

# Ceat Ltd | ADD

## Strong quarter; Volume growth and stable RM to support earnings

CEAT reported a strong 2QFY26 with an EBITDA margin at 13.3%, beating JMFe by 230 bps. The 240 bps QoQ margin expansion was primarily driven by improved realisations and softer RM costs (down 410 bps QoQ as a percentage of net sales). Robust momentum in the OEM and RE segments, along with rising premiumisation, continued to support volume growth. Management remains optimistic about sustaining double-digit growth in the domestic market, aided by favourable GST rates, positive rural sentiment, and rising premiumisation. Internationally, while U.S. tariffs persist, CEAT's limited exposure to the market has kept the impact minimal. Currently, around 50% of the tariff burden is passed on to customers, with full pass-through expected over the next 2-4 quarters. The EU remains CEAT's fastest-growing and most profitable export market, particularly in PC and TBR segments, which together contribute 65% of exports. Overall margins are expected to remain healthy, supported by stable raw material prices, volume growth across markets, and disciplined cost control. We revise our revenue estimates upwards by 1.7%/2.8% for FY26E/FY27E, translating to EPS estimates revision of 2.1%/6.5% over the same period. We change our rating from BUY in our previous rating system to ADD in the new rating system, with a Mar'27 TP of INR 4,050 (18x FY27E EPS).

- **2QFY26 – Overall beat:** In 2QFY26, CEAT reported consolidated net sales of INR 37.7bn (+14% YoY, +7% QoQ), c.4.6% above JMFe. Overall volumes grew by 11% YoY led by healthy growth in OEMs and in international markets. Consolidated EBITDA stood at INR 5.03bn (+39% YoY, +30% QoQ), c.27% above JMFe. Consolidated EBITDA Margin stood at 13.3% (+240bps YoY, +240bps QoQ), 230bps above JMFe due to lower than expected RM cost. Adj. PAT came-in at INR 1.8bn (+52.5% YoY; +60.7% QoQ).
- **Domestic demand environment:** Domestic demand remained healthy, supported by GST rationalisation. The Replacement (RE) segment grew in mid-single digits in 2QFY26, though 3-weeks in Sep'25 saw a decline after strong double-digit growth in prior months due to temporary trade down-stocking and purchase deferrals before the new GST rates. The OEM segment posted strong growth in mid-20s, driven by increased fitments in higher rim-size PVs. PVs grew in mid-single digits, 2Ws grew strongly on positive rural sentiment, farm tyres rose in mid-teens, and T&B grew on a low base. The company also gained motorcycle market share in select accounts. In terms of outlook, the domestic tyre market continues to benefit from GST-led tailwinds, with the reduced rate boosting demand for small-ticket vehicles, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. In the near term, double-digit growth is expected for CEAT, supported by favourable GST rates, positive rural sentiments and rising premiumisation. With regards to industry demand in the Replacement (RE) segment, MHCV is projected to grow in mid-single digits (in line with GDP), 2W by 7-8%, and PV by 0 to low single digits, with potential upside from GST rationalisation. In the OEM segment, MHCV is expected to grow by 0 to low single digits, PV by 6-8%, and 2W is likely to maintain its healthy momentum, albeit with a slight moderation.
- **International demand environment:** In 2Q, the international business grew in the high-teens, supported by strong traction in 2W/3W and PCR segments, while the farm segment also remained healthy. International demand for OHT and agriculture tyres also improved in 2Q, particularly through OEM channels across Europe, Africa, and LATAM. Although U.S. tariffs remain in place, the company's limited exposure to the U.S. market has kept the impact immaterial. Currently, around 50% of the tariff burden is passed on to customers, with plans to fully pass through the impact over the next 2-4 quarters.



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### Recommendation and Price Target

Current Reco.	ADD
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	4,050
Upside/(Downside)	8.5%
Previous Price Target	3,800
Change	6.6%

### Key Data – CEAT IN

Current Market Price	INR3,732
Market cap (bn)	INR151.0/US\$1.7
Free Float	51%
Shares in issue (mn)	40.5
Diluted share (mn)	40.5
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR483.3/US\$5.5
52-week range	4,049/2,322
Sensex/Nifty	83,952/25,710
INR/US\$	88.0

### Price Performance

%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	8.8	23.6	29.1
Relative*	7.1	15.6	24.9

\* To the BSE Sensex

### Financial Summary

(INR mn)

Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	1,19,435	1,32,179	1,48,852	1,64,485	1,73,772
Sales Growth (%)	5.6	10.7	12.6	10.5	5.6
EBITDA	16,522	14,741	19,640	24,020	25,375
EBITDA Margin (%)	13.8	11.2	13.2	14.6	14.6
Adjusted Net Profit	7,008	5,023	6,778	9,059	9,697
Diluted EPS (INR)	173.3	124.2	167.6	224.0	239.7
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	219.1	-28.3	35.0	33.7	7.0
ROIC (%)	15.5	11.3	12.1	14.2	15.0
ROE (%)	18.7	11.9	14.6	17.2	16.1
P/E (x)	21.5	30.1	22.3	16.7	15.6
P/B (x)	3.7	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.1	11.5	9.2	7.2	6.4
Dividend Yield (%)	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1

Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 17/Oct/2025

JM Financial Research is also available on: Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>, FactSet, LSEG and S&P Capital IQ.

Please see Appendix I at the end of this report for Important Disclosures and Disclaimers and Research Analyst Certification.

- **Margin outlook:** Gross margin expanded by c.400 bps QoQ in 2QFY26. This was primarily driven by 1) higher realisation due to a better mix, 2) strong volume growth, especially from OEMs and international markets, and 3) a 5% QoQ decline in RM costs. While international NR (60% of CEAT's requirement) prices remained flat in 2Q (USD 1,700-1,750 per metric ton), domestic rubber prices softened and reached parity with international prices at the end of Q2, compared to being higher in the first two months of 2Q (down INR 10/kg QoQ). CEAT expects RM prices to remain stable at the current level (rupee depreciation is expected to offset the benefit from domestic rubber prices). The management expects the margin to remain healthy at the current level.
- **Other highlights:** 1) CEAT's margin-accretive CAMSO integration has been successfully initiated, with one month of operations. Full control of the value chain is expected over the next 5–6 quarters as it continues sourcing semi-finished goods from Michelin. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka continues to face a 20% reciprocal tariff from the U.S. 2) Overall capacity utilisation currently stands at 80-85%. 3) Capex guidance for FY26 stands at INR 10bn (including maintenance capex and INR 4.5bn for Chennai plant to be spent over the next 18-24 months. 4) Debt increased by c. INR 710mn during 2Q as the company raised funds to manage capital expenditure and acquisition requirements. Debt/EBITDA ratio deteriorated from 1.8x to 1.21x.

**Exhibit 1. Quarterly financial results (standalone)****(INR mn)**

	2QFY26	2QFY25	% YoY	1QFY26	% QoQ	2QFY26E	% A/E
<b>Sales</b>	<b>37,011</b>	<b>32,981</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>35,207</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>35,030</b>	<b>5.7</b>
RM	21,843	20,628	5.9	22,237	(1.8)	22,069	(1.0)
As a % of sales	59.0	62.5	-350bps	63.2	-410bps	63.0	-400bps
Employee Exp	2,445	2,174	12.5	2,248	8.8	2,277	7.4
As a % of sales	6.6	6.6	0bps	6.4	20bps	6.5	10bps
Other Costs	7,655	6,516	17.5	6,812	12.4	6,831	12.1
As a % of sales	20.7	19.8	90bps	19.3	130bps	19.5	120bps
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>5,068</b>	<b>3,664</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>31.5</b>
<b>EBITDA Margin (%)</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>260bps</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>260bps</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>270bps</b>
Other Income	165	197	(16.3)	261	(36.7)	261	(36.7)
Interest	869	665	30.7	820	5.9	820	5.9
Depreciation	1,666	1,370	21.6	1,513	10.1	1,513	10.1
<b>PBT</b>	<b>2,699</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>1,838</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>51.5</b>
Tax	676	461	46.6	452	49.8	445	51.9
Tax rate (%)	25.1	25.3		24.6		25.0	
Exceptional (gain)/loss	0	0		33		0	
<b>PAT Reported</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>51.4</b>
<b>Adj. PAT after MI</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>51.4</b>
PAT Margin (%)	5.5	4.1	130bps	3.9	150bps	3.8	170bps
<b>EPS</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>51.4</b>

Source: Company, JM Financial

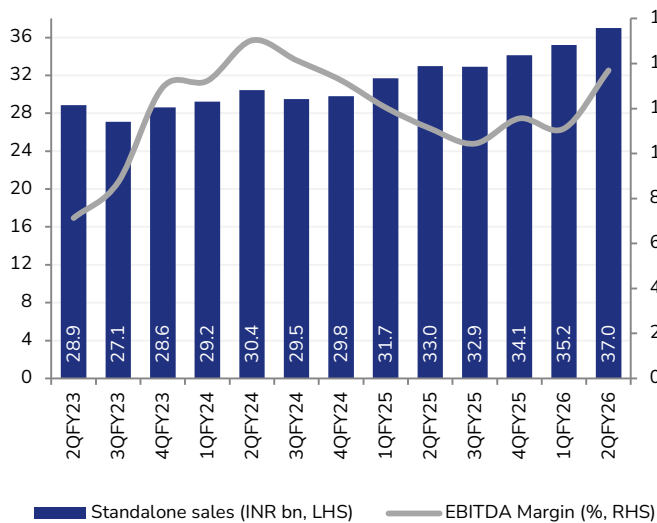
## Exhibit 2. Quarterly financial results (Consolidated)

(INR mn)

	2QFY26	2QFY25	% YoY	1QFY26	% QoQ	2QFY26E	% A/E
<b>Sales</b>	<b>37,727</b>	<b>33,045</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>35,294</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>36,073</b>	<b>4.6</b>
RM	22,286	20,683	7.8	22,311	(0.1)	22,726	(1.9)
As a % of sales	59.1	62.6	-350bps	63.2	-410bps	63.0	-390bps
Employee exp.	2,617	2,190	19.5	2,268	15.4	2,345	11.6
As a % of sales	6.9	6.6	30bps	6.4	50bps	6.5	40bps
Other Costs	7,789	6,550	18.9	6,838	13.9	7,034	10.7
As a % of sales	20.6	19.8	80bps	19.4	130bps	19.5	110bps
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>5,034</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>26.9</b>
<b>EBITDA Margin (%)</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>240bps</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>240bps</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>230bps</b>
Other Income	39	35	11.9	47	(18.4)	47	(18.4)
Interest	870	665	30.9	821	6.0	821	6.0
Depreciation	1,739	1,371	26.8	1,514	14.9	1,514	14.9
<b>PBT</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>1,681</b>	<b>46.6</b>
Tax	680	463	46.7	419	62.1	429	58.5
Tax rate (%)	27.6	28.6		26.4		25.5	207bps
Exceptional (gain)/loss	0	0	NA	33	NA	35	NA
Minority interest	-75	-61	NA	14	NA	-50	NA
<b>PAT Reported</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>46.7</b>
<b>Adj. PAT after MI</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>42.8</b>
PAT Margin (%)	4.9	3.7	120bps	3.3	160bps	3.6	130bps
<b>EPS</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>42.8</b>

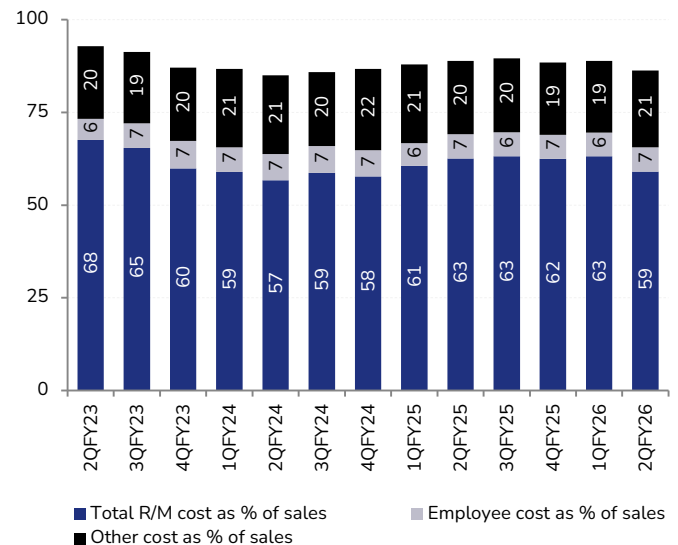
Source: Company, JM Financial

## Exhibit 3. Standalone sales and margin trends



Source: Company, JM Financial

## Exhibit 4. Standalone sales and margin trends



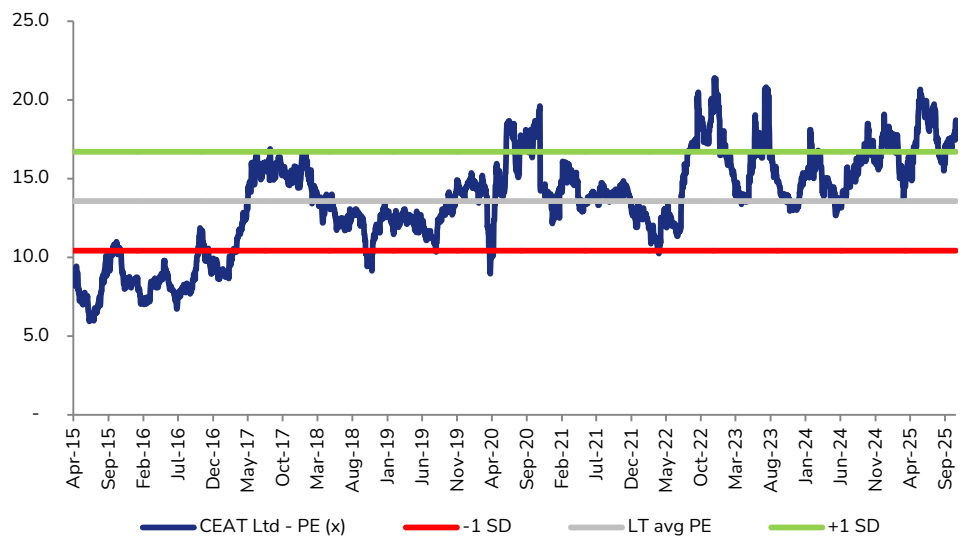
Source: Company, JM Financial

## Exhibit 5. Changes in estimates

CEAT	New assumption			Old assumption			% change		
	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue (INR mn)	132,179	148,852	164,485	132,179	146,311	160,082	0.0%	1.7%	2.8%
EBITDA (INR mn)	14,741	19,640	24,020	14,741	19,456	23,279	0.0%	0.9%	3.2%
EBITDAM (%)	11.2%	13.2%	14.6%	11.2%	13.3%	14.5%	0bps	-10bps	10bps
PAT (INR mn)	5,023	6,778	9,059	5,023	6,641	8,504	0.0%	2.1%	6.5%
EPS (INR)	124	168	224	124	164	210	0.0%	2.1%	6.5%

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 6. 1 year forward PE



Source: Bloomberg, JM Financial

## Financial Tables (Consolidated)

Income Statement (INR mn)					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Sales	1,19,435	1,32,179	1,48,852	1,64,485	1,73,772
Sales Growth	5.6%	10.7%	12.6%	10.5%	5.6%
Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,19,435</b>	<b>1,32,179</b>	<b>1,48,852</b>	<b>1,64,485</b>	<b>1,73,772</b>
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp	69,244	82,321	89,462	95,942	1,00,390
Personnel Cost	8,457	8,562	9,379	10,462	11,203
Other Expenses	25,212	26,554	30,372	34,061	36,804
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>16,522</b>	<b>14,741</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>24,020</b>	<b>25,375</b>
EBITDA Margin	13.8%	11.2%	13.2%	14.6%	14.6%
EBITDA Growth	69.7%	-10.8%	33.2%	22.3%	5.6%
Depn. & Amort.	5,088	5,627	7,580	8,494	9,209
EBIT	11,434	9,115	12,060	15,526	16,166
Other Income	197	176	220	298	346
Finance Cost	2,691	2,778	2,880	3,294	3,137
PBT before Excep. & Forex	8,941	6,512	9,400	12,530	13,375
Excep. & Forex Inc/Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
PBT	8,941	6,512	9,400	12,530	13,375
Taxes	2,214	1,720	2,721	3,571	3,779
Extraordinary Inc./Loss(-)	-582	-296	0	0	0
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	-282	-231	-100	-100	-100
Reported Net Profit	6,427	4,726	6,778	9,059	9,697
<b>Adjusted Net Profit</b>	<b>7,008</b>	<b>5,023</b>	<b>6,778</b>	<b>9,059</b>	<b>9,697</b>
Net Margin	5.9%	3.8%	4.6%	5.5%	5.6%
Diluted Share Cap. (mn)	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5
<b>Diluted EPS (INR)</b>	<b>173.3</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>167.6</b>	<b>224.0</b>	<b>239.7</b>
Diluted EPS Growth	219.1%	-28.3%	35.0%	33.7%	7.0%
Total Dividend + Tax	1,214	1,214	1,416	1,618	1,618
Dividend Per Share (INR)	30.0	30.0	35.0	40.0	40.0

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement (INR mn)					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Profit before Tax	8,941	6,512	9,400	12,530	13,375
Depn. & Amort.	5,088	5,627	7,580	8,494	9,209
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	2,691	2,778	2,880	3,294	3,137
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	1,598	-2,473	3,953	851	1,455
Others	-377	-86	100	100	100
Taxes Paid	-2,214	-1,720	-2,721	-3,571	-3,779
<b>Operating Cash Flow</b>	<b>15,727</b>	<b>10,638</b>	<b>21,190</b>	<b>21,699</b>	<b>23,497</b>
Capex	-7,713	-11,299	-27,500	-9,075	-9,075
Free Cash Flow	8,014	-661	-6,310	12,624	14,422
Inc (-) / Dec in Investments	-125	-78	0	0	0
Others	-2,691	-2,778	-2,880	-3,294	-3,137
<b>Investing Cash Flow</b>	<b>-10,528</b>	<b>-14,155</b>	<b>-30,380</b>	<b>-12,369</b>	<b>-12,212</b>
Inc / Dec (-) in Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Dividend + Tax thereon	-1,214	-1,214	-1,416	-1,618	-1,618
Inc / Dec (-) in Loans	-5,040	3,449	12,300	-5,500	0
Others	1,376	712	160	79	88
<b>Financing Cash Flow</b>	<b>-4,877</b>	<b>2,948</b>	<b>11,044</b>	<b>-7,039</b>	<b>-1,530</b>
<b>Inc / Dec (-) in Cash</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>-569</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>9,755</b>
Opening Cash Balance	719	591	532	2,387	4,677
Closing Cash Balance	1,040	22	2,387	4,677	14,433

Source: Company, JM Financial

Balance Sheet (INR mn)					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Shareholders' Fund	40,426	43,685	48,980	56,354	64,365
Share Capital	405	405	405	405	405
Reserves & Surplus	40,022	43,281	48,576	55,950	63,961
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interest	97	77	77	77	77
Total Loans	17,915	21,364	33,664	28,164	28,164
Def. Tax Liab. / Assets (-)	4,509	5,004	5,004	5,004	5,004
<b>Total - Equity &amp; Liab.</b>	<b>62,948</b>	<b>70,130</b>	<b>87,725</b>	<b>89,599</b>	<b>97,610</b>
Net Fixed Assets	69,546	75,218	95,138	95,719	95,585
Gross Fixed Assets	88,599	95,942	1,23,442	1,32,517	1,41,592
Intangible Assets	231	231	231	231	231
Less: Depn. & Amort.	26,119	26,330	33,910	42,404	51,613
Capital WIP	6,835	5,375	5,375	5,375	5,375
Investments	1,821	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898
Current Assets	28,578	35,007	35,762	40,303	51,983
Inventories	11,505	14,115	13,778	14,806	15,681
Sundry Debtors	12,832	16,533	15,730	16,905	17,905
Cash & Bank Balances	591	532	2,387	4,677	14,433
Loans & Advances	2,540	3,227	3,269	3,315	3,366
Other Current Assets	1,110	599	599	599	599
Current Liab. & Prov.	36,997	41,994	45,074	48,322	51,857
Current Liabilities	23,321	27,402	29,058	30,842	32,774
Provisions & Others	13,676	14,592	16,016	17,480	19,083
Net Current Assets	-8,419	-6,987	-9,312	-8,019	126
<b>Total - Assets</b>	<b>62,948</b>	<b>70,130</b>	<b>87,725</b>	<b>89,599</b>	<b>97,610</b>

Source: Company, JM Financial

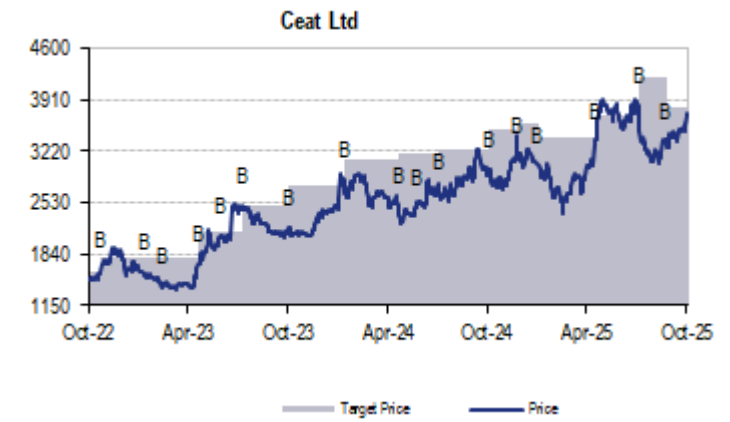
Dupont Analysis					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Net Margin	5.9%	3.8%	4.6%	5.5%	5.6%
Asset Turnover (x)	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9
Leverage Factor (x)	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5
RoE	18.7%	11.9%	14.6%	17.2%	16.1%
Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
BV/Share (INR)	999.4	1,080.0	1,210.9	1,393.2	1,591.2
ROIC	15.5%	11.3%	12.1%	14.2%	15.0%
ROE	18.7%	11.9%	14.6%	17.2%	16.1%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2
P/E (x)	21.5	30.1	22.3	16.7	15.6
P/B (x)	3.7	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.1	11.5	9.2	7.2	6.4
EV/Sales (x)	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9
Debtor days	39	46	39	38	38
Inventory days	35	39	34	33	33
Creditor days	83	85	82	80	81

Source: Company, JM Financial

## History of Recommendation and Target Price

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.
8-May-22	Buy	1,425	
21-Jul-22	Buy	1,415	-0.7
14-Sep-22	Buy	1,600	13.1
8-Nov-22	Buy	1,800	12.5
26-Jan-23	Buy	1,800	0.0
1-Mar-23	Buy	1,800	0.0
7-May-23	Buy	2,150	19.4
16-Jun-23	Buy	2,150	0.0
26-Jul-23	Buy	2,500	16.3
18-Oct-23	Buy	2,750	10.0
28-Jan-24	Buy	3,100	12.7
6-May-24	Buy	3,200	3.2
9-Jun-24	Buy	3,200	0.0
21-Jul-24	Buy	3,250	1.6
20-Oct-24	Buy	3,500	7.7
11-Dec-24	Buy	3,600	2.9
17-Jan-25	Buy	3,400	-5.6
1-May-25	Buy	3,700	8.8
20-Jul-25	Buy	4,200	13.5
7-Sep-25	Buy	3,800	-9.5

## Recommendation History



## APPENDIX I

## JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

Member of BSE Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

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New Rating System: Definition of ratings	
Rating	Meaning
BUY	Expected return $\geq$ 15% over the next twelve months.
ADD	Expected return $\geq$ 5% and $<$ 15% over the next twelve months.
REDUCE	Expected return $\geq$ -10% and $<$ 5% over the next twelve months.
SELL	Expected return $<$ -10% over the next twelve months.

Note: For REITs (Real Estate Investment Trust) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) total expected returns include dividends or DPU (distribution per unit)

Previous Rating System: Definition of ratings	
Rating	Meaning
BUY	Total expected returns of more than 10% for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and more than 15% for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.
HOLD	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and in the range of 10% downside to 15% upside from the current market price for all other stocks, over the next twelve months.
SELL	Price expected to move downwards by more than 10% from the current market price over the next twelve months.

\* REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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