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News Roundup

Corporate

- **Sterlite Industries**, part of the London-based **Vedanta Group**, has put in a fresh bid with a long-term staggered payment schedule to acquire Asarco, four months after it appeared to have abandoned its offer to buy the bankrupt US miner in the wake of falling commodity prices. (ET)
- Raheja-owned departmental store chain **Shoppers Stop Limited (SSL)** is pulling out of unviable new ventures and shutting loss-making stores to conserve cash for the company in the ongoing economic downturn. The retail firm had announced on Friday that it has closed three of its book stores 'Crossword' – one at Mumbai Airport, and two others in Chennai and New Delhi. The company also closed its airport retail store 'Stop & Go' at Mumbai Airport. (BS)
- European aerospace major **European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS)**, parent company of India's largest aircraft supplier **Airbus**, has directed its European tier-1 outsourcing partners to direct a larger portion of their outsourcing orders from India. This indirect outsourcing will make EADS' total business outsourced to India grow 10 times by 2020. (BS)
- Indian textile and apparel major **Raymond** plans to more than double its current network of 24 stores in West Asia to 50 within three years. This will increase its share from the region to 45 per cent of its international revenues from 37 per cent at present. (BS)
- **Universal Sampo General Insurance** is planning to launch products in the credit and weather insurance segments. While the focus of credit insurance will be big and mid-sized corporates, weather insurance will target the farm sector. The company is developing the products and will soon approach IRDA for approval. (BL)

Economic and political

- India's import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) could more than double this year due to the increase in supply globally, say market players. Last year, India imported between 6.5 and 7 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) of LNG. (BS)

Source: ET = Economic Times, BS = Business Standard, FE = Financial Express, BL = Business Line.

EQUITY MARKETS

India	Change, %			
	27-Feb	1-day	1-mo	3-mo
Sensex	8,892	(0.7)	(1.9)	1.7
Nifty	2,764	(0.8)	(0.1)	4.0

Global/Regional indices				
Dow Jones	7,063	(1.7)	(11.0)	(16.1)
FTSE	3,830	(2.2)	(6.1)	(7.1)
Nikkie	7,326	(3.2)	(7.0)	(6.8)
Hang Seng	12,537	(2.1)	(2.5)	(6.5)
KOSPI	1,025	(3.6)	(10.6)	0.2

Value traded - India	Moving avg, Rs bn		
	27-Feb	1-mo	3-mo
Cash (NSE+BSE)	118.1	110.8	72.1
Derivatives (NSE)	501.4	368.1	489
Deri. open interest	672.6	569	592

Forex/money market

	Change, basis points			
	27-Feb	1-day	1-mo	3-mo
Rs/US\$	51.1	0	231	99
10yr govt bond, %	6.0	(11)	3	(100)

Commodity market

	Change, %			
	27-Feb	1-day	1-mo	3-mo
Gold (US\$/OZ)	950.2	0.8	4.9	21.5
Silver (US\$/OZ)	13.2	0.8	6.4	38.0
Crude (US\$/BBL)	45.3	1.0	0.0	0.6

Net investment (US\$m)

	26-Feb	MTD	CYTD
FIs	(59)	-	(1,155)
MFs	25	-	(433)

Top movers -3mo basis

Best performers	Change, %			
	27-Feb	1-day	1-mo	3-mo
Grasim Industries Lt	1,372	(6.0)	15.3	50.9
Jindal Steel & Powe	1,043	(1.9)	6.5	40.1
Gmr Infrastructure	79	0.4	10.9	48.3
Mmtc Limited	14,060	(0.8)	(2.6)	49.4
Power Finance Cor	144	2.8	6.4	35.7
Worst performers				
Housing Developme	73	(2.9)	(13.8)	(1.9)
Satyam Computer S	41	(8.4)	(28.0)	(82.2)
Glenmark Pharmac	145	1.9	3.4	(56.1)
Aban Offshore Limi	317	(9.0)	(32.5)	(50.5)
Punj Lloyd Limited	79	(4.6)	(11.6)	(41.0)

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Metals**TISCO.BO, Rs173**

Rating	BUY
Sector coverage view	Attractive
Target Price (Rs)	290
52W High -Low (Rs)	926 - 138
Market Cap (Rs bn)	142.0

Financials

March y/e	2008	2009E	2010E
Sales (Rs bn)	1,315	1,361	1,177
Net Profit (Rs bn)	62.3	88.0	57.4
EPS (Rs)	75.7	107.1	69.8
EPS gth	43.8	41.4	(34.8)
P/E (x)	2.3	1.6	2.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	3.6	3.1	3.7
Div yield (%)	8.4	7.5	7.5

Pricing performance

Perf-1m	Perf-3m	Perf-6m	Perf-1y
0.2	16.1	(70.7)	(78.4)

Shareholding, December 2008

	% of Pattern Portfolio	Over/(under) weight
Promoters	34.0	-
FIs	13.0	0.5 (0.1)
MFs	5.3	0.9 0.3
UTI	-	- (0.6)
LIC	11.6	1.6 1.0

Tata Steel: 3QFY09 results on expected lines; maintain BUY

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- **Reported net income at Rs8.1 bn in line with our expectations—down 42.5% yoy and -82.9% qoq**
- **Valuations attractive at 3.7X EV/EBITDA and 3.1X PE FY2010E bottom cycle earnings**
- **Maintain BUY with TP of Rs290/share (Rs300 earlier)**

Tata Steel reported 3QFY09 consolidated net profit at Rs8.1 bn—down 42.5% yoy which were in-line with our estimates of Rs7.9 bn but significantly higher than street estimates. EBITDA margin (consolidated) at 8.6% declined 713 bps yoy largely led by (1) lower volumes which declined 24% yoy and 22% qoq (2) massive write down of value of raw material and finished goods inventory of Rs17.4 bn (3) sharply lower other income. Average realizations at US\$1,127/ton were marginally higher by 1% compared to the average of 1HFY08. While pricing trends continue to remain weak, better volumes in domestic markets which would be higher by 50% in 4QFY09 would offset the price declines partially. Volumes at Corus continue to be under pressure with demand remaining subdued. We have revised our FY2009 and FY2010 EPS to Rs127.7 and Rs55.4 from Rs106.4 and Rs69.2, respectively. We maintain BUY with a TP of Rs290/share (from Rs300 earlier).

Corus realizations remain robust; expect correction

Corus's average realizations during the quarter at US\$1,251/ton were actually 5% higher than the average realizations during 1HFY09 and by 25% yoy despite the sharp 25-30% correction in spot markets over the last quarter. Part of the buoyancy in realizations can be explained due to the fact that 30-35% customers are on long-term contracts where prices are revised on an annual basis. However, EBITDA/ton has declined by 44% to US\$83.3/ton in 3QFY09 from US\$148/ton during 1HFY09 largely driven by volumes which were down by 23% yoy and inventory write-downs.

Production continues to remain weak. We expect 4QFY09 production to remain at 3QFY09 levels. However, the management had earlier stated that the annual contracts with auto and packaging customers had been extended up to March 31, 2009 giving an additional three months of strong pricing. Also, the full impact of the GBP600 mn cost cutting and asset sales would be realized in 4QFY09.

Asian subsidiaries take huge hits

Tata Steel's Asian subsidiaries i.e. NatSteel Asia and Tata Steel Thailand have reported combined net sales of US\$470 mn and an EBITDA loss of US\$92 mn, largely on account of massive inventory write-downs and a sharp 36% drop in volumes.

Loan covenants comfortable

Tata Steel management has clarified that it does not have any group level loan covenants and as of December 31, 2008 there was no breach of any covenants both in domestic and international operations. Also, Tata Steel has no repayment obligations in Europe till December 2009 and would prepay debt of US\$450 mn in FY2010 in its European operations.

Steel market update

Steel pricing remains flat with a transitory uptick in China—attributed to speculative purchases in long products following the announcement of the fiscal stimulus package—already started fizzling out. Price declines in US have moderated following the sharp cutbacks in steel production there and capacity utilization is now at 45% and stock levels have reached critical levels. European steel prices have also remained weak as, despite production cuts, stock levels remain high. Current benchmark spot HRC prices are hovering at US\$450-500/ton.

Spot prices reflect massive raw material respite in FY2009

Steel producers including Corus could see a massive respite from falling iron ore and coking coal prices as indicated by current spot prices. Current iron ore spot prices are at US\$71/ton down 48% from the average CY2008 prices of US\$137/ton. Also, spot coking coal prices have seen a sharp 60% drop from the CY2008 average of US\$353 and are quoting at US\$140/ton.

Contract negotiations have commenced but unlikely to see early settlement

- **Iron Ore:** Contract negotiations would be tough in the backdrop of the severe decline in steel output—down 24% yoy in January 2009 as reported by World Steel Association. However, if spot prices are anything to go by, a cut in the range of 30-40% cannot be ruled out.
- **Coking coal:** Given the uncertain steel market conditions, steel producers are not clear about their requirements for FY2009. However, miners have accepted the fact that there would be record drops in contract prices which went up by 210% in FY2008 to US\$310/ton from US\$98/ton. In fact, Japanese steel mills are reported to have demanded a return prices prevailing in FY2008 i.e. US\$98/ton and news reports suggest that Russian coking coal suppliers have accepted these prices. As a result, negotiations are expected to be protracted and long-drawn.

Revision in earnings following changes in assumptions

We have revised our FY2009 net earnings upwards by 20% and FY2010 net earning downwards by 20%. Our FY2010 earnings assumptions now factor volumes of 16.7 mn tons (19 mn tons earlier) for Corus operations following (1) expectations of weaker market conditions persisting well into 1HFY10 in Europe and (2) expected sale of Teesside operations.

Valuations

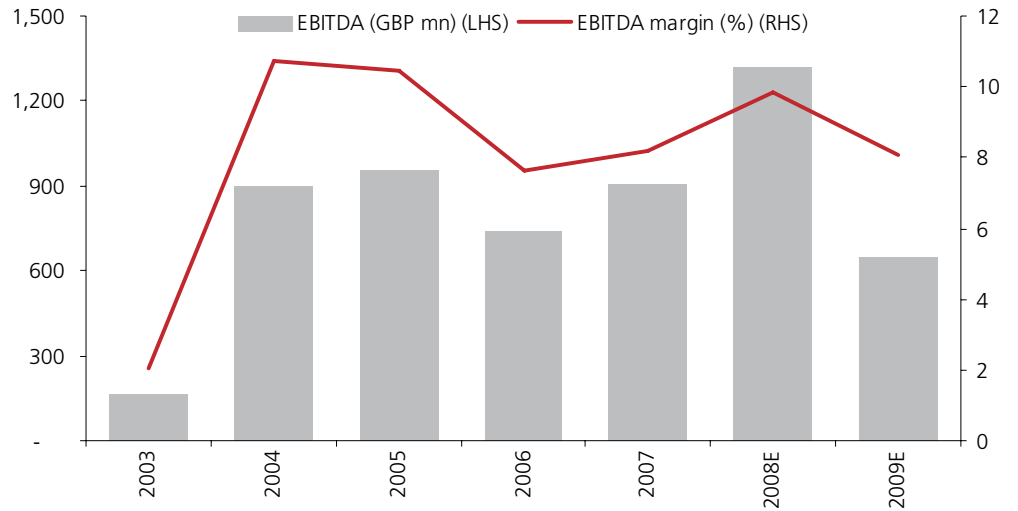
We value Tata Steel at 4.5X its expected FY2010 EBITDA, from which we derive a target price of Rs290/share (Rs300/share earlier). Earnings are likely to continue to remain volatile while predictability is getting increasingly difficult owing to several moving factors such as the raw material price cuts in the next years contracts, sharp currency movements affecting earnings from Corus etc. We maintain our BUY rating on the stock.

Tata Steel (consolidated), Interim results, March fiscal year-ends (Rs mn)

	Quarterly results			% change	
	3Q 2009	2Q 2009	3Q 2008	qoq	yoy
Interim results					
Net sales	331,910	441,990	318,985	(24.9)	4.1
Expenditure	(303,336)	(359,493)	(279,558)	(15.6)	8.5
Raw materials consumed	(183,514)	(212,056)	(144,459)	(13.5)	27.0
Staff cost	(44,579)	(47,545)	(41,667)	(6.2)	7.0
Other expenditure	(75,243)	(99,892)	(93,431)	(24.7)	(19.5)
EBITDA	28,574	82,497	39,428	(65.4)	(27.5)
Other income	316	844	1,975	(62.6)	(84.0)
Depreciation	(10,852)	(11,470)	(10,113)	(5.4)	7.3
EBIT	18,038	71,870	31,290	(74.9)	(42.4)
Interest	(9,114)	(8,208)	(10,809)	11.0	(15.7)
Adjusted pre-tax profits	8,923	63,662	20,481	(86.0)	(56.4)
Unusual or infrequent items	(2,007)	(3,962)	1,248	(49.4)	(260.8)
Reported pre-tax profits	6,917	59,700	21,729	(88.4)	(68.2)
Tax	405	(12,664)	(7,707)	(103.2)	(105.3)
Reported net earnings	7,322	47,036	14,023	(84.4)	(47.8)
Add: Share of associates	-	-	520		
Less: Minority interest	-	-	(387)		
Net profit after minority interest	8,139	47,717	14,155	(82.9)	(42.5)
Adjusted net profit	9,329	50,999	12,775	(81.7)	(27.0)
Segmental results					
Net revenues	71,067	505,027	361,553	(85.9)	(80.3)
Steel business	33,905	454,266	324,145	(92.5)	(89.5)
Other businesses	37,161	50,761	37,408	(26.8)	(0.7)
EBIT	17,785	63,693	41,131	(72.1)	(56.8)
Steel business	23,643	53,244	38,406	(55.6)	(38.4)
Other businesses	(5,858)	10,448	2,726	(156.1)	(314.9)
Ratios (%)					
EBITDA margins	8.6	18.7	15.7	(53.9)	(45.3)
Effective tax rate	(5.9)	21.2	16.5	(127.6)	(135.5)
Fully diluted EPS (Rs)	9.9	58.0	23.2	(82.9)	(57.3)

Source: Company data; Kotak Institutional Equities estimates.

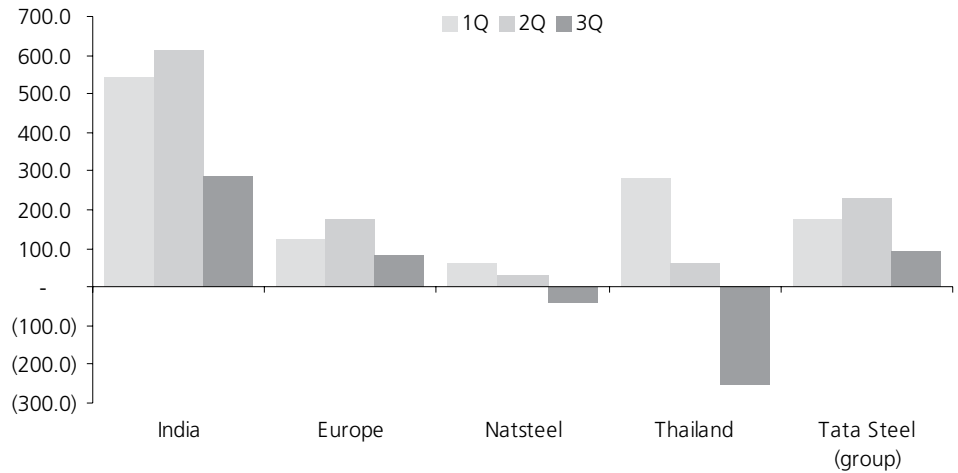
Corus, EBITDA movement, December fiscal year-ends, 2003-2009E (GBP mn)



Source: Company data, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates.

Tata Steel India has been making the highest EBITDA/ton of steel sold on account of its captive raw materials

Tata Steel, EBITDA/ton for various geographical segments, March fiscal year-ends, FY2009E (US\$/ton)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities.

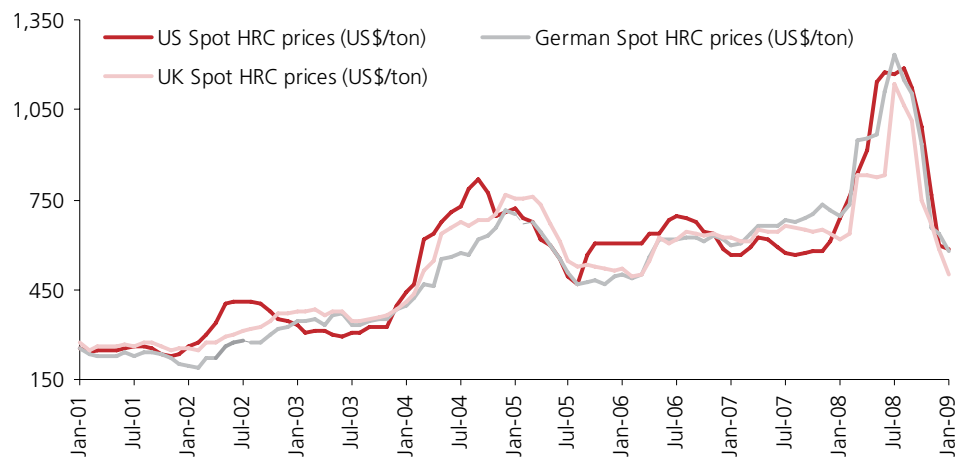
Tata Steel (consolidated), assumption sheet, March fiscal year-ends, 2007-11E

	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E
Tata Steel (India)					
Volume ('000 tons)	4,794	4,780	4,800	6,000	6,500
Price (US\$/ton)	636	739	882	590	606
EBITDA margin (%)	39.7	41.8	42.6	33.8	33.9
EBITDA Per ton (US\$/ton)	253	308	376	199	205
International operations					
Volume (mn tons)	21	22	20	17	17
Price (US\$/ton)	597	670	900	525	475
EBITDA margin (%)	7.6	8.2	9.8	8.1	11.9
EBITDA Per ton (US\$/ton)	51	67	103	53	72
Raw material					
Iron ore (US\$/ton)	69	75	113	70	66
Coking coal (US\$/ton)	120	96	280	120	114

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Steel prices have come off sharply from their recent highs; expect them to stabilise around current levels

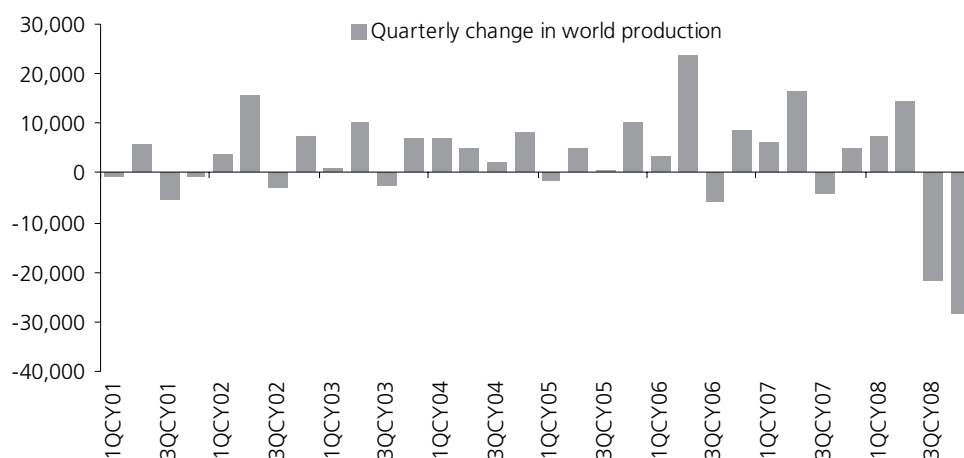
HRC prices from various geographies, December fiscal year-ends (US\$/ ton)



Source: CRU, Kotak Institutional Equities

Finished steel production has come off sharply in the last six months

Quarterly change in world finished steel production, December year-ends, 2001-2008 ('000 tons)



Source: CRU, Kotak Institutional Equities

Tata Steel, valuation, March fiscal year-ends, 2010E basis (Rs mn)

	<u>EBITDA</u>	<u>Multiple</u>	<u>Enterprise value</u>	<u>EV</u>	
	(Rs mn)	(X)	(Rs mn)	(Rs/share)	Valuation basis
Consolidated group EBITDA	125,335	4.5	564,008	686	Valued on FY2010E EBITDA
Total Enterprise Value			564,008	686	
Consolidated group net debt			326,854		FY2010E, adjusted for cash and marketable securities
Total borrowings			326,854	398	
Arrived market capitalization			237,154	289	Based on fully diluted equity
Target price (Rs)				290	

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Tata Steel (consolidated), Profit model, balance sheet and cash flow model, March fiscal year-ends, 2007-2011E (Rs mn)

	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E
Profit model (Rs mn)					
Net sales	252,124	1,315,359	1,489,286	1,044,166	1,049,784
EBITDA	70,966	174,454	208,532	125,335	152,436
Other income	4,381	5,742	6,145	8,154	10,598
Interest	(4,112)	(41,838)	(38,817)	(35,161)	(29,682)
Depreciation	(10,110)	(41,370)	(42,313)	(43,774)	(44,701)
Extraordinaries	2,006	66,722	(4,522)	3,207	3,207
Profit before tax	63,130	163,711	129,025	57,760	91,858
Current tax	(21,629)	(33,747)	(26,597)	(11,907)	(18,936)
Deferred tax	155	(6,746)	(5,317)	(2,380)	(3,785)
PAT before minority interest	41,656	123,218	97,111	43,474	69,137
Minority interest	(675)	(1,399)	(1,539)	(1,693)	(1,863)
Share of profits from associates	792	1,682	1,850	2,035	2,238
Net Profit	41,773	123,500	97,422	43,815	69,513
Adjusted net profit	42,782	77,404	104,948	45,524	71,222
Fully diluted EPS (Rs)	52.0	94.2	127.7	55.4	86.6
Balance sheet (Rs mn)					
Equity	146,222	341,740	427,817	459,366	516,409
Deferred tax liability	7,859	24,544	29,861	32,241	36,026
Total Borrowings	249,255	535,928	635,928	405,928	280,928
Current liabilities	86,595	339,490	365,134	276,312	275,134
Minority interest	5,984	8,327	9,866	11,560	13,422
Total liabilities	495,916	1,250,029	1,468,606	1,185,406	1,121,918
Net fixed assets	142,205	419,631	470,147	486,373	496,673
Goodwill	2,197	180,500	180,500	180,500	180,500
Investments	164,975	33,674	33,674	33,674	33,674
Cash	108,880	42,316	190,324	67,956	(8,066)
Other current assets	75,562	572,351	592,405	415,346	417,581
Miscellaneous expenditure	2,098	1,556	1,556	1,556	1,556
Total assets	495,916	1,250,029	1,468,606	1,185,406	1,121,918
Free cash flow (Rs mn)					
Operating cash flow excl. working capital	52,489	153,978	177,413	116,635	136,707
Working capital changes	2,541	(19,777)	5,590	90,508	(1,142)
Capital expenditure	(29,318)	(79,935)	(89,927)	(60,000)	(55,000)
Free cash flow	25,712	54,266	93,076	147,143	80,565
Ratios					
Debt/equity (X)	1.7	2.9	2.3	1.3	0.8
Net debt/equity (X)	0.9	2.6	1.6	1.1	0.8
RoAE (%)	28.6	46.3	38.1	15.6	20.9
RoACE (%)	8.0	13.2	16.3	10.3	14.1

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Energy**GAIL.BO, Rs204**

Rating	ADD
Sector coverage view	Neutral
Target Price (Rs)	240
52W High -Low (Rs)	310 - 165
Market Cap (Rs bn)	258.3

Financials

March y/e	2008	2009E	2010E
Sales (Rs bn)	180.1	231.9	341.7
Net Profit (Rs bn)	25.9	29.5	24.9
EPS (Rs)	20.4	23.3	19.7
EPS gth	21.0	14.2	(16)
P/E (x)	10.0	8.7	10.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	4.9	4.6	5.7
Div yield (%)	3.3	3.6	3.3

Pricing performance

Perf-1m	Perf-3m	Perf-6m	Perf-1y
0.7	3.2	(24.8)	(27.9)

Shareholding, December 2008

	% of Pattern Portfolio	Over/(under) weight
Promoters	57.3	-
FII's	15.9	1.0 (0.0)
MFs	2.8	0.8 (0.2)
UTI	-	- (1.0)
LIC	8.9	2.0 1.0

GAIL (India): Upgraded to ADD from REDUCE on valuations

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- **Key takeaways from meetings with management, regulator**
- **Gas transportation volumes contingent on completion of new pipelines on time**
- **Revised rating to ADD from REDUCE with revised 12-month TP of Rs240 (Rs230 previously)**

Our meetings with the GAIL management, PNGRB (regulator) and data on consumption pattern of RIL's KG D-6 gas reaffirmed short-term concerns regarding (1) possible slower-than-expected growth in gas transportation volumes due to current capacity constraints (volume will pick up significantly from 2HFY11E) and (2) likely lower tariffs for extant pipelines under the new regulations for gas transportation networks. Nonetheless, we have upgraded GAIL stock to ADD from REDUCE noting the 20% potential upside to our revised 12-month SOTP-based fair valuation of Rs240 (see Exhibit 1). We have made several changes to our model to reflect new information on commissioning schedule of new pipelines and have also reduced tariffs for extant pipelines to reflect new regulations for gas transportation pipelines. Our new FY2009E, FY2010E, FY2011E and FY2012E EPS estimates are Rs23.3, Rs19.7, Rs20.7 and Rs26.6 versus Rs22.9, Rs22.4, Rs26.3 and Rs30, previously. Key downside risks stem from lower-than-expected gas volumes, gas transportation tariffs and commodity prices.

Valuation—Rs240 12-month target price offers 20% potential upside

We have upgraded GAIL stock to ADD from REDUCE noting the fact that the stock offers 20% potential upside to our 12-month fair valuation of Rs240. We attribute the moderately higher target price—despite significantly lower earnings—to the fact that we had previously already assumed low multiples for the pipeline segment to factor in potential risks from downward revision to gas transportation tariffs for extant pipelines.

We have changed our valuation approach for GAIL's pipeline segment to reflect new regulations for gas transportation pipelines. We compute the gas transportation tariff of each of GAIL's major pipelines as per the methodology given in the gas transportation regulations and use the computed tariff to value each pipeline separately. For example, we compute the composite tariff of HVJ and DV pipelines at Rs0.66/cu m versus Rs1.05/cu m currently, which also explains the downward revision to our earnings estimates for the next few years. We were earlier using EBITDA multiples but this had become very subjective in view of a potential steep decline in EBITDA of extant pipelines and increase in EBITDA of new pipelines.

We now see limited downside risks to our earnings estimates for FY2010E and FY2011E and the stock price. GAIL stock is trading at about 10X FY2010E revised EPS of Rs19.7 and FY2011E revised EPS of Rs20.7. We highlight that we have (1) cut transportation tariffs for extant pipelines significantly, (2) delayed commissioning of new pipelines and reduced gas transportation volumes appropriately and (3) factored in low prices for LPG and petrochemicals for FY2010E.

Update on meetings with GAIL management and regulator

1. **Gas transportation volumes.** GAIL management shared details on the progress and schedule of the three major new pipelines under implementation (Dahej-Vijaipur-GREP expansion [DVGREP], Dadri-Bawana-Nangal [DBN] and Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajar-Hissar [CGJH]). Exhibit 2 gives details of the same. As seen, a significant portion of the new capacity is back-ended with phase-II of the three pipelines likely to be complete between April and October 2011. GAIL expects spend about Rs12 bn, Rs35 bn and Rs35 bn in FY2009E, FY2010E and FY2011E on the new pipelines.

We model GAIL's gas transportation volumes to increase to 105 mcm/d in FY2010E and 117 mcm/d in FY2011E from 85 mcm/d in FY2009E (84.5 mcm/d in 9MFY09). The moderate increase in gas volumes reflects that the fact that GAIL has limited capacity available in its extant pipelines (see Exhibit 3). GAIL management guided to about 8 mcm/d and 5-7 mcm/d of availability in Vijaipur and Dahej-Vijaipur sections of its HVJ network. The HVJ portion of the network pipeline operates at near-full capacity. We expect a significant jump in FY2012E (to 157 mcm/d) when GAIL commissions new pipelines such as a new Dahej-Vajaipur pipeline, a new Vijaipur-Dadri pipeline and the Bawana-Nangal section of the DBN pipeline by April-October 2011.

GAIL management estimated that it could get additional 12-15 mcm/d of gas for HVJ+DVPL system, 12-13 mcm/d for Dahej-Panvel-Dabhol pipeline and 6-7 for short-distance pipelines in the KG basin out of RIL's KG D-6 gas volumes. However, it cautioned that the availability would depend on the allocation policy of the government of India.

We model the pipeline segment's EBITDA to increase to Rs19.9 bn in FY2010E, Rs23.2 bn in FY2011E and Rs38.9 bn in FY2012E from Rs18.5 bn led by a sharp increase in gas transportation volumes, which makes up for our assumed lower tariffs for extant pipelines (HVJ, DV and Dahej-Uran-Panvel-Dabhol).

2. **Gas transportation tariffs.** The GAIL management or the regulator did not specifically comment on the likely tariffs for the extant pipelines of GAIL under the new regulations. GAIL management stated that it did not expect a steep fall in composite tariffs but said that it is still working on the numbers and is in the process of submitting documents to the regulator. The regulator said that it is awaiting data from the operators. The regulator clarified that it will likely use 25 years as the life of a pipeline and it will use the same depreciation rate for all companies irrespective of the book depreciation rates of the companies. This would suggest 4% (3.8% assuming 5% salvage value) as the likely rate of depreciation for computation of net fixed assets. We had highlighted this issue in our February 06, 2009 note.

Earnings revisions and assumptions behind our earnings model

Exhibit 4 gives the key assumptions behind our earnings model. Our FY2009E, FY2010E and FY2011E EPS estimates are Rs23.3, Rs19.7 and Rs20.7 versus Rs22.9, Rs22.4 and Rs26.3 previously. We discuss key assumptions behind our earnings model and changes to the model below.

1. **Gas transportation volumes.** We model GAIL's total gas transportation volumes for FY2010E, FY2011E and FY2012E at 105 mcm/d (earlier 105 mcm/d), 117 mcm/d (133 mcm/d) and 157 mcm/d (163 mcm/d) led by (1) increasing availability of natural gas and (2) commissioning of new pipelines as discussed above.
2. **Gas transportation tariffs.** We have cut transportation tariffs for GAIL's extant pipelines based on our understanding of the new regulations for gas transportation pipelines and computation of appropriate capital employed. We will adjust the same once the regulator fixes the tariffs. We assume the new tariffs to be applicable from April 1, 2009. We note that the new tariffs are applicable from the date of notification of the regulations (November 20, 2008) but the regulator may consider April 1, 2009 as the date for application of new regulations for administrative and accounting reasons. For new pipelines, we use the new regulations to compute the tariffs. We may have to fine-tune our assumptions later but we have more confidence about our computations of the tariffs of new pipelines compared to those of extant ones.
3. **Petrochemical volumes.** We have increased PE volumes to 450,000 tons from FY2010E onwards versus 420,000 tons previously to factor the recent capacity augmentation at GAIL's petrochemical plant.
4. **Crude oil and LPG price assumptions.** We have reduced our crude oil price assumptions to US\$55/bbl, US\$65/bbl and US\$75/bbl for FY2010E, FY2011E and FY2012E versus US\$60/bbl, US\$70/bbl and US\$75/bbl, previously.

5. **Exchange rate.** Our foreign exchange rate assumption are Rs45.9/US (Rs45.6 previously), Rs48/US\$ (unchanged) and Rs47/US\$ (unchanged) for FY2009E, FY2010E and FY2011E.

We value GAIL stock at Rs240 per share

Sum-of-the-parts valuation of GAIL, FY2010E basis (Rs bn)

	Valuation base (Rs bn)		Multiples (X)		EV (Rs bn)		EV (Rs/share)
	Other	EBITDA	Other	EV/EBITDA	Other	EBITDA basis	
Natural gas transportation							
HVJ pipeline	23				23		18
DV pipeline	30				30		24
DUPD pipeline	35				35		27
DBN pipeline	11				11		9
CGJH pipeline	5				5		4
DV GREP pipeline	46				46		36
Short distance pipelines		4.7		6.0		28	22
Total natural gas transportation							140
Other businesses							
LPG transportation		2.6		6.0		16	12
LPG production	25		1.00		25		20
Petrochemicals		3.3		6.0		20	16
Oil and gas upstream	22		0.80		17		14
Subsidy sharing scheme		(1.0)		1.0		(1)	(1)
Total other business segments							61
Investments							
ONGC shares	46		0.80		37		29
Others	23		0.80		18		14
Investments	69		0.80		55		43
Total						63	244
Net debt/(cash)					3	3	2
Implied value of share (Rs/share)							241

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

GAIL will invest significantly to expand gas transportation capacity in FY2009-12E

Capital expenditure plan, March fiscal year-ends, 2009-12E (Rs mn)

Project	Project Cost	Due date	2009E	2010E	2011E	2012E	Comments
Dahej-Vijapur-GREP expansion	83,500	FY2012	5,000	20,000	35,000	20,601	
Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajar-Hissar	16,000	FY2012		3,500	7,000	4,500	Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajar section to be completed in FY2011
Dadri-Bawana-Nangal pipeline	25,000	FY2012	4,000	7,000	4,000	9,266	Dadri-Bawana section of the DBN pipeline to be completed in FY2010
Jagdishpur-Haldia	66,000		—	—	—	—	
Dabhol-Bangalore	35,680		—	—	2,500	12,500	
Kochi-Kanjirakkod-Bangalore/Mangalore	35,000		—	—	2,500	10,000	
Total	261,180		9,000	30,500	51,000	56,867	

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

GAIL has limited capacity available in its extant pipelines

Gas pipeline capacity & operating rate, March fiscal year-ends, FY08

	Capacity	Operating rate
Natural gas pipeline (mcm/d)		
HBJ	33.4	32.0
Dahej-Vijaipur	23.9	15.0
Dahej-Uran	12.0	6.0
Dabhol-Panvel	12.5	4.0

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

We model strong increase in gas volumes between FY2008 and FY2012E

Key assumptions behind GAIL model, March fiscal year-ends, 2006-2012E

	2006	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E	2012E
Volumes							
Natural gas transportation, gross (mcm/day)							
HBJ pipeline	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
Dahej-Vijaypur-GREP upgradation							30
Dadri-Bawana-Nangal					1	3	16
Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar						3	8
Other pipelines	36	39	40	41	48	55	60
Regassified LNG							
Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (transmitted and sold)	7	6	9	9	15	20	25
Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (transmitted)	4	4	6	6	10	10	10
Dahej-Uran pipeline			6	9	12	12	12
Panvel-Dabhol pipeline			4	6	8	10	12
Elimination of double-counted volumes (a)	(1)	(3)	(15)	(18)	(21)	(28)	(48)
Total gas transmission	79	77	82	85	105	117	157
LPG (000 tons)							
Sold	1,039	1,037	1,039	1,110	1,100	1,100	1,100
Transported	2,228	2,490	2,754	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
Petrochemicals (000 tons)							
Polyethylene							
Domestic sales	271	337	381	405	440	450	450
Exports	40	10	10	—	—	—	—
Total petrochemicals	311	347	391	405	440	450	450
Prices							
Natural gas (Rs/cubic meter)							
Natural gas ceiling price	3.52	4.21	4.21	4.59	6.50	6.50	6.50
Regassified LNG including transportation	6.47	6.93	6.44	7.02	8.98	8.83	8.68
Transmission plus marketing charges							
HBJ pipeline, Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (from FY2007)	1.15	0.99	0.96	1.05	0.66	0.66	0.66
Dahej-Vijaypur-GREP upgradation					0.94	0.94	0.94
Dadri-Bawana-Nangal					0.59	0.59	0.59
Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar					0.48	0.48	0.48
Dahej-Vijaipur, Dahej-Uran, Panvel-Dabhol pipeline	0.69	0.99	1.03	1.04	0.81	0.81	0.81
Other pipelines	0.42	0.40	0.42	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.41
LPG							
LPG (US\$/ton)	510	531	702	685	420	490	560
Transmission charges (Rs/ton)							
Jamnagar-Loni	1,522	1,522	1,522	1,522	1,522	1,522	1,522
Vizag-Secunderabad	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450
Other assumptions							
Polyethylene, HDPE (US\$/ton)	1,055	1,315	1,500	1,360	950	1,000	1,000
Import tariff, Polyethylene	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Import tariff, LPG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Exchange rate (Rs/US\$)	44.3	45.3	40.3	45.6	48.0	47.0	46.0
Subsidy losses	10,640	14,880	13,137	17,812	1,000	5,000	8,500

Note:

(a) Gas transported through the HVJ or DV pipeline and then to smaller pipelines.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Gas transportation segment to drive growth

Segment breakdown of GAIL India's revenues and profits, March fiscal year-ends, 2006-2012E

	2006	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E	2012E
Revenues							
Gas transportation-extant pipelines	102,951	112,773	128,141	191,904	307,416	345,752	378,221
Gas transportation-new pipelines					2,639	15,714	145,973
RLNG shipping charges	1,110	1,340	2,229	2,241	2,902	2,902	2,902
LPG transportation	3,332	3,440	3,893	4,219	4,219	4,219	4,219
LPG production	32,447	35,024	26,033	26,997	27,785	27,985	28,502
Petrochemicals	16,736	22,918	26,583	28,051	22,659	23,797	23,320
Others	183	252	350	1,366	1,083	1,236	1,384
Subsidy-sharing scheme	(10,640)	(14,880)	(13,137)				
Trading revenues/profits							
Total	146,118	160,867	174,092	254,777	368,702	421,605	584,522
EBITDA							
Gas transportation-extant pipelines	17,826	17,701	18,044	19,280	16,852	19,515	23,493
Gas transportation-new pipelines					147	795	12,529
RLNG shipping charges				2,241	2,902	2,902	2,902
LPG transportation	2,054	2,590	2,987	2,614	2,629	2,647	2,555
LPG production	15,895	16,764	23,028	27,832	11,272	15,494	19,355
Petrochemicals	7,674	10,934	14,003	8,661	3,309	3,732	3,241
Others	1,402	(4,547)	(6,610)	(962)	(518)	(365)	(218)
Subsidy-sharing scheme	(10,640)	(14,880)	(13,137)	(17,812)	(1,000)	(5,000)	(8,500)
Trading revenues/profits	610	1,903	2,044				
Total	34,820	30,464	40,359	41,853	35,593	39,720	55,357

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

GAIL (India) Ltd: Profit model, balance sheet, cash model of GAIL, March fiscal year-ends, 2006-2012E (Rs mn)

	2006	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E	2012E
Profit model (Rs mn)							
Net sales	163,513	160,472	180,082	231,865	341,726	394,806	558,115
EBITDA	35,731	29,896	38,976	41,853	35,593	39,720	55,357
Other income	4,555	5,450	5,564	7,218	7,173	6,727	6,750
Interest	(1,174)	(1,071)	(796)	(756)	(923)	(1,805)	(5,862)
Depreciation	(5,595)	(5,754)	(5,710)	(5,574)	(5,816)	(6,478)	(9,182)
Pretax profits	33,518	28,521	38,034	42,742	36,027	38,165	47,063
Tax	(9,221)	(7,941)	(12,525)	(12,955)	(10,940)	(11,188)	(9,374)
Deferred taxation	(445)	(190)	(10)	(247)	(161)	(775)	(3,923)
Net profits	23,101	23,867	25,716	29,540	24,926	26,201	33,766
Earnings per share (Rs)	18.2	18.8	20.3	23.3	19.7	20.7	26.6
Balance sheet (Rs mn)							
Total equity	99,733	113,929	130,049	148,705	163,738	180,045	201,939
Deferred taxation liability	12,997	13,187	13,197	13,444	13,604	14,380	18,303
Total borrowings	19,166	13,379	12,659	20,159	18,959	67,759	100,559
Current liabilities	37,522	45,512	60,604	50,737	57,477	62,204	76,724
Total liabilities and equity	169,418	186,007	216,509	233,044	253,777	324,387	397,525
Cash	44,959	26,604	44,730	45,144	22,988	21,610	18,825
Other current assets	28,309	50,851	59,370	68,718	78,807	88,659	106,120
Total fixed assets	81,716	93,913	97,500	104,273	137,074	199,211	257,671
Investments	14,434	14,638	14,909	14,909	14,909	14,909	14,909
Total assets	169,418	186,007	216,509	233,044	253,777	324,387	397,525
Free cash flow (Rs mn)							
Operating cash flow, excl. working capital	25,165	23,920	33,692	27,805	23,223	24,923	38,656
Working capital changes	5,950	(10,151)	(388)	(19,215)	(3,349)	(5,124)	(2,941)
Capital expenditure	(5,811)	(20,449)	(12,419)	(12,010)	(38,110)	(66,810)	(66,177)
Investments	(6,462)	(205)	(270)	—	—	—	—
Other income	3,995	3,884	4,042	7,218	7,173	6,727	6,750
Free cash flow	22,837	(3,002)	24,658	3,797	(11,062)	(40,285)	(23,712)
Ratios (%)							
Debt/equity	17.0	10.5	8.8	12.4	10.7	34.9	45.7
Net debt/equity	(22.9)	(10.4)	(22.4)	(15.4)	(2.3)	23.7	37.1
ROAE (%)	21.8	19.9	19.0	19.3	14.7	14.1	16.3
ROACE (%)	19.7	15.5	17.6	17.8	13.5	12.0	13.0

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Technology**INFY.BO, Rs1231**

Rating	BUY
Sector coverage view	Cautious
Target Price (Rs)	1,500
52W High -Low (Rs)	2047 - 1040
Market Cap (Rs bn)	706.7

Financials

March y/e	2008	2009E	2010E
Sales (Rs bn)	166.9	216.7	238.4
Net Profit (Rs bn)	45.4	58.3	61.8
EPS (Rs)	79.1	101.6	107.7
EPS gth	18.0	28.5	6
P/E (x)	15.6	12	11.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.9	8.5	7.6
Div yield (%)	2.7	2.0	2.1

Pricing performance

Perf-1m	Perf-3m	Perf-6m	Perf-1y
(3.8)	1.9	(30.6)	(19.6)

Shareholding, December 2008

	% of		Over/(under)
	Pattern	Portfolio	weight
Promoters	16.5	-	-
FIs	52.1	7.8	5.4
MFs	4.0	2.8	0.4
UTI	-	-	(2.4)
LIC	4.3	2.4	(0.0)

Infosys Technologies: Confidence on margins intact even as volume outlook continues to be foggy. Key takeaways from our discussions with BFS/IHL BU heads

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- **Discussions with BFS and IHL BU heads reaffirm demand weakness and uncertainty**
- **However, pricing commentary not as weak as expected**
- **Lack of catalysts will cap near-term stock performance; we continue to rate the stock a BUY from a 12-month perspective**

Our recent discussions with the BFS (Banking and Financial Services) and IHL (Insurance, Health Care, and Life Sciences) business unit heads of Infosys reaffirmed the sustained uncertainty and weakness in the demand environment. However, the indicators on pricing environment continue to be better than the Street's (and our) expectations. The month of February has seen some action on the ground in terms of IT budget discussions and a few project renewals after a completely inactive January. We expect uncertainty on demand to linger for some more time and continue to base our FY2010E EPS expectation for various tier-I players on margin resilience and hopes of a demand recovery starting September 2009 quarter. Infosys' greater control on cost-structure (best placed to manage profitability in a tough pricing environment), and conservative hedging should mean a reasonable EPS growth in FY2010E despite the volume/pricing headwinds. We maintain our BUY rating on the stock with a target price of Rs1,500/share. Near-term upside may be limited by a lack of catalysts. Greater protectionism with the recent nationalization of some US and European banks remains the key risk to our call.

Discussions with BFS and IHL BU heads reaffirm demand weakness and uncertainty in the near term.

In line with expectations, near-term demand visibility across the spectrum of BFS and IHL clients continues to be low. Highlights of our discussion with the two BU heads on the near-term demand scenario:

- **BFS.** While the recent economic turmoil and subsequent client response has led to a period of inaction on IT spends and project renewals, and deferral in discretionary spend across the spectrum of BFS clients, IT budget discussions with most clients (except some in the capital markets segment) have picked up pace in recent weeks. The company indicated IT budget decline of 5-10% on a portfolio basis among its BFS clients with larger declines for the Capital Market clients and moderate decline to flat IT budgets in other segments. More importantly, the company also indicated increasing instances of vendor rationalization and consolidation (both cost-savings focused and driven by M&A within the sector) and also a change in the nature of deals (more fixed-price and outcome based deals). Infosys has also seen increased participation in systems consolidation and process/application rationalization deals driven by M&A within various verticals, primarily BFS.

The company also expressed confidence that counter-cyclical trends should aid greater offshoring of IT services (to drive higher cost savings) similar to the trends seen in the previous downturn; the difference this time could be the timing of such counter-cyclical trends resulting in volumes growth for the Indian IT companies. We attribute the lag primarily to a complete freeze on decision making over the past few months (especially post the Lehman incident) and the ongoing revamp in IT strategy among a large set of clients. This is also consistent with our hypothesis of a back-ended volume/revenue growth for the tier-I companies in FY2010E.

- **IHL.** The near-term demand outlook within the IHL segment remains muted on account of significant cut in discretionary spending among Insurance clients (Insurance is the largest sub-segment within IHL contributing ~7.1% to Infosys' revenues in 9MFY09). Rather surprisingly, the company indicated increasing discretionary spending among its healthcare and pharma clients, driven by regulatory and compliance pressures. The pipeline of large deals (mostly in the US\$50-100 mn range) continues to be good, though revenue impact of the same continues is likely to remain muted given longer sales cycles. Cost-savings focused vendor consolidation instances are being seen in this segment as well. The company also expressed confidence on robust growth in the pharma vertical and has seen steady new wins in the insurance segment. We do highlight that the European geography continues to be a challenge for the company, within this vertical (primarily on account of its late start in the geography).

However, pricing commentary not as weak as expected. Both the BU heads expressed confidence on maintaining margins within a narrow band despite the pricing pressure being witnessed in the market. The company indicated that it is working on changing its engagement structures with clients (greater offshoring, shift to fixed price and outcome-based deals, etc.) to achieve the twin objective of delivering the clients' targeted cost savings without taking a sharp hit on its own profitability. Our channel checks also indicate that pricing trends could be better than the street's expectations—Infosys has settled for 5% onsite and 0-2% offshore pricing concessions on an average with its financial services clients.

Lack of catalysts will cap near-term stock performance; we continue to rate the stock a BUY from a 12-month perspective. We concede that a lack of near-term catalysts and likely negative news flow will continue to remain an overhang on the stock over the next few months. However, we would view any excess pessimism in the market as an opportunity to buy into the stock. The stock is trading at 11.5X FY2010E earnings and has a normalized FCF yield of 4.3% at CMP. Our March 2010 DCF-based target price of Rs1,500/share implies an upside of 21% from current levels.

Protectionism—key risk to our call. We highlight a couple of recent events with underlying tones of protectionism:

1. US' new president Barack Obama, in his first address to the Congress, proposes to remove tax breaks for companies shipping US jobs overseas. The exact nature of tax breaks and implementation of the same remains to be seen.
2. The US Senate recently approved amendments that would make hiring under H-1B visa by companies receiving funds under Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) difficult. Financial services firm and key auto majors are the prime recipients of TARP funds and among the largest clients of Indian IT companies. We would wait for further details on the amendment; on cursory reading, the impact does not appear to be meaningful noting that Indian IT companies have not received any funding and can use H-1B workers for outsourcing contracts of clients.

While both the above events do not appear to have any near-term impact, a growing trend towards protectionism remains an overall concern.

Implied FCF growth to perpetuity for tier-I Indian IT stocks in the 1-4% range

	CMP	Enterprise value	FY2010E FCF (a)	FY2010E FCF yield	Assumed WACC	Implied FCF growth to perpetuity (b)	Risk to FCF estimates
	(Rs)	(Rs mn)	(Rs mn)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
Infosys	1,231	565,150	45,862	8.1	12.5	4.4	Low
TCS	483	429,116	42,266	9.8	12.5	2.7	Medium
Wipro	208	254,203	31,190	12.3	12.5	0.2	Medium

Note:

(a) Defined as operating cash flow post working capital changes less capex (normalized for tax rate increase starting FY2011E)

(b) Assuming FY2010E as the terminal year

Source: Bloomberg, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Infosys--operating cash flow as % of revenues, March fiscal year-ends, FY2003-9MFY08 (US\$ mn)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	9M2009
Cash generated from operating activities	206	371	344	599	862	1,149	1,092
Growth yoy (%)		80	(7)	74	44	33	27
Revenues	754	1,063	1,592	2,152	3,090	4,176	3,542
Operating cash flow as % of revenues (%)	27.4	34.9	21.6	27.8	27.9	27.5	30.8

Note

(a) Cash generated includes other income.

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities.

Condensed consolidated financials for Infosys, 2007-2011E, March fiscal year-ends (Rs mn)

	2007	2008	2009E	2010E	2011E
Profit model					
Revenues	138,930	166,920	216,717	238,434	272,499
EBITDA	43,910	52,380	71,233	74,266	81,713
Depreciation	(5,140)	(5,980)	(7,238)	(7,908)	(8,915)
Other income	3,750	7,040	4,254	8,925	10,395
Pretax profits	42,520	53,440	68,248	75,282	83,193
Tax	(5,100)	(8,060)	(9,917)	(13,490)	(17,587)
Profit after tax	37,420	45,380	58,331	61,793	65,606
Diluted earnings per share (Rs)	67.0	79.1	101.6	107.7	114.3
Balance sheet					
Total equity	113,485	137,950	180,511	224,753	271,838
Deferred taxation liability	(920)	(1,190)	(1,190)	(1,190)	(1,190)
Total borrowings	—	—	—	—	—
Minority interest	40	—	—	—	—
Current liabilities	21,500	41,910	36,941	39,599	43,611
Total liabilities and equity	134,105	178,670	216,262	263,162	314,260
Cash	61,800	83,960	102,507	141,588	182,414
Other current assets	34,345	46,220	57,389	64,078	71,836
Goodwill	—	—	—	—	—
Tangible fixed assets	37,710	47,770	55,646	56,776	59,289
Investments	250	720	720	720	720
Total assets	134,105	178,670	216,262	263,162	314,260
Free cash flow					
Operating cash flow, excl. working capital	39,790	45,080	61,430	60,776	64,125
Working capital changes	(12,390)	(7,990)	(7,478)	(4,032)	(3,745)
Capital expenditure	(15,100)	(14,940)	(15,115)	(9,038)	(11,428)
Investment changes/acquisition	7,300	(470)	—	—	—
Free cash flow	19,600	21,680	38,838	47,706	48,952
Ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	31.6	31.4	32.9	31.1	30.0
EBIT margin	27.9	27.8	29.5	27.8	26.7
Debt/equity	—	—	—	—	—
Net debt/equity	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.7)
RoAE	40.7	36.1	36.6	30.5	26.4
RoACE	34.2	33.6	35.5	29.5	26.8

Source: Company data, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Economy

Sector coverage view

N/A

Indian economy starts cyclical trough with 5.3% growth in 3QFY09

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- **Real GDP growth slows down to 5.3% in 3QFY09 versus our expectation of 5.7%**
- **Private consumption and investment slows down**
- **Government consumption jumps 24.6%; wage hikes prevent growth from plummeting**
- **Growth may fall to 6.5% in FY2009E (official estimate: 7.1%)**

In our assessment, 3QFY09 marks the onset of the cyclical trough in the Indian economy which may last for four quarters. Official estimates of 3QFY09 real GDP growth at 5.3% were marginally below our estimate of 5.7% and below the Street's estimate of 6.1%. Agriculture growth surprised the street negatively with a 2.2% yoy decline (our estimate of 0.7% yoy decline) and reflected contraction in Kharif crop output. Industrial growth at 0.8% yoy was in line with expectations and was led by a 0.2% decline in manufacturing. Service sector activity also decelerated but still recorded an impressive 9.2% growth on the back of robust 9.5% growth in financing, insurance, real estate and business services and a fiscal stimulus led 17.3% yoy growth in community and social services segments, driven by government expenditure on account of the sixth pay commission wage hikes. We expect the cyclical trough to last four quarters starting 3QFY09 with growth averaging about 5.5%. As a result, we expect growth to average 6.5% in FY2009E (versus official estimate of 7.1%) and 6.0% in FY2010E (versus our earlier estimate of 6.3%).

The real GDP growth in India witnessed a marked slowdown in 3QFY09 with growth slowing down to 5.3% from 7.6% in 2QFY09 and 7.9% in 1QFY09 (see Exhibit 1). India's real GDP growth had averaged 9.3% during 13 quarters from 4QFY05 to 4QFY08, before the economy started slowing down. The official growth estimates were marginally below our estimate of 5.7% and below street estimate of 6.1%, largely led by the higher-than-expected decline in agricultural growth. We discuss the segment-wise breakup of 3QFY09 real GDP growth below.

- **Agriculture:** Growth surprised negatively with a 2.2% yoy decline in 3QFY09 versus our estimate of 0.7% decline. We recognized the possibility of a large contraction in agricultural growth given the official Kharif crop numbers, but considering that CSO had only earlier this month placed the agricultural growth at 2.6% in the Advance Estimates, expected the contraction to be small. However, revised crop data reaffirmed contraction in the Kharif crop with large declines in Kharif production of coarse cereals (13.2%), pulses (24.7%), oilseeds (21.2%), cotton (14.4%) and sugarcane (16.6%).
- **Industrial sector:** The industrial sector in India is facing a cyclical downturn since the start of FY2008 and hit a trough of 0.8% growth in 3QFY09. The yoy decline of 0.2% in manufacturing reflects the uncertainty in the Indian economy, which has resulted in weak consumer sentiment and decline in demand for a wide range of goods, including high-ticket items (durables, autos). We believe industrial growth will remain subdued in 4QFY09E as well given (1) a high base in 4QFY08 and (2) likely continued production cuts to match falling demand in several products.
- **Services sector:** This was the only bright spot with robust 9.2% growth in 3QFY09 (including construction under services). Robust 9.5% and strong 17.3% growth in 'finance, real estate and business services' and 'community and social services' segments was driven by strong growth in banking (20.8% yoy growth in deposits, 23.1% yoy growth in credit) and government expenditure (on account on the sixth pay commission wage hikes).

However, considering that the services sector had recorded double-digit growth for 15 quarters in succession till 1QFY09, we infer that while the services sector is also being impacted by the slowdown, its impact is mitigated by the fiscal stimulus, which, in our view, is at the cost of fiscal prudence. We expect the services sector to slowdown further in 4QFY09E with 'construction' segment remaining impacted and financing, business and real estate services slowing down further. Anecdotal evidence as well as guidance from large real estate sector players suggests that many projects are on hold. Muted growth in the 'construction' (6.7% yoy growth) and 'trade, hotels, transport and communications' (6.8%) segments was due to a decline in real estate activity and the impact of the global economic downturn on the travel and tourism (including hotels and transport) sector.

FY2009E growth to fall well below official estimates

In our assessment, FY2009E growth would drop to 6.5%, clearly lower than the official 7.1% advance estimate which was released by the CSO just three weeks back (see Exhibit 2). The advance estimates are clearly on the higher side, given that agricultural growth could drop significantly. The agricultural output is likely to contract in FY2009E on the back of Kharif crop contraction and the likelihood that Rabi crop may also be adversely impacted by the poor winter monsoon in spite of satisfactory sowing. The growth in mining sector in 3QFY09 at 5.3% was also way above expected growth as the sector had grown by just 1.5% in 3QFY09 in terms of the IIP. The high growth in mining in 3QFY09 has been the result of disproportionately higher weight of over 50% to coal production under quarterly mining GDP projection.

FY2010E growth still likely at 6.0%

We maintain that real GDP growth in FY2010E may surprise street on the upside. Though we have lowered our real GDP growth projection for FY2010E to 6.0% from our earlier estimate of 6.3%, we see upside risks to this projection if recovery sets in faster than is currently anticipated.

Our GDP growth projection of 6.0% for FY2010E (see Exhibit 3) is higher than the street consensus of about 5.0%. The reasons for the same are: (1) our building in of the impact of new capacities—RIL natural gas and Cairns Rajasthan oilfields—that adds 0.3% to India's GDP, (2) impact of the implementation of wage revisions of the government employees on the recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission.

Investment demand drops in 3QFY09; counter-cyclical government spending

The data on components of real demand (see Exhibit 4) show that investment demand succumbed to the cyclical downturn in the Indian economy in 3QFY09; the yoy growth in 'capital formation' segment of expenditure on GDP declined to 7.0% in 3QFY09 after a robust 11.3% in 2QFY09. Companies are reducing production at existing locations/capacities to bring supply in line with falling demand. Their large capex plans riding on the expectation of continuous strong growth in consumption demand are now being scaled back.

'Consumption demand' segment of GDP expenditure continued to remain subdued with modest 5.4% yoy growth in 3QFY09 versus 6.9% and 7.7% growth in 2QFY09 and 1QFY09; consumers have pulled back from spending on high-ticket items (durables, autos) in an uncertain environment but spending on low-ticket items such as FMCG and Telecom continues to hold up well. We do not expect much near-term support (in 4QFY09E) from consumption demand given weak consumer sentiment and an uncertain environment.

Government expenditure has provided the counter-cyclical impetus to GDP growth in 3QFY09, with 'government consumption' rising 24.7% yoy in 3QFY09 versus only 7.9% and 7.1% growth in 2QFY09 and 1QFY09. The increased government expenditure reflects the wage hikes given to employees on account of the sixth pay commission and extra government spending on counter-cyclical initiatives (fiscal stimuli) announced previously. We highlight that the Indian States are also implementing wage hikes in line with the sixth pay commission, which is likely a bigger stimulus given the combined wage bill of the States exceeds that of the Centre.

Exhibit 1: India's 4QFY09 growth likely to be similar to 5.3% 3QFY09 growth

Sector-wise quarterly real GDP growth rates, March fiscal year-ends, 1QFY07-4QFY09E

Sector	1QFY07	2QFY07	3QFY07	4QFY07	1QFY08	2QFY08	3QFY08	4QFY08	1QFY09	2QFY09	3QFY09	4QFY09E
I Agriculture and allied activities	2.7	3.2	4.0	4.9	4.4	4.7	6.0	2.9	3.0	2.7	(2.2)	(2.6)
II Industry (2+3+4)	10.0	10.7	10.3	11.5	9.6	8.6	8.6	5.8	5.2	4.7	0.8	1.4
2 Mining and quarrying	4.1	3.9	6.0	8.2	1.7	5.5	5.7	5.9	4.8	3.9	5.3	2.4
3 Manufacturing	11.7	12.2	11.3	12.8	10.9	9.2	9.6	5.8	5.6	5.0	(0.2)	1.0
4 Electricity, gas and water supply	4.3	6.6	7.6	5.4	7.9	6.9	4.8	5.6	2.6	3.6	3.3	3.0
III Services (5+6+7+8)	11.7	11.6	11.1	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.0	11.4	10.2	9.6	9.2	8.6
5 Construction	13.1	12.0	10.8	12.2	7.7	11.8	7.1	12.6	11.4	9.7	6.7	3.5
6 Trade, hotels, transport, storage and communication	10.9	12.7	12.1	11.6	13.1	11.0	11.5	12.4	11.2	10.7	6.8	8.6
7 Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	13.6	13.9	14.7	13.4	12.6	12.4	11.9	10.5	9.3	9.2	9.5	8.1
8 Community, social and personal services	10.3	7.2	5.6	5.1	5.2	7.7	6.2	9.5	8.5	7.7	17.3	11.9
IV Real GDP at factor cost (I+II+III)	9.6	10.1	9.3	9.7	9.2	9.3	8.8	8.8	7.9	7.6	5.3	5.4

Source: Central Statistical Organization, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Exhibit 2: India's FY2009 real GDP growth likely to drop to 6.5% versus 7.1% official estimate

Growth in real GDP at factor cost and components, March fiscal year-ends, 2007-2010E (%)

Sector	FY07	FY08	FY09AE	FY09E	existing 2010E	previous 2010E
Agriculture and allied activities	4.0	4.8	2.6	(0.2)	4.0	3.5
Industry	10.7	7.3	4.2	2.9	4.8	5.2
Mining and quarrying	8.8	3.7	4.7	4.0	7.5	7.5
Manufacturing	11.8	8.1	4.1	2.8	4.3	4.8
Electricity, gas and water supply	5.3	5.5	4.3	3.1	5.6	6.1
Services	11.3	10.7	9.2	9.4	6.8	7.4
Construction	11.8	11.2	6.5	8.5	3.3	4.0
Trade, hotels, transport, storage and communication	12.8	12.0	10.3	9.1	6.6	7.1
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	13.8	11.7	8.6	8.9	5.5	6.8
Community, social and personal services	5.7	6.8	9.0	11.2	10.8	10.6
Real GDP at factor cost	9.7	9.0	7.1	6.5	6.0	6.3

Notes:

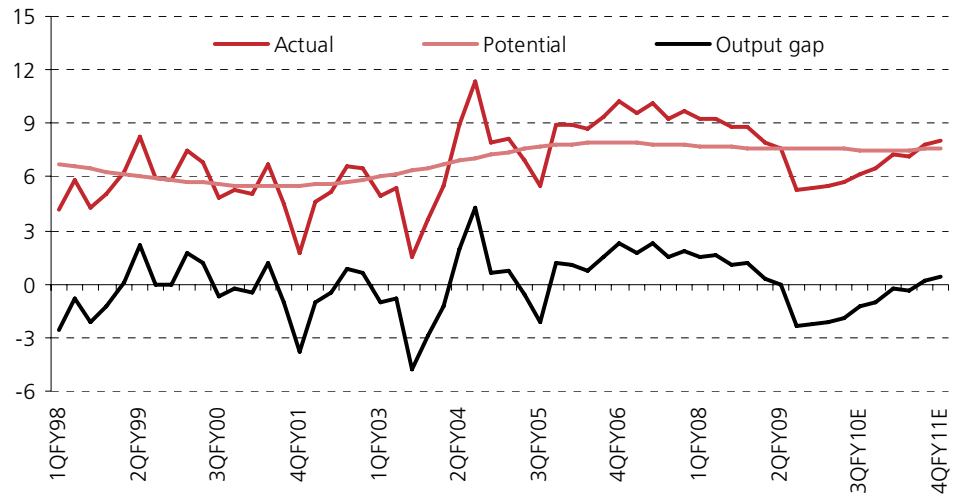
(a) FY2009AE are CSO's Advance Estimates

(b) FY2009E and FY2010E are Kotak Institutional Equities Estimates

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Exhibit 3: Growth likely to fall 2-ppt below potential in 2HFY09E and 1HFY10E

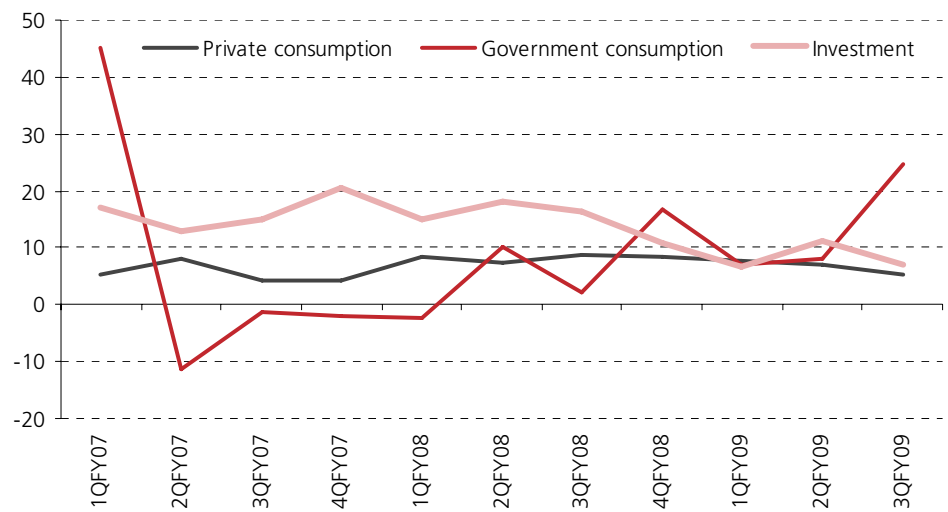
Growth in actual output, potential output and output gap, 1QFY98-4QFY11E (%)



Source: Central Statistical Organization, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Exhibit 4: Government spending helps hold aggregate demand in 3QFY09

Growth in components of real aggregate demand, March fiscal year-ends, 1QFY07-3QFY09 (%)

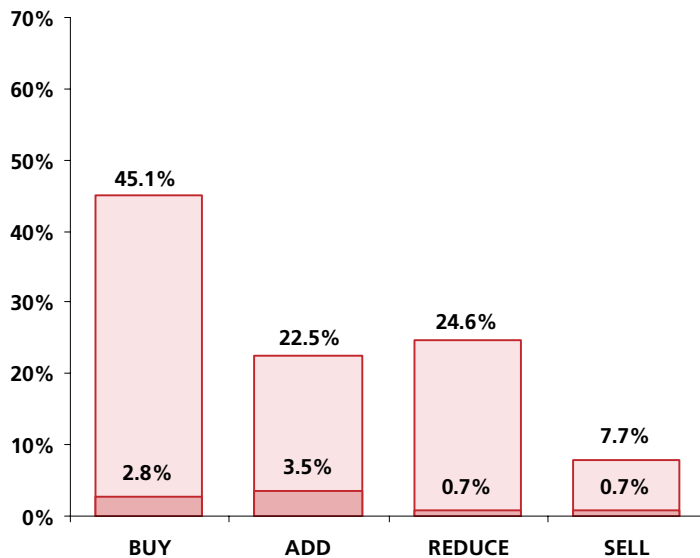


Source: Central Statistical Organisation, compiled by Kotak Institutional Equities

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