

National Thermal Power Corporation

Valuation leaves no upside



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Contents

	Page No.
Investment Argument	4
Current capacity addition in the 11th Plan lagging behind	4
NTPC to miss 11th Five Year Plan targets	4
Plant commissioning to get delayed	6
Fuel supply, a potential concern	8
Coal	8
Gas	9
CERC norms: NTPC to get higher RoE returns, other norms are overall RoE neutra	ıl 10
Financials & Valuations	11
Valuations: Using Two-Stage Model	11
Financials	13

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FY11E 30.2 13.7 12.0 3.7 12.2 16.1 2.1



National Thermal Power Corporation

■ 11th plan targets to be missed: The National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPCs) 11th Five Year Plan target of capacity addition seems aggressive, taking into account only 15% (3,240 MW) addition in almost 40% (YTD from FY2008) of time. We believe that the capacity addition will be deferred by 12-18 months and would trickle over to the 12th Five Year Plan.

- Fuel requirement a potential concern: On account of critical coal levels and lower gas supplies at some of the power plants, we expect the plant load factor's (PLF's) to remain range bound at around 90%. However, faster commissioning of captive coal mines, entry of hydro power in total capacity and gas from KG basin would be a big boost to the capacity expansion of the company, going forward.
- The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's (CERC's) new guidelines to be broadly Return on Invested Equity (RoE) neutral: According to our view, the new guidelines of CERC would be broadly RoE neutral to NTPC, except for a higher RoE of 15.5%. NTPC's incentive-earning capacity would be put to test with tighter norms drafted in the guidelines.
- Financials & Valuations: On account of limited capacity addition in the start-up years of the 11th Five Year Plan, we expect flat growth in revenues (CAGR of 8% FY08-FY11E) and PAT (CAGR of 6% FY08-FY11E) growth. We believe that the new tighter CERC norms will reduce NTPCs incentive earning capacity and thus, will further reduce the RoEs on core investments (13.8% in FY10E). We value NTPC on a Two-Stage model, where the explicit growth is discounted to equity (DCFE) for FY10E-FY14E (COE 12%), and the long-term growth (beyond FY14E) is valued on implied Price/Book value basis. At CMP of Rs171, the stock is fairly priced, taking into account the lagging capacity addition. Thus, we initiate coverage on NTPC with a **Reduce** rating.

Key Financials (Y/e	March) FY08	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E
Revenue (Rs m)	370,910	410,002	439,302	473,029
Growth (%)	13.7	10.5	7.1	7.7
EBITDA (Rs m)	115,393	117,286	127,601	142,689
PAT (Rs m)	74,155	78,204	81,913	87,706
EPS (Rs)	9.0	9.5	9.9	10.6
Growth (%)	8.0	5.5	4.7	7.1
Net DPS (Rs)	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6

Net DPS (Rs)	3.5	3.6	3.6	
Source: Company Data; PL Resear	rch			
Profitability & Valuation	FY08	FY09E	FY10E	
EBITDA margin (%)	31.1	28.6	29.0	
RoE (%)	14.7	14.3	13.8	
RoCE (%)	14.2	12.4	11.9	
EV / sales (x)	4.1	3.9	3.8	
EV / EBITDA (x)	13.3	13.5	13.1	
PE (x)	19.0	18.0	17.2	
P / BV (x)	2.7	2.5	2.3	
Net dividend yield (%)	2.0	2.1	2.1	

Source: Company Data; PL Research

Rating	Reduce
Price	Rs171
Target Price	Rs180
Implied Upside	5.2%
Sensex	8,944

(Prices as on March 16, 2009)

Trading Data	
Market Cap. (Rs bn)	1,411
Shares o/s (m)	8,245.5
Free Float	10.5%
3M Avg. Daily Vol ('000)	1,334.8
3M Avg. Daily Value (Rs m)	238.2

Major Shareholders	
Government	89.5%
Foreign	4.1%
Domestic Inst.	3.0%
Public & Others	3.4%

Stock Perform	mance		
	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	(3.9)	0.4	(12.2)
Relative	_	34.3	31.1

Price Performance (RIC:NTPC.BO, BB:NATPIN)

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Source: Bloomberg, PL Research



Investment Argument

Current capacity addition in the 11th Plan lagging behind

The planning commission has postioned a capacity addition target of 78,800 MW over the 11th Five Year Plan, of which approximately 11,000 MW (14% consuming 40% time) has been added from the start of the project.

Details of capacity addition and sectoral contribution for the 11th Five Year Plan

Fuel	MW
Thermal	59,693
Nuclear	3,380
Hydro	15,627
Total	78,700

Source: CEA

Project status of planned projects

Added	11,000
Under Construction / Planning	67,700

Source: CEA

11th Plan Capaicty Addition: Generator-wise

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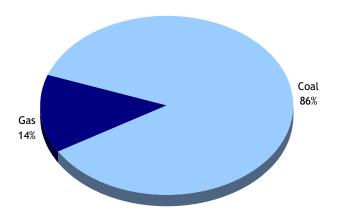
(MW)

Fuel/Generator	Thermal	Nuclear	Hydro	Total
Central utilities	24,840	3,380	8,654	36,874
State utilities	23,301	NA	3,482	26,783
Private utilities	11,552	NA	3,491	15,043
Total	59,693	3,380	15,627	78,700

Source: CEA

NTPC to miss 11th Five Year Plan targets

NTPC's current operational capacity stands at 27,850 MW



Source: Company Data, PL Research



Of the total plan, NTPC has laid a target capacity addition of 22,430 MW over the 11th Five Year Plan (FY2008-FY2012). However, the company until now has been going slow in terms of capacity addition, commissioning and commercialization.

Details of capacity added two years for NTPC

11th Plan capacity addition YTD	(MW)
2008	1,740
2009	1,500
Total	3,240

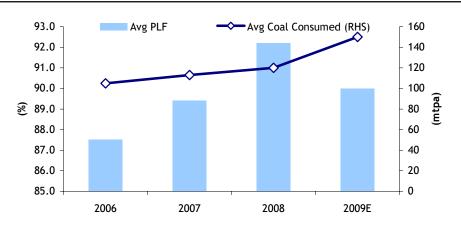
Source: Company Data, PL Research

The present projects are also likely to be postponed by 12-18 months on account of:

- 1) Coal linkages, e.g. Coal reserves at STPP
- 2) Balance land acquisitions and site clearances issues, e.g. Narbinagar
- 3) Delay from equipment manufacturers, e.g. Barh
- 4) Delays from other contractors for the purpose of piling and BOP works, e.g. Simadhri

On account of these factors, we expect the bulk capacity addition to be pushed to FY12, and balance to the 12th Five Year Plan.

Coal requirement vis-a-vis PLF's



Source: Company Data, PL Research

^{*15%} of 11th plan capacity addition achieved utilizing 40% time



NTPC has also been working at lower PLF's (as compared to what it can achieve, with greater number of old plants) on account of limited supply of coal at various thermal power plants and limited gas availability at gas-based plants, which could have made it possible for NTPC to encash on opportunities arising from a 11% shortage of demand-supply in power availability.

Power demand-supply mismatch

Region	Energy Requirement (MU)	Deficit (%)	Peak Demand (MW)	Deficit (%)
Northern	190,505	(10.7)	33,034	(10.7)
Western	211,346	(16.1)	37,240	(20.5)
Southern	167,734	(7.4)	27,227	(8.1)
Eastern	68,153	(4.7)	12,901	(9.6)
North Eastern	8,051	(13.7)	1,820	(25.4)
All India	645,789	(11.0)	109,809	(13.8)

Source: CEA * as on January 2009

NTPC currently has around 16,500 MW of projects (aggregating to Rs750bn) under the construction and piling phase. Of this, approximately 50% of the projects are expected to progress as per schedule, and another 3,000 MW worth of projects are yet to be awarded.

Of the initial 3,000 MW (Rs120bn) commissioned for the 11th Five Year Plan, NTPC also faced a delay of three to nine months (e.g. Sipat STPS-1, Bhilai).

Plant commissioning to get delayed

NTPC's current capacity addition plan to achieve 22,000 MW is through a phased manner given below:

Capacity Expansion Plan

(MW)

Year	Planned Addition	Expected Commissioning	Sector Distribution
2008	1,740	1,740	T
2009	1,500	1,500	Т
2010E	2,800	2,000	T
2011E	5,410	4,000	T+H
2012E	10,980	5,000	T+H
Total	22,430	14,240	

Source: Company Data, PL Research

However, we estimate lower commissioning of power plants on account of delays arising out of various reasons. According to the estimates of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), NTPC would at best be able to add 15,000 MW, with prime projects like Barh and others expected to spill over to the 12th Five Year Plan. NTPC may be able to add more than our estimates, as it is looking out for some capacity addition at existing sites of approximately 2,000 MW. These projects, according to us, would at best come towards the end of FY11.



Most likely plants for capacity commissioning

(MW)

Plants	FY10E	FY11E	FY12E
Dadri	490	490	
Sipat	1,320	660	
Narbingar	250	250	500
Jhanjar		1,000	
Koldam		800	
Korba		500	
Farrakka		500	
Bangaigoan			750
Loraing			600
Simadhri			1,000
Vallur			1,000
Barh			1,320
Total	2,060	4,200	5,170

Source: PL Research

Apart from the capacity getting commissioned, there would be a time gap of another three to nine months for commercialization, thus making the operational capacity/ commercialization build-up number not very impressive for the next two years.

We expect a capacity addition in the commercialization stage to be around 11,000-12,000 MW over FY08-FY12. Thus, these delays are not only expected to keep the sales (units) muted but would also limit the scope of earning returns on normative equity investments. However, back-up power plants with smaller MWs and relatively faster execution of projects under construction paves way for an additional 20% capacity addition as compared to our estimates in the current plan.



Fuel supply, a potential concern

Coal

Although the recent mandate from the power ministry (for NTPC and Coal India) has set a minimum guaranteed supply/off-take quantities at 90% of the actual supplies made in FY2008 (90% of 120mtpa), NTPC in our view will still face a shortage with only imports to come as a temporary rescue. NTPC has a target of 8mtpa import of coal in FY09, of which only 4MT was utilized till January 2009.

NTPC's present coal inventories are also running at critical levels in various power plants, especially in super thermal power plants. However, the situation has improved over August 2008 levels, where coal stocks were at lowest levels.

Coal stocks at various plants

As on March 4, 2009							As on August3, 2008
Region	Thermal Power Station	Capacity (MW)	Nornative Reqd. Stock (Days)	Actual Stock (Days)	Critical <7	Stock <4	
Northern Region							
Delhi	BADARPUR TPS	705	30	4	*		6
Uttar Pradesh	SINGRAULI STPS	2,000	15	14			0
	DADRI (NCTPP)	840	30	13			5
	RIHAND STPS	2,000	15	15			1
	TANDA TPS	440	25	21			2
	UNCHAHAR TPS	1,050	25	7			3
Western Region							
Chhattisgarh	KORBA STPS	2,100	15	16			18
	SIPAT STPS	1,000	20	1	*	**	16
Madhya Pradesh	VINDHYACHAL STPS	3,260	15	8			2
Sothern Region							
Andhra Pradesh	RAMAGUNDEM STPS	2,600	15	15			0
	SIMHADRI	1,000	25	15			4
Eastern Region							
Bihar	KAHALGAON TPS	1,840	15	1	*	**	2
Orissa	TALCHER (OLD) TPS	470	15	8			21
	TALCHER STPS	3,000	15	3	*	**	1
West Bengal	FARAKKA STPS	1,600	15	3	*	**	1
-							

Source: CEA

With gigantic capacity addition plans ahead, NTPC would have to beef-up the captive coal mining plans or rely on imported coal to keep up with decent PLF's.



NTPCs captive coal mines

Coal Block	Place	Exavation Capacity PA	Completion date-estimated
Pakri Barwadih	Jahrkhand	15MTPA	FY11
Chatti Bariatu	Jahrkhand	5MTPA	FY12
Kerandari	Jahrkhand	5MTPA	FY12
Dulanga	Orissa	5MTPA	FY13
Tallaipali	Andhra Pradesh	5MTPA	FY14
Bramhamin & Chiohro	Jahrkhand	5MTPA	NA

Source: Company Data, PL Research

As far as the captive coal blocks are concerned, NTPC has till date invested Rs2bn. However, the mines are yet to get functional on account of land clearance issues and delay in establishment of railway links (Koderma-Hazaribagh-Banadag in case of Pakri Barwadih mine). The first coal block to come up would be Pakri Barwadih, which has a reserve of 500m tonne. It is expected that the block has Grade F coal and would be mainly utilized to cover up the shortfall in the northern and eastern region plants. The company further plans to expend Rs2.5bn in FY10E for development of coal blocks.

NTPC, on account of a limited blending ratio, will not be able to bank on the supply of imported coal for future capacity addition. According to the current situation, NTPC has been able to use only 4m tonnes from the contracted 8m tonnes of imported coal. This is, however, greater than the total consumption of 2.1m tonnes in FY08.

Gas

NTPC is struggling as far as present gas-based (14% of total capacity) power plants (requiring approximately 16-18mmscmd) are concerned. The company is sourcing gas from imports; GAIL (9mmscmd supplied), and spot-procurement of re-gasified LNG (2-3mmscmd).

There is a contract between Reliance Industries (RIL) and NTPC for the supply of gas to power plants (Kawas and Ghandhar) at US\$2.97mmbtu. However, the matter is still pending in the court on account of issues such as pricing and supply clauses. Unless these issue get resolved, the present capacities are expected to operate on lower PLF's.

We believe that NTPC's fuel linkages concerns would ease off post FY11E once the captive coal mines commission, which would aid the company's 85% capacity (thermal). The average PLF's are also expected to improve upon the commercialization of hydro power projects and gas from the KG basin.



CERC norms: NTPC to get higher RoE returns, other norms are overall RoE neutral

CERC norms

CERC	2004-2008	2009-2014	Effects
RoE	14.00%	15.50%	Positive
Incentives	PLF@80% linked	PAF@85% linked	Positive to Neutral
Tax on Incentives	Pass-on	No Pass-on	Negative
O&M	1.1mn/MW	1.5mn/MW	Positive
Maintenece spares in WC	1% of Capital Cost	20% of Normative O&M	Neutral
Depreciation	3.6% with AAD	5.28% without AAD	Neutral
GSHR	2450 Kcal/KWh	2,425 Kcal/KWh	Negative
Auxiliary consumption	9.00%	8.50%	Neutral to Negative
Secomdary Fuel	2ml/kwh	1ml/kwh	Negative

Source: CERC, PL Research

The new norms by CERC are applicable to generating companies, owned or controlled by the Central Government, for the period 2009-2014. The new policy aims at attracting more investments in the power sector, especially hydro power sector. The RoE has been increased to 15.5% from the present (FY2004-2008) 14%.

On other issues, CERC has made the norms for earning incentives tighter in the areas of Plant Heat Rate (PHR/SHR), auxiliary consumption and other operation-related issues. We believe that the new norms would have a neutral impact on the earnings, leaving the RoE aspect. However, the real effect would be noticed once the policy is implemented from April 1, 2009. We would continue to monitor NTPCs performance under these norms.



Financials & Valuations

We expect NTPC to report a modest revenue growth from FY08-11E, on account of limited capacity to be added, commissioned and commercialized (CAGR of 8% FY08-FY11E). With limited coal availability, we expect NTPC to operate best at 90% PLF. On account of the above mentioned factors which will limit the normative equity-based growth (and thus the RoE's) and the sales units, along with tighter CERC norms, we expect NTPC to post a 6% PAT CAGR over FY08-FY11E. However, backed by central assistance, NTPC may come out with surprises on the capacity addition front; thus improving upon its RoE on core investments.

A slower capacity addition is expected to limit NTPC's RoE growth on account of lower growth in normative equity base. We believe that the new tighter CERC norms will reduce NTPCs incentive earning capacity and thus, will further reduce the RoEs on core investments (NTPC is expected to earn a RoE of 20% on normative equity base in FY10E).

The reported RoEs are expected to fall further on account of increasing Work In Progress (CWIP), slower capacity addition (and thus lower sales), lower incentives earning capacity (on account of new CERC norms which will off-set the effect of increase in RoE to 15.5%). On account of these reasons, the PAT growth would also be muted leading to lower accretion to book value. We expect NTPC's RoE's to fall from 14.7% in FY2008 to 14.3% in FY2009E, 13.8% in FY2010E and 13.7% in FY2011E.

Valuations: Using Two-Stage Model

We value NTPC using a Two-Stage model, where the explicit growth is discounted to equity (DCFE) for FY10E-FY14E, and the long term growth (beyond FY14E) is valued on Implied Price/Book value basis. We have discounted the FCFE upto FY14E by the cost of equity and thereafter we assumed a 10% long-term earnings growth and a RoE of 14.5%.

DCFE					(Rs m)
Year Ending	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Adjusted EBITDA	127,601	142,689	166,295	197,359	228,279
Add: Debt	443,849	508,584	559,442	587,415	646,156
Less: Capex	127,500	152,000	200,000	200,000	150,000
Less: CWIP	260,542	261,125	270,000	180,000	135,000
Less: Loan Repayment	100,492	100,492	132,148	142,148	152,148
Less: Interest	21,677	24,645	39,161	41,119	45,231
Less: Tax	27,304	29,235	31,004	37,827	43,753
Less: Increase on WC	1,925	5,345	8,829	16,923	13,793
FCFE	32,009	78,431	44,594	166,757	334,509
Cost of Equity	12.0%				_
NPV	273,008				
NTPC's Equity value	273,008				_
Value per share (Rs)	33				
Source: PL Research					



Assumptions for steady state value

Cost of Equity (Ke)	12%
Long-term earnings growth (g)	10%
RoE	14.5%
Implied P/BV (x)	2.3
BV (in FY14)	110
Terminal Value in FY14E (Rs)	248
PV of Terminal Value (Rs)	147

Source: PL Research

Sensitivity Analysis

	Rs
Forecast period (till FY14)	33
Steady State Period	147
Total Value	180

Total Value	
Source: PL Research	

Total Value / Share

		Cost of Equity		
		11.5%	12.0%	13.0%
<u> </u>	9.0%	144	120	90
.SS	10.0%	196	147	98
5	11.0%	457	228	114

Source: PL Research

* Long Term Steady State Growth

We believe that the period of FY10-FY14E would see decent capacity commercialization of 11th Five Year Plan. However, the actual scale of activities is expected to pick up post FY13E, which will generate growing returns. However, brownfield expansions and faster capacity expansion would boost the earnings more than our expectations.

NTPC's present valuation does not justify the limited capacity addition by the company. The company is presently trading at P/BV of 2.5x as compared to a P/BV of 1.8x globally. Although the company is looked upon as a defensive player on account of assured RoE in power projects, the actual returns growth may slowdown on account of limited capacity addition.



Financials

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Y/e March	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E
Net Sales	261,429	326,317	370,910	410,002	439,302	473,029
net sales	201,429	320,317	370,910	410,002	437,302	473,029
Expenditure						
Fuel Cost	163,947	198,181	220,202	248,560	258,985	268,223
% of Net Revenues	62.7	60.7	59.4	60.6	59.0	56.7
Personnel Cost	9,684	11,632	18,960	24,963	28,536	33,300
% of Net Revenues	3.7	3.6	5.1	6.1	6.5	7.0
Other Expenses	12,721	15,567	16,284	19,106	24,086	28,716
% of Net Revenues	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.7	5.5	6.1
Total Operational Expenses	186,709	225,494	255,517	292,717	311,701	330,340
EBITDA	74,720	100,823	115,393	117,286	127,601	142,689
EBITDA Margin (%)	28.6	30.9	31.1	28.6	29.0	30.2
2277277 7762 3777 (70)				20.0	27.0	3312
Net Interest	17,632	18,594	17,981	19,259	21,677	24,645
Depreciation	20,477	20,754	21,385	25,022	27,000	32,000
EBIT	36,611	61,475	76,027	73,005	78,924	86,044
EBIT Margin (%)	14.0	18.8	20.5	17.8	18.0	18.2
Other Income	26,078	27,449	29,203	32,524	30,259	30,864
PBT	62,689	88,924	105,230	105,529	109,183	116,908
	02,000	33,12.	100,200	100,021	,	,
Tax Provision	2,022	20,427	28,401	24,696	27,304	29,235
Efeective Tax Rate (%)	3.4	22.9	27.7	24.0	25.0	25.0
PAT	58,202	68,647	74,155	78,204	81,913	87,706
Net Profit Margin (%)	22.3	21.0	20.0	19.1	18.6	18.5
EPS (Rs)	7.1	8.3	9.0	9.5	9.9	10.6
CEPS (Rs)	9.5	10.8	11.6	12.5	13.2	14.5
No of Shares (m)	8,246	8,246	8,246	8,246	8,246	8,246

Source: Company Data, PL Research



Y/e March	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E
Sources of Funds						
Share Capital	82,455	82,455	82,455	82,455	82,455	82,455
Reserves & Surplus	367,132	403,513	443,931	487,035	534,098	584,254
Total Shareholders Funds	449,587	485,968	526,386	569,490	616,553	666,709
Secured Loans	57,327	68,229	73,147	102,137	118,015	127,688
Unsecured Loans	144,646	176,615	198,759	255,872	325,834	380,896
Total Debt	201,973	244,844	271,906	358,009	443,849	508,584
Total	655,969	737,380	814,581	948,401	1,075,579	1,187,745
Application of Funds						
Gross Block	460,396	507,273	533,680	643,680	771,180	923,180
Less : Accum. Depreciation	229,501	250,792	272,743	297,765	324,765	356,765
Net Block	230,895	256,481	260,937	345,915	446,415	566,415
Capital WIP	103,999	128,567	184,389	220,000	260,542	261,125
Construction Stores & Advances	32,341	39,825	40,394	43,338	45,489	44,697
Investments	192,891	160,943	152,672	142,170	133,107	128,617
Current Assets, Loans & Advances	157,245	221,827	255,488	286,871	292,218	304,297
Inventories	23,396	25,102	26,757	30,072	34,921	39,747
Sundry Debtors	8,678	12,523	29,827	21,000	28,200	36,400
Cash and Bank Balance	84,723	133,146	149,332	190,529	181,651	173,171
Loans and Advances	30,287	40,476	40,354	34,587	36,243	43,265
Other Assets	10,161	10,580	9,218	10,683	11,203	11,714
Less : Current Liab. & Prov.	61,402	70,263	79,299	89,893	102,192	117,407
Current Liabilities	49,102	53,235	55,483	58,959	65,710	69,927
Provisions	12,300	17,028	23,816	30,934	36,482	47,480
Net Current Assets	95,843	151,564	176,189	196,978	190,026	186,890
Total	655,969	737,380	814,581	948,401	1,075,579	1,187,744

Source: Company Data, PL Research

Cash Flow	(Rs m	1)

Y/e March	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E
CF from operations	68,415	82,103	87,101	123,634	106,987	114,361
CF from investing	14,248	14,929	18,136	99,498	118,437	147,510
CF from financing	(30,227)	(18,751)	(52,779)	17,061	2,571	24,669
Net change in cash	23,940	48,423	16,186	41,197	(8,878)	(8,480)
Opening cash bal	60,783	84,723	133,146	149,332	190,529	181,651
Closing cash bal	84,723	133,146	149,332	190,529	181,651	173,171

Source: Company Data, PL Research



Key Ratios

Y/e March	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09E	FY10E	FY11E
Return Ratios (%)						
RoCE	11.4	13.7	14.2	12.4	11.9	12.0
RoE	13.4	14.7	14.7	14.3	13.8	13.7
Growth (%)						
Sales	15.8	24.7	13.7	10.5	7.1	7.8
EBITDA	10.8	34.9	14.5	1.6	8.8	11.8
PAT	0.2	17.9	8.0	5.5	4.7	7.1
EPS	0.2	17.9	8.0	5.5	4.7	7.1
Balance Sheet Ratios						
Debtor Days	15.6	11.8	20.7	22.5	20.3	24.8
Creditor Days	99.1	82.8	77.7	71.4	73.0	74.9
Sales/Assets(x)	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Debt-Equity (x)	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8
Per Share Ratios (Rs)						
EPS	7.1	8.3	9.0	9.5	9.9	10.6
BV	54.5	58.9	63.8	69.1	74.8	80.9
CEPS	9.5	10.8	11.6	12.5	13.2	14.5
DPS	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6
FCPS	6.6	8.1	8.4	2.9	(1.4)	(4.0)
Margins (%)						
EBITDA	28.6	30.9	31.1	28.6	29.0	30.2
PAT	22.1	20.9	19.9	19.0	18.6	18.4
Tax Rate	3.4	22.9	27.7	24.0	25.0	25.0
Valuations (x)						
PER	24.2	20.6	19.0	18.0	17.2	16.1
P/CEPS	17.9	15.8	14.8	13.7	13.0	11.8
P/BV	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.1
EV/EBITDA	20.5	15.1	13.3	13.5	13.1	12.2
EV/Sales	5.8	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.7
Market Cap/Sales	5.4	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.0

Source: Company Data, PL Research



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Rating Distribution of Research Coverage



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