Contenders outperform amid macro uncertainty

Contenders beat the markets

The India Contenders (-13.7%) struggled last month as equity markets retraced amid European crisis and weakening rupee, but still managed to outperform the MSCI India index (-16.0%) by +2.3% and the India Defenders (-23.8%) by +10.0%.

Implied Sector Allocation favours Discretionary

Our Implied Sector Allocation model is most overweight Consumer Discretionary and Health Care, and most underweight Financials, Materials and Industrials. Last month, the model increased the overweight in Health Care at the expense of Financials. This sector tilts matches with our <u>new Asia Pac Country-Sector</u> <u>allocation</u> recommendations.

New India Contenders: Hero Motorcorp, Raymond

The new India Contenders are Hero Motorcorp, and Raymond. The longest standing Contender is Bajaj Auto (16 months). The other India Contenders are Dish TV India, HDFC Bank, LIC Housing Finance, Petronet LNG, Satyam Computer, Tata Consultancy Services, and Titan Industries.

New India Defenders: JSW Steel, Sesa Goa

The new India Defenders are JSW Steel, and Sesa Goa. The longest standing Defender is Steel Authority of India (15 months). The other India Defenders are Crompton Greaves, Hindalco Industries, Housing Development & Infrastructure, Reliance Communications, Sterlite Industries (India), Tata Motors, and Unitech.

Chart 1: Relative Cumulative Performance Ending 30-Nov-11: Contenders & Defenders



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES The shaded area shows backtesting results during the period from Jan-96 to Aug-10. The unshaded portion represents actual performance since Sep-10. Backtesting is hypothetical in nature and reflects application of the screen prior to its introduction, and is not intended to be indicative of future performance.

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Refer to "Other Important Disclosures" for information on certain BofA Merrill Lynch entities that take responsibility for this report in particular jurisdictions.

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Refer to important disclosures on page 46 to 48. Link to Definitions on page 45.

Quant Strategy | India 01 December 2011



Bank of America Corporation

+852 2536 3982

Strategist Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) girish.nair@baml.com Amar Vashi >>

Merrill Lynch (Australia)

amar.vashi@baml.com

Girish Nair >>

Strategist

+61 2 9226 5011

Contenders & Defenders Definitions

The India Contenders is a screen of stocks with rising earnings expectations and price momentum.

The India Defenders is a screen of stocks with falling earnings momentum and price momentum.

India Contenders

	Company Name	Sector	BofA-ML Fundamental Page Opinion	
The India Contenders are ten stocks with above-average earnings momentum and	Bajaj Auto	Auto/Dur/Services	Underperform	(Pg 19)
above-average price momentum.	Dish TV India	Media	Buy	(Pg 21)
	HDFC Bank	Banks	Buy	(Pg 23)
Relegated India Contenders this month: Coal India Hindustan Petroleum	Hero Motorcorp*	Auto/Dur/Services	Buy	(Pg 23)
	LIC Housing Finance	Banks	Buy	(Pg 28)
	Petronet LNG	Energy	Underperform	(Pg 30)
	Raymond*	Auto/Dur/Services	-	(Pg 31)
	Satyam Computer	Software	Underperform	(Pg 33)
	Tata Consultancy Services	Software	Buy	(Pg 35)
	Titan Industries	Auto/Dur/Services	-	(Pg 36)

* New Contenders this month

India Defenders

The India Defenders are ten stocks with	Company Name	Sector	BofA-ML Fundamental Opinion	
below-average earnings momentum and	Crompton Greaves	Industrials	-	(Pg 21)
below-average price momentum.	Hindalco Industries	Materials	Neutral	(Pg 24)
	Housing Development & Infrastructure	Div Financials	Underperform	(Pg 24)
Relegated India Defenders this month:	JSW Steel*	Materials	Underperform	(Pg 27)
Lanco Infratech	Reliance Communications	Telecom	Underperform	(Pg 31)
Mphasis	Sesa Goa*	Materials	Underperform	(Pg 33)
	Steel Authority of India	Materials	Underperform	(Pg 34)
	Sterlite Industries (India)	Materials	Buy	(Pg 34)
	Tata Motors	Auto/Dur/Services	Buy	(Pg 36)
	Unitech	Div Financials	Neutral	(Pg 37)

* New Defenders this month



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Overview

We have drawn upon our analysis of earnings momentum and price momentum investment strategies in India to create the India Contenders which we expect to outperform the MSCI India Index and the India Defenders, which we expect to underperform the Index. We introduced the India Contenders and Defenders in September 2010.

In India, stocks with rising earnings forecasts have tended to subsequently outperform, according to our analysis.

Not all companies with rising earnings estimates outperform, so the challenge is to differentiate between stocks with rising earnings forecasts that will outperform, and stocks with rising earnings expectations that will underperform. By definition, stocks are being de-rated if earnings expectations are rising but the price is falling. That is, the "E" in the PE ratio is going up while the "P" is going down.

To identify stocks with rising earnings expectations that are not being de-rated, we consider stocks that have both above-average earnings momentum and above-average price momentum. Our analysis indicated that stocks with above-average earnings momentum tended to outperform, stocks with above-average price momentum tended to outperform, but stocks with both characteristics tended to perform even better.

The India Contenders are the ten stocks with strong earnings momentum and price momentum that meet the minimum market cap, turnover and coverage requirements of our model (as discussed in the Methodology section). The India Defenders are the ten stocks with falling earnings and falling price momentum with the same market cap, turnover and coverage constraints as the India Contenders.

We intend to publish the India Contenders and Defenders on a monthly basis.

The India Contenders and Defenders screens are not a recommended list either individually or as a group of stocks. Investors should consider the fundamentals of the companies and their own individual circumstances/objectives before making any investment decision.

Girish Nair 1 December 2011

Note: Share prices in this report are as at 30 November 2011 unless otherwise stated.

India stocks with rising earnings expectations have tended to outperform, on average

Stocks with both earnings momentum and price momentum outperformed stocks with just one of those characteristics, on average.



Screen Methodology

The universe of large and liquid stocks included in this analysis is selected from the constituents of the MSCI India index that meet our market cap, turnover and coverage requirements (see below). The universe is recalculated every 6 months in line with the six-month rebalancing of the MSCI India Index.

For a stock to be included in the analysis it must be in the largest 85% of stocks from the MSCI India Index by market capitalisation, the largest 65% by average daily turnover in the last 6 months, and it must have a consensus earnings estimate. The universe of stocks in the model for the latest analysis period included 89% of MSCI India Index by free market capitalisation.

The India Contenders and Defenders are determined at the end of each month using month-end data from MSCI, IBES and Ex-share databases. Stocks in the firm's restricted list at the time of the month-end analysis are excluded from the analysis.

Our monthly analysis produces rankings for each eligible security for earnings momentum and price momentum.

- An Earnings Revision Rank from 1 (worst) to 100 (best), a percentile rank, is calculated for each stock based on the 3-month change in a rolling forward consensus EPS estimate.
- A Price Momentum Rank from 1 (worst) to 100 (best) is also calculated based on the slope of a log-linear regression of daily prices in last 9m.

The Contenders Rank is the average of the Price Momentum Rank and the Earnings Revision Rank.

At inception in September 2010, the India Contenders were the ten stocks with the highest Contenders Rank. In each subsequent month, a stock will drop out of the India Contenders only when either the Earnings Revision Rank falls below average (rank of50) or the Price Momentum Rank falls below average (rank of 50). When a stock falls out of the Contenders it is replaced by the stock with the highest Contenders Rank that is not already a Contender.

At inception, the India Defenders were the ten stocks with the lowest Contenders Rank. In each subsequent month, a stock will drop out of the India Defenders only when either the Earnings Revision Rank moves above average (rank of 50) or the Price Momentum Rank moves above average (rank of 50). When a stock falls out of the Defenders it is replaced by the stock with the lowest Contenders Rank that is not already a Defender.

The average monthly turnover rate was 22% for the India Contenders and 20% for the India Defenders based on the testing from Jan 1996 to August 2010. In other words, the testing indicates roughly two stocks in the Contenders and two stocks in the Defenders would be expected to change each month, on average.

We publish a report with the new Contenders & Defenders each month.

The India Contenders are stocks that have both high earnings momentum and high price momentum.

The India Defenders are the stocks that have both below-average earnings momentum and below-average price momentum.



Performance Calculation Methodology

For the Contenders and Defenders, rebalancing and performance calculations are conducted each month-end using data and closing prices corresponding to the market's close on the last business day of each month. The performance of each index is computed on the basis of price return. The performance is presented relative to the market capitalization-weighted MSCI India Index.

The performance results do not reflect transaction costs, tax withholdings or any investment advisory fees. The total return performance calculation assumes that dividends paid on securities in a portfolio are deposited in a cash account on the ex-dividend date, and are not reinvested. The quantitative factors followed here may differ from the MSCI India Index in that they are significantly less diversified, and, as such, the performance is more exposed to specific stock or sector results. Therefore investors following these factors may experience greater volatility in their returns.

The performance results of individuals following the factors presented here will differ from the performance contained in this report for a variety of reasons, including differences related to incurring transaction costs and/or investment advisory fees, as well as differences in the time and price that securities were acquired and disposed of, and differences in the weighting of such securities. The performance results of individuals following these factors will also differ based on differences in treatment of dividends received, including the amount received and whether and when such dividends were reinvested.

This report includes factors for informational or descriptive purposes, and inclusion here is not equivalent to a recommendation of the factor or portfolio.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

A complete performance record is available upon request.

Table 1: India Contenders & Defenders Performance Ending 30-November-11

						Since
	Last	Last 3-	Last 6-	Last 12-	Year-To-	Inception
	Month	Months	Months	Months	Date	Sep-10
India Contenders	-13.7%	-17.1%	-25.3%	-34.3%	-33.5%	-36.2%
India Defenders	-23.8%	-23.4%	-37.8%	-48.0%	-50.6%	-54.7%
MSCI India	-16.0%	-14.9%	-26.4%	-29.0%	-34.0%	-32.7%

Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

No transaction costs are included in the return figures. The performance figures are updated on a monthly basis. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. A complete performance record is available on request.

Table 2: India Contenders and Defenders Advance Decline Ending 30-November-11

	India Cor	ntenders	India Defenders	
	Advance	Decline	Advance	Decline
Last Month	1	9	0	10
Last 3-Months	4	8	4	9
Last 6-Months	4	11	5	12
Last 12-Months	6	16	4	19
Year-To-Date	6	16	2	20
Since Inception Sep-10	9	18	7	22

Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES



Table 3: India Contenders & Defenders Monthly Performance Last 12 months

	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11
India Contenders	-1.2%	-15.0%	-4.7%	11.6%	3.6%	-4.9%	-0.3%	3.7%	-12.9%	-7.4%	3.8%	-13.7%
India Defenders	5.2%	-17.5%	-8.4%	16.5%	-4.5%	-5.5%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-17.9%	-7.5%	8.7%	-23.8%
MSCI India	7.6%	-13.1%	-1.8%	11.1%	-1.1%	-4.4%	1.4%	-2.5%	-12.5%	-6.6%	8.5%	-16.0%

Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES, Exshare

Table 4: Contenders & Defenders Monthly Performance Advance Decline Last 12 months

	India Con	itenders	India Dei	fenders
	Advance	Decline	Advance	Decline
Nov-11	1	9	0	10
Oct-11	7	3	9	1
Sep-11	0	10	2	8
Aug-11	1	9	0	10
Jul-11	4	6	3	7
Jun-11	4	6	3	7
May-11	9	1	2	8
Apr-11	5	5	7	3
Mar-11	3	7	1	9
Feb-11	4	6	2	8
Jan-11	2	8	5	5
Dec-10	5	5	0	10

Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES, Exshare

Quadrant Analysis

The Quadrant analysis is based on the Ranks described in the Methodology section.

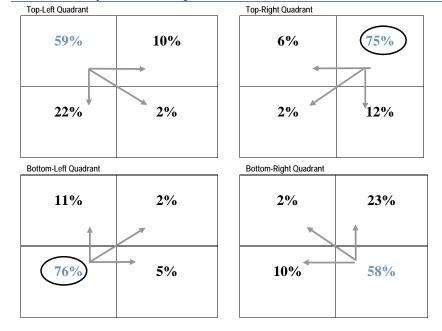
Chart 2: Combination of Earnings Momentum and Price Momentum Characteristics



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy

Jan 1996 – Aug 2010

Table 5: Probability of a Stock Moving Quadrants*



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy * Backtesting results Jan 1996 - Aug 2010

The above chart shows our calculations of the probability a stock will remain in the same quadrant, or move quadrants, in the subsequent month.

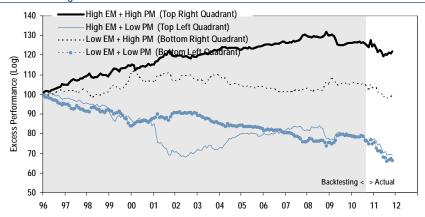
There appears to be significant quadrant persistence, especially for the top-right and bottom-left quadrants. In other words, stocks in the top-right and bottom-left quadrants have a high probability of remaining in those quadrants in the following month.

Not all stocks with rising earnings expectations outperform. Our backtesting showed that stocks with rising earnings expectations, and for which the market is prepared to pay for those rising earnings expectations, tended to subsequently be the best performers (chart 2)

Our backtesting showed that stocks in the top-right quadrant had a 75% chance of being there again in the subsequent month, a 6% chance of moving to the topleft quadrant, 12% chance of moving to the bottom-right quadrant, and a 2% chance of moving to the bottom-left quadrant

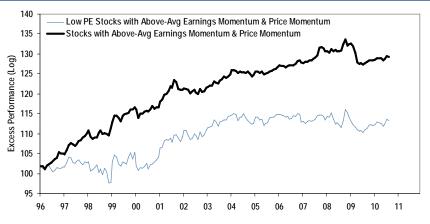


Chart 3: Earnings Momentum and Price Momentum Quadrant Performance



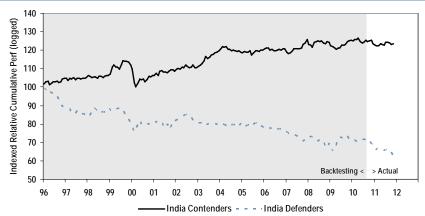
Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES The shaded area shows backtesting results during the period from Jan-96 to Aug-10, The unshaded portion represent actual performance since Sep-10. Backtesting is hypothetical in nature and reflects application of the screen prior to its introduction, and is not intended to be indicative of future performance.

Chart 4: Back-testing of Low PE Stocks in Top-Right Quadrant



Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES. Backtesting during the period from Jan-96 to Aug-10.,Backtesting is hypothetical in nature and reflects application of the screen prior to its introduction, and is not intended to be indicative of future performance.





Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES The shaded area shows backlesting results during the period from Jan-96 to Aug-10, The unshaded portion represent actual performance since Sep-10. Backtesting is hypothetical in nature and reflects application of the screen prior to its introduction, and is not intended to be indicative of future performance.

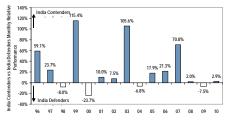
Stocks in the top-right quadrant with rising earnings forecasts and positive price momentum have tended to subsequently be the best performers. For these stocks, the fundamentals are improving and the PE is not being derated.

Stocks in the bottom-left quadrant have tended to be the worst performers since falling earnings expectations are being reflected in the stock's share price.

Backtesting showed that Low PE with above-average earnings momentum and above-average price momentum do not add alpha over time and underperformed the stocks selected with just the two characteristics.



Chart 7: Back-testing Calendar Year Performance for India Contenders & Defenders



Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES Backtesting for the period from Jan-96 to Aug-10. Backtesting is hypothetical in nature and reflects application of the screen prior to its introduction, and is not intended to be indicative of future performance.

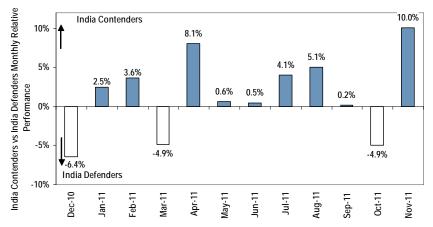
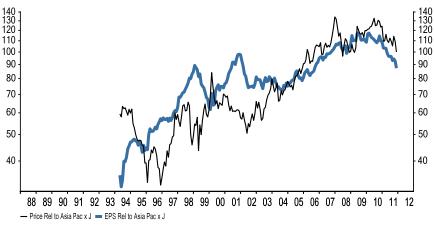


Chart 6: Last 12m: Monthly Performance of India Contenders and Defenders

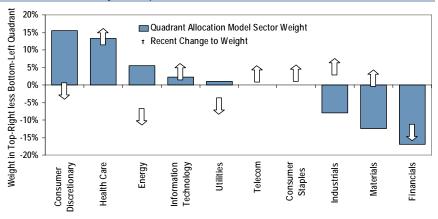
Source: Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 8: Momentum & Value chart of India vs Asia Pac ex Japan



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 9: Quadrant Analysis – Implied Sector Allocation



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Earnings and Price momentum for India has trended down in recent months and India is trading at a premium to its counterparts in Asia Pac ex Japan region.

The implied sector allocation of the stocks included in the model shows sector trends for momentum and growth based factors.

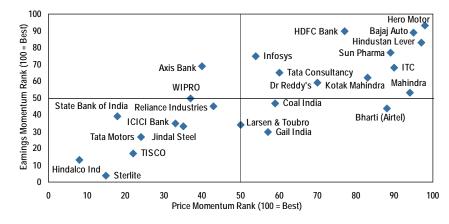
In December, at the sector level, the model is most overweight Cons. Discretionary, Health Care and Energy, and most underweight Financials, Materials and Industrials.



Chart 10: Quadrant Analysis of Largest 25 Indian Stocks

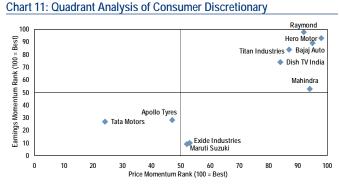
The current earnings momentum and price momentum characteristics of the largest 25 stocks by free market cap in the India universe are combined in this quadrant analysis.

We expect stocks in the top-right quadrant to outperform, while stocks in the bottom-left quadrant we expect to underperform.



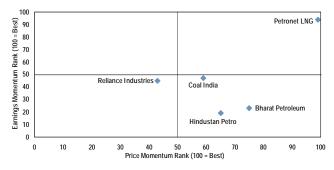
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Quadrant Analysis by Sector



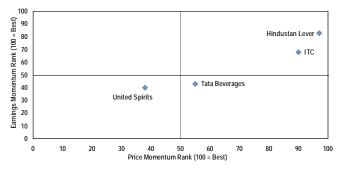
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 13: Quadrant Analysis of Energy



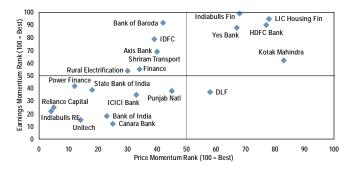
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 12: Quadrant Analysis of Consumer Staples



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

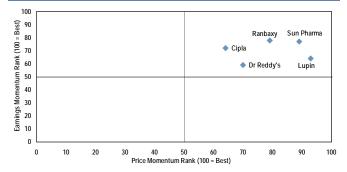
Chart 14: Quadrant Analysis of Financials



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

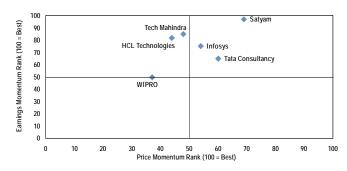


Chart 15: Quadrant Analysis of Health Care



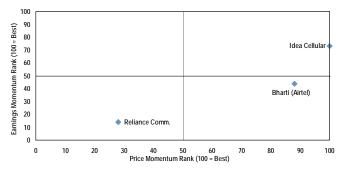
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 17: Quadrant Analysis of Information Technology



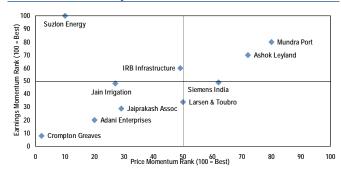
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 19: Quadrant Analysis of Telecom



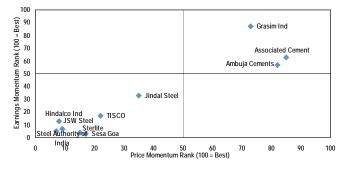
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 16: Quadrant Analysis of Industrials



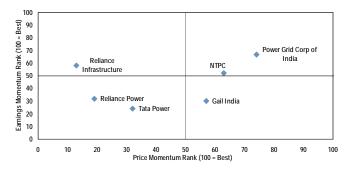
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 18: Quadrant Analysis of Materials



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

Chart 20: Quadrant Analysis of Utilities



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy, MSCI, IBES

India Contenders Rank

BofA ML ADR Rank Company Bloomberg Price † Opinion † ADR Sedol Opinion * Page PLNG IN Pg (30) 100 Petronet LNG 164.90 Underperform 99 Hero Motor HMCL IN 2000 Buy Pg (23) 97 Raymond RW IN Pg (31) 96 Bajaj Auto BJAUT IN Underperform B3CXF6 Pg (19) 1669 95 Hindustan Lever HUVR IN 397.15 Buy Pg (24) 94 97.95 Idea Cellular IDEA IN Neutral Pg (25) 92 LIC Housing Fin LICHF IN Pg (28) 223.40 B02SG5 Buy 91 Titan Industries TTAN IN Pg (36) 90 HDFC Bank HDFCB IN 442.50 Buy 278164 Buy Pg (23) 89 Indiabulls Fin **IBULL IN** 138.00 Buy B068LN Pg (25) Underperform Pg (33) 87 SCS IN 65.70 Underperform 275674 Satyam 86 Sun Pharma SUNP IN 525.50 Buy Pg (34) 85 Grasim Ind GRASIM IN 2341 Neutral 238183 Pg (23) 84 Mundra Port MSEZ IN 125.75 Neutral Pg (29) 82 Dish TV India DITV IN 63.50 Buy B4V1DQ Pg (21) 81 ITC IN ITC 200.70 Buy 245401 Pg (26) 80 Ranbaxy **RBXY IN** 434.65 Neutral 273361 Pg (31) 78 Yes Bank YES IN Pg (37) 272.20 Buy 77 Ashok Leyland AL IN 24.65 Underperform 204914 Pg (18) 76 Power Grid Corp of India PWGR IN Pg (30) 75 Lupin LPC IN 474.35 Buy Pg (28) 73 Associated Cement ACC IN 1144 Underperform Pg (19) 72 Mahindra MM IN 725.20 Neutral 257642 Pg (29) 71 Kotak Mahindra KMB IN 466.70 Underperform B0X2QY Pg (28) Ambuja Cements ACEM IN 148.50 Pg (18) 70 Underperform 239748 Cipla CIPLA IN Pg (21) 68 B125X2 Dr Reddy's DRRD IN Pg (22) 67 1578 Buv 274888 Buv 66 Infosys INFO IN 2607 Buy Pg (26) 239882 Buy Tata Consultancy 65 TCS IN 1116 Buy Pg (35) NTPC NTPC IN 63 162.35 Underperform Pg (29) 62 Bank of Baroda BOB IN 700.10 Neutral Pg (19) 61 TECHM IN Neutral Tech Mahindra 565.35 Pg (36) 59 HCL Technologies HCLT IN 383.80 Buy Pg (23) 58 IDFC IN IDFC 108.70 Underperform Pg (26) 57 Suzlon Energy SUEL IN 23.20 B3LW34 Pg (35) Buy 56 Axis Bank AXSB IN 947.65 Neutral B06CDW Neutral Pg (19) 54 **IRB** Infrastructure IRB IN 147.30 Buy Pg (26) 53 Shriram Transport Fin SHTF IN 499.95 Buy Pg (33) 52 **Rural Electrification** RECL IN 183.85 Buy Pg (32) 51 **Reliance Infrastructure** RELI IN 404.35 Buy 212648 Pg (32)

 * BofA Merrill Lynch Recommendation for the associated ADR as at 30th November 2011

Note: ADR indentifies are included for the investors who are unable to hold the common stock

The Contenders Rank is the average of the EPS Revision Rank and the Price Momentum Rank for each stock.

The BofA Merrill Lynch Fundamental analysts' stock and ADR recommendations are included for informational purposes only and are not used in this Quantitative model.

[†] Price and BofA Merrill Lynch Fundamental Analyst Recommendations as at 30th November 2011

India Contenders Rank (Continued)

Rank Company Bloomberg Price t Opinion f ADR Sedol Opinion * Page 49 Bharti (Airtel) BHARTI IN 386.10 Neutral Pg (20) 48 Siemens India SIEM IN 22.15 Neutral Pg (21) 46 Bharat Petroleum BPCL IN 537.95 Neutral Pg (20) 47 Coal India COAL IN 327.15 Neutral 260019 Pg (22) 43 DLF DLFU IN 208.05 Buy Pg (22) 44 Hindustan Petro HPCL IN 276.50 Buy Pg (22) 45 Maruti Suzuki MSL IN 772.0 Neutral 264612 Neutral Pg (22) 35 WIPRO WPRO IN 377.20 Neutral 264612 Neutral Pg (32) 36 Japina Krigation JI N 182.05 Buy Pg (32) 37 Punjab Nati PNB IN 806.05 Buy Pg (27) 30 Apol					BofA ML		ADR	
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6 Sesa Goa SESA IN 183.50 Underperform Pg (33) 5 Sterlite STLT IN 99.30 Buy B1YX3G Buy Pg (34) 4 JSW Steel JSTL IN 593.15 Underperform Pg (27) 3 Steel Authority of India SAIL IN 80.20 Underperform 284368 Pg (34) 2 Crompton Greaves CRG IN 509031 Pg (21)	8	Hindalco Ind	HNDL IN	122.95	Neutral	244576		0.0
5 Sterlite STLT IN 99.30 Buy B1YX3G Buy Pg (34) 4 JSW Steel JSTL IN 593.15 Underperform Pg (27) 3 Steel Authority of India SAIL IN 80.20 Underperform 284368 Pg (34) 2 Crompton Greaves CRG IN 509031 Pg (21)	6	Sesa Goa	SESA IN	183.50	Underperform			• • •
3Steel Authority of IndiaSAIL IN80.20Underperform284368Pg (34)2Crompton GreavesCRG IN509031Pg (21)	5	Sterlite	STLT IN	99.30	Buy	B1YX3G	Buy	-
2 Crompton Greaves CRG IN 509031 Pg (21)			JSTL IN	593.15	Underperform		-	Pg (27)
2 Crompton Greaves CRG IN 509031 Pg (21)	3	Steel Authority of India	SAIL IN	80.20	Underperform	284368		Pg (34)
1 Housing Dev & Inf HDIL IN 60.25 Underperform Pg (24)	2		CRG IN			509031		Pg (21)
	1	Housing Dev & Inf	HDIL IN	60.25	Underperform			Pg (24)

Note: ADR indentifies are included for the investors who are unable to hold the common stock.

Price and BofA Merrill Lynch Fundamental Analyst Recommendations as at 30th November 2011
* BofA Merrill Lynch Recommendation for the associated ADR as at 30th November 2011



How To Read The Charts

Backtesting indicates that the Indian Market seems reasonably efficient in that stock prices generally reflect the consensus opinion. Stock prices tend to change when earnings expectations change. This report consists of charts which show graphically how changes to consensus forecasts relate to stock performance. As well as earnings momentum, the charts indicate value in terms of PE relatives (although the model does not use PE in determining attractiveness in India).

Prospective EPS Relative (earnings line)

The blue Prospective EPS line indicates the direction and magnitude of earnings revisions relative to the MSCI India Index. Revisions to earnings over the last 3 months are ranked from 1 to 100 (1 = biggest downgrade, 100 = biggest upgrade) and this EPS Revision Rank is noted next to each chart.

Price Relative (price line)

The Price Relative (the solid black line) indicates how the stock has performed relative to the MSCI India Index and is based to 100 at the latest point on the chart.

The relationship between the Price Relative and the Prospective EPS Relative indicates a stock's PE relative to the MSCI India Index. If the Price Relative is above the EPS Relative, the stock is on an above-market PE, while a price line below the earnings line indicates a below-market PE. More specifically, dividing the value of the price line by that of the earnings line results in the PE relative. For example, if the price line is at 100 and the earnings line is at 80, the PE relative is 1.25 (100/80). This enables the reader to see the historical prospective PE of the stock relative to the India market over time.

The Best Chart

- Prospective EPS Relative is rising (EPS Revision Rank is near 100).
- Price Relative is rising (Price Momentum Rank is near 100).
- A stock with both these characteristics will have a Contenders Rank near 100.

The Worst Possible Chart

- Prospective EPS Relative is falling (EPS Revision Rank is near 1).
- Price Relative is falling (Price Momentum Rank is near 1).
- A stock with both these characteristics will have a Contenders Rank near 1.



A Contender Example LIC HOUSING FINANCE

The chart contains information on the price and prospective EPS relative to the region. It illustrates the momentum of these relatives (the slope of the lines) and a measure of value (the ratio of the price line to the EPS line).

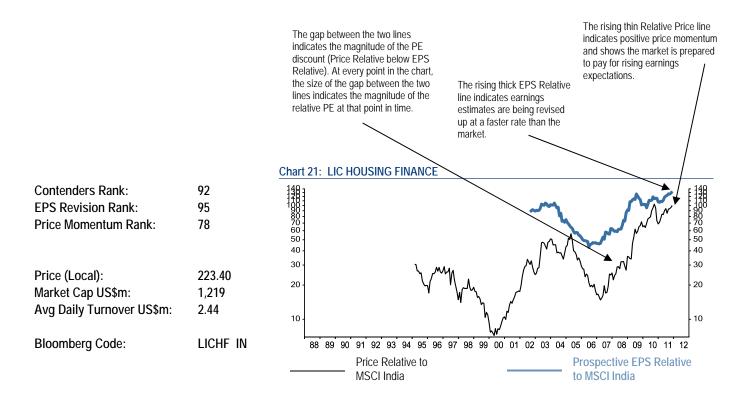


Table 6: Rank Definitions

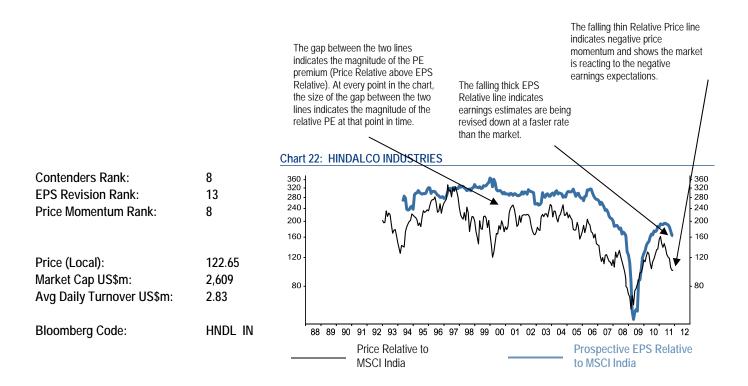
Rank	Rank Description
Contenders Rank	The stocks have been ranked according to attractiveness based on a combination of earnings momentum, and price momentum. (100 = Lowest PE stock with strong Earning Momentum and Price Momentum, 1 = Highest PE stocks with low Earnings Momentum and Price Momentum)
EPS Revision Rank	The stocks have been ranked according to the size of the change in the consensus EPS forecast in the last 3 months. (100 = Largest EPS Upgrades, 1 = Largest EPS Downgrades)
Price Momentum Rank	The stocks have been ranked according to their Price Momentum, which is the slope of the regression line of daily prices in the last 9 months) (100 = Highest Price Momentum, 1 = Lowest Price Momentum).
Price	Month End Price.

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy



A Defender Example HINDALCO INDUSTRIES

The chart contains information on the price and prospective EPS relative to the region. It illustrates the momentum of these relatives (the slope of the lines) and a measure of value (the ratio of the price line to the EPS line).



Tabl	o 7.	Dank	Definition	ic i
Idui	e /.	Ralik	Deminition	15

Rank	Rank Description
Contenders Rank	The stocks have been ranked according to attractiveness based on a combination of earnings momentum, and price momentum. (100 = Lowest PE stock with strong Earning Momentum and Price Momentum, 1 = Highest PE stocks with low Earnings Momentum and Price Momentum)
EPS Revision Rank	The stocks have been ranked according to the size of the change in the consensus EPS forecast in the last 3 months. (100 = Largest EPS Upgrades, 1 = Largest EPS Downgrades)
Price Momentum Rank	The stocks have been ranked according to their Price Momentum, which is the slope of the regression line of daily prices in the last 9 months) (100 = Highest Price Momentum, 1 = Lowest Price Momentum).
Price	Month End Price.

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy



01 December 2011

Chart 23: ADANI ENTERPRISES

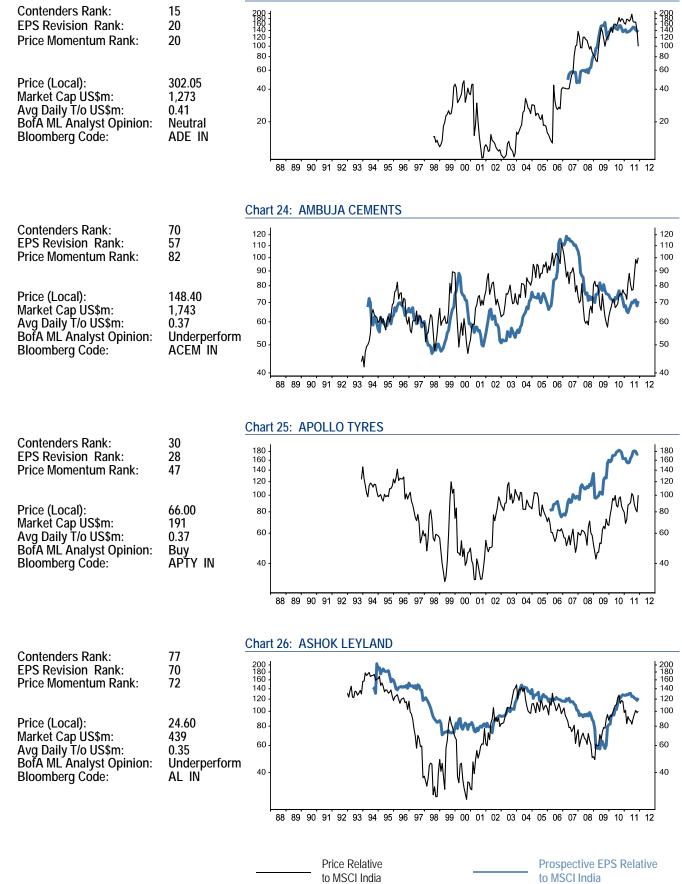




Chart 27: ASSOCIATED CEMENT COMPANIES

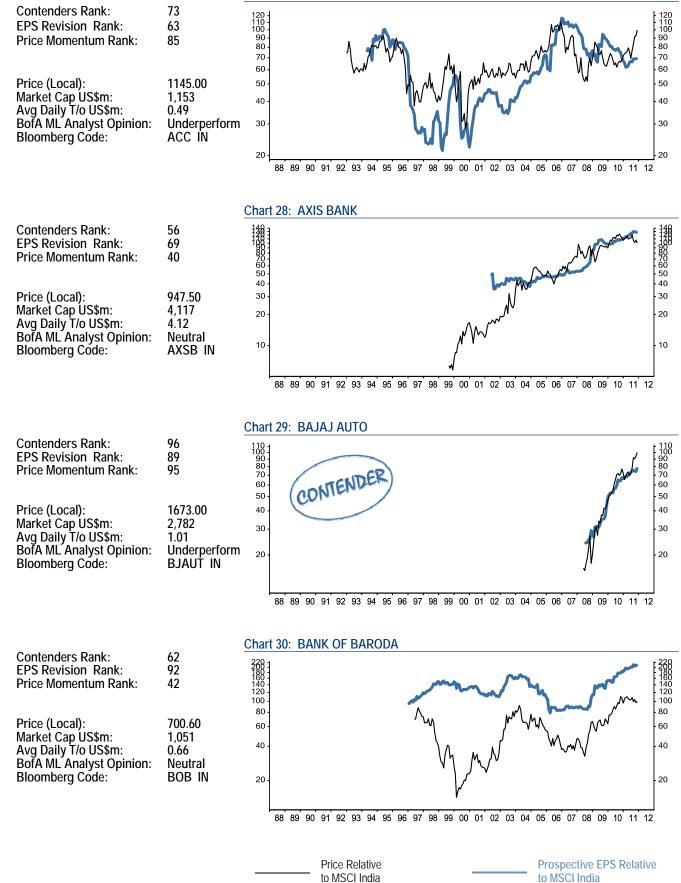
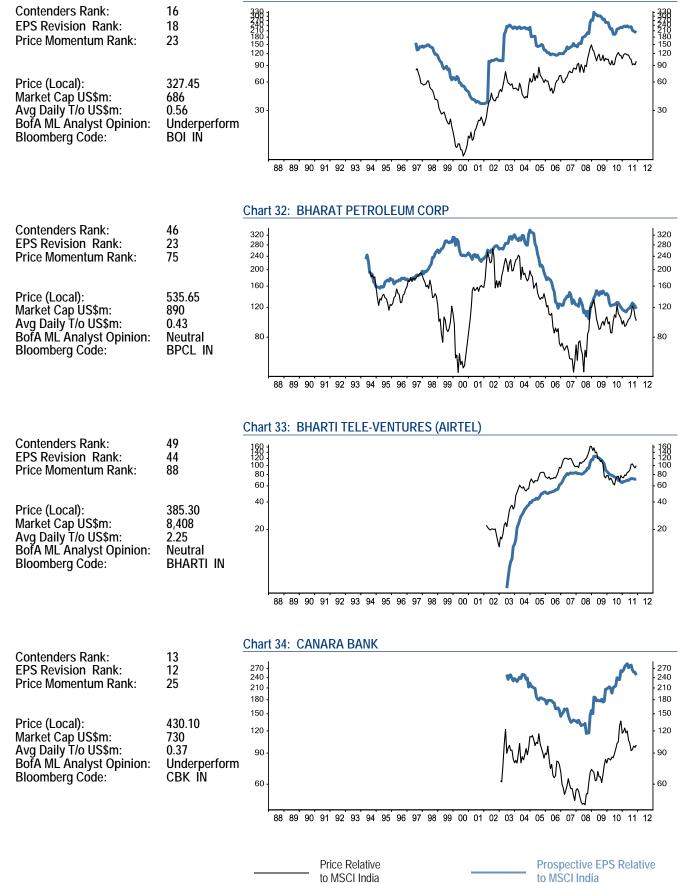
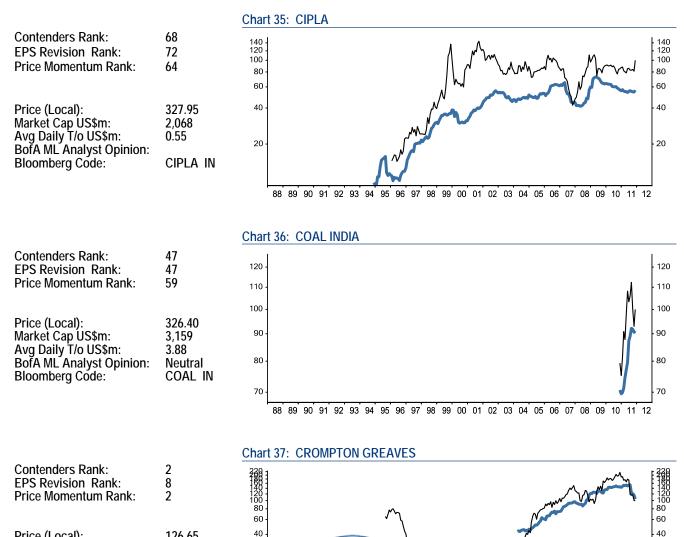




Chart 31: BANK OF INDIA







Price (Local):	126.65
Market Cap US\$m:	389
Avg Daily T/o US\$m:	0.70
BofA ML Analyst Opinion:	
Bloomberg Code:	CRG II

Contenders Rank:	82
EPS Revision Rank:	74
Price Momentum Rank:	84

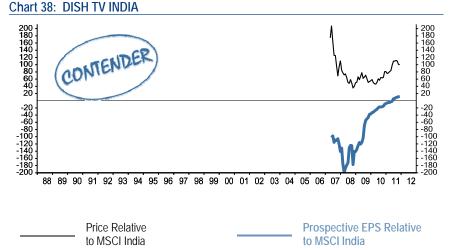
Price (Local):	64.15
Market Cap US\$m:	458
Avg Daily T/o US\$m:	0.65
BofA ML Analyst Opinion:	Buy
Bloomberg Code:	DIŤV

20

IN

IN

DEFENDER



88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12

20



Chart 39: DLF

Contenders Rank: 43 400 360 320 400 360 320 **EPS Revision Rank:** 37 Price Momentum Rank: 58 280 280 240 240 200 200 Price (Local): 160 160 207.10 Market Cap US\$m: 1,617 120 120 Avg Daily T/o US\$m: 4.36 BofA ML Analyst Opinion: Buy 80 Bloomberg Code: 80 DLFU IN 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 Chart 40: DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES Contenders Rank: 67 160 140 160 140 **EPS Revision Rank:** 59 120 120 Price Momentum Rank: 70 100 100 80 80 60 60 Price (Local): 1575.00 40 40 Market Cap US\$m: 3,068 Avg Daily T/o US\$m: 0.45 BofA ML Analyst Opinion: Buy 20 20 DRRD IN Bloomberg Code: 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 Chart 41: EXIDE INDUSTRIES Contenders Rank: 39 120 100 90 70 60 120 100 90 70 60 EPS Revision Rank: 10 Price Momentum Rank: 53 50 50 40 40 Price (Local): 116.15 Market Cap US\$m: 454 30 30 Avg Daily T/o US\$m: 0.50 20 20 BofA ML Analyst Opinion: Buy Bloomberg Code: EXÍD IN 10 10 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 Chart 42: GAIL INDIA Contenders Rank: 42 140 130 120 110 140 130 120 110 **EPS Revision Rank:** 30 Price Momentum Rank: 57 100 100 90 80 80 70 70 Price (Local): 392.30 60 60 Market Cap US\$m: 2,860 50 50 Avg Daily T/o US\$m: 0.43

Price Relative to MSCI India

88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12

40

30

Prospective EPS Relative

to MSCI India

BofA ML Analyst Opinion:

Bloomberg Code:

Underperform

GAIL IN

40

30



Chart 43: GRASIM INDUSTRIES

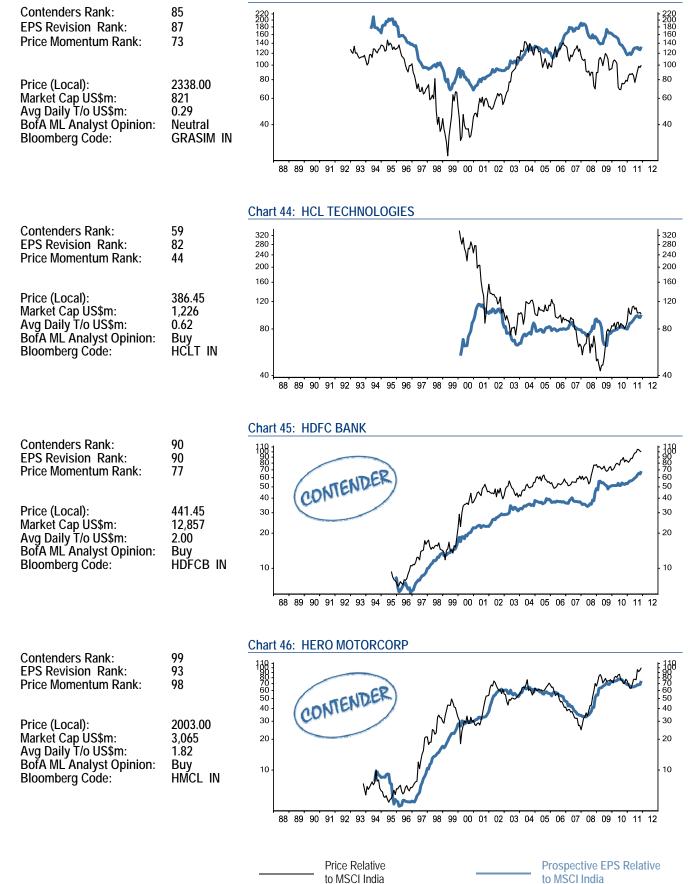




Chart 47: HINDALCO INDUSTRIES

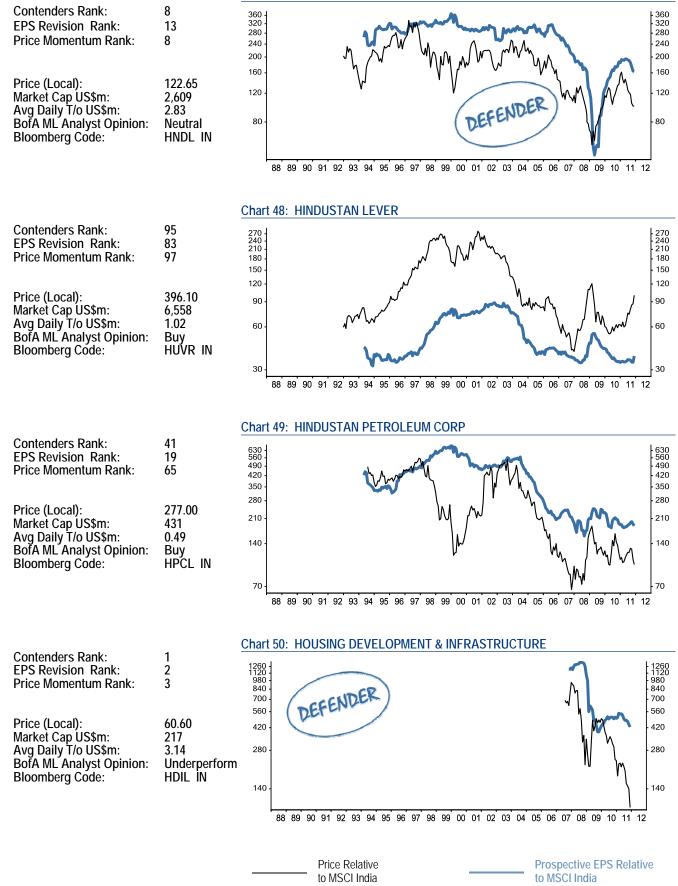
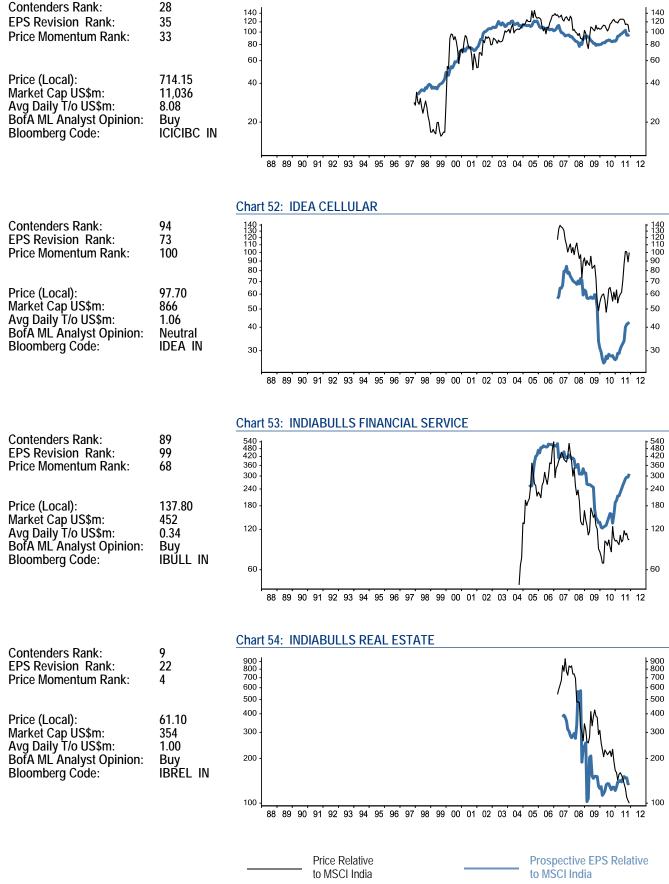




Chart 51: ICICI BANK



25



Chart 55: INFOSYS LTD

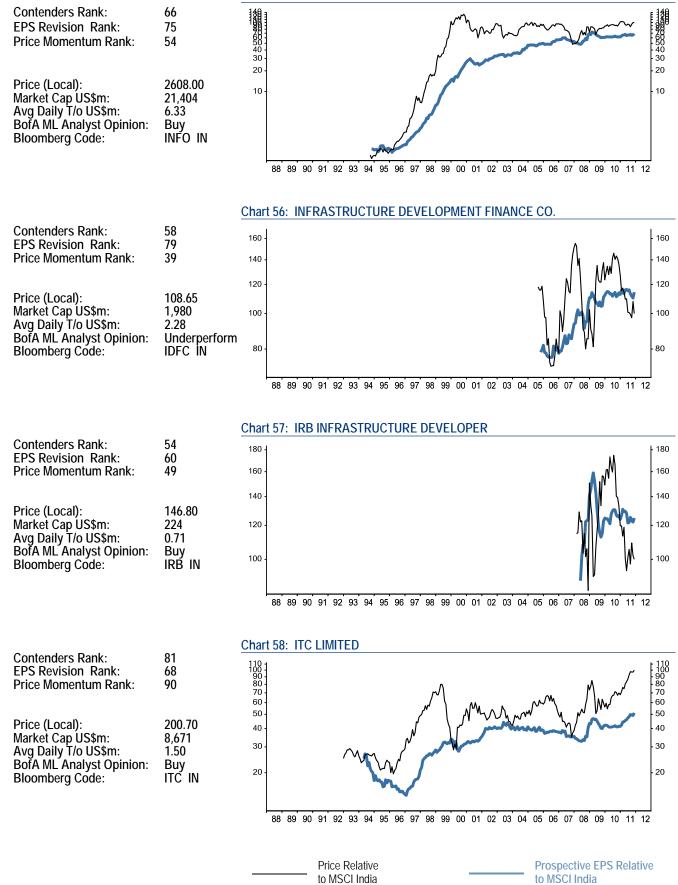




Chart 59: JAIN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

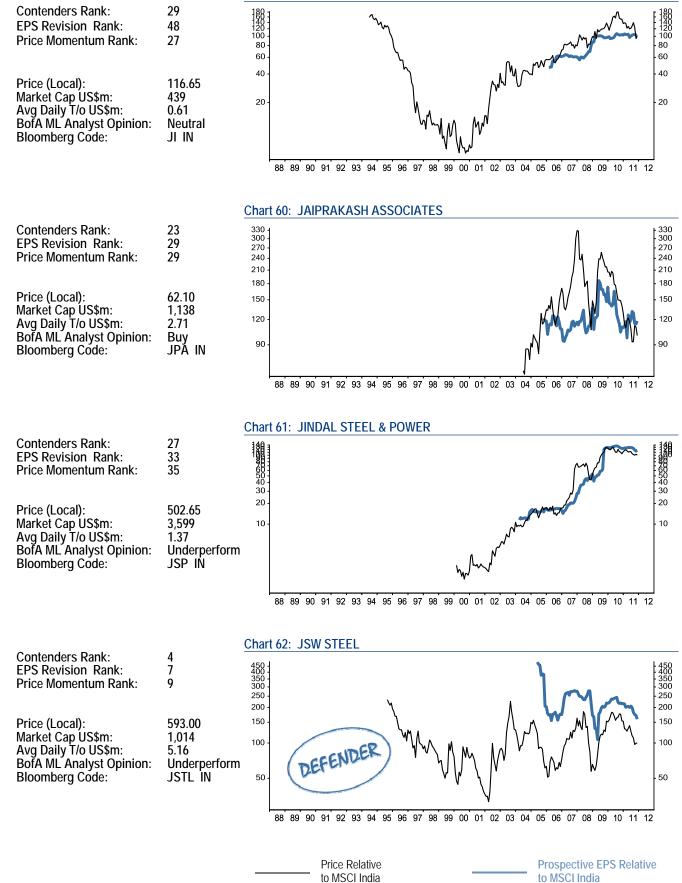




Chart 63: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

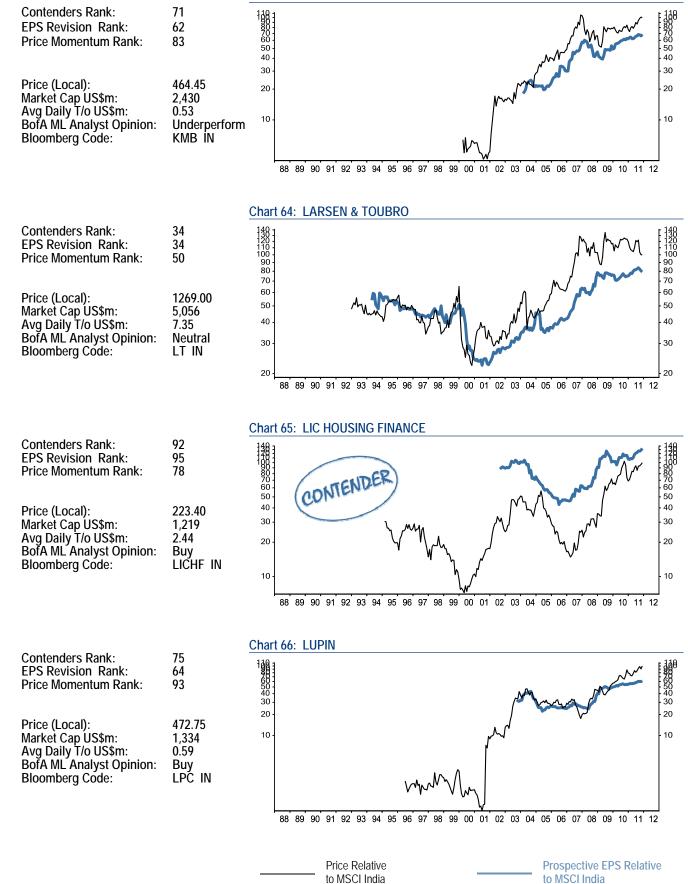


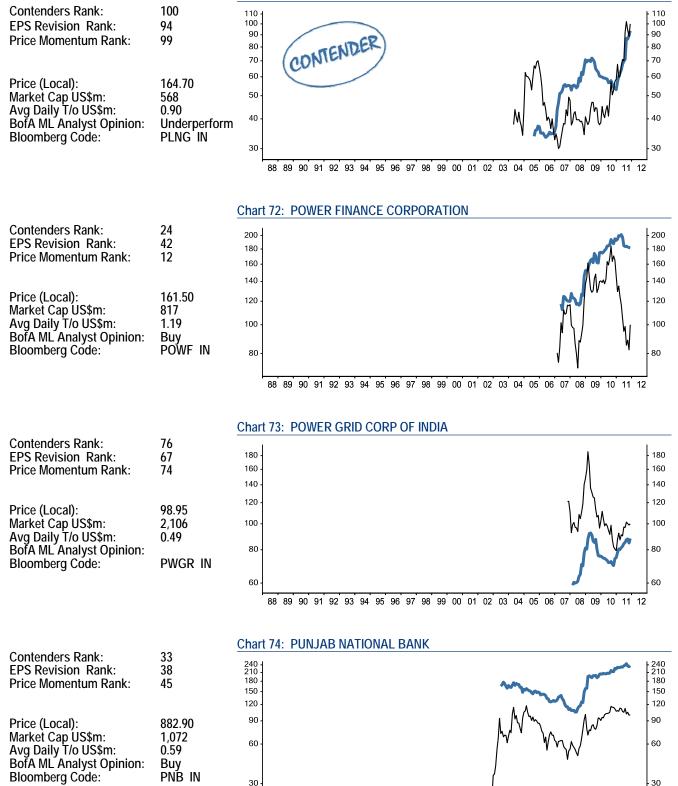


Chart 67: MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA





Chart 71: PETRONET LNG



Price Relative to MSCI India

88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12



Chart 75: RANBAXY LABORATORIES

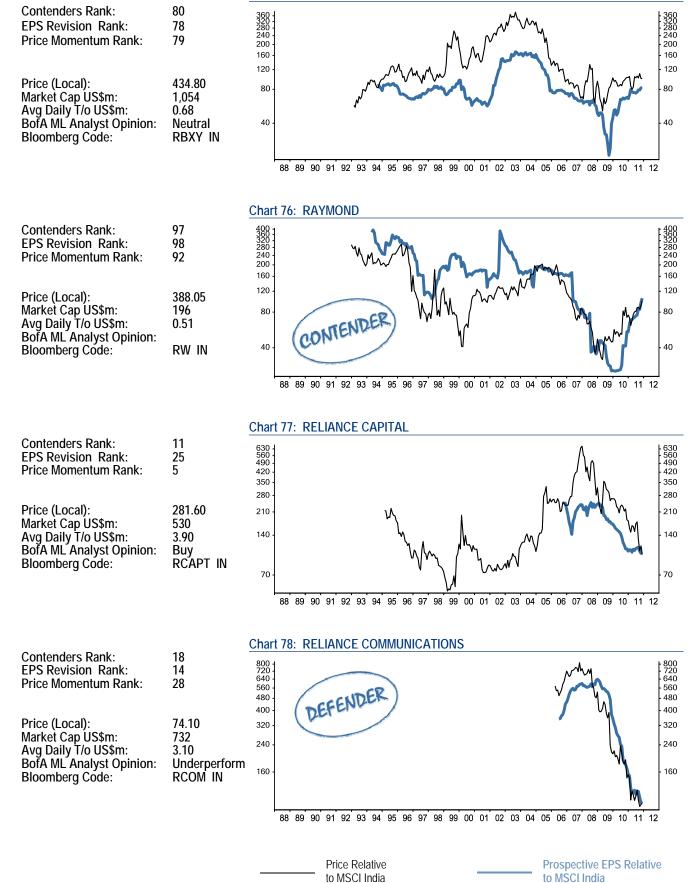
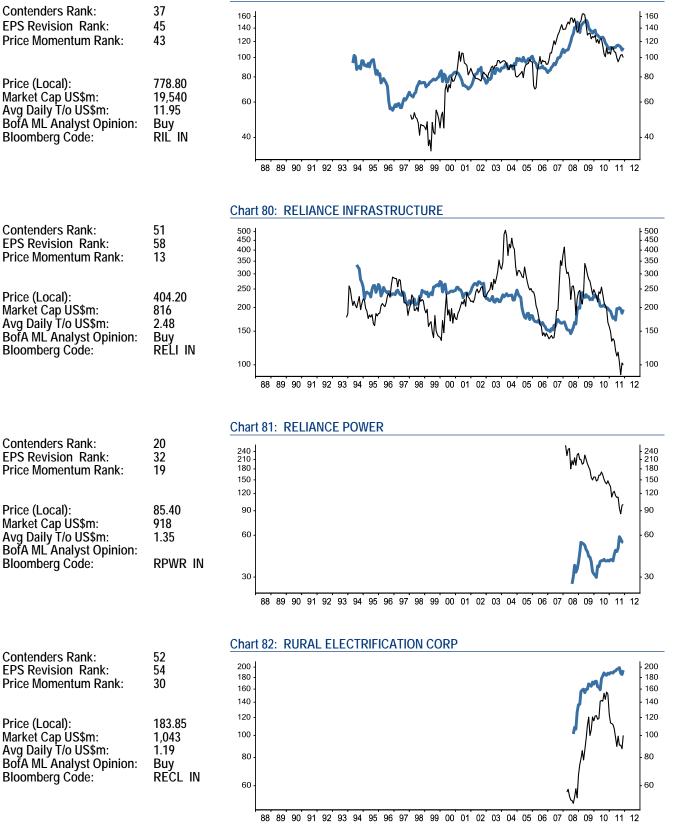




Chart 79: RELIANCE INDUSTRIES



Price Relative to MSCI India

Prospective EPS Relative to MSCI India



Chart 83: SATYAM COMPUTER

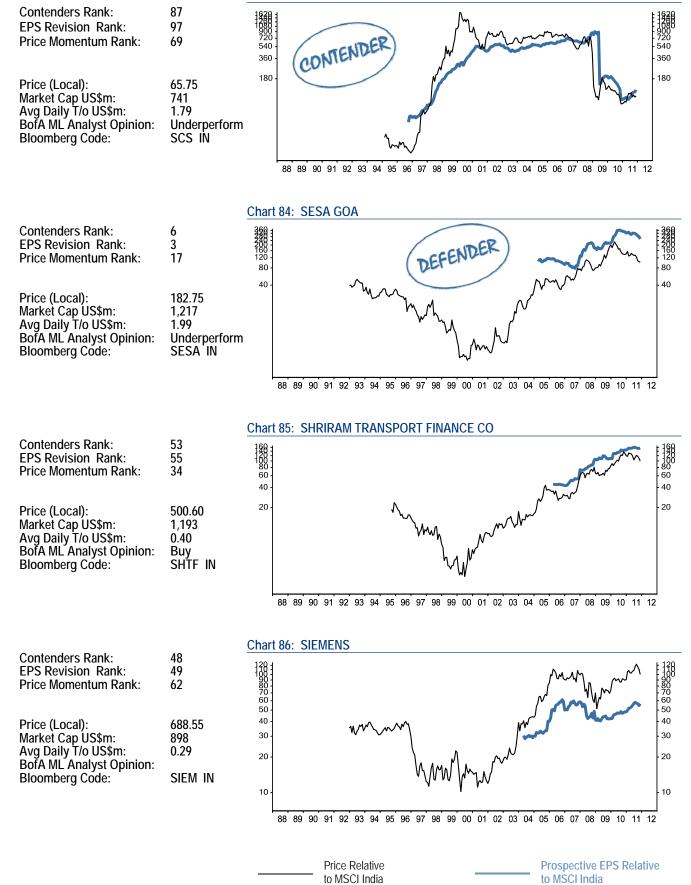




Chart 87: STATE BANK OF INDIA

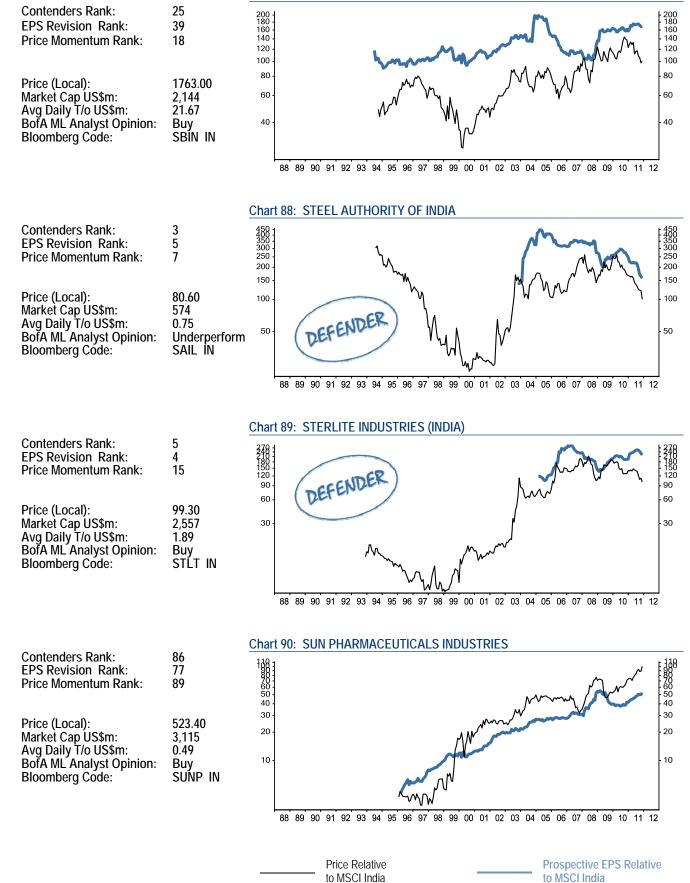
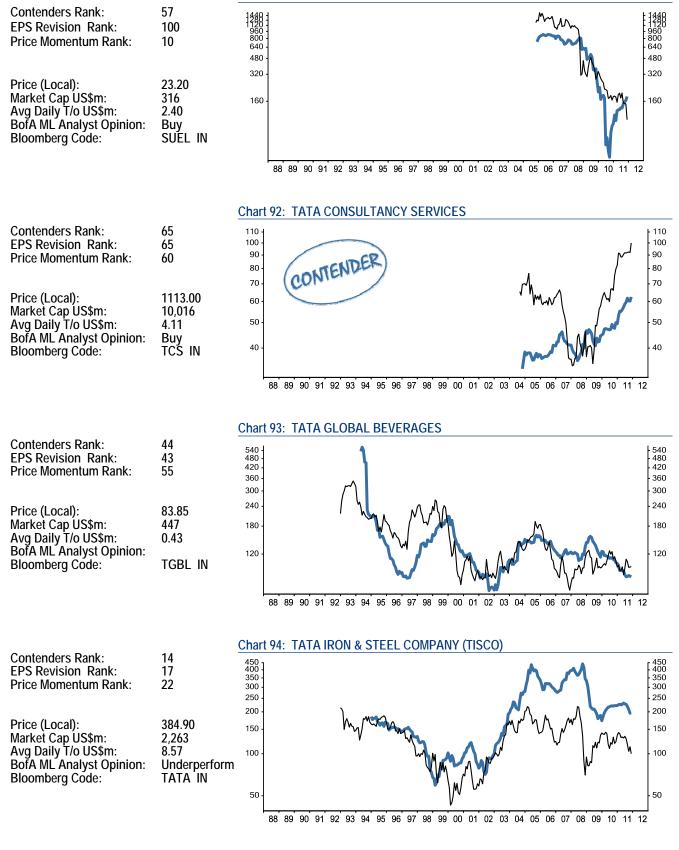




Chart 91: SUZLON ENERGY



Price Relative to MSCI India Prospective EPS Relative to MSCI India



Chart 95: TATA MOTORS

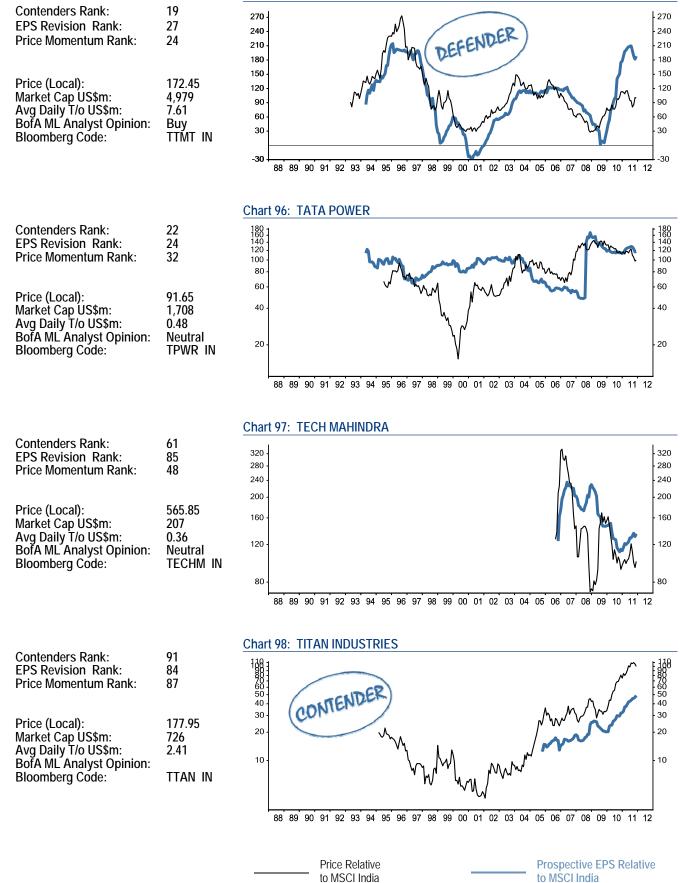
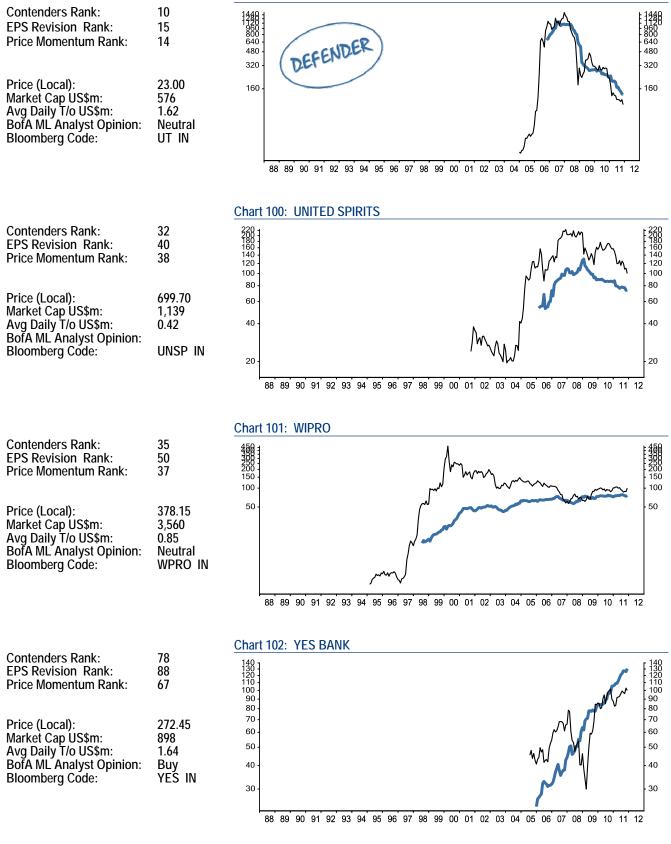




Chart 99: UNITECH



Price Relative to MSCI India **Prospective EPS Relative**

to MSCI India

Index

	Contenders			Contenders	
Company	Rank	Page	Company	Rank	Page
Adani Enterprises	15	Pg (18)	Kotak Mahindra Bank	71	Pg (28)
Ambuja Cements	70	Pg (18)	Larsen & Toubro	34	Pg (28)
Apollo Tyres Limited	30	Pg (18)	LIC Housing Finance	92	Pg (28)
Ashok Leyland	77	Pg (18)	Lupin Ltd	75	Pg (28)
Associated Cement	73	Pg (19)	Mahindra & Mahindra	72	Pg (29)
Axis Bank	56	Pg (19)	Maruti Suzuki India	38	Pg (29)
Bajaj Auto	96	Pg (19)	Mundra Port & SEZ	84	Pg (29)
Bank of Baroda	62	Pg (19)	NTPC	63	Pg (29)
Bank of India	16	Pg (20)	Petronet LNG	100	Pg (30)
Bharat Petroleum Corp	46	Pg (20)	Power Finance	24	Pg (30)
Bharti Tele-Ventures	49	Pg (20)	Power Grid Corp of India	76	Pg (30)
Canara Bank	13	Pg (20)	Punjab National Bank	33	Pg (30)
Cipla	68	Pg (21)	Ranbaxy Laboratories	80	Pg (31)
Coal India	47	Pg (21)	Raymond Ltd	97	Pg (31)
Crompton Greaves	2	Pg (21)	Reliance Capital	11	Pg (31)
Dish TV India	82	Pg (21)	Reliance Communications	18	Pg (31)
DLF	43	Pg (22)	Reliance Industries	37	Pg (32)
Dr Reddy's Laboratories	67	Pg (22)	Reliance Infrastructure	51	Pg (32)
Exide Industries	39	Pg (22)	Reliance Power	20	Pg (32)
Gail India	42	Pg (22)	Rural Electrification Corp	52	Pg (32)
Grasim Industries	85	Pg (23)	Satyam Computer	87	Pg (33)
HCL Technologies	59	Pg (23)	Sesa Goa	6	Pg (33)
HDFC Bank	90	Pg (23)	Shriram Transport	53	Pg (33)
Hero Motorcorp	99	Pg (23)	Siemens Ltd	48	Pg (33)
Hindalco Industries	8	Pg (24)	State Bank of India	25	Pg (34)
Hindustan Lever	95	Pg (24)	Steel Authority of India	3	Pg (34)
Hindustan Petroleum	41	Pg (24)	Sterlite Industries (India)	5	Pg (34)
Housing Development &	1	Pg (24)	Sun Pharmaceuticals	86	Pg (34)
ICICI Bank	28	Pg (25)	Suzlon Energy	57	Pg (35)
Idea Cellular	94	Pg (25)	Tata Consultancy	65	Pg (35)
Indiabulls Financial Servic	e 89	Pg (25)	Tata Global Beverages	44	Pg (35)
Indiabulls Real Estate	9	Pg (25)	Tata Iron & Steel	14	Pg (35)
Infosys Ltd	66	Pg (26)	Tata Motors	19	Pg (36)
Infrastructure	58	Pg (26)	Tata Power	22	Pg (36)
IRB Infrastructure	54	Pg (26)	Tech Mahindra Ltd	61	Pg (36)
ITC Limited	81	Pg (26)	Titan Industries	91	Pg (36)
Jain Irrigation Systems	29	Pg (27)	Unitech	10	Pg (37)
Jaiprakash Associates	23	Pg (27)	United Spirits	32	Pg (37)
Jindal Steel & Power	27	Pg (27)	WIPRO	35	Pg (37)
JSW Steel	4	Pg (27)	Yes Bank	78	Pg (37)

Consumer Discretionary

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Apollo Tyres Limited	30	Pg (18)	Mahindra & Mahindra	72	Pg (29)
Bajaj Auto	96	Pg (19)	Maruti Suzuki India	38	Pg (29)
Dish TV India	82	Pg (21)	Raymond Ltd	97	Pg (31)
Exide Industries	39	Pg (22)	Tata Motors	19	Pg (36)
Hero Motorcorp	99	Pg (23)	Titan Industries	91	Pg (36)

Consumer Staples

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Hindustan Lever	95	Pg (24)	Tata Global Beverages	44	Pg (35)
ITC Limited	81	Pg (26)	United Spirits	32	Pg (37)

Energy

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Bharat Petroleum Corp	46	Pg (20)	Petronet LNG	100	Pg (30)
Coal India	47	Pg (21)	Reliance Industries	37	Pg (32)
Hindustan Petroleum	41	Pg (24)			

Financials

Company	ontenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Axis Bank	56	Pg (19)	Kotak Mahindra Bank	71	Pg (28)
Bank of Baroda	62	Pg (19)	LIC Housing Finance	92	Pg (28)
Bank of India	16	Pg (20)	Power Finance	24	Pg (30)
Canara Bank	13	Pg (20)	Punjab National Bank	33	Pg (30)
DLF	43	Pg (22)	Reliance Capital	11	Pg (31)
HDFC Bank	90	Pg (23)	Rural Electrification Corp	52	Pg (32)
Housing Development &	1	Pg (24)	Shriram Transport	53	Pg (33)
ICICI Bank	28	Pg (25)	State Bank of India	25	Pg (34)
Indiabulls Financial Service	89	Pg (25)	Unitech	10	Pg (37)
Indiabulls Real Estate	9	Pg (25)	Yes Bank	78	Pg (37)
Infrastructure	58	Pg (26)			



Health Care

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Cipla	68	Pg (21)	Ranbaxy Laboratories	80	Pg (31)
Dr Reddy's Laboratories Lupin Ltd	67 75	Pg (22) Pg (28)	Sun Pharmaceuticals	86	Pg (34)

Industrials

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Adani Enterprises	15	Pg (18)	Jaiprakash Associates	23	Pg (27)
Ashok Leyland	77	Pg (18)	Larsen & Toubro	34	Pg (28)
Crompton Greaves	2	Pg (21)	Mundra Port & SEZ	84	Pg (29)
IRB Infrastructure	54	Pg (26)	Siemens Ltd	48	Pg (33)
Jain Irrigation Systems	29	Pg (27)	Suzlon Energy	57	Pg (35)

Information Technology

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
HCL Technologies	59	Pg (23)	Tata Consultancy	65	Pg (35)
Infosys Ltd	66	Pg (26)	Tech Mahindra Ltd	61	Pg (36)
Satyam Computer	87	Pg (33)	WIPRO	35	Pg (37)

Materials

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Ambuja Cements	70	Pg (18)	JSW Steel	4	Pg (27)
Associated Cement	73	Pg (19)	Sesa Goa	6	Pg (33)
Grasim Industries	85	Pg (23)	Steel Authority of India	3	Pg (34)
Hindalco Industries	8	Pg (24)	Sterlite Industries (India)	5	Pg (34)
Jindal Steel & Power	27	Pg (27)	Tata Iron & Steel	14	Pg (35)

Telecommunication

	Contenders			Contenders	
Company	Rank	Page	Company	Rank	Page
Bharti Tele-Ventures	49	Pg (20)	Reliance Communications	18	Pg (31)
Idea Cellular	94	Pg (25)			



Utilities

Company	Contenders Rank	Page	Company	Contenders Rank	Page
Gail India	42	Pg (22)	Reliance Infrastructure	51	Pg (32)
NTPC	63	Pg (29)	Reliance Power	20	Pg (32)
Power Grid Corp of India	76	Pg (30)	Tata Power	22	Pg (36)



Asia Pacific Quantitative Publications Monthly reports for the Asia Pacific Region.

ASIA PACIFIC CONTENDERS & DEFENDERS

A report graphically showing how consensus earnings expectations for each stock have changed since 1988 versus the market, and whether recent earnings revisions appear to have been reflected in relative share price performance. Models based on earnings momentum, price momentum and valuation to determine "The Contenders" which back-testing showed are expected to outperform, and "The Defenders" which back-testing showed are expected to underperform. Individual reports are available for Asia Pacific, and Global Emerging Markets (GEM), Europe, and the World.

ASIA PACIFIC QUANTESSENTIAL STYLE

This is an investment style analysis that relates the performance of seven Quantessential Styles (Value, Growth, Quality, Risk, Momentum, Dividend and Size) to trend in global macro data and back-testing indicates which styles are expected to outperform. Our analysis indicates different style tilts are optimal at various stages of the cycle.

ASIA PACIFIC QUANT PANORAMA

In this monthly report, we summarize all our views and recent research on regional allocation, country allocation, sector allocation, style allocation, and stock selection for the Asia Pacific region, including Australia.

FOCUS POINT

Brief comments on topical issues and new research.

ASIA PACIFIC QUANTITATIVE STRATEGY COMMENTS

"Asia Pacific Quantitative Strategy" comments are typically two-to-four page reports summarizing current research and recommendations. Examples of these reports include:

- Global Wave a monthly update of our proprietary indicator of global economic activity and major troughs and peaks in the cycle.
- Asia Pacific Earnings Revision Ratio shows how earnings expectations are changing at the country & sector level within Asia Pacific.



Team Page

Global/Asia Pacific/GEM Nigel Tupper >> Quantitative Strategist Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)	+852 2161 7887
nigel.tupper@baml.com Carrie Zhao Quantitative Strategist MLPF&S carrie_zhao@baml.com	+1 646 855 5855
Girish Nair >> Quantitative Strategist Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) girish.nair@baml.com	+852 2536 3982
Amar Vashi>> Quantitative Strategist Merrill Lynch (Australia) amar.vashi@baml.com	+61 2 9226 5011
Sumuhan Shanmugalingam>> Quantitative Strategist Merrill Lynch (Australia) sumuhan.shanmugalingam@baml.com	+61 2 9226 5760
United States Savita Subramanian MLPF&S Quantitative Strategist savita.subramanian@baml.com	+1 646 855 3878
Yue Xu MLPF&S Quantitative Strategist yue.xu@baml.com	+1 646 855 5982
Europe Obe Ejikeme>> Quantitative Strategist MLI (UK) obe.ejikeme@baml.com	+44 207 996 4230



Note to Readers

Consensus EPS forecasts and analysts' opinion are provided by IBES.

IBES default earnings estimates are Reported, IFRS or EBG adjusted as determined by the majority contribution.

The accompanying valuations and screens are useful in assessing comparative valuations and comparative earnings prospects. These indicators should be used in investment decisions only with other factors including financial risk, investment risk, management strategies and operating and financial outlook.

The comments and opinions in this document are those of the Quantitative Strategy department and do not necessarily coincide with the Opinions of BofA Merrill Lynch fundamental analysts.

Special Disclosures

In accordance with the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations and with guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), foreign investors (individuals as well as institutional) that wish to transact the common stock of Indian companies must have applied to, and have been approved by SEBI and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Each investor who transacts common stock of Indian companies will be required to certify approval as a foreign institutional investor or as a sub-account of a foreign institutional investor by SEBI and RBI. Certain other entities are also entitled to transact common stock of Indian companies under the Indian laws relating to investment by foreigners.

BofA Merrill Lynch reserves the right to refuse copy of research on common stock of Indian companies to a person not resident in India.

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Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and the Global Depository Shares of Indian companies, Indian limited liability corporations, have not been registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may only be transacted by persons in the United States who are Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act. Accordingly, no copy of any research report on Indian companies' GDRs will be made available to persons who are not QIBs.



India Contenders & Defenders

Link to Definitions Macro

Click here for definitions of commonly used terms.

Important Disclosures

FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY OPINION KEY: Opinions include a Volatility Risk Rating, an Investment Rating and an Income Rating. VOLATILITY RISK RATINGS, indicators of potential price fluctuation, are: A - Low, B - Medium and C - High. INVESTMENT RATINGS reflect the analyst's assessment of a stock's: (i) absolute total return potential and (ii) attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster (defined below). There are three investment ratings: 1 - Buy stocks are expected to have a total return of at least 10% and are the most attractive stocks in the coverage cluster; 2 - Neutral stocks are expected to remain flat or increase in value and are less attractive than Buy rated stocks and 3 - Underperform stocks are the least attractive stocks in a coverage cluster. Analysts assign investment ratings considering, among other things, the 0-12 month total return expectation for a stock and the firm's guidelines for ratings dispersions (shown in the table below). The current price objective for a stock should be referenced to better understand the total return expectation at any given time. The price objective reflects the analyst's view of the potential price appreciation (depreciation).

Investment rating	Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating)	Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster*
Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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