

## Secular growth leading to stable performance...

**About the stock:** Transport Corporation of India (TCI) is a leading provider of integrated multimodal logistics and supply chain solutions. The company has over six decades of experience and moves nearly 2.5% of India's GDP by value.

- TCI has 9000+ trucks in operation, six owned coastal ships, 12 million square feet warehousing space and 900 offices
- In FY22, freight formed 15% of EBITDA while SCM and coastal shipping contributed 26% and 58%, respectively

**Q3FY23 Results:** YoY margins lower due to exceptional base (international sailing).

- Revenues grew 16% YoY to ₹ 881 crore, led by freight, SCM, shipping revenue growth of 14%, 21%, 15%, respectively
- However, absolute EBITDA was flat at ₹ 109 crore (EBITDA margins contracted 173 bps to 12.4%)
- However, PAT grew 23% to ₹ 95 crore, due to higher other income

**What should investors do?** Although FY24 is expected to show moderation in growth as seaways is already seeing peak asset utilisation (delay in acquisition of ship to H1FY24), normalised base in freight, SCM segment, the management expects to maintain current margins, with a controlled cost structure.

- In spite of moderate growth, we maintain our **BUY** rating as valuations look attractive (debt free, multi-modal business) and margins are maintained

**Target Price and Valuation:** We value the stock at ₹ 810 (SOTP).

**Key triggers for future price performance:** TCI's multimodal solutions cater to the needs of a diversified customer base and help it to capture a higher wallet share of its customers.

- Focus on margin improvement by controlled cost structure and higher value added services
- Strong fundamentals (b/s, CF) together with improvement in margins and higher asset turnover, are expected to push return ratios to 18-20% in FY24

**Alternate Stock Idea:** Apart from TCI, we remain positive on Mahindra Logistics.

- Mahindra Logistics is an end to end 3PL logistics solution provider, from performing milk run to in-factory logistics, warehousing to first mile and last mile logistics
- Continued momentum in the non-auto segment of MLL to drive higher contribution from the value added services and thereby improve its margins as well as opportunity to capture higher wallet share of existing customers



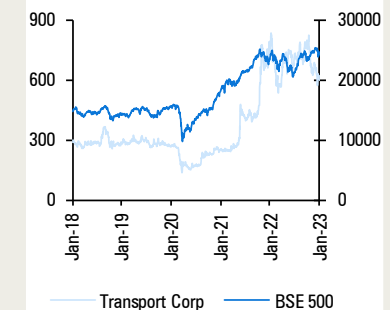
### Particulars

| Particular                     | Amount  |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Market Cap. (₹ cr)             | 4,596   |
| Total Debt (FY22) (₹ Cr)       | 61.9    |
| Cash and Investment (FY22) (₹) | 74.5    |
| EV (₹ Crore)                   | 4811.9  |
| 52 week H/L                    | 859/527 |
| Equity Capital (₹ Crore)       | 15.3    |
| Face Value (₹)                 | 2.0     |

### Shareholding pattern

| (in %)   | Mar-22 | Jun-22 | Sep-22 | Dec-22 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Promoter | 66.6   | 66.6   | 69.0   | 69.0   |
| Others   | 33.4   | 33.4   | 31.0   | 31.0   |

### Price Chart



### Recent event & key risks

- Acquisition of cargo ship
- **Key Risk:** (i) Continued hikes in diesel prices, (ii) Slowdown in auto sector

### Research Analyst

Bharat Chhoda  
bharat.chhoda@icicisecurities.com

Harshal Mehta  
harshal.mehta@icicisecurities.com

### Key Financial Summary

| (Year-end March)              | FY21    | FY22E   | 5 Years CAGR (FY17-22) | FY23E   | FY24E   | FY25E   | CAGR  |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Revenues (₹ crore)            | 2,802.4 | 3,256.7 | 10.9%                  | 3,757.8 | 4,239.8 | 4,784.2 | 13.7% |
| EBITDA (₹ crore)              | 261.2   | 408.7   | 20.3%                  | 450.9   | 496.1   | 564.5   | 11.4% |
| Adjusted Net Profit (₹ crore) | 147.1   | 289.6   | 28.7%                  | 330.3   | 344.4   | 397.4   | 11.1% |
| EPS (₹)                       | 18.9    | 37.3    |                        | 42.5    | 44.3    | 51.1    |       |
| P/E (x)                       | 32.3    | 16.6    |                        | 14.6    | 14.0    | 12.2    |       |
| Price / Book (x)              | 4.2     | 3.4     |                        | 2.8     | 2.4     | 2.0     |       |
| EV/EBITDA (x)                 | 18.3    | 11.2    |                        | 10.0    | 9.0     | 7.8     |       |
| RoCE (%)                      | 13.3    | 20.3    |                        | 19.4    | 18.3    | 18.1    |       |
| RoNW (%)                      | 12.9    | 20.5    |                        | 19.3    | 17.1    | 16.7    |       |

## Key takeaways

### Q3FY23 Results: Shipping EBIT margins expected to normalise at 30-35%

- On the EBITDA front, seaways comprised ~57% of consolidated EBITDA, followed by SCM (26%) and transportation (17%)
- Seaways saw stronger demand due to increase in volumes from dry-docking while all ships were available for business
- SCM segment, on the other hand, saw good momentum due to retention and expansion of clients. However, headwinds exist in the form of inflation on consumer demand

### Q3FY23 Earnings Conference Call highlights

- The management expects FY24 to be a subdued year due to normalisation of base year and an election year. However, higher infra spends could have a trickle-down effect on the economy
- On the shipping segment, the management expects clarity on new ship acquisition by Q2FY24. In case of no new ship acquisition, the management expects a flattish performance in the shipping segment in FY24. Currently, the ships are available at 2-2.4x the previous acquisition price. Hence, the management is refraining from getting into a purchase
- The management expects to maintain 30-35% seaways margins in the near to medium term
- On the freight business front, the management expects LTL: FTL ratio to come on track in the near term and expects the performance to stay stable
- The management expects 12-15% growth for the SCM segment in FY24
- One ship would be scrapped in the next two to three years. The management intends to add 20000 DWT ship each year to its fleet
- On the TCI Concor JV front, the management expects the performance to remain strong, going ahead
- Capex plans remains at ₹ 125-130 crore for FY23

Exhibit 1: Variance Analysis

|                               | Q3FY23 | Q3FY23E | Q3FY22 | YoY (%)  | Q2FY23 | QoQ (%) | Comments  |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|--------|---------|---|
| Revenue                       | 880.8  | 886.5   | 759.3  | 16.0     | 850.9  | 3.5     | YoY higher revenues led by strong growth in all segments                            |
| Operating Expenses            | 693.9  | 700.3   | 583.9  | 18.9     | 679.9  | 2.1     |   |
| Employee Expenses             | 47.6   | 48.8    | 42.2   | 13.0     | 47.5   | 0.3     |   |
| Administrative & Oth Expenses | 30.5   | 31.0    | 26.4   | 15.4     | 31.9   | -4.3    |   |
| Total Expense                 | 772.1  | 780.1   | 652.5  | 18.3     | 759.3  | 1.7     |   |
| EBITDA                        | 108.8  | 106.4   | 106.9  | 1.8      | 91.6   | 18.8    |   |
| EBITDA Margin (%)             | 12.4   | 12.0    | 14.1   | -173 bps | 10.8   | 158 bps | Margins largely in line with estimates  |
| Depreciation                  | 30.1   | 27.5    | 24.1   | 25.1     | 28.9   | 4.2     |   |
| Interest                      | 2.2    | 2.0     | 2.2    | 1.9      | 2.1    | 3.8     |   |
| Other Income                  | 28.9   | 9.8     | 7.1    | 305.6    | 7.6    | 280.5   |   |
| Exceptional Gain/Loss         | 0.0    | 0.0     | 0.0    | 0.0      | 0.0    | 0.0     |   |
| PBT                           | 105.3  | 86.7    | 87.8   | 20.0     | 68.2   | 54.5    |   |
| Total Tax                     | 10.0   | 15.6    | 10.2   | -1.7     | 10.8   | -7.0    |   |
| PAT                           | 95.3   | 71.1    | 77.6   | 22.9     | 57.4   | 66.1    |   |
| Key Metrics                   | Q3FY23 | Q3FY23E | Q3FY22 | YoY      | Q2FY23 | QoQ     |   |
| Freight Division              | 404.5  | 396.5   | 354.0  | 14.3     | 394.4  | 2.6     | Higher growth due to festive season and larger volumes from key customers           |
| Supply Chain Solutions        | 319.6  | 330.5   | 264.4  | 20.9     | 342.9  | -6.8    | New business acquisition, retention and expansion of clients led to higher business |
| Seaways                       | 170.2  | 165.7   | 147.9  | 15.1     | 124.2  | 37.1    | All ships were in operation in Q3   |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

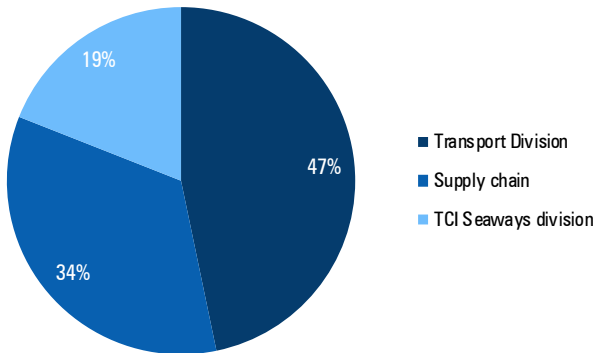
Exhibit 2: Change in estimates

| (₹ Crore)         | FY23E   |         |         |          | FY24E   |         |          | FY25E      | Comments                                      |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|------------|---|
|                   | FY22    | Old     | New     | % Change | Old     | New     | % Change | Introduced |   |
| Revenue           | 3,256.7 | 3,778.0 | 3,757.8 | -0.5     | 4,478.5 | 4,239.8 | -5.3     | 4,784.2    | Revenues impacted by delayed addition of ship |
| EBITDA            | 408.7   | 453.4   | 450.9   | -0.5     | 541.9   | 496.1   | -8.5     | 564.5      |   |
| EBITDA Margin (%) | 12.6    | 12.0    | 12.0    | 0 bps    | 12.1    | 11.7    | -40 bps  | 11.8       |   |
| PAT               | 289.6   | 312.0   | 330.3   | 5.9      | 382.9   | 344.4   | -10.0    | 397.4      |   |
| EPS (₹)           | 37.3    | 40.1    | 42.5    | 6.0      | 49.3    | 44.3    | -10.1    | 51.1       |   |

Source: ICICI Direct Research

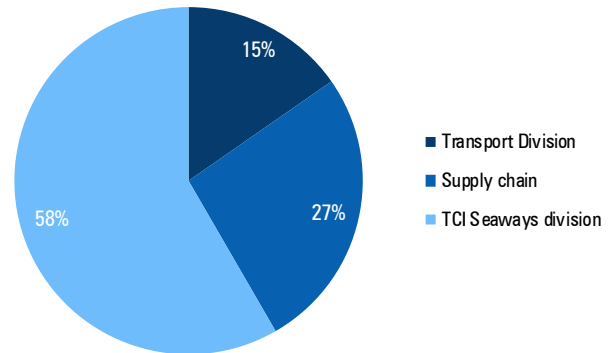
## Key Metrics

Exhibit 3: Segmental revenues - FY22



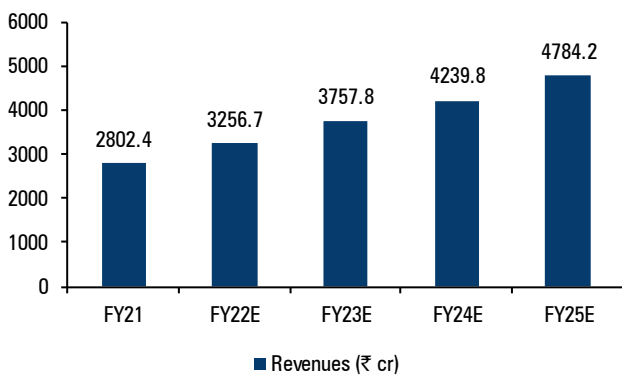
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 4: Segmental EBITDA – FY22



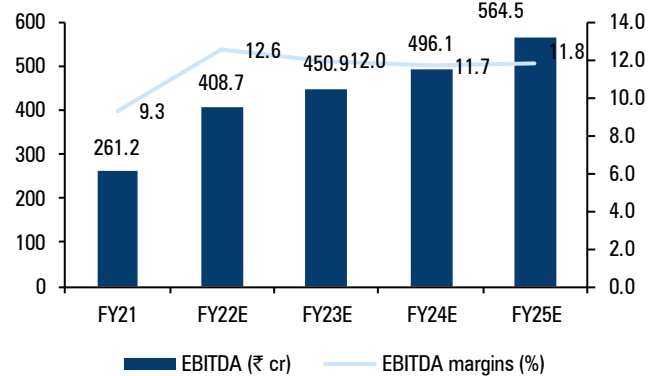
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 5: Revenue likely to grow at 14% (FY22-25) CAGR



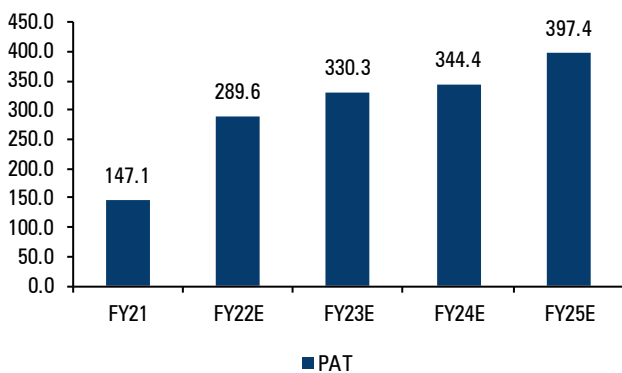
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 6: EBITDA expected to grow at 11% CAGR (FY22-25)



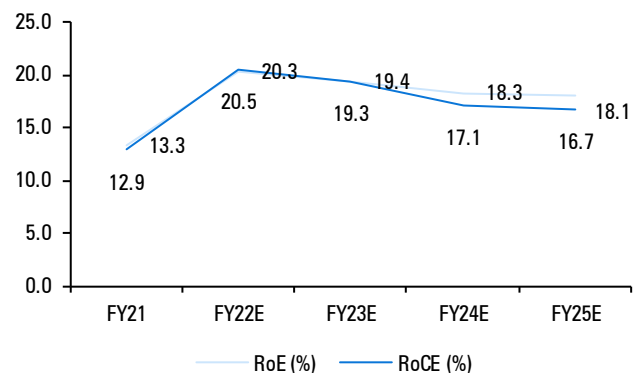
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 7: PAT expected to grow at 11% CAGR (FY22-25E)



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 8: Return ratios



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: Valuation ratios

|       | Sales<br>(₹ cr) | Sales<br>Growth (%) | EPS<br>(₹) | EPS<br>Growth (%) | PE<br>(x) | EV/EBITDA<br>(x) | RoNW<br>(%) | RoCE<br>(%) |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| FY21  | 2802.4          | 3.1                 | 18.9       | 3.3               | 32.3      | 18.3             | 12.9        | 13.3        |
| FY22  | 3256.7          | 16.2                | 37.3       | 96.8              | 16.6      | 11.2             | 20.5        | 20.3        |
| FY23E | 3757.8          | 15.4                | 42.5       | 14.1              | 14.6      | 10.0             | 19.3        | 19.4        |
| FY24E | 4239.8          | 12.8                | 44.3       | 4.3               | 14.0      | 9.0              | 17.1        | 18.3        |
| FY25E | 3757.8          | -11.4               | 42.5       | -4.1              | 14.6      | 10.0             | 19.3        | 19.4        |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## Financial Summary

| Exhibit 10: Profit and loss statement |         |         |         |         | ₹ crore |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| (Year-end March)                      | FY22    | FY23E   | FY24E   | FY25E   |         |
| Total operating Income                | 3,256.7 | 3,757.8 | 4,239.8 | 4,784.2 |         |
| Growth (%)                            | 16.2    | 15.4    | 12.8    | 12.8    |         |
| Operating expense                     | 2,576.6 | 2,983.7 | 3,383.3 | 3,817.8 |         |
| Manpower Cost                         | 170.0   | 195.4   | 216.2   | 239.2   |         |
| Admin & other expense                 | 101.3   | 127.8   | 144.2   | 162.7   |         |
| Total Expense                         | 2,847.9 | 3,306.9 | 3,743.7 | 4,219.7 |         |
| EBITDA                                | 408.7   | 450.9   | 496.1   | 564.5   |         |
| Growth (%)                            | 56.5    | 10.3    | 10.0    | 13.8    |         |
| Depreciation                          | 113.0   | 120.4   | 134.2   | 148.0   |         |
| EBIT                                  | 295.7   | 330.5   | 361.8   | 416.5   |         |
| Interest                              | 12.8    | 10.4    | 8.4     | 6.4     |         |
| Other Income                          | 19.9    | 26.3    | 29.7    | 33.5    |         |
| PBT                                   | 302.8   | 346.4   | 383.1   | 443.6   |         |
| Growth (%)                            | 81.1    | 14.4    | 10.6    | 15.8    |         |
| Tax                                   | 37.7    | 43.3    | 69.0    | 79.8    |         |
| Reported PAT                          | 265.2   | 303.1   | 314.2   | 363.8   |         |
| Growth (%)                            | 85.0    | 14.3    | 3.6     | 15.8    |         |
| Share of Profit from JV               | 27.7    | 30.4    | 33.5    | 36.8    |         |
| Minority Interest                     | 3.2     | 3.2     | 3.2     | 3.2     |         |
| Extraordinary Item                    | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     |         |
| Adjusted PAT                          | 289.6   | 330.3   | 344.4   | 397.4   |         |
| EPS                                   | 37.3    | 42.5    | 44.3    | 51.1    |         |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

| Exhibit 11: Cash flow statement |        |        |        |        | ₹ crore |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| (Year-end March)                | FY22   | FY23E  | FY24E  | FY25E  |         |
| Profit after Tax                | 289.6  | 330.3  | 344.4  | 397.4  |         |
| Add: Depreciation               | 113.0  | 120.4  | 134.2  | 148.0  |         |
| Add: Interest Expense           | 12.8   | 10.4   | 8.4    | 6.4    |         |
| Cash Profit                     | 415.5  | 461.2  | 487.0  | 551.8  |         |
| Increase/(Decrease) in CL       | -39.1  | -164.9 | -91.2  | -102.5 |         |
| (Increase)/Decrease in CA       | -11.4  | 11.9   | 16.4   | 18.0   |         |
| Others                          | 3.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    |         |
| CF from Operating Activities    | 368.0  | 308.2  | 412.3  | 467.3  |         |
| Purchase of Fixed Assets        | -70.7  | -150.4 | -150.4 | -150.4 |         |
| (Inc)/Dec in Investments        | -28.7  | -18.1  | -200.3 | -200.3 |         |
| Others                          | -28.0  | 0.6    | 0.6    | 0.6    |         |
| CF from Investing Activities    | -127.4 | -167.9 | -350.1 | -350.1 |         |
| Inc/(Dec) in Loan Funds         | -172.8 | -10.0  | -10.0  | -10.0  |         |
| Inc/(Dec) in Share Capital      | 0.1    | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    |         |
| Less: Interest Expense          | -12.8  | -10.4  | -8.4   | -6.4   |         |
| Others                          | -20.1  | -35.8  | -35.8  | -35.8  |         |
| CF from financing activities    | -205.7 | -56.2  | -54.2  | -52.2  |         |
| Change in cash Eq.              | 34.9   | 84.0   | 7.9    | 65.0   |         |
| Op. Cash and cash Eq.           | 39.5   | 74.5   | 158.5  | 166.4  |         |
| Cl. Cash and cash Eq.           | 74.4   | 158.5  | 166.4  | 231.3  |         |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

| Exhibit 12: Balance Sheet |         |         |         |         | ₹ crore |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| (Year-end March)          | FY22    | FY23E   | FY24E   | FY25E   |         |
| Source of Funds           |         |         |         |         |         |
| Equity Capital            | 15.5    | 15.5    | 15.5    | 15.5    |         |
| Reserves & Surplus        | 1,414.8 | 1,709.3 | 2,017.9 | 2,379.4 |         |
| Shareholder's Fund        | 1,430.3 | 1,724.8 | 2,033.3 | 2,394.9 |         |
| Loan Funds                | 61.9    | 51.9    | 41.9    | 31.9    |         |
| Deferred Tax Liability    | 27.6    | 28.1    | 28.7    | 29.2    |         |
| Minority Interest         | 27.4    | 27.4    | 27.4    | 27.4    |         |
| Govt Grant                | 1.9     | 1.9     | 1.9     | 1.9     |         |
| Long Term Provisions      | 4.6     | 4.6     | 4.6     | 4.6     |         |
| Source of Funds           | 1553.6  | 1838.7  | 2137.8  | 2489.9  |         |
| Application of Funds      |         |         |         |         |         |
| Gross Block               | 1,159.1 | 1,309.1 | 1,459.1 | 1,609.1 |         |
| Less: Acc. Depreciation   | 435.0   | 555.5   | 689.7   | 837.7   |         |
| Net Block                 | 724.1   | 753.6   | 769.4   | 771.4   |         |
| Capital WIP               | 7.3     | 7.7     | 8.0     | 8.5     |         |
| Non-Current Investments   | 178.0   | 195.8   | 395.8   | 595.8   |         |
| Long Term Loans &         | 14.7    | 15.0    | 15.3    | 15.6    |         |
| Other Non-Current Assets  | 102.4   | 102.4   | 102.4   | 102.4   |         |
| Inventories               | 8.5     | 8.2     | 9.3     | 10.5    |         |
| Debtor                    | 508.3   | 669.2   | 755.0   | 852.0   |         |
| Cash                      | 74.5    | 158.5   | 166.4   | 231.3   |         |
| Loan & Advance, Other CA  | 209.4   | 213.6   | 217.9   | 222.2   |         |
| Current Liabilities       | 273.4   | 285.3   | 301.7   | 319.7   |         |
| Trade Payables            | 85.1    | 92.7    | 104.5   | 118.0   |         |
| Other Current Liabilities | 167.8   | 171.1   | 174.5   | 178.0   |         |
| Short Term Provisions     | 20.5    | 21.5    | 22.6    | 23.7    |         |
| Application of Funds      | 1,553.6 | 1,838.7 | 2,137.8 | 2,489.9 |         |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

| Exhibit 13: Key ratios           |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (Year-end March)                 | FY22  | FY23E | FY24E | FY25E |
| Per share data (₹)               |       |       |       |       |
| Book Value                       | 184.9 | 223.0 | 262.9 | 309.6 |
| Cash per share                   | 65.4  | 86.1  | 97.2  | 109.7 |
| EPS                              | 37.3  | 42.5  | 44.3  | 51.1  |
| Cash EPS                         | 48.7  | 54.5  | 57.7  | 65.9  |
| DPS                              | 2.0   | 4.0   | 4.0   | 4.0   |
| Profitability & Operating Ratios |       |       |       |       |
| EBITDA Margin (%)                | 12.6  | 12.0  | 11.7  | 11.8  |
| PAT Margin (%)                   | 8.1   | 8.1   | 7.4   | 7.6   |
| Fixed Asset Turnover (x)         | 4.5   | 5.0   | 5.5   | 6.2   |
| Inventory Turnover (Days)        | 0.9   | 0.8   | 0.8   | 0.8   |
| Debtor (Days)                    | 57.0  | 65.0  | 65.0  | 65.0  |
| Current Liabilities (Days)       | 9.5   | 9.0   | 9.0   | 9.0   |
| Return Ratios (%)                |       |       |       |       |
| RoE                              | 20.5  | 19.3  | 17.1  | 16.7  |
| RoCE                             | 20.3  | 19.4  | 18.3  | 18.1  |
| RoIC                             | 21.8  | 21.3  | 19.6  | 19.5  |
| Valuation Ratios (x)             |       |       |       |       |
| P/E                              | 16.9  | 14.8  | 14.2  | 12.3  |
| Price to Book Value              | 3.4   | 2.8   | 2.4   | 2.0   |
| EV/EBITDA                        | 11.2  | 10.0  | 9.0   | 7.8   |
| EV/Sales                         | 1.4   | 1.2   | 1.1   | 0.9   |
| Leverage & Solvency Ratios       |       |       |       |       |
| Debt to equity (x)               | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Interest Coverage (x)            | 23.0  | 31.8  | 43.1  | 65.2  |
| Debt to EBITDA (x)               | 0.2   | 0.1   | 0.1   | 0.1   |
| Current Ratio                    | 2.5   | 2.3   | 2.1   | 1.9   |

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 14: ICICI Direct coverage universe (Logistics)

| Sector / Company         | CMP   |       |        | M Cap<br>(₹ Cr) | EPS (₹) |       |       | P/E (x) |       |       | EV/EBITDA (x) |       |       | RoCE (%) |       |       | RoE (%) |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
|                          | (₹)   | TP(₹) | Rating |                 | FY22E   | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E   | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E         | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E    | FY23E | FY24E | FY22E   | FY23E | FY24E |
| APSEZ                    | 605   | 1,000 | BUY    | 1,22,921        | 21.9    | 28.7  | 43.2  | 24.6    | 25.3  | 21.1  | 17.3          | 16.4  | 14.3  | 12.7     | 9.5   | 11.5  | 16.3    | 10.7  | 12.5  |
| Container Corporation    | 645   | 700   | HOLD   | 34,121          | 17.3    | 20.8  | 20.6  | 97.2    | 77.8  | 37.2  | 6.2           | 9.7   | 5.6   | 10.9     | 4.5   | 10.2  | 12.1    | 5.4   | 9.6   |
| Transport Corp. of India | 630   | 810   | BUY    | 4,596           | 37.3    | 42.5  | 44.3  | 34.4    | 33.3  | 16.9  | 20.5          | 18.3  | 11.2  | 12.4     | 13.3  | 20.3  | 14.0    | 12.9  | 20.5  |
| Gujarat Pipavav          | 94    | 110   | BUY    | 4,544           | 4.1     | 5.6   | 6.7   | 23.0    | 16.8  | 14.1  | 8.9           | 7.5   | 6.4   | 12.1     | 15.7  | 18.6  | 8.6     | 11.7  | 13.8  |
| TCI Express              | 1,840 | 2,195 | BUY    | 7,043           | 26.2    | 33.5  | 40.0  | 79.1    | 70.3  | 55.0  | 58.0          | 52.5  | 40.4  | 36.3     | 31.9  | 33.4  | 29.5    | 26.1  | 26.6  |
| Mahindra Logistics       | 475   | 610   | BUY    | 3,406           | 5.2     | 9.5   | 16.9  | 91.9    | 50.0  | 28.1  | 16.2          | 11.9  | 8.7   | 12.2     | 33.7  | 40.0  | 6.3     | 10.6  | 16.2  |
| BlueDart Express         | 6,800 | 8,000 | HOLD   | 16,157          | 160.9   | 202.8 | 246.8 | 158.7   | 42.3  | 33.5  | 22.9          | 15.3  | 13.6  | 40.7     | 77.5  | 71.2  | 12.8    | 39.7  | 40.8  |
| Gateway Distriparks      | 66    | 75    | HOLD   | 3,298           | 4.5     | 3.4   | 3.8   | 32.0    | 35.0  | 14.7  | 12.7          | 12.0  | 9.8   | 9.9      | 11.7  | 15.4  | 5.6     | 6.4   | 13.7  |

Source: ICICI Direct Research

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Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



**Pankaj Pandey**

**Head – Research**

**pankaj.pandey@icicisecurities.com**

**ICICI Direct Research Desk,  
ICICI Securities Limited,  
1st Floor, Akruiti Trade Centre,  
Road No 7, MIDC,  
Andheri (East)  
Mumbai – 400 093  
research@icicidirect.com**

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