/E on FY23E EPS of ₹ 720 with corresponding Sensex target at 50,000



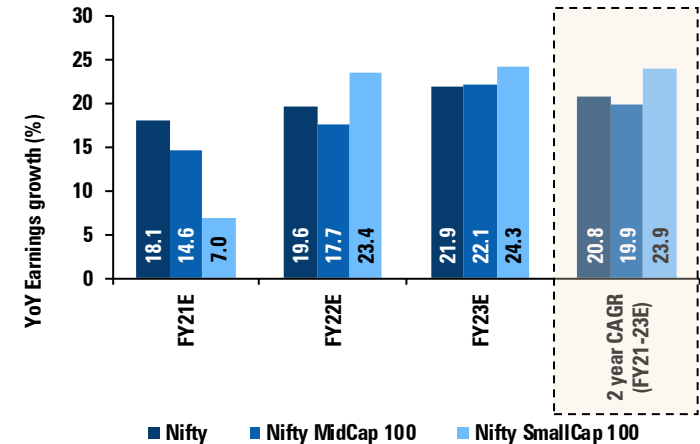
Nifty Target						
Earnings Estimates	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Nifty EPS (₹/share)	455	471	442	478	615	720
Growth (%)		3.4%	-6.2%	8.2%	28.6%	17.2%
Earnings CAGR over FY20-23E						17.5%
Earnings CAGR over FY21E-23E						22.7%
Target Multiple (~1.1x PEG)						20.0x
Nifty Target (at 20x FY23E EPS)						14,400

Price underperformance, earnings CAGR, inexpensive valuations, low interest rates: Fertile ground for midcap, small caps

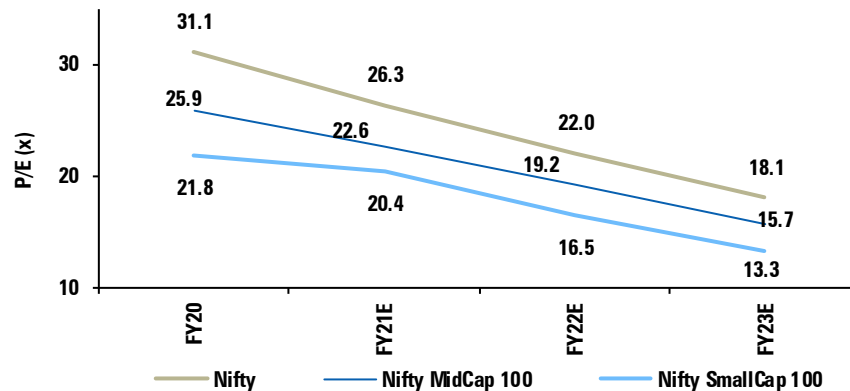
Substantial headroom left for small cap index till previous high



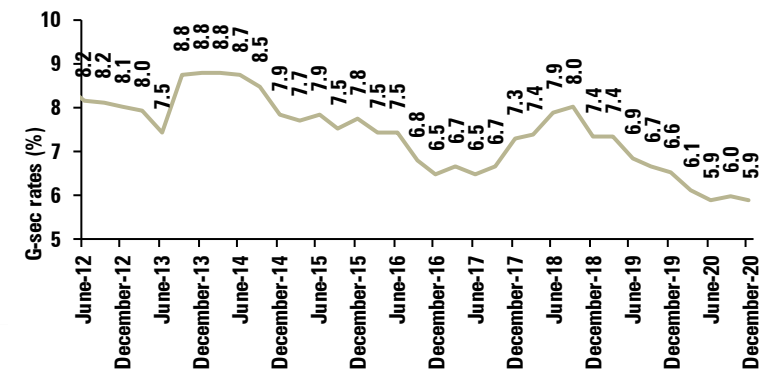
Superior earnings growth potential for small caps shining through



Value buying opportunity seen in small caps followed by midcaps and large caps



Multi-year low interest rates - to support P/E expansion



Source:: NSE, ICICI Direct Research



Top Picks

Phillips Carbon Black (PHICAR)

Target Price: ₹ 210 (23% upside)

- Phillips Carbon Black (PCBL) is a leader in the carbon black industry with domestic market share pegged at ~35%+. Carbon black finds major applications in the tyre industry wherein it is used as a reinforcement agent and constitutes ~23-25% of tyre by weight. The domestic tyre industry is witnessing healthy demand prospects primarily tracking high share of after-market sales in the overall sales pie (~70%) and recovery in auto volumes domestically, thereby benefitting PCBL.
- Macroeconomic levers in terms of recommendation of extension of anti dumping duty (ADD) on imports of carbon black into India as well as domestic commercial vehicle (CV) industry, especially M&HCV sub-segment on the cusp of cyclical recovery, bodes well for domestic carbon black players with PCBL as the key beneficiary. Building in the positives, we build in carbon black sales volume CAGR of ~12% in FY21-23E to 4.75 lakh tonne by FY23E (3.8 lakh tonne in FY21E & 4.4 lakh tonne in FY22E)
- Sensing the robust demand prospects, PCBL is embarking on a greenfield expansion with a capex of ~₹ 600 crore (capacity of ~1.5 lakh tonne) with likely commissioning by FY23 end and targeted RoCE at ~20%. Conservatively, as of now, we have not built in any volumes from greenfield capex as PCBL awaits regulatory approvals
- PCBL has a healthy balance sheet (limited leverage; debt: equity <0.5x), capital efficient business model (RoCE, RoE >15%) and generates robust cash flow from operations (average CFO yield >15%). We assign BUY rating to PCBL with a target price of ₹ 210 valuing it at 10x P/E on FY23E EPS of ₹ 21.0

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	3,243.5	2,481.1	2,973.4	3204.8
EBITDA	464.9	410.0	561.2	627.3
PAT	283.5	213.9	320.9	362.3
EPS (₹)	16.5	12.4	18.6	21.0
PE (x)	10.0	13.3	8.9	7.8
P/BV (x)	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2
RoNW (%)	16.8	11.5	15.3	15.3
RoCE (%)	16.1	12.5	16.6	16.7

PNC Infratech (PNCINF)

Target Price: ₹ 220 (26% upside)

- PNC Infratech (PNC), a north-based player, is one of the better placed EPC players owing to a) its prudent bidding strategy, b) in-house execution, c) easy access to raw material, and d) focus on select areas (predominantly UP and Bihar). As on Q2-end, PNC's order book (OB) is robust at over ₹ 15,800 crore (OB/TTM revenues: 3.6x). With the targeted total order inflows of ₹ 10,000 crore during FY21, expected surge in executable order book with receipts of appointed dates, and increasing execution efficiency, PNC is well-placed to deliver ~12% revenue CAGR over FY20-23E. Operating margin is expected to remain healthy at ~14%
- PNC has a balance equity requirement of ₹ 970 crore (including new projects) to be spent towards HAM projects in next two to three years. However, we believe it is one of the few better-placed players to fulfil its equity requirement largely via internal accruals and has capabilities to bid for upcoming HAM projects given its lean balance sheet position (net debt free on standalone levels). Additionally, PNC is targeting monetisation of BOT/HAM asset and is currently in discussions with potential investors. Development on asset divestment would provide additional comfort to the balance sheet and aid its strategy to remain asset-light
- Overall, we are positive on the company with a) its strong order book position, b) robust execution capabilities, c) consistent operating margins, and d) healthy return ratios. We have a BUY rating with a target of ₹ 220 (based on SOTP valuation)

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	4,878	5,047	6,060	6,803
EBITDA	764	681	848	952
Adjusted PAT	315	346	449	494
EPS (₹)	17.9	13.5	17.5	19.2
P/E (x)	9.6	12.8	9.9	9.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	5.2	6.5	5.1	4.3
RoNW (%)	12.4	12.0	13.5	13.0
RoCE (%)	25.3	18.2	20.3	19.8

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Divi's Laboratories (DIVLAB)

Target Price: ₹ 4425 (16% upside)

- Divi's Labs is engaged in manufacture of generic APIs, intermediates, custom synthesis of active ingredients and advanced intermediates for pharma MNCs, other speciality chemicals like Carotenoids and complex compounds like peptides and nucleotides
- The custom synthesis (CS) business (41% of FY20 revenues) is a margin accretive one but at times lumpy as it depends on offtake from customers (global top 20 big pharma). However, this business showed good recovery on account of an improved business environment. Strong R&D capabilities and India cost arbitrage along with IP adherence are some legacy strengths that will drive incremental assignments from MNCs. We expect CS to grow at a CAGR of 24.4% to ₹ 4256 crore in FY20-23E
- Two generics, Naproxen (pain management) and Dextromethorphan (cough suppressant) account for ~26% of overall revenues. Divi's enjoys ~70% global market share in these two products. Divi's is also increasing its presence in another niche area of carotenoids after acquiring requisite capabilities. With focus on brownfield expansion, the management is committed to addressing capacity constraints. We expect sales from generics to grow at a CAGR of 23.5% to ₹ 5996 crore in FY20-23E
- More than strong half-yearly performance, important narrative for Divi's is unprecedented capex to further augment capacity besides preparing for growing opportunities arising due to China+1 factor. It has earmarked an aggressive capex of ~₹ 3700 crore [₹ 1800 (existing plants) + ₹ 400 (custom synthesis blocks) + ₹ 1500 (greenfield Kakinada plant) crore], over and above ~₹ 2000 crore spent in last five years. Divi's stays a quintessential play on Indian API/CRAMs segment with its product offerings and execution prowess. We maintain BUY with target price of ₹ 4425 based on 40x FY23E EPS of ₹ 110.6

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	5,394.4	7,035.5	8,572.4	10,251.6
EBITDA	1,816.1	2,756.8	3,300.4	3,998.1
PAT	1,376.5	1,939.2	2,385.3	2,936.8
EPS (₹)	51.9	73.0	89.9	110.6
PE (x)	72.7	51.6	42.0	34.1
P/BV (x)	13.7	11.5	9.4	7.6
RoNW (%)	18.8	22.2	22.3	22.3
RoCE (%)	23.9	28.4	28.7	28.7

Indoco Remedies (INDREM)

Target Price: ₹ 380 (28% upside)

- Indoco Remedies is engaged in manufacture, marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical products and services in the domestic & international markets
- Domestic formulations (~63% of FY20 revenues) grew at 6.5% CAGR in FY16-20. The subdued growth can be attributed to high concentration of acute therapies and one of the lowest MR productivity. With a market share of ~0.62% and overall rank of 29, the company is still a marginal player with some top brands in smaller categories like stomatologicals. However, with a positive outcome of restructuring exercise and likely improvement in MR productivity besides therapy calibration, we expect Indian formulations to deliver 9% growth in FY20-23E to ₹ 889 crore
- Exports formulations (~27% of overall FY20 sales) have de-grown at 6.6% CAGR in FY16-20, undone by regulatory hurdles in developed markets. However, recent clearance from the UK-MHRA and lifting of warning letters from the USFDA for Goa plant II and III (plant I is still under warning letter) is likely to improve operating leverage for export formulations. We expect the export business to grow at ~35% CAGR in FY20-23E to ₹ 733 crore, mainly due to lower base and launches of new products
- The management has guided for significant export growth and margin improvement for FY21. While FY21 growth in the domestic market is likely to be subdued due to Covid-19, exports are likely to deliver robust growth on the back of strong pipeline and visible launch schedule as reflected in the upbeat management guidance. Normalisation of exports dispatches is likely to improve operating leverage as well. With better visibility, we expect the company to maintain consistency and generate strong FCF. We maintain BUY rating and arrive at a TP of ₹ 380 based on ~18x FY23 EPS of ₹ 21

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	1,106.6	1,257.9	1,550.5	1,771.2
EBITDA	123.2	208.4	259.6	323.1
PAT	24.1	85.6	136.8	193.9
EPS (₹)	2.6	9.3	14.8	21.0
PE (x)	111.8	31.5	19.7	13.9
P/BV (x)	4.0	3.6	3.1	2.6
RoNW (%)	3.5	11.4	15.7	18.6
RoCE (%)	4.6	11.4	15.6	19.4

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Navin Fluorine (NAVFLU)

Target Price: ₹ 3040 (17% upside)

- Incorporated in 1967, Navin Fluorine (NFIL) operates one of the largest integrated fluorochemicals complexes in India. NFIL operates in four segments viz. (i) refrigeration gases, (ii) inorganic fluorides, (iii) speciality chemicals, (iv) CRAMS, largely dispersed equally in terms of topline contribution at the end of FY20
- Going ahead, we expect an increase in CRAMS revenue post cGMP3 plant to have come on stream last year along with better growth visibility from speciality chemical business owing to higher share of fluorine consumption across pharma and agrochemical, recent deal win in high performance product (HPP) to translate into speciality business revenue share inching up to 75-80% in the medium term from 54% in FY20. This bodes well in terms of operational performance given that high value business generates high thirties margins against legacy being in mid-teens. In turn, this would improve FCF and return ratios in years to come
- Apart from this, the company also plans to enter a new segment value chain from fluorine molecules. We believe this can diversify business risk, to a certain extent, given it is largely dependent on agrochemical and pharma, at present
- **Key Risk : 1) Slowdown in global agrochem industry:** Since agrochemical growth is dependent on the agri season, hence, any impact in the crop value chain due to erratic weather situation in the global market can impact order flows for value added segments and, thereby, revenues

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	1,061.6	1,086.1	1,261.5	1720.1
EBITDA	263.5	291.1	359.5	540.1
PAT	179.1	222.5	242.4	376.3
EPS (₹)	36.2	45.0	49.0	76.0
PE (x)	71.1	47.8	52.5	33.8
P/BV (x)	9.0	7.8	7.0	6.0
RoNW (%)	12.7	13.6	13.3	17.7
RoCE (%)	17.9	18.7	17.2	22.9

Amber Enterprises (AMBEN)

Target Price: ₹ 2830 (19% upside)

- Amber Enterprises, the largest contract manufacturer of room air conditioners (RAC), is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the government's production linked incentive (PLI) schemes and import ban on finished AC in India. Amber is the key supplier to all top 10 AC brands and commands ~24% volume market share of ACs sold in India. We believe, after a washout H1FY21, the company may witness a strong recovery in H2FY21 supported by normalised inventory at the dealer level and robust pent up demand for RACs amid changing consumer lifestyle post pandemic. In addition, the import restrictions on RAC and its components present a business opportunity of ~₹ 10,000 crore for Amber. Also, India's AC export market share may cross ₹ 27,000 crore in the next 10 years (from mere ₹ 450 crore in FY19), hence also benefitting the company
- Revenue, PAT may see a CAGR of 19% 23%, respectively, in FY20-23E led by strong volume traction in the RAC and component business. This, along with rising contribution of high margin component & mobility business in the topline (rose from 28% in FY18 to 39% in FY20) may keep EBITDA margin elevated
- We see a structural growth story in India's RAC contract manufacturing industry along with major overseas brands choosing India as a manufacturing hub under their 'China+1 strategy'. We believe, with strong backward integration and market leadership position in the RAC OEM/ODM industry, Amber is well placed to reap the benefit of rising business opportunities in India. We assign a BUY rating to Amber with a target price of ₹ 2830 valuing it at 31x P/E on FY23E EPS of ₹ 90

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	3,962.8	3,297.4	5,402.7	6,727.5
EBITDA	309.3	211.0	470.0	565.1
Net Profit	164.1	79.9	253.0	303.4
EPS (₹)	52.2	23.7	75.1	90.0
PE (x)	45.1	99.3	31.4	26.2
P/BV (x)	6.6	5.2	4.5	3.8
RoNW (%)	14.5	5.3	14.3	14.7
RoCE (%)	14.3	7.2	17.0	17.8

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

HCL Technologies (HCLTEC)

Target Price: ₹ 1105 (17% upside)

- HCL Tech (HCLT) is an IT service provider catering to various segments like financial services (accounts for ~22% of revenues), manufacturing (~17.7%), lifescience (~14%), public services (~11%), retail & CPG (~10%), telecom, media, publishing & entertainment (~8%) and technology services (~17%). In terms of geographies, it generates ~63% from Americas, ~28% from Europe, ~9% from RoW. HCLT is expected to be a key beneficiary of robust growth in digital technologies (expected to grow at 15-20% CAGR in FY21E-25E) leading to double digit revenue growth and improving margins in FY22E and FY23E
- We believe growing opportunities in cloud, automation, cyber security are a sweet spot for HCLT. Its expertise in IMS, app modernisation (~70% of revenues) can see phenomenal growth led by integrated deals in cloud. Also, healthy opportunity in ER&D and product business is expected to further boost revenues. Further, HCL Tech has various margin levers in terms of higher utilisation, lower subcontracting cost, lower travel and lower discretionary spend that is expected to improve its margins. This, coupled with improved capital allocation policy & reasonable valuation prompt us to be positive on the stock.
- Key Risk : 1) Products business:** Recently acquired products from IBM require higher investment. If the company is unable to scale up these business adequately it will adversely impact its revenues, **2) decline in pace of digital acceleration:** A slower than expected pace of growth in digital technologies will impact HCL Tech's revenue growth.

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Net Sales	70,678.0	75,345.7	85,517.4	96,207.0
EBITDA	16,694.0	19,514.5	22,234.5	25,110.0
PAT	11,062.0	12,375.8	14,420.3	16,620.9
EPS (₹)	40.8	45.6	53.2	61.3
PE (x)	22.9	20.5	17.6	15.3
P/BV (x)	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.2
RoNW (%)	21.6	20.7	21.0	20.9
RoCE (%)	23.0	23.8	24.9	25.3

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

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