

# APL APOLLO

## VISIT NOTE



### KEY DATA

<b>Rating</b>	<b>BUY</b>
Sector relative	Outperformer
Price (INR)	1,718
12 month price target (INR)	2,093
52 Week High/Low	1,936/1,273
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	477/5.4
Free float (%)	6,500.0
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	887.7

### SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

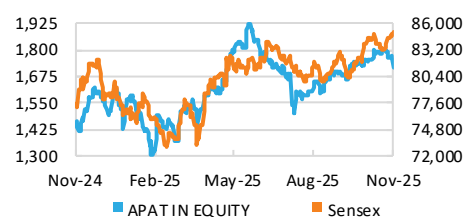
	Sep-25	Jun-25	Mar-25
Promoter	28.31%	28.31%	28.31%
FII	33.72%	33.05%	31.78%
DII	18.92%	16.83%	16.74%
Pledge	0%	0%	0%

### FINANCIALS

(INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Revenue	2,06,895	2,29,171	2,68,112	3,10,639
EBITDA	11,990	17,664	21,055	24,727
Adjusted profit	7,570	11,803	14,655	17,570
Diluted EPS (INR)	27.3	42.6	52.9	63.4
EPS growth (%)	3.3	55.9	24.2	19.9
RoAE (%)	19.4	24.6	23.9	22.7
P/E (x)	63.4	40.6	32.7	27.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	39.9	26.6	21.6	17.7
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5

### PRICE PERFORMANCE



## Apollo = brand premium; SG = volumes

We recently met with Chairman & MD Mr Sanjay Gupta, Director (Operations) Mr Deepak Goyal and Group CSO Mr Anubhav Gupta of APL Apollo Tubes. Key takeaways: i) Q3FY26E sales volumes to be 900ktons with EBITDA/ton of > INR5k. ii) The focus is on absolute profitability with a target to exceed INR4.5bn in Q3FY26E EBITDA and INR17bn in FY26E EBITDA. iii) The SG Premium brand is being sold at a discount of > INR5k/ton to garner volumes; APL brand rakes in higher EBITDA/ton. iv) Capacity utilisation of the Dubai plant is now 80–85%.

We view APL's sharpened focus on value-added products (VAP) and a strong balance sheet as positives. Maintain 'BUY' with a TP of INR2,093 at 36x Q2FY28E EPS. APL is trading at FY27E/28E EPS of 33x/27x.

### SG Premium to boost volumes; APL to pull in EBITDA

While HRC-patra spreads were favourable a year ago at INR4–5, they have widened to ~INR10 in recent months following patra's increased affordability. In such an environment too, APL has been able to grow volumes YoY steadily by dint of its strong brand recall, unmatched service timelines and extensive product range. To address competition from patra players, APL Apollo has introduced SG Premium—at a discount of >INR5,000/ton to APL's branded products to counter secondary steel. Though not profitable, the SG brand aims to rakes in volumes, whereas APL branded products shall drive profitability. This, we believe, could be a key decision by APL in capturing volumes from patra players given SG's potential to clock 10–15% of total volumes (versus 5% now). Management is gunning for Q3FY26E volume of 900ktons.

### APL to sail through inventory losses

While the recent slump in HRC prices should be a boon for HRC manufacturers, APL expects to sail through due to: i) increased operating leverage as a result of higher utilisation; ii) greater discounts/price protection from HRC suppliers; iii) inventory loss pass-through to distributors; iv) APL brand driving profitability. Over time, APL has been doubling down on higher-margin VAP—up from a 40% mix in FY16 to 58% in FY25. The Dubai plant remains a key differentiator, delivering ~145kt in FY25 at ~48% utilisation and EBITDA/ton of > INR6,000, with room to scale up. The company is confident of achieving EBITDA of INR4.5bn in Q3FY26E and INR17bn in FY26E.

### Capacity expansion on track; lead sustains

APL Apollo plans to expand capacity from 5mtpa to 7mtpa over the next two–three years via expansion at Gorakhpur, Siliguri and Dubai with a long-term goal of 10mtpa. Dubai has scaled up well with utilisation rising to 80–85% (end-Sep-25) and its capacity set to touch 1mtpa as new lines come on stream. The company's competitive moat spans product range, service, distribution, brand and technology. Its 3,000+ SKU portfolio and nationwide network of 11 plants enable a shift towards higher-margin structural tubes and ensure industry-best delivery timelines. A distribution network of 800+ distributors and 200,000 retailers with strong brand investments drives penetration in tier-2/3 markets. Advanced technologies have created cost advantages, whereas a cash-and-carry model has reduced WCD to zero, supporting growth and capex.

## A brief bio



**Mr. Sanjay Gupta**

*Chairperson & Managing Director*

Mr Sanjay Gupta has more than 30 years of experience in diverse steel industry segments. Under his visionary and dynamic leadership, the company has evolved and developed from a steel tube manufacturer into a global leader of branded structural steel tubing products. He has inherited excellent entrepreneurship skills from his father late Shri Sudesh Gupta. Under his leadership, the company continues to grow exponentially towards becoming an organisation of international repute.

## Financial Statements

### Income Statement (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Total operating income	2,06,895	2,29,171	2,68,112	3,10,639
Gross profit	28,193	34,052	39,663	45,758
Employee costs	3,325	3,325	3,325	3,325
Other expenses	4,913	2,750	3,217	3,728
EBITDA	11,990	17,664	21,055	24,727
Depreciation	2,013	2,310	2,508	2,706
Less: Interest expense	1,333	1,080	726	595
Add: Other income	961	1,057	1,215	1,397
Profit before tax	9,604	15,332	19,037	22,823
Prov for tax	2,035	3,528	4,381	5,253
Less: Other adj	0	0	0	0
Reported profit	7,570	11,803	14,655	17,570
Less: Excp.item (net)	0	0	0	0
Adjusted profit	7,570	11,803	14,655	17,570
Diluted shares o/s	277	277	277	277
Adjusted diluted EPS	27.3	42.6	52.9	63.4
DPS (INR)	4.0	6.4	7.9	9.5
Tax rate (%)	21.2	23.0	23.0	23.0

### Important Ratios (%)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Volume Growth (%)	20.6	11.8	16.8	15.8
Realisation Growth	(5.3)	(1.0)	0.1	0.1
Capex (INR mn)	7,225.0	4,000.0	4,000.0	4,000.0
EBITDA margin (%)	5.8	7.7	7.9	8.0
Net profit margin (%)	3.7	5.2	5.5	5.7
Revenue growth (% YoY)	14.2	10.8	17.0	15.9
EBITDA growth (% YoY)	0.6	47.3	19.2	17.4
Adj. profit growth (%)	3.3	55.9	24.2	19.9

### Assumptions (%)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
GDP (YoY %)	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.5
Repo rate (%)	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
USD/INR (average)	82.0	81.0	81.0	81.0
Gross margins	13.6	14.9	14.8	14.7
EBITDA/MT	3,797.0	4,999.5	5,101.2	5,175.4
Depre % of gross block	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Interest % of debt	30.7	40.0	35.0	35.0

### Valuation Metrics

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Diluted P/E (x)	63.4	40.6	32.7	27.3
Price/BV (x)	11.4	8.9	7.0	5.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	39.9	26.6	21.6	17.7
Dividend yield (%)	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

### Balance Sheet (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Share capital	555	555	555	555
Reserves	41,532	53,338	67,997	85,571
Shareholders funds	42,087	53,893	68,553	86,128
Minority interest	0	0	0	0
Borrowings	6,148	4,648	3,648	3,148
Trade payables	22,312	24,056	28,165	32,657
Other liabs & prov	3,460	3,460	3,460	3,460
Total liabilities	75,961	87,515	1,05,284	1,26,851
Net block	33,701	35,392	36,884	38,178
Intangible assets	1,399	1,375	1,375	1,375
Capital WIP	3,355	1,678	419	105
Total fixed assets	38,455	38,444	38,678	39,658
Non current inv	1,262	1,262	1,262	1,262
Cash/cash equivalent	5,749	12,932	26,280	42,293
Sundry debtors	2,673	3,139	3,673	4,255
Loans & advances	44	44	44	44
Other assets	23,363	28,498	32,150	36,142
Total assets	75,961	87,515	1,05,284	1,26,851

### Free Cash Flow (INR mn)

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Reported profit	9,604	17,102	21,236	25,460
Add: Depreciation	2,013	2,310	2,508	2,706
Interest (net of tax)	741	1,080	726	595
Others	(79)	0	0	0
Less: Changes in WC	1,728	(3,874)	(77)	(83)
Operating cash flow	12,133	13,091	20,014	23,427
Less: Capex	(7,225)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Free cash flow	4,908	9,091	16,014	19,427

### Key Ratios

Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
RoE (%)	19.4	24.6	23.9	22.7
RoCE (%)	22.9	30.7	30.2	29.0
Inventory days	33	35	37	37
Receivable days	4	5	5	5
Payable days	43	43	42	42
Working cap (% sales)	0.9	2.5	2.2	1.9
Gross debt/equity (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
Net debt/equity (x)	0	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.5)
Interest coverage (x)	7.5	14.2	25.5	37.0

### Valuation Drivers

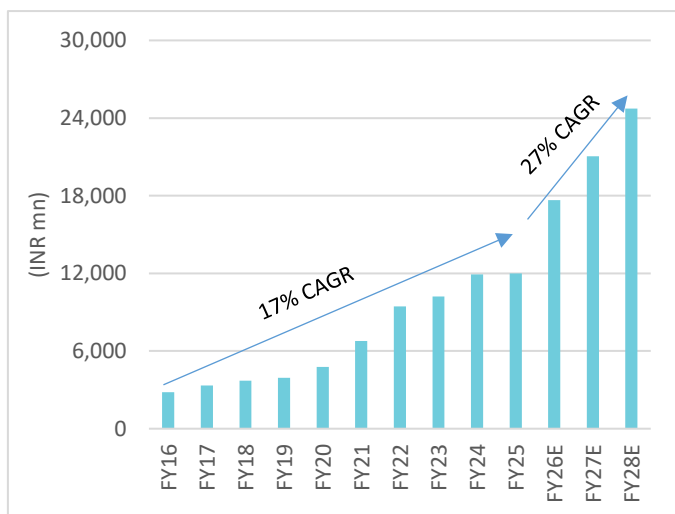
Year to March	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
EPS growth (%)	3.3	55.9	24.2	19.9
RoE (%)	19.4	24.6	23.9	22.7
EBITDA growth (%)	0.6	47.3	19.2	17.4
Payout ratio (%)	14.7	15.0	15.0	15.0

## Focus on absolute EBITDA; eying FY26E volume of 3.5mn tons

With HRC–patra spreads widening to INR9,833/ton (a deterrent for HRC pipe manufacturers such as APL Apollo) from INR 5,000/ton a year ago, APL Apollo has been consistently growing its volumes YoY by dint of its high brand recall, unmatched service timelines and extensive product range.

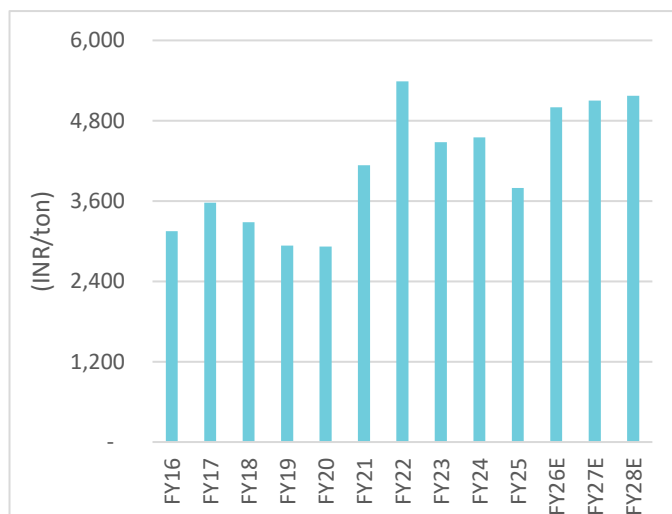
APL Apollo's management holds onto its volume guidance of 900,000 tons for Q3FY26E on the back of 270,000 tons it had clocked in October 2026. However, management focus remains steadfast on achieving absolute company-level EBITDA of INR4.5bn during the quarter. Management plans to clock EBITDA of INR17bn in FY26E.

**Exhibit 1: EBITDA to gallop at CAGR of 27% over FY25–28E**



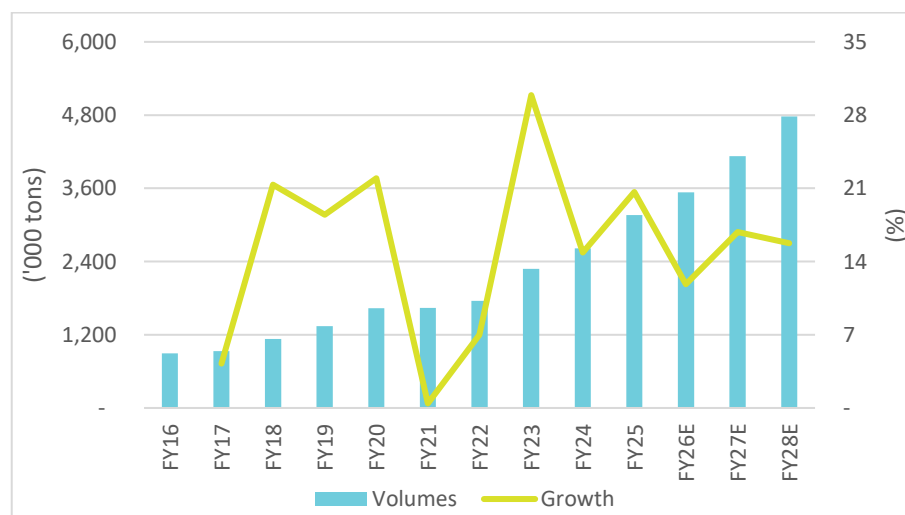
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

**Exhibit 2: EBITDA/ton to inch higher to ~INR5,000**



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

**Exhibit 3: FY26E EBITDA/ton to be robust at INR5,000**



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

## APL Apollo brand to drive profitability

With HRC prices having fallen ~10% since the start of FY26, most metal pipes manufacturers are likely to endure the most of inventory losses; Even so, APL is likely to be unscathed due as it plans to mitigate the downside through:

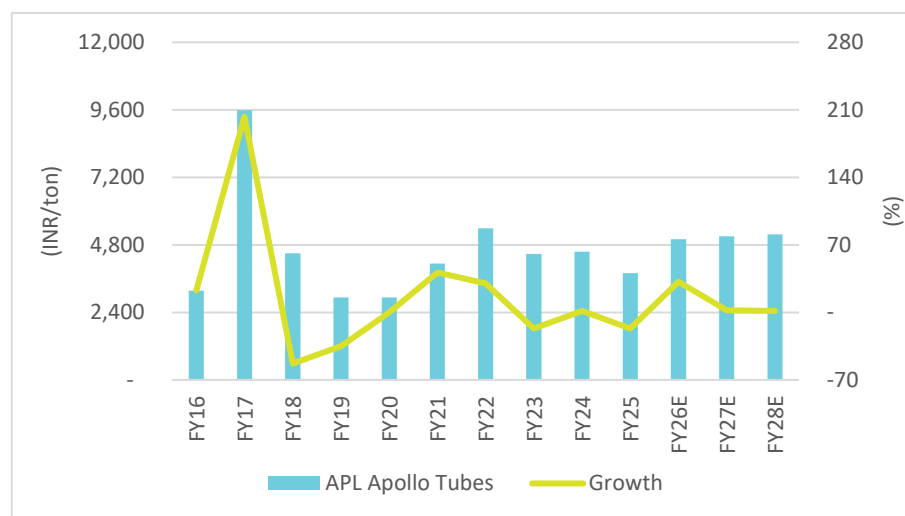
- i) increased operating leverage and internal efficiencies;
- ii) higher discounts/price protection from upstream suppliers;
- iii) pass-through of inventory losses to distributors; and
- iv) APL Apollo brand driving profitability while SG Premium sells at a discount to garner volumes.

## SG Premium to drive volumes and keep competition in check

The company recently introduced the SG Premium brand to counter secondary steel products. APL sold the SG Premium branded products at a run rate of 10,000–15,000 tons/month in Q2FY26. SG premium is trading at a discount of > INR5,000/ton versus APL Apollo's lowest priced product of INR54,000/ton. Though not profitable, SG Premium is aimed at curbing the secondary steel market and drive a shift toward primary products.

This brand in our view could be game changer for APL as it can garner strong volumes from patra-based manufacturers, whereas the APL branded products would push EBITDA/ton higher due to its higher pricing. At the current run rate, SG Premium has potential to garner 10–15% of overall volumes versus 5% in Q2FY26

### Exhibit 4: FY26E EBITDA/tonne likely to stay robust at ~INR 5,000



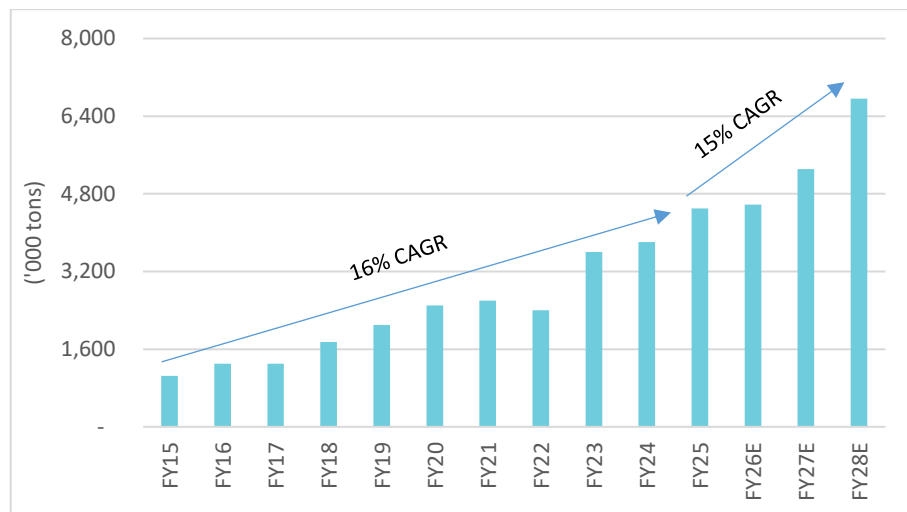
Source: Company, Nuvama Research

## New plants to aid cost savings; benefits to be passed on

APL Apollo Tubes is setting up three new plants in Siliguri, Gorakhpur and Dubai, with capacities of 300,000 tons, 200,000 tons and 700,000 tons, respectively. It expects to touch capacity of 10mn tons over the next five years.

Expansion into eastern India is aimed at strengthening APL's presence in a market it has long served but at higher logistics costs. By producing closer to demand centres, the company expects to meaningfully reduce transportation expenses and pass on part of this benefit to customers, thereby driving up volumes and improving market penetration.

**Exhibit 5: Capacities compounded at 16% over FY15–25**



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

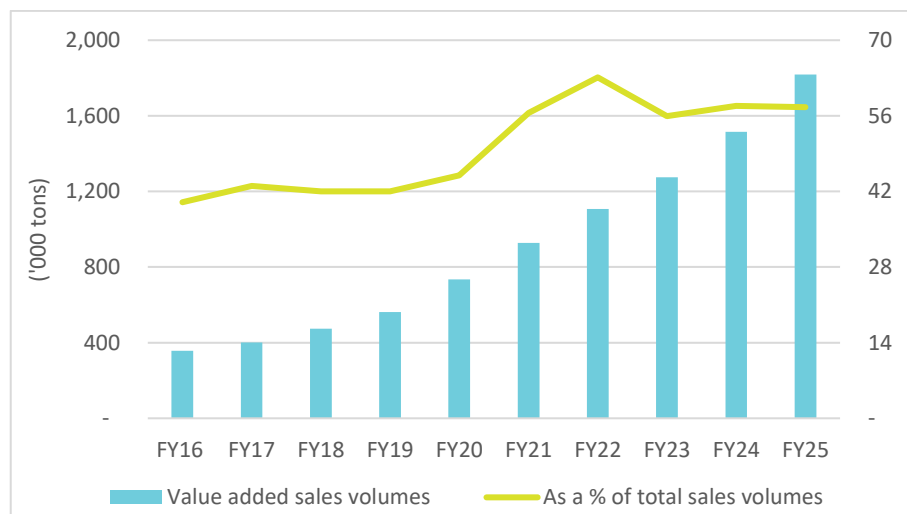
## De-commoditising portfolio

With HRC–patra spreads refusing to narrow, APL Apollo has recognised that its most sustainable strategy is to deepen its VAP portfolio. By increasing the share of high-margin, technologically intensive products—segments wherein most competitors struggle to match APL’s scale, processing depth and distribution strength—the company can structurally de-risk its margin profile.

The Dubai expansion has proved to be a strategic breakthrough. The facility allows APL to diversify away from the volatility of the domestic HRC–patra spread cycle and tap into more stable, premium overseas markets. In this geography, APL is now generating EBITDA/ton of more than INR5,500/6,000. The plant delivered volumes of ~145,000 tons in FY25, operating at ~48% of its installed capacity, highlighting the significant headroom to scale up.

The Dubai plant operated at 80% in Q2FY26 with capacity expansions underway through a new plant in Abu Dhabi (500ktons), taking the overall capacity in the Middle East to 1mn tons.

**Exhibit 6: Improving value-added mix**

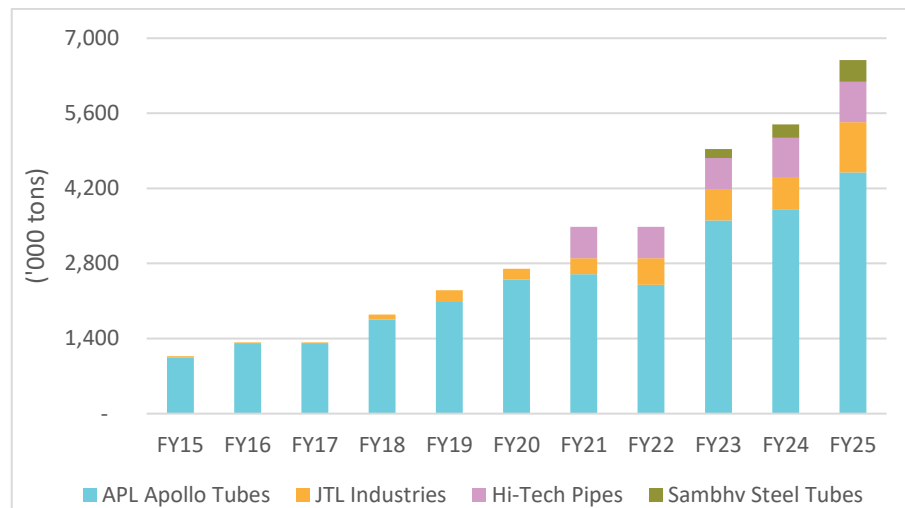


Source: Company, Nuvama Research

## Leading from the front in multiple aspects

- i) **Capacity:** APL Apollo leads by a margin in this aspect with its capacity expansion at a CAGR of 15% over FY16–25. Over the last ten years, APL’s capacities have more than quadrupled to 4.5mn tons.

**Exhibit 7: By capacity, APL miles ahead of listed peers**



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

- ii) **Product range:** APAT caters to clients, spread across residential, commercial and industrial construction, infrastructure, and industrial & agricultural applications. The company has gradually reduced its dependence on the traditional ERW pipes segment (used for irrigation and fluid transportation) to structural pipes used in the construction segments (residential as well as commercial) that have significantly better margins. The company manufactures 3,000-plus SKUs. APL has covered a breadth of the market with tubes ranging from 8\*8mm to 1000\*1000mm with 0.18mm to 40mm thicknesses.

**Exhibit 8: Vast product range**

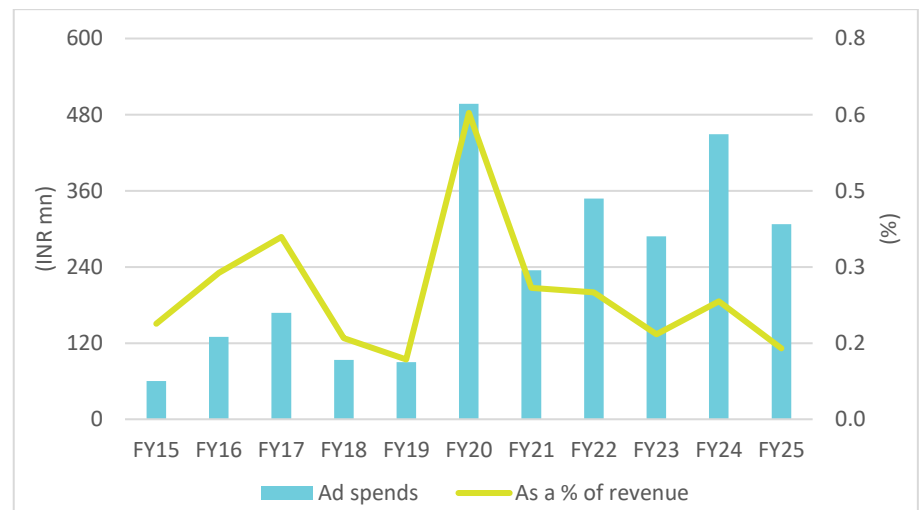
Product category	Application	Key USPs	Applications
Apollo Structural	Super heavy	Offers columns of 300mm x 300mm, 500mm x 500mm and 1000mm x 1000mm	Column, Beams, Heavy structural erections
	Light	First company in India to introduce Door frame and Plank Light weight tubes for furniture	Door Frame, staircase steps, Furniture & fencing Electrical Conduits
	General	First company in India to introduce square, rectangular structural steel tubes	Sheds & Gates, Handrails & Fencing, Balcony Grills Staircase etc.
Apollo Z	Rust-proof	First company in India to introduce -galvanized sections, replacing vanized tubes Effective in use in coastal markets	Roofing Structures, Fabrication Work, Purlins Rafters
	Coated	High tensile light structural application; bendable; superior rust proof properties	Warehousing Factory Sheds
Apollo Galv	Agri/ Industrial	Effective for use in water applications, being highly non-corrosive in nature	Greenhouse structures Plumbing Firefighting

Source: Nuvama Research, Company

- iii) **Best service timeline across the industry:** A differentiation factor that makes APL’s dealers stick is the quick turnaround for the orders they place with Apollo. With its 11 (another three coming up) manufacturing plants spread across the country, APL is able to cater to most quantity and measurement requirements within a couple of days, unlike its competitors, which at times need weeks to fulfil orders.

- iv) **Distribution:** APAT derives ~90% of sales from distributors. Currently, it has a presence in 300 towns and cities across India via 29 warehouses, more than 800 distributors and 200,000 retailers. The company has introduced various innovative incentive schemes for dealers to push volumes. It is also improving engagement with architects and fabricators and, influencers to educate consumers about its new product offerings. It organises fabricator meets periodically across towns to educate fabricators about the products and new launches. APL has also been supporting dealers by providing channel financing through SG Finserve.
- v) **Brand:** APAT has developed a focused branding strategy of creating awareness and visibility for the brand. The initiatives have resulted in better sales growth in tier-2/3 cities, and sales in small towns and villages are growing due to increased brand awareness. It has on-boarded celebrities, namely Tiger Shroff, Amitabh Bachchan and Askhay Kumar as brand ambassadors. Furthermore, the company has sponsored high-decibel national sporting events in the past, which have pan-India appeal.

**Exhibit 9: Ad spends quintupled over last ten years**



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

- vi) **Profitability:** APL Apollo Tubes is the industry leader in terms of profitability with highest EBITDA per ton across non-integrated players due to its sheer scale and manufacturing capabilities. APL has consistently generated an RoCE of ~25% over the past couple of years.

**Exhibit 10: Highest returns among peers**

ROCEs	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
APL Apollo Tubes	33	21	21	27	33	27	25	23
JTL Industries	34	37	18	25	40	35	25	13
Hi-tech Pipes	18	18	12	13	16	14	12	12
Sambhv Steel Tubes	4	20	17	29	37	23	22	14

Source: Nuvama Research, Company

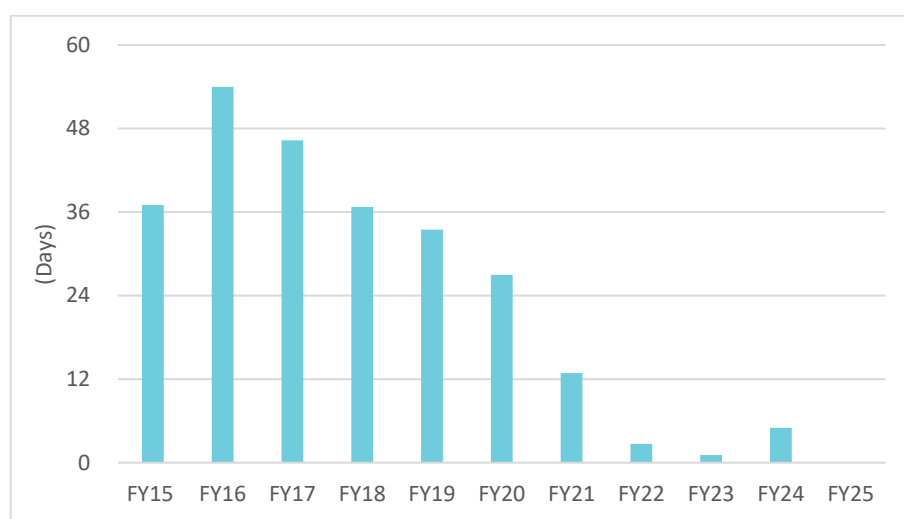
- vii) **Technology:** APL Apollo has strengthened its cost structure through backward integration and advanced manufacturing technologies. The introduction of Cold Roll Milling (CRM) has enabled the company to reduce HRC width from 2mm to 1.2/1.4mm, lowering process costs and creating a strong entry barrier in value-added structural steel products, which were earlier sourced at higher prices from Tata Steel and JSW Steel.



The company has also been a pioneer in adopting Direct Forming Technology (DFT) along with in-line galvanisation and pre-galvanised tubes. DFT, introduced in 2016 from Olympia (Italy), significantly boosts manufacturing efficiency by enabling on-mill customisation of hollow section sizes without roll changes. This automated process cuts production time to one–two hours versus eight hours to two days under conventional methods while also reducing raw material wastage and improving throughput.

**viii) Working capital:** The company had reduced its net working capital days to zero by the end of March FY25 from ~81 in FY15 by shifting to a 'cash and carry' model. This along with improved inventory management led to a reduction in working capital. Working capital release was utilised to repay debts and fund capex.

**Exhibit 11: Continued improvement in working capital days**



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

## Company Description

APL Apollo Tubes (APAT) is the leader in fast-growing steel tubes industry (10–12% CAGR) with a market share of 55%. Underpinned by an innovative comprehensive product range, its presence across segments (housing, commercial and infrastructure) and pan-India brand and distribution, APAT has clocked revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 23%/20%/25% over FY13–23—highest in the industry. APAT management has carefully transformed the company from an ERW player to a structural tubes player. The company has structured its working capital and improved OCF. Better OCF has helped in reducing its debt profile and, hence, improved return ratios.

## Investment Rationale

APAT has aggressively expanded its production capacity by a CAGR 20%-plus over the last ten years. It recently commissioned a state-of-the-art greenfield plant at Raipur, increasing its capacity to 3.6mtpa. The new Raipur plant with capacity of 1MTPA makes up 28% of its total capacity. Not only is it the biggest in terms of capacity and revenue potential, but the whole facility is dedicated towards futuristic products driving EBITDA by 33% CAGR over FY23-26E. Along with the new incremental capacity in Raipur, APAT also aims to boost capacity in east India. Also, in its capacity expansion endeavours, the company wishes to step foot in Dubai in its first international foray. APAT will also engage in some de-bottlenecking that will take its total capacity to ~5mtpa by FY25E. Furthermore, beyond FY25E, APAT plans to again double its capacity by FY30E to 10mtpa. The briskly increasing capacity is likely to drive company's volumes by 22% CAGR over FY24-27E. Furthermore, APL continues to increase the share of value-added products such as Apollo Tricoat, Apollo Z, Apollo Galv and now heavy and super-heavy structures, Color Coated products and tubes.

## Key Risks

Slowdown in economy or steel sector: Any slowdown in GDP growth may affect user industries (construction, auto, real estate), which in turn would impact demand for steel pipes. This may hamper the pace of APAT's growth. Fluctuations in steel prices: HR coil is the key raw material for manufacturing pipes. Any surge in its prices may hurt APAT's margins as it may not be able to pass on the increase completely. Similarly, a sharp dip in steel prices could lead to inventory

## Additional Data

### Management

Chairman & MD	Mr Sanjay Gupta
Joint MD	Mr Vinay Gupta
Joint MD & CEO	Mr Rahul Gupta
CFO	Mr Deepak Goyal
Auditor	Deloitte and Haskin Sells

### Holdings – Top 10\*

	% Holding		% Holding
Capital group	9.99	DSP	1.63
Kitara Pinn	6.52	Franklin Resour	1.54
New world fund	3.79	FIL Ltd	0.80
Vanuguard	2.70	FIL Ltd	1.50
Blackrock	1.88	Kotak AMC	1.42

\*Latest public data

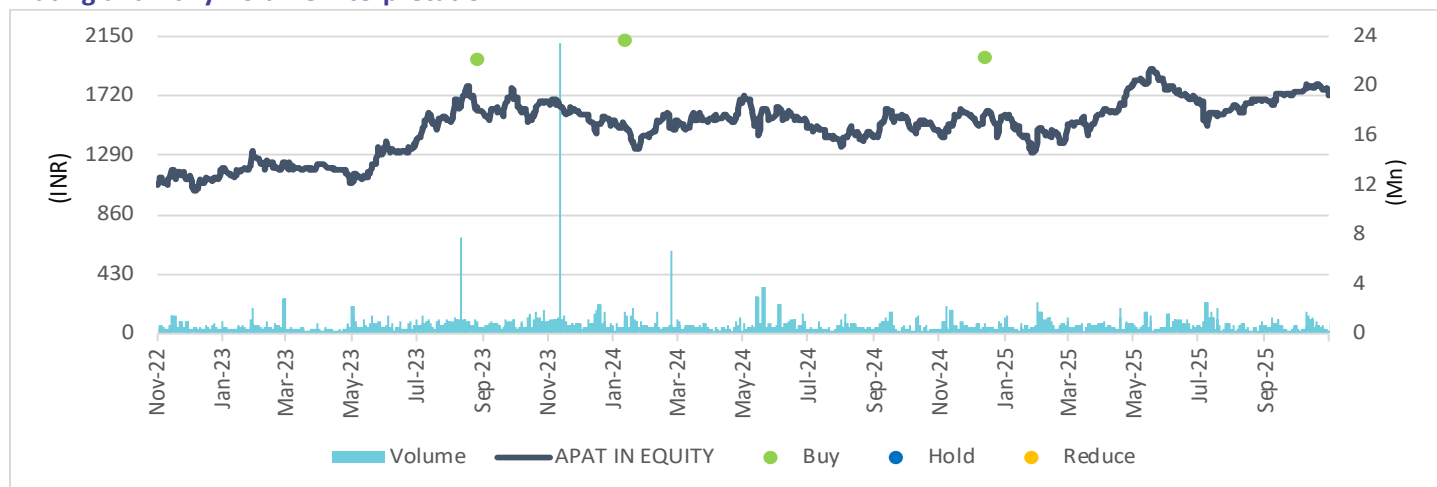
### Recent Company Research

Date	Title	Price	Reco
29-Oct-25	Outpacing peers despite headwinds; <i>Result Update</i>	1,805	Buy
01-Oct-25	Strong volumes amid weak environment ; <i>Company Update</i>	1,731	Buy
24-Jul-25	Margins disappoint; guidance trimmed; <i>Result Update</i>	1,686	Buy

### Recent Sector Research

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
17-Nov-25	Greenpanel	Leader awakens: Market share priority; <i>Visit Note</i>
17-Nov-25	Home Decor	Mixed show amid demand slowdown; <i>Sector Update</i>
14-Nov-25	Home Decor	Pressure persists; cost savings key; <i>Sector Update</i>

### Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama research

### Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research

Rating	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	Rating Distribution
Buy	15%	207
Hold	<15% and >-5%	69
Reduce	<-5%	35

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