

### **Indian Equities**

### **Company Update**

11 May 2025

## **Escorts Kubota**

Robust medium/long-terms prospects; retaining a Buy

Broadly in line with our estimated Rs2.88bn, Escorts' Q4 EBITDA grew 1% y/y to Rs2.93bn. We are enthused about the company as we believe FY26-27 would see a ramp-up in its Vision 2028 execution and an upcycle in tractors. Its merger with Kubota, strong tractor cycle, new products and platforms and recovery in exports will be positives. Key Vision 2028 strategies: new platforms for domestic/exports, component/R&D services exports, operating captive finance and ramping up plans for other segments. We expect (incl. JV, Railways' divestment) 13%/21%/18% revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGRs over FY25-27. The stock trades at 29x/23x FY26e/27e core P/E. We maintain a Buy, with an unchanged Rs3,900 TP, 30x FY27e core EPS and Rs572/sh cash.

**In-line EBITDA.** Revenue (excl. discontinued operations) grew 6% y/y to Rs24.3bn, broadly in line with our estimated Rs24.4bn. EBITDA grew 1% y/y to Rs2.93bn, broadly in line with our estimated Rs2.88bn. Other income grew 24% y/y to Rs1.32bn. Exceptional items of Rs271m were reported due to recognition of impairment loss of Rs187m in Farmtrac Tractors Europe (subsidiary) and Rs84m in Adico Escorts (JV). Overall, PAT (excl. discontinued increased 12% to Rs2.78bn, above our estimated Rs2.57bn due to higher-than-expected other income.

**Segment-wise.** Agri revenue grew 11% y/y to Rs19.8bn. Volumes rose 8% y/y and realizations, 3% y/y. The EBIT margin contracted a tad 10bps y/y to 11.4%. Construction equipment revenue fell 10% y/y to Rs4.5bn; volumes fell 12%, while realizations rose 2%. The EBIT margin contracted 190bps y/y to 9.1%.

**Valuation.** Our FY26e/27e EPS remain broadly unchanged. We retain a Buy at an unchanged TP of Rs3,900, 30x FY27e core EPS and Rs572/share cash. **Key downside risks:** Slower-than-expected execution of new opportunities, lower industry volume growth and adverse commodity prices.

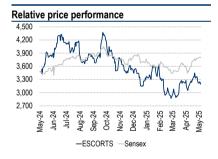
Key financials (YE Mar) - P	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
Sales (Rs m)	83,450	97,307	101,870	114,399	131,163
Net profit (Rs m)	7,041	6,480	11,371	12,756	15,789
EPS (Rs)	53.4	57.9	101.6	114.0	141.1
P/E (x)	58.6	54.0	30.8	27.5	22.2
EV / EBITDA (x)	45.8	35.0	24.0	19.0	15.3
P/BV (x)	4.9	3.7	3.4	2.7	2.5
RoE (%)	8.6	7.3	11.5	11.0	11.8
RoCE (%)	8.3	8.2	10.3	10.7	11.5
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.6
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6

Rating: **Buy**Target Price (12-mth): Rs.3,900
Share Price: Rs.3,130

Key data	ESCORTS IN / ESCO.BO
52-week high / low	Rs.4422 / 2829
Sensex / Nifty	80242 / 24334
Market cap	Rs.358bn
Shares outstanding	111m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Mar'25	Dec'24	Sep'24
Promoters	68.0	68.0	68.0
- of which, Pledged	-	-	-
Free float	32.0	32.0	32.0
- Foreign institutions	5.2	5.2	6.3
- Domestic institutions	11.3	11.3	10.2
- Public	15.4	15.4	15.4

Estimates revision (%)	FY26e	FY27e
Sales	-1.3	-0.5
EBITDA	-2.6	-3.0
EPS	1.3	0.9



Source: Bloomberg

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Anand Rathi Research India Equities

# **Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations (Standalone)**

Fig 1 – Income statem	ent (Rs	m)			
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
Net revenues	83,450	97,307	101,870	114,399	131,163
Growth (%)	16	17	5	12	15
Raw material	60,669.4	69,119.0	72,162.4	80,688.6	91,946.2
Employee & other expenses	14,976	19,858	17,929	19,848	22,101
EBITDA	7,804	8,330	11,778	13,862	17,116
EBITDA margins (%)	9.4	8.6	11.6	12.1	13.0
- Depreciation	1,484	2,236	2,426	2,610	2,865
Other income	2,806	3,915	4,584	5,409	6,274
Interest expenses	103	388	270	203	152
PBT	9,995	9,621	13,937	459	20,373
Effective tax rates (%)	22	33	17	23	23
+ Associates / (Minorities)					
Adj. income	7,041	6,480	11,371	12,756	15,789
Extraordinary items	972	-	271	-16,000	-
Net income	6,070	6,480	11,100	28,756	15,789
WANS	132	112	112	112	112
FDEPS (Rs)	53	58	102	114	141

Fig 2 - Balance sheet	(Rs m)				
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
Share capital	1,319	1,119	1,119	1,119	1,119
Net worth	84,348	94,165	103,802	128,731	138,994
Debt (including Pref)	-	3,634	-	-	-
Minority interest	-	-	-	-	
DTL / (Assets)	651	987	580	563	543
Capital employed	84,999	98,785	104,382	129,294	139,537
Net tangible assets	18,085	21,625	20,421	27,436	36,270
Investments (strategic)	33,154	29,824	33,486	33,486	33,486
Investments (financial)	17,949	20,902	22,924	42,924	47,924
Current assets (excl. cash)	28,071	38,223	40,401	41,325	46,657
Cash	4,685	11,915	11,140	10,051	6,101
Current liabilities	18,082	25,316	25,515	26,827	32,101
Working capital	9,989	12,906	14,886	14,498	14,556
Capital deployed	84,999	98,785	104,382	129,294	139,537

Fig 3 – Cash-flow statement (Rs m)					
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
PBT	8,051	14,409	15,282	32,459	20,373
+ Non-cash items	-55	467	653	2,812	3,018
Operating profit before WC chg	7,996	14,875	15,935	35,271	23,391
- Incr. / (decr.) in WC	3,922	3,382	-1,499	305	1,758
Others including taxes	1,710	3,539	5,363	3,720	4,604
Operating cash-flow	2,364	7,954	12,071	31,246	17,029
- Capex (tangible + intangible)	2,141	2,677	2,374	9,000	12,000
Free cash-flow	222	5,277	9,697	22,246	5,029
- Dividend	757	758	3,055	3,133	3,827
+ Equity raised	206	135	247	-	-
+ Debt raised	-70	1,196	-3,938	-	-
- Financial investments	-1,465	7,554	1,659	20,000	5,000
- Misc. items (CFI + CFF)	(1,034)	(8,936)	2,067	203	152
Net cash-flow	2,100	7,230	-775	-1,089	-3,950

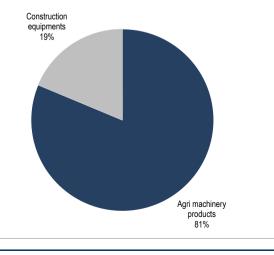
Fig 4 – Ratio analysis					
Year-end: Mar	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e
P/E (x)	58.6	54.0	30.8	27.5	22.2
EV / EBITDA (x)	45.8	35.0	24.0	19.0	15.3
EV / Sales (x)	4.3	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.0
P/B (x)	4.9	3.7	3.4	2.7	2.5
RoE (%)	8.6	7.3	11.5	11.0	11.8
RoCE (%) - after tax	8.3	8.2	10.3	10.7	11.5
RoIC (%) - after tax	18.5	14.4	21.8	24.0	25.4
DPS (Rs)	7.0	18.0	28.0	34.2	49.4
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.6
Dividend payout (%)	13.1	31.1	27.5	30.0	35.0
Net debt / equity (x)	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6
Receivables (days)	53	55	49	49	49
Inventory (days)	51	62	48	48	48
Payables (days)	54	61	58	52	52
CFO:PAT %	34	123	106	245	108

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research; FY24 onward incl. both JV financials. Factored divestment of Railways division from FY26; FY26 exceptional gain is Railways division sale

Fig 6 – Revenue, by segment (FY25)

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research





# Result highlights

(Rs m)	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Y/Y (%)	Q/Q (%)	FY25	FY24	Y/Y (%)
Revenue	22,649	29,354	24,303	6.1	(17.2)	101,870	102,628	(0.7)
Expenditure	20,321	26,002	21,374	6.9	(17.8)	90,091	90,207	(0.1)
as % of sales	89.7	88.6	87.9			88.4	87.9	
RM cost	15,766	21,444	16,860	6.9	(21.4)	72,162	72,627	(0.6)
as % of sales	69.6	73.1	69.4			70.8	70.8	
Employee cost	1,861	1,983	1,985	14.7	0.1	7,559	7,160	5.6
as % of sales	8.2	6.8	8.2			7.4	7.0	
Other expenditure	2,694	2,575	2,529	1.6	(1.8)	10,370	10,420	(0.5)
as % of sales	11.9	8.8	10.4			10.2	10.2	
EBITDA	2,328	3,353	2,929	0.7	(12.6)	11,778	12,421	(5.2)
EBITDA margin (%)	10.3	11.4	12.1			11.6	12.1	
Depreciation	610	612	615	3.9	0.3	2,426	2,280	6.4
EBIT	1,718	2,740	2,314	(0.2)	(15.5)	9,352	10,141	(7.8)
Other income	1,152	1,092	1,316	24.2	20.6	4,584	3,924	16.8
Interest	92	31	47	(57.8)	54.1	270	389	(30.4)
PBT	2,779	3,802	3,584	9.7	(5.7)	13,666	13,676	(0.1)
Total tax	(248)	897	806	3.0	(10.2)	2,295	3,407	(32.6)
Adjusted PAT	3,027	2,905	2,778	11.8	(4.4)	11,371	10,270	10.7
Extraordinary items Loss/(Gain)	322	438	627	76.0	42.9	1,386	732	89.3
Reported PAT	81	111	159	75.7	42.7	351	186	88.9
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	3,267	3,232	3,246	18.0	0.4	12,407	10,816	14.7
Margins (%)				(bps)	(bps)			(bps)
Gross	30.4	26.9	30.6	(51)	368	29.2	29.2	(7)
EBIDTA	10.3	11.4	12.1	(66)	63	11.6	12.1	(54)
EBIT	7.6	9.3	9.5	(60)	19	9.2	9.9	(70)
PAT	12.3	13.0	14.7	48	179	13.4	13.3	9
Effective Tax rate	13.4	9.9	11.4	58	154	11.2	10.0	116

# **Earnings Call Takeaways**

### **Tractors**

- In FY26, the **domestic tractor** industry is expected to grow by mid to high single digit, led by good yield for rabi harvest, higher crop realizations, sufficient water in reservoirs and prediction for an above normal monsoon. The target for the company is to grow in line with the market, though limited by the adverse regional mix (south/east expected to see better growth). The upcoming emission norms to be delayed. Dealer inventory at 4-5 weeks.
- Market share. The company lost share in the east due to certain dealer issues. It gained share in strong markets. New products and dealer expansions would support market share. Dealers are 1,600 vs. 1,540 in Dec'24.
- **Products.** The initial response is positive for Promaxx, but key would be the response in the peak season. Launch of Powertrac series planned for Q3 FY26 for southern/paddy markets. Launch of Kubota series for the middle segment (40-45HP) is planned for Q2 FY26. Second phase of Promaxx is expected in Q4 FY26. Powertrac/Farmtrac/Kubota expansion focus is on the south/east & west/north & central markets.
- Exports. Growth of 20-25% targeted in FY26. Launch expected in new markets like Mexico (Q1 FY26) and southeast Asia (Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand). Exports started in Africa (South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya). US market opportunity will open with the greenfield plant.
- Spares sales expected at Rs2bn in FY26, from Rs1bn in FY25. It is slow start, but suppliers and Japanese teams are continuously working on it. Growth to be exponential over 3-4 years. The opportunity size is ~\$500m for global Kubota sourcing. Margins would be low for traded products sourced from suppliers, but the plan is to have a good mix of manufactured and traded.
- Margins. Q4 EBIT margins improved sequentially due to the low base (~200bps due to inventory adjustments) and lower input cost despite the adverse scale. The company expects further improvement of 50-100bps in FY26. New products initially have lower margins.
- Kubota's product margins were a drag in FY25 due to higher forex impact on imports. Escorts' engines are not being allowed for Kubota's products, but the company is working on a hybrid structure (where it is selling products using the Escorts platform under Kubota brand); however, the challenge has been confusion around which emission norms to opt for the product.
- **Greenfield plant.** Acquisition of land in UP is expected to be completed by Q2/Q3 FY26. Production to start by FY28/29.
- Mid-term plan to be ready by mid-FY26 and approval by the Board is expected by Q4 FY26.
- Captive finance. Investment till now is Rs600m and the initial phase investment is Rs2bn, which will go to Rs7bn. Book size is expected at Rs1bn by end-FY26. Systems are being readied and opened in few districts in UP, MP and Bihar. Captive finance penetration of 30-35% is expected in 2-3 years.

### **Construction equipment**

- **Demand.** The company expects uptick in demand from H2 FY26, after liquidation of old emission inventory.
- **Products.** It launched backhoe loader for mass segment (domestic/exports; modular) and a more premium range is expected with Kubota engines; new crane models for non-industrial segments.
- Prices hiked by 10% for BS3 to BS5 and 7% for BS4 to BS5; cost increases have been covered. The full impact would be seen once old emission norms stock is cleared.
- Margins are expected at 9-11%.

**Overall capex** for FY26 is Rs3.5bn-Rs4bn, excluding investments towards greenfield plant land. Land acquisition would be an additional Rs5bn.

# **Valuations**

We are upbeat regarding the company as we believe FY26/27 would bring a ramp-up in its Vision 2028 execution and an upcycle in tractors. The company's merger with Kubota, the strong tractor cycle, new products and platforms and exports recovery would be positives.

FY26/27, a year of execution with merger of JVs. 1) Launches of products developed for domestic/exports. 2) Exports of components and R&D services (inaugurated a large warehouse of 58,000sq.ft.). 3) Operating captive finance to support the domestic market share, with an earmarked capital of Rs7bn. 4) Ramping up plans for other key segments— construction equipment, implements, engines and spare parts—where the company has huge aspirations.

Turnaround in the tractor industry began with 7% growth in FY25. Mid-high single digit growth is expected in FY26, led by good yield for rabi harvest, higher crop realizations, sufficient water in reservoirs and an above normal monsoon prediction.

New opportunities to add >5% growth. Further, opportunities such as domestic market-share gains, exports, components, R&D, implements and engines would drive >5% growth over the normal 8-10%. We expect (incl. JV, Railways' divestment) 13%/21%/18% revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGRs over FY25-27.

**Success export story of Sonalika Yanmar.** Yanmar became a large shareholder (~30%) in Sonalika in 2016. Yanmar is a Japanese company with a diverse portfolio, including agricultural machinery (tractors, farm equipment), engines and construction equipment. It is a large global player (revenue: ~\$7bn) in compact tractors. Yanmar's key markets are Japan, the US and China.

Post Yanmar's stake acquisition, Sonalika's exports of tractor volumes grew at 17% CAGR to 33,606 units (largest exporter from India) over FY16-24, led by new product expansion in partnership with Yanmar and by leveraging the global (Yanmar) network. Around 1/3rd of export volumes are to Yanmar's global network. India being the largest tractor market provides a strong case for global opportunities due to high scale and the low-cost supply chain. Kubota is the largest compact tractor player globally (revenue: \$20bn) and >2x the size of Yanmar, which provides a huge play for Escorts Kubota in tractor exports through Kubota's global network.

Fig 8 - Yanmar played a key role in global expansion of Sonalika's volumes				
Sonalika	FY16	FY24	CAGR (%)	
Domestic tractors MS (%)	11.9	13.2		
Export tractors volumes (units)	9,482	33,606	17	
Exports revenues (Rs bn)	6.5	29.5	21	
Supplied to global Yanmar (Rs bn)		11.1		
Source:				

Fig 9 - Sonalika's tractor export HP mix (%)

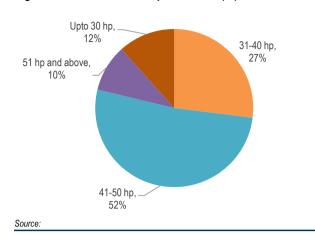
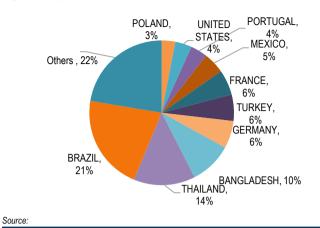


Fig 10 - Major Sonalika export markets (FY25) - Top 10

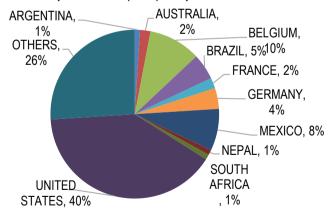


John Deere India exports notable spares/services to the Group. John Deere currently exports Rs9bn of spares/components and a notable Rs26bn of services (IT/R&D) to global group companies. We expect Escorts Kubota to also use its India base for export of spares and services. John Deere and New Holland are also seeing strong export volumes, leveraging their global networks.

Fig 11 - John Deere's substantial exports of spares/services

John Deere	FY14	FY23	CAGR (%)
Export tractors volumes (units)	13,425	20,109	5
Exports revenues (Rs bn)	28.6	75.0	11
Exports spares (Rs bn)		9.0	
Export services (Rs bn)	7.1	26.3	16
New Holland	CY16	CY22	
Export tractors volumes (units)	9,563	16,622	10
Exports revenues (Rs bn)	11.1	20.3	11
Source:			

Fig 12 - Major John Deere export markets (FY25) - Top 10



Source:

## Kubota's global dominance in compact tractors

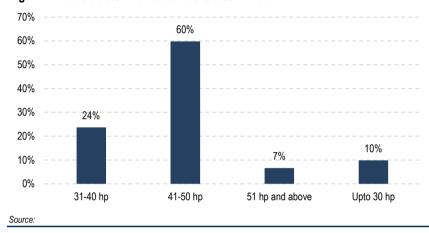
Strength in compact tractors. Kubota enjoys a strong market share in compact tractors of <50HP globally. India's tractor market is mainly concentrated in <50HP (~90% of the market). We expect Kubota's strong product portfolio in

compact tractors to aid market share for Escorts Kubota in India as well. A similar case was seen with Sonalika gaining share in the domestic market.

Fig 13 - Kubota's dominance in compact tractor segment globally

	<u> </u>	
Country	Major tractor segment	Kubota market share (%)
USA	<45 HP	40%
Thailand	20-40HP	70%
Japan	36-45 HP	No. 1
Source:		

Fig 14 - India's tractor market concentrated in <50HP



# Kubota's success story in North America with its compact diesel tractors

As Kubota had been approached by the American company, Ford, for the OEM supply of small tractors in 1967, it had decided to enter the North American market with its own brand. Demand there was overwhelming for petrol engines, but Kubota completed a multi-cylinder, lightweight and compact engine that overcame the problems with diesel engines, so it decided to limit exports of these diesel products.

The company created a new market for compact tractors using diesel engines. Up until then, gasoline-powered equipment had been mainstream but this new development enabled Kubota to acquire a large share of the gardening equipment market.

Fig 15 – Ultra-compact 4-wheel drive tractor Bulltra B6000 (right) and its vertical 2-cylinder diesel engine (left)



Source:

**Valuation.** We recommend a Buy with a TP of Rs3,900, 30x FY27e core EPS and Rs572/sh cash (0.8x book). The stock trades at 29x/23x FY26e/27e core P/E.w

Fig 15 - Key assumptions					
(Rs m)	FY24	FY25	FY26e	FY27e	CAGR % FY25-27e
Agri machinery products (incl. implements)	78,974	84,472	93,044	105,466	12
Y/Y change, %		7	10	13	
Construction equipment	18,182	17,301	19,059	21,201	11
Y/Y change, %		(5)	10	11	
Railway equipment	9,504				
Y/Y change, %					
Component exports		1,000	2,000	4,000	
Y/Y change, %			100	100	
R&D service exports			200	400	
Y/Y change, %				100	
Unallocated	152	96	96	96	
Revenue	106,811	101,870	114,399	131,163	7
Y/Y change, %		(5)	12	15	
Note: Include JV financials. Component exports FY26 part of Agri reven	ues. Source: Anand Rathi Research				

Fig 17 – Change in estimates						
	Old		Revised		Change (%)	
(Rs m)	FY26e	FY27e	FY26e	FY27e	FY26	FY27
Revenue	115,854	131,770	114,399	131,163	-1.3%	-0.5%
EBITDA	14,230	17,653	13,862	17,116	-2.6%	-3.0%
% of revenue	12.3	13.4	12.1	13.0		
Adj. PAT	12,587	15,642	12,756	15,789	1.3%	0.9%
EPS (Rs)	112.5	139.8	114.0	141.1	1.3%	0.9%
Source: Anand Rathi Research						

## **Downside risks**

- Slower-than-expected execution of new opportunities.
- Lower industry volume growth.
- Adverse commodity prices.

### **Appendix**

### **Analyst Certification**

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Analysts' ratings and the corresponding expected returns take into account our definitions of Large Caps, Mid Caps & Small Caps as described in the Ratings Table below:

Ratings Guide (12 months)				
	Buy	Hold	Sell	
Large Caps (Top 100 companies)	>15%	0-15%	<0%	
Mid Caps (101st-250th company)	>20%	0-20%	<0%	
Small Caps (251st company onwards)	>25%	0-25%	<0%	

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