

Lanco Infratech (LANCI)

Utilities

Merchant dilemma. Lanco Infratech (LITL) reported a 43% yoy decline in net income on account of (1) weak merchant tariffs, (2) scheduling problems at Amarkantak and Kondapalli, and (3) declining construction margins. We note that the sharp weakness in realizations during the quarter may be an aberration, though we maintain our conservative stance on the sustainability of lucrative merchant tariffs. We maintain our BUY rating with a target price of Rs83/share.

Company data and valuation summary Lanco Infratech Stock data 52-week range (Rs) (high,low) 75-41 Market Cap. (Rs bn) 154.2 Shareholding pattern (%) **Promoters** 67 9 FIIs 20.2 MFs 24 Price performance (%) 12M 1M 3M (3.5)(8.2)Absolute 23.1

Rel. to BSE-30

Forecasts/Valuations	2010	2011E	2012E
EPS (Rs)	2.1	3.6	4.9
EPS growth (%)	46.6	67.4	36.8
P/E (X)	30.1	18.0	13.1
Sales (Rs bn)	80.3	102.5	133.0
Net profits (Rs bn)	4.7	7.9	10.8
EBITDA (Rs bn)	14.5	30.3	44.7
EV/EBITDA (X)	16.2	10.4	7.8
ROE (%)	17.4	21.0	22.5
Div. Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0

Weakness in short-term tariffs weighs on earnings

(9.3)

(15.3)

LITL reported consolidated revenues of Rs20.4 bn, operating profit of Rs4.2 bn and net income of Rs705 mn against our estimate of Rs22.7 bn, Rs6.6 bn and Rs2.4 bn, respectively. Lower-than-estimated revenues were primarily on account of (1) lower merchant realization at both Kondapalli and Amarkantak and (2) larger contribution of construction revenues from project subsidiaries.

0.8

Revenues met estimates on account of low margin power trading business, resulting in a further dilution of margins from the power business. EBIT margins in the construction business declined sequentially by 500 bps on account of a delay in final-leg payment for Udupi project, which is yet to be capitalized.

Low realizations may be an aberration, but remain cautious on sustenance in the long-term

LITL's merchant realizations took a hit for both Kondapalli and Amarkantak plants. Kondapalli sold 516 MU in short-term market at an average rate of Rs4.3/kwh (Rs6.15/kwh in 1QFY11) and Amarkantak sold 411 MU at an average rate of Rs3.8/kwh. Management has indicated that owing to synchronization activities at Kondapalli, a bulk of the power had to be sold through exchange, fetching lower realizations. For Amarkantak, most of the power had to be sold through very short-term PPAs (yielding lower tariffs) as the plant had taken its annual maintenance shutdown during the month of August.

We discuss below in detail the dynamics of merchant tariffs in 2QFY11 and conclude that the weakness is not attributable to a structural shift driven by oversupply but largely driven by demand de-growth in 2QFY11. We therefore remain optimistic that short-term rates would strengthen post the monsoons, though we would watch closely whether the current premium enjoyed by merchant tariffs sustains.

Retain BUY rating with a revised target price of Rs80/share

We retain our BUY rating with a revised target price of Rs80/share. Upside risk to our target price emanates from improved visibility on planned projects that could add another Rs9/share to our target price.

We note that LITL will likely sell only 17% of its overall portfolio (post commissioning of Udupi and Anpara) through short-term contracts.

BUY

NOVEMBER 15, 201010

RESULT

Coverage view: Attractive

Price (Rs): 61

Target price (Rs): 83

BSE-30: 20,157

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Our SOTP-based target price now comprises (1) DCF-equity of power project portfolio at Rs64/share, (2) construction business valued at Rs15/share at EV/EBITDA of 6X on FY2012E, (3) real estate project at 50% of NAV ~Rs3/share, (4) DCF equity of BOT road projects at Rs1/share and (5) value from sale of carbon credits of Rs1/share and (6) net debt of Rs1/share. We have reduced our EPS estimates to Rs3.6/share in FY2011E (previously Rs4.1/share) and to Rs4.9/share in FY2012E (previously Rs5.4/share) as we adjust for higher inter-segment elimination of construction revenues and delays in COD of Udupi.

Exhibit 1: Weak merchant realizations and disappointing construction margins in 2QFY11

Lanco Infratech (Consolidated), Quarterly performance, March year-ends (Rs mn)

						(% Chg.)				
	2QFY11	2QFY11E	2QFY10	1QFY11	2QFY11E	2QFY10	1QFY11	FY2010	FY2011E	(% Chg.)
Net sales	20,417	22,779	19,266	21,256	(10)	6	(4)	80,320	102,476	28
Construction, generation and operat	(14,914)	(14,776)	(14,903)	(13,899)						
Personnel costs	(1,082)	(948)	(851)	(1,157)						
Other expenses and provisions	(255)	(450)	(371)	(248)						
Total expenses	(16,251)	(16,174)	(16,125)	(15,303)				(65,805)	(72,449)	
EBITDA	4,167	6,604	3,141	5,954	(37)	33	(30)	14,515	30,027	107
Depreciation	(1,703)	(1,590)	(332)	(1,551)				(3,479)	(9,478)	
EBIT	2,464	5,014	2,808	4,403				11,036	20,549	
Other income	725	250	187	251				1,839	1,998	
Net interest	(1,754)	(1,600)	(519)	(1,567)				(3,554)	(7,788)	
PBT	1,435	3,664	2,477	3,087	(61)	(42)	(54)	9,322	14,759	58
Tax	(378)	(916)	(769)	(353)				(3,487)	(4,041)	
Profit before Minority Interest	1,057	2,748	1,707	2,734	(62)	(38)	(61)	5,835	10,718	84
Minority interest	(352)	(334)	(464)	(427)				(1,093)	(2,789)	
Net Profit	705	2,414	1,244	2,306	(71)	(43)	(69)	4,742	7,929	67
Extraordinary income (loss)	-	_	(18)	(359)				487	-	
EBITDA margin (%)	20.4	29.0	16.3	28.0				18.1	29.3	
Effective tax rate (%)	26.4	25.0	31.1	11.4				37.4	27.4	
Segment Revenues										
Construction	10,883		14,676	10,375		(26)	5	58,867		
less inter-segment revenues	(4,177)		(2,677)	(4,252)		56	(2)	(17,660)		
Net construction revenues	6,706		11,999	6,123		(44)	10	41,207		
Power	13,373		7,134	14,251		87	(6)	16,020		
Property development	308		109	345		184	(11)	562		
Infrastructure development	-		-	-				-		
Others	31		25	537		24	(94)			
Net revenues	20,417		19,266	21,256		6	(4)	57,789		
EBIT	1.005			. ===		(4.5)	(2.4)			
Construction	1,338		2,488	1,758		(46)	(24)	7,201		
Power	1,807		923	3,168		96	(43)	6,862		
Property development	(16)		(31)	(30)		(49)	(48)	(78)		
EBIT Margin (%)										
Construction	12.3		17.0	16.9				-		
Power	13.5		12.9	22.2				12.2		
Property Development	(5.1)		(28.2)	(8.7)				42.8		

Exhibit 2: Progress on Vidarbha and Kondapalli III projects could provide Rs9/share upside to our target price SOTP-based valuation of LITL

	Capacity	Est. CoD	Total value	Equity	y Inv.	Att	ributable	value
	(MW)		(Rs mn)	(Rs mn)	(X) BV	(%)	(Rs mn)	(Rs/share)
Operating power plants and power tra	ding							
Lanco Kondapalli	368		3,886	3,400	1.1	59.0	2,293	1
Aban Power	120		1,949	1,318	1.5	51.0	994	0
Lanco Electric Utility (Power trading)			2,025	212	9.5	100.0	2,025	1
Lanco Amarkantak	600		26,043	5,598	4.7	100.0	26,043	11
Lanco Kondapalli extn.	366		15,474			59.0	9,129	4
Vamshi Hydro	10		153	155	1.0	91.1	139	0
Vamshi Industrial	10		177	153	1.2	91.1	161	0
Power plants under construction								
Lanco Green	70	Oct-10	1,113	840	1.3	90.0	1,002	0
Nagarjuna Power	1,200	July-10/Nov-10	20,517	13,440	1.5	100.0	20,517	9
Anpara	1,200	Mar-11/June-11	16,983	7,480	2.1	100.0	16,983	7
Lanco Energy - Teesta VI	500	Sep-12	7,746	6,498	1.6	74.0	5,732	2
Lanco Amarkantak Extn	1,320	Jan-13 / Apr-14	49,390	13,200	4.4	100.0	49,390	21
Lanco Hydro	150	Mar-13	2,207	2,079	1.7	91.1	2,011	1
Babandh	1,320	Sep-13/Dec-13	16,934	13,901	2.1	100.0	16,934	7
Power (A)							153,354	64
Construction (B)							36,424	15
Property development (C)							6,442	3
Road projects (D)							1,370	1
Net debt (E)							(3,536)	(1)
Carbon credits (F)							1,276	1
Total (A+B+C+D+E+F)							195,330	81

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

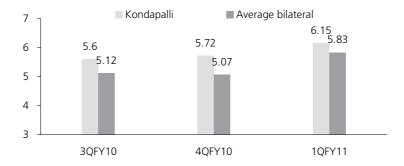
Weak short-term rates weigh down on power earnings

LITL reported power revenues of Rs5.8 bn (net of power trading revenues) in 2QFY11. Overall power revenues declined from Rs14.3 bn in 1QFY11 to Rs13.4 bn in 2QFY11 primarily due to lower merchant realization at both Kondapalli and Amarkantak, which was partly offset by higher power trading revenues.

- ▶ Kondapalli sold 516 MU in the short-term market at an average realization of Rs4.3/kwh. Owing to synchronization activities, almost 50% of the power had to be sold through exchange (247 MU) at a much lower realization of Rs3.6/kwh. Balance was sold through bilateral trades at an average realization of Rs4.9/kwh.
- ▶ Amarkantak sold 411 MU in the short-term market at an average realization of Rs3.8/kwh. , most of the power had to be sold through very short-term PPAs (yielding lower tariffs) as the plant had taken its annual maintenance shutdown during the month of August.
- ▶ LITL traded 1,942 MU in 2QFY11 (31% gog) at an average rate of Rs3.91/kwh.

We note that historically, LITL's short-term sale of power from Kondapalli has been at a premium to the Industry average (see Exhibit 3). LITL's average realization for Kondapalli was Rs6.15/kwh in 1QFY11 against average bilateral rates of Rs5.83/kwh. However, as highlighted above, due to scheduling issues, average realizations at Kondapalli were below the industry average in 2QFY11.

Exhibit 3: LITL's average realizations in short-term market has been higher than industry average Average short-term realizations of LITL's Kondapalli plant against average bilateral rates (Rs/kwh)



Source: CERC, Kotak Institutional Equities

Merchant dynamics: Demand-driven weakness in short-term rates

Energy deficit in India declined from 9.6% in 2QFY10 to 7.1% in 2QFY11. We believe the decline in deficit is as much attributable to demand de-growth as it is to oversupply as overall availability increased marginally by 1.9% yoy while demand shrunk by 0.9% yoy during the same period (see Exhibit 4).

De-growth in demand can be attributed to reduced offtake by large industrial consumers of power that operated at low utilization rates (as seen in the cement and steel sector) during the monsoon quarter. Given the reduced demand for power in 2QFY11, we believe weak merchant tariffs during the quarter were an aberration and do not consider this as a structural shift in short-term rates driven by oversupply. We therefore remain optimistic that short-term rates would strengthen post the monsoons and would remain lucrative for generating companies in the near term, though we maintain a cautious stance on merchant tariffs sustaining their premium.

Accordingly, we believe that LITL will have robust near-term earnings from power division driven primarily by sale of power in short-term market and commissioning of new capacities in FY2011. We note that LITL has 666 MW of capacity (366 MW at Kondapalli and 300 MW at Amarkantak I) for sale in the short-term market. Along with that, LITL will add an incremental capacity of 2,400 MW in FY2011 with commissioning of 1,200 MW each at Udupi and Anpara. We note that Unit I at Udupi has already been synchronized. Commissioning of Anpara will add another 100 MW to the merchant portfolio of LITL.

Exhibit 4: Total energy requirement decline by 0.9% yoy in 2QFY11 Energy and peak power deficit in India in 2QFY11

				Change (%)	
	2QFY11	2QFY10	1QFY11	qoq	yoy
Energy deficit					
Requirement (MU)	208,754	210,628	220,656	(5.4)	(0.9)
Availibility (MU)	193,905	190,311	194,416	(0.3)	1.9
Deficit (MU)	14,849	20,317	26,240	(43.4)	(26.9)
Deficit (%)	7.1	9.6	11.9		

Source: CEA, Kotak Institutional Equities

Visibility on upcoming projects improves as Babandh achieves financial closure while Vidarbha, Kondapalli and Amarkantak Ext. tie up debt

LITL announced financial closure of the first phase of its Babandh project (1,320 MW) in Orissa. The estimated cost of project is Rs69.3 bn which would include a debt component of Rs55.4 bn. A consortium of 14 banks and financial institutions with ICICI Bank in the lead will be providing the debt for the project. LITL also received debt sanctions for Vidarbha, Kondapalli and Amarkantak Ext. during the quarter although financial closure has not been formally announced.

We do not ascribe value to Vidarbha and Kondapalli III as the projects are yet to tie up the necessary inputs. However, we do highlight that visibility on these projects could be a near-term catalyst for the stock. These projects could add another Rs9/share to our 12-month forward fair value of LITL. The Exhibit below highlights the execution status of the projects.

Exhibit 5: Upcoming projects could provide an upside of ~Rs9/share to our target price Execution status of upcoming projects of LITL

	Capacity	Cost			Environmental	Fuel	Financial	Expected value
Project	(MW)	(Rs bn)	Fuel	Land	clearance	arrangement	closure	(Rs/share)
Kondapalli III	732	25.2	Thermal	✓	✓	WIP	WIP	4.0
Vidarbha	1,320	69.5	Thermal	WIP	×	WIP	WIP	5.0
Total	2,052	94.7						9.0

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Construction – inter-segment elimination increases as execution for subsidiaries kick in

LITL reported construction revenues of Rs10.9 bn. EBIT margins declined from 17% in 1QFY11 to 12% in 2QFY11 on account of delay in last-mile payment for Udupi which is yet to be capitalized. We note that inter-segment elimination of construction revenues was Rs4.2 bn (38% of total construction revenues) as execution for Udupi and Anpara (classified as associates) has slowed down while execution for projects classified as subsidiaries has gained momentum.

LITL's has a healthy order book of Rs254 bn as of Sep 30, 2010 (see Exhibit 6) which does not include the order for the above-mentioned Mahagenco contract.

Exhibit 6: Pace of execution has moderated in the past few quarters

Details of order book position as of September 2010 (Rs bn)

		Balance					
		order book	% complete	Execution			
	Project value	2QFY11	(%)	2QFY11	1QFY11	2QFY10	FY2010
Amarkantak I & II	13.3	0.0	97.4	0.3	0.0	1.4	2.5
Amarkantak III & IV	55.2	51.3	4.6	1.4	1.6		0.0
Teesta VI	23.2	15.4	31.1	0.6	0.9	0.4	6.2
Anpara	34.9	6.6	75.3	2.0	3.5	5.6	20.2
Udupi (Nagarjuna)	36.4	4.2	87.6	0.4	1.2	3.7	16.2
Kondapalli Expn.	9.7	0.0	96.9	0.3	0.2	1.6	5.6
Kondapalli Phase III	21.1	19.4	6.2	0.3	0.4	0.0	
Vidarbha	56.8	56.8	0.0	0.0		0.0	
Babandh	55.8	54.6	0.0	1.3			
Koradi	11.9	11.9					
Others		7.4			0.3		0.8
Power		227		7	8	13	51
Others		27					
Total		254					

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Exhibit 7: Delay in milestone payment for Udupi hit construction margins during 2QFY11 Lanco Infratech (Standalone), Quarterly performance, March year-ends (Rs mn)

				(% C	hg.)			
	2QFY11	2QFY10	1QFY11	2QFY10	1QFY11	FY2010	FY2011E	(% Chg.)
Net sales	10,883	14,676	10,375	(26)	5	58,867	46,976	(20)
Total expenses	(9,871)	(12,414)	(8,883)			(2,013)	(1,879)	
EBITDA	1,011	2,262	1,492	(55)	(32)	56,854	45,097	(21)
Depreciation	(178)	(141)	(151)			(598)	(710)	
EBIT	833	2,121	1,342			56,256	44,387	
Other income	680	156	537			1,115	1,643	
Net interest	(881)	(470)	(806)			(1,979)	(2,351)	
PBT	632	1,807	1,073	(65)	(41)	55,392	43,679	(21)
Tax	(174)	(533)	(360)			(2,337)	(1,728)	
Net Profit	458	1,274	713	(64)	(36)	53,055	41,951	(21)
EBITDA margin (%)	9.3	15.4	14.4			96.6	96.0	
Effective tax rate (%)	27.5	29.5	33.5			4.2	4.0	

Exhibit 8: Sharp increase in loans and advances in 1HFY11
Balance sheet (consolidated) of LITL as of September 2010 (Rs mn)

	Sep-10	Sep-09	Mar-10
Balance sheet			
Net block	78,331	61,747	70,015
Investments	21,158	10,796	20,229
Cash & bank balances	19,481	8,938	9,628
Accounts receivable	19,033	15,504	22,270
Inventories	20,444	12,737	16,267
Loans & advances	44,285	21,591	21,800
Others	141	200	74
Current liabilities	52,129	33,408	35,110
Net current assets	51,255	25,562	34,929
Utilization of funds	150,744	98,105	125,173
Total debt	106,609	60,562	83,614
Paid-up common stock	2,386	2,383	2,385
Reserves and surplus	33,465	28,065	31,062
Shareholders' funds	35,850	30,447	33,448
Def. tax liability	959	200	1,003
Minority Interest	7,327	6,896	7,108
Source of funds	150,744	98,105	125,173

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

Exhibit 9: Capex picks up at Babandh and Amarkantak III&IV Project-wise capex incurred by LITL as of September 2010 (Rs mn)

	Project cost	Project cost Cum. capex incurred		(Rs mn)	%age capex
	(Rs mn)	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	(%)
Nagarjuna Power	54,000	47,031	48,956	53,408	98.9
Anpara C	44,000	29,191	33,020	38,180	86.8
Lanco Hydro - Teesta	32,490	9,325	10,354	11,287	34.7
Lanco Energy - Uttaranchal	10,395	2,139	2,252	2,395	23.0
Lanco Hydro	10,395	2,109	4,269	4,542	43.7
Lanco - Amanrkantak - III & IV	52,800	1,036	8,327	14,948	28.3
Babandh	69,502	1,258	4,280	12,065	17.4
Vidarbha	69,480	398	6,128	7,983	11.5
Total	343,062	92,487	117,586	144,808	42

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

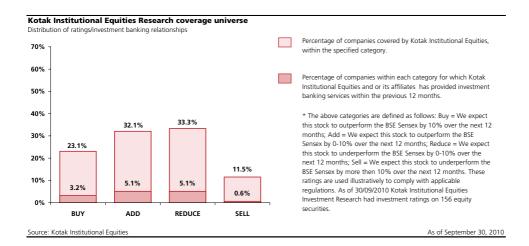
Exhibit 10: Segmental breakup of LITL financials, March fiscal year-ends (Rs mn)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011E	2012E
Revenue flows						
Power	10,990	17,501	27,170	38,075	66,115	100,734
Construction	5,417	15,745	40,826	58,867	46,976	44,954
Real estate	_	1,039	1,732	562	1,129	5,264
Less inter-segmental	(349)	(1,873)	(9,008)	(17,184)	(11,744)	(17,982)
Total	16,058	32,413	60,720	80,320	102,476	132,970
EBITDA flows						
Power	3,216	3,706	3,588	11,151	24,845	39,600
Construction	1,141	3,141	5,671	8,663	6,501	5,322
Real estate	_	341	514	77	307	1,861
Less inter-segmental	(52)	(281)	(1,251)	(2,529)	(1,625)	(2,129)
Total	4,305	6,907	8,522	17,362	30,027	44,655
Net profit						
Power	1,454	2,261	2,190	4,276	8,219	11,387
Minority interest	(577)	(940)	(828)	(689)	(2,176)	(2,077)
Attributable PAT from Power	878	1,321	1,362	3,587	6,043	9,310
Construction	732	2,002	2,664	4,864	3,355	2,988
Less inter-segmental	(52)	(281)	(453)	(1,459)	(839)	(1,195)
Attributable PAT from Construction	679	1,721	2,211	3,405	2,516	1,793
Real estate	_	218	288	(180)	(17)	484
Minority interest	_	(57)	(75)	47	5	(126)
Attributable PAT from Real Estate	_	161	213	(133)	(13)	358
EPS (Rs)						
Power	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.6	2.7	4.2
Construction	0.3	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.1	0.8
Real estate	_	0.1	0.1	(0.1)	(0.0)	0.2
Total	0.7	1.4	1.7	3.1	3.8	5.2
EPS differential due to accounting for						
depreciation	0.1	0.0	(0.2)	(1.0)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Reported EPS	0.8	1.5	1.5	2.1	3.6	4.9
Attributable net debt						
Total	34,032	57,183	85,182	123,141	149,794	165,370

Exhibit 11: Lanco: Profit model, balance sheet, cash model 2008-2013E, March fiscal year-ends (Rs mn)

	2008	2009	2010E	2011E	2012E	2013E
Profit model (Rs mn)						
Net sales	32,413	60,720	80,320	102,476	132,970	140,418
EBITDA	6,993	8,874	14,515	30,027	44,655	49,104
Other income	708	562	1,839	1,998	2,523	3,819
Interest	(920)	(1,773)	(3,554)	(7,788)	(14,704)	(17,271)
Depreciation	(776)	(1,073)	(3,479)	(9,478)	(14,040)	(20,287)
Pretax profits	6,005	6,590	9,322	14,759	18,434	15,365
Tax	(1,404)	(1,674)	(3,491)	(4,041)	(4,770)	(3,845)
Minority Interest	(1,304)	(1,684)	(1,093)	(2,789)	(2,820)	(2,743)
Net profits	3,297	3,232	4,737	7,929	10,844	8,777
Extraordinary items	245	(429)	(152)	_	_	_
Earnings per share (Rs)	1.6	1.3	2.1	3.6	4.9	3.9
Balance sheet (Rs mn)						
Total equity	18,333	20,976	33,448	42,216	54,255	63,412
Deferred taxation liability	173	175	1,003	1,653	2,093	2,020
Total borrowings	37,200	62,962	90,681	198,522	251,644	303,353
Currrent liabilities	27,038	31,331	35,110	40,396	39,992	32,347
Minority Interest	41	41	41	42	43	44
Total liabilities and equity	82,785	115,485	160,283	282,828	348,026	401,177
Cash	7,411	9,905	9,628	38,172	56,571	80,777
Current assets (excl cash)	30,379	39,438	60,412	49,970	53,384	51,353
Total fixed assets	38,029	56,306	70,015	192,749	236,134	267,110
Investments	6,966	9,837	20,229	1,937	1,937	1,937
Deferred Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	82,785	115,485	160,283	282,828	348,026	401,177
Free cash flow (Rs mn)						
Operating cash flow, excl. working capital	5,632	6,919	11,367	25,304	37,402	41,716
Working capital	(2,752)	(4,766)	(17,195)	15,727	(3,818)	(5,613)
Capital expenditure	(14,415)	(19,350)	(17,188)	(132,213)	(57,425)	(51,263)
Investments	(936)	(2,871)	(10,392)	18,292—		
Free cash flow	(12,472)	(20,068)	(33,407)	(72,890)	(23,840)	(15,160)

"I, Murtuza Arsiwalla, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report."



Ratings and other definitions/identifiers

Definitions of ratings

BUY. We expect this stock to outperform the BSE Sensex by 10% over the next 12 months.

ADD. We expect this stock to outperform the BSE Sensex by 0-10% over the next 12 months.

REDUCE. We expect this stock to underperform the BSE Sensex by 0-10% over the next 12 months.

SELL. We expect this stock to underperform the BSE Sensex by more than 10% over the next 12 months.

Our target price are also on 12-month horizon basis.

Other definitions

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