Petronet LNG

Neutral





## Estimate change TP change Rating change

Bloomberg	PLNG IN
Equity Shares (m)	1500
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	302.6 / 3.6
52-Week Range (INR)	254 / 197
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-13/-21/-11
12M Avg Val (INR M)	521

### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E March	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Sales	599.0	529.6	559.1
EBITDA	48.6	49.4	43.7
Adj. PAT	32.4	32.4	28.1
Adj. EPS (INR)	21.6	21.6	18.7
EPS Gr. (%)	-3.4	0.1	-13.3
BV/Sh.(INR)	99.6	111.2	121.2
Ratios			
Net D:E	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
RoE (%)	22.8	20.5	16.1
RoCE (%)	24.6	22.1	17.4
Payout (%)	46.3	46.3	46.3
Valuation			
P/E (x)	9.3	9.3	10.7
P/BV (x)	2.0	1.8	1.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	5.0	4.7	5.2
Div. Yield (%)	5.0	5.0	4.3

## Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Sep-23	Jun-23	Sep-22
Promoter	50.0	50.0	50.0
DII	5.9	5.0	4.1
FII	33.3	34.3	34.8
Others	10.8	10.8	11.1

FII Includes depository receipts

# **Concerns rising on capital allocation**

**CMP: INR202** 

Petronet LNG (PLNG) reported higher-than-est. EBITDA of INR12.1b during the quarter, due to lower-than-expected employee and other expenses. Dahej utilization declined to 95% in 2QFY24 (vs. 98% in 1QFY24), while utilization at Kochi was flat at 21%.

TP: INR225 (+12%)

- Spot LNG price is currently at ~USD18/mmBtu, up from ~USD13/mmBtu in 2QFY23. The management expects LNG prices to hover in the range of USD15-18/mmBtu even during winters as Europe has already accumulated more than 98% of gas inventory.
- The estimated cost of the company's PDH PP project has increased to INR207b from INR142b previously, thereby raising concerns on capital allocation. The management expects project IRR to be ~12%, while equity IRR is expected to be ~30%.
- Volumes have improved substantially YoY in 1HFY24 amid cooling LNG prices. However, long-term volume growth prospects remain bleak for the company, due to intensifying competition from upcoming LNG terminals as well as increasing domestic gas supply.
- As highlighted in our <u>previous report</u>, sustainability of high return ratios also remains a key concern for PLNG as the ROCE for upcoming projects (Dahej expansion, Gopalpur FSRU, and PDH-PP plant) is likely to be lower at 7-18%. Hence, we reiterate our Neutral rating with a TP of INR225.

## Beat led by lower-than-expected employee and other expenses

- Total volumes stood at 223Tbtu (est. of 218Tbtu, up 16% YoY). Dahej Utilization stood at 95% (up 13pp YoY). Kochi utilization stood at 21% (up 470bp YoY)
- Revenue was at INR125b (down 22% YoY). EBITDA stood at INR12.1b (est. INR11.3b, up 4% YoY). PAT stood at INR8.2b (est. INR7.3b, up 10% YoY).
- For 1HFY24, revenue was at INR242b (down 20% YoY) with EBITDA at INR24b (up 7% YoY). PAT was at INR16b (up 11% YoY). 1HFY24 EBITDA stood at 52% of our FY24 estimate.
- The board has approved investments for the establishment of a petchem project, comprising 750ktpa of PDH unit and 500ktpa of PP plant, along with facilities for handling propane and ethane in Dahej, Gujarat.
- The project is expected to generate revenue from Poly-Propylene, Propylene, Propane, Hydrogen, and Ethane
- Would also get benefitted from utilizing 'Cold Energy' of PLNG's existing Dahej LNG terminal, making this project energy-efficient
- Would also develop 25hectares of green belt area in the region
- Estimated cost of project is ~INR207b (variation of +/- 10%)

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- The board also approved a binding term sheet between PLNG and DPL (Deepak Phenolics Ltd) for the offtake of 250ktpa of Propylene and 11ktpa of Hydrogen from the above project. This agreement spans a period of 15 years from the date of the initial supply of propylene and Hydrogen by PLNG to DPL
- The company has declared a special dividend of INR7 in 2QFY24.

## Valuation and view

- Sustainability of EPS growth and high return ratios remain a concern for PLNG amid rising competitive environment. The net cash of INR57b indicates that the deployment of cash may be an issue as growth opportunities in LNG terminalling have become bleaker and the company had to diversify from its core business to invest in more volatile areas such as gas-based petrochemicals, compressed biogas as well as LNG trucking.
- The company currently trades at 10.7x FY25E EPS of INR18.7. We value the stock at 12x FY25E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR225. We reiterate our Neutral rating on the stock.

Standalone - Quarterly Earning Model

(INR b)

Standardie - Quarterly Earning Model												(IINV D)
Y/E March		FY	23			FY	24		FY23	FY24E	FY24	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE			2QE	(%)
Net Sales	142.6	159.9	157.8	138.7	116.6	125.3	131.8	153.4	599.0	527.0	123.6	1%
YoY Change (%)	65.9	47.8	25.2	24.3	-18.3	-21.6	-16.5	10.5	38.8	-12.0	-22.7	
EBITDA	10.6	11.7	16.8*	9.4	11.8	12.1	11.7	11.2	48.6	46.9	11.3	8%
Margin (%)	7.5	7.3	10.6	6.8	10.1	9.7	8.9	7.3	8.1	8.9	9.1	
Depreciation	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.4	7.6	8.4	2.1	
Interest	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	3.3	3.3	0.8	
Other Income	1.4	0.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.2	5.7	5.6	1.4	
PBT	9.4	9.9	15.9	8.2	10.6	11.0	10.2	8.9	43.3	40.8	9.8	13%
Tax	2.4	2.5	4.1	2.0	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3	10.9	10.5	2.5	
Rate (%)	25.2	25.1	25.5	24.9	25.6	25.8	25.2	25.2	25.3	25.9	25.2	
Reported PAT	7.0	7.4	11.8	6.1	7.9	8.2	7.6	6.7	32.4	30.2	7.3	<b>12</b> %
Adj PAT	7.0	7.4	11.8	6.1	7.9	8.2	7.6	6.7	32.4	30.2	7.3	12%
YoY Change (%)	10.3	-9.6	3.2	-18.1	12.7	9.9	-35.4	9.0	(3.4)	-6.7	-1.6	
Margin (%)	4.9	4.7	7.5	4.4	6.8	6.5	5.8	4.4	5.4	5.7	5.9	
Key Assumptions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	
Total Volumes (TBtu)	208.0	192.0	167.0	184.0	230.0	223.0	210.4	219.9	751.0	883.4	218.0	2%
Dahej utilization (%)	89%	82%	70%	77%	98%	95%	89%	94%	0.8	94%	93%	2%
Kochi utilization (%)	19%	16%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	20%	0.2	21%	21%	0%

<sup>\*</sup>includes 'Use or Pay charges' of INR8.5b

**Operational highlights** 

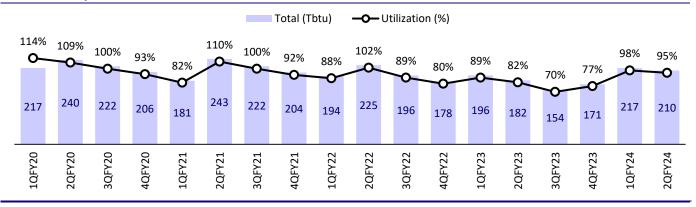
Particulars	FY22			FY23				FY24		2QFY24		
Particulars	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	% YoY	% QoQ
Dahej Sales Volume (TBtu)												
Long term	89.0	102.0	117.0	97.0	101.0	103.0	104.0	108.0	90.0	102.0	-1%	13%
Third-party regas	99.0	117.0	76.0	78.0	94.0	77.0	47.0	60.0	123.0	102.0	32%	-17%
Pure short term	6.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	200%	50%
Sub-total (TBtu)	194.0	225.0	196.0	178.0	196.0	182.0	154.0	171.0	217.0	210.0	15%	-3%
Kochi Sales Volume (TBtu)												
Long term	11.0	14.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	30%	0%
Third-party regas	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Pure short term	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Sub-total (TBtu)	15.0	15.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	30%	0%
Total (TBtu)	209.0	240.0	208.0	190.0	208.0	192.0	167.0	184.0	230.0	223.0	16%	-3%

Exhibit 1: Dahej total volumes at 210Tbtu, up 15% YoY

			Long te	rm		Third-p	arty reg	as		Pure sh	ort term	า	0	Total (T	otu)		
217 <b>O</b> 5	240 • 5 126	222 <b>O</b> 9 111	206 • 6 105	181 • • 3 100	243 • 5 135	222 • 5 104	204 <b>O</b> 5 97	194 <b>O</b> 6 99	225 • 6 117	196 <b>O</b> 3 76	178 • <b>O</b> 3 78	196 <b>O</b> 1 94	182 <b>O</b> 2 77	154 <b>O</b> 3 47	171 <b>Q</b> 60	217 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	210 <b>©</b> 102
100	109	102	95	78	103	113	102	89	102	117	97	101	103	104	108	90	102
1QFY20	2QFY20	3QFY20	4QFY20	1QFY21	2QFY21	3QFY21	4QFY21	1QFY22	2QFY22	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24

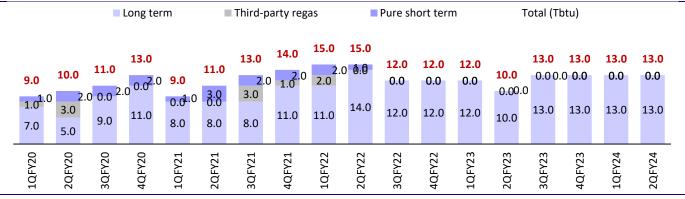
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 2: Dahej terminal utilization at 95% in 2QFY24



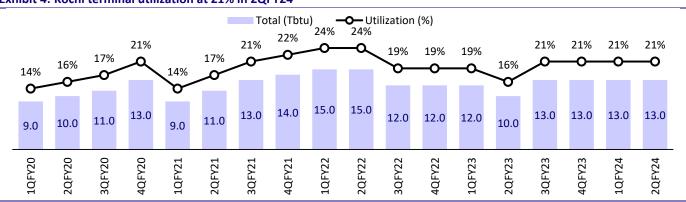
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Kochi volumes at 13Tbtu, up 30% YoY



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 4: Kochi terminal utilization at 21% in 2QFY24



Source: Company, MOFSL

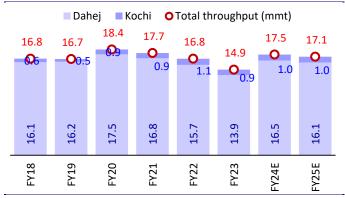


## Highlights from the management commentary

- PDH PP project IRR is 12% and equity IRR is 30%
- > The project will be financed with debt and equity in 70:30 ratio
- Assumptions based on the last seven-year average propane, propylene, and PP prices
- FY21 was excluded from assumptions since it was a one-off year
- Opex will be lower than for other similar greenfield projects due to integration with LNG terminal
- ➤ PAT will be ~INR20b at optimal capacity with EBITDA at INR40b
- Commissioning will be done by the end of FY27 or the beginning of FY28
- 250ktpa of propylene will be sold to DPL, while the remaining will be converted to PP
- Will be sold based on import parity prices and will add some handling charges
- Take or pay charges will be levied if offtake by DPL is less than 90% of the contracted volume
- Gopalpur transaction documents are sent to board for approval
- > The company is evaluating whether FSRU is available at a reasonable cost and will consider land terminal if FSRU cost is not reasonable
- Dividend payout will not be affected despite ongoing projects
- Use or Pay amount for previous years has still not been recovered
- The company is working on a solution with customers and expects resolution some time in the next quarter.
- Discussion for extension of contract with RasGas ongoing
- LNG prices are expected to stay with USD15-18/mmBtu even during the winters since Europe has already filled 98% gas inventory
- Dahej expansion project is on track and expected to be completed by Jun'24
- Additional 150mmtpa of LNG supply is expected to come online by 2027

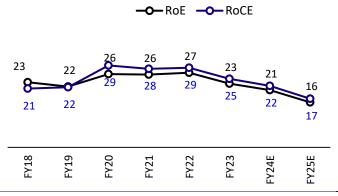
# **Story in charts**

**Exhibit 5: Volume snapshot for PLNG** 



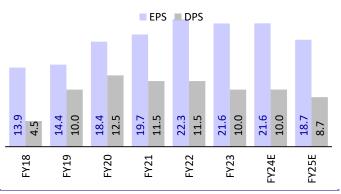
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 6: Return ratios profile** 



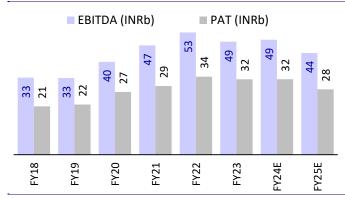
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 7: Payout ratios** 



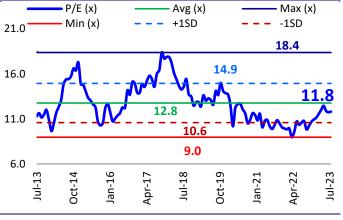
Source: Company, MOFSL

**Exhibit 8: EBITDA/PAT snapshot** 



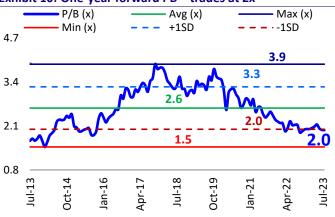
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: One-year forward P/E - trades at 11.8x



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: One-year forward PB - trades at 2x



Source: Company, MOFSL

# **Financials and valuations**

Standalone - Income Statement								(INR b)
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Total Income from Operations	306.0	384.0	354.5	260.2	431.7	599.0	529.6	559.1
Change (%)	24.3	25.5	-7.7	-26.6	65.9	38.8	-11.6	5.6
EBITDA	33.1	32.9	39.9	47.0	52.5	48.6	49.4	43.7
Margin (%)	10.8	8.6	11.3	18.1	12.2	8.1	9.3	7.8
Depreciation	4.1	4.1	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.6	8.4	9.3
EBIT	29.0	28.8	32.1	39.2	44.8	40.9	41.0	34.4
Int. and Finance Charges	1.6	1.0	4.0	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.0
Other Income	3.2	4.5	3.7	3.9	3.1	5.7	5.6	6.1
PBT bef. EO Exp.	30.6	32.3	31.8	39.7	44.7	43.3	43.3	37.6
EO Items	0.0	0.0	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBT after EO Exp.	30.6	32.3	31.1	39.7	44.7	43.3	43.3	37.6
Total Tax	9.8	10.8	4.1	10.2	11.2	10.9	10.9	9.5
Tax Rate (%)	32.0	33.3	13.3	25.7	25.1	25.3	25.2	25.2
Reported PAT	20.8	21.6	27.0	29.5	33.5	32.4	32.4	28.1
Adjusted PAT	20.8	21.6	27.6	29.5	33.5	32.4	32.4	28.1
Change (%)	21.8	3.7	28.1	6.9	13.7	-3.4	0.1	-13.3
Margin (%)	6.8	5.6	7.8	11.3	7.8	5.4	6.1	5.0
Standalone - Balance Sheet								(INR b)
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Equity Share Capital	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Total Reserves	82.2	85.7	94.5	101.5	119.3	134.3	151.8	166.9
Net Worth	97.2	100.7	109.5	116.5	134.3	149.3	166.8	181.9
Total Loans	7.3	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deferred Tax Liabilities	10.5	13.4	8.9	8.8	8.3	7.0	7.0	7.0
Capital Employed	115.0	115.0	119.1	125.9	142.8	156.4	173.8	188.9
Gross Block	91.3	91.8	99.9	103.5	106.9	110.6	128.1	144.2
Less: Accum. Deprn.	11.0	15.1	22.9	30.7	38.4	46.1	54.5	63.7
Net Fixed Assets	80.3	76.7	77.0	72.8	68.5	64.5	73.7	80.5
Capital WIP	2.2	3.5	0.0	0.3	1.9	11.3	10.8	9.7
Total Investments	41.2	9.9	38.4	45.8	37.6	33.8	33.8	33.8
Lease Liabilities			35.9	33.2	31.3	30.7	30.7	30.7
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	32.8	60.8	71.6	70.1	103.2	114.6	119.1	130.3
Inventory	4.9	5.7	4.8	3.4	5.8	11.5	10.2	10.8
Account Receivables	16.5	14.3	16.4	18.7	26.8	38.4	33.9	35.8
Cash and Bank Balance	8.6	29.6	44.3	43.4	43.2	56.8	68.0	76.3
Cash	7.0	2.3	9.8	8.5	10.5	0.6	6.2	8.4
Bank Balance	1.6	27.3	34.6	34.9	32.7	56.2	56.2	56.2
Loans and Advances	2.8	11.2	6.0	4.5	27.4	7.9	7.0	7.4
Curr. Liability & Prov.	41.5	35.8	32.0	29.8	37.1	37.1	32.8	34.7
Account Payables	15.7	13.0	11.7	10.4	15.3	16.4	14.5	15.3
Other Current Liabilities	25.6	22.6	20.1	18.5	20.6	18.8	16.6	17.5
Provisions	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.7	1.8
Net Current Assets	-8.7	25.0	39.5	40.3	66.1	77.5	86.3	95.6
Appl. of Funds	115.0	115.0	154.9	159.2	174.1	187.1	204.5	219.6

# **Financials and valuations**

Ratios								
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	13.9	14.4	18.4	19.7	22.3	21.6	21.6	18.7
Cash EPS	16.6	17.1	23.6	24.9	27.5	26.7	27.2	24.9
BV/Share	64.8	67.1	73.0	77.7	89.5	99.6	111.2	121.2
DPS	4.5	10.0	12.5	11.5	11.5	10.0	10.8	9.4
Payout (%)	38.0	74.9	73.8	58.5	51.5	46.3	50.0	50.0
Valuation (x)								
P/E	14.5	14.0	10.9	10.2	9.0	9.3	9.3	10.7
Cash P/E	12.1	11.8	8.5	8.1	7.3	7.5	7.4	8.1
P/BV	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.7
EV/Sales	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
EV/EBITDA	9.1	8.3	6.5	5.5	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.2
Dividend Yield (%)	2.2	5.0	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.0	5.4	4.7
FCF per share	18.8	13.2	21.7	23.2	22.7	9.7	15.9	12.1
Return Ratios (%)								
RoE	23.3	21.8	26.3	26.1	26.7	22.8	20.5	16.1
RoCE	21.1	21.5	29.4	28.1	28.5	24.6	22.1	17.4
RoIC	28.1	28.5	51.4	80.0	69.6	53.4	53.0	39.5
Working Capital Ratios			-					
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	3.4	4.2	3.6	2.5	4.0	5.4	4.1	3.9
Asset Turnover (x)	2.7	3.3	2.3	1.6	2.5	3.2	2.6	2.5
Inventory (Days)	6	5	5	5	5	7	7	7
Debtor (Days)	20	14	17	26	23	23	23	23
Creditor (Days)	19	12	12	15	13	10	10	10
Leverage Ratio (x)								
Current Ratio	0.8	1.7	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.6	3.8
Interest Cover Ratio	17.8	29.1	8.0	11.7	14.1	12.4	12.6	11.4
Net Debt/Equity	0.0	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
, = 4,								
Standalone - Cash Flow Statement								(INR b)
Y/E March	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	30.6	32.3	31.1	39.7	44.7	43.3	43.3	37.6
Depreciation	4.1	4.1	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.6	8.4	9.3
Interest and Finance charges	1.6	1.0	4.0	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.0
Direct Taxes Paid	-7.0	-8.1	-4.7	-9.9	-12.6	-12.4	-10.9	-9.5
(Inc)/Dec in Wkg. Capital	2.9	-4.5	-4.0	-1.7	-6.3	-15.9	2.4	-1.0
Others	-2.3	-3.4	-0.7	-3.6	-1.9	-0.8	-5.6	-6.1
CF from Op. Activity	30.0	21.4	33.5	35.6	34.7	25.2	40.9	33.2
(Inc)/Dec in FA & CWIP	-1.8	-1.6	-0.9	-0.7	-0.7	-10.6	-17.0	-15.0
Free Cash Flow	28.2	19.8	32.6	34.9	34.0	14.6	23.9	18.2
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	-9.5	33.2	-3.3	-11.6	5.5	0.4	0.0	0.0
Others	-1.5	-32.3	0.9	3.0	-15.4	-1.2	0.0	0.0
CF from Inv. Activity	-12.8	-0.7	-3.2	-9.3	-10.6	-11.4	-17.0	-15.0
Inc / (Dec) in Debt	-7.1	-6.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Interest paid	-1.8	-1.2	-1.8	-3.4	-3.2	-0.3	-3.3	-3.0
Dividends Paid (incl.tax)	-4.5	-18.1	-8.1	-22.5	-15.8	-17.3	-15.0	-13.0
CF from Fin. Activity	-13.3	-25.5	-22.7	-27.6	-22.1	-23.7	-18.3	-16.0
Inc / ( Dec) in Cash	3.8	-4.8	7.5	-1.3	2.0	-9.8	5.6	2.2
Add: Opening Balance	3.2	7.0	2.3	9.8	8.5	10.5	0.6	6.2
Closing Balance	7.0	2.3	9.8	8.5	10.5	0.6	6.2	8.4
crosing balance	7.0	۷.5	3.0	0.5	10.5	0.0	0.2	0.4

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# NOTES

Explanation of Investment Rating							
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)						
BUY	>=15%						
SELL	<-10%						
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%						
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change						
NOT RATED We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation							

\*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall be within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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31 October 2023 9

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31 October 2023 10