

Macro lessons from the 4QFY22 corporate results

Improved profitability is broad-based

The RBI recently released its 4QFY22 financials of listed non-government, non-financial (NGNF) companies. A few macro lessons from the 4QFY22 financials are furnished below:

- Net sales for the listed NGNF corporate sector (comprising of ~2,700 companies) grew 22.3% YoY in 4QFY22 (*refer Exhibit 1*), implying a growth of 35.4% in FY22, after contracting in FY20 and FY21. Total expenditure grew 25.9%/39.7% YoY in 4Q/FY22, led by higher raw material costs.
- Using data for the past decade, we find that corporate sales are highly correlated with the headline Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measure of inflation (*refer Exhibit 2*). Both sales growth and headline WPI inflation have been at extremely high levels during the past few quarters.
- With lower debt and interest rates, the interest coverage ratio has increased to at least a decade high (this data is available only since FY12) of 5.9x in 4QFY22 vis-à-vis 4.8x in 4QFY21 and 3.4x in FY20 (*refer Exhibit 3*).
- EBITDA margin, though, has fallen to a seven-quarter low of 19% in 4QFY22, v/s the recent peak of 22.6% in 3QFY21, but still higher than ~18% each in FY19/FY20 (*refer Exhibit 4*). EBITDA margin for the manufacturing sector was 17.5% in 4QFY22 from the pre-COVID average of 17%, while it was 23% for the services sector v/s 20-21% in the pre-pandemic period.
- Combining data of financial companies (FCs) and public sector enterprises (PSEs), we find that the aggregate net profit of listed companies stood at a record high of INR2.6t (or 4% of GDP) in 4QFY22 (*refer Exhibit 5*). Rising from the two-decade low of 1.8% of GDP in FY20, the PAT-to-GDP ratio of listed companies has more than doubled to 3.8% of GDP in FY22. A break-up of the sample into FCs, NGNF, and non-financial PSEs suggest an across the board improvement (*refer Exhibit 6*).
- While raw material costs are rising at a faster pace, 'employee costs' of NGNF companies grew 16.2% YoY in 4QFY22 as against a growth of ~16% seen in 1HFY22 (*refer Exhibit 7*). Adjusting for inflation, real employee costs rose 9.9% YoY in 4QFY22 as compared to a growth of ~11% in 1HFY22. Including FCs and PSEs, growth in real employee cost was modest at 3.4%/6.1% YoY in 4Q/FY22. As explained in our recent [note](#), notwithstanding such a strong rise in employee costs of listed companies, it does not seem to create wage inflation since the income of the self-employed and casual workers is growing more slowly.
- As discussed [earlier](#), the listed corporate sector has recorded massive gains during the pandemic vis-à-vis a decline in RoE. Nominal gross value-added (GVA) of listed NFCs rose 14.1% YoY in 4QFY22, much lower than the 32% YoY growth in 1HFY22. It implies that GVA of RoE rose 15.3% in 4QFY22, faster than listed NFCs for the second consecutive quarter since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (*refer Exhibit 8*).
- However, GVA of listed NFCs grew faster than RoE (21.2% v/s 17.9%) in FY22. With a better performance of listed NFCs, their share in national GVA has risen to 8.8% in FY22 from a low of 7.6% in FY20, marking the highest level in nine years (*refer Exhibit 9*).
- The distribution of GVA of listed NGNF by factors of production reveals that the share of entrepreneurs stood at 41.6% of GVA in FY22 (v/s 35% in FY21) – the highest since the quarterly data began in FY13. The share of labor fell to a six-year low of 34.4%, while the share of capital (interest + depreciation) fell to 24% in FY22, the lowest since the series began in FY13 (*refer Exhibit 10*).
- Overall, the listed corporate sector continues to perform really well. Although GVA of RoE grew faster than listed NFCs for the second consecutive quarter in 4QFY22, the expectations of the business community are at a two-decade high, while consumers continue to feel the heat (*refer Exhibit 11 and 12*).

Exhibit 1: Corporate sales and expenses continue to grow rapidly in 4QFY22

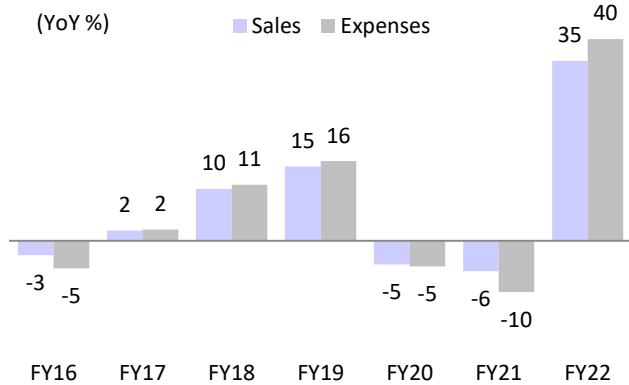
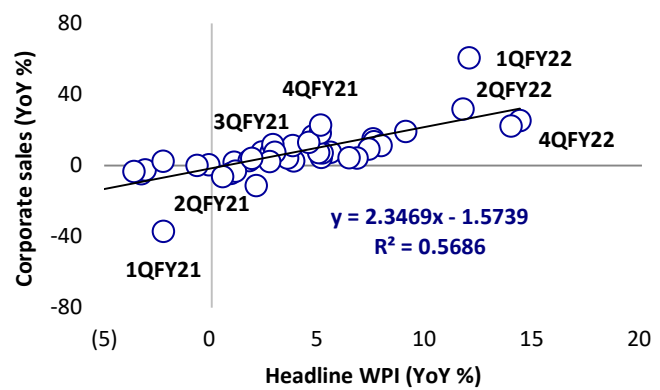


Exhibit 2: Corporate sales growth strongly correlates with headline WPI inflation



Average Wholesale Price Index for the quarters

Exhibit 3: Interest coverage increased further to 5.9x

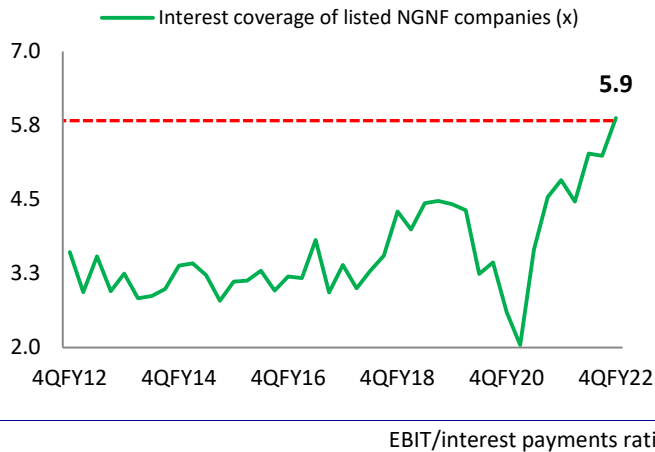


Exhibit 4: EBITDA margin fell, but still at higher levels

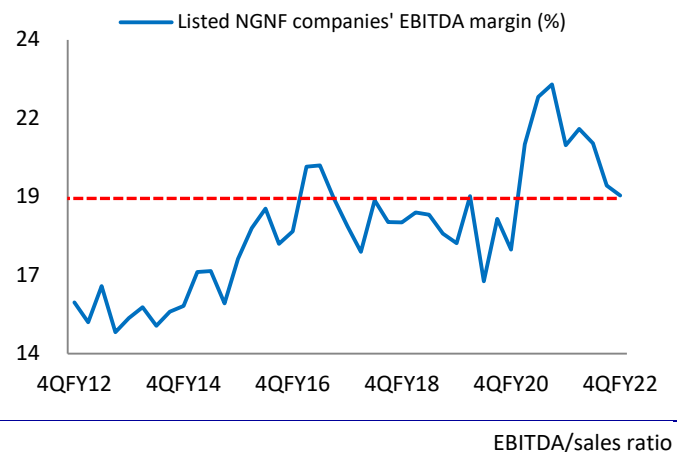
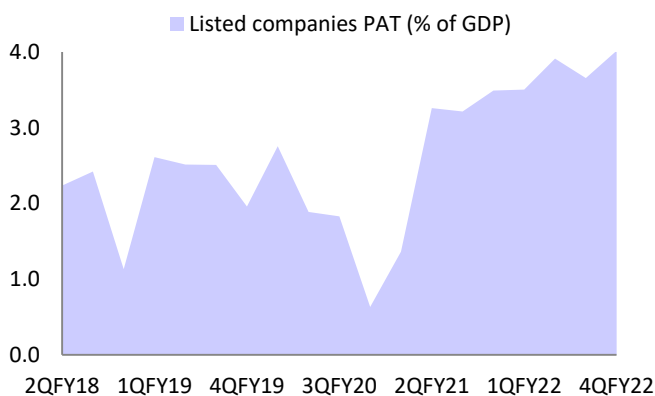
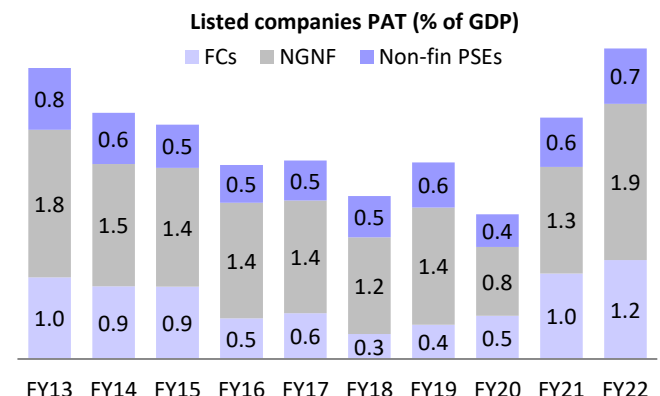


Exhibit 5: Listed companies' profitability surged to 4% of GDP in 4QFY22

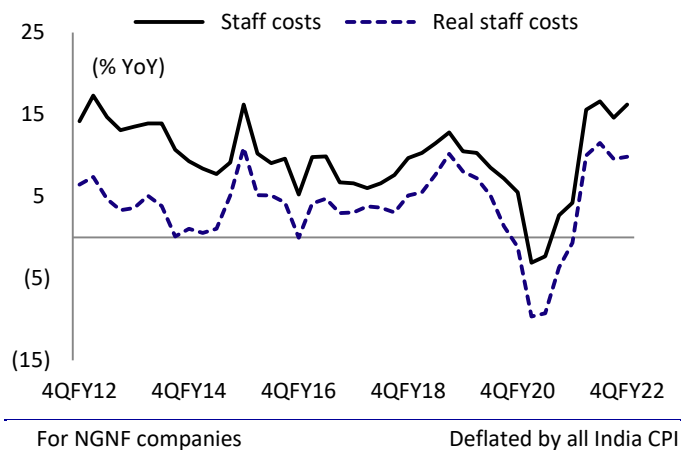
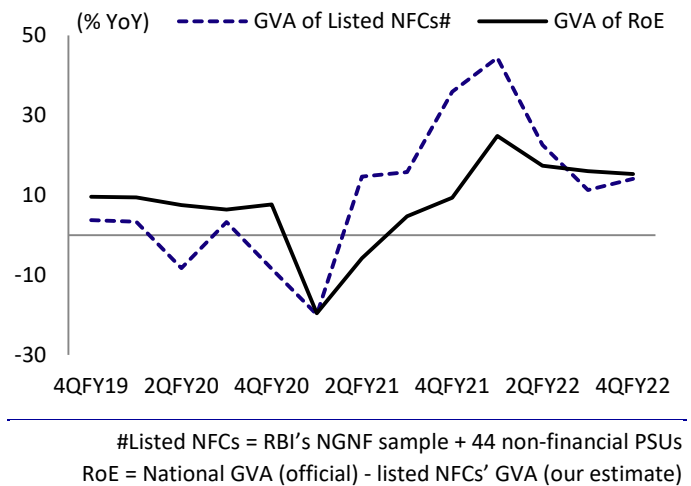
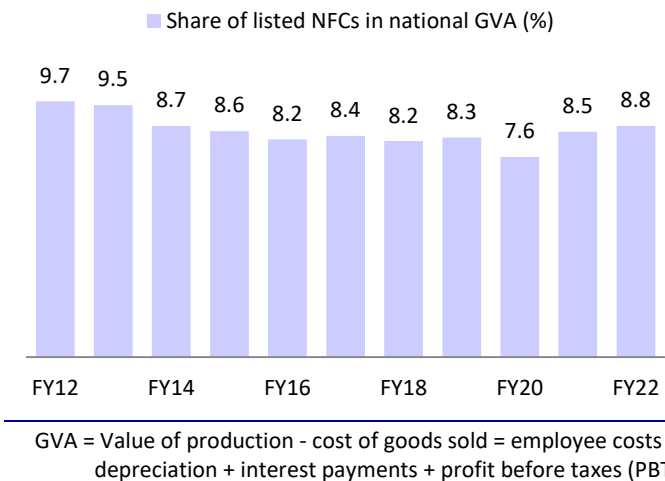
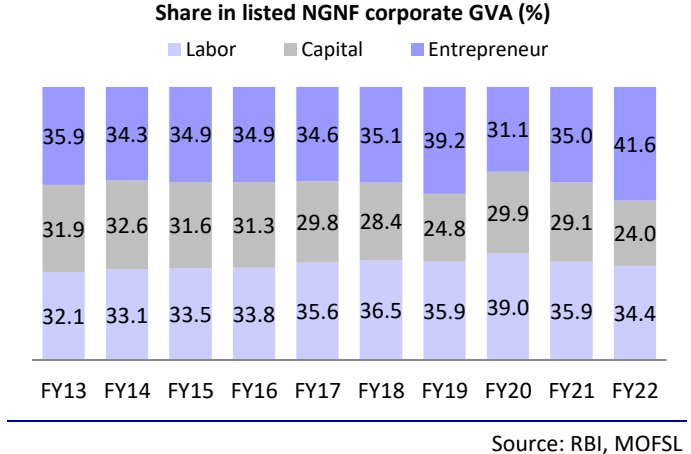
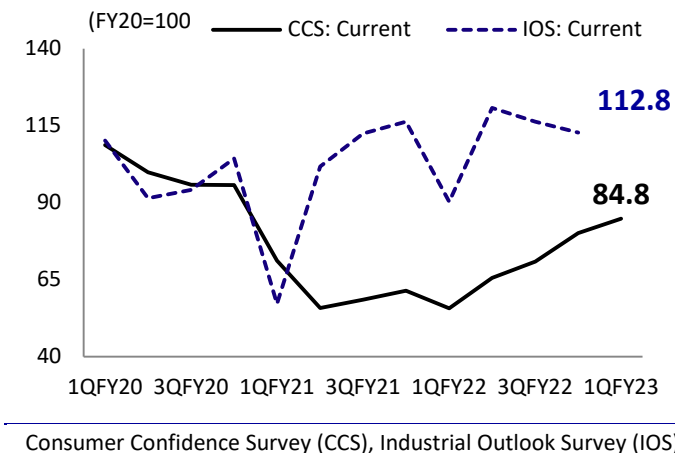
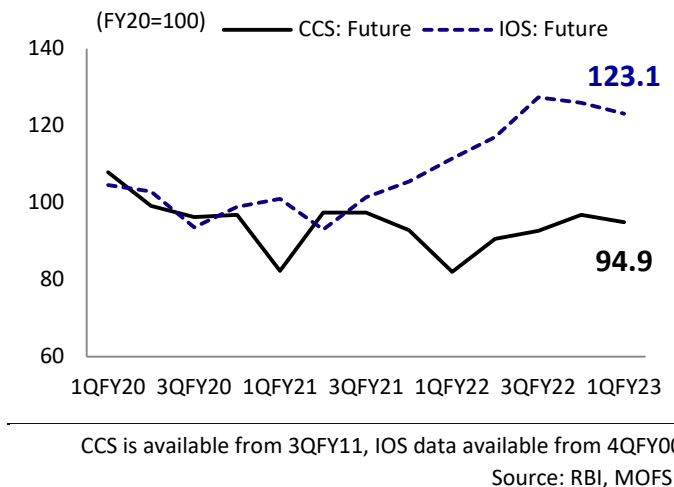


Including NGNF companies (~2,700), financial companies (79), and non-financial PSEs (44)

Exhibit 6: The improvement in profitability was across the board in FY21 and FY22



Source: RBI, Capitaline, CEIC, MOFSL

Exhibit 7: Employee costs of NGNF companies continue to grow in double-digits in 4QFY22**Exhibit 8: GVA of RoE grew faster than listed NFCs for the second consecutive quarter****Exhibit 9: Listed NFCs now account for ~9% of national GVA – the highest in nine years****Exhibit 10: Share of entrepreneurs in listed companies' GVA at a decade high in FY22****Exhibit 11: The current assessment for businesses is much better than consumers...****Exhibit 12: ...and business expectations are at record levels, while it continues to lag for consumers**

NOTES

Disclosures:

The following Disclosures are being made in compliance with the SEBI Research Analyst Regulations 2014 (herein after referred to as the Regulations).

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. (MOFSL) is a SEBI Registered Research Analyst having registration no. INH000000412. MOFSL, the Research Entity (RE) as defined in the Regulations, is engaged in the business of providing Stock broking services, Investment Advisory Services, Depository participant services & distribution of various financial products. MOFSL is a subsidiary company of Passionate Investment Management Pvt. Ltd.. (PIMPL). MOFSL is a listed public company, the details in respect of which are available on www.motilaloswal.com. MOFSL (erstwhile Motilal Oswal Securities Limited - MOSL) is registered with the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and is a registered Trading Member with National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited (BSE), Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) and National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) for its stock broking activities & is Depository participant with Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), NERL, COMRIS and CCRL and is member of Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) for distribution of financial products and Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDA) as Corporate Agent for insurance products. Details of associate entities of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited are available on the website at <http://onlinereports.motilaloswal.com/Dormant/documents/Associate%20Details.pdf>

Details of pending Enquiry Proceedings of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited are available on the website at <https://galaxy.motilaloswal.com/ResearchAnalyst/PublishViewLitigation.aspx>

MOFSL, its associates, Research Analyst or their relative may have any financial interest in the subject company. MOFSL and/or its associates and/or Research Analyst may have actual/beneficial ownership of 1% or more securities in the subject company in the past 12 months. MOFSL and its associate company(ies), their directors and Research Analyst and their relatives may; (a) from time to time, have a long or short position in, act as principal in, and buy or sell the securities or derivatives thereof of companies mentioned herein. (b) be engaged in any other transaction involving such securities and earn brokerage or other compensation or act as a market maker in the financial instruments of the company(ies) discussed herein or act as an advisor or lender/borrower to such company(ies) or may have any other potential conflict of interests with respect to any recommendation and other related information and opinions.; however the same shall have no bearing whatsoever on the specific recommendations made by the analyst(s), as the recommendations made by the analyst(s) are completely independent of the views of the associates of MOFSL even though there might exist an inherent conflict of interest in some of the stocks mentioned in the research report. Research Analyst may have served as director/officer, etc. in the subject company in the past 12 months. MOFSL and/or its associates may have received any compensation from the subject company in the past 12 months.

In the past 12 months, MOFSL or any of its associates may have:

- managed or co-managed public offering of securities from subject company of this research report,
- received compensation for investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from subject company of this research report,
- received compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the subject company of this research report.
- Subject Company may have been a client of MOFSL or its associates in the past 12 months.

MOFSL and its associates have not received any compensation or other benefits from the subject company or third party in connection with the research report. To enhance transparency, MOFSL has incorporated a Disclosure of Interest Statement in this document. This should, however, not be treated as endorsement of the views expressed in the report. MOFSL and / or its affiliates do and seek to do business including investment banking with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, the recipients of this report should be aware that MOFSL may have a potential conflict of interest that may affect the objectivity of this report. Compensation of Research Analysts is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions. Above disclosures include beneficial holdings lying in demat account of MOFSL which are opened for proprietary investments only. While calculating beneficial holdings, It does not consider demat accounts which are opened in name of MOFSL for other purposes (i.e holding client securities, collaterals, error trades etc.). MOFSL also earns DP income from clients which are not considered in above disclosures. Above disclosures include beneficial holdings lying in demat account of MOFSL which are opened for proprietary investments only. While calculating beneficial holdings, It does not consider demat accounts which are opened in name of MOFSL for other purposes (i.e holding client securities, collaterals, error trades etc.). MOFSL also earns DP income from clients which are not considered in above disclosures.

Terms & Conditions:

This report has been prepared by MOFSL and is meant for sole use by the recipient and not for circulation. The report and information contained herein is strictly confidential and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent of MOFSL. The report is based on the facts, figures and information that are considered true, correct, reliable and accurate. The intent of this report is not recommendatory in nature. The information is obtained from publicly available media or other sources believed to be reliable. Such information has not been independently verified and no guaranty, representation of warranty, express or implied, is made as to its accuracy, completeness or correctness. All such information and opinions are subject to change without notice. The report is prepared solely for informational purpose and does not constitute an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments for the clients. Though disseminated to all the customers simultaneously, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. MOFSL will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this report.

Analyst Certification

The views expressed in this research report accurately reflect the personal views of the analyst(s) about the subject securities or issues, and no part of the compensation of the research analyst(s) was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendations and views expressed by research analyst(s) in this report.

Disclosure of Interest Statement**Companies where there is interest**

Analyst ownership of the stock

No

A graph of daily closing prices of securities is available at www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com. Research Analyst views on Subject Company may vary based on Fundamental research and Technical Research. Proprietary trading desk of MOFSL or its associates maintains arm's length distance with Research Team as all the activities are segregated from MOFSL research activity and therefore it can have an independent view with regards to subject company for which Research Team have expressed their views.

Regional Disclosures (outside India)

This report is not directed or intended for distribution to or use by any person or entity resident in a state, country or any jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law, regulation or which would subject MOFSL & its group companies to registration or licensing requirements within such jurisdictions.

For Hong Kong:

This report is distributed in Hong Kong by Motilal Oswal capital Markets (Hong Kong) Private Limited, a licensed corporation (CE AYY-301) licensed and regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) pursuant to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) "SFO". As per SEBI (Research Analyst Regulations) 2014 Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (SEBI Reg No. INH000000412) has an agreement with Motilal Oswal capital Markets (Hong Kong) Private Limited for distribution of research report in Hong Kong. This report is intended for distribution only to "Professional Investors" as defined in Part I of Schedule 1 to SFO. Any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to professional investor and will be engaged only with professional investors." Nothing here is an offer or solicitation of these securities, products and services in any jurisdiction where their offer or sale is not qualified or exempt from registration. The Indian Analyst(s) who compile this report is/are not located in Hong Kong & are not conducting Research Analysis in Hong Kong.

For U.S:

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL) is not a registered broker - dealer under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 act") and under applicable state laws in the United States. In addition MOFSL is not a registered investment adviser under the U.S. Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act" and together with the 1934 Act, the "Acts"), and under applicable state laws in the United States. Accordingly, in the absence of specific exemption under the Acts, any brokerage and investment services provided by MOFSL, including the products and services described herein are not available to or intended for U.S. persons. This report is intended for distribution only to "Major Institutional Investors" as defined by Rule 15a-6(b)(4) of the Exchange Act and interpretations thereof by SEC (henceforth referred to as "major institutional investors"). This document must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not major institutional investors. Any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to major institutional investors and will be engaged in only with major institutional investors. In reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") and interpretations thereof by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") in order to conduct business with Institutional Investors based in the U.S., MOFSL has entered into a chaperoning agreement with a U.S. registered broker-dealer, Motilal Oswal Securities International Private Limited. ("MOSIPL"). Any business interaction pursuant to this report will have to be executed within the provisions of this chaperoning agreement.

The Research Analysts contributing to the report may not be registered /qualified as research analyst with FINRA. Such research analyst may not be associated persons of the U.S. registered broker-dealer, MOSIPL, and therefore, may not be subject to NASD rule 2711 and NYSE Rule 472 restrictions on communication with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.

For Singapore:

In Singapore, this report is being distributed by Motilal Oswal Capital Markets Singapore Pte Ltd ("MOCMSPL") (Co.Reg. NO. 201129401Z) which is a holder of a capital markets services license and an exempt financial adviser in Singapore, as per the approved agreement under Paragraph 9 of Third Schedule of Securities and Futures Act (CAP 289) and Paragraph 11 of First Schedule of Financial Advisors Act (CAP 110) provided to MOCMSPL by Monetary Authority of Singapore. Persons in Singapore should contact MOCMSPL in respect of any matter arising from, or in connection with this report/publication/communication. This report is distributed solely to persons who qualify as "Institutional Investors", of which some of whom may consist of "accredited" institutional investors as defined in section 4A(1) of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore ("the SFA"). Accordingly, if a Singapore person is not or ceases to be such an institutional investor, such Singapore Person must immediately discontinue any use of this Report and inform MOCMSPL.

Disclaimer: The report and information contained herein is strictly confidential and meant solely for the selected recipient and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent. This report and information herein is solely for informational purpose and may not be used or considered as an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting and tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your specific circumstances. The securities discussed and opinions expressed in this report may not be suitable for all investors, who must make their own investment decisions, based on their own investment objectives, financial positions and needs of specific recipient. This may not be taken in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment by any recipient. Each recipient of this document should make such investigations as it deems necessary to arrive at an independent evaluation of an investment in the securities of companies referred to in this document (including the merits and risks involved), and should consult its own advisors to determine the merits and risks of such an investment. The investment discussed or views expressed may not be suitable for all investors. Certain transactions -including those involving futures, options, another derivative products as well as non-investment grade securities - involve substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the information and opinions contained in this document. The Disclosures of Interest Statement incorporated in this document is provided solely to enhance the transparency and should not be treated as endorsement of the views expressed in the report. This information is subject to change without any prior notice. The Company reserves the right to make modifications and alternations to this statement as may be required from time to time without any prior approval. MOFSL, its associates, their directors and the employees may from time to time, effect or have effected an own account transaction in, or deal as principal or agent in or for the securities mentioned in this document. They may perform or seek to perform investment banking or other services for, or solicit investment banking or other business from, any company referred to in this report. Each of these entities functions as a separate, distinct and independent of each other. The recipient should take this into account before interpreting the document. This report has been prepared on the basis of information that is already available in publicly accessible media or developed through analysis of MOFSL. The views expressed are those of the analyst, and the Company may or may not subscribe to all the views expressed therein. This document is being supplied to you solely for your information and may not be reproduced, redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person or published, copied, in whole or in part, for any purpose. This report is not directed or intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law, regulation or which would subject MOFSL to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. The securities described herein may or may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain category of investors. Persons in whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of and to observe such restriction. Neither the Firm, not its directors, employees, agents or representatives shall be liable for any damages whether direct or indirect, incidental, special or consequential including lost revenue or lost profits that may arise from or in connection with the use of the information. The person accessing this information specifically agrees to exempt MOFSL or any of its affiliates or employees from, any and all responsibility/liability arising from such misuse and agrees not to hold MOFSL or any of its affiliates or employees responsible for any such misuse and further agrees to hold MOFSL or any of its affiliates or employees free and harmless from all losses, costs, damages, expenses that may be suffered by the person accessing this information due to any errors and delays.

Registered Office Address: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025; Tel No.: 022 71934200/ 022-71934263; Website www.motilaloswal.com. CIN No.: L67190MH2005PLC153397. Correspondence Office Address: Palm Spring Centre, 2nd Floor, Palm Court Complex, New Link Road, Malad(West), Mumbai- 400 064. Tel No: 022 7188 1000. Registration Nos.: Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL)*: INZ000158836(BSE/NSE/MCX/NCDEX); CDSL and NSDL: IN-DP-16-2015; Research Analyst: INH000000412. AMFI: ARN - 146822; Investment Adviser: INA000007100; Insurance Corporate Agent: CA0579 ;PMS:INP000006712. Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company Ltd. (MOAMC): PMS (Registration No.: INP000000670); PMS and Mutual Funds are offered through MOAMC which is group company of MOFSL. Motilal Oswal Wealth Management Ltd. (MOWML): PMS (Registration No.: INP000004409) is offered through MOWML, which is a group company of MOFSL. Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited is a distributor of Mutual Funds, PMS, Fixed Deposit, Bond, NCDs, Insurance Products and IPOs. Real Estate is offered through Motilal Oswal Real Estate Investment Advisors II Pvt. Ltd. which is a group company of MOFSL. Private Equity is offered through Motilal Oswal Private Equity Investment Advisors Pvt. Ltd which is a group company of MOFSL. Research & Advisory services is backed by proper research. Please read the Risk Disclosure Document prescribed by the Stock Exchanges carefully before investing. There is no assurance or guarantee of the returns. Investment in securities market is subject to market risk, read all the related documents carefully before investing. Details of Compliance Officer: Name: Neeraj Agarwal, Email ID: na@motilaloswal.com, Contact No.:022-71881085.

* MOSL has been amalgamated with Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL) w.e.f August 21, 2018 pursuant to order dated July 30, 2018 issued by Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench.