BUY



## JB Chemicals & Pharma (JBCP)

Fair Value(₹): 2.255

Pharmaceuticals

CMP(₹): 1.838

NIFTY-50: **26.179** September **30. 2024** 



We hosted JB's CEO, Nikhil Chopra, for a roadshow in the UK. The company remains optimistic on its growth prospects across India, CMO, Russia and South Africa. With the current management team keen on running the business, the company does not expect any change in its business plan even if there is any ownership change. Having primarily grown organically until FY2022 and later on aided by benefits from acquired brands, JB has handsomely outperformed the IPM in the past decade by ~600 bps and currently ranks 21 in the IPM. Backed by improved MR productivity in India amid a healthy CMO order book and steady exports traction, we expect strong 19%/22% EBITDA/PAT CAGRs over FY2024-27E for JB. Retain our BUY rating with an unchanged FV of Rs2,255.

Sector View: Neutral

#### JB expects organic India volume growth of ~6% yoy, much higher than IPM

JB expects to organically grow at 12-14% yoy in India in FY2025E. Within this, volume contribution is expected to be ~600 bps. 65% of JB's domestic portfolio (used to be ~35% pre-KKR) is in segments, which are outpacing IPM growth. While JB is the 21st ranked company in the IPM by sales, it is the 15th largest in terms of prescriptions. The company aspires to be the 12th largest company by prescriptions in the next few years and then eventually enter the Top 10. Rather than just banking on scaling up new launches quickly, the management has focused on growing the existing power brands and in-licensing/acquiring brands. Accordingly, its base portfolio has been reporting a robust sales CAGR of ~17% over FY2015-24, with leading brand families posting 10-30% CAGRs over FY2015-21. The recent acquisitions would propel the topline growth further, and accordingly we bake in robust ~16% and ~14% overall and organic domestic sales CAGRs, respectively, over FY2024-27E.

## With healthy traction across clients and markets, JB stays bullish on CMO

The company highlighted continued healthy traction across multiple clients, markets and dosage forms in the CMO segment. Led by improved traction from 2HFY25, as well a healthy order book and enhanced capacity, we expect the high-margin CMO vertical to report a ~14% CAGR, over FY2024-27E. Overall, we forecast 14% and 19% sales and EBITDA CAGRs, respectively, for JB over FY2024-27E. We expect a 310 bps expansion in JB's EBITDA margins over FY2024-27E, driven by higher domestic productivity and higher branded/CMO mix, despite factoring in compression due to the Novartis deal. In the absence of any meaningful capex, we expect JB to generate cumulative FCF of Rs13.9 bn over FY2024-27E, with healthy 21.9% RoAE and 25.0% RoIC in FY2027E.

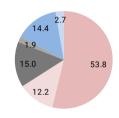
## A potent fusion; reiterate BUY with FV of Rs2,255

JB offers a healthy cocktail of a robust domestic franchise, niche CMO presence and measured exports strategy, aided by peerless execution. We keep our estimates and FV unchanged. Retain BUY. Key risks to our rating are any senior management exits, resurfacing of NDMA-related concerns for Rantac, high India business sales concentration and aggressive amortization policy of the acquired brands.

# Company data and valuation summary

# Stock data CMP(Rs)/FV(Rs)/Rating 1,838/2,255/BUY 52-week range (Rs) (high-low) 2,030-1,244 Mcap (bn) (Rs/US\$) 285/3.4 ADTV-3M (mn) (Rs/US\$) 387/4.6

#### Shareholding pattern (%)



Promoters	EDIA	= NAEo	■ DEL o	■ Dotoil	Oth om

Price performance (%)	1M	3M	12M
Absolute	(6)	9	30
Rel. to Nifty	(11)	0	(3)
Rel. to MSCI India	(10)	0	(11)

Forecasts/Valuations	2024	2025E	2026E
EPS (Rs)	35.3	43.8	55.3
EPS growth (%)	34.8	24.1	26.4
P/E (X)	52.1	42.0	33.2
P/B (X)	9.8	8.4	7.0
EV/EBITDA (X)	31.7	26.6	21.6
RoE (%)	20.5	21.5	22.9
Div. yield (%)	0.5	0.6	0.6
Sales (Rs bn)	35	40	46
EBITDA (Rs bn)	9	11	13
Net profits (Rs bn)	6	7	9

Source: Bloomberg, Company data, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Prices in this report are based on the market close of September 27, 2024

#### **Related Research**

- → KIE Healthcare Forum: Strikes the right note
- → Pharmaceuticals: Stay the course
- → JB Chemicals & Pharma: A potent fusion

Full sector coverage on KINSITE

#### Key takeaways:

#### FY2025E guidance:

#### Revenues:

- **Domestic business:** JB expects to grow at 12-14% yoy, on an organic basis. Within this, volume contribution will be ~600 bps.
- International formulations: JB expects growth in Russia and CIS business to continue in 2Q/3QFY25. It expects South Africa to demonstrate strong growth from 2HFY25.
- CMO business: JB expects CMO to report double-digit yoy sales growth by end-FY2025E.
- Mix: JB expects the combined share of India and CMO to rise to 75-80% of sales in the next 3-5 years from 67% in FY2024.
- Gross margin: Gross margins are expected to remain in the range of 65-66% (including dilution due to Novartis portfolio).
- ▶ EBITDA margin: JB reiterated its operating EBITDA margin guidance of 26-28% (more toward the higher end). The only downside risk to margins is rising freight cost (JB has been building higher inventory as a precaution), which has also been baked into the EBITDA margin guidance. EBITDA margins in CMO and India are better than the corporate margins.

Ownership change: The current management remains keen on running the business. JB does not expect any change in the business plan even if there is any ownership change. As per the ESOP plan, if KKR completely exits prior to Aug 2027, vesting of ESOPs for the management will happen earlier. Majority of the ESOPs are primarily linked to performance parameters, which will be triggered in Aug 2027 or if KKR completely exits upon the management meeting the performance criteria. 85% of the ESOP cost has already been charged to the P&L.

## Domestic business:

- ▶ **Relative to IPM:** 65% of JB's domestic portfolio (used to be ~35% pre-KKR) is in segments, which are outpacing IPM growth.
- ▶ Ranking: While JB is the 21st ranked company in the IPM by sales, it is 15th largest in terms of prescriptions. The company aspires to be the 12th largest company by prescriptions in the next few years and then eventually enter the Top 10 companies by prescription volumes.
- ▶ Chronic: The chronic portfolio continues to do well for JB.
- ▶ New launches: JB plans to launch products in pediatrics, GI and probiotics. It plans to launch 1-2 products every month. As per JB, new launches would contribute 200-300 bps to India sales growth in FY2025E.
- ▶ Top brands: Cilacar, Nicardia and Metrogyl gained rank, as per IQVIA MAT Jun 2024.
- ▶ Cilacar: Cilacar's volumes have been growing at ~13% yoy.
- ▶ Cardiac: JB's cardiac segment is growing at 16% yoy, compared to IPM's growth of 14%. Apart from hypertension and lipids, the company is looking at other segments like blood thinners, diuretics, etc.
- Rantac:
  - NDMA: JB does not expect any issues related to the NDMA impurity issue. Rantac's shelf life has been reduced from 24 to 18 months.
  - Strategy: JB plans to continue to work on life cycle management of Rantac. It intends to gain incremental market share by mainly focusing on the combinations.
  - Prescribers: Both consulting physicians and GPs prescribe Rantac.

- Shift from PPI market: Although people are aware about the side effects of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), there has not been a significant shift from the PPI market to the Ranitidine segment.
- Metrogyl: JB has witnessed a good offtake in Metrogyl's volumes, which are now growing in high single digits.
- ▶ Azmarda: Over the past four months, JB's monthly volumes have been increasing from 110k units to 120k units. As per JB, demand has reached a steady state of 120-125k units. It expects double-digit volume growth, hereon. JB expects to continue to be a dominant player in this category. It is among the top 3 players in this market.
- ▶ **Sporlac:** Sporlac has reported a ~20% sales CAGR over the past 3 years. The total probiotics market in India is ~Rs20 bn, out of which JB's sales are only ~Rs1 bn.
- ▶ Novartis' ophthalmology portfolio:
  - Outlook: JB remains positive on the prospects of this portfolio. It expects this portfolio to grow at mid-teens yoy in FY2025E. Accordingly, JB expects this portfolio to generate FY2025E sales of ~Rs1.8 bn (~Rs1.6 bn in FY2024). It is also looking to launch some new line extensions in this portfolio.
  - Sales force: JB has been investing incrementally in the sales force, and has increased the MR count to ~100 (~70 earlier).
  - Gross margins: From significantly lower levels currently, gross margins for this portfolio will increase to 75-80% from January 2027.
- ▶ **Pediatrics:** JB's pediatric franchise has reached ~Rs1.5 bn.
- ▶ Anti-diabetic: JB had three products in this segment, namely, Vildagliptin, Sitagliptin and Dapagliflozin. While Vildagliptin and Sitagliptin have not done well due to intense competition and have been discontinued, Dapagliflozin's annual sales run rate remains at ~Rs150 mn.
- ▶ GLP-1s: As of now, JB does not have any visibility of launching GLP-1s in India.
- ▶ In-licensing deal with Novartis for Inclisiran: Couple of months back, JB has signed an in-licensing deal with Novartis for Inclisiran, a long-acting small interfering RNA (siRNA) that works to lower plasma LCL-cholesterol levels. This drug will complement JB's Razel franchise.
- ▶ PCPM: JB has ~2,300 MRs currently. There is no real significant change in the MR count, except for the ophthalmology team. PCPM has improved in the past five years as JB has been frugal in adding MRs, revised MR incentive structure and product extensions. From Rs0.7 mn currently, JB expects to reach a PCPM of Rs0.85 mn in the next 18-20 months. JB's salary structure is similar across acute and chronic. While attrition is slightly high in acute for JB, it is low in chronic.
- ▶ Trade generics: Rs1 bn sales for JB.
- ▶ NLEM: 12-14% of JB's domestic sales.
- ▶ M&A: JB continues to evaluate assets, particularly within chronic therapeutic areas, in India. JB targets an EBITDA payback of 7-8 years for any acquisition.

#### СМО

- Outlook: While JB's 1QFY25 CMO performance was impacted by a muted cough and cold season, across the globe, it expects uptick from 2HFY25. JB has a healthy order book in place for this business.
- ▶ Scale: Within lozenges, volume-wise, JB is the fifth largest CMO globally. From 80% currently, JB expects contribution of lozenges to overall sales to gradually reduce to 60% over the next 3-5 years as it adds further dosage forms. The new dosage forms will not be margin dilutive.
- White-label: JB only works with brands and does not do any white-label sales (due to low margins in white-label).

JB Chemicals & Pharma

- Immunity and wellness lozenges: JB has started to supply immunity and wellness lozenges to four countries in the EU, through its partner, and expects them to be available across more regions of the EU by January 2025.
- Melatonin-based lozenges: JB expects to supply these lozenges in the markets of Middle East and South East Asia by end-FY2025E.
- Branded lozenges: JB also expects its US partner to make its branded lozenges available in the US by end-FY2025E.
- ▶ **Gestation period:** The gestation period for any new CMO contract is 12-18 months.

#### International formulations business:

- ▶ **South Africa:** The annual sales run rate for the South Africa business is ~Rs2.5 bn. Post the haircut in FY2024, the share of tenders in the revenue mix has reduced from 65% to 35%.
- ▶ Russia: Growth rates in Russia are strong, with healthy margins (aided by price hikes due to high inflation). JB has ~40 employees based out of Moscow, with most being key account managers.
- ▶ **US:** Similar to FY2024, JB plans to file 3 ANDAs each in FY2025E and FY2026E in the US. The company intends to continue with its B2B strategy in the US.

#### Others:

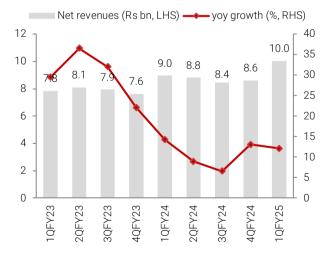
- ▶ R&D: JB spends Rs400-500 mn on R&D annually.
- ▶ API sourcing: ~60% of APIs are manufactured in-house. Out of 15 ANDAs filed till now, APIs for 8 ANDAs are manufactured in-house.

#### Financials:

- Gross margins: For its domestic business, JB expects gross margins to be better in 1HFY25, compared to 2HFY25.
- ▶ **Debt:** JB expects ~Rs30 mn interest costs in 2QFY25, which is expected to come down every quarter. It plans to repay the entire debt by end-FY2025E.



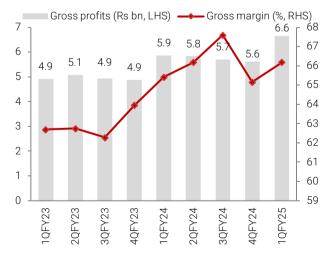




Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

#### JB - quarterly gross profits



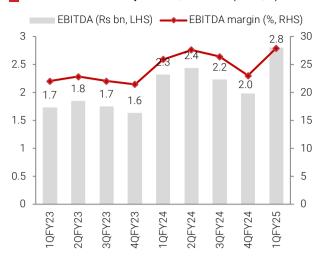


Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

## JB Chemicals & Pharma

#### JB - quarterly EBITDA

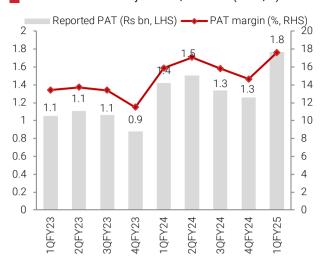
## Exhibit 3: March fiscal year-ends, 2023-25E (Rs bn, %)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

#### JB - quarterly reported PAT

## Exhibit 4: March fiscal year-ends, 2023-25E (Rs bn, %)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

## JB - quarterly domestic business sales

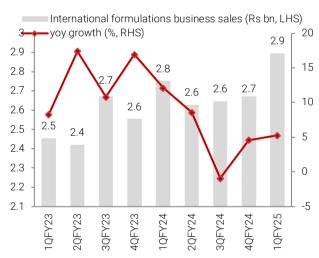
## Exhibit 5: March fiscal year-ends, 2023-25E (Rs bn, %)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

## JB – quarterly international formulations business sales

## Exhibit 6: March fiscal year-ends, 2023-25E (Rs bn, %)

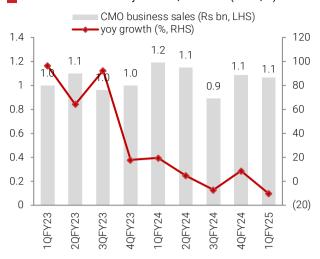


Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

JB Chemicals & Pharma

## JB - quarterly CMO business sales

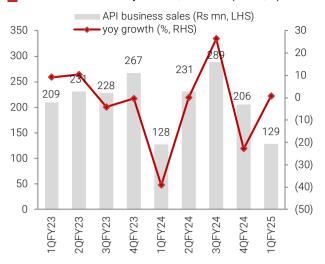
## Exhibit 7: March fiscal year-ends, 2023-25E (Rs bn, %)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

#### JB - quarterly API business sales

## Exhibit 8: March fiscal year-ends, 2023-25E (Rs mn, %)



Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities

## We keep our estimates for JB unchanged

## Exhibit 9: JB – changes in estimates, March fiscal year-ends, 2025-27E (Rs mn, %)

	Ne	New estimates				
	2025E	2026E	2027E	2025E		
Financial metrics (Rs mn)						
Net revenues	40,214	45,847	51,821	40,214	4	
Gross profits	26,080	30,201	34,616	26,080	3	
Gross margin (%)	64.9	65.9	66.8	64.9		
EBITDA	10,553	12,690	14,928	10,553	1	
EBITDA margin (%)	26.2	27.7	28.8	26.2		
Adjusted EBITDA	10,952	13,029	15,216	10,952	1	
Adjusted EBITDA margin (%)	27.2	28.4	29.4	27.2		
Net income (reported)	6,858	8,667	9,933	6,858		
EPS (reported) (Rs)	43.8	55.3	63.4	43.8		

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

Ol	Old estimates								
2025E	2026E	2027E							
40,214	45,847	51,821							
26,080	30,201	34,616							
64.9	65.9	66.8							
10,553	12,690	14,928							
26.2	27.7	28.8							
10,952	13,029	15,216							
27.2	28.4	29.4							
6,858	8,667	9,933							
43.8	55.3	63.4							

	- 3-(-)	
2025E	2026E	2027E
-	-	-
-	-	-
0 bps	0 bps	0 bps
-	-	-
0 bps	0 bps	0 bps
-	-	-
0 bps	0 bps	0 bps
-	-	-

Change (%)

JB Chemicals & Pharma

## We forecast 14% overall revenue CAGR over FY2024-27E for JB

## Exhibit 10: JB - KPIs, March fiscal year-ends, 2020-27E (Rs mn, %)

	Units	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Overall							
Domestic business	Rs mn	11,883	16,397	18,973	22,971	26,259	29,729
yoy growth	%	29.8	38.0	15.7	21.1	14.3	13.2
International business	Rs mn	12,360	15,096	15,869	17,243	19,588	22,092
yoy growth	%	9.7	22.1	5.1	8.7	13.6	12.8
Net revenues	Rs mn	24,242	31,493	34,842	40,214	45,847	51,821
yoy growth	%	18.7	29.9	10.6	15.4	14.0	13.0
Domestic business							
Top brands revenues	Rs mn	9,094	10,875	12,365	14,075	16,136	18,340
yoy growth	%	40.3	19.6	13.7	13.8	14.6	13.7
Other brands revenues	Rs mn	2,789	2,456	2,576	2,911	3,260	3,619
yoy growth	%	165.5	(11.9)	4.9	13.0	12.0	11.0
Net revenues	Rs mn	11,883	16,397	18,973	22,971	26,259	29,729
Gross margin	%	73.8	69.1	72.2	70.0	71.0	72.0
International business							
International formulations revenues	Rs mn	8,925	10,103	10,698	11,795	13,184	14,720
yoy growth	%	9.3	13.2	5.9	10.3	11.8	11.7
CMO revenues	Rs mn	2,527	4,058	4,318	4,620	5,452	6,324
yoy growth	%	11.9	60.6	6.4	7.0	18.0	16.0
API revenues	Rs mn	908	936	854	828	952	1,048
yoy growth	%	7.4	3.1	(8.8)	(3.0)	15.0	10.0
Net revenues	Rs mn	12,360	15,096	15,869	17,243	19,588	22,092
Gross margin	%	54.4	56.2	58.8	58.0	59.0	59.8

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates



## We forecast 22% EPS CAGR, over FY2024-27E for JB

## Exhibit 11: JB – summary financials, March fiscal year-ends, 2020-27E (Rs mn)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E
Profit and loss								
Net revenues	17,747	20,425	24,242	31,493	34,842	40,214	45,847	51,821
Gross profit	11,439	13,410	15,813	19,811	23,021	26,080	30,201	34,616
EBITDA	3,776	5,604	5,435	6,958	8,969	10,553	12,690	14,928
Depreciation & amortisation	(663)	(687)	(727)	(1,144)	(1,383)	(1,638)	(1,722)	(2,352)
EBIT	3,113	4,917	4,708	5,813	7,586	8,915	10,967	12,577
Interest expense	(30)	(72)	(51)	(361)	(443)	(148)	(49)	(52)
Profit before tax	3,489	5,969	5,049	5,552	7,515	9,253	11,618	13,291
Tax & deferred tax	(765)	(1,484)	(1,189)	(1,452)	(1,989)	(2,395)	(2,951)	(3,358)
Net income (reported)	2,799	4,480	3,853	4,100	5,526	6,858	8,667	9,933
EPS (reported) (Rs)	17.6	29.0	24.9	26.2	35.3	43.8	55.3	63.4
Balance sheet								
Fixed assets (incl. goodwill)	5,987	5,771	12,048	18,701	19,986	19,632	19,349	28,183
Cash & equivalents	290	287	565	769	882	2,144	3,579	515
Inventories	2,747	3,474	4,100	4,305	5,025	5,800	6,612	7,474
Total assets	18,206	22,381	26,074	35,539	39,941	44,923	50,061	58,999
Borrowings	295	326	263	5,482	3,571	2,585	-	-
Total liabilities	3,826	4,247	4,688	10,735	10,708	10,480	8,682	9,504
Shareholders' equity	14,355	18,097	21,341	24,804	29,233	34,443	41,380	49,495
Total liabilities and equity	18,206	22,381	26,074	35,539	39,941	44,923	50,061	58,999
Cash flow statement								
Operating cash flow before working capital changes	2,660	4,090	4,726	6,555	8,063	8,557	10,078	11,858
Changes in working capital	97	(942)	(3,024)	(299)	(56)	(1,358)	(1,425)	(1,511)
Capex	(730)	(478)	(629)	(726)	(1,269)	(1,250)	(1,400)	(1,500)
Acquisitions	_	(85)	(6,439)	(6,924)	(1,345)	_	_	(9,640)
Other income	37	15	9	22	41	486	700	767
Payment of lease liabilities	932	(1,759)	7,082	(1,990)	(1,466)	(1,960)	(1,774)	(825)
Free cash flow to firm	1,963	2,521	(5,438)	(1,469)	5,307	6,302	7,808	(182)
Free cash flow to equity	2,002	2,470	(5,480)	3,497	3,065	5,206	5,187	(221)
Ratios								
Gross margin (%)	64.5	65.7	65.2	62.9	66.1	64.9	65.9	66.8
EBITDA margin (%)	21.3	27.4	22.4	22.1	25.7	26.2	27.7	28.8
RoAE (%)	19.2	27.6	19.5	17.8	20.5	21.5	22.9	21.9
RoCE (%)	15.9	21.7	17.5	16.4	18.2	19.5	20.6	19.9
RoIC (%)	21.2	31.5	21.4	17.5	20.6	23.9	26.8	25.0
Net debt / EBITDA (X)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.6)	0.2	0.1	(0.3)	(0.6)	(0.6)

Source: Company, Kotak Institutional Equities estimates

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BUY. We expect this stock to deliver more than 15% returns over the next 12 months.

ADD. We expect this stock to deliver 5-15% returns over the next 12 months.

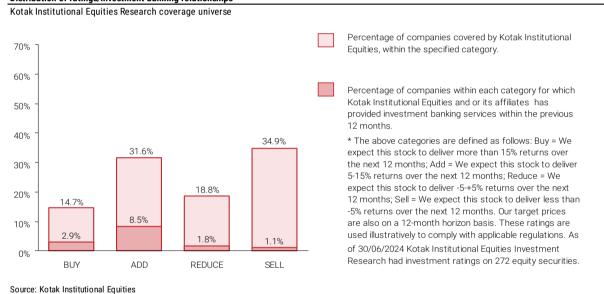
REDUCE. We expect this stock to deliver -5-+5% returns over the next 12 months.

SELL. We expect this stock to deliver <-5% returns over the next 12 months.

Our Fair Value estimates are also on a 12-month horizon basis.

Our Ratings System does not take into account short-term volatility in stock prices related to movements in the market. Hence, a particular Rating may not strictly be in accordance with the Rating System at all times.

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As of June 30, 2024

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The coverage view represents each analyst's overall fundamental outlook on the Sector. The coverage view will consist of one of the following designations: Attractive, Neutral, Cautious.

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#### Corporate Office

Kotak Securities Ltd. 27 BKC, Plot No. C-27, "G Block" Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E) Mumbai 400 051, India

#### Overseas Affiliates

Kotak Mahindra (UK) Ltd. 8th Floor, Portsoken House 155-157 Minories, London EC3N 1LS Tel: +44-20-7977-6900

Kotak Mahindra Inc. PENN 1,1 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 1720, New York, NY 10119, USA Tel: +1-212-600-8858

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Details of	Contact Person	Address	Contact No.	Email ID
Customer Care/ Complaints	Mr. Ritesh Shah	Kotak Towers, 8th Floor, Building No.21, Infinity	18002099393	ks.escalation@kotak.com
Head of Customer Care	Mr. Tabrez Anwar	Park, Off Western Express Highway, Malad (East),	022-42858208	ks.servicehead@kotak.com
Compliance Officer	Mr. Hiren Thakkar	Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400097	022-42858484	ks.compliance@kotak.com
CEO	Mr. Shripal Shah		022-42858301	ceo.ks@kotak.com